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1 **Lectin microarray profiling demonstrates equivalent global glycosylation for whey**
2 **protein ingredients enriched with α -lactalbumin and milk fat globule membrane**

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10 **Abstract**

11 Human milk fat globule membrane (MFGM) and whey proteins are nutritionally and
12 functionally valuable, with many beneficial bioactivities associated with their glycosylation.
13 However glycosylation of milk components other than free milk oligosaccharides are
14 underinvestigated. Whey protein concentrate (WPC) ingredients with various enrichments or
15 depletions are used in infant formula (IF) formulations to contribute to human milk equivalence
16 and bioactivity benefits, but their overall or global glycosylation has not been compared. We
17 compared the global glycosylation of commercial WPC ingredients for use in various IF
18 formulations; two MFGM-enriched WPC ingredients (high fat HF1 and lower fat HF2), an α -
19 lactalbumin-enriched WPC (WPC Lac) which has α -lactalbumin concentration closer to human
20 milk and significantly less β -lactoglobulin which is not present in human milk, and two base
21 WPC ingredients (WPC 80 and WPC 35) using lectin microarray profiling. WPC Lac and WPC
22 HF1 glycosylation were highly similar to each other and both somewhat similar to WPC 35,
23 while WPC HF2 was more similar to the base WPC 80 ingredient. N-linked glycosylation
24 analysis demonstrated that WPC HF1 and WPC Lac were qualitatively most similar to one
25 another, with WPC 80 and WPC 35 having similar structures, confirming lectin microarray
26 profiling as a valuable method to compare global glycosylation. Thus WPC Lac may be a
27 valuable ingredient for providing equivalent glycosylation to MFGM supplementation.

28 **Keywords**

- 29 Glycosylation, whey protein concentrate, α -lactalbumin, milk glycoproteins, milk fat globule
30 membrane, N-linked glycans
31

32 1. Introduction

33 Human milk is mainly comprised of water, carbohydrate, proteins, and lipids, and it is the
34 optimal food for infant nutrition, growth, development, and health (Andreas, Kampmann, &
35 Mehring Le-Doare, 2015). Understanding and simulating the composition of human milk in
36 bovine milk-based infant formula (IF) is the primary focus of IF research and development.
37 Human milk lipids contribute up to 55% of the energy of breast milk and are packaged together
38 with glycolipids and glycoproteins in milk fat globule membranes (MFGM). MFGM proteins
39 comprise 1-4% of the total milk protein content, and several glycoproteins which are typically
40 found in whey fractions such as lactoferrin and α -lactalbumin (α -Lac) are found in minor
41 abundance in MFGM (Lee et al., 2018). The carbohydrate contribution in mature human milk
42 is from lactose, free oligosaccharides, and oligosaccharides conjugated to lipids (glycolipids)
43 and proteins (glycoproteins) (O'Riordan, Kane, Joshi, & Hickey, 2014). Free oligosaccharide
44 structures have been extensively studied in recent years and are responsible for many
45 bioactivities including regulating the infant immune system, preventing pathogen adhesion,
46 and functioning as prebiotics for the infant gut microbiome (Oliveira, Wilbey, Grandison, &
47 Roseiro, 2015). Glycosylated components in human milk, including those from MFGM and
48 whey glycoproteins, are also associated with various important bioactivities (Fenelon, Hickey,
49 Buggy, McCarthy, & Murphy, 2019; O'Riordan et al., 2014; Ross et al., 2016; Takimori et al.,
50 2011). For example, the glycosylation of lactoferrin, a major glycoprotein of whey and MFGM,
51 has roles in iron binding and protection from infection mainly associated with sialylation
52 (O'Riordan et al., 2014; Vega-Bautista et al., 2019). However, studies of milk glycoprotein
53 glycosylation and bioactivities are sparse in comparison to those of human free milk
54 oligosaccharides.

55 Caseins and whey proteins are the main groups of proteins in breast milk (Andreas et al., 2015).
56 Mature human milk protein is whey protein predominant (40% casein:60% whey by
57 approximately one month post-partum) so bovine milk proteins are adjusted to this distribution
58 for use in IF applications as bovine milk is comprised of only 20% whey protein (Donovan,
59 2019). Milk glycoprotein glycosylation is altered during lactation, probably with the changing
60 nutritional and bioactivity needs of the infant (Fenelon, Hickey, Buggy, McCarthy, & Murphy,
61 2019; O'Riordan et al., 2014; Ross et al., 2016; Takimori et al., 2011; Lu et al., 2019; Valk-
62 Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruyter, Dijkhuizen, & van Leeuwen, 2020a). Lu et al. (2019) reported
63 changes in the N- and O-linked glycan structure and composition of human milk glycoproteins

64 over lactation time that appeared to complement changes in the abundance of free milk
65 oligosaccharides. Although the biological impact and mechanism for these alterations are not
66 yet understood, glycoprotein glycosylation may provide a significant contribution to the overall
67 nutritional value and bioactivity of milk to the infant. Given the importance of glycosylation,
68 it may therefore be of interest to profile the overall or global glycosylation from IF ingredients.

69 MFGM is an important contributor to health benefits in human milk and MFGM
70 supplementation of IF has been associated with developmental benefits including improved
71 cognitive development and decreased infectious morbidity (Timby, Domellöf, Lönnerdal, &
72 Hernell, 2017). Many MFGM bioactivities are associated with its glycosylation, for example
73 providing decoy glycan ligands for pathogen receptors to prevent gastrointestinal tract
74 infections from rotavirus and *Escherichia coli* (Manoni, Di Lorenzo, Ottoboni, Tretola, &
75 Pinotti, 2020; Ross, Lane, Kilcoyne, Joshi, & Hickey, 2015). Nevertheless, milk fat (including
76 MFGM) is often separated during bovine milk processing and vegetable oils are added as the
77 source of fat in IF design. Whey protein concentrate (WPC) prepared from bovine milk is used
78 as an ingredient for a variety of nutritional products, including IF, and is recognised for its
79 nutritional value and beneficial bioactivities (Fenelon et al., 2019). Glycoproteins comprise the
80 majority of whey protein and several MFGM glycoprotein and lipid components such as
81 mucins, fatty acid synthase, butyrophilin, and phospholipids are present in WPC ingredients
82 due to the manufacturing method (Fenelon et al., 2019; O'Riordan et al., 2014; Bansal &
83 Bhandari, 2016; Fenelon et al., 2019; Svanborg, Johansen, Abrahamsen, & Skeie, 2015).
84 Indeed, WPC can be depleted and/or enriched in its various components during manufacturing
85 to produce a range of different WPC ingredients suitable for various nutritional applications.
86 For example, in an effort to provide similar bioactivity benefits to MFGM, recently various
87 MFGM protein- and lipid-enriched WPC ingredients have been developed for use in nutritional
88 and IF products (Manoni et al., 2020; Timby et al., 2017). Further, WPC ingredient enriched
89 with the glycoprotein α -lactalbumin (α -Lac) (WPC Lac), which is the most abundant protein
90 in mature human milk, comprising 36% of human milk whey protein but only 17% of bovine
91 milk whey protein (Barone, Moloney, O'Regan, Kelly, & O'Mahony, 2020; Donovan, 2019),
92 is another desirable nutritional ingredient. The membrane filtration followed by selective
93 calcium precipitation method used to enrich α -Lac also increases lipid (including phospholipid)
94 content compared to base WPC ingredients (Barone et al., 2020), suggesting that it may
95 additionally serve in IF design as a source of MFGM components. However the influence of

96 the various enrichments on the overall or global glycosylation of WPC ingredients has not been
97 compared to date.

98 Providing different WPC ingredients with equivalent global glycosylation could be an
99 important potential contributor to IF design strategies. In this study, we investigated and
100 compared the global glycosylation of three WPC ingredients enriched in various MFGM
101 components (two high fat MFGM-component- and one α -Lac-enriched) and two base WPC
102 ingredients (WPC 80 and WPC 35) unaltered in their protein profiles for reference (Tables S1
103 and S2). MFGM components are considered desirable for IF formulations (Timby, Domellöf,
104 Lönnerdal, & Hernell, 2017) while the two WPC base ingredients are common starting points
105 for manufacturing various enriched WPC ingredients, or can be used as base ingredients for
106 various food products including some IFs. The WPC Lac ingredient had been previously
107 demonstrated to include a high lipid content (Barone et al., 2020). The WPC ingredients were
108 first assayed for carbohydrate and protein content and their protein profiles characterised by
109 sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Using lectin
110 microarray profiling, we compared the global glycosylation of the WPC ingredients for
111 similarities between ingredient type and between ingredient batches. We also examined the N-
112 linked glycans of the various WPC ingredients using enzymatic release and high performance
113 liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis to compare structural differences and similarities
114 which contributed to global glycosylation.

115

116 **2. Materials and Methods**

117 **2.1. Materials**

118 Production batches of five commercially available WPC ingredient powders of different
119 protein and fat content were sourced within the EU, USA and New Zealand, all spray dried
120 powders from sweet whey (Tables S1 and S2 for macronutrient composition). Three batches
121 (B1-B3) each of an α -Lac-enriched WPC (WPC Lac) were included in this study as well as
122 two MFGM-enriched WPC ingredients (WPC HF1 and WPC HF2), which differed in their
123 lipid quantity (17-20% range, and 16% average, respectively). WPC Lac was manufactured by
124 applying membrane filtration to remove low molecular weight constituents (e.g., lactose and
125 minerals), and then selectively precipitating α -Lac by adjustment of pH, temperature and ionic

126 strength (Barone et al., 2020). WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 were manufactured by membrane
127 microfiltration to concentrate the lipid fraction. Reference WPC ingredients were included
128 which differed in their relative protein composition (WPC 35, 35% protein, three batches B1-
129 B3, and WPC 80 (80% protein, two batches B1 and B2, both manufactured by applying
130 ultrafiltration to sweet whey material to concentrate the protein fraction). A quantity of each
131 sample was fully dissolved in 3 mL phosphate buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.4, and aliquots were
132 stored at -20 °C. One aliquot was thawed for use per experiment and not re-used.

133 Pure lectins were purchased from EY Laboratories, Inc. (San Mateo, CA, USA) or Vector
134 Laboratories Ltd. (Burlingame, CA, USA). Amicon® Ultra 3 kDa molecular weight cut off
135 (MWCO) centrifugal filters were from Merck-Millipore (Co. Cork, Ireland). Ten kDa MWCO
136 Nanosep® centrifugal devices were from Pall Corporation, (Carrigaline, Co. Cork, Ireland).
137 The monosaccharide 5-*N*-acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac) was purchased from Dextra
138 Laboratories Ltd. (Reading, U.K.). Alexa Fluor™ 555 NHS ester (succinimidyl ester),
139 Pierce™ bicinchoninic acid (BCA) Protein Assay Kit, Pierce™ Silver Stain Kit, NuPAGE™
140 4–12% Bis-Tris 1.0 mm 15 well precast gels and NuPAGE™ MOPS buffer were from
141 ThermoFisher Scientific (Dublin, Ireland). Nexterion® slide H microarray slides were obtained
142 from Schott AG (Mainz, Germany). Trypsin (cat. no. P8401), peptide-*N*⁴-(*N*-acetyl- β -
143 glucosaminyl)asparagine amidase F (PNGase F) (glycerol-free, cat. no. P0705), and α 1-2,3,6-
144 mannosidase (cat. no. P0768) were obtained from New England BioLabs, Inc. (Ipswich, MA,
145 U.S.A.). GlycoClean H and S cartridges were from ProZyme (Agilent Technologies Ireland,
146 Ltd., Co. Cork, Ireland). All other reagents were from Sigma-Aldrich Co. (Dublin, Ireland),
147 unless otherwise noted, and were of the highest grade available.

