# **ORIGINAL PAPER**



# **Effects of Red Pepper Pomace Protein and Oil on the Properties of Starch-Based Edible Films**

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# **Abstract**

**Purpose** As the issue of sustainability gains importance in recent days, efforts to reduce or eliminate waste problems are gaining importance. The use of various industrial by-products is being investigated to produce edible packaging materials. In this study, red pepper pomace oil and protein were extracted and incorporated into corn starch film and their effects on the film properties were analyzed.

**Method** Protein isolate was added to the films as 10–30% of the starch mass and oil as 15% of the solid mass of the film containing 10% protein isolate. The edible composite films characterized by physical, barrier, mechanical, antioxidant and antimicrobial properties and FTIR spectroscopy.

**Results** Pomace oil addition increased the thickness. While pomace oil decreased water solubility, protein isolate increased it. Protein isolate and pomace oil did not alter swelling and water vapor permeability. The protein isolate decreased the *L\** value and the pomace oil decreased the *a\** value. Both protein isolate and pomace oil increased yellowness in the films. A low amount (10%) of protein isolates increased the transparency of films. The combined use of protein isolate and pomace oil decreased the elongation at break and increased the tensile strength of the films. Antimicrobial effect against *Escherichia coli* and antioxidant activity of oil containing film were observed.

**Conclusion** The results suggest that valuable components can be obtained from red pepper pomace, and these components can be added to modify the characteristics of maize starch edible films. **Graphical Abstract**



**Keywords** Food Waste · Red Pepper Pomace · Starch film · Protein Isolate

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# **Introduction**

Recently, studies on biodegradable films have increased due to environmental concerns regarding non-biodegradable plastic packaging [[1\]](#page-7-0). Biodegradable or edible packaging protect food products against physical, chemical and microbiological hazards without causing environmental damage. They can be produced from polysaccharide, protein and lipid compounds or their mixture [[2](#page-7-1)]. Particularly, there is a lot of interest in high-molecular polymers such as starch, chitosan and cellulose [\[3](#page-7-2)]. Starch is a non-toxic biological polymer. It is an economical and abundant material with high film-forming ability [[4](#page-7-3)–[6\]](#page-7-4). Although starch is suitable for making films, its hydrophilic character and mechanical properties must be improved [\[7](#page-7-5)–[9](#page-7-6)]. There are different studies to change the properties of starch films. Protein addition to the film formulation can increase water resistance because of the hydrophobic components of proteins [\[10](#page-8-0)].

The use of vegetable and fruit process wastes has been studied to find new and alternative protein sources [[11](#page-8-1), [12](#page-8-2)]. Wastes obtained during vegetable and fruit processing can also be considered as alternatives for the production of various functional components [[13,](#page-8-3) [14](#page-8-4)]. Protein isolates draw attention to their bioactivity as well as their functional properties [\[15](#page-8-5)]. Red pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.) is mainly grown for its fruit but can also be used as a spice. Red peppers are available in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and flavors, from sweet to pungency  $[16]$  $[16]$  $[16]$ . They can be used directly in food preparation, as well as for flavoring and coloring products such as sauces, tomato paste, puree, and powder [[17,](#page-8-7) [18](#page-8-8)]. They are excellent functional ingredients due to their antioxidant, dietary fiber, vitamin, and mineral content [\[19](#page-8-9)]. By-products from the red pepper processing industry are also sources of phenolic substances, dietary fiber, carotenoids, and pectin [[20](#page-8-10)]. Red pepper pomace is rich in protein, cellulose, flavonoids, phenols, vitamins, carotenoids, minerals and contains a small amount of volatile oil [[21\]](#page-8-11).

Generally, raw and auxiliary materials exit the production process as a product and product-specific or non-product-specific waste. Product-specific wastes are inevitable as a result of the processing of raw materials. There are various methods for the evaluation of this waste. The two most commonly used traditional methods are animal feed and fertilizer. However, product-specific wastes are considered safe for human consumption since they are characterized by a high percentage of organic compounds and can be used in different areas [[22\]](#page-8-12). In 2021, chillies and peppers production worldwide is 36,286,643 tons. The largest producer was China (16,749,718 tons), followed by Turkey (3,091,295 tons), Indonesia (2,747,018 tons), Mexico (2,584,143 tons), and Spain (1,511,560 tons) [[23\]](#page-8-13). Every year a large amount of solid waste is produced by food factories. Solid wastes can contain various bioactive compounds and biopolymers [\[24](#page-8-14)]. It is an important task of the industry to evaluate or dispose of the remaining pomace after the processing of peppers into products.

