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# Characterisation of Cold Plasma Treated Beef and Dairy Lipids Using Spectroscopic and Chromatographic Methods

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Abstract: The efficacy of cold plasma for inactivation of food-borne pathogens in foods is established. However, insights on cold plasma-food interactions in terms of quality effects, particularly for oils and fats are sparse. This study evaluated plasma induced lipid oxidation of model matrices namely dairy and meat fats. Product characterization was performed using FTIR, 1H NMR and chromatographic techniques. The oxidation of lipids by cold plasma followed the Criegee mechanism and typical oxidation products identified included ozonides, aldehydes (hexanal or pentenal, nonanal, nonenal) and carboxylic acids (9oxononanoic acid, octanoic acid, nonanoic acid along with hydroperoxides (9-and13-hydroperoxy- octadecadienoylglycerol species). However, these oxidation products were only identified following extended treatment times of 30min and were also a function of applied voltage level. Understanding cold plasma interactions with food lipids and the critical parameters governing lipid oxidation is required to design appropriate industrial adoption of the technology for food products with high fat contents.

Characterization of cold plasma treated beef and dairy lipids using spectroscopic and chromatographic methods

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**Running Title: Characterization of cold plasma effects on food lipids** 

# Highlights

- This study evaluated cold plasma induced lipid oxidation of model matrices namely dairy and meat fats.
- The oxidation of lipids by cold plasma followed the Criegee mechanism.
- Oxidation products and pathways were determined using FTIR, NMR and GC-MS analysis.
- A detailed mechanism of formation of oxidation products has been proposed.

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2	chromatographic methods			
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4	Chaitanya Sarangapani <sup>1</sup> , David Ryan Keogh <sup>1</sup> , Julie Dunne <sup>1</sup> , Paula Bourke <sup>1</sup> *, P.J. Cullen <sup>1,2</sup>			
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# 23 Abbreviation list

25	DBD	Dielectric barrier discharge plasma
26	ACP	Atmospheric cold plasma
27	FTIR	Fourier transform Infrared radiation spectroscopy
28	NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy
29	GC	Gas chromatography
30	GC-FID	Gas chromatography-flame ionization detector
31	GC-MS	Gas chromatography-Mass spectrometry
32	HC-PC	Hierarchal cluster-Principal Component
33	SFA	Saturated fatty acid
34	USFA	Unsaturated fatty acid
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#### 50 Abstract

The efficacy of cold plasma for inactivation of food-borne pathogens in foods is established. 51 However, insights on cold plasma-food interactions in terms of quality effects, particularly for 52 53 oils and fats are sparse. This study evaluated plasma induced lipid oxidation of model matrices namely dairy and meat fats. Product characterization was performed using FTIR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and 54 chromatographic techniques. The oxidation of lipids by cold plasma followed the Criegee 55 mechanism and typical oxidation products identified included ozonides, aldehydes (hexanal or 56 pentenal, nonanal, nonenal) and carboxylic acids (9-oxononanoic acid, octanoic acid, nonanoic 57 acid along with hydroperoxides (9-and13-hydroperoxy- octadecadienoylglycerol species). 58 However, these oxidation products were only identified following extended treatment times of 59 30min and were also a function of applied voltage level. Understanding cold plasma interactions 60 61 with food lipids and the critical parameters governing lipid oxidation is required to design appropriate industrial adoption of the technology for food products with high fat contents. 62

**Key words:** Cold plasma, dairy and beef fat, FTIR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, chromatography, lipid oxidation

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#### 69 **1. Introduction**

Consumer demands for high quality food and the detrimental effects associated with existing 70 thermal technologies drive the development of alternative non thermal process technologies. 71 Cold plasma technology has been widely used in etching and deposition of electronics, bonding 72 of plastics, dving in textiles (Korner, Beck, Dommann, Onda, & Ramm, 1995; Naebe, Cookson, 73 Rippon, Brady, Wang, Brack, et al., 2010). It has also demonstrated efficacy in bio-74 decontamination (Ziuzina, Patil, Cullen, Keener, & Bourke, 2014), treatment of food packaging 75 materials (Pankaj, Bueno-Ferrer, Misra, Milosavljević, O'Donnell, Bourke, et al., 2014) and 76 77 processing of foods (Sarangapani, Devi, Thirundas, Annapure, & Deshmukh, 2015). Plasma is a partially or wholly ionized state which consists of positively and negatively charged ions, free 78 electrons, free radicals and intermediate highly reactive species, atoms, molecules and UV 79 photons (Thirumdas, Sarangapani, & Annapure, 2015). Cold plasma can be generated under both 80 atmospheric and low pressure conditions. However, for food processing, given the need for 81 economical and continuous processing, atmospheric conditions are likely to be more suitable. 82 The effects of the plasma reactive species in any biological or chemical system are likely to 83 continue and diversify over a longer time frame than the initial plasma discharge resulting from 84 85 formation of more stable secondary reactive species and subsequent chemical pathways. Cold plasma has been used for treatment of complex dyes, wastewater (Jiang, Zheng, Qiu, Wu, Zhang, 86 87 Yan, et al., 2014), degradation of mycotoxins (Park, Takatori, Sugita-Konishi, Kim, Lee, Han, et al., 2007). 88

Oils and fats form an important component of the human diet containing essential fatty
acids. Polyunsaturated fatty acids cannot be made by our bodies, however, these are nutritionally
important (Wang, Zhu, Lyu, Panigrahy, Ferrara, Hammock, et al., 2014). Unsaturated fatty acids

