

Evaluation of Two Methods for Dyeing Alpaca Fibers Using Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN

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The objective of this research study was to compare the conventional exhaustion method (CN) and the ultrasound-assisted depletion method (US) in the dyeing of alpaca fibers with azo textile dyes Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN. The analytical method was validated by UV-Vis spectroscopy, which demonstrated adequate linearity and sensitivity. To optimize US, a 3² factorial design was carried out with temperature factors of 60, 70 and 80 °C, using Baby alpaca, Fleece and Huarizo fibers, which determined that Baby dyeing at 80 °C maximizes exhaustion of the dyes. These parameters were used to compare US with CN using the *F*-test and *t*-test, which indicated no statistically significant difference the depletion of the dyes in both methods. Different color fastness tests were performed in both methods using digital images. The paired *t*-test was also performed, resulting in a *p*-value greater than 0.05, which shows that US does not compromise the color fastness of the fibers.

Keywords: alpaca fiber, conventional depletion, color fastness, dye

Introduction

The textile industry is considered to be one of the largest energy consumers worldwide due to the amount of energy required to increase the dyeing temperature.¹ This is why it is necessary to implement new methods that permits a production increase without compromising quality while minimizing its environmental impact.²

Ultrasound waves in a liquid medium create negative pressures that form bubbles until they implode, generating “hot spots” of 1000 atm, transient temperatures of 1000 K,³ shock waves and strong shear forces that can break up chemical bonds.⁴ This phenomenon is called cavitation, also known as “cold boiling” which in the contact zone with a solid surface accelerates the dyeing of fibers by generating “micro-jets” of 110 m s⁻¹ towards the pores of the solid surface.^{5,6} The dispersion of dye aggregates, degassing of air trapped in the fiber capillaries, diffusion of the dye in the fibers, intense vibration of the liquid medium, destruction of the dye/fiber diffusion layer

and the expansion of the polymeric amorphous regions are chemical and physical effects that could explain the positive results in ultrasound-assisted coloring processes.⁴ Ultrasonic dyed textile fibers include jute, bamboo, lyocell, linen, polyester, goat hair, nylon, sheep wool, acrylic fabrics, silk, cotton and cellulose acetate⁷⁻¹⁸ with a variety of textile dyes including reactive dyes, disperse dyes, natural dyes and basic dyes.^{10,12,17}

Ultrasound applied to textile pre-treatment processes includes bio-preparation (enzymatic processing of fibers), washing (removal of impurities), bleaching and dyeing. It is also applied in technologies for cutting, welding, sealing and sewing of garments.¹⁹ Commercial equipment is ultrasound baths and ultrasonic probes. Ultrasonic baths are stainless steel tanks with transducers at the bottom. Such modern equipment allows you to control temperature, time, amplitude and the applied frequency. Ultrasonic probes are stainless steel or titanium tip devices that transmit sound directly into the medium, exposing it to metallic contamination, erosion, and uncontrolled heat transmission, concentrates ultrasonic power in small volumes and reduces energy losses; these tip devices are replaceable and relatively inexpensive to do so.²⁰

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Alpaca fiber is considered a luxury fiber for its lightness, fineness, softness, image and reputation in much the same way as other diverse animal fibers such as mohair, cashmere and angora.²¹ These fibers are conventionally dyed at high temperatures for a long time due to the dense flake structure and hydrophobic lipid layer on the surface of the fiber.²² Even though these conditions are necessary to increase dye absorption²³ and improve color fastness,²⁴ exposure to these temperatures for a long time damages the properties of the fiber such as its brilliance. Therefore, to ensure appropriate energy savings and quality improvement, very high dyeing temperatures should be avoided.²³

Artisanal dyeing in Peru has a long history and plays an important role in the culture and economy. Artisans in the region use ancestral techniques and knowledge passed down from generation to generation to achieve vibrant, long-lasting colors in alpaca garments.²⁵ In today's textile manufacturing industry, it has increasingly been reported that ultrasound can accelerate chemical and physical reactions through the cavitation phenomenon¹⁰ allowing a relatively fast and uniform mass transfer (the main objective in the textile dyeing process) which would otherwise require higher temperatures, longer processing times and/or greater consumption of chemical additives.¹⁶ In this context, then, the use of ultrasound can help improve the efficiency of the dyeing process, reducing the need for aggressive chemicals and reducing resource consumption without compromising the quality and authenticity of the colors obtained.⁹ On the other hand, studies report energy savings, more environmentally friendly processes and also higher color yield production compared to conventional dyeing techniques.^{16,26} Where, the concentration of the dye affects the efficiency of the discoloration processes as well as subsequent effluent treatments.²⁷

To that end, this study intends to compare ultrasound-assisted depletion method (US) and conventional exhaustion method (CN) applied to alpaca fibers, to demonstrate the effect of ultrasound on the absorption of Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN dye.