148 **2.2. Characterisation of WPC ingredients**

149 Protein content of the WPC ingredients was determined using the Pierce™ BCA protein assay
150 kit (Smith et al., 1985) using bovine serum albumin (BSA) as the standard. Neutral
151 carbohydrate content was estimated using the Monsigny method (Monsigny, Petit, & Roche,
152 1988) using glucose (Glc) as the standard. Total sialic acid content was assayed using the
153 periodate-resorcinol assay (Bhavanandan & Sheykhnazari, 1993), using Neu5Ac as the
154 standard. All assays were carried out in triplicate in the same microtitre plate and the mean
155 value reported.

156 **2.3. SDS-PAGE protein profile analysis**

157 WPC ingredients (20 μg as determined by BCA assay) were mixed with loading buffer
158 containing 25% β -mercaptoethanol, denatured at 100 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 5 min and electrophoresed in
159 NuPAGETM 4–12% Bis-Tris gels using NuPAGETM MOPS running buffer at 150 V constant
160 for approximately 1 h. Gels were stained with 0.05% (w/v) Coomassie G-250 in 30% ethanol
161 and 10% acetic acid for 1 h, partially de-stained with 15.4 M Ω (ultrapure) water overnight and
162 scanned using a desktop scanner (CanoScan LIDE 90, Canon, Middlesex, U.K.). Protein band
163 intensities were analysed from saved .tif image files using ImageJ Software (National Institutes
164 of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA).

165 **2.4. Fluorescent labelling of WPC ingredients**

166 The WPC ingredients (0.75 mg each) were fluorescently labelled in the dark *via* amine groups
167 using Alexa FluorTM 555 NHS ester (λ_{ex} 555 nm, λ_{em} 572 nm; 10 μg per sample), essentially
168 as previously described (Ross et al., 2016). The absorbance of the recovered labeled samples
169 at 280 and 555 nm was used to calculate the relative protein concentrations and label
170 substitution according to manufacturer's instructions using arbitrary values of M_r 100,000 and
171 ϵ 100,000 $\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ (Ross et al., 2016).

172 **2.5. Lectin microarray construction, incubation and scanning**

173 A panel of 50 lectins (Table S3) was printed on Nexterion[®] H microarray slides in six
174 replicates per subarray and eight replicate subarrays per slide essentially as previously
175 described (O'Riordan et al., 2014). All microarray incubations were carried out in the dark.
176 Fluorescently labelled WPC ingredients (1 μg protein/ mL Tris-buffered saline supplemented
177 with 1 mM each of Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} ions (TBS; 20 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM CaCl_2 ,
178 1 mM MgCl_2 , pH 7.2) with 0.05% Tween-20 (TBS-T)) were incubated on lectin microarrays
179 essentially as previously described (O'Riordan et al., 2014; Ross et al., 2016). Titration was
180 first carried out for each sample to determine the optimum concentration. Sample incubations
181 (23 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 4 rpm, 1 h) were performed in triplicate. The microarray slides were washed twice in
182 TBS-T for 2 min each and once with TBS. Microarrays were dried by centrifugation (450 x g,
183 5 min) and scanned immediately (Tecan PowerScannerTM; 532 nm channel, full power, 90%
184 and 40% PMT, 5 μm resolution).

185 **2.6. Data extraction and analysis**

186 Raw intensity values were extracted from the image *.tif files using GenePix Pro v6.1.0.4
187 (Molecular Devices, Berkshire, UK) essentially as previously described (O’Riordan et al.,
188 2014; Ross et al., 2016). Local background-corrected median feature intensity data
189 (F532median-B532) was analysed in Excel (Version 2016, Microsoft). The median of six
190 replicate spots per subarray was handled as a single data point for graphical and statistical
191 analysis. Data were normalised to the per-subarray mean total intensity value of the three
192 replicate microarray slides and binding data was presented as bar charts of average intensity of
193 three experimental replicates +/- one standard deviation (SD). Unsupervised clustering of
194 labelled sample binding data was performed with Hierarchical Clustering Explorer v3.5
195 (University of Maryland, USA; <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/hce/>). Normalised data was
196 clustered with no pre-filtering, complete linkage, and Euclidian distance.

197 **2.7. N-linked glycan release, labelling, and HPLC analysis**

198 Initially proteins were denatured and precipitated from WPC ingredient solutions using a
199 method adapted from (Yang et al., 2016) and (Cao et al., 2019). In brief, WPC ingredients were
200 diluted in 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 2% SDS, and incubated on ice for 60 min with periodic
201 sonication and vortexing. Samples were then incubated at 95 °C for 5 min, centrifuged at
202 12,000 g for 15 min and four volumes of cold acetone added to the supernatant and proteins
203 precipitated overnight at -20 °C. After centrifugation (40 min, 14,000 g, 4 °C), the supernatant
204 was discarded and the pellets air-dried. Dried pellets were then resuspended in ultrapure water
205 and protein content quantified by BCA assay (Smith et al., 1985). N-linked glycans were then
206 released from 40 µg precipitated protein by simultaneous digestion with trypsin and PNGase F
207 for 3 h at 37 °C following manufacturer’s instruction. Briefly, protein preparations were boiled
208 in denaturing buffer (0.5% SDS, 40 mM DTT) for 10 min and 1% NP-40 was added to
209 deactivate the SDS. The denatured protein preparation was then adjusted to a final buffer
210 content of 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5 and the trypsin and PNGase F added to release
211 the N-linked glycans. Released N-linked glycans were purified using GlycoClean H cartridges
212 following manufacturer’s instructions, evaporated to dryness, and stored at -20 °C until use. N-
213 linked glycans were then labelled with 2-aminobenzamide (2-AB) as previously described
214 (Bigge et al., 1995) and excess label was removed using GlycoClean S cartridges according to
215 manufacturer’s instructions. Labelled glycans were then evaporated to dryness and dissolved
216 in 100 µL 80% acetonitrile/20% water. Ten µL of dissolved labelled glycan sample was
217 injected on to a GlycoSep™ N-Plus column (ProZyme, Agilent Technologies; 4.6 x 150 mm,

218 3 μm) on a Waters 2695 HPLC instrument and eluate monitored by fluorescence detection (λ_{ex}
219 330 nm, λ_{em} 420 nm) using a 2475 Waters fluorescence detector. Labelled samples were
220 separated using a linear gradient of 20-53% 50 mM ammonium formate, pH 4.4 in acetonitrile
221 over 48 min at a flow rate of 0.67 mL/min using Waters EmpowerTM software. All labelled
222 glycan samples and a reference dextran ladder were labelled and analysed simultaneously to
223 ensure similar experimental and analysis conditions. Structures were determined from the
224 assigned glucose unit (GU) value for each peak referencing the online GlycoStore public
225 database (www.glycostore.org) (Zhao et al., 2018), and previously published work (Valk-
226 Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, Dijkhuizen, Eshuis-de Ruiters, & van Leeuwen, 2020; Valk-
227 Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruiters, Dijkhuizen, & van Leeuwen, 2020b; van Leeuwen, Schoemaker,
228 Timmer, Kamerling, & Dijkhuizen, 2012).

229 Mannosidase digestion was carried out on 2-AB labelled glycans overnight at 37 °C following
230 manufacturer's instructions. Following digestion, the mannosidase enzyme was removed by
231 filtration using a 10 kDa MWCO Nanosep® centrifugal device according to manufacturer's
232 instructions.

233

234 **3. Results and discussion**

235 **3.1. General characterisation of WPC ingredients**

236 WPC ingredients were initially biochemically assayed to compare their neutral sugar and sialic
237 acid content and slight differences were noted between batches of the same ingredient (Table
238 1). Seasonal differences and/or lactation time are known to influence milk composition and
239 glycosylation (Feeney et al., 2019; Parmar et al., 2020; Ross et al., 2016; Lu et al., 2019; Valk-
240 Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruiters, Dijkhuizen, & van Leeuwen, 2020a), but these differences were
241 typically within the standard deviation of the assays with these sample types. Neutral
242 carbohydrate content was greatest for WPC 35 as expected compared to the other WPC
243 ingredients (Table 1) due to the lower protein content and retention of more lactose (up to
244 46.5% of the dry powder) (Bansal & Bhandari, 2016). As expected, there was a similar lower
245 neutral carbohydrate content for the other WPC ingredients, with WPC Lac demonstrating the
246 lowest content, in agreement with the low lactose content previously determined (Barone et al.,
247 2020). Sialic acid content can indicate the presence of the more complex type glycosylation
248 found on glycoproteins, glycolipids and free milk oligosaccharides. WPC 35, WPC Lac and

249 WPC HF2 had similar quantities of sialic acid per μg protein content (Table 1), while WPC 80
250 and the MFGM-enriched WPC HF2 had similar content to one another and was greater than
251 the other three ingredients.

252 The ratio of average neutral carbohydrate: sialic acid content could be indicative of the relative
253 amount of complex glycosylation present. Using this ratio, WPC Lac and WPC HF1 were
254 similar to one another (1:12 and 1:11.82, respectively), and WPC 80 and WPC HF2 were more
255 similar to one another (1:5.4 and 1:4.81, respectively) (Table 1). However, WPC 35 apparently
256 indicated very low relative proportion of complex glycosylation (1:0.03), so this ratio is clearly
257 unsuitable for estimating complex glycosylation in sample as it cannot take into account
258 potentially large contributions to the neutral carbohydrate content from lactose. On the other
259 hand, when the ratio of average sialic acid: protein is considered, which discounts the effect of
260 lactose, WPC 80 and WPC HF1 were more similar to one another (1:0.13 for both) and WPC
261 35, WPC Lac and WPC HF2 were similar (1:0.08, 1:0.07, and 1:0.08, respectively) (Table 1).
262 This ratio might be used for comparing relative quantities of proteins with complex
263 glycosylation in samples, but will obviously overestimate when sialic acids from free milk
264 oligosaccharides and glycolipids are included and nor will these assays be suitable for
265 ingredients with large quantities of lactose such as WPC 35. Critically, while these assays may
266 be useful for comparing relative quantities of sialic acid in similar sample types, they may not
267 be accurate for an absolute quantification as the majority of N- and O-linked glycans on mature
268 human milk glycoproteins were reported to be non-sialylated (Lu et al., 2019). In addition, for
269 comparing global glycosylation where structural motifs could be an important consideration,
270 these types of colourimetric-based assays are not suitable.

271 **3.2. Protein profiles of WPC ingredients**

272 To compare protein profiles of WPC ingredients, the same protein quantity of each ingredient
273 was reduced and electrophoresed on SDS-PAGE gels and stained (Fig. 1). A large number of
274 protein bands were observed in each reduced sample (Fig. 1), confirming a wide range of
275 proteins with a broad range of molecular weights, as expected. WPC 80 and WPC 35 had an
276 apparently lesser number of protein bands, suggesting less diverse protein composition.
277 However, this was due to the lack of enrichment compared to WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC
278 HF2 with their concomitant decrease in their relative proportion of β -lactoglobulin (β -Lg). In
279 WPC 35 and WPC 80, β -Lg was the dominant protein (α -Lac: β -Lg ratio 1:3.9 and 1:5.1,
280 respectively) as expected (Fig. S1 and Table S4) (β -Lg is band d in Fig. 1, approximate

281 molecular mass (Mr) 18.3 kDa; α -Lac is band e, approximate Mr 14 kDa). β -Lg is not expressed
282 in human milk but is abundant in bovine milk. It is the main protein associated with allergies
283 in formula-fed infants (Picariello et al., 2019), so ingredients with reduced β -Lg levels are
284 desirable in IF applications.