92 start decomposing upon isolation from their natural environment, resulting in rancidity (W<sup>1</sup>sowicz, Gramza, Hes, Jeleñ, Korczak, & Malecka, 2004). This lipid oxidation occurs in pure 93 fats and oils, but also in fat dense foods including peanuts, pork scratching's, oatmeal, muesli, 94 milk and meat products (Jensen, Danielsen, Bertelsen, Skibsted, & Andersen, 2005). Therefore, 95 oxidation is a concern for dairy and meat products owing to changes in the structure of proteins, 96 97 fatty acid composition, reduced nutrient value, and degradation of sensory quality. These foods undergo changes in chemical composition as a function of time, process related conditions (heat, 98 UV treatment, photolysis) or other interactions with environmental conditions. The consequent 99 100 thermal degradation and autoxidation of fats leads to the formation of primary, secondary and tertiary oxidation products such as aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids. Ozone processing can 101 lead to the formation of ozonides and carbonyl oxides. Nevertheless, these technologies are used 102 in processing of oils and fats (Soriano Jr, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003; Soriano, Migo, & 103 Matsumura, 2003). Several authors have reported on the efficacy of cold plasma for biocontrol of 104 hams and cheeses (Song, Kim, Choe, Jung, Moon, Choe, et al., 2009), and raw meat (Han et al, 105 106 2016). However, an understanding of the impact on chemical quality parameters is also required. A limited number of studies have described how cold plasmas have controlled and accelerated 107 108 oxidation using complex matrices such as fish oil (Vandamme, Nikiforov, De Roose, Leys, De Cooman, & Van Durme, 2016). However, the mechanisms of lipid oxidation due to plasma 109 processing have not been fully established. The aim of this work is to investigate atmospheric air 110 111 plasma induced lipid oxidation in relation to dairy and meat products by assessing fatty acid composition and to identify any primary and secondary products formed. Insights into cold 112 plasma induced reaction pathways are provided by identifying changes in the functional groups 113

using FTIR spectroscopy along with identification of lipid oxidation products using <sup>1</sup>H NMR
 spectroscopy and chromatographic techniques.

#### **116 2.** Materials and Methods

#### 117 **2.1. Materials**

Dairy fat (butter oil) and beef fat (99% pure) were purchased from a local super market (Dublin,
Ireland) and samples were kept under refrigerated conditions (-20 °C) until used for analysis.
Hexane, methanol (≥99.9% capillary GC-grade), sodium hydroxide, 50% boron trifluoride in
methanol, Chloroform-d (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) with 0.03% (v/v) TMS (Tetramethylsilane) were purchased
from Sigma-Aldrich, Ireland.

#### 123 2.2. Atmospheric air cold plasma treatment

The high voltage in package atmospheric cold plasma-dielectric barrier discharge (ACP-DBD) 124 system employed for this work is described in Sarangapani et al., (2016). Fat samples  $(15 \pm 1g)$ 125 were placed in petri dishes and the samples were subjected to different doses of direct plasma 126 127 treatment. The atmospheric air condition at the time of treatment was  $40 \pm 1\%$  relative humidity (RH) and  $16 \pm 2^{\circ}$ C, measured using a humidity-temperature probe connected to a data logger 128 (Testo 176T2, Testo Ltd., UK). Atmospheric air was used as the working gas. Plasma treatment 129 130 was performed at variable voltage (60-80 kV) and treatment duration (3-30 min). After 131 processing, containers were stored at room temperature of 16-18 °C for 24 h in line with our previous findings that a sealed retention time is useful for biocontrol. This allows contact time of 132 133 the generated and contained chemical reactive species with the samples. Control samples were not plasma treated. 134

#### 135 **2.3. FTIR spectroscopy**

The IR spectra were recorded in absorbance mode at  $4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolutions, using a Spectrum GX FT-IR (Perkin Elmer, Dublin, Ireland) equipped with an attenuated total reflectance (ATR) over the frequency range 4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The sample measurements were replicated for all the individual samples of each treatment class. Analyses were carried out at room temperature of 25°C. The background was collected before every sample was measured.

#### 141 2.4. Fatty acid composition

Samples were evaluated for fatty acid composition using the GC-FID. Individual fatty acid 142 methyl esters (FAME) were identified using FAME standards (Sigma Chemicals, Ireland) were 143 used to calculate the percentage of fatty acids based on its peak area. 144 Α BRUKER SCION 456 GC equipped with a flame ionization detector and Zebron ZB-5MS 145 capillary column with dimension 30 m x 0.25 mm I.D and 0.25 µm thickness is employed. 146 Helium was used as the carrier gas and the flow rate was set at 1mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Samples were 147 injected with a split ratio (1:10). The GC oven temperature was programmed as: 50°C held for 1 148 min, 50°C ramp to 200°C and held for 1min, ramp to 230°C at a rate of 8°C min<sup>-1</sup> held for 20 149 min. The injector and detector temperatures were set at 250 and 280°C, respectively. Data was 150 collected and integrated with a personal computer using MS workstation GC Software. The GC-151 152 MS analysis of the target compounds was performed using a Varian 3800 GC (JVA analytical Ltd. Ireland) with a 2200 Varian ion trap MS was used to analyze the samples. Chromatography 153 154 was conducted on the same chromatographic column and under the chromatographic conditions described above. The mass detector was operated in the electron impact (EI) mode at 70 eV and 155 electron multiplier voltage of 1.25 kV. The mass fragments of the derivatives were obtained in 156 157 the full scan mode in the scan range from m/z 35 to 350. Data were collected using Varian software. The compounds present were tentatively identified based on computer matching 158

- against commercial National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) libraries and spectral
- 160 library (Dalton, Dragoset, & Wiersma) of pure substances and literature available.

#### 161 **2.5. NMR analysis**

- 162 For <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, about 50 mg of the sample was accurately weighed and
- 163 dissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> containing TMS as standard. Both spectra were obtained using a Bruker
- 164 Avance 400MHz Spectrometer. Trace amount of CHCl<sub>3</sub> in the solvent used exhibits signals at
- 165 7.26 and 77.0 ppm in  ${}^{1}$ H and  ${}^{13}$ C NMR, respectively.

