

# manuscript umami

*by* Yudi Rahmadian

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1 Running title:

2 **Non-volatile taste components and amino acid profile of *jengkol***  
3 **(*Pithecellobium jiringa*) seed flour after steam blanching**

4 <sup>a</sup> Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Universitas  
5 Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

6 <sup>b</sup> Department of Estate and Crop Product Technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology,  
7 Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

8 \* Corresponding author: [suprif248@mail.ugm.ac.id](mailto:suprif248@mail.ugm.ac.id)

9

10 **Abstract**

11

12 *Jengkol* (*Pithecellobium jiringa*) is a typical plant in the tropical region of Southeast Asia that  
13 is mostly liked by Indonesian people because of savory taste. *Jengkol* seeds having high protein  
14 and healthy effects, need a processing for keeping their nutrient quality. This study aims to  
15 determine the effect of steam blanching to non-volatile taste components of *jengkol* seeds. The  
16 results showed that steam blanching during 5 minutes decreased the total content of soluble  
17 sugars from 998.10 to 903.59 ppm, organic acid from 442.80 to 362.89 ppm and 5'-nucleotides  
18 from 2.92 to 2.57 mg/g dry weight. However, steam blanching could be able to increase the  
19 total content of free amino acids from 75.47 to 85.90 mg/g dry weight. The equivalent umami  
20 concentration (EUC) value in *jengkol* seeds also increased from 38.27 to 42.22 g MSG/100 g  
21 dry weight. The steam blanching treatment increased the MSG-like components in *jengkol* seed  
22 flour and also give the sweet taste and inhibit the formation of bitter taste. Hence, *jengkol* seed  
23 flour has high potential to serve as a functional food with a palatable umami taste.

24

25 **Keywords:** *Jengkol*, Steam blanching, Non-volatile taste components, Equivalent umami  
26 concentration (EUC)

27

28 **INTRODUCTION**

29 *Pithecellobium jiringa* or *jengkol* is belong to family of Fabaceae and classified as  
30 subfamily of Mimosaceae that is consumed raw or cooked in many tropical countries. *Jengkol*  
31 is traditionally used for treating diabetes, high blood pressures, overcoming dysentery, stomach  
32 disorders, and bladder stones (Shukri et al, 2011). *Pithecellobium jiringa* are popular as *jering*  
33 seeds in Malaysia, *jengkol* in Indonesia, *krakos* in Cambodia and *niang-yai* in Thailand. *jengkol*  
34 seeds, had a high potential for further use, processed and modified for the development of new  
35 food products. (Sridaran et al, 2012).

36 *Jengkol* was a seed that had flavor and could grow well in Indonesia (Handayani, 2017).  
37 *Jengkol* also had high protein and amino acids (Lim, 2012). The flavor was influenced by the  
38 presence of non-volatile flavor components such as organic acids, free amino acids, 5-  
39 nucleotides and dissolved sugars that provide a sensation called umami (Pei et al, 2014).

1 Umami was the fifth taste sensation received by the senses of human taste, besides four other  
2 traditional taste sensations (sweet, sour, salty, bitter) (Jinap and Hajeb, 2010). The umami  
3 component is found mostly in the form of amino acids L-glutamate and L-aspartate (Ney,  
4 1971). It is also known that several compounds have contributed to the appearing of umami  
5 taste, namely monosodium glutamate (MSG), inosin monophosphate (IMP) and guanosine  
6 monophosphate (GMP) (Kuninaka, 1967). The mixture of the three compounds produces  
7 synergistic properties at certain comparisons (Yamaguci et al, 1971).

8 *Jengkol* seeds that are high in nutrients and have health effects require a processing  
9 because of due to perishable with high nutrient content. This processing aims to maintain the  
10 quality of *jengkol* seeds and extend shelf life. In the processing stage, the pre-process treatment  
11 needs to be carried out to determine the chemical characteristics of the *jengkol* before further  
12 processing such as packaging, marketing and storage. One of the pre-process treatments that is  
13 often used is blanching. Blanching is a preheating treatment carried out on fresh vegetables or  
14 fruit before the process of freezing, drying, or canning. In addition, blanching is an effective  
15 way to simplify the process of peeling the skin on green legumes and can maintain nutrition in  
16 beans, carrots and broccoli (Patras et al, 2011).