285 The β -Lg protein apparently resolved in to two bands (approx. 17 kDa and 18 kDa) in the α -
286 Lac- and MFGM-enriched WPC ingredient profiles in comparison to the more typical single
287 thick band observed in the WPC 35 and WPC 80 profiles (Fig. 1). This may have been due to
288 the reducing conditions and partial degradation of disulfide-linked aggregates of whey proteins
289 BSA, α -Lac and β -Lg formed during ingredient processing and the high heating temperature in
290 preparation for electrophoresis (Havea, Singh, & Creamer, 2001; Rahaman, Vasiljevic, &
291 Ramchandran, 2015). However it is more likely that the lower overall relative quantity of β -Lg
292 in the α -Lac- and MFGM-enriched WPC ingredients instead allowed visualisation of the
293 approximately 17 kDa glycoprotein proteose peptone 3 (PP3, also known as glycosylation-
294 dependent cellular adhesion molecule 1 (GlyCAM-1) or lactophorin), one of the top six most
295 abundant proteins in the whey fraction and a component of MFGM (Fenelon et al., 2019; Valk-
296 Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020), in addition to the 18 kDa β -Lg. Nevertheless, both
297 17 and 18 kDa bands were included for β -Lg densitometry ratio calculations for WPC HF1,
298 WPC HF2 and WPC Lac to maintain comparability with WPC 35 and WPC 80 and consistency
299 with previous reports (Barone et al., 2020).

300 While there was less relative proportion and overall quantity of β -Lg in the two MFGM-
301 enriched WPC ingredients compared to the references WPC 35 and WPC 80, the α -Lac: β -Lg
302 ratio was enriched in favour of β -Lg in WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 due to the concomitant
303 substantial depletion of α -Lac in these ingredients (1:45.9 and 1:15.2, respectively). On the
304 other hand, WPC Lac exhibited an almost equal α -Lac: β -Lg ratio of 1:1.2 (Fig. S1 and Table
305 S4), in agreement with overall substantial β -Lg depletion and values previously reported
306 (Barone et al., 2020). Bovine α -Lac shares a high amino acid sequence homology with human
307 α -Lac and thus is an excellent choice for a human α -Lac substitute (Barone et al., 2020). In
308 addition, WPC Lac increases the availability of important amino acids such as tryptophan.
309 Tryptophan serves as a precursor to neurotransmitter serotonin essential for infant
310 development, supports infant growth similar to breast-fed infants, and is well tolerated by the
311 infant gastrointestinal tract (Davis, Harris, Lien, Pramuk, & Trabulsi, 2008; Lien, Davis, Euler,
312 & Group, 2004). Use of WPC Lac ingredients in designing IFs can bring the protein profile of

313 the resulting IF closer to human milk and facilitate the design of a lower protein formula (13-
314 14 g/L) closer to that of human milk (9 g/L).

315 Casein proteins (approx. Mr 20-40 kDa) were absent in the WPC ingredient profiles as
316 expected, except in WPC 80 (band h, Fig. 1). Intense bands from 25-30 kDa in the α -Lac- and
317 MFGM-enriched WPC ingredients were likely from the abundant proteose peptone (28 kDa)
318 and immunoglobulin light chain (25 kDa) (band c in Fig. 1). Based on intensity, the proteins
319 of 'band c' were the most abundant in WPC Lac and WPC HF1, in contrast to the greatest
320 abundance of β -Lg in the other three WPC ingredients (Table S4 and Fig. S1). The intense
321 band(s) at approximately 50 kDa (band b in Fig. 1) represents the immunoglobulin heavy chain
322 and also includes lactadherin (47, 50 kDa). Another intense band at approximately 60 kDa
323 (band a) probably includes osteopontin (approx. 60 kDa), present in medium abundance in
324 whey fractions (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020). Bands a, b and c were also
325 present in WPC 80 and WPC 35 but were much less intense reflecting their lower relative
326 abundance compared to the enriched WPC ingredients. BSA (66 kDa), lactoferrin, and
327 lactoperoxidase (the latter two proteins are both approx. 78 kDa) were likely components for
328 the bands above 64 kDa in the α -Lac- and MFGM-enriched WPC ingredients (Fig. 1) (Fenelon
329 et al., 2019). The intense band just above 97 kDa in all WPC ingredients was most likely
330 xanthine dehydrogenase, a MFGM protein (Svanborg et al., 2015), consistent with the greater
331 intensity of the band in the MFGM-enriched WPC ingredients, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2. The
332 fainter higher Mr bands in all WPC ingredients except for WPC 80 (Figs. 1 and S1, bands f
333 and g) likely included MFGM components fatty acid synthase and mucins (Manoni et al., 2020;
334 Svanborg et al., 2015).

335 Overall, WPC 35 and WPC 80 were more similar to one another according to their protein
336 profile and WPC HF1 and HF1 were similar to one another. While the protein profile of WPC
337 Lac was similar to WPC HF1, it had substantially less relative proportion of β -Lg.

338 **3.3. Global glycosylation comparison of WPC ingredients**

339 All batches of the WPC ingredients were fluorescently labelled *via* the amine groups of
340 constituent proteins and incubated on lectin microarrays to profile the global glycosylation
341 (Ross et al., 2016). As only protein components of the WPC ingredients are labelled by this
342 method, only glycosylation associated with proteins could have been observed and included
343 contributions from N- and O-linked glycans present, i.e. the total or global glycoprofile.

344 MFGM glycoproteins are embedded in the fat globule membrane, so MFGM-associated
345 glycolipids likely additionally contributed to the MFGM-enriched WPC generated
346 glycoprofiles (Fig. 2A) (Ross et al., 2016; Timby et al., 2017).

347 The glycoprofiles generated were similar across all five WPC ingredients (Fig. 2A), with
348 differences mainly attributed by unsupervised hierarchical clustering to varying binding
349 intensities to lectins HPA, GNA, BanLec, TJA-II, CAA, SNA-I, MAL-II, WFA, and HHA
350 (Fig. 2B). WPC Lac and WPC HF1 displayed the greatest glycosylation similarity to one
351 another (68% similar), followed by WPC 35 (53% similar) (Fig. 2B). As the same protein
352 concentration of all WPC ingredients were profiled on the lectin microarray, the protein content
353 of WPC 35 was not represented in proportion to its relative composition. Therefore while the
354 global glycosylation of the WPC 35 glycoconjugates were qualitatively similar to those of
355 WPC Lac and WPC HF1, quantitatively they were in fact much less. However in terms of
356 considering inclusion of WPC 35 in a finished product, WPC ingredient quantities are usually
357 added based on protein content which would increase the quantity of complex glycosylation
358 present in a finished product to similar levels to that of WPC Lac or WPC HF1. The
359 glycosylation of the other MFGM-enriched WPC ingredient WPC HF2 was more similar to
360 the WPC 80 reference (58% similar), rather than WPC HF1 (24% similar), and together WPC
361 80 and WPC HF2 formed the other main cluster in the clustered heatmap (Fig. 2B).

362 Based on the average protein: sialic acid content ratio, WPC Lac, WPC 35, and WPC HF2 were
363 more similar to one another, while WPC 80 and WPC HF1 were similar to each other (Table
364 1). This lack of agreement with the lectin microarray profiling indicates that a ratiometric
365 comparison based on simple quantitative assays is insufficient to deduce structural similarities
366 of complex structures. Further, protein profile similarities did not correlate with glycosylation
367 similarities of the WPC ingredients.

368 The lectin microarray profiles indicated complex N- and O-linked glycosylation in all five
369 ingredients (Fig. 2A). The lectins BanLec, Calsepa, GNA, HHA, Con A, and PSA all bind to
370 mannose (Man) residues (Table S3), which are part of the core structure of all N-linked glycan
371 types (but not O-linked glycans) and directly linked to the chitobiose (GlcNAc- β -(1 \rightarrow 4)-
372 GlcNAc) core. Intense binding to the lectins BanLec, Calsepa, GNA and HHA, comparable in
373 intensity with binding intensities to MAL-II and RCA-I which bind to terminal residues,
374 indicated high mannose and/or hybrid type structures in addition to complex type N-linked
375 glycan structures. WPC Lac and WPC HF1 demonstrated higher binding intensity to BanLec,

376 GNA, and HHA, with WPC 35 additionally also exhibiting higher binding to GNA. High
377 mannose type N-linked glycans are abundant on many bovine milk glycoproteins including
378 lactoferrin, which has exclusively N-linked glycans, and high mannose and hybrid structures
379 are expressed on lactoperoxidase (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020; van Leeuwen
380 et al., 2012). Interestingly only WPC 80 bound to the lectin NPA which indicated the presence
381 of an α -(1→6)-linked Man motif (Table S3), possibly from a truncated hybrid structure unique
382 to WPC 80. The binding of all ingredients to PSA additionally suggested that fucosylated
383 moieties were present on some high mannose or hybrid N-linked structures (Table S3).

384 O-Linked glycans in all ingredients was indicated by binding to AIA and ACA (Fig. 2A and
385 Table S3). The majority of O-linked glycans on WPC Lac, WPC HF2, and WPC 80 were
386 probably sialylated as they demonstrated no or very low binding to PNA and ABL, which do
387 not tolerate sialylation. However very low intensity binding of WPC 35 and WPC HF1 to PNA,
388 and of WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC 80 to ABL, suggested that a small proportion of the O-
389 linked glycans in these ingredients were non-sialylated, but this proportion of non-sialylated
390 O-linked glyans was not present in WPC HF2 which did not bind to either PNA or ABL (Fig.
391 2A). Some WPC ingredient components such as mucins and glycomacropeptide (GMP) are
392 exclusively O-glycosylated, and sialylation is essential for GMP's biological activity, including
393 promoting probiotic growth and preventing pathogenic bacteria colonisation (Córdova-
394 Dávalos, Jiménez, & Salinas, 2019).

395 *N*-Acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) residues in all ingredients was indicated by binding to
396 GalNAc-specific lectins DBA, SBA, VVA, BPA, WFA, HPA, GSL-I-A4, and ACA (Fig. 2A).
397 ACA binds to Gal- β -(1→3)-GalNAc in the core type 1 mucin structure (Wu et al., 2008), but
398 GalNAc is also a component of the extended *N,N'*-diacetyllactosamine (LacdiNAc; GalNAc-
399 β -(1→4)-GlcNAc) on N-linked glycan antennae. The LacdiNAc moiety is a relatively
400 abundant feature of bovine α -Lac (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020), lactoferrin
401 (van Leeuwen et al., 2012), and PP3 (Inagaki et al., 2010), all constituents of whey and MFGM,
402 and MFGM glycoproteins including butyrophilin and CD36 (Sato, Furukawa, Greenwalt, &
403 Kobata, 1993). WFA has been used to purify LacdiNAc-containing glycans from bovine
404 lactoferrin and bovine MFGM glycoproteins (Sato et al., 1993; van Leeuwen et al., 2012), so
405 the higher intensity binding of WFA and HPA to WPC Lac and WPC HF1 indicated a greater
406 relative abundance of LacdiNAc in these ingredients.

407 All ingredients contained very low quantities of terminal α -linked Gal residues (low intensity
408 binding to PA-I, GSL-I-B4, and MPA) (Fig. 2A and Table S3). The Gal- α -(1 \rightarrow 3)-Gal epitope,
409 not produced in humans, is present on bovine milk glycoproteins including lactoferrin in minor
410 amounts as part of several complex and hybrid type structures (van Leeuwen et al., 2012). Gal-
411 α -(1 \rightarrow 3)-Gal epitope-related allergy responses in humans are mainly related to previous tick
412 exposure and subsequent red meat consumption by sensitised individuals, although a small
413 number of bovine and goat milk-related allergies were reported in pediatric patients (Kennedy
414 et al., 2013). However, milk glycoprotein glycosylation has been identified as bifidogenic
415 (Garrido et al., 2012; Vega-Bautista et al., 2019), beneficial to infant microbiome development.