#### 166 **2.6. Determination of peroxide value**

167 The peroxide value is determined by the procedure of Kirk & Sawyer (1991).

#### 168 **2.7. Statistical analysis**

The results were analyzed by one-way ANOVA using SPSS (IBM statistical analysis Version 170 19), and the significance amongst the samples was compared at p<0.05 by the least significant 171 difference post-hoc comparison, SPSS 19 version. Results represent the means of at least two 172 separate experiments.

#### 173 **3. Results and discussion**

174 **3.1. FTIR analysis** 

The changes in the functional groups for both dairy and beef fat were revealed using FT-IR 175 analysis. The representative spectra of the control and plasma treated dairy and beef fats are 176 presented in **Fig.1** The analytical evaluation of the dairy and beef fat spectra were previously 177 reported (M. a. D. Guillén & Ruiz, 2001). The IR spectra demonstrate that triglycerides were 178 dominant. The major triglyceride peaks observed were around 2937  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to C–H 179 stretching (asymmetry), 2856 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to C–H stretching (symmetry), and a carbonyl peak 180 1746 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=O stretching) (Adeyemi, Mohiuddin, Mirghani, & Jameel, 2012; Yang, 181 Irudavaraj, & Paradkar, 2005). Moreover, a weak signal was observed at 3000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  associated 182

183 with -C=C-H stretching groups of cis-unsaturation (Ahmad Fadzlillah, Che Man, Rohman, Ismail, Mustafa, & Khatib, 2013). A weak peak around 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> was observed and corresponds 184 to C=C stretching (cis) and a major peak at 1454 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to C-H bending (scissoring). The 185 186 stretching vibrations of the C–O bond of esters and bending vibrations of the methylene group were present around 1300–1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Other major peaks observed were at 1166 cm<sup>-1</sup> which 187 corresponds to C–O (stretching) and C–H (bending), and 723 cm<sup>-1</sup> which corresponds to C–H 188 bending (rocking) (M. D. Guillén & Cabo, 1997). The peak at 1117 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponds to C-H 189 (deformation) and 1097 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C–H bending) vibration of fatty acids, respectively. The peak at 190 966 cm<sup>-1</sup> has been previously reported as a marker band of trans fatty acids in fats and oils and 191 192 the peak is associated with -HC=CH out-of-plane deformation vibrations (Ahmad Fadzlillah, Che Man, Rohman, Ismail, Mustafa, & Khatib, 2013). These frequencies observed in the FTIR 193 194 spectra were used as the basis for investigating the changes in the functional groups of plasma treated fat samples. 195

Several changes were observed in the IR spectra of the plasma treated samples. ACP-DBD 196 plasmas are a source of a wide range of active species and reactive species such as  $O_3$ ,  $H_2O_2$ , 197 OH. These plasma species can cleave double bonds of unsaturated fatty acids. The IR spectra of 198 the intensities corresponding to C=C decreased with increases in applied voltages and plasma 199 treatment times. These include the relatively weak band at 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup> see Fig.1. (I and II) and 200 the =C-H stretch and bend at 3008  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and broadened peak at 723  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. The 201 dairy samples were more susceptible to plasma treatment than the beef samples, with changes 202 evident within shorter treatment times of 3 and 6 min for all applied voltages. This is attributed 203 to the higher concentration of unsaturated fatty acids (45%) in beef fat than dairy (31%). Similar 204 205 trends were reported for ozonation of sunflower methyl esters by Soriano et al., (2003). Several

authors have reported the formation of carbonylic compounds as by-products of plasma 206 treatment. Dairy and meat triglycerides have a strong absorption band at 1743 cm<sup>-1</sup> attributed 207 to stretching vibration of the carbonyl group (Moreno, Olivares, López, Martínez, & Reig, 1999). 208 209 As observed in **Fig.1** (c and d), increasing plasma treatment time and applied voltage widens the carbonyl band, which suggests the formation of new carbonyl compounds (Gao, Sun, Wan, Yu, 210 & Li, 2013). This is attributed to the production of saturated aldehyde, carboxylic acids or other 211 secondary oxidation products. The new aldehyde or ketone compounds formed come from the 212 oxidation of C=C bonds in existing unsaturated triglycerides. The emergent band around 1725 213  $cm^{-1}$  suggests the formation of aldehyde in the plasma treated dairy fat samples, where a 214 shoulder was observed at  $1700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in plasma treated beef fat samples. However, the weak band 215 at 1725  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the beef samples, overlaps with the stretching vibration at 1746  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  of the ester 216 carbonyl functional group. Moreover, the presence of an aldehydic C-H stretch around 2900-217  $2700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  confirms the formation of aldehyde and other oxidation products. The presence of 218 new oxidation products in both the dairy and beef samples especially the carbonyl group (C=O) 219 can be evidenced by broadened bands around 725  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . This peak could be ascribed to 220 complicate oligomerization of olefins (Soriano Jr, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003). Interestingly, a 221 new band around 1105  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Fig.1. a and b) was observed across all the plasma treated dairy 222 223 and beef samples, which was not observed for control or the blank. The intensity of this new band increased with plasma treatment time and applied voltage. This peak likely corresponds to 224 C-O stretching of ozonide (Díaz, Hernández, Ledea, Sazatornil, & Moleiro, 2003). This suggests 225 that the majority of oxidation of fats using ACP-DBD occurs by direct attack of ozone to 226 produce ozonide, as described by the Criegee mechanism (Díaz, Hernández, Ledea, Sazatornil, 227 228 & Moleiro, 2003; Ledea, Díaz, Molerio, Jardines, Rosado, & Correa, 2003; Sega, Zanardi,

