Coffee from Seed to Cup: The Biomedical Story from a Heart Surgeon's Perspective

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Arkansas? Hawaii? Coffee???

• Brief Background

- College and Medical School in Arkansas
- Army for 13 years
 - Honolulu
 - San Antonio
 - San Francisco
 - Saudi Arabia
- Jonesboro for the last 19 years





Hawaii



JA-LAN MALAN



Kona Beginnings

- Land Purchased in 1997
- Clearing and Planting 1998
- First Crop 2000
- Roasting 2001
- Web development 2003



Why is Kona Great for Coffee?

• Kona Micro-Climate

- Warm sunny mornings
- Cloudy misty afternoons
- Volcanic well drained soil
- Frost free growing
- On the slopes of Mauna Loa (13,696 Feet)
- 19 Degrees North Latitude



Coffee & Kona

- Ancestral home of coffee is Ethiopia
- Coffee origins date to the 1400's in Yemen
- Coffee was first planted in Kona in 1828
- Original cuttings from Brazil
- Modern Kona coffee is from Guatemala
- About 600 farmers
- 2 Million pounds (1% of world production)



Coffee Growing

- Optimal Elevation 1500-3500 feet
- Taxonomy Coffea arabica & Coffea canephora
- C.arabica is 75 % of worldwide crop
- C.canephora or robusta is used as a filler
- Trees can live 75 100 years
- Hand picking every 2-3 weeks



Coffee Pictures























"Kona Coffee has a richer flavor than any other, be it grown where it may, and call it by what name you please"

Mark Twain





Roasting Chemistry

Roasting

- Thermal and Chemical Reactions Occur
- Pyrolysis
- Maillard Reaction
- Carmelization
- Endothermic Reactions
- Exothermic Reactions



Major Coffee Acids

- Quinic Acid
- Citric Acid
- Chlorogenic Acid
- Phosphoric Acid
- Acetic Acid



Coffee Carbohydrates

- About 50% by weight of coffee's dry base
- Sucrose predominates and varies with ripening.
- Arabica has 2X the Sucrose of Robusta
- Mono, oligo and polysaccharides exist



Coffee Proteins

- Proteins account for 10-13% of dry matter
- Amino Acid concentrations dependent on stage of ripening
- Tryptophan, threonine, tyronine, serine, alanine, lysine, and arginine
- Play a critical role via Maillard Reaction



Coffee Lipids

- Arabica contains more lipids than Robusta
- Triglycerides account for 75%
- Diterpene alcohol esters 18%
- Deterpene alcohols 0.4%
- During roasting: lipids and caffeine remain virtually unchanged









Caffeine Chemistry

- Xanthine alkaloid
- Isolated in 1820
- Molecular Weight 194.19
- Arabica 1.2% Robusta 2.2%
- Concentration in a beverage is dependent on preparation technique
- Range of 60-150 mg per 8 oz. drink



Trigonelline

- Slightly bitter alkaloid
- Important precursor
- Degrades to the pyridines and nicotinic acid
- Roasting results in 50-80% loss
- Majority converted into pyridine
- Second product is nicotinic acid or niacin
- Coffee is an ample source of niacin



Medical Aspects of Coffee

Caffeine Metabolism

- Almost completely metabolized (97%)
- 75% via 3-N demethylation to paraxanthine
- 8% via 1-N demethylation to theobromine
- 8% via 7-N demethylation to theophylline
- 9% via C-8 hydroxylation to trimethyluric acid



Liver Metabolism





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Genetics

- CYP1A2 is a member of the cytochrome P450 oxidase superfamily in the liver
- Major regulator of caffeine metabolism
- Varients exist in rate of metabolism
- Slow metabolism may be associated with: increased myocardial infarction, hypertension
- No evidence for elevation of cholesterol and caffeine



Caffeine and Fibrinolysis

- Fibrinolysis is the breakdown of clot in the body
- Clot formation is implicated in myocardial infarctions and strokes
- Regular coffee drinking is associated with increased fibrinolysis
- Effect not seen in decaf coffee drinkers
- Clinical significance is unknown



Caffeine & The Respiratory System

- Asthma is due to reversible airway obstruction secondary to smooth muscle constriction
- The methylxanthines are smooth muscle relaxant agents
- Theophylline is 2X more potent than caffeine
- Caffeine administration has a long history of use in newborns with neonatal apnea





- Coffee contains more than 100 active chemicals
- No positive correlation between coffee intake and cancer incidence
- Cafestol and kahweol have been shown to be cancer protective in animal studies
- Hard to draw any overall conclusions



Weight Loss

- Caffeine stimulates lipolysis
- Increases Free Fatty Acid release
- May lead to enhance fatty acid metabolism in endurance activities
- Increases basal metabolic rate
- Appetite suppressant
- Long term weight maintenance very complicated



Cafestol & Kahweol

- Diterpene alcohols
- In vitro: inhibits covalent bonding of aflatoxin to DNA
- Implicated in elevating cholesterol levels
- Effect only seen when paper filters are not used



Conclusions

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