416 LEL binds to *N*-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) residues of the chitobiose core in N-linked
417 glycans. The relatively low binding of all ingredients to LEL corroborated the presence of high
418 mannose structures as well as multi-antennary complex type N-linked structures resulting in
419 the relative inaccessibility of the chitobiose core (Fig. 2A). Low intensity binding to GlcNAc-
420 specific lectins sWGA, DSA and STA suggested a small proportion of GlcNAc-terminated
421 hybrid and/or complex structures, confirmed by low binding to PHA-E, which binds to
422 biantennary N-linked glycans with or without bisecting GlcNAc (Table S3). Complex
423 structures terminating in *N*-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc; Gal- β -(1 \rightarrow 4)-GlcNAc) in all
424 ingredients was indicated by intense binding to LacNAc-specific lectins RCA-I, AMA, CAA,
425 ECA and TJA-II (Fig. 2A). LacNAc-terminating biantennary N-linked glycans are unique to
426 bovine IgG in whey preparations, and many of these structures are sialylated and core
427 fucosylated (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020). WPC Lac and WPC HF1 differed
428 from the other WPC ingredients by higher intensity binding to AMA and CAA.

429 All ingredients demonstrated moderate binding to WGA (Fig. 2A), which binds to both
430 GlcNAc and sialic acid (Table S3). Terminal sialic acid was confirmed by high binding to
431 MAL-II and SNA-I, indicating relatively abundant terminal α -(2,3)- and α -(2,6)-linked sialic
432 acid, respectively, and low intensity binding to MAL-I, confirming α -(2,3)-linked sialic acid.
433 WPC Lac and WPC HF1 differed from the other ingredients by higher binding to SNA-I (Fig.
434 2A), indicating a greater proportion of α -(2,6)-linked sialic acid. PP3 sialylation is exclusively
435 α -(2,6)-linked and the majority of sialylated structures in the overall whey glycoprofile are
436 from PP3, but α -Lac glycans are also sialylated (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020).
437 Therefore, glycans from PP3 and α -Lac may be the major contributors to the glycoprofile
438 differences exhibited by WPC Lac and WPC HF1.

439 Fucose (Fuc) in all WPC ingredients was indicated by binding to TJA-II and AAL, as well as
440 PSA. AAL binds to α -(1→6)-linked Fuc (Table S3), which modifies the chitobiose core on
441 bovine glycoprotein N-linked glycans such as IgG and α -Lac (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-
442 Driessen, et al., 2020). TJA-II binds to Fuc- α -(1→2)-Gal(NAc)-R and/or terminal β -linked
443 GalNAc (Table S3). However, a lack of binding to UEA-I (which also binds to α -(1→2)-linked
444 Fuc) indicated that TJA-II bound to LacdiNAc structures rather than α -(1→2)-linked Fuc.

445 Overall, O-linked and N-linked glycosylation was indicated in all WPC ingredients, with N-
446 linked structures comprised of high mannose, hybrid, and complex type. The complex type
447 structures had two or more antennae with terminal sialic acid (both α -(2→6)- and α -(2→3)-
448 linked), core α -(1→6)-linked fucosylation, terminal α -linked Gal from Gal- α -(1→3)-Gal and
449 β -linked GalNAc residues from LacdiNAc motifs, and a small proportion of terminal GlcNAc
450 residues, in agreement with previous reports (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020;
451 van Leeuwen et al., 2012). WPC Lac and WPC HF1 demonstrated equivalent glycosylation by
452 lectin microarray profiling and differed from the other WPC ingredients by more intense
453 binding to lectins demonstrating greater relative quantities of α -(2→6)-sialylation (SNA-I),
454 LacdiNAc (HPA and WFA), and LacNAc (AMA and CAA), and high mannose structures
455 (BanLec, GNA, and HHA).

456 **3.4. Comparison of batch to batch glycosylation of the same WPC ingredients**

457 Seasonal and lactation variations affect milk glycosylation (O’Riordan et al., 2014; Ross et al.,
458 2016; Takimori et al., 2011). In addition, variations in methods employed to isolate milk
459 components including WPC can alter the composition, distribution and protein quantities in
460 the final product, and therefore impact on overall glycosylation (Fenelon et al., 2019; Valk-
461 Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruiter, et al., 2020b). Thus batch glycoprofiles (Table S1) were compared
462 to assess any glycosylation variation across batches of the same WPC ingredient (Fig. S2). The
463 glycoprofiles generated for each batch of WPC Lac, WPC HF1, WPC HF2, and WPC 80 did
464 not cluster by individual batch, indicating that there were no global glycosylation differences
465 between production batches. However, hierarchical clustering analysis of the WPC 35 batch
466 glycoprofiles demonstrated individual batch clustering (Fig. S2B), indicating that there were
467 global glycosylation differences between production batches. WPC 35 batch 2 was the least
468 similar to the other two batches (Fig. S2B, 18% similarity), with lower lectin binding intensity
469 to Man-binding lectins (GNA, HHA, and Banlec), GalNAc-binding lectins (WFA, DBA, VVA,
470 and TJA-II), sialic acid-binding lectin SNA-I, LacNAc-binding lectin CAA, and Fuc-binding

471 lectin AAL. These data suggested that WPC 35 batches varied in relative proportion of high
472 mannose type glycans and complex type structures bearing α -(2→6)-linked sialylation,
473 LacdiNAc, LacNAc, and core fucosylation.

474 **3.5. Comparison of WPC ingredient N-linked glycans**

475 We then examined a subset of structures which contributed to global glycosylation, N-linked
476 glycans, to compare similarities between WPC ingredients and between batches and assess
477 correlations with the similarities revealed by lectin profiling. Initially standard enzymatic
478 release of N-linked glycans using PNGase F was used (van Leeuwen et al., 2012) which
479 involves protein denaturation by boiling in SDS and DTT, complexing the SDS with NP-40 as
480 PNGase F will not function when exposed to SDS, and treating the denatured protein with
481 PNGase F in the appropriate buffer. However poor glycan yield was obtained for WPC 35,
482 WPC 80, and WPC HF2 (Fig. S3), which may have been due to aggregations of the complex
483 mixture of proteins and other components present including lipids. Thus several protein pre-
484 and co-treatments were assessed using WPC 80 as a model to increase the release of N-linked
485 glycans from the proteins present in the ingredients. The method which allowed the optimal
486 release of N-glycans was then applied to all ingredients to compare their N-linked
487 glycoprofiles.

488 **3.5.1. Optimisation of N-linked glycan release from WPC 80**

489 Trypsin treatment prior to PNGase F digestion improves deglycosylation efficiencies, and
490 further improvements are reported with reductive alkylation (Kita et al., 2007). For the WPC
491 80, protein aggregates were denatured using 2% SDS (Cao et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2016) and
492 sonication. Proteins in the complex solution were then precipitated by either
493 methanol/chloroform or acetone. Methanol/chloroform treatment is typically used to remove
494 lipids from complex samples in aqueous solution while acetone precipitation is a widely used
495 method to precipitate protein from aqueous-based mixtures. Delipidisation and protein
496 precipitation using methanol/chloroform prior to either typical PNGase F digestion (Fig. 3,
497 blue) or simultaneous trypsin and PNGase F digestion (Fig. 3, black) resulted in poor glycan
498 yield. However, acetone precipitation followed by either PNGase F digestion (Fig. 3, red) or
499 simultaneous trypsin and PNGase F digestion (Fig. 3, light blue) displayed improved N-linked
500 glycan yields, in contrast to a previous report showing that methanol/chloroform protein
501 recovery from milk was more efficient than acetone precipitation (Vincent et al., 2016). As the
502 acetone precipitation followed by simultaneous trypsin and PNGase F digestion method

503 demonstrated the greatest N-linked glycan yield as assessed by HPLC analysis (Fig. 3, light
504 blue), a reductive alkylation step was added post-acetone precipitation (Fig. 3, pink).
505 Additional reductive alkylation did not alter the glycan yield (the peak areas did not increase)
506 or the composition (the chromatogram trace was not altered) compared to acetone precipitation
507 alone (compare Fig. 3, pink and light blue), so the more convenient acetone precipitation
508 followed by simultaneous trypsin and PNGase F digestion method was then applied to all WPC
509 ingredients to enable comparison of their N-linked glycan content.

510 **3.5.2. Comparison of N-linked glycans of WPC ingredients**

511 The N-linked glycan profiles of all five WPC ingredients were compared by HPLC analysis
512 (Fig. 4 and S4). Peaks obtained were expressed in glucose unit (GU) values (Table S5).
513 Potential structures associated with each peak were assigned based on the GU values annotated
514 in the GlycoStore database (Zhao et al., 2018) and in previously published datasets which have
515 extensively structurally elucidated the N-linked glycans of whey preparations and proteins
516 (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et al., 2020; Valk-Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruiter, et al., 2020b;
517 van Leeuwen et al., 2012). N-linked glycan structures are named in the text according to Oxford
518 annotation and all associated structures are depicted in Table S6.

519 A number of peaks eluted prior to approximately 14 min on the chromatographs of WPC 35,
520 80, and HF2 (data not shown), indicating the carry-over of free milk oligosaccharides from the
521 ingredients despite the initial acetone precipitation step. The lactose peak at approximately 14
522 min was particularly prominent for WPC 35 and WPC 80, which is not surprising for WPC 35
523 considering that approximately half of its composition is lactose while only 3.5% (w/w) of
524 WPC 80 is comprised of lactose (Bansal & Bhandari, 2016). For peaks indicating N-linked
525 glycans, GU values ranging from 2.52 to 9.50, with the more complex structures having GU
526 values above 5.4, were detected (Fig. 4B), in agreement with previous findings (van Leeuwen
527 et al., 2012). WPC 35 and WPC 80 had peaks before GU 5.4, more abundant in WPC 35 than
528 WPC 80, which were absent in WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 (Fig. 4A). WPC 35 and
529 WPC 80 displayed several peaks which were attributed to the N-linked glycan structures M1
530 (GU 2.68, Figs. 4A, S4B peak 1, and S4E peak 2, Table S6) and M2 (GU 3.42, Figs. 4A, S4B
531 peak 5, Table S6), and also potentially free milk oligosaccharides including 3'-
532 sialyllactosamine (GU 3.13, Figs. 4A, S4B peak 4, and S4E peak 3) and disialyllactose (DSL;
533 GU 4.3, Figs. 4A, S4B peak 8, and S4E peak 5, Table S6). Peak 8 of WPC 35 and peak 5 of
534 WPC 80 at GU 4.29 (Figs. 4A, S4B and S4E) indicated the presence of the structures M3 or

535 F(3)M2 (Table S6). However the latter structure, which contains α -(1→3)-linked Fuc, is
536 unlikely as only α -(1→6)-linked core fucosylation was indicated by the lectin microarray data,
537 with no binding to the lectin LTA which has specificity for α -(1→3)-linked Fuc (Table S3, Fig.
538 2). In addition, only α -(1→6)-linked Fuc has been reported in whey ingredients previously (van
539 Leeuwen et al., 2012).