Experimental

Validation of the spectrophotometric method

A spectral scan was performed between 400-700 nm to obtain Synozol Red K3BS (λ_{max} 542 nm) and Novacron Navy FN-BN (λ_{max} 592 nm) readings. We validated a spectrophotometric method, for which stock solutions of 50 and 200 mg L⁻¹ of Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN, respectively, were prepared. Standard

solutions of 2.5, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 mg L⁻¹ were obtained. Absorbance was then recorded in triplicate using distilled water as a blank.

A scatter plot of the dye concentration (mg L⁻¹) and the average absorbance was obtained. The limit of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) of the method was determined using the formula reported by Ortiz and Ramírez.²⁸

Dyeing process

Fiber conditioning

1 kg of tops of 03 qualities of alpaca fibers were acquired; Huarizo, Fleece and Baby from a local company. 30 g of each type of fiber were weighed and washed with 2% Extran® MA 02 neutral detergent for 10 min at 60 °C, then rinsed in a water bath at 40 °C and subsequently, a second rinse with water was applied at 40 °C.

Dyeing stock solution

1.4 and 0.45 g of Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN, respectively, were weighed in a 1 L container, leveling and homogenizing it with distilled water. To determine its true concentration, a 100 µL aliquot was transferred to a 10 mL vial, making up to the mark and homogenizing it with distilled water. Its absorbance was then measured in triplicate.

Conventional dyeing

25 mL of the dyeing stock solution was transferred to a flask, alum (potassium aluminum sulfate salt) (8 g L⁻¹) and citric acid (1.33 g L⁻¹) were added and homogenized with distilled water in a water bath at 90 °C for 15 min.

Dyeing was started by completely immersing 1 g of fiber in the 25 mL of the homogenized solution (bath ratio of 1:25) and ended after 30 min. The 3 qualities of alpaca fiber were dyed in triplicate for each dye.

Ultrasound dyeing

Ultrasound-assisted dyeing was carried out in the ultrasound bath, maintaining the parameters of conventional dyeing except for the temperature. In accordance with what was described by Larik *et al.*,¹⁶ Babar *et al.*,⁹ and Islam and Ke,²⁹ who worked at temperatures lower than the conventional process, the temperatures of 60, 70 and 80 °C were selected, as these are the most frequently used in ultrasound processes. Figure 1 shows the ultrasound staining set-up.

During conventional and ultrasound staining, a sample portion of 100 and 200 µL of Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN, respectively, was taken every

5 min, transferred to a 5 mL vial, rooted and homogenized with distilled water.

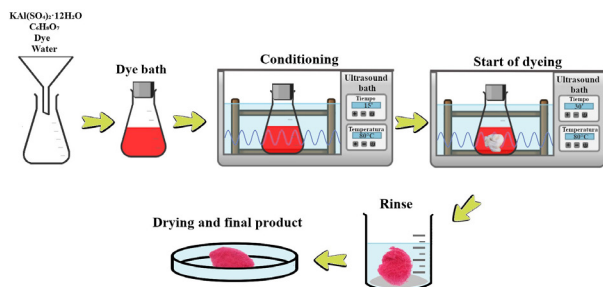


Figure 1. Ultrasound-assisted depletion dyeing process.

Experimental design

To investigate the effects of the variables that intervene in a depletion process, a three-level factorial design 3^2 was carried out with three repetitions at each point, as shown in Table 1. The variables to be studied were temperature and fiber quality. In order to establish the response variable, the following equation was used to obtain the percentage of depletion:

$$\text{Depletion (\%)} = \frac{C_o - C_f}{C_o} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where C_o is the initial concentration of the dye, and C_f is the final concentration of the dye at the culmination of the dyeing process.

Color fastness

The color fastness tests were carried out comparing the conventional method with the ultrasound method at 80 °C. The following standards: ISO 105-E01;³⁰ ISO 105 E02;³¹ ISO 105-E08;³² ISO 105-C10;³³ ISO 105-E05;³⁴ ISO 105-E06³⁵ and AATCC TM61³⁶ were applied to evaluate color fastness when subjected to water, seawater, hot water, washing with soap, staining with acid, staining with alkali and household washing, respectively. According to the standard, fibers can be cut into any convenient size, so each fiber sample was cut into equal parts, each having a weight of 0.1 g.