229 Chiasserini, Gabbrielli, Bocci, & Travagli, 2010). The ozonide formed during plasma treatment 230 could be the 1,2,4-trioxolane ring which was reported by several authors (Díaz, Hernández, Ledea, Sazatornil, & Moleiro, 2003; Soriano Jr, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003; Soriano, Migo, & 231 232 Matsumura, 2003) during ozonolysis of fatty acids methyl esters. Two other sharp bands appear at 1175 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1195 cm<sup>-1</sup> which also correspond to C-O stretching and O-C stretching of 233 ozonides (Soriano, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003). The other changes observed in the IR spectrum 234 associated with plasma treatment were peaks at 1379  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 975  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , most likely associated 235 with C-O-C and stretching vibration of O-O, respectively (Georgiev, Anachkov, Batakliev, & 236 Rakovsky, 2013). The new bands formed at 969 and 829 cm<sup>-1</sup> and small changes around 3470 237  $cm^{-1}$  may be due to the formation of peroxide groups (Bellamy, 2013). The plasma treatment 238 also induced major changes in the region 1350-1475 cm<sup>-1</sup>. These changes correspond to the 239 aldehvdic group (C-H bend) at 1381 cm<sup>-1</sup> and C-O-H bending at 1440 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 1395 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which 240 is adjacent to the carbonyl group (Bailey, 2012). The scission of either initial or final ozonide 241 leads to the formation of aldehyde. 242

While trends can be observed in these IR spectra, chemometric analysis, specifically 243 hierarchical clustering, of the spectral data using principal component analysis (PCA) was 244 adopted to classify these plasma treated fats based on their FT-IR spectra. For this purpose, the 245 region between 700-1800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was selected as representing the majority of the changes induced 246 in the functional groups such as C–H bending, C=O stretching, and C=C stretching and also the 247 248 unsaturated C=C bond. Principal component analysis of spectra within this region revealed two principal components, explaining 87.3% of the data variance for the dairy sample. The cluster 249 analysis algorithm divided the dairy sample sets into six clusters (see Fig. 2.(a)), where a clear 250 separation between the control and the plasma treated samples was found. The replicates of the 251

252 dairy control sample are located at positive scores of PC1 and negative scores of PC2 and were grouped into cluster 1 and majority of the samples treated for 9 min at all the applied voltages 253 (60, 70 and 80 kV) grouped into cluster 2 with 70 kV for 9 min (2<sup>nd</sup> replicates as center). 254 Moreover, the majority of samples treated for 3 min and 6 min were grouped into cluster 3. 255 However, it may be noted that some of the replicates of treated samples are separately grouped 256 into cluster 4, which might be due to overall variability in the plasma process (Misra, Pankaj, 257 Frias, Keener, & Cullen, 2015). It can be observed that all replicates of samples treated for 60 kV 258 for 30 min are cluster 5 similarly 70 kV for 30 min samples are cluster 6. Therefore, treatment 259 260 time and applied voltage played an interactive role in the formation of oxidation products in dairy fat at higher treatment times. 261

It can be observed in Fig.2.(b) that two PCA scores for the beef samples explained 70.9% data 262 263 variance and replicates of control sample are located in positive score of PC1 and negative score of PC2. There was a similar separation for the beef samples which are grouped into cluster 1. 264 However, there was no clear separation obtained among the plasma treated beef samples. The 265 266 majority of replicates of samples treated for 9 min or 30 min at all applied voltages were grouped into cluster 2 with the exception of the 70 kV 9 min samples. However, 70 kV 9 min samples 267 were grouped into cluster 4 with two replicates of 60 kV 30 min, 80 kV 9 min and 80 kV 6 min. 268 The majority of 3 min replicates of 60 kV and 70 kV were grouped into cluster 3 whereas 3 min 269 replicates of 80 kV were grouped together with 6 min samples of 60 kV and 70 kV into cluster 5. 270 The variability in the samples can be attributed to plasma induced changes in the functional 271 groups such as formation of aldehydes around 1725  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , ozonide at 1105  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , peroxides at 272 969 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 829 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the beef fat samples. In addition, the natural variability in the 273 274 composition of fatty acids among dairy and beef fats should be considered.

#### 275 **3.2. Fatty acid analysis**

The fatty acid composition of control (untreated) and plasma treated dairy and beef fat are 276 summarized in Table 1. The dairy and beef fats are mainly composed of oleic, palmitic and 277 278 stearic acids. It can be observed that plasma treatment decreased the relative amount of unsaturated fatty acids from 34.06% to 28.47% for the dairy samples and from 44.05% to 279 38.60% for the meat samples. Ozone and hydroxyl radicals are considered the principal active 280 species which cleave the double bonds of unsaturated fatty acids primarily oleic, palmtioleic and 281 linoleic acid leading to oxidation. There was a decrease in the ratio of unsaturated to saturated 282 fatty acids (UFA/SFA) with increasing applied voltage level, which may be attributed to the 283 increased dissociation reactions to form free radicals, reactive species and unstable compounds at 284 higher voltages. A similar observation with a reduction in the unsaturated fatty acids was also 285 observed in ozonated vegetable oil and pork lard (Jurado-Alameda, García-Román, Altmajer-286 Vaz, & Jiménez-Pérez, 2012; Soriano, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003). This result supports the 287 changes seen in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR and IR spectra of the plasma treated samples which is suggested to 288 289 follow the Criegee mechanism (Soriano, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003). Several authors have reported that plasma treatment of organic chemicals results in the formation of new by-products 290 (Gao, Sun, Wan, Yu, & Li, 2013; Sarangapani, Misra, Milosavljevic, Bourke, O'Regan, & 291 292 Cullen, 2016). The GC-MS analysis of plasma treated fats was performed to identify the plasma degraded products. The unsaturated fatty acids were identified at retention times of; 16.49 min 293 for palmitoleic, 19.19 for oleic, 20.09 for linoleic respectively. Interestingly, the analysis of 294 chromatogram showed the formation of new peaks caused by the attack of reactive oxygen and 295 nitrogen on the double bond of unsaturated fatty acids. Oleic acid was the primary fatty acid 296 susceptible to oxidation by plasma species. The reaction of ozone to oleic acid forms primary 297 ozonide (molozonide) which further decomposes into two Criegee intermediate radicals. These 298