540 In the GU>5.5 range, WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 had a higher number of peaks (12,
541 13, and 13 peaks, respectively) compared to WPC 35 and WPC 80 (10 and 11, respectively)
542 (Fig. 4B and Table S5). Exoglycosidase digestion was carried out on the 2AB-labelled glycans
543 using the broad specificity α 1-2,3,6-mannosidase to confirm the identity of glycans contained
544 within the various peaks (Fig. 4C) by comparing with previous work (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-
545 Driessen, et al., 2020; Valk-Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruiter, et al., 2020b; van Leeuwen et al., 2012).
546 The α -mannosidase used only released mannose in terminal positions. Therefore digested
547 structures were identified as high mannose structures while the non-high mannose antenna of
548 hybrid and complex structures were resistant to mannosidase digestion. Complete mannosidase
549 digestion resulted in an increase in the M1 structure in WPC 35 and WPC 80, and it's
550 appearance in WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 (Fig. S4 and Table S5). WPC 35 and WPC
551 80 had similar complex structures that were not digested (GU 8.16, 8.50, 9.04 and 9.50, Fig.
552 4C and S4, Table S5, Table S6), attributed to the structures F(6)A2G(4)1S1GalNAc1S1,
553 A2G1GalNAc1S2, F(6)A2G2Ga1S1 and F(6)A2G2Ga1S(6)1, respectively. These structures
554 correlated with a previous reporting of a similar N-linked glycoprofile for WPC 35 and WPC
555 80 (Valk-Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruiter, et al., 2020b). However, the peaks at GU 8.16, 8.50, and
556 9.50 were partially digested in the WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 chromatograms (Fig.
557 S4, Table S6). Partial digestion of peaks indicated that the peaks contained more than a single
558 structure, as complex structures with the same carbohydrate components but different linkages
559 or similar size glycans can co-elute. For example M9 from lactoferrin and the monosialylated
560 F(6)A2G2AS(6)1 structure from IgG co-eluted at GU 9.48 (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen,
561 et al., 2020).

562 Minor differences were noted between the WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 chromatograms
563 following mannosidase digestion (Fig. S4). WPC Lac and WPC HF2 had a peak at GU 9.01
564 which remained undigested, whereas this peak was partially digested in WPC HF1 (Fig. 4B
565 and 4C, Table S5, Table S6), indicating the potential presence of M8 and F(6)A2G2Ga1S1,
566 among others. WPC Lac also had one peak at GU 7.85 that was not digested whereas it was

567 digested for WPC HF1 and WPC HF2 (structures M7 and F(6)A2G1GalNAc1S1). On the other
568 hand, WPC HF2 had a peak at GU 7.07 that was not mannosidase-digested (structure A2G1S1)
569 whereas it was partially digested for WPC Lac and WPC HF1 (structure M6). The different
570 WPC ingredients contained different proportions of high mannose structures, which are mostly
571 present on lactoferrin (Valk-Weeber, Eshuis-de Ruiter, Dijkhuizen, & van Leeuwen, 2020a).

572 Comparison of the N-linked glycosylation profiles of various WPC ingredient batches
573 demonstrated no differences in N-linked glycans between individual batches of WPC Lac,
574 WPC HF1, WPC HF2, and WPC 80 (Fig. S5A, C, D, and E), in agreement with the conclusions
575 from the lectin microarray data (Fig. S2). Only two batches of WPC 35 were compared for N-
576 linked glycosylation, batches 2 and 3 (Fig. S5B), which were indicated as less similar to one
577 another by lectin microarray profiling (Fig. S2). The relative distribution of the mannose-
578 containing M1 structure differed between batches, in agreement with lectin binding data, but
579 the relative distribution of more complex structures appeared to be similar between batches.
580 These data suggest that the WPC 35 batch differences in GalNAc, sialic acid, and Fuc-
581 containing structures indicated by lectin microarray profiling may have been due to differences
582 in O-linked glycosylation.

583 Overall we suggest over 50 N-linked glycan structures were present in the various WPC
584 ingredients (Tables S5 and S6), in agreement with previous work which described over 60
585 structures in WPC-based infant formula Deminal 90 (van Leeuwen et al., 2012). While the N-
586 linked glycan chromatographs had a majority of common peaks for all five WPC ingredients,
587 WPC 35 and WPC 80 were more similar to one another than WPC HF1, WPC Lac and WPC
588 HF2. Of the latter three WPC ingredients, the N-linked glycoprofile of WPC HF1 and WPC
589 Lac were more similar to one another than to WPC HF2 in terms of structures and their relative
590 proportions (Fig. 4C). In whey protein derived preparations, the majority of the identified
591 structures are carried by the five main glycoproteins of whey: lactoferrin, IgG, PP3, α -Lac, and
592 lactoperoxidase, with PP3 being the major contributor (Valk-Weeber, Deelman-Driessen, et
593 al., 2020). Other glycoproteins from added ingredients such as MFGM components or α -Lac
594 also contribute to the overall N-linked glycosylation profile of the WPC ingredients. As N-
595 linked glycans present on α -Lac are very similar to those present on PP3, it is therefore difficult
596 to conclusively state which glycoproteins are responsible for the subtle differences noted
597 between WPC Lac and WPC HF1.

598

599 4. Conclusions

600 Milk glycoprotein glycosylation is an important contributor to nutrition and plays important
601 roles in the specific bioactivities of MFGM and whey glycoproteins including lactoferrin,
602 GMP, and immunoglobulin. Despite its importance, the global glycosylation of supplemented
603 WPC ingredients have not been previously compared. In this study, two MFGM-component-
604 and one α -Lac-enriched WPC ingredients (containing elevated phospholipid levels) were
605 investigated and compared by lectin microarray profiling, using unadjusted WPC 80 and WPC
606 35 as references.

607 Surprisingly the global glycosylation of WPC HF1 and HF2 were not equivalent, indicating
608 that these ingredients are not interchangeable in terms of achieving the same glycosylation
609 outcome in a final formulation. However, the global glycosylation of WPC Lac and WPC HF1
610 exhibited high similarity while the other slightly lower fat MFGM-component enriched WPC
611 HF2 was more similar to the base WPC 80 ingredient. Detailed analysis of the WPC ingredient
612 N-linked glycans by enzymatic release and HPLC structural analysis showed that the N-linked
613 glycosylation of WPC Lac, WPC HF1, and WPC HF2 were similar. WPC Lac and WPC HF1
614 were almost qualitatively equivalent with differences most likely attributable to the glycans of
615 α -Lac. The reference ingredients WPC 35 and WPC 80 demonstrated more similar N-linked
616 glycan structures to one another both before and after mannosidase digestion. Based on this
617 study, lectin microarray profiling was demonstrated to be an effective and convenient method
618 for comparing global glycosylation similarities across samples.

619 Enriched WPC ingredients differed from the base WPC ingredients, demonstrating that altering
620 protein and lipid composition can change global glycosylation. Moreover, protein profile
621 comparisons demonstrated the similarity of WPC 35 and WPC 80 to one another, and WPC
622 HF1 to WPC HF2. However, as lectin microarray profiling and N-linked glycan profiling
623 confirmed that the WPC 80 glycosylation was more similar to WPC HF2 than WPC 35, these
624 observations confirm that protein profiling did not correlate with glycosylation similarity for
625 WPC ingredients.

626 Based on these data, we suggest that not all MFGM-enriched WPC ingredients available can
627 achieve the same global glycosylation and should not be interchangeably used. On the other
628 hand, WPC Lac demonstrated the equivalent global and N-linked glycosylation as an MFGM-

629 enriched WPC ingredient. As WPC Lac also has the advantage of a significantly better α -Lac: β -
630 Lg ratio, it could facilitate the design of IFs closer to human milk.

631

632 **CRedit authorship contribution statement**

633 Marie Le Berre – conceptualisation, data curation, investigation, formal analysis, methodology,
634 writing - original draft writing, writing - review and editing; Yousef Joubran -
635 conceptualisation, formal analysis, funding acquisition, project administration, resources,
636 writing - review and editing; Lokesh Joshi - conceptualisation, funding acquisition, writing -
637 review and editing; Jonathan O'Regan - conceptualisation, formal analysis, funding
638 acquisition, project administration, resources, writing - review and editing; Michelle Kilcoyne
639 - conceptualisation, data curation, formal analysis, funding acquisition, methodology, project
640 administration, supervision, writing - original draft writing, writing - review and editing.

641 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

642 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal
643 relationships that influenced the work reported in this paper.

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- 806

807 **Legends to figures**

808 **Fig. 1.** 4-12% SDS-PAGE profile of the five WPC ingredients (20 µg each) under reducing
809 conditions and stained with Coomassie G-250. Lane L: molecular weight protein marker ladder
810 (SeeBlue™ Plus2 pre-stained protein standard); Lane 1: WPC Lac B1; Lane 2: WPC Lac B2;
811 Lane 3: WPC Lac B3; Lane 4: WPC 35 B1; Lane 5: WPC 35 B2; Lane 6: WPC 35 B3; Lane
812 7: WPC HF1 B1; Lane 8: WPC HF1 B2; Lane 9: WPC HF1 B3; Lane 10: WPC HF2 B1; Lane
813 11: WPC HF2 B2; Lane 12: WPC HF B3; Lane 13: WPC 80 B1; Lane 14: WPC 80 B2. Arrows
814 accompanied by lower case letters a-h indicate protein bands of interest for densitometry
815 analysis, where d indicates β-Lg and e indicates α-Lac.

816 **Fig. 2.** (A) Lectin microarray binding profiles of the five WPC ingredients. Data represents the
817 average of three technical replicate experiments for each sample and error bars are +/- one SD.
818 (B) Unsupervised clustering of lectin binding intensity data of all batches of the five WPC
819 ingredients. Normalised data were subjected to unsupervised, Euclidean distance, with
820 complete linkage clustering. Percentage similarity is indicated at nodes.

821 **Fig. 3.** Optimisation of N-glycan release from WPC 80. (A) Chromatograms of the five
822 different release conditions assessed from approximately 10-45 min. Blue,
823 methanol/chloroform delipidisation followed by PNGase F digestion; black,
824 methanol/chloroform delipidisation followed by simultaneous trypsin/PNGase F digestion;
825 red, acetone protein precipitation followed by PNGase F digestion; light blue, acetone protein
826 precipitation followed by simultaneous trypsin/PNGase F digestion; pink, acetone protein
827 precipitation followed by reductive alkylation and PNGase F digestion. (B) Zoom-in of the
828 peaks representing the N-linked glycan structures in the chromatograms.

829 **Fig. 4.** NP-HPLC chromatograms of 2-AB-labelled N-linked glycans released from WPC 35
830 (blue), WPC 80 (pink), WPC Lac (black), WPC HF1 (red), WPC HF2 (light blue). GU scale is
831 based on the elution of the 2-AB labelled dextran ladder. (A) Chromatograms from
832 approximately 14-45 min. (B) Zoom-in of N-linked glycan peaks in the chromatograms. (C)
833 Zoom-in of N-linked glycan peaks on the chromatograms after mannosidase digestion.