There are studies on obtaining protein from red pepper seeds [[18,](#page-8-8) [25](#page-8-15)]; however, there is no study on the use of red pepper pomace, which is an industrial waste. Firatligil-Durmus & Evranuz optimized the extraction of protein of red pepper seed (*Capsicum frutescens*) [[18](#page-8-8)]. Lee et al. extracted red pepper seed protein and produced edible films containing that protein and oregano oil [[25\]](#page-8-15). Strong protein and starch interactions can cause some changes in the matrix and physical and mechanical properties of the films [[26](#page-8-16)]. Moreover, the high nutritional value contents of red pepper seed oil were reported. The most dominant fatty acid in red pepper seed oil was found to be linoleic acid and it has high γ-tocopherol content [[27](#page-8-17)]. The objective of this study was to extract the valuable components from industrial waste red pepper pomace. Incorporation of red pepper pomace protein can change the properties of starch based films. Additionally, the extracted oil can provide nutritional and antimicrobial properties to the films. Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate the effect of adding oils and proteins extracted from pepper pomace to maize starch films on film properties.

# **Materials and Methods**

# **Materials**

Pepper pomace was kindly received from Döhler Natural Food and Beverage Ingredients Factory (Karaman, Turkey). Hexane, sodium hydroxide, methanol and hydrochloric acid (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany); sodium chloride (Sigma-Aldrich, Søborg, Denmark); glycerol (%99.5, Panreac, Barcelona, Spain) were purchased from several chemical companies.

# **Pepper Pomace Preparation and Oil Extraction**

The average oil and protein content of dry pepper pomace was 7.73%  $\pm$  0.21 and 14.32%  $\pm$  0.03, respectively. Oil-free red pepper pomace was obtained according to Firatligil-Durmus and Evranuz [[18\]](#page-8-8). Red pepper pomace (100 g) was weighed and hexane was added as solvent (5:1 solvent:sample ratio). The mixture was stirred on a magnetic stirrer (Daihan Wisd, MSH-20 A, Zevenhuizen, Netherlands) for 24 h. Then the mixture was filtered under a vacuum. The supernatant was stored for oil extraction; the sediment was kept at room temperature for 20 min and dried

in an oven for 2 h at 50 °C (Binder, KB53, Tuttlingen, Germany). The dried fraction was ground in a blender (Waring, Commercial, Darmstadt, Germany) and passed through a 500 μm sieve (Retsch, AS200, Haan, Germany). A rotary evaporator (Stuart, RE300, Stafford, England) was used to remove hexane from the supernatant (oil+hexane). The extracted oil was transferred in a dark glass bottle and stored at 4 °C in a refrigerator until use.

# **Protein Isolates Preparation**

Protein isolate extraction were done according to Paraman et al. (2006) with some modifications. Oil-free red pepper pomace (100 g) was weighed and 0.5% NaCl solution was added at a ratio of 5:1 (solvent:sample). The pH of the mixture was adjusted to 11 with 0.5 N NaOH solution by stirring in a magnetic stirrer. Then the mixture was extracted for 3 h at 40 °C in a magnetic stirrer and transferred to centrifuge tubes. After centrifugation at 5000 rpm for 15 min (Nüve, NF200, Ankara, Turkey), the supernatant in the tubes was collected in a beaker with the help of a Pasteur pipette and the pH was adjusted to 3 with 0.1 N HCl solution by stirring in a magnetic stirrer. The solution was kept at refrigerator temperature for 24 h to precipitate the proteins. Then it was mixed and centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 15 min. The sediment in the tubes was collected and freeze-dried [[28\]](#page-8-18).

# **Preparation of the Starch-Protein Isolate Film**

The protein obtained from red pepper paste was mixed with maize starch in the ratio of 10 and 30% by the starch weight. The total starch and protein content were mixed with distilled water to prepare 5% (w/v) suspensions. Glycerol (99.5% of purity) at 25% by mass of starch and protein was added. After 20 min mixing, mixture was gelatinized at 80 °C for 30 min with mixing at 400 rpm. The suspension was cooled at room temperature and air bubbles were removed under a vacuum. The mixture (15 mL) was poured into Teflon plates (12 cm diameter) and dried for 24 h at 50 °C. After that the films were removed from Teflon cups and were conditioned by storing them at 25 °C and 55% relative humidity for 2 d (in a desiccator containing  $Mg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>$  saturated solution) [\[29](#page-8-19)]. The film containing maize starch and glycerol was named as Control (C) and the films containing protein isolate (PI) as the  $10\%$  and  $30\%$  of starch weight (w/w) were named as 10PI and 30PI, respectively. Pepper pomace oil (PO, 15% w/w by mass of the solid content) was added to the film solution containing 10% PI after gelatinization and cooling steps, and the film was named as  $10PI + PO$ .