results were supported by the <sup>1</sup>H NMR at the chemical shift  $\delta$  5.15 ppm and the IR spectra at 299 1105  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1195  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . It is known that decomposition of the primary ozonides leads to the 300 formation of aldehydes (or ketones) and carbonyl oxides (or Criegee intermediates) (Díaz, 301 302 Hernández, Ledea, Sazatornil, & Moleiro, 2003). The formation of nonanal and 9-oxonanonoic acid in plasma treated samples support this hypothesis. Nonanal (aldehyde) compound (c) was 303 identified at a retention time of 9.69 min and exhibited  $[M]^+$  ion at 142 and fragments ions at m/z 304 124 [M-18(loss of water)], m/z 114[M-28(loss of ethylene)], m/z 98[M-44(loss of CH<sub>2</sub>=CH-305 OH)] with other prominent peaks at m/z 95, 81, 71, 69, 43 and 41. Compound (b) was identified 306 as 9-oxonanonoic acid (Carbonyl oxide) with mass fragments at  $[M]^+$  172, and fragments ions at 307 m/z 154[M-18(loss of water)], m/z 144 [M-28 (loss of ethylene)], m/z 129 [M-44 (loss of 308 CH<sub>2</sub>=CH-OH)] (Supplementary matrial Fig.S7.) and other prominent peaks at m/z 111, 98, 87, 309 310 73, 59, 45, 41. Katrib et al., (2004) reported that the Criegee intermediates undergo reactions with oleic acid to form C27 molecules. Moreover, other products were also identified in the MS 311 spectra of plasma treated samples. The compound (a) nonanoic acid (more than 70% match) was 312 313 identified at 9.88 min in all the plasma treated samples and exhibited  $[M]^+$  ion at 172, and other major fragments at m/z 129, 5, 101, 87, 74, 55, 43, 41. Compound (d) was identified as azelaic 314 acid (96.6% match) exhibited  $[M]^+$  ion at 185, and other fragments at m/z 152, 143, 124, 111, 97, 315 74, 55, 41. Interestingly, another compound identified at 9.206 min corresponds to octanoic acid 316 (more than 75% match) which exhibited  $[M]^+$  ion at 158, 127[M-31(OCH<sub>3</sub>)], m/z 101, 87, 74, 317 318 41. These compounds could be formed by the isomerization of Criegee intermediates (Hung, Katrib, & Martin, 2005). A possible oxidation pathway see Fig.2 (c) for oleic is proposed based 319 on the intermediates formed. Further possible recombination of the carbonyl oxide and the 320 321 aldehyde (or ketone) yield secondary ozonides. The formation of 9-oxonononoic acid and

nonanal were also observed in the reaction of oleic acid droplets with nitrate radicals by Hung *et al.*,(2005). However, no nitrate radical reactions forming long chain carbon molecules and formation of peroxides including hydroperoxides were seen in the MS spectra. Extensive information on the formation of hydroperoxides can be found elsewhere (Bailey, 2012).

326 **3.3.NMR analysis** 

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**Fig. 3 (a and b)** shows the typical <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the control and plasma treated samples of 328 the dairy and beef fat respectively. <sup>1</sup>H NMR assignments of the main components of pure fats are 329 330  $\delta(\text{ppm})$ ; 0.90, -CH<sub>3</sub> (fatty acid terminal groups); 1.40-1.15, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>- (saturated fatty acid acyl groups); 1.71-1.50, -O-C(=O)-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (acyl groups) ; 2.10-1.90, -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH- (acyl 331 groups); 2.35-2.20, -OCO-CH<sub>2</sub>- (acyl groups); 2.80-2.70, =CH-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=(acyl groups); 4.32-332 333 4.10, -CH<sub>2</sub>OC(=O)R (C1 and C3 glyceryl CH<sub>2</sub> groups); 5.26-5.20, (-CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHOC(=O)R (C=2 glyceryl CH); 5.40-5.26, -CH=CH- (acyl groups) (M. a. D. Guillén & Ruiz, 2001). Thus, the 334 chemical shifts are assigned to the saturated fatty acid component of triglycerides and free fatty 335 336 acids between 0-4 ppm while 4-6 ppm are assigned to proton signals of glycerol backbone as well as olefin components of unsaturated fatty acids and triglycerides. It was evident from the 337 NMR analysis that fats underwent structural changes upon plasma treatment. New signals at 9.76 338 339 ppm found in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of plasma treated dairy and beef correspond to aldehydic protons (Díaz, Hernández, Ledea, Sazatornil, & Moleiro, 2003). The formation of aldehydes 340 were also observed at 1725  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and C-H stretch around 2900-2700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in IR spectra. It was 341 also observed that the area of these peaks increased with increases in plasma treatment time and 342 applied voltage. The 9.3-10.5 ppm region of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of plasma treated beef and dairy 343 344 samples contained some doublet resonances at 9.49, 9.52, 9.67 ppm (see supplementary material Fig.S19 and Fig.S31). Classon et al., (1994) demonstrated that these signals arise from 345