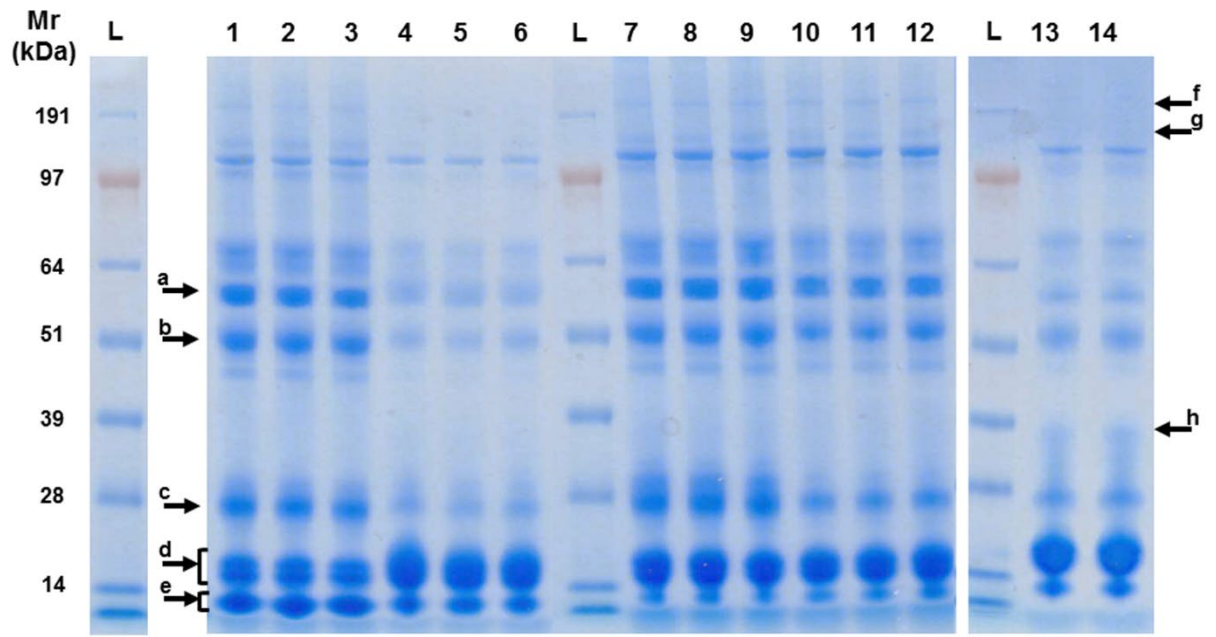
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835 **Table 1.** Neutral carbohydrate and sialic acid content of the WPC ingredient powders analysed
836 (in $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{g}$ protein content of the mean of three technical replicates estimated by BCA assay with
837 \pm 1 standard deviation of the technical triplicate measurement in parenthesis), and ratio of
838 average sialic acid content to neutral carbohydrate content and protein content. Av, average.

Sample code	Batch	Neutral carbohydrates	Sialic acid	Ratio carb:sialic acid	Ratio protein:sialic acid
WPC 35	B1	0.342 (0.143)	0.081 (0.008)		
	B2	0.432 (0.119)	0.072 (0.016)		
	B3	0.320 (0.018)	0.093 (0.004)		
	Av	0.365 (0.063)	0.082 (0.010)	1:0.23	1:0.08
WPC 80	B1	0.024 (0.005)	0.158 (0.038)		
	B2	0.028 (0.004)	0.092 (0.003)		
	Av	0.026 (0.003)	0.125 (0.047)	1:4.81	1:0.13
WPC Lac	B1	0.005 (0.000)	0.072 (0.007)		
	B2	0.007 (0.001)	0.067 (0.012)		
	B3	0.007 (0.000)	0.078 (0.006)		
	Av	0.006 (0.001)	0.072 (0.006)	1:12.00	1:0.07
WPC HF1	B1	0.012 (0.001)	0.142 (0.002)		
	B2	0.011 (0.004)	0.120 (0.013)		
	B3	0.009 (0.003)	0.128 (0.023)		
	Av	0.011 (0.002)	0.130 (0.011)	1:11.82	1:0.13
WPC HF2	B1	0.018 (0.000)	0.072 (0.008)		
	B2	0.014 (0.002)	0.081 (0.003)		
	B3	0.013 (0.000)	0.090 (0.012)		
	Av	0.015 (0.003)	0.081 (0.009)	1:5.40	1:0.08

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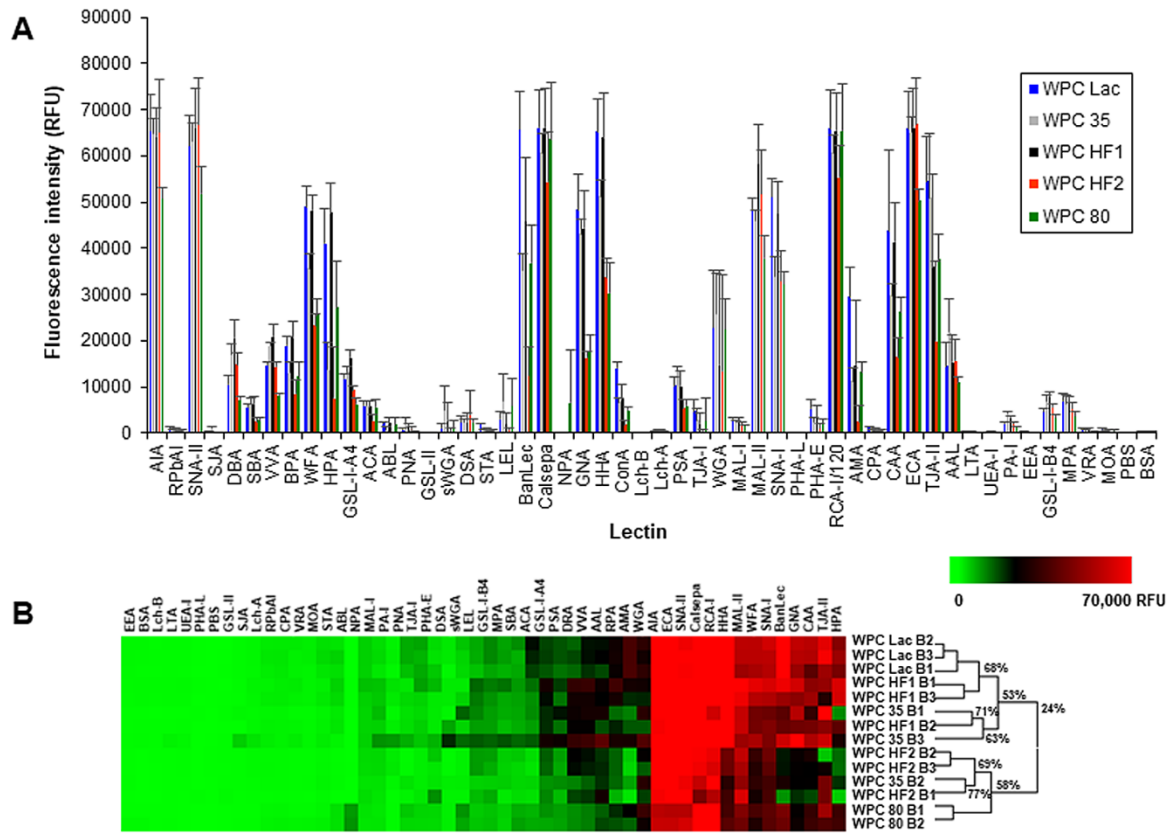
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842 Figure 1

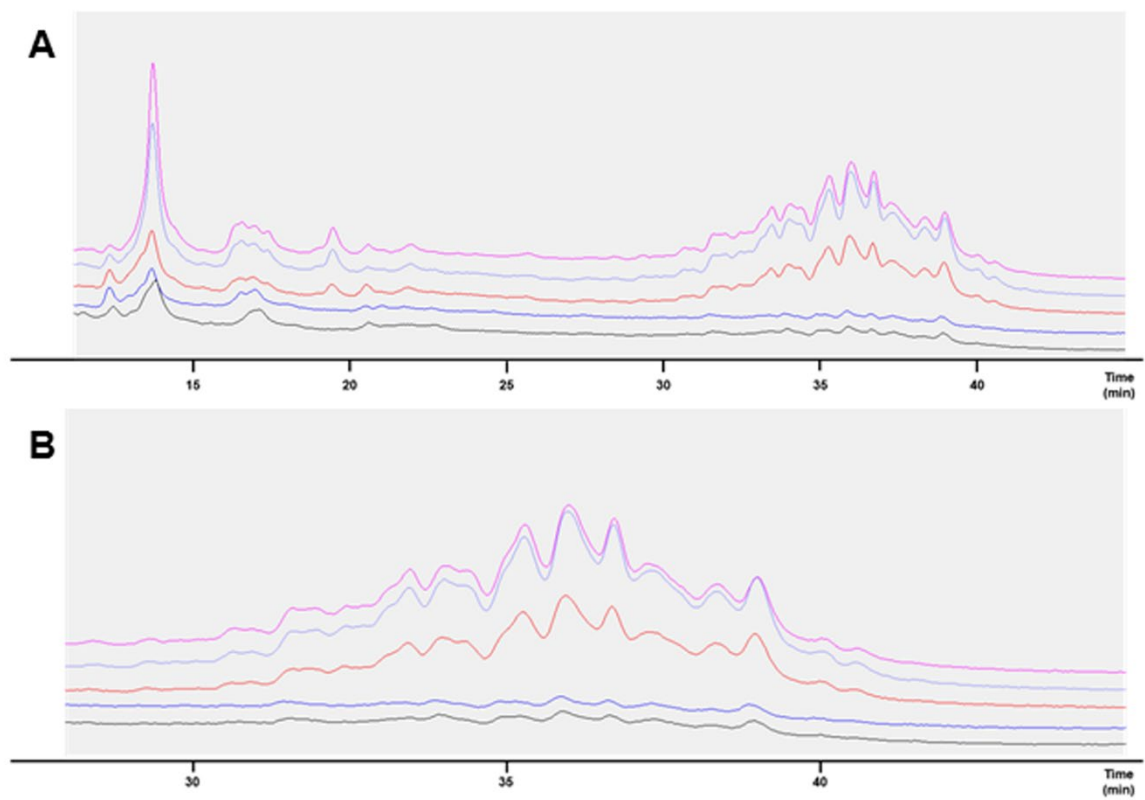
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845 Figure 2

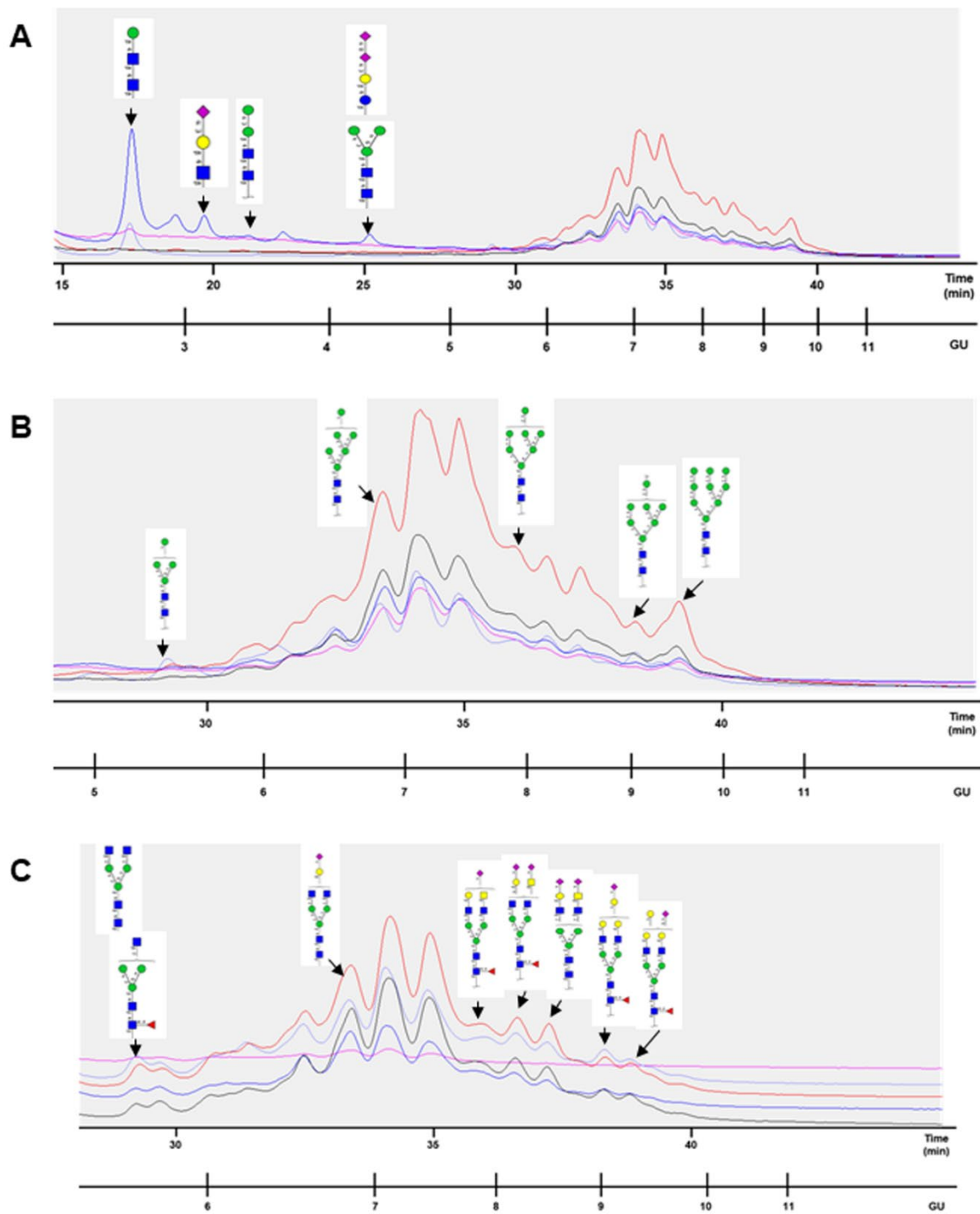
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847

848 Figure 3

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850

851 Figure 4

Supplementary information

Lectin microarray profiling demonstrates equivalent global glycosylation for whey protein ingredients enriched with α -lactalbumin and milk fat globule membrane

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Table S6. Predicted structures present in WPC 35, WPC 80, WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2.