17 Blanching method that is often used is steam blanching. Steam blanching is the best  
18 method to maintain the nutritional quality of broccoli (Bongoni, 2014; Handayani, 2017).  
19 Steam blanching is the best method for maintaining the quality of nutrients such as carotenoids,  
20 glucosinolates, sulphorane, folate, and phytochemicals (Poelman et al, 2013). Though literature  
21 reported the beneficial effect of steam and other processing methods like fermentation in  
22 reducing the anti-nutritional factors and improving the digestibility of food grains (Theurer,  
23 Huber, Delgado-Elorduy, & Wanderley, 1999; Mohapatra et al, 2019). The blanching method  
24 also affects the sensory properties of food. One sensory attribute that is significantly affected  
25 by the blanching method is the flavor attribute. Blanching steam of vegetables was reported to  
26 be more flavorsome than vegetables using the boiling method. Steam blanching as a method  
27 for cooking vegetables was believed to be very suitable for vegetables such as broccoli. Steam  
28 blanching also reduced the washing of sugar into boiled water (Rennie, 2010).

29 So far, the research on *jengkol* seeds is still limited and the lack of information about  
30 the components of non-volatile taste compounds is the basis of this research. However, The  
31 aims of this research were to know the effect of steam blanching to the changes of **non-volatile**  
32 **taste components of** *jengkol* seeds. The **non-volatile taste components** consisting of soluble  
33 sugars, organic acids, 5'-nucleotides, and free amino acids were also evaluated and compared.

1 The data obtained from this study is considered useful to provide information on the potential  
2 of local plants in Indonesia.

3

4

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

5

### 6 **Material**

7 Jengkol seeds were obtained from Kranggan Traditional Market, Yogyakarta. The  
8 chemicals used were analytical grade purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Merck for analytical  
9 purposes. Sugar standards, and organic acid standards were HPLC grade from Sigma Aldrich.  
10 Nucleotide (IMP, GMP and AMP) standars and free amino acid standars were HPLC grade  
11 obtained from Sigma Aldrich. Mobile phases for HPLC analysis were HPLC grade quality and  
12 purchased from Merck.

13

### 14 **Steam blanching methods**

15 Jengkol seeds were first blanched for 5 minutes with steam blanching which refers to  
16 Opikasari, (2017) method. Fresh jengkol seeds were washed and then drained. As much as ±  
17 1500 g of drained jengkol seeds were placed on the steaming stimulator below which contains  
18 boiling water (6 liters) for 5 minutes. The steamed jengkol was then immediately cooled with  
19 running tap water before slicing and drying. Fresh jengkol and steamed jengkol seeds were  
20 sliced to be smaller parts (reducing size) for helping in the process of drying and grinding.  
21 The small parts of fresh jengkol and steamed jengkol seeds were dried using a cabinet dryer at  
22 50 °C for 18-20 hours. The dried seeds were then milled and sieved with a 50 mesh sieve for  
23 obtaining the jengkol seed powder.

24

### 25 **Assay of soluble sugars**

26 Soluble sugar in jengkol seed flour was extracted and analyzed according to W. Li et al  
27 (2014). Suspensions of powdered jengkol (0.25 g) in 50 ml 80% ethanol were shaken at 80 rpm  
28 for 45 min at room temperature. After filtration through Whatman No. 3 filter paper, the filtrate  
29 was evaporated to dry at 40 °C on a rotary evaporator. The extract was redissolved in deionized  
30 water to a final volume of 10 ml and the solution was filtered through (0.45 millex filter,  
31 Millipore) prior to analysis.

32

33 Soluble sugar was determined by an Knauer HPLC system (auto sampler, Knauer  
34 smartline 3950, German) equipped with a Refractive Index Detector (RID). The assay was  
performed on a Metacharb 87C column (300 x 7.8 mm) and the mobile phase used was H<sub>2</sub>O

1 (LC grade) with injection volume of 20  $\mu$ L at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The oven temperature  
2 was maintained at 85 °C, and isocratic elution. The identification and quantification of sugar  
3 compounds was compared to calibration curve of authentic standards.