346 unsaturated aldehydes and correspond to trans- 2-alkenals, alka-2,4-dienals and 4-hydroxy-trans-2-alkenals, respectively. The signal at 9.76 ppm corresponds to saturated aldehydes and it is 347 attributed to hexanal or pentanal whereas, 9.49, 9.52 ppm signals are a mixture of trans-2-348 349 heptenal, -octenal or -nonenal (Haywood, Claxson, Hawkes, Richardson, Naughton, Coumbarides, et al., 1995). A relatively weak signal at 9.67 ppm was observed in the 30 min 350 treated samples and showed coupling patterns at 6.15 ppm that could possibly be assigned to 4-351 hydroxy-trans-2-nonenal. The possible generation of these compounds is due to the oxidation of 352 unsaturated fatty acids (particularly linoleic acid) by reactive oxygen and nitrogen species. 353 354 Similar results were observed in ozonolysis of sunflower and sesame oil (Sega, Zanardi, Chiasserini, Gabbrielli, Bocci, & Travagli, 2010; Soriano Jr, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003; 355 Soriano, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003). The distinct singlet resonances at 8.9, 8.8, 8.2, 8.0 and 6.2 356 ppm in the dairy samples and 9.20, 8.2, 8.0, 6.45 and 6.2 ppm detected in beef samples were 357 assigned to hydroperoxide group (-OOH) protons. Similar hydroperoxide groups were detected 358 in thermally stressed linoleate samples by Claxson et al., (1994). There was an increase in the 359 360 peak intensity with increases in plasma treatment time and applied voltage. The resonances at 8.2 and 8.0 ppm could be attributed to the reaction between oxidizing radicals (eg. •H, •O, •OH) and 361 362 oleic acid in beef fat to form hydroperoxides. The reaction proceeds (see Fig.4(a)) with a free radical attack at C-8 and C-11 of oleic acid and hydrogen abstraction which leads to allylic 363 radicals which upon reaction with reactive oxygen species would result in formation of 9-364 365 hydroperoxy-trans-10-,11-hydroperoxy-cis-9,10-hydroperoxy-trans-8-, 8-hydroperoxy-cis-9octadecenoates (Frankel, 1984). These results are in agreement with reports by Neff et al., (1990) 366 367 for autoxidation of olive oil and triolein. The chemical shift in values of 8.9 and 8.81 ppm 368 observed in the dairy samples may correspond to hydroperoxide group protons of linoleic acid

producing a mixture of 9-hydroxy-trans-10, cis-12- and 13-hydroxy-cis-9, trans-1-369 370 octadecadienoate (Frankel, 1984). The evidence of these hydroperoxy species were confirmed by resonances centered at 4.05, 5.56, 6.35, 5.90 and 5.30 ppm which correspond to 13, 12, 11, 10, 9 371 372 position protons respectively, of conjugated diene cis, trans-13-hydroxydiene isomer (Haywood, et al., 1995). The steps involved (see Fig.4(b)) include selective hydrogen abstraction to form a 373 pentadienyl hybrid radical which upon reaction with plasma reactive species would result in 9-374 and 13-hydroperoxy- octadecadienoylglycerol species (Frankel, 1984). Similar hydroperoxy 375 species were detected and a mechanism of formation explained by Chan et al., (1980). Similar 376 377 resonances were also detected in the oxidation of trilinolenin in the presence of oxygen with the formation of hydroperoxy epidioxy adducts identified as the main products (Chan, Matthew, & 378 Coxon, 1980; Neff, Frankel, & Miyashita, 1990). It is reported that the resonances at 8.9 and 8.8 379 380 corresponds to 12- and 9-position methine proton multiplets of 13-hydroperoxy-9,12-epidioxy-10-octadecenoates and the 10- and 13-position methine proton multiplets of 9-hydroperoxy-381 10,13- epidioxy-11-octadecenoate (Haywood, et al., 1995). These signals were also detected in 382 383 thermally treated methyl linoleate, methyl oleate, soyabean oil and deteriorated oil (Claxson, et al., 1994; M. a. D. Guillén & Ruiz, 2001). The formation of these hydroperoxy epidioxide 384 products were also reported in photosensitized methyl linoleate samples by Neff et al., (1983). 385 However, the absence of the signals at 4.66 ppm in both the dairy and beef <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra rules 386 out the formation of hydroperoxy epidioxide as plasma oxidized products. Further investigation 387 388 was also carried out to elucidate the possible formation of other dihydroperoxides. As stated earlier, the resonances at 8.25, 8.12 ppm in both plasma treated samples corresponds to 389 hydroperoxy group. Moreover, the multiplets centered at 6.45, 6.25, 4.87, 4.30-4.40, 3.67, 2.31, 390 391 1.50-1.80 and 0.92 ppm correspond to 8-13-dihydroperoxy-trans-9, trans-11- and 9,14392 dihydroperoxy-trans-10, trans-12-octadecadienoates (Neff, Frankel, Selke, & Weisleder, 1983). 393 The formation of hydroperoxides and diperoxide was further confirmed by the peroxide value experiments. The plasma treatment increased the peroxide value of both dairy and beef fat. The 394 peroxide value of control samples was 7.5 mEq  $O_2/kg$  for dairy and 10 mEq  $O_2/kg$  for beef fat. 395 The 80KV 30 min of plasma treatment increased the peroxide value to 23 mEq  $O_2$ / kg for dairy 396 and 17 mEq  $O_2$ / kg for beef fat respectively. The formation of these peroxides is due to reaction 397 of plasma species with unsaturated fatty acid following the Criegee mechanism. However, the 398 mechanism of formation of these dihydroperoxides after plasma treatment should requires 399 400 further investigation.

A new signal at 5.15 ppm was seen in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of plasma treated dairy and 401 beef samples. This resonance was assigned to the ring proton of 1,2,4-trioxolane (Díaz, 402 Hernández, Ledea, Sazatornil, & Moleiro, 2003; Sega, Zanardi, Chiasserini, Gabbrielli, Bocci, & 403 Travagli, 2010) and the formation of this ozonide was also supported by bands at 1105 cm<sup>-1</sup> 404 ,1170 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1195 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the IR spectra. From Fig.3 (a) and (b)., this new signal resonance 405 406 increased with plasma treatment time and voltage. Moreover, there was also an increase in resonances at 2.35–2.45 and 2.04–2.18 ppm upon plasma treatment. The signals at 2.35–2.45 407 408 ppm are attributed to methylene bridge protons connecting the 1,2,4-trioxolane ring to the double bond. However, the chemical shifts at 2.04–2.18 ppm correspond to methylene bridge protons 409 now connecting two carbon rings (Sega, Zanardi, Chiasserini, Gabbrielli, Bocci, & Travagli, 410 2010). The ozonolysis of methyl oleate (Ledea, Díaz, Molerio, Jardines, Rosado, & Correa, 411 2003), methyl linoleate (Díaz, Hernández, Ledea, Sazatornil, & Moleiro, 2003), sunflower oil 412 (Soriano Jr, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003; Soriano, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003), sesame oil (Sega, 413 414 Zanardi, Chiasserini, Gabbrielli, Bocci, & Travagli, 2010) has been reported with the formation

