

Supplementary Table S1. Microbiological evaluation (mean log CFU mL⁻¹ or g⁻¹ ± SD) of pasteurized milk, Mana Kopanisti and Kopanisti cheese samples during ripening

Sample	Day	Total mesophilic bacteria	Mesophilic lactobacilli	Thermophilic lactobacilli	Mesophilic cocci	Thermophilic cocci	NSLAB	Enterococci	Psychrotrophic bacteria	Enterobacteria	Yeasts
Pasteurized milk	-	3.7 ± 0.7	2.5 ± 1.1	2.7 ± 0.9	3.5 ± 0.6	3.3 ± 0.7	BDL	BDL	0.8 ± 1.7	BDL	BDL
Mana Kopanisti	-	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Kopanisti A	1	9.5 ± 0.1 ^{Aa}	9.6 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.6 ± 0.1 ^{Aa}	9.6 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.6 ± 0.1 ^{Aa}	8.2 ± 0.3 ^{Aa}	0.9 ± 1.6 ^{Aa}	4.6 ± 0.4 ^{ABa}	2.3 ± 0.4 ^{Aa}	3.8 ± 0.3 ^{Aa}
	7	9.0 ± 0.3 ^{ABb}	8.7 ± 0.1 ^{Ab}	8.8 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	8.9 ± 0.3 ^{Ab}	8.8 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	8.6 ± 1.0 ^{Aab}	BDL	5.9 ± 0.3 ^{Aac}	0.7 ± 1.2 ^{Aa}	7.4 ± 0.5 ^{Bbc}
	21	9.2 ± 0.1 ^{Aab}	9.1 ± 0.1 ^{Ac}	9.0 ± 0.2 ^{Aab}	9.1 ± 0.0 ^{Aab}	8.9 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	9.1 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	BDL	7.5 ± 0.4 ^{Ab}	1.6 ± 2.8 ^{Aa}	7.9 ± 0.4 ^{Ab}
	35	8.7 ± 0.5 ^{ABb}	8.7 ± 0.4 ^{ABb}	8.4 ± 0.7 ^{Ab}	8.8 ± 0.4 ^{ABb}	8.4 ± 0.5 ^{ABb}	8.7 ± 0.4 ^{Ab}	BDL	6.3 ± 0.9 ^{Abc}	BDL	6.6 ± 1.0 ^{ABc}
Kopanisti B	1	9.6 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.4 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.4 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.5 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.5 ± 0.1 ^{Aa}	8.2 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	BDL	4.0 ± 0.0 ^{Aa}	0.7 ± 1.3 ^{Aa}	3.8 ± 0.3 ^{Aa}
	7	8.6 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	8.5 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	8.5 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	8.6 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	8.6 ± 0.3 ^{Ab}	8.6 ± 0.3 ^{Aab}	BDL	4.7 ± 0.6 ^{Aa}	BDL	5.0 ± 0.6 ^{Ab}