#### 4 5 **Assay of organic acids**

6 Organic acids were extracted as described by W. Li et al (2014). Powdered jengkol  
7 samples (5.0 mg) were suspended in 20 ml deionized water and subjected to ultrasound (400  
8 W, 30 min, ambient temperature) using a 1500W High Intensity Ultrasonic Processor. The  
9 suspension was centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 30 min and the supernatant was filtered through a  
10 0.45  $\mu$ M cellulose membrane (Millipore) prior to analysis by HPLC.

11 The assay was performed on a MethaCarb H Plus column (7,8 x 300 mm) with the  
12 Knauer HPLC system (auto sampler, Knauer smartline 3950, lGerman). The injection volume  
13 was 20  $\mu$ L and mobile phase was H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> 0,005 M at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The oven  
14 temperature was maintained at 70 °C. In addition, the detection wavelength of organic acid was  
15 215 nm by UV and each organic acid was identified by an authentic standard. Lastly, all the  
16 organic acids were quantified use of a calibration curve prepared from the external standards

#### 17 18 **Free amino acid assay**

19 Free amino acids were extracted as the method that was described by Wang et al (2010).  
20 Sample (0.25 gram) is ground and dissolved in 10 ml of distilled water. The suspension is then  
21 heated at 90° for 20 minutes, cooled till ambient temperature. The extract was centrifuged at  
22 4500 g and the supernatant was made up to 10 mL with distilled water and filtered with 0.45  
23  $\mu$ m nylon membrane filter. The SPE-PAKC18 cartridges were conditioned with 30 mL of  
24 methanol and 10 mL of distilled water. Sample infusion (1 mL) was loaded into the conditioned  
25 cartridges, and the retained compounds were eluted with 5.0 mL of 10% ethanol. The resulted  
26 elute was collected and filtered through a 0.45- $\mu$ m nylon filter membrane before its pre-column  
27 derivatisation with o-phthalaldehyde (OPA).

28 The OPA derivatisation solution was freshly prepared as follows: 0.01 g of OPA was  
29 dissolved in 1 mL of methanol, and then added with 4 mL of 0.4 M borate buffer (pH = 9) and  
30 25  $\mu$ L of mercaptoethanol. The 10  $\mu$ L of sample infusion or standard amino acid was mixed  
31 with 300  $\mu$ L OPA solution, incubated at ambient temperature (27 °C) for 2 min, and used  
32 directly for HPLC analysis.

33 Analysis of free amino acids was carried out with High Performance Liquid  
34 Chromatography (HPLC-10AD Shimadzu, Japan) that was equipped with a shimadzu

1 fluorescence RF-10A detector. The column used was a lichoCART 125-4 reverse phase C-18  
2 column 5  $\mu\text{m}$  at a flow rate of 1.5 ml/min. The mobile phases used were 50 mM sodium acetate  
3 : tetrahydrofuran (THF) : methanol (96 : 2 : 2) as solvent A and methanol 65% as solvent B.  
4 The gradient elution was performed as follows: 0–2 min, 100% solvent A; 2–35 min, 100%  
5 solvent B. Each amino acid was identified and quantified by the external amino acid standards.

#### 7 **5'-Nucleotides assay**

8 5'-Nucleotides were extracted as the method explained by Pei et al (2014). 1 gram of  
9 sample is mashed and dissolved in 10 ml of distilled water. The suspension is then heated for  
10 1 minute, cooled and centrifuged 4500 g for 15 minutes. The residue from the previous process  
11 was washed 3 times with 10 ml of distilled water and then mixed with the filtrate to rotate the  
12 evaporator and diluted again with distilled water to a volume of 10 ml. The solution was filtered  
13 with 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  micropore membrane filter before analysing.

14 Analysis was carried out with High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC-  
15 10AD Shimadzu, Japan). The HPLC column is Zorbax Eclipse XDB C18 (250 x 4.6 mm, 5 $\mu\text{m}$ )  
16 with mobile phase aquades / methanol / acetic acid / tetrabutylammonium hydroxide (894.5 /  
17 100/5 / 0.50). Injection volume was 20  $\mu\text{L}$  with flow rate of 0.7 mL / minute and 5' nucleotides  
18 were detected by UV at 254 nm. External standar was used for quantification of each 5'  
19 nucleotide.