#### **Film Analysis**

# **Thickness**

A micrometer (Insize, Germany) was used to measure the thickness of the films and three random positions around the films were measured.

#### **Moisture Analysis**

The moisture content of the films was determined by a moisture analyzer (AND, MX-50, Tokyo, Japan) at 105 °C. The moisture content of the pieces selected from random regions of the films.

#### **Water Solubility**

To determine the initial dry weight, three discs (diameter of 17.3 mm) sample were randomly cut, weighed and dried at 105 °C for 24 h. Then samples were immersed in 50 ml distilled water, kept in an orbital shaker at 25 °C for 24 h, filtered. To determine the final dry weight, samples were dried for 24 at 105 °C h. The water solubility was calculated by dividing the initial dry weight by the weight difference [[30](#page-8-20)].

#### **Swelling**

Three discs (17.3 mm diameter) from each film were randomly weighed and kept for half an hour in distilled water (50 mL) with continuous shaking. At the end of the time, the immersed discs were dried on a filter paper to remove excess water and their weight was measured. The ratio of recovered water (g) to total solids (g) gives the swelling value [[31\]](#page-8-21).

#### **Water Vapor Permeability**

Water vapor permeability coefficient (WVP) was deter-mined according to E96/E96M standard method [[32](#page-8-22)] with some modifications defined by McHugh et al. (1993) [[33](#page-8-23)]. Distilled water (20 mL) was added into the aluminum test cups and the cups were sealed with circular-shaped films. The cups were placed in a desiccator containing  $Mg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>$ saturated solutions at 25 °C and  $55 \pm 2\%$  relative humidity and then their weight loss was weighed for 8 h as described in the previous paper [\[34](#page-8-24)].

# **Color**

The color values were measured by using a chroma meter (Minolta CR-400, Konica Minolta, Osaka, Japan). According to the CIELab system, the parameters *L\*, a\** and *b\**

indicate lightness to darkness, red to green and yellow to blue, respectively. Also, yellowness index (YI) was calculated by *L\** and *b\** values according to Khanzadi et al. (2015) [[35\]](#page-8-27).

# **Transparency**

The D1746 standard method was used to determine the transparency [\[36](#page-8-28)]. Rectangular shape samples were cut and placed on the side surface of the cuvette used in the UV-Visible spectrophotometer. Transparency of the films was measured at 560 nm by a UV-Visible spectrophotometer (PG Instruments Ltd., T60, Lutterworth, England) and the percentage transparency was calculated as follows:

Transparency =  $(I_r/I_0) \times 100$ 

where  $I_r$  and  $I_0$  is the light intensity with the specimen and with no specimen in the beam, respectively.

#### **Mechanical Properties**

Standard testing method D882 was used to determine the mechanical properties of films [[37\]](#page-8-29). Percent elongation at break (EAB) and tensile strength (TS) of films of film samples (15 mm x 70 mm) were measured by a texture analyzer (LAB3-2512 A, Mesdan LAB, Italy) equipped with 100 N load cell. Samples were attached to the grips of the texture analyzer at a 40 mm initial length with 25 mm/min crosshead speed.

#### **Antioxidant and Antimicrobial Properties**

Antioxidant capacity of pepper pomace oil and the film containing this oil was determined according to DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazil) radical reduction analysis [\[38](#page-8-30)]. Ethyl acetate was used to prepare DPPH solution and extracts. Film (0.5 g) was extracted with 5 mL of ethyl acetate. The DPPH scavenging reaction was developed by mixing 0.1 mL of film extract of oil with 3 mL of 20 mg L<sup>−</sup><sup>1</sup> DPHH solution. The results are expressed as percentage inhibition of DPPH radical.

Antimicrobial properties of pepper pomace oil containing films were analyzed with the well diffusion method. Films were cut into 1.2 cm diameter discs and placed on Nutrient agar plates previously inoculated with 0.1 mL of the culture of *Bacillus cereus, Salmonella typhi*, *Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. The plates were incubated at 37 °C for 24 h to analyze the inhibition zone.