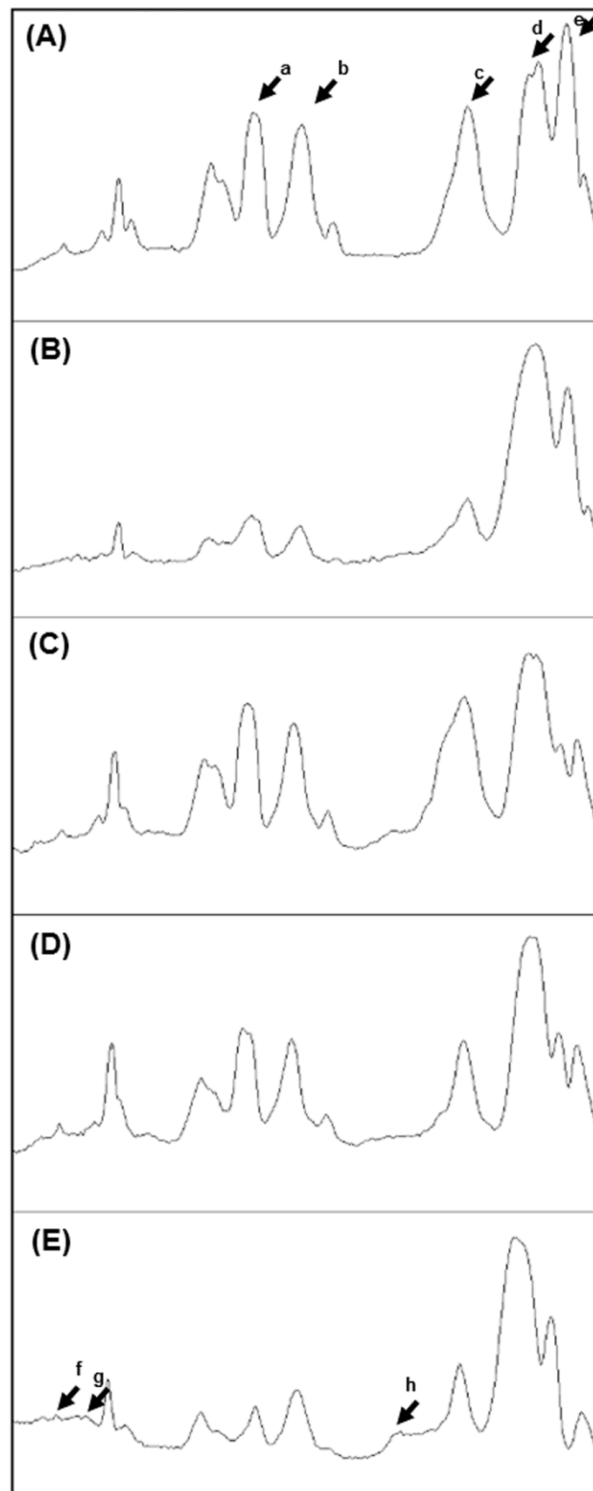


Figure S1. Densitometry analysis of Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE protein profiles of the five WPC ingredient powders. (A) WPC Lac (batch 2), (B) WPC 35 (batch 3), (C) WPC HF1 (batch 2), (D) WPC HF2 (batch 1), and (E) WPC 80 (batch 2). a-h markers correspond to protein bands marked in Figure 1 (main text); d indicates β -Lg and e indicates α -Lac. Presented

densitometry analysis image is representative from one batch but values (Table S4) are calculated from the average of the three batches (or two batches for WPC 80).

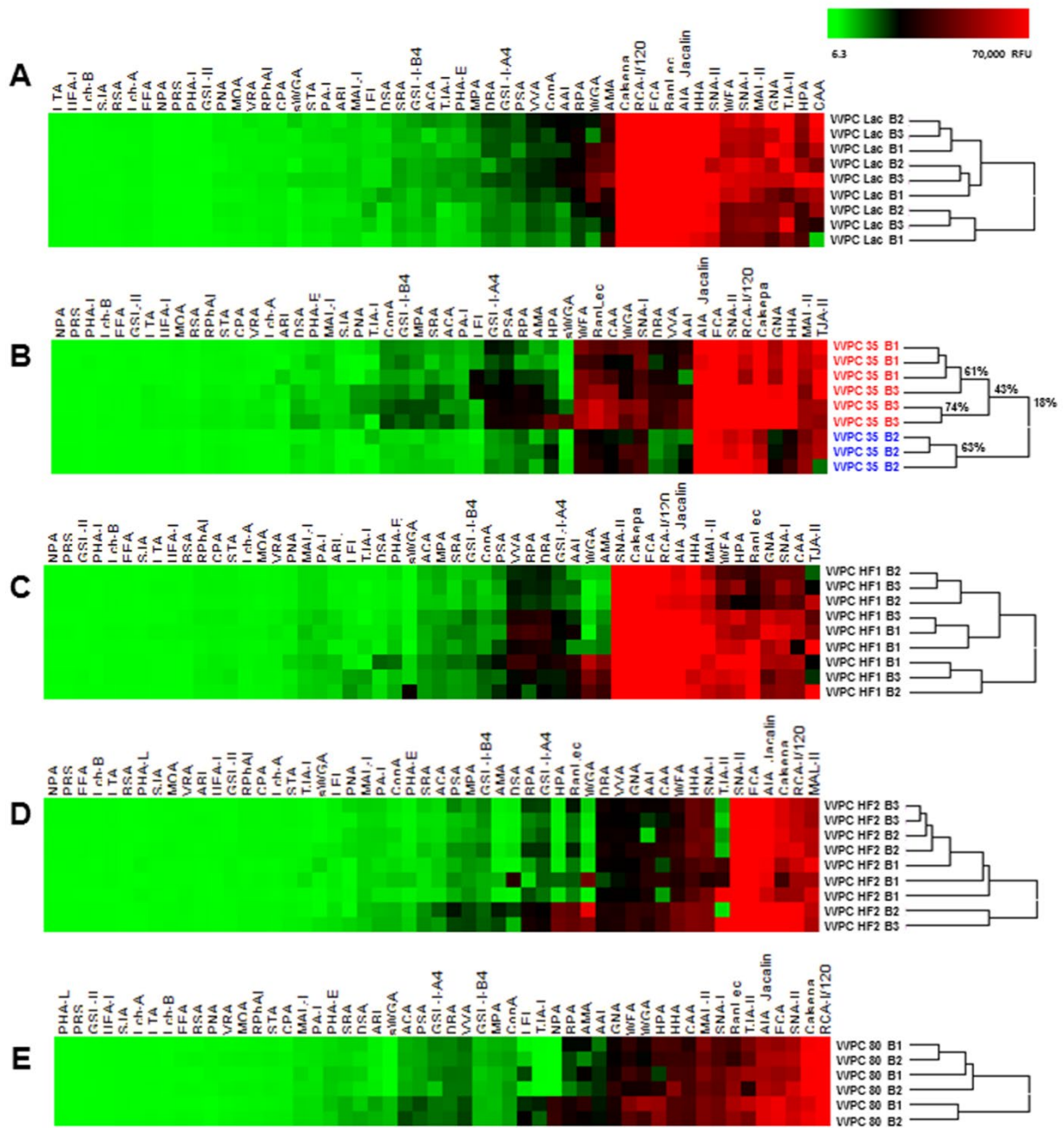


Fig. S2. Unsupervised clustering of lectin microarray profiles for the fluorescently-labelled production batches of the WPC ingredients. Each individual batch was incubated on lectin microarrays in triplicate. Normalised data were subjected to unsupervised, Euclidean distance, complete linkage clustering. (A) WPC Lac batches 1, 2 and 3, (B) WPC 35 batches 1, 2 and 3, where percentage similarity of pattern is indicated on the nodes, (C) WPC HF1 batches 1, 2 and 3, (D) WPC HF2 batches 1, 2 and 3, and (E) WPC 80 batches 1 and 2.

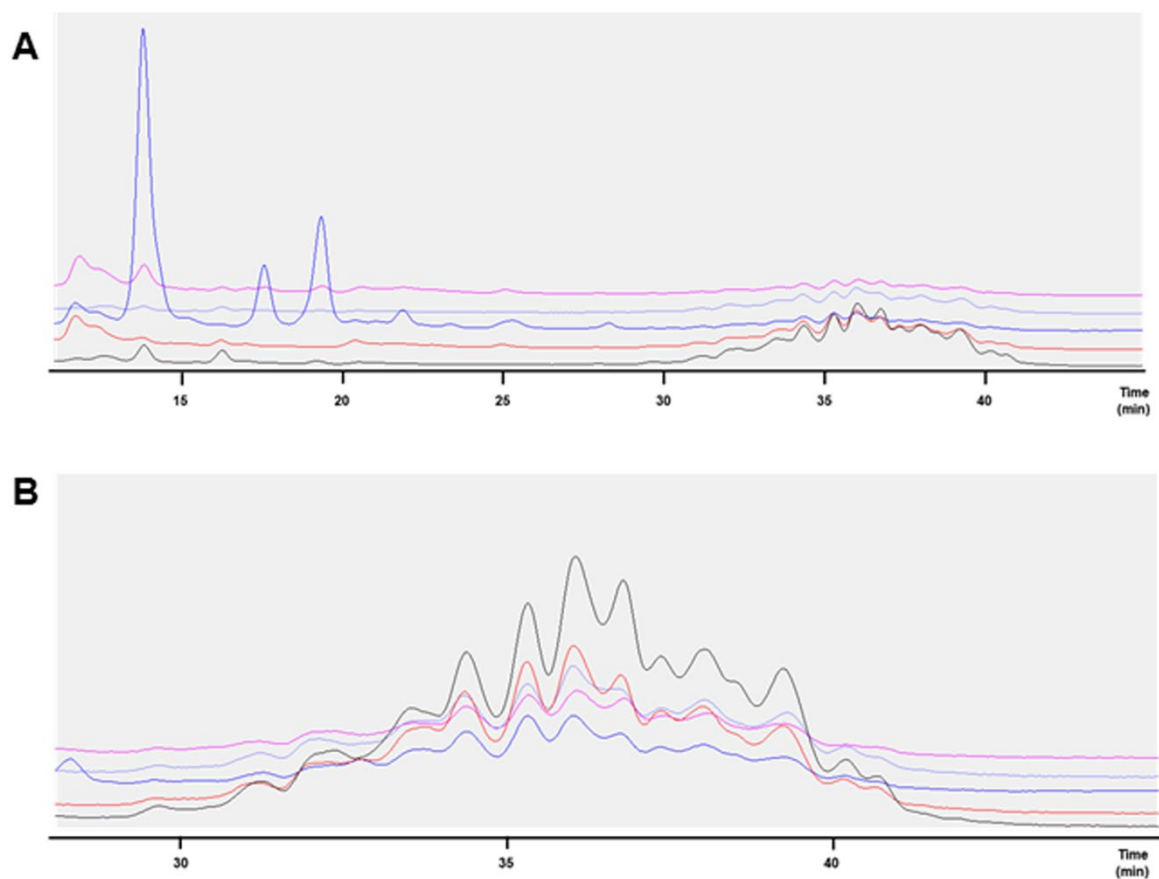


Fig. S3. Representative NP-HPLC chromatographs of 2AB-labelled N-linked glycans released from WPC 35 (blue), WPC 80 (pink), WPC Lac (black), WPC HF1 (red), WPC HF2 (purple) ingredient powders using the conventional PNGase F method. (A) Chromatographs from approximately 10-45 min. (B) Zoom-in on complex structures separation (approx. 25-48 min). Chromatographs are automatically rescaled by software upon zooming in.