#### 21 **Equivalent Umami Concentration (EUC)**

22 Calculation of the equivalent umami concentration (EUC) in fresh and steam *Jengkol*  
23 was based on the equation:  $Y = \sum a_i b_i + 1218(\sum a_i b_i) (\sum a_j b_j)$  as described by Yamaguchi et  
24 al, (1971) where Y is the EUC of the sample (g MSG/100 g);  $a_i$  is the concentration (g/100 g)  
25 of each umami amino acid (Asp or Glu);  $a_j$  is the concentration (g/100 g) of each umami 5'-  
26 nucleotide (5'-IMP, 5'-GMP, 5'-AMP);  $b_i$  is the relative umami concentration (RUC) for each  
27 umami amino acid to MSG (Glu, 1 and Asp, 0.077);  $b_j$  is the RUC for each umami 5'-nucleotide  
28 (5'-IMP, 1; 5'-GMP, 2.3; 5'-AMP, 0.18) and 1218 is a synergistic constant based on the  
29 concentration (g/100g) used.

## 31 **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### 33 **Soluble Sugars**

1 The changes of soluble sugar in *jengkol* after steam blanching were presented in Table  
 2 1. Fructose + Galactose and Glucose were the most major soluble sugars in fresh *jengkol*. The  
 3 content of Fructose + Galactose was around 342.70 ppm in fresh *jengkol* and it decreased in  
 4 steam *jengkol* (224.53 ppm). The content of Glucose was around 271.80 ppm in fresh *jengkol*  
 5 and it was higher than in steam *jengkol* (161.80 ppm) which showed a decrease caused by  
 6 effecting from steam blanching treatment. There was a possibility that the short time hot water  
 7 and steam blanching resulted in its decrease (Biao Li et al, 2017). In addition, soluble sugars  
 8 also were considered as taste-active components contributed to the sweet perception so, It can  
 9 be potential for flavour enhancer. Beside of that, the contents of fructose, Galactose and  
 10 Glucose in steam *jengkol* decreased compared with fresh *jengkol*, which could be due to the  
 11 decomposition of sugar and the Maillard reaction occurred during the heat treatment (Li, 2011;  
 12 Biao Li et al, 2017).

13 **Table 1.** The changes of soluble sugar in *jengkol* seeds after steam blanching

Soluble Sugars	Content (ppm)	
	Fresh	Steam Blanching
Galacturonic Acid	227.10	325.63
Maltosa + Rafinosa	156.50	191.63
Glucose	271.80	161.80
Fructose + Galactose	342.70	224.53
Total	998.10	903.59

14  
 15 The total content of soluble sugars (Table 1) in fresh *jengkol* and steam *jengkol* ranged  
 16 from 903.59 to 998 ppm, where the total content of soluble sugars in fresh *jengkol* was higher  
 17 than the steam *jengkol*. According to Pei et al (2014) stated that during the thermal process,  
 18 due to the higher temperature of samples, thermal decomposition could have led to sugar  
 19 content decrease. The research reported by Saldivar et al (2010) stated that steam blanching  
 20 effectively retained soluble sugars than another thermal treatment (hot water blanching). Hot  
 21 water blanching decreased soluble sugars by leaching during the water blanching.

22  
 23 **Organic Acids**

24 The content of organic acids on fresh and steam *jengkol* was presented on Table 2.  
 25 Organic acids are strongly related to the synthesis and metabolism of amino acids, aromatic  
 26 compounds, esters, and phenols (Li, 2014; Biao Li et al, 2017). It could be seen that Succinic  
 27 Acid was the major organic acid (1.145.87 ppm) in fresh *jengkol*, followed by Lactic Acid  
 28 (259.61 ppm), Citric Acid (182.47 ppm), malic acid (0.72 ppm) and Oxalic Acid (<0.158 ppm).  
 29 The total content of organic acid in *jengkol* decreased from 442.80 ppm (fresh *jengkol*) to

1 362.89 ppm (steam *jengkol*) after blanching. The organic acids loss could be ascribed to the  
 2 occurrence of decarboxylation due to the higher temperature of heat treatment during steam  
 3 blanching (Handschumacher, 1960; Pei et al, 2014). In addition, the contents of Succinic Acid,  
 4 malic acid, Lactic Acid, citric acid and Oxalic Acid also declined in different degrees, which  
 5 may result in the decrease of astringency value (Sowalsky and Noble, 1998; Biao Li et al,  
 6 2017).