The color difference was evaluated using digital images,³⁷ which consisted of taking photos of the dyed fibers under the same light conditions, selecting an area of the capture, averaging the color and calculating the color difference (ΔE) of the samples subjected to color fastness tests with the original samples and using Table 2 to determine the degree of fastness. The parameters that were used for the camera were illumination: 600 lux, camera

Table 1. Factorial design 3^2 used to determine percentage depletion of Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN dyes in alpaca wool

Factor			Level		
			Low (−1)	Central (0)	High (+1)
X ₁ : Temperature / °C			60	70	80
X ₂ : Quality of alpaca wool			Huarizo	Fleece	Baby
Factor			Response		
Run	X ₁	X ₂	E Synozol	E Novacron	
			Red	Navy	
			K3BS / %	FN-BN / %	
1	60	Huarizo	39.15	41.44	
1	70	Huarizo	56.83	62.59	
1	80	Huarizo	93.23	92.09	
1	60	Fleece	42.12	41.84	
1	70	Fleece	68.73	71.75	
1	80	Fleece	91.83	78.87	
1	60	Baby	55.08	43.27	
1	70	Baby	68.03	81.51	
1	80	Baby	100.00	92.90	
2	60	Huarizo	41.25	44.69	
2	70	Huarizo	58.23	57.91	
2	80	Huarizo	94.45	73.78	
2	60	Fleece	39.85	47.13	
2	70	Fleece	64.70	67.27	
2	80	Fleece	99.18	95.34	
2	60	Baby	48.25	49.37	
2	70	Baby	71.88	72.76	
2	80	Baby	100.00	91.27	
3	60	Huarizo	38.27	46.73	
3	70	Huarizo	57.88	61.57	
3	80	Huarizo	95.68	94.32	
3	60	Fleece	57.35	43.88	
3	70	Fleece	64.00	69.51	
3	80	Fleece	90.60	84.56	
3	60	Baby	54.73	64.22	
3	70	Baby	67.15	92.49	
3	80	Baby	97.08	90.05	

E: percentage of depletion.

distance: 20 cm, ISO:800, aperture: F8, exposure: +2, and shutter: 1/200.

Results and Discussion

Validation of the spectrophotometric method

The standard solutions were prepared on three different days, and the measurement results are shown in Table 3.

The average calibration curves for each dye, presented in Figure 2, were constructed with scatter plots whose X

Table 2. Relation between CIELAB color difference ΔE and the grey scale fastness grade GS_C

CIELAB color difference	Grey scale fastness grade GS_C
$\Delta E < 0.40$	5.0
$0.40 \leq \Delta E < 1.25$	4.5
$1.25 \leq \Delta E < 2.10$	4.0
$2.10 \leq \Delta E < 2.95$	3.5
$2.95 \leq \Delta E < 4.10$	3.0
$4.10 \leq \Delta E < 5.80$	2.5
$5.80 \leq \Delta E < 8.20$	2.0
$8.20 \leq \Delta E < 11.60$	1.5
$\Delta E \geq 11.60$	1.0

ΔE : color difference; GS_C : degree of color fastness in gray scale.

axis is the average concentration of the standards and the Y axis, representing absorbance.

The LODs and LOQs for the dyes were then determined. In the case of the Synozol Red K3BS dye, the LOD was 0.19 mg L^{-1} and the LOQ was 0.32 mg L^{-1} , for the Novacron Navy FN-BN, the LOD was 0.11 mg L^{-1} and the LOQ was 0.21 mg L^{-1} .

Dyeing process

The graphs show the depletion percentage results from the dyeing of Baby, Fleece and Huarizo fibers with Synozol

Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN dyes, applying the conventional process at 92°C and ultrasound at 60, 70 and 80°C . In Figure 3, according to the analysis of the factorial design, there are differences in the comparisons between fibers, dyes and the applied methods. When analyzing the effects of the ultrasound process, the general trend of increasing the percentage of depletion as time progressed can be observed, noting that subjectively it can be observed that the fiber and temperature have significant effects. The results of the process are similar to those reported by Udrescu *et al.*,¹⁷ who dyed acetate fibers at 60, 70 and 80°C by ultrasound and reported a better depletion percentage when working with a temperature of 80°C . Islam and Ke²⁹ compared ultrasound-assisted and non-ultrasound-assisted staining methods at those same temperatures and also reported better ultrasound staining efficiency at 80°C .

