

## **ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE (ESR) SPECTROSCOPY AS AN ANALYTICAL TOOL FOR DETECTING FREE RADICALS OF GAMMA-IRRADIATED MILK POWDERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Electron spin resonance (ESR) spectroscopy has been used to assess the free radicals signal in different milk powders, buffalo's, cow's goat, camel, commercial full cream cow's milk powder, buffalo's butter milk and colostrum before and after  $\gamma$ -ray irradiation at doses 1 and 2 KGy. Non-irradiated milk samples exhibited weak signal intensity, depending on the type of milk. However, ESR signal intensity of all irradiated milk samples gradually increased as the radiation dose increases from 1 to 2 KGy. The results showed that the radio-stability of milk powder depended on the original free radicals and radiation dose applied. Buffalo's butter milk and camel milk powders had the highest radio-stability, while buffalo's milk powder was the lowest. The results of this study recommended to use ESR as a new technique in evaluation quality control dairy products during processing and storage.

**Keywords:** Electron spin resonance (ESR) spectroscopy, free radicals, gamma-irradiation, milk powders

### **INTRODUCTION**

Milk and dairy products are important in human nutrition. Milk contains compounds such as lipids (fatty acid, milk fat globule membrane, MFGM), proteins (whey proteins, lactoferrin), vitamins (tocopherols, ascorbic acid,  $\beta$ -caroten, riboflavin) and endogenous enzyme as scavengers free radical such as superoxidase dismutase, catalase, glutathione peroxidase, and xanthine oxidase. The concentration of these compounds are effected by species of animal, feeding rations and milk processing conditions (Aurand *et al.*, 1966, Fridovich, 1970, Lindmark-Mansson and Akesson, 2000, Levieux and Ollier, 1999, Ajems, 2007, Morin *et al.*, 2007, Al-Rowaily, 2008, Haddadin *et al.*, 2008 Kamal and Salama, 2008).

Free radicals can react with unsaturated fatty acids, protein, DNA and other compounds, and caused different types of damage related to several diseases like heart disease, cancer and critical illness (Shoji *et al.*, 2004, and Singh *et al.*, 2006). Oxidative reactions in milk can decrease the nutritional value, lead to formation of storage off-flavours and decreased the shelf-life of milk products. As is the case with lipids and proteins oxidation can be initiated by factors including light, heat treatments, storage, metal ions and gamma irradiation. King, 1963, Aurand *et al.*, 1977, Al-Rowaily 2008, Smet *et al.*, 2008).

Irradiation, physical treatment of exposing food to ionizing energy is considered an effective way of inactivation of food borne pathogens and changes the functional of foods, especially, milk and milk products. However, application of ionizing radiation up to a dose level of 10 KGy can be used to eliminate or greatly reduce the number of spoilage and pathogenic organisms without causing any toxicological hazard and with compromising the nutritional and sensory quality (Khorshid *et al.*, 1976, Ibrahim, 1984, Byun and Kang, 1995, WHO, 1999, Letendre *et al.*, 2002, Grolichova *et al.*, 2004, Ciesla *et al.*, 2004, 2006, Jo *et al.*, 2007, Uear, 2007, Osattli, 2007 and Kaddouri *et al.*, 2008, La Hoz and Netto, 2008). Electron spin resonance (ESR) is a spectroscopic technique that directly detects chemical species with unpaired electron(s). These species include, but are not limited to, free radicals and transition metal ions. ESR measurements based on the interactions between the unpaired electron and an applied magnetic field. ESR is widely used in many research fields such as physics, chemistry, biology, life science, materials science, medicine, nutrition and nutraceutical food science. (Yu and Cheng, 2008). Recently electron spin resonance spectroscopy (ESR) technique has been used to study the physical and chemical changes occurring in compounds of milk and milk products. It has been used to investigate oxidation of milk and dairy products (Stapelfeldt *et al.*, a,b,c 1997, 1999, Kristensen and Skibsted, 1999, Friel *et al.*, 2002, Bradely *et al.*, 2003, Kristensen *et al.*, 1999, 2004 Kondyli *et al.*, 2005), studied the physical changes in ice cream during freezing and melting, intermolecular interactions between fatty acid bound to bovine, human serum albumin (Gurachvesky *et al.*, 2007, De Simone *et al.*, 2007) also, action of milk and whey on the quality of powdery mildew (Crisp *et al.*, 2006).