	21	9.0 ± 0.1 ^{Ac}	9.0 ± 0.3 ^{Aab}	9.0 ± 0.2 ^{Aab}	9.0 ± 0.2 ^{Aab}	8.8 ± 0.4 ^{Aab}	9.0 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	1.3 ± 2.3 ^{Aa}	7.5 ± 0.4 ^{Ab}	0.5 ± 0.9 ^{Aa}	7.8 ± 0.4 ^{Ac}
	35	9.3 ± 0.3 ^{Aac}	9.0 ± 0.3 ^{Aab}	8.9 ± 0.4 ^{Aab}	9.1 ± 0.4 ^{Aab}	8.9 ± 0.5 ^{Aab}	9.0 ± 0.3 ^{Ab}	BDL	7.7 ± 1.4 ^{Ab}	BDL	7.9 ± 1.3 ^{Ac}
Kopanisti C	1	9.6 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.5 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.2 ± 0.8 ^{Aa}	9.5 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	9.7 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	7.1 ± 0.4 ^{Ca}	0.8 ± 1.4 ^{Aa}	3.5 ± 0.4 ^{Aa}	1.5 ± 0.9 ^{Aa}	3.3 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}
	7	8.9 ± 0.2 ^{ABb}	8.3 ± 0.1 ^{Ab}	8.3 ± 0.2 ^{ACb}	8.5 ± 0.2 ^{Ab}	8.4 ± 0.3 ^{Ab}	8.3 ± 0.2 ^{ABb}	BDL	7.2 ± 0.7 ^{Cb}	0.3 ± 0.6 ^{Aab}	7.5 ± 0.2 ^{Bb}
	21	9.1 ± 0.1 ^{Aab}	9.1 ± 0.1 ^{Ac}	9.0 ± 0.1 ^{Aab}	9.0 ± 0.0 ^{Aab}	9.0 ± 0.1 ^{Ac}	9.1 ± 0.1 ^{Ac}	BDL	7.2 ± 0.6 ^{Ab}	BDL	7.3 ± 0.4 ^{ABc}
	35	8.7 ± 0.4 ^{ABb}	8.7 ± 0.3 ^{ABd}	8.5 ± 0.5 ^{Aab}	8.7 ± 0.3 ^{ABb}	8.6 ± 0.4 ^{ABbc}	8.5 ± 0.3 ^{ABb}	BDL	6.6 ± 1.2 ^{Ab}	BDL	6.3 ± 1.2 ^{ABc}
Kopanisti D	1	9.4 ± 0.1 ^{Aa}	7.9 ± 0.2 ^{Ba}	7.8 ± 0.2 ^{Ba}	9.2 ± 0.5 ^{Aa}	9.5 ± 0.1 ^{Aa}	BDL	2.1 ± 2.4 ^{Aa}	6.3 ± 1.8 ^{Ba}	1.7 ± 1.4 ^{Aa}	3.4 ± 0.3 ^{Aa}
	7	9.2 ± 0.0 ^{Ba}	6.9 ± 0.5 ^{Bb}	7.6 ± 0.1 ^{Ba}	8.9 ± 1.0 ^{Aa}	9.4 ± 0.2 ^{Ba}	6.9 ± 1.7 ^{Bb}	BDL	8.5 ± 0.0 ^{Ba}	BDL	7.3 ± 0.7 ^{Bb}
	21	8.7 ± 0.0 ^{Bb}	8.7 ± 0.1 ^{ABc}	8.0 ± 0.3 ^{Ba}	8.9 ± 0.2 ^{Aa}	8.7 ± 0.1 ^{Ab}	8.7 ± 0.1 ^{Bc}	BDL	7.7 ± 0.3 ^{Aa}	BDL	6.1 ± 0.6 ^{Bb}
	35	8.3 ± 0.0 ^{Bb}	8.3 ± 0.3 ^{Bac}	7.2 ± 0.1 ^{Ba}	8.3 ± 0.3 ^{Ba}	8.1 ± 0.2 ^{Bc}	8.2 ± 0.2 ^{Bbc}	BDL	6.7 ± 1.3 ^{Aa}	BDL	5.0 ± 1.5 ^{Bab}