#### **Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy**

The chemical interactions of the film ingredients were determined by FTIR spectra of films by a Bruker Invenio S Spectrometer (Bruker Co., Ettlingen, Germany). The transmittance spectral regions were obtained between  $4000-400$  cm<sup>-1</sup> with a 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution.

# **Statistical Analysis**

The results were given as mean $\pm$ standard deviation of at least triplicate experiments. SPSS software (IBM SPSS Statistics, 19) was used to carry out one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare the results at the significant level  $p < 0.05$ . Also, Duncan multiple comparison test was used in the comparison of the groups.

# **Results and Discussion**

# **Thickness**

Film thickness varies according to the components in the film, the proportions of these components and the film making process [\[39](#page-8-25)]. Mechanical properties and barrier properties depend on film thickness. Therefore, it is a very important feature in the selection of packaging materials for foods [\[39](#page-8-25)–[41](#page-8-26)]. The thickness of C film was  $0.066 \pm 0.005$  mm (Table [1](#page-3-0)). Adding PI did not significantly  $(p>0.05)$  alter the thickness. The solid amount in the film matrix did not increase for PI including films, so it did not affect the thickness. PO addition increased the thickness value significantly  $(p < 0.05)$ . Similar results were reported by other researchers who studied essential oil addition into films. The oil microdroplets, which were generated during the homogenization of the film solution, increased amount of solid content after oil addition, or weak physical bonding

<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Table 1** Thickness (mm), moisture content (%), water solubility (%), swelling in water (g water gained/ g total solids) characteristics of control (C), 10% protein isolate (PI) containing film (10PI), 30% PI containing film (30PI), 10% PI and pepper oil containing film  $(10PI+PO)$ .



<span id="page-4-0"></span>**Fig. 1** Water vapor permeability coefficient (WVP, gmm/m<sup>2</sup>hkPa) of control (C), 10% protein isolate (PI) containing (10PI), 30% PI containing (30PI), 10% PI and pepper oil containing  $(10PI+PO)$ films



 $10PI + PO$  87.388 $\pm$ 0.570° 2.304 $\pm$ 0.109° 19.220 $\pm$ 1.924<sup>a</sup> 31.437 $\pm$ 3.326<sup>a</sup> 45.985 $\pm$ 1.605<sup>b</sup>

<span id="page-4-1"></span>**Table 2**  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$ , yellowness index (YI) and transparency values of control (C), 10% protein isolate (PI) containing film (10PI), 30% PI containing film (30PI), 10% PI and pepper oil containing film  $(10PI+PO)$ .

between oil and other components can increase the films' thickness [\[42](#page-8-31), [43](#page-8-32)].

#### **Moisture, Solubility and Swelling**

The moisture content of the films is a very important feature in packaging applications. Because a packaging should be able to protect the moisture of the product from external factors and ensure that the product can maintain its quality [[44\]](#page-8-33). Table [1](#page-3-0) shows the moisture analysis results of the films. The sample with the highest moisture content is the 30% protein-added film (12.576%  $\pm$  0.657). Compared to the control sample (11.146%  $\pm$  0.014), this value was not significantly different  $(p > 0.05)$ . There was a decrease in the moisture content of  $PI+PO$  film compared to the film containing the same amount of PI without oil, but it was not statistically significant.

The solubility of films is the ability to dissolve in water and significantly affects the storage quality of coated foods. While high solubility films are preferred for the proper digestion of food and its natural decomposition in the environment, low solubility films are also needed to preserve the integrity of food [\[45](#page-8-34), [46](#page-9-4)]. Edible films based on polysaccharides are generally hydrophilic. Solubility can be reduced by changing the dry matter and glycerol concentration so that high solubility does not affect moisture loss or moisture gain in the product  $[46, 47]$  $[46, 47]$  $[46, 47]$  $[46, 47]$ . The water solubility of C film was  $15.332\% \pm 0.433$  $15.332\% \pm 0.433$  (Table 1). The PI addition to the film increased the solubility  $(p<0.05)$  but PI amount

did not affect it. The hydrophobic character of oil molecules decreased the solubility of films in water [[48](#page-9-0)]. Therefore, PO addition significantly decreased the solubility of 10PI films from  $19.133\% \pm 1.622$  to  $16.221\% \pm 0.617$ .

