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Serving Size and Gender Effects on Product (Lemonade) Acceptance and Just-Right Attribute Ratings

Zehra AYHAN

Department of Food Science and Technology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA.

Chen-Ta LI

Department of Animal Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA.
Matrid K. NDIFE, Q. Howard ZHANG

Department of Food Science and Technology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA.

Abstract: The serving size and gender effects on product acceptance and ideal attribute (lemonade flavor, sourness and sweetness) ratings of lemonade were investigated using a 15-point hedonic scale and a 5-point just-right scale, respectively. Females (67) and males (68) consumed a 4 oz (118 ml) sample ad libitum, or a full 8 oz (236 ml) serving. Ad libitum male consumption was not different (p>0.05) from female consumption. A low correlation (R<sup>2</sup>=0.011) was observed between the amount of lemonade consumed and product acceptability or just-right attribute ratings. Neither serving size nor gender had an effect on the overall acceptability (p>0.05). However, the interaction of gender and serving size affected the overall acceptability (p<0.05) and sweetness (p<0.10). Male acceptability scores were lower (p<0.05) than female scores under ad libitum conditions. Male acceptability scores increased (p<0.05) with increased sample size. There was no significant difference observed for lemonade flavor, sourness or sweetness just-right ideal scores as the sample size increased (p>0.05). A higher proportion of males rated the sweetness just-about-right as compared to females (p<0.05). This study showed that consumption of a standard serving size did not result in sensory specific satiety, but several interesting gender effects were found.

Key Words: product attributes, product acceptability, serving size and gender

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