7 **Table 2.** The changes of organic acid in *jengkol* seeds after steam blanching

Organic Acids	Content (ppm)	
	Fresh	Steam Blanching
Oxalic Acid	< 0.158	<0.158
Malic Acid	0.72	0.42
Citric Acid	182.47	65.62
Succinic Acid	1.145.87	82.28
Lactic Acid	259.61	214.57
Total	442.80	362.89

8

9 **Free amino acids**

10 Free amino acid profile of fresh and steam *jengkol* could be seen in Table 3. free amino  
 11 acid total of fresh *jengkol* was 76.47 mg/g dry weight and free amino acid total of steam *jengkol*  
 12 was 85.90 mg/g dry weight. The total of free amino acid on steam *jengkol* was higher 10.78  
 13 % than raw or fresh *jengkol*. There is a possibility that increasing free amino acids that released  
 14 from the proteolysis on steam *jengkol* is caused by heat treatment during the steam blanching.  
 15 Yoneda et al (2005) reported that some free amino acids could be released from the proteolysis  
 16 that occurred during heating treatment. Free amino acid total of fresh and steam *jengkol* was  
 17 higher than reported by Li et al (2014) in five edible mushrooms (4.09 - 22.73 mg/g dry weight)  
 18 and reported by Pei et al (2014) in *Agaricus bisporus* (44.2 mg/g dry weight).

19 According to Mau et al (2001) **Amino acids** differed **into several** clusters **on the basis**  
 20 **of their taste characteristics** that could be seen on Table 4. Aspartic and glutamic acids were  
 21 MSG-like components among all the free amino acids, that contributed to the characteristic  
 22 umami taste on *jengkol* seeds (Tsai et al 2007). MSG-like components could also contribute to  
 23 the level of EUC in *jengkol* seeds and EUC values tended high if the concentration of MSG-  
 24 like components was also high (Biao Li et al 2017).

25 The steam *jengkol* contained MSG-like components (3.87 mg/g dry weight) that was  
 26 higher than fresh *jengkol* (2.68 mg/g dry weight). As reported by Yang Joan-Hwa (2001) and  
 27 Biao Li et al (2017), MSG-like components divided in three groups: high (>20 mg/g), middle  
 28 (5–20 mg/g), and low (<5 mg/g). The level of MSG-like components on fresh and steam



1 jengkol was still under 5 mg/g. The content of sweet components on steam jengkol was 38.42  
 2 (mg/g dry weight) that was higher than fresh jengkol (30.58 mg/g dry weight). The content of  
 3 bitter components on steam jengkol was 36.66 (mg/g dry weight) that was slightly higher than  
 4 fresh jengkol (34.35 mg/g dry weight). Any bitterness in jengkol seeds would possibly be  
 5 covered by the high amounts of soluble sugars, other sweet components and MSG-like amino  
 6 acids, which together appear to be responsible for their natural taste (Li et al, 2014).

7

8

**Table 3.** Free amino acid levels on fresh and steam *jengkol*

Free amino acids	Content (mg/g dry weight)	
	Fresh <i>jengkol</i>	Steam <i>jengkol</i>
L-Threonine <sup>a</sup>	9.92	14.13
L-Valine <sup>a</sup>	17.62	20.64
L-Methionine <sup>a</sup>	6.07	4.36
L-Ileucine <sup>a</sup>	1.12	0.60
L-Leucine <sup>a</sup>	0.55	0.39
L-Phenylalanine <sup>a</sup>	4.21	3.25
L-Lysine <sup>a</sup>	1.71	0.81
Total	41.20	44.18
L-Aspartic acid <sup>b</sup>	1.28	2.15
L-Glutamic acid <sup>b</sup>	1.39	1.73
L-Alanine <sup>b</sup>	18.19	21.33
L-Serine <sup>b</sup>	1.48	1.86
L-Glutamine <sup>b</sup>	0.75	0.67
L-Glycine <sup>b</sup>	0.99	1.11
L-Tyrosine <sup>b</sup>	0.12	0.11
L-Asparagine <sup>b</sup>	6.28	5.35
Total	30.49	34.29
L-Histidine <sup>c</sup>	1.52	1.62
L-Arginine <sup>c</sup>	3.26	5.81
Total	4.78	7.42
Total content	76.47	85.90