Studies have demonstrated that ESR is a relatively fast, simple, and sensitive technique for detection of certain foods, and the shapes of the detected ESR signals vary according to the type of free radicals produced by the irradiation (Delicee, 1998, 2002, Kwon *et al.*, 2000, Shimoyama *et al.*, 2006, 2007, Yu and Cheng, 2008). However, there were little studies related to ESR spectroscopic features of radiated-induced radical species in milk powder (Hansen *et al.*, 1970 and Kispeter *et al.*, 2007). Therefore, the aim of this study was, to distinguish gamma irradiation at different doses (1 and 2 KGy), induced radical signal of different milk powders using ESR spectroscopy by comparison with unirradiated milk.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Fresh whole buffalo's and cow's milk were obtained from the herd Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University. Buffalo colostrum milk was taken during the first week of parturition. Sweet buffalo milk butter was prepared as described by El-Dieb *et al.*, (1995). Camel and goat milk samples were collected from Marsa Matrouh farm (Animal production research institute, Dokki, Giza, Egypt). Fresh commercial full cream cow's milk powder (Nido) was obtained from a local supermarket. All milk samples were freeze dried using centrifugal freeze-dryer (W. Edward and Co London). The freeze-dried

milk samples were stored at -20°C in closed test tubes, conditions under which the free radical was unaffected.

Freeze-dried of different milk samples were exposed at two level of gamma radiation 1 and 2 KGy at ambient conditions. The treatment was performed in Cobalt-60 gamma cell irradiation unit 220 located at the National Center for Radiation Research and Technology (NCRRT), Atomic Energy Authority, Nasr city, Cairo Egypt with a dose rate of 1.03 rad/sec.

The unirradiated and irradiated freeze-dried milk samples were transferred to cylindrical quartz ESR tube (inner diam 4mm; Wilmad glassco. NJ, U.S.A) and tapped a few times against the tube, ESR experiments were carried out using a Bruker EMX spectrometer (X-band, Germany), using the standard Bruker ER 4102 rectangular cavity. The operating condition for ESR spectrometer were as follow: microwave power 0.201 mv, modulation amplitude = 4.00 Gauss, modulation frequency=100 KHz, sweep width = 200 Gauss, microwave frequency = 9.775 KHz, time constant = 81.92 ms and conversion time 20.48 ms. Stability of the ESR spectrometer sensitive was checked before and after each series of measurements using reference alanine dosimeters irradiated to know dose. The intensity of the ESR spectra (arbitrary units) was measured as the peak-to-peak high of the broad ESR signal divided by the peak-to-peak height of reference signal from a strong pitch samples, divided by the density of the milk powder in the tube (g/length), also the spectroscopic splitting factor (g) values were estimated according to Brudiving, 1995 as a function of irradiation dose in KGy. All ESR measurements were carried out at room temperature 25± 2°C with respect to 0 and 90 degree orientation. Each results was obtained as the average of more than two independent measurements