Statistical analysis

The Pareto chart (Figure 4) shows that temperature, fiber, and the self-interaction of temperature levels have a significant effect on increasing depletion.

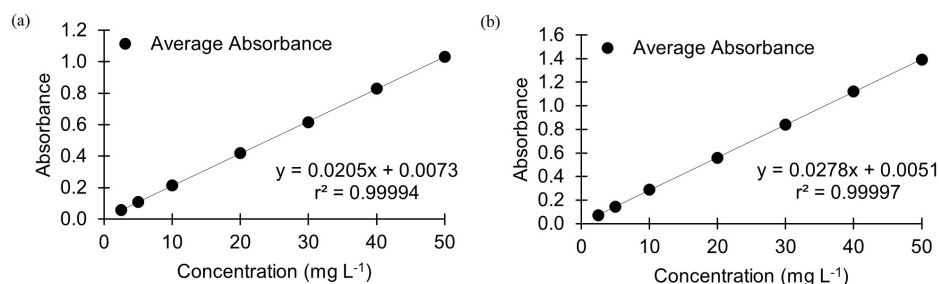
The main effects graph (Figure 5) indicates that temperature is more significant than the increase or difference in fiber fineness.

Figure 6 shows the response surface graph obtained in the STATGRAPHICS software³⁸ that represents the

Table 3. Absorbance measurements to evaluate method linearity of the Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN dyes method

Concentration / (mg L^{-1})	Synozol Red K3BS					Novacron Navy FN-BN				
	Absorbance				SD	Absorbance				SD
	1	2	3	$\bar{X}$		1	2	3	$\bar{X}$	
2.5	0.055	0.053	0.064	0.057	0.006	0.072	0.070	0.073	0.072	0.002
5	0.106	0.107	0.116	0.110	0.006	0.139	0.146	0.144	0.143	0.004
10	0.212	0.212	0.22	0.215	0.005	0.289	0.290	0.285	0.288	0.003
20	0.417	0.42	0.419	0.419	0.002	0.552	0.548	0.576	0.559	0.015
30	0.622	0.625	0.605	0.617	0.011	0.853	0.830	0.831	0.838	0.013
40	0.833	0.827	0.831	0.830	0.003	1.141	1.099	1.120	1.120	0.021
50	1.037	1.026	1.037	1.033	0.006	1.407	1.372	1.398	1.392	0.018

$\bar{X}$: sample mean; SD: standard deviation.