Different capital letters within the same column indicate statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among the Kopanisti samples (A-D) at the same day of ripening (1-35)

Different lowercase letters within the same column indicate statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among the days of ripening (1-35) per Kopanisti sample (A-D)

Below Detection Limit (BDL):

DL for pasteurized milk was < 1.0 log CFU mL⁻¹ for total mesophilic bacteria, mesophilic and thermophilic lactobacilli and cocci, NSLAB, psychrotrophic bacteria and enterobacteria (pouring inoculation method) and 1.0 log CFU mL⁻¹ for enterococci and yeasts (spreading inoculation method)

DL for Mana Kopanisti and Kopanisti was 1.0 log CFU g⁻¹ for total mesophilic bacteria, mesophilic and thermophilic lactobacilli and cocci, NSLAB, psychrotrophic bacteria and enterobacteria (pouring inoculation method) and 2.0 log CFU g⁻¹ for enterococci and yeasts (spreading inoculation method)

Supplementary Table S5. Physicochemical evaluation (mean values \pm SD) of Mana Kopanisti and Kopanisti cheese samples during ripening

Kopanisti	Day	pH	Moisture (% w/w)	SIM (% w/w)	Ash (% w/w)	FDM (% w/w)	Protein (% w/w)
Mana Kopanisti	-	5.16 \pm 0.03	42.39 \pm 0.75	10.12 \pm 0.20	6.15 \pm 0.06	53.44 \pm 0.90	22.52 \pm 1.32
A	1	4.16 \pm 0.03 ^{Aa}	58.07 \pm 0.80 ^{Aa}	3.28 \pm 0.11 ^{Aa}	2.91 \pm 0.10 ^{Aa}	48.47 \pm 1.66 ^{Aa}	15.61 \pm 1.45 ^{Aa}
	7	4.38 \pm 0.13 ^{Aa}	58.45 \pm 2.84 ^{Aa}	3.39 \pm 0.20 ^{Aa}	2.95 \pm 0.12 ^{Aa}	51.14 \pm 2.87 ^{Aa}	15.88 \pm 1.31 ^{Aa}
	21	5.26 \pm 0.15 ^{Ab}	56.90 \pm 2.65 ^{Aa}	3.53 \pm 0.18 ^{Aa}	3.01 \pm 0.10 ^{Aa}	52.62 \pm 1.46 ^{Aa}	16.64 \pm 1.24 ^{Aa}
	35	5.29 \pm 0.25 ^{Ab}	56.31 \pm 1.45 ^{Aa}	3.62 \pm 0.31 ^{Aa}	3.21 \pm 0.11 ^{Aa}	52.89 \pm 2.36 ^{Aa}	17.04 \pm 0.85 ^{Aa}
B	1	4.61 \pm 0.15 ^{Ba}	55.23 \pm 1.23 ^{Aa}	3.80 \pm 0.50 ^{Aa}	3.21 \pm 0.47 ^{Aa}	47.95 \pm 2.84 ^{Aa}	15.65 \pm 1.34 ^{Aa}
	7	4.45 \pm 0.11 ^{Aa}	53.48 \pm 1.44 ^{Aab}	4.18 \pm 0.46 ^{Aa}	3.25 \pm 0.46 ^{Aa}	50.87 \pm 1.22 ^{Aa}	16.73 \pm 1.52 ^{Aa}
	21	4.69 \pm 0.52 ^{Aa}	49.60 \pm 1.73 ^{Abc}	5.01 \pm 0.62 ^{Bab}	3.40 \pm 0.54 ^{Aa}	51.24 \pm 0.78 ^{Aa}	18.72 \pm 1.24 ^{Aab}
	35	5.31 \pm 0.73 ^{Aa}	45.23 \pm 3.25 ^{Bc}	6.11 \pm 0.98 ^{Bb}	3.48 \pm 0.46 ^{Aa}	51.73 \pm 0.98 ^{Aa}	20.95 \pm 1.34 ^{Bb}
C	1	4.18 \pm 0.02 ^{Aa}	58.39 \pm 3.73 ^{Aa}	3.35 \pm 0.32 ^{Aa}	2.76 \pm 0.19 ^{Aa}	52.22 \pm 2.39 ^{Aa}	15.94 \pm 0.85 ^{Aa}
	7	4.21 \pm 0.04 ^{Aa}	57.92 \pm 5.70 ^{Aa}	3.40 \pm 0.17 ^{Aa}	2.82 \pm 0.06 ^{Aa}	53.24 \pm 1.54 ^{Aa}	16.14 \pm 0.74 ^{Aa}
	21	4.85 \pm 0.32 ^{Aa}	57.26 \pm 2.52 ^{Aa}	3.57 \pm 0.19 ^{Aa}	2.89 \pm 0.09 ^{Aa}	54.54 \pm 1.68 ^{Aa}	16.48 \pm 0.35 ^{Aa}
	35	4.88 \pm 0.42 ^{Aa}	56.67 \pm 2.86 ^{Aa}	3.70 \pm 0.41 ^{Aa}	3.05 \pm 0.11 ^{Aa}	55.23 \pm 1.99 ^{Aa}	16.98 \pm 0.62 ^{Aa}
D	1	4.69 \pm 0.19 ^{Ba}	57.48 \pm 2.19 ^{Aa}	2.95 \pm 0.70 ^{Aa}	2.68 \pm 0.54 ^{Aa}	50.30 \pm 2.85 ^{Aa}	15.89 \pm 0.62 ^{Aa}
	7	4.74 \pm 0.17 ^{Aa}	56.67 \pm 2.20 ^{Aa}	3.07 \pm 0.69 ^{Aa}	2.75 \pm 0.54 ^{Aa}	51.73 \pm 2.43 ^{Aa}	16.05 \pm 0.35 ^{Aa}
	21	4.49 \pm 0.26 ^{Aa}	54.99 \pm 2.47 ^{Aa}	3.38 \pm 0.87 ^{Aa}	2.88 \pm 0.36 ^{Aa}	53.00 \pm 0.88 ^{Aa}	17.21 \pm 0.07 ^{Aa}
	35	4.47 \pm 0.30 ^{Aa}	53.05 \pm 1.67 ^{Aa}	3.78 \pm 0.87 ^{Aa}	3.11 \pm 0.54 ^{Aa}	53.45 \pm 2.23 ^{Aa}	17.79 \pm 0.18 ^{Aa}

Salt in moisture (SIM)

Fat in dry matter (FDM)

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