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

It is the benefit of food irradiation that changes (oxidation) in the major nutrients (lipid, protein, carbohydrates, vitamins) of the food are so minute, whereas undesirable organisms inactivated. In addition, many changes induced by irradiation very closely resemble those resulting from other kinds of food processing (Delincee, 1998). However, many factors for degradation of lipid due to oxidation, and one of the major cause of this defect has been attributed to oxidation of unsaturated lipid. The rate of the oxidation is dependent upon the unsaturated lipids, the amount of oxygen presents, presence of prooxidants especially iron or copper and lipoxidase (Rawls and Santen, 1970, and Whang and Peng, 1988). Lipid oxidation occurs by two major mechanisms; (1) free radical autooxidation of unsaturated fatty acids with triplet oxygen generated by irradiation (2) the oxidation of milk lipids with singlet oxygen. The autooxidation reaction proceeds by a three stage radical process: initiation, propagation and termination. Also, oxidation of riboflavin by irradiation caused lipid oxidation through singlet oxygen inserted at either end of the double bond of the unsaturated fatty acids to yield an allylic hydroperoxide that are very unstable and are broken down further aldehydes and ketones that are responsible for off-flavours. Beside,

methionine reacts with singlet oxygen produced through oxidation of riboflavin under irradiation condition to yield free radicals (hydroxyl radicals or superoxide anions) (dimethyl disulfide, methyl sulfide). The reactions between lactoperoxidase and  $H_2O_2$  in the presence of bovine serum albumin,  $\beta$ -Lg and casein are sources for the formation of protein radicals (Morello *et al.*, 2002, Grolichova *et al.*, 2004, Matak, 2004 and Hedegaard *et al.*, 2006). Therefore, the presence of free radicals as radiolytic products is common for all physico-chemical changes induced by ionizing radiation in milk and milk products.

Representative ESR spectra of unirradiated and irradiated lyophilized different milk with gamma radiation at doses (1 and 2 KGy) are shown in Figs. (1,2,3). The ESR signals of non-irradiated and irradiated milk samples can be reasonable of free radicals species of different origin as a result of its chemical compounds and oxidation induced by irradiation (Singh *et al.*, 2006, Yu and Cheng, 2008). Fig. (1). Shows the ESR spectra of raw freeze-dried milk powder (buffalo, cow, goat and camel) after irradiation (1 and 2 KGy) compared to those unirradiated milk samples. The ESR spectra of milk samples shows a weak signal intensities centered at  $g = 2.01126$ ,  $g = 2.01129$ ,  $g = 2.01046$  and  $g = 2.01090$  for unirradiated buffalo, cow, goat, and camel milk, respectively. Irradiation resulted in increase in ESR signal intensities with changes in values of  $g$  factor at the same magnetic field (3400-3500 G). However, the ESR signal intensity of irradiated milk samples gradually increased as the radiation dose increases from 1 up to 2 KGy (Fig.1). At 1 KGy, the values of  $g$  factor were 2.01118, 2.01130, 2.01082 and 2.01106 for buffalo, cow, goat and camel milk corresponding values 2.01115, 2.01141, 2.01087 and 2.01089 at 2 KGy. Similar ESR spectra were observed for  $g$  value of different food in literature (Hargreaves *et al.*, 1994, Gardner, 1998, Kwon *et al.*, 2000, Nissen *et al.*, 2002, Nakamura *et al.*, 2006, Shimoyama *et al.*, 2006, Zhou *et al.*, 2006, Polat and Korkmaz, 2008, Prasuma *et al.*, 2008, Ukai *et al.*, 2008 and Espinoza *et al.*, 2009). Kristensen and Skibsted (1999) showed that the free radical of freeze-dried processed cheese detected by ESR at 3480-3500G and  $g$  value = 2.0046 is carbon-centered radical. On the other hand, Stapelefeldt, (1997 a,b,c, 1999) showed that ESR measurements on unheated freeze-dried milk quantitates lipid-based radicals rather than protein-based or topheryl radicals.  $\beta$ -Lg irradiated showed no significant changes compared to non-irradiated sample (La Hoz and Netto, 2008). Therefore, Ibrahim (1984) indicated that the exposure of buffalo, cow and goat milk to gamma rays caused increase of total saturated fatty acid while unsaturated fatty acids decrease. While Hansen *et al.*, (1970) examined the free radicals of grinded milk protein detected with ESR signals. The signals had  $g$  values close to that free electron 2.0000. The cysteine-containing  $\beta$ -Lg and K-casein yield more intense free radical signals than  $\alpha_s$  and  $\beta$ -casein, and the signal intensity increased with grinding time.