415 of ozonides. The oxidation of fat by plasma treatment can be described by the Criegee 416 mechanism. The electrophilic ozone molecule or other plasma active species attack the C=C double bonds of unsaturated fatty acid, leading to the formation of an unstable cyclic 417 418 intermediate called an unstable initial ozonide (1-2-3-trioxolane). The unstable intermediate can be further decomposed to a cabonylic compound (aldehyde or ketone) to form stable 1-2-4 419 420 trioxolane, diperoxides and hydroperoxides (Ledea, Díaz, Molerio, Jardines, Rosado, & Correa, 2003). It was found that degradation of linoleic acid by ozone was found to be 1.5 times higher 421 than that of oleic acid. The presence of greater amounts of unsaturated fatty acids (45%) in beef 422 423 fat compared to dairy would result in relatively small increases in the reactivity of the C=C double bond due to a high steric effect. The reaction of plasma species such as ozone with fats to 424 form products depends upon the composition of fatty acids and type of medium (solvent). The 425 reaction of pure oleic acid with carbonyl oxide, by inter and intra molecular reactions, readily 426 forms acyloxyalkyl hydroperoxides whereas, under dilute conditions favours ozonide formation 427 and hydroperoxide. It was reported that ozonation of sunflower oil in presence of water yielded 428 429 alkyl hydroperoxide and prevented the formation of ozonide (Soriano Jr, Migo, & Matsumura, 2003). Ledea et al., (2003) studied the ozonation of methyl oleate and reported the formation of 430 431 ethoxy hydroperoxides in the presence of ethanol and ozonides and aldehydes in the presence of water. Considering the surrounding milieu of dairy and beef fats in food matrices, the 432 interactions within aqueous environments require further investigation. 433

An extensive explanation into the formation of new products and their kinetics as a result of plasma treatment is proposed. The integral ratios of the proton signals of aldehydes, peroxides, ozonides and methylene groups with reference to the integral of TMS that remains constant during the process of some key protons resonances was evaluated. The formation of secondary

438 oxidation products with plasma treatment time and applied voltage was modelled using a first-439 order kinetic regression model (see supplementary material Fig.S33 and Fig.S34). It can be 440 observed from **Table 1** that the model is in agreement with the experimental data with high 441 correlation coefficients explaining the increase in formation of new products in tandem and 442 relation to plasma process parameters.

#### 443 **4.** Conclusion

This work provides insights into ACP-DBD air plasma induced lipid oxidation with FTIR spectra of treated samples showing plasma induced changes in the functional properties of dairy and beef fat. In this present study the formation of secondary oxidation products were only seen at extended plasma treatment times of 30min. A linear trend explains the extent of the changes induced by the process conditions. The increase in ozonide band at 1105 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1195 cm<sup>-1</sup>, formation of aldehydes 1725, 2950 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 829, 969, 3470 cm<sup>-1</sup> is attributable to the formation of hydroperoxides. These changes were dependent on treatment time and applied voltage.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis also identified the formation of several lipid oxidation products, of 451 which aldehydes, such as hexanal or pentenal, mixtures of trans-2-heptenal, -octenal or -nonenal 452 453 and 4-hydroxy-trans-2-nonenal are the most important. For the first time the formation of hydroperoxides of oleic acid was identified as 9-hydroperoxy-trans-10, 11-hydroperoxy-cis-454 9,10-hydroperoxy-trans-8-, 8-hydroperoxy-cis-9 octadecenoates and linoleic acid as 9- and 13-455 hydroperoxy- octadecadienoylglycerol species. Therefore, it is suggested that atmospheric air 456 plasma treated fatty acids follow the Criegee mechanism. With the reaction of ozone and active 457 species almost exclusively with carbon double bonds present in unsaturated fatty chains. Fatty 458 459 acid composition analysis identified the reduction in oleic, palmitoleic and linoleic acid along with oxidation products as nonenal, azelaic acid, 9-oxononanoic acid, nonanoic acid and 460

461 octanoic acid. Moreover, these products can be used as oxidation markers for the chosen dairy462 and beef fats.

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#### 597 Figure legands

**Fig.1**. Overlaid raw FT-IR spectra of control and plasma treated of fat samples over region 600-3500 cm<sup>-1</sup> (I) dairy (II) beef fat, where the spectra over region 950-1300 cm<sup>-1</sup> was shown in (a) dairy and (b) beef and the spectra over region 1650- 1800 cm<sup>-1</sup> was shown in (c)dairy and (d) beef. Arrow indicates increase in plasma treatment

**Fig.2.** HC-PC of the raw data (700-1800cm-1) of control and plasma treated (a) dairy (b) beef fat.In the data markers, the first digit indicates the voltage, the second time, and the last following underscore indicates the replicate Where (c) represents proposed oxidation mechanism of oleic acid from GC-MS.

**Fig.3.** 1H NMR spectra of control (untreated) a) plasma treated dairy fat and b) plasma treated beef fat samples. Note the bottom spectrum showing control and the expansion showing the oxidized products, the first digit indicates the applied voltage, the second digit indicates treatment

Fig.4. Proposed mechanism of hydroperoxides from a) oleic acid (Frankel, 1984) and b) linoleic
acid (Frankel, 1984; Neff, Frankel, Selke, & Weisleder, 1983)

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618	Table legends:
619	<b>Table 1:</b> Fatty acid profiles of the control (untreated) and plasma treated fats.
620	<b>Table 2:</b> Linear regression ( $y = ax + b$ , $R^2$ parameter) of integral of selected proton chemical shifts
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Fig.1.