**Figure 2.** Calibration curve for the determination of Synozol Red K3BS (a) and Novacron Navy FN-BN (b).

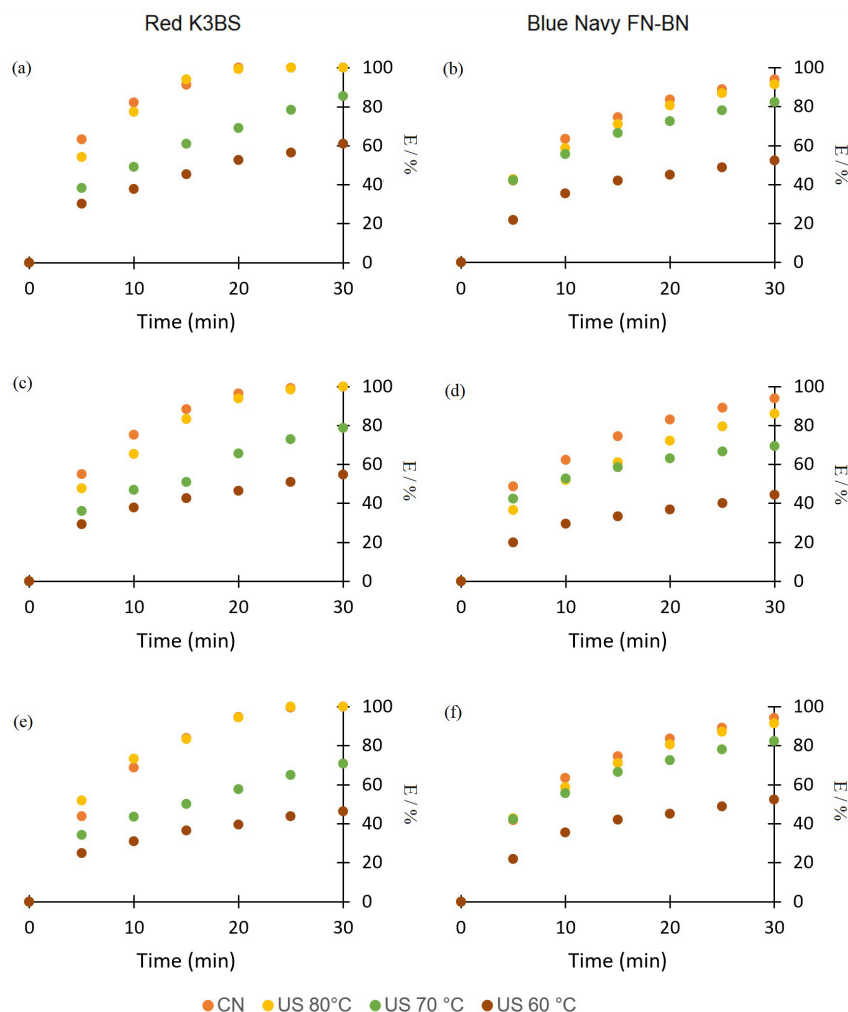


Figure 3. Dye depletion percentages for Baby (a-b), Fleece (c-d), and Huarizo (e-f) alpaca fibers dyed with Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN under conventional and ultrasound conditions at various temperatures.

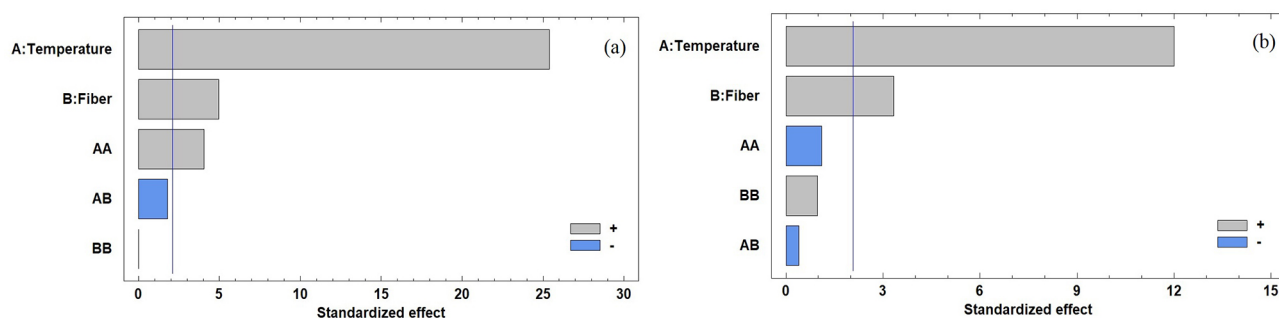


Figure 4. Pareto chart of Synozol Red K3BS (a) and Novacron Navy FN-BN (b).

mathematical model of the factorial design in which the values of 80 °C for the temperature and quality of Baby fiber are surmised to ascertain the maximum percentage of depletion.

In order to analyze whether there is a difference between the conventional and ultrasound-assisted methods, the *F* and *t* tests were used (Table 4) to evaluate the variance and arithmetic mean between the alpaca fiber

dyeing methods. The data from the US process at 80 °C was considered because they were the parameters under which the highest percentage of depletion was obtained. When making the comparison between the ultrasound method and the conventional method in the three different qualities of alpaca fibers, Baby, Fleece and Huarizo, a *p*-value greater than 0.05 was found in all the statistical tests carried out. This demonstrates that no statistically

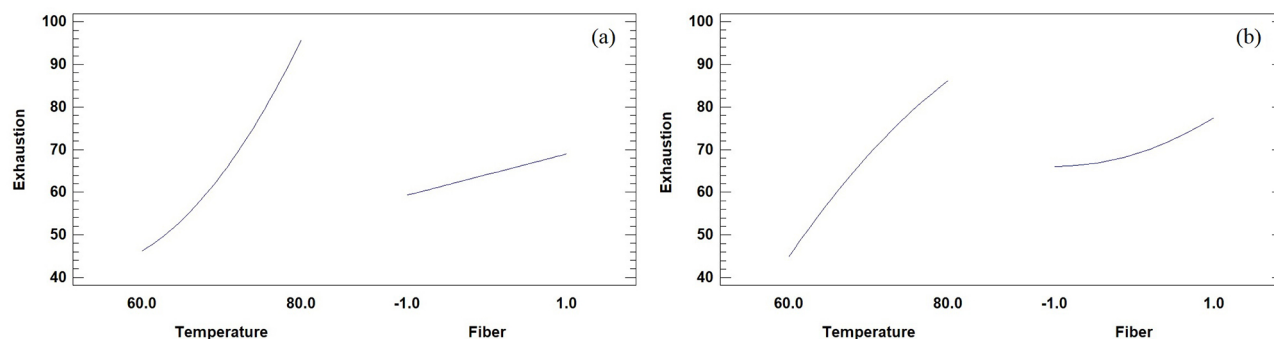


Figure 5. Main effect graph of Synozol Red K3BS (a) and Novacron Navy FN-BN (b).