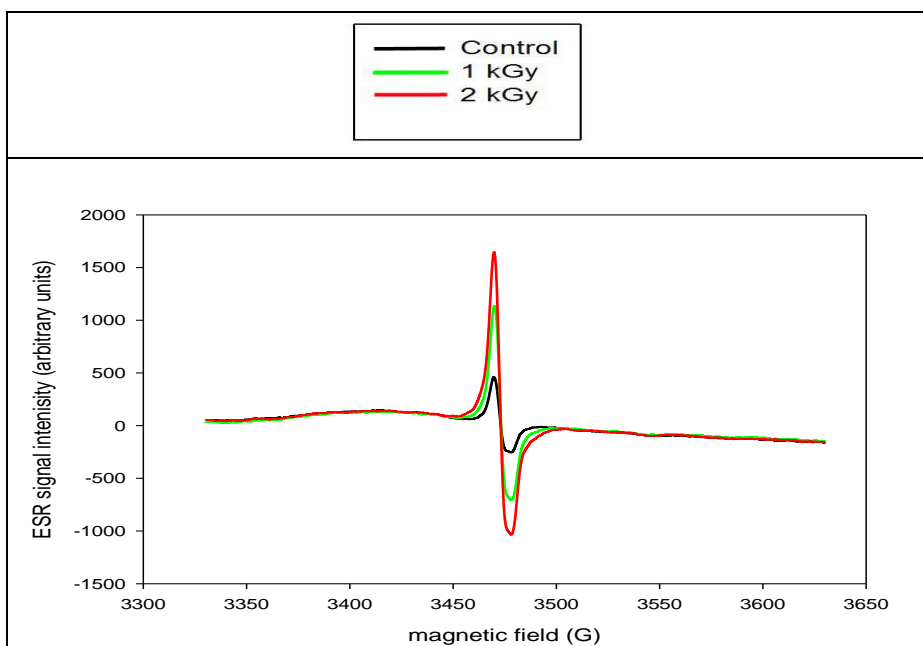
Irradiation also caused singlet oxygen formation and detected by ESR. The singlet oxygen which is very reactive with double-bond containing compound (lipids) can easily react with vitamins and aromatic and sulfur amino acids. The reactions could lower nutritional quality and produce undesirable flavour compound.

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Therefore, to minimize the singlet oxygen reactions in milk products, the products should be protected from light during processing and storage (Aurand *et al.*, 1977, Bradley *et al.*, 2003 and Gillies and Greenley, 2006).  $\beta$ -caroten's reactivity with singlet oxygen may account for its ability to protect the lipids from autooxidation (Rawls and Santen, 1970). Ascorbate free radical a marker oxidative stress can be detected by ESR (Buetter and Jurkiewicz,1993)

Data presented in Fig. (1) show that the ESR signal intensities of goat milk were lower than those of other milk samples. This may attribute to higher oxidative stability of goat milk. Kondyli *et al.*, (2005) stated that the oxidative stability of goat milk by ESR technique, and the level of free radicals generated in milk have been correlated to the natural antioxidants of goat milk i.e.  $\alpha$ -tocopherol and ascorbic acid (Lindmark-Mamsson and Akesson, 2000).

Fig. (2) shows the ESR spectrum of commercial whole milk powder before and after gamma irradiation at 1 and 2 KGy. The spectrum exhibited shoulder signal centered at  $g = 2.00147$ , which corresponds to free radicals of non-irradiation milk sample. Upon radiation at dose 1 and 2 KGy the sharp signals centered at  $g = 2.00161$ , and  $2.00153$ , respectively. The increase in the signal intensities was found to originate free from generation of new radicals during radiation. This might be attributed to the Maillard reaction.