Fig.2.



Fig.3.



Fig.4.

Fattyacid	<b>Relative percentag</b>	je <sup>z</sup>		
—	Voltage (kV)			
	Control	60kV	70kV	80kV
		Dairy fat		
Butyric (C4:0)	$3.22 \pm 0.21^{a}$	$3.27 \pm 0.12^{a}$	$3.36 \pm 0.88^{b}$	$3.45 \pm 0.54^{\circ}$
Myristic (C14:0)	$11.01\pm0.11^{a}$	$12.12\pm0.31^{\circ}$	11.59±0.39 <sup>b</sup>	11.72±0.24 <sup>b</sup>
Palmitic (C16:0)	31.86±2.11 <sup>a</sup>	31.91±0.88 <sup>a</sup>	$34.46 \pm 0.42^{\circ}$	$32.99 \pm 1.11^{a}$
Palmitoleic(C16:1)	$2.07{\pm}0.12^{a}$	$2.40{\pm}0.11^{b}$	$2.42{\pm}0.09^{b}$	$2.25 \pm 0.22^{a}$
Stearic (C18:0)	$11.31 \pm 1.53^{d}$	$9.00{\pm}2.41^{a}$	$10.18 \pm 0.81^{b}$	$10.81 \pm 0.23^{c}$
Oliec(C18:1)	$27.36 \pm 2.14^{\circ}$	$27.30 \pm 0.85^{\circ}$	$26.92 \pm 0.41^{b}$	$24.14 \pm 0.56^{a}$
Linoleic(C18:2)	$3.19 \pm 1.2^{d}$	$1.83 \pm 0.11^{\circ}$	$1.68 \pm 0.34^{b}$	$1.21\pm0.19^{a}$
Linolenic(C18:3)	$1.44{\pm}0.01^{d}$	$1.11 \pm 0.08^{b}$	$0.92 \pm 0.13^{\circ}$	$0.85 \pm 0.12^{a}$
SFA	$57.41 \pm 2.11^{b}$	$55.41 \pm 1.21^{a}$	$59.60 \pm 0.85^{d}$	$58.97 \pm 1.02^{\circ}$
UFA	$34.06 \pm 1.59^{d}$	$32.65 \pm 1.45^{\circ}$	$31.94 \pm 0.51^{b}$	$28.47 \pm 0.56^{a}$
UFA/SFA ratio	$0.59{\pm}0.08^{d}$	$0.58{\pm}0.02^{c}$	$0.53{\pm}0.07^{b}$	$0.48 \pm 0.12^{a}$
		Beef fat		
Myristic (C14:0)	$3.46 \pm 0.45^{a}$	$3.48 \pm 0.12^{b}$	$3.59 \pm 0.12^{\circ}$	$3.62 \pm 0.24^{d}$
Palmitic (C16:0)	$25.41 \pm 1.98^{a}$	$25.81 \pm 0.22^{b}$	$25.86 \pm 0.34^{b}$	$25.99 \pm 0.56^{\circ}$
Palmitoleic(C16:1n-9)	$4.00{\pm}0.18^{b}$	$3.72{\pm}0.32^{a}$	$3.71 \pm 0.10^{a}$	$4.21 \pm 0.56^{\circ}$
Stearic (C18:0)	$18.31 \pm 0.45^{a}$	$18.32 \pm 0.12^{a}$	$18.34{\pm}1.22^{a}$	$18.51 \pm 0.10^{b}$
Oleic(C18:1n-9c)	$36.86 \pm 1.11^{d}$	$35.10 \pm 0.88^{\circ}$	$32.92 \pm 0.98^{b}$	$31.64 \pm 1.08^{a}$
Linoleic(C18:2n-6c)	$3.19 \pm 0.18^{d}$	$3.14 \pm 0.08^{\circ}$	$3.09 \pm 0.13^{b}$	$2.75 \pm 0.18^{a}$
SFA	$47.19 \pm 2.12^{a}$	$47.62 \pm 1.85^{b}$	$47.80 \pm 0.65^{\circ}$	$48.12 \pm 0.25^{d}$
UFA	$44.05 \pm 1.18^{a}$	$41.94{\pm}0.85^{b}$	$39.71 \pm 1.58^{\circ}$	$38.60 \pm 0.56^{d}$
UFA/SFA	$0.93{\pm}0.05^{a}$	$0.88 {\pm} 0.01^{\rm b}$	$0.83 \pm 0.01^{\circ}$	$0.80{\pm}0.01^{d}$

Table 1

<sup>z</sup> plasma treatment time of 30 min; Only fatty acids with a relative amount higher than 1% are shown where control is untreated sample, UFA: unsaturated fatty acid; SFA: saturated fatty acid. All the data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. Means with the different superscript letters differ significantly (P < 0.05)

Table 2	2
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Sample	Chemical shift (PPM)	Voltage(kV)	a	b	R <sup>2</sup> (Adj)
Dairy	9.76	60	0.0040	0.0137	0.85
		70	0.0116	0.0022	0.99
		80	0.0122	0.0203	0.96
	5.12-5.20	60	0.0213	0.0203	0.86
		70	0.0630	0.0691	0.97
		80	0.0355	0.0832	0.78
	2.4	60	0.0410	0.0868	0.94
		70	0.0792	-0.0465	0.99
		80	0.0609	0.2312	0.82
Beef	9.76	60	0.0069	0.0194	0.89
		70	0.0085	0.0053	0.99
		80	0.0143	0.0004	0.99
	6.1-6.2	70	0.0012	0.0035	0.89
		80	0.0057	0.0011	0.94
	5.12-5.20	60	0.0189	-0.0124	0.99
		70	0.0276	0.0376	0.97
		80	0.0511	0.0615	0.98
	2.4	60	0.0482	0.529	0.65
		70	0.0441	-0.0234	0.99
		80	0.0092	-0.0793	0.99