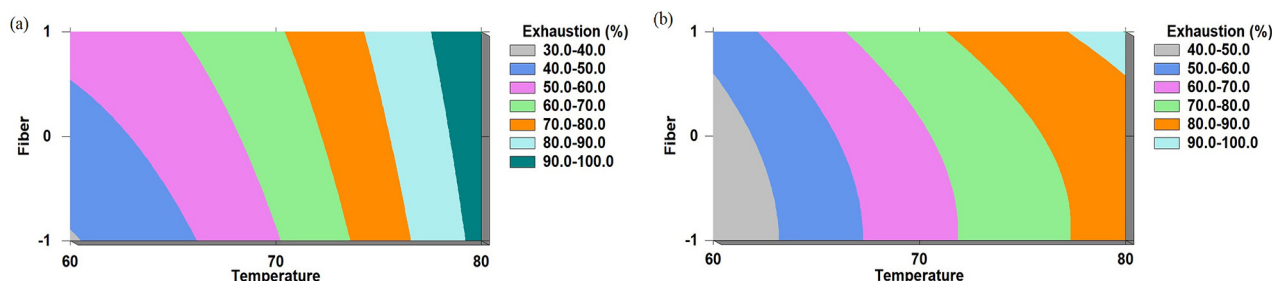


Figure 6. Contour plot of the estimated response surface for the depletion of Synozol Red K3BS (a) and Novacron Navy FN-BN (b).

Table 4. *F*-test and *t*-test at 20 min from the exhaustion of Synozol Red K3BS and at 30 min from Novacron Navy FN-BN

Baby alpaca wool			
Synozol Red K3BS		Novacron Navy FN-BN	
US at 80 °C	CN	US at 80 °C	CN
100.00	100.00	92.90	93.31
100.00	100.00	91.27	93.10
97.08	98.65	90.05	95.95
<i>F</i> : <i>p</i> -value (one sided)	0.18	<i>F</i> : <i>p</i> -value (one sided)	0.45
<i>t</i> : <i>p</i> -value (two sided)	0.65	<i>t</i> : <i>p</i> -value (two sided)	0.09
Fleece alpaca wool			
Synozol Red K3BS		Novacron Navy FN-BN	
US at 80 °C	CN	US at 80 °C	CN
91.83	94.10	78.87	89.04
99.18	97.78	95.34	92.90
90.60	97.08	84.56	86.80
<i>F</i> : <i>p</i> -value (one sided)	0.15	<i>F</i> : <i>p</i> -value (one sided)	0.16
<i>t</i> : <i>p</i> -value (two sided)	0.45	<i>t</i> : <i>p</i> -value (two sided)	0.22
Huarizo alpaca wool			
Synozol Red K3BS		Novacron Navy FN-BN	
US at 80 °C	CN	US at 80 °C	CN
93.23	93.93	92.09	97.99
94.45	94.63	73.78	92.70
95.68	95.85	94.32	91.07
<i>F</i> : <i>p</i> -value (one sided)	0.39	<i>F</i> : <i>p</i> -value (one sided)	0.07
<i>t</i> : <i>p</i> -value (two sided)	0.72	<i>t</i> : <i>p</i> -value (two sided)	0.69

US: ultrasound-assisted depletion method; CN: conventional exhaustion method.

significant differences in dye concentrations were found between the dyeing methods applied to any of the fiber qualities evaluated.