9

<sup>a</sup>Essential amino acid

10

<sup>b</sup>Non-essential amino acid

11

<sup>c</sup>Non-essential amino acid

12

13

**Table 4.** Levels of amino acid taste components on fresh and steam *jengkol*

Taste components <sup>a</sup>	Content (mg/g dry weight)	
	Fresh <i>Jengkol</i>	Steam <i>Jengkol</i>
MSG-like	2.68	3.87
Sweet	30.58	38.42
Bitter	34.35	36.66
tasteless	1.83	0.92
Total	69.44	79.88

14

<sup>a</sup>MSG-like (Asp + Glu); sweet (Thr + Ser + Gly + Ala + Pro); bitter (Val + Met + Ile + Leu + Phe + His + Arg + Trp); tasteless (Cys + Tyr + Lys).

15

16

**5'-Nucleotide Components**

1 Changes of 5'-Nucleotide in jengkol seeds after steam blanching could be seen in Table  
 2 5. The total content of 5'-Nucleotide on fresh jengkol was 2.92 mg/g dry weight that was  
 3 slightly higher 11.98% than steam jengkol (2.57 mg/g dry weight).

4 **Table 5.** Levels of 5'-nucleotide components on fresh and steam *jengkol*

5'-Nucleotide <sup>a</sup>	Content (mg/g dry weight)	
	Fresh <i>Jengkol</i>	Steam <i>Jengkol</i>
5'-AMP	1.98	1.77
5'-GMP	0.62	0.54
5'-IMP	0.32	0.26
Total	2.92	2.57

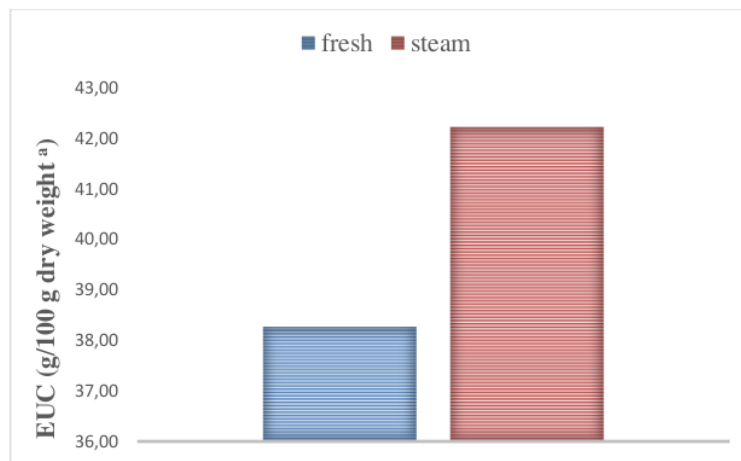
5 5'-AMP, 5'-adenosine monophosphate; 5'-GMP, 5'-guanosine monophosphate; 5'-IMP, 5'-  
 6 inosine monophosphate

8 Decreasing the total content of 5'- Nucleotide components on steam jengkol seeds could  
 9 be possible to the effect of thermal decomposition during the steam blanching treatment  
 10 (Boekel, 2006). 5'-guanosine monophosphate (5'-GMP) and 5'-inosine monophosphate (5'-  
 11 IMP) are considered as flavour 5'-Nucleotide responsible for the umami or palatable taste and  
 12 5'-GMP contributed for a meaty flavour, that is a flavour enhancer much stronger than MSG  
 13 (Litchfield, 1967 and Yang et al, 2001). Based on Yang et al (2001), Flavor 5'-Nucleotide was  
 14 ranged from low (<1 mg/g), medium (1–5 mg/g) and high (>5 mg/g) where Flavor 5'-  
 15 Nucleotide of these jengkol seeds was at the first level (low). The main content of 5'-Nucleotide  
 16 from these jengkol seeds was 5'-AMP, 5'-GMP and 5'-AMP respectively. 5'-AMP could also  
 17 give the sweet taste and effectively inhibit the formation of bitter taste.