**Fig (2). The ESR spectrum of irradiated commercial full cream cow's milk powder .**

There are series of free radicals generated in the reaction between amino and glycolaldehyde or glyceraldehyde (Yen and Hsieh, 1995 and Roberts and Lioyd, 1997). However, the characteristic features of these new radicals were found to be similar to those of the original free radical present in the raw milk samples. The ESR signals intensities were higher than those of raw milk samples. This attributed to spray-dried milk powder is much more subjected to oxidation than raw milk. Al-Rowaily (2008) showed that heat treatment of milk increased oxidation products (hydroperoxide or peroxide) compared to that of raw milk. The oxidation level in UHT milk produced from milk powder (reconstituted milk) was significantly higher than those of UHT produced from fresh milk. Therefore, it is unsuitable to use milk powder in the production of UHT milk. Smet *et al.*, (2008) suggested that electron spin resonance spectroscopy can be used to direct detection of early free radicals formation to predict generation of off-flavours during storage of pasteurized milk. On the other hand, the content of free radicals observed by ESR spectroscopy was higher during storage of milk powders at 45°C than in powders stored at 25°C (Stapelfeldt *et al.*, 1997b).

As regards, buffalo's milk butter and colostrum, Fig. (3) shows the ESR spectra of milk samples before and after irradiation at different dose (1 and 2 KGy). In non-irradiated milk samples the amplitudes of the central peaks of ESR spectra were characterized by g values of 2.01115 and 2.01123 for butter milk and colostrums, respectively. Both the signals are essentially the same magnetic field (3450-3500 G), shape and structure. However, the ESR signal intensity of colostrum was higher than that of butter milk. This attributed to the the higher free radicals scavengers in the colostrum than in butter milk. The free radical scavengers of colostrum include whey protein fraction lactoferrin ,enzymes (superoxide dismutase, glutathione peroxidase, catalase, latoperoxidase-hydrogen peroxide-thiocyanate system) vitamins ( $\beta$ -carotene, C,E) and iron as a free radical generator (Kappeler *et al.*, 1999, Levieuk and Ollier, 1999, Lindmark-Mansson and Akession, 2000, Friel *et al.*, 2000, Marek *et al.*, 2003 , Nawar, 2006 , and Alamed *et al.*,2009). Whereas butter milk contains milk fat globule membrane (MFGM) as initiators for free radical formation owing to its relatively high concentration of phospholipids, xanthine oxidase and catalase. Stapelefeldt *et al.*, (1999) reported that the relationship between  $\alpha$ -tocopherol content in milk and MFGM and the ESR signal is important since lipid oxidation in milk is believed to be initiated in the unsaturated phospholipids present in MFGM. Therefore, Kristensen *et al.*, (2004) showed that butter milk from the more unsaturated milk fat was less oxidatively stable during storage (11 days/4°C) than butter milk from the more saturated milk fat.

Milk xanthine oxidase (X.O) containing redox centers serves as electron transfer processes. The radiolysis of X.O generated inorganic and organic free radicals as well as metal ions (Andesont *et al.*, 1986). Also, X.O can produce reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as superoxide anion, hydroxyl radical and hydrogen peroxide (Fridovich, 1970, Kuppusamy and Zweier, 1989 and Granelli *et al.*, 1995).

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On the other hand, the ability of xanthine oxidase, catalyzing the oxidation of hydroxanthine to promote peroxidation of milk lipids (Aurand *et al.*, 1977 and Kankare, 1982). Therefore, food containing antioxidants against superoxide anion will be the first line of defence against oxidative stress (Singh *et al.*, 2006 and Zhang *et al.* 2009).