Swelling is an important feature for polysaccharides and proteins. Because there is a correlation between the amount of water absorbed and swelling correlation [[49](#page-9-1)]. The swelling values of films were between 2.205 g/g to 2.991 g/g (Table [1](#page-3-0)). The addition of PI and PO did not change the swelling values significantly  $(p > 0.05)$ .

#### **Water Vapor Permeability**

Water vapor permeability is an important factor that has an effect on the storage properties of food. During storage, the mass transfer through food or between the environment causes the formation of various physical and chemical reactions that cause the food to deteriorate. Migration of various components, especially water, should be con-trolled [[50](#page-9-2)]. The WVP value of the C film was  $0.628 \pm 0.064$ gmm/m<sup>2</sup> hkPa (Fig. [1](#page-4-0)). There was no statistically significant change in the WVP values of the films with the addition of PI and PO  $(p > 0.05)$ .

# **Color and Transparency**

The color of an edible film is the first factor in the acceptability of packaged products [\[51](#page-9-3)]. *L\** values of film samples were between 84.064 and 92.695, *a\** values of film samples <span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Photographs of the film samples (**a**) Control, (**b**) 10% protein isolate (PI) containing (10PI), (**c**) 30% PI containing (30PI), (**d**) 10% PI and pepper oil containing  $(10PI+PO)$  films



<span id="page-5-1"></span>**Table 3** Tensile strength  $(N/mm^2)$  and elongation at break  $(\%)$  properties of control (C), 10% protein isolate (PI) containing film (10PI), 30% PI containing film (30PI), 10% PI and pepper oil containing film  $(10PI+PO)$ .



were between 2.304 and 4.744, and *b\** values of film samples were between 0.012 and 19.220 (Table [2](#page-4-1)). The control group was the brightest film and PI decreased the brightness of the films ( $p < 0.05$ ). When the 10PI and 10PI+PO groups were compared it can be seen that PO caused a decrease in brightness  $(p<0.05)$ . The addition of PO significantly decreased *a\** value of the film; the addition of PI and PO significantly increased  $b^*$  value of the film ( $p < 0.05$ ). YI values of films were between 0.024 and 32.437. This parameter increased for PI and PO containing films. As can be also seen in photographs of film samples (Fig. [2](#page-5-0)), the films with protein and oil additives were slightly yellowish because of the characteristic color of PI and PO.

Transparency of film is an essential visual factor [[52](#page-9-13)]. The addition of 10% PI to the control film increased the transparency values from 47.993 to  $61.377$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). Consumers desire to see coated food items, so higher transparency is an important feature for edible films to reach consumer acceptance. Since the addition of PI at a low rate increases the transparency value, the studies with EO continued with this sample. While the addition of EO to the film caused a decrease in the transparency value, the result is not different from the C film  $(p>0.05)$ . The transparency decreased in the films containing high PI (30%), but this value did not show a statistically significant  $(p > 0.05)$  difference with the value of the C sample.

# **Mechanical Properties**

The TS and EAB values of the films as mechanical properties are presented in Table [3](#page-5-1). TS and EAB value for C film were  $3.207$  N/mm<sup>2</sup> and 79.500%, respectively. As can be seen in the Tables [3](#page-5-1), 10% addition of PI caused a significant increase to  $4.246$  N/mm<sup>2</sup> ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the TS value. The addition of PI at the rate of 30% did not cause a change  $(p>0.05)$  compared to the C sample. Basiak et al. (2015) [[53](#page-9-6)] reported increased TS values with the increased amount of whey protein isolate in wheat starch films. When the EAB values of the samples were examined, it was seen that PI caused a significant  $(p < 0.05)$  decrease, while the amount of PI did not cause a change  $(p > 0.05)$ .

Surprisingly, a significant increase in the TS value and a significant decrease  $(p < 0.05)$  in the EAB value were observed in the samples with PO. Some researchers have reported a decrease in TS values with the addition of oil in films produced with various hydrocolloids. For example, coconut oil addition to films based on soy protein isolate [[54\]](#page-9-7) and sunflower oil addition to films based on quinoa proteinchitosan [\[55](#page-9-8)] showed a decrease in TS. They attributed this to the increase in heterogeneity in the film matrix and the increase in discontinuities in the polymer network. However, in some studies, similar to this study, it was observed that the TS values increased with the addition of oil. Liu et al. [\[56](#page-9-9)] found that 2.5% of corn oil addition increased the TS and decreased the EAB of pectin and gelatin/sodium alginate films. In this study, it was stated that oil molecules penetrated the film matrix and increased the bonding and showed a reinforcing effect on the network structure.

