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**Title:** Enrichment of sn-2 position of hazelnut oil with palmitic acid: Optimization by response surface methodology  
**Author(s):** Turan, D (Turan, Dilek); Yesilcubuk, NS (Yesilcubuk, Nese Sahin); Akoh, CC (Akoh, Casimir C.)  
**Source:** LWT-FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY **Volume:** 50 **Issue:** 2 **Pages:** 766-772 **DOI:** 10.1016/j.lwt.2012.07.009 **Published:** MAR 2013  
**Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection:** 2  
**Total Times Cited:** 4  
**Usage Count (Last 180 days):** 0  
**Usage Count (Since 2013):** 58  
**Cited Reference Count:** 27

**Abstract:** Hazelnut oil was enriched with palmitic acid (PA) at the sn-2 position using PA (acidolysis) or ethyl palmitate (ester exchange) as the acyl donor using Novozym 435 and hexane. Optimizing reaction conditions using response surface methodology, independent variables were selected as substrate mole ratio (Sr: 4-6 mol/mol) and reaction time (t: 6-18 h). Responses were total PA content in the SL and at the sn-2 position. Reaction temperature was fixed at 65 degrees C and enzyme at 10 g/100 g. Optimal conditions were 17 h with substrate mole ratio of 6 mol/mol. Model verification under these conditions yielded 48.6 mol PA/100 mol total fatty acid (TFA) of which 35.5% was at the sn-2 position for milligram-scale production. However, gram-scale solvent-free reaction yielded 63.5 mol PA/100 mol TFA of which 71.1% was incorporated at the sn-2 position. After purification, the SL was analyzed for triacylglycerol molecular species and characterized. Tocopherol contents of the SL were 46, 19, 61, and 12 mu g/g for alpha-, beta-, gamma-, and delta-tocopherol, respectively. Melting range was wider and OSI values were lower for the SL. The aim of this present work was to produce a SL to be used as human milk fat substitute after lost tocopherols are added back for stability. (C) 2012 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

**Accession Number:** WOS:000311193600055

**Language:** English

**Document Type:** Article

**Author Keywords:** Hazelnut oil; Structured lipid; Transesterfication; Novozym 435; Response surface methodology

**KeyWords Plus:** MILK FAT SUBSTITUTES; ENZYMATIC INTERESTERIFICATION; OXIDATIVE STABILITY; STRUCTURED LIPIDS; AMARANTH OIL; TRIACYLGLYCEROLS; ACIDOLYSIS

**Addresses:** [Turan, Dilek; Akoh, Casimir C.] Univ Georgia, Dept Food Sci & Technol, Athens, GA 30602 USA.

[Turan, Dilek; Yesilcubuk, Nese Sahin] Istanbul Tech Univ, Dept Food Engr, Fac Chem & Met Engr, TR-34469 Istanbul, Turkey.

[Akoh, Casimir C.] King Abdulaziz Univ, Dept Biol Sci, Genom & Biotechnol Sect, Fac Sci, Jeddah 27589, Saudi Arabia.

**Reprint Address:** Akoh, CC (reprint author), Univ Georgia, Dept Food Sci & Technol, Food Sci Bldg, Athens, GA 30602 USA.

**E-mail Addresses:** cakoh@uga.edu

**Author Identifiers:**

Author	ResearcherID Number	ORCID Number
Akoh, Casimir	F-6460-2011	0000-0002-2323-9298
Fac Sci, KAU, Biol Sci Dept	L-4228-2013	

**Publisher:** ELSEVIER SCIENCE BV

**Publisher Address:** PO BOX 211, 1000 AE AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

**Web of Science Categories:** Food Science & Technology

**Research Areas:** Food Science & Technology

**IDS Number:** 038SE

**ISSN:** 0023-6438

**29-char Source Abbrev.:** LWT-FOOD SCI TECHNOL

**ISO Source Abbrev.:** LWT-Food Sci. Technol.

**Source Item Page Count:** 7

**Funding:**

Funding Agency	Grant Number
ITU BAP	33704

Dilek Turan was supported by the University of Georgia and Camlica Kultur ve Yardim Vakfi to visit the University of Georgia. In addition, this research was partly financially supported by the grant from ITU BAP Project No: 33704 (Istanbul Technical University Scientific Research Projects Department).

**Open Access:** No

**Output Date:** 2017-07-23

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