



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety
Manuscript Number:	Ms_EJNFS_43881
Title of the Manuscript:	Fermentation of Cassava Leaves Improves Provitamin A Carotenoid Bioefficacy in Mongolian gerbils (<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>)
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	In Table3, why did the fermented (F) cassava leaves have much higher level of total β -carotene than that of the non-fermented (NF)?	Fermentation resulted in higher value of β -carotene contents. In green leaves, carotenoids components are organized in pigment-protein complexes located in cell chloroplasts (Hedren et al., 2002). Therefore fermentation processing may make carotenes easily extracted by breaking down carotenoids-protein bounds (See added information in the revised paper).
Minor REVISION comments	Why did not the fermented (F) cassava leaves with higher level of total β -carotene make a difference in serum/liver vitamin A concentration, compared with that of the non-fermented (NF) group (Fig 2)?	In spite of the differences in total carotenoids contents (F and NF leaves), the feeds were prepared using F and NF cassava leaves at 3.53 and 4.27% respectively, to provide 35 nmol/g feed to the gerbils daily (see 2.4 section about experimental design). Second, many factors such as matrix meal effect, nutrient and genetic status of the host, effectors of absorption and bioconversion may affect in different way the bioavailability of carotenoids (See added information in the revised paper). For serum vitamin A concentration, many studies have demonstrated that serum retinol is under homeostatic control and only decreased when liver is severely VA deficient (See 3.3 section of the paper)
Optional/General comments		