18  
 19 **Equivalent Umami Concentration (EUC)**

20 Changes of Equivalent Umami Concentration (EUC) in jengkol seeds after steam  
 21 blanching could be seen in Figure 1. The EUC value of steam jengkol was 42.22 (g/100 g dry  
 22 weight) and The EUC value of fresh jengkol was 38.27 (g/100 g dry weight). The The EUC  
 23 value of steam jengkol was 9.36 % higher than fresh jengkol. According to Mau (2005), The  
 24 EUC values of flavour components could be ranged into four levels as: (1) >1000 g MSG/100g  
 25 dry weight, (2) 100–1000 g MSG/100g dry weight, (3) 10–100 g MSG/100g, and (4). It was  
 26 visible that the EUC value of both fresh jengkol (38.27 g MSG/100 g dry weight) was at the  
 27 first level and steam jengkol (42.22 g MSG/100 g dry weight) was also at the first level.

28



1

2 **Figure 1** Changes of the equivalent umami concentration (EUC) in *Jengkol* after steam blanching treatment.  
 3 <sup>a</sup> Calculation based on the equation:  $Y = \sum a_i b_i + 1218 (\sum a_i b_i) (\sum a_j b_j)$  (Yamaguchi et al., 1971) where Y  
 4 is the EUC of the sample (g MSG/100 g);  $a_i$  is the concentration (g/100 g) of each umami amino acid (Asp  
 5 or Glu);  $a_j$  is the concentration (g/100 g) of each umami 5'-nucleotide (5'-IMP, 5'-GMP, 5'-AMP);  $b_i$  is the  
 6 relative umami concentration (RUC) for each umami amino acid MSG (Glu, 1 and Asp, 0.077);  $b_j$  is the  
 7 RUC for each umami 5'-nucleotide (5'-IMP, 1; 5'-GMP, 2.3; 5'-AMP, 0.18) and 1218 is a synergistic  
 8 constant based on the concentration (g/100g) used.  
 9

10 Based on Yamaguchi et al. (1971) stated that the umami taste could be improved by  
 11 synergistic effects between flavour 5'-Nucleotides (5'-AMP, 5'-GMP and 5'-IMP) and MSG-  
 12 like components (L-glutaminc acid, L-aspartic acid) on jengkol seeds. The EUC value of  
 13 jengkol seeds was higher than reported by Li et al (2014) at those mushroom of *P. cystidiosus*  
 14 (13.32 g MSG/100 g dry weight) and *P. eryngii* (11.19 g MSG/100 g dry weight). The results  
 15 have shown that jengkol seeds have a reasonably strong umami taste indicating with their  
 16 equivalent umami concentration (EUC), as representing well-flavored foods and could be  
 17 possible to serve as food flavoring materials and functional foods with a palatable umami taste.  
 18

### 19 CONCLUSION

20

21 Based on the results of this study, the contents of non-volatile taste components in  
 22 *jengkol* seeds after the steam treatment decreased in soluble sugar from 998.10 to 903.59 ppm,  
 23 in organic acid from 442.80 to 362.89 ppm and in 5'-nucleotides from 2.92 to 2.57 mg/g dry  
 24 weight but increased in free amino acids from 75.47 to 85.90 mg/g dry weight. The EUC value  
 25 in *jengkol* seeds after blanching treatment also increased from 38.27 to 42.22 g/100 g dry  
 26 weight. It means that the steam blanching can increase the umami taste of *jengkol* seeds. The

1 steam blanching treatment was able to maintain the taste-active compounds of jengkol seed  
2 powder and also give the sweet taste and effectively inhibit the formation of bitter taste.

3 .

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#### 10 **Conflict of interest**

11 All authors declare that there is no conflict of interest related to this paper.

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