When comparing the two dyes used, it was observed that the Synozol Red K3BS dye showed a greater degree of depletion in all fibers compared to the Novacron Navy FN-BN dye (Figure 7). This suggests that Synozol Red K3BS dye has a greater affinity for alpaca fiber. This tells us, therefore, that temperature is an important factor in the dyeing process and affects the depletion of color in textile fibers. Our findings support this claim and highlight

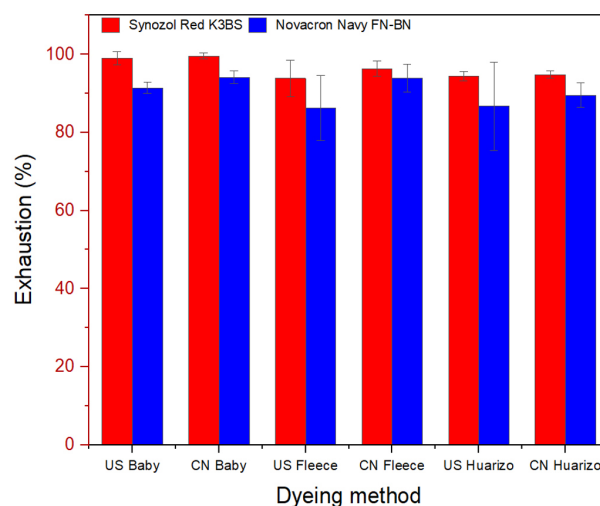


Figure 7. Comparison of the percentage depletion of Synozol Red K3BS and Novacron Navy FN-BN dyes according to the dyeing method (US and CN) in different types of alpaca wool (Baby, Fleece and Huarizo).

the importance of properly controlling temperature when dyeing alpaca fibers. Although the contribution of fiber quality to the percentage of depletion compared to temperature is relatively minor, fiber quality also had a significant effect. This suggests that, if seeking to optimize the dyeing process in terms of depletion percentage, it is crucial to focus on the selection and control of the fiber as well as the dyeing temperature.

Color fastness

When comparing the color fastness results of the conventional process and the ultrasonic dyeing process,

we observed that both methods showed overall similar fastnesses (Tables 5 and 6). This indicates that the use of ultrasound as an alternative method for dyeing alpaca fiber does not compromise the color fastness if compared to the conventional process.

These results (Table 7) indicate that both the ultrasound method and the conventional method are equally effective in terms of dye depletion in the three different qualities of alpaca fibers evaluated. This may have significant implications regarding the selection of the dyeing method, as both processes can be considered to be viable options for the textile industry working with alpaca fiber.

Table 5. Macroscopic evaluation of color fastness in different types of alpaca wool dyed by US and CN methods

Alpaca wool	Method	Dye	Color fastness						
			Water	Hot water	Sea water	Washing with soap	Washing with detergent	Acid	Alkali
Baby	CN 92 °C	Red ^a	5.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	2.0	4.5	3.5
		Blue ^b	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	3.0
	US 80 °C	Red ^a	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.0	2.5	4.5	4.0
		Blue ^b	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.5	4.5	4.5	4.0
Fleece	CN 92 °C	Red ^a	5.0	4.5	3.5	3.5	2.5	4.0	4.0
		Blue ^b	4.5	4.5	3.0	4.5	3.5	4.5	4.0
	US 80 °C	Red ^a	4.5	4.5	2.5	3.0	2.5	4.5	3.0
		Blue ^b	4.5	4.0	3.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.5
Huarizo	CN 92 °C	Red ^a	5.0	4.5	2.5	3.5	3.0	4.0	4.5
		Blue ^b	4.5	4.5	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0
	US 80 °C	Red ^a	4.5	4.5	2.5	3.5	2.5	4.0	4.5
		Blue ^b	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5

^aRed: Synozol Red K3BS. ^bBlue: Novacron Navy FN-BN. US: ultrasound-assisted depletion method; CN: conventional exhaustion method.

Table 6. Microscopic evaluation of color fastness in different types of alpaca wool dyed by US and CN methods

Alpaca Wool	Method	Dye	Color fastness						
			Water	Hot water	Sea water	Washing with soap	Washing with detergent	Acid	Alkali
Baby	CN 92°C	Red ^a	4.5	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.5	2.5
		Blue ^b	4.5	2.0	3.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0
	US 80 °C	Red ^a	4.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.5	3.5
		Blue ^b	5.0	5.0	2.5	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.5
Fleece	CN 92 °C	Red ^a	4.0	3.0	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.5	3.5
		Blue ^b	4.0	4.0	2.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0
	US 80 °C	Red ^a	5.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.5	4.5
		Blue ^b	3.0	2.5	2.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	3.5
Huarizo	CN 92 °C	Red ^a	4.0	2.5	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5
		Blue ^b	4.5	4.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.5
	US 80 °C	Red ^a	4.5	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	3.0
		Blue ^b	4.5	3.0	4.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.5

^aRed: Synozol Red K3BS. ^bBlue: Novacron Navy FN-BN.