# **Antioxidant and Antimicrobial Properties**

The DPPH free radical scavenging activity of red pepper pomace oil and oil added film were  $42.189\% \pm 1.942$ and  $3.254\% \pm 0.456$ , respectively. Red pepper pomace is a waste containing skin, seed and pulp. It is known that the seed contains high amounts of oil [[57\]](#page-9-10). Pepper seed oil shows antioxidant properties with tocopherol, carotene and phenolic components [\[27](#page-8-17), [58,](#page-9-11) [59\]](#page-9-12). The oil obtained from red pepper pomace with its antioxidant activity, characteristic aroma and odor can be used in the packaging of meat products to increase the oxidative stability. Films containing pepper pomace protein and oil did not show any antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus cereus, Salmonella typhi*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. However, as can be seen in Fig. [3,](#page-6-0) it demonstrated an inhibitory activity against *Escherichia coli* with a 4 mm diameter zone of inhibition. It is known that the capsanthin compound, a <span id="page-6-0"></span>**Fig. 3** The images of disc diffusion assay of films containing 10% protein isolate (PI) and pepper oil (10PI+PO) against *Escherichia coli*



carotenoid found in red pepper, has antimicrobial and antioxidant effects [[60](#page-9-15)].

# to CO stretching of carbonyl ester groups of fatty acids and triglycerides [[66\]](#page-9-14).

# **FTIR**

FTIR spectra of native maize starch, PI from red pepper pomace, and films containing starch, PI and pepper oil extracted from red pepper pomace were shown in Fig. [4.](#page-7-7) Peak shifts and new peak formations were not observed in the spectrum of the films, indicating that no new chemical group was formed. The broad band in the region of  $3600-3000$  cm<sup>-1</sup> indicates the OH stretching vibrations and the peaks around 2930 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicates the CH stretching. Strong hydrogen bonds in starch molecules and between water and starch caused that broad band [[61\]](#page-9-16). The peaks in the region of approximately  $1200 - 800$  cm<sup>-1</sup> show the adsorption bands [\[62](#page-9-17), [63\]](#page-9-18). These peaks indicate vibrations of CO, CC and COH stretching groups [[63\]](#page-9-18). The peak around 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to water molecules present in the samples [[61](#page-9-16)]. In the PI spectrum, the peaks at 1650 and 1530 cm<sup>−</sup><sup>1</sup> correspond amide-I (carbonyl stretching vibrations) and amide-II (NH bending vibrations) bands, respectively [[64\]](#page-9-19). It is seen that the water peak and the amide-I peak from the protein overlap [\[65](#page-9-20)]. The weak band around  $1740 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponds

# **Conclusion**

Extraction of protein and oil from red pepper pomace has been studied to add them into maize starch based edible film. This study showed that it is possible to extract protein and oil from red pepper pomace which is an industrial by-product. The incorporation of protein isolate and oil into starch film could modify the some properties of films. Pepper pomace oil addition increased thickness and decreased the water solubility of films. Both of them caused to produce edible film characterized by a slight yellowish and did not affect the water vapor permeability values of films. The lower amount of (10%) protein isolates increased the transparency of films. Moreover, pepper pomace protein and oil together increased the tensile strength and decreased the elongation at break values of starch films. In addition, edible films containing pepper pomace oil showed antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli*. The results suggest that valuable extracts of pepper pomace, as an industrial by-product, may be a good candidate to be used in the production of active <span id="page-7-7"></span>**Fig. 4** FTIR spectra of control film (C), 10% protein isolate (PI) containing film (10PI), 30% PI containing film (30PI), 10% PI and pepper oil containing film  $(10PI+PO)$ .



films to extend the shelf life of sensitive foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables and meat products.

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**Author Contributions** All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, formal analysis, conceptualization, investigation and methodology were performed by Zeynep Kader Akıncı, Halil Karaman, Meral Yıldırım-Yalçın, Hatice Sena Olcay Mehmet Inan and Omer Said Toker. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Zeynep Kader Akıncı, Halil Karaman, Meral Yıldırım-Yalçın, Hatice Sena Olcay and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Data Availability** The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available on request from the authors.

#### **Declarations**

**Ethical Approval** Ethical approval was not applicable for this research.

**Conflict of Interest** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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