Fig. (3) also showed that gamma irradiation at dose of 1 and 2 KGy produced increase in signal intensity of both samples. There is positive correlation between signal intensity and irradiation dose, whereas the g value were not affected with the increase of the applied dose (2.01111 and 2.01115) for irradiated butter milk samples at dose of 1 and 2 KGy respectively corresponding values 2.01097 and 2.01098 for colostrum samples. Irradiation may cause decomposition of fat globule membrane and protein that release copper and certain amino acid which act as prooxidants. On the other hand, the signal intensities of irradiated colostrum were higher than those of butter milk (Fig.3), although colostrum has the strongest free radical scavenging activity against generated free radical by irradiation. This might be due to irradiation caused degradation of free radical scavenging of colostrum thus reduced or inactivated antioxidant activity. Singh *et al.*, (2006) showed that antioxidative enzyme are one line of defense against free radicals. Hydrogen peroxide can be broken down by lactoperoxidase catalase and glutathione peroxidase. Also, fatty acid hydroperoxides and phospholipids hydroperoxides can be reduced by different glutathione peroxidases. The conversion of hydrogen peroxide into hydroxyl radical can be controlled by the availability of iron ions influenced by lactoferrin and transferrin (Alamed *et al.*, 2009). Peng *et al.*, (2009) showed that the ESR signal intensities of superoxide anion and hydroxyl radical can be reduced by hydrolysed whey protein isolate (WPI). However, the lower signal intensities of irradiated butter milk may be attributed to inactivation of xanthine oxidase by radiation process and stable lipophilic antioxidant such as  $\alpha$ -tocopherol and  $\beta$ -carotene. Ubaldi *et al.*, (2005) reported that  $\alpha$ -tocopherol more stable and less oxidizable. Therefore Kristensen *et al.*, (2004) indicated that the oxidative stability of butter milk detected with ESR method depends on the content of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol and  $\beta$ -carotene.

**Table (1): The relative ESR signal intensities of non-irradiated and irradiated milk powders**

Type of milk powder	Non-irradiated	Irradiation dose			
		1 KGy	Change %	2 KGy	Change %
Buffalo	60	360	5.00	525	7.75
Cow	160	310	0.93	540	2.38
Goat	50	125	1.5	163	2.26
Camel	150	240	0.56	292	0.95
CFCMP	480	1120	1.3	1650	2.44
Butter milk	100	148	0.48	168	0.68
Colostrums	160	305	0.91	608	3.25

CFCMP = Commercial full cream milk powder

Table (1) shows the relative ESR spectra signal intensities of non-irradiated and irradiated milk powders. The results indicated that the signal intensities of ESR spectra are dependent on the free-radicals origin of milk and irradiation dose applied. However, the magnitude of radio stability based on change of ESR signal intensity. Butter milk and camel milk had the highest radio stability, while buffalo's milk was the lowest.

In conclusions, these previous results suggest the potential of ESR technique as sensitive, direct and accurate tool to monitor reactive species (free radicals) generated by radiation, oxidative stability and radio stability of dairy products, and more detailed studies of reactions mechanisms are warranted. Future studies are planned to include development of new application of ESR to provide additional information to identify the free radicals to advance our understanding of dairy products and interactions among individual components during formulation, processing and storage (Hedegaard *et al.*, 2006, Kopani *et al.*, 2006 and Yu and Cheng, 2008).

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### **استخدام تقنية جهاز الرنين الالكتروني الدوراني (ESR) في كشف الشقوق الحرة للألبان المجففة والمشعة بأشعة جاما**