Table 7. Paired *t*-test for comparison of conventional and 80 °C ultrasound color fastness values

		Color fastness															
		Original		Water		Hot water		Sea water		Washing with soap		Washing with detergent		Acid		Alkali	
Dye	Method	L*	L*	p-value	L*	p-value	L*	p-value	L*	p-value	L*	p-value	L*	p-value	L*	p-value	
Red K3BS	CN 92 °C	52.51	55.62	0.25	50.22	0.09	48.74	0.64	49.63	0.77	52.95	0.83	54.92	0.21	53.72	0.800	
		50.47	53.65		48.49		47.23		46.62		48.65		56.98		49.96		
		47.56	54.02		52.3		51.23		52.89		50.27		55.27		51.93		
	US 80 °C	55.00	52.11	53.01	47.71	50.35	52.03	51.03	48.91								
		52.69	53.54	55.73	48.52	47.24	51.06	56.55	55.62								
		50.11	52.78	55.45	49.46	50.54	49.56	53.96	48.12								
Navy FN-BN	CN 92 °C	45.58	46.41	0.11	48.76	0.42	47.34	0.49	46.68	0.26	55.91	0.70	47.64	0.42	52.17	0.78	
		45.88	45.11		47.47		51.45		45.01		47.54		49.95		45.09		
		45.88	45.98		46.31		50.90		45.78		46.81		43.53		49.12		
	US 80 °C	49.89	47.87	54.05	54.68	45.54	50.21	51.32	50.14								
		50.08	52.43	47.47	51.13	50.86	52.46	47.44	50.14								
		48.30	53.18	46.34	50.37	52.86	52.40	52.01	48.17								

L*: color lightness; *p*-value: probability value.

Conclusions

We were able to validate the analytical method and obtain the calibration curve with the equation of the straight line for the determination of the Synozol Red K3BS dye: $y = 0.0205x + 0.0073$ with LOD and LOQ of 0.19 and 0.32 mg L⁻¹, respectively, and for the Novacron Navy FN-BN dye: $y = 0.0278x + 0.0051$ with LOD and LOQ of 0.11 and 0.21 mg L⁻¹, respectively. Both dyes showed an r^2 value greater than 0.9999, indicating an excellent linear correlation between absorbance and concentration.

The dyed fibers of the three qualities were obtained by the conventional method at 92 °C and ultrasound with temperature values of 60, 70 and 80 °C for a time of 30 min. The experimental design was carried out which allowed us to find the optimal parameters for dyeing with ultrasound, which were: 80 °C temperature and quality of Baby fiber. Likewise, the *F*-test and *t*-test was carried out comparing the ultrasound process with the conventional one, which resulted in a *p*-value greater than 0.05 in all fibers, indicating that there is no significant difference when working with both processes.

Furthermore, it was possible to determine the concentration of both dyes in the different dyeing methods by UV-Vis spectrophotometry, which supports the use of this technique to determine the absorption of color in the fiber. With regard to the depletion of the dyes, there was a difference in both dyeing processes. The Synozol Red K3BS dye reached maximum depletion using a higher concentration of dye in the fibers evaluated, compared to the Novacron Navy FN-BN dye in the optimal conditions, which could be due to a greater affinity of Synozol Red K3BS towards alpaca fibers.

The AATCC method proves to be more accurate in quantification as it allows direct assessment of the dye concentration. However, its main limitation is the specialized instrumentation and its poor representativeness of the visual and functional behavior of the dyeing. The ISO methods used focus on assessing the amount of color released when a textile is exposed to liquid agents.

Finally, the color difference of the fibers was evaluated after subjecting them to various fastness tests. Microscopic analysis showed color disparity in the fibers due to their morphology, so it is not recommendable to evaluate fastness by this means. However, the digital imaging method is applicable to evaluate the color change macroscopically in order to determine the degree of test fastness. In this study, there were no differences in color fastness for the CN and US process at 80 °C, which indicates that US does not impair the fastness of the dyes.

Data Availability Statement

Data will be made available on request.

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Author Contributions

S. Ramírez, O. Serrano, G. Vilcapaza and D. Ortiz designed the study, S. Ramírez, O. Serrano and G. Vilcapaza analyzed and visualized the data, S. Ramírez, O. Serrano and G. Vilcapaza wrote the draft of

the manuscript, S. Ramirez and D. Ortiz proofread the manuscript, and S. Ramírez, O. Serrano, G. Vilcapaza and D. Ortiz contributed substantially to revisions.

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