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- يهدف هذا البحث إلى تقييم استخدام جهاز الرنين الالكتروني (ESR) في الكشف عن الشقوق الحرة للألبان المجففة المختلفة (جاموسى، بقرى، غنم، ابل، لبن بقرى تجارى، لبن خض وسرسوب جاموسى) والمشعة بجرعات مختلفة (1، 2 كيلو جراى (KGy) لأشعة جاما واستدل على وجود الشقوق الحرة ظهور الإشارات (Signals) الناتجة من جهاز ESR وأوضح النتائج إلى ما يلي
- 1- أظهرت عينات اللبن المختلفة الغير مشعة بأشعة جاما إشارات ضعيفة تعتمد على نوعية اللبن المستخدم
  - 2- شدة إشارات (ESR) الناتجة من تشعيع الألبان المختلفة تزداد بزيادة الجرعة الإشعاعية المستخدمة من 1 إلى 2 كيلو جراى
  - 3- درجة ثبات اللبن المجفف لأشعة جاما تعتمد أساسا على وجود الشقوق الحرة في اللبن قبل التشعيع وشدة الجرعة الإشعاعية المستخدمة
  - 4- كان اللبن الخض (الجاموسى) ولبن الإبل أكثر ثباتاً لأشعة جاما بينما كان اللبن الجاموس اقل ثباتاً ونظرا لكون جهاز الرنين الالكتروني الدوراني (ESR) من الأجهزة الحديثة وما يمتاز به من سرعة ودقة النتائج المتحصل عليها لذلك توصى هذه الدراسة بإمكانية استخدام هذا الجهاز في تقييم والتنبأ بجودة المنتجات اللبنية المختلفة مما يساهم في تجنب التغيرات الغير مرغوب فيها أثناء الصناعة والتخزين.





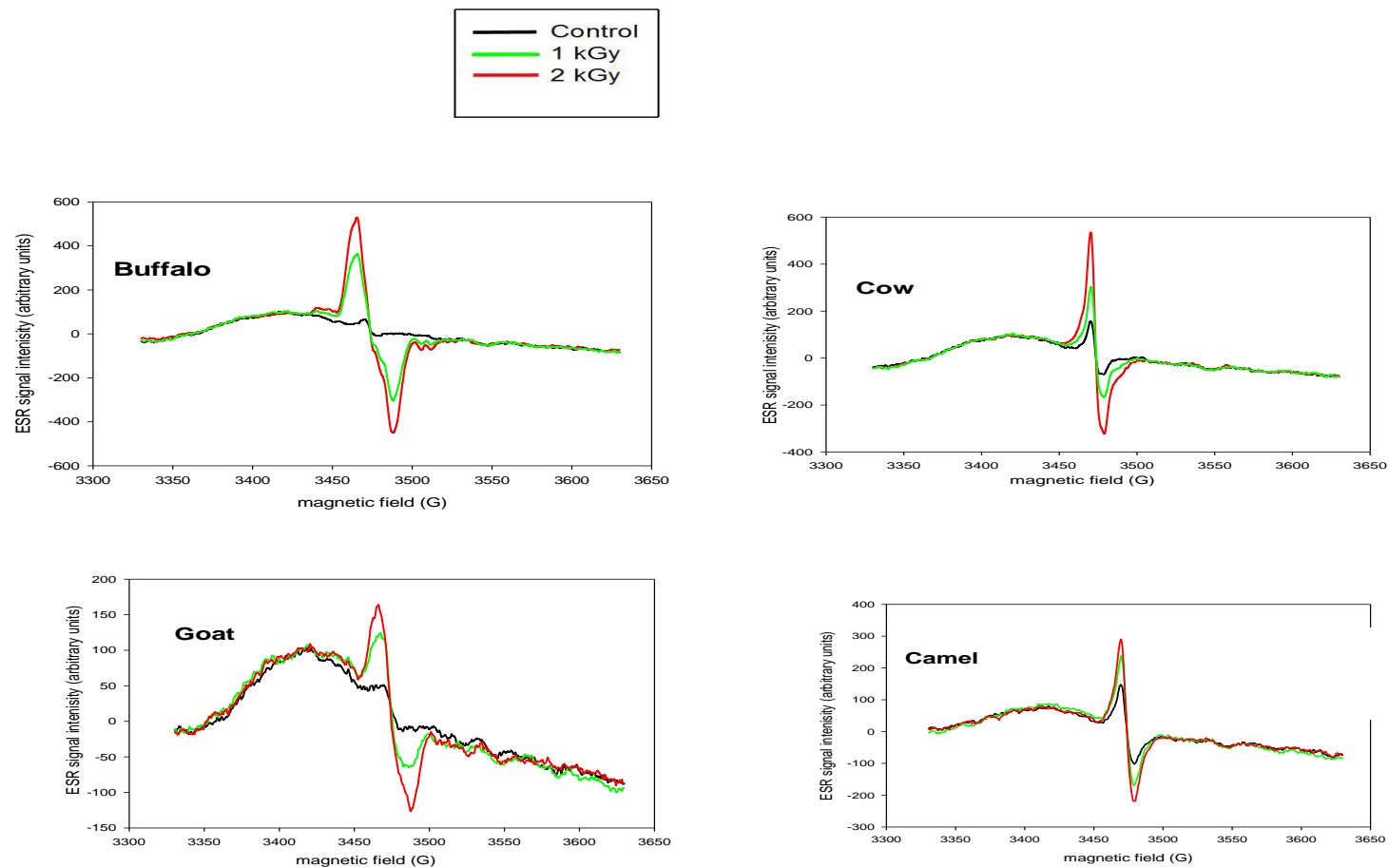


Fig (1). The ESR spectra of irradiated different milk powders ( buffalo, cow, goat and camel).

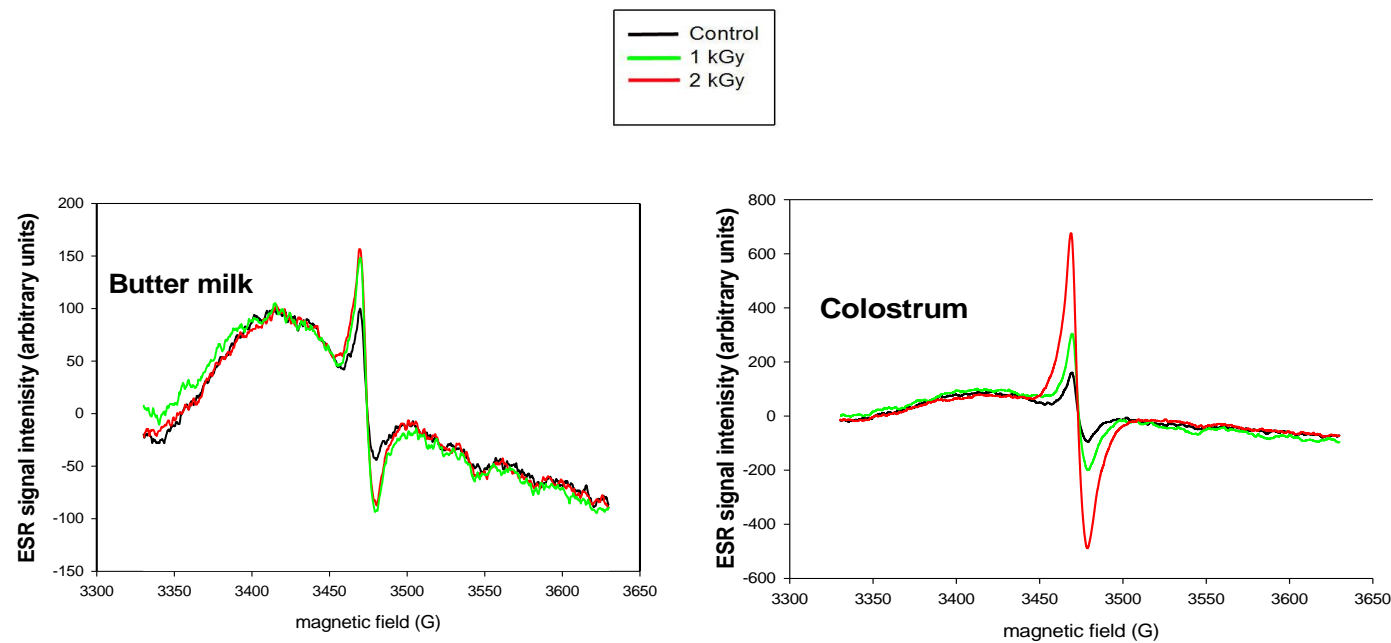


Fig (3). The ESR spectra of irradiated buffalobutter milk and colostrum powders