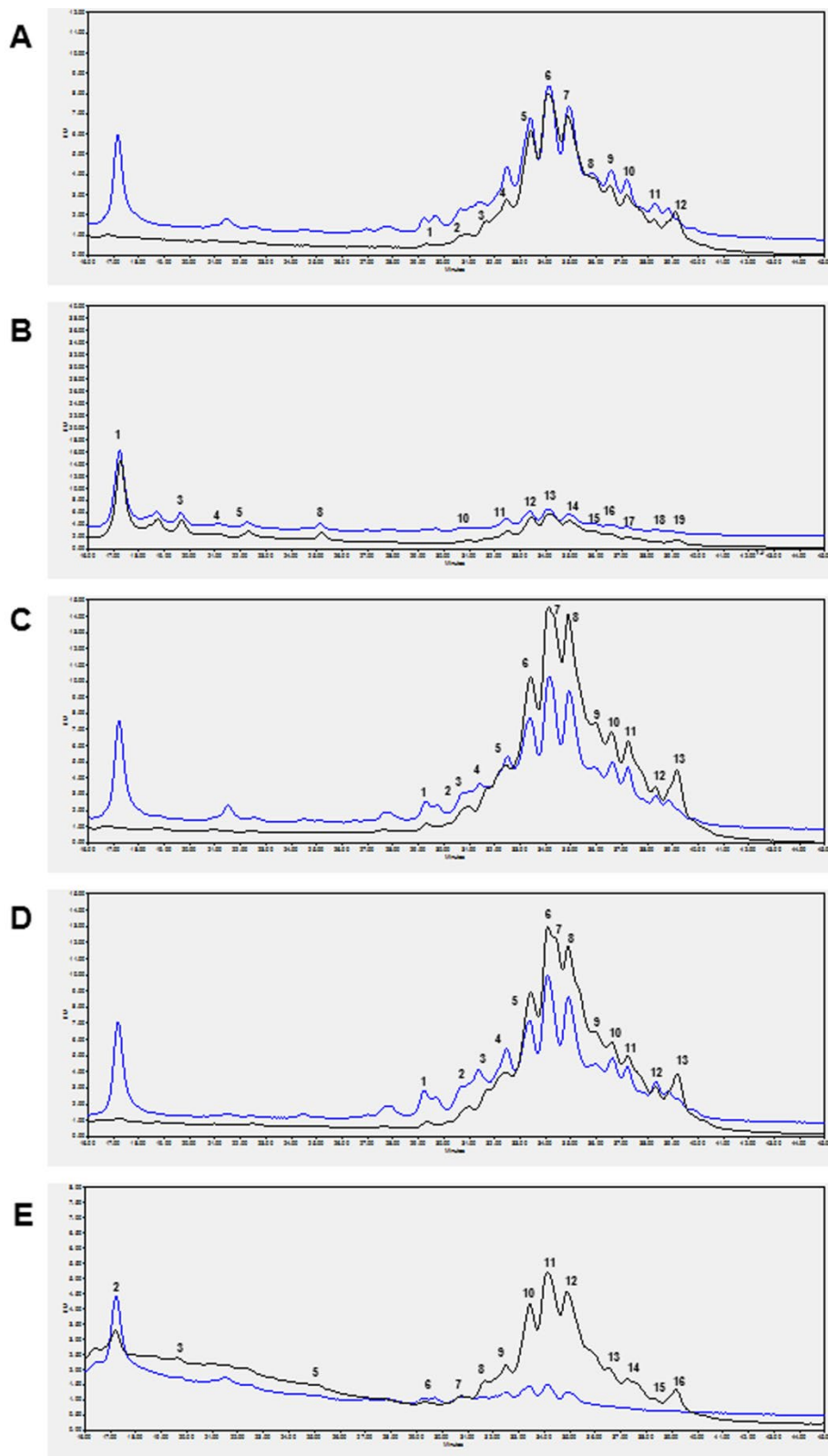


Fig. S4. Representative NP-HPLC chromatographs from 16-45 minutes of N-linked glycans released from WPC ingredient powders using the optimised method. (A) WPC Lac, (B) WPC 35, (C) WPC HF1, (D) WPC HF2, and (E) WPC 80. Black, non-digested; blue, mannosidase digested.

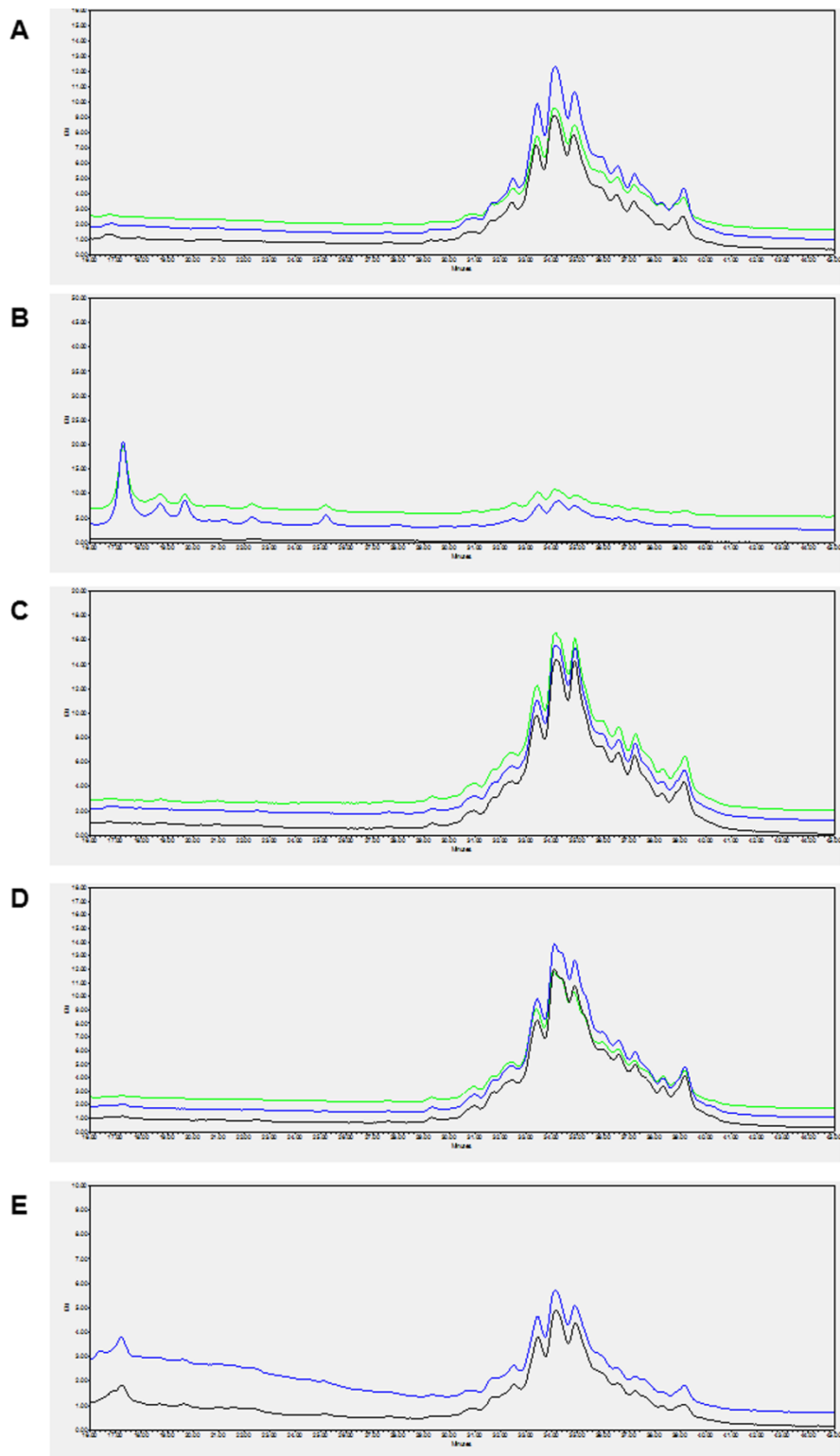


Fig. S5. Representative NP-HPLC chromatographs from 16-45 minutes of N-linked glycans from (A) WPC Lac batches 1 (black), 2 (blue) and 3 (green), (B) WPC 35 batches 2 (blue) and 3 (green), (C) WPC HF1 batches 1 (black), 2 (blue) and 3 (green), (D) WPC HF2 batch 1 (black), 2 (blue) and 3 (green), and (E) WPC 80 batches 1 (black) and 2 (blue).

Table S1. Sample code, description and average protein and fat percentages of the different WPC ingredient powders analysed provided by the manufacturers.

Sample code	Batch	Description	% protein (range)	% fat (range)
WPC 35	B1	WPC, reference	35 (34-40)	(2-2.5)
	B2			
	B3			
WPC 80	B1	WPC, reference	80	6
	B2			
WPC Lac	B1	α -Lac-enriched WPC The α -Lac used is precipitated from cheese or acid casein whey by calcium and contains elevated levels of phospholipids.	80	11
	B2			
	B3			
WPC HF1	B1	MFGM-enriched WPC	(71-74)	(17-20)
	B2			
	B3			
WPC HF2	B1	MFGM-enriched WPC with elevated levels of phospholipids	72	16
	B2			
	B3			

Table S2. Macronutrient composition of the five ingredient powders analysed in this work.

Sample	Protein as- is (g/100g)	CHO (g/100g)	Fat (g/100g)	Moisture (g/100g)	Ash (g/100g)
WPC Lac	78.2	2.70	10.5	5.69	2.86
WP HF1	72.0	4.20	17.8	4.20	1.78
WP HF2	70.1	8.00	15.0	5.00	1.93
WPC 80	74.9	9.90	6.00	6.82	2.44
WPC 35	35.6	50.9	2.80	3.49	6.31

Table S3. Lectins printed on the lectin microarray, their binding specificities, their simple print sugars (1 mM) and the supplying company. Binding specificity is reported recognition based on literature consensus or experimental evidence generated within our laboratory.

Abbreviation	Source	Species	Common name	General binding specificity	Print sugar	Supplier	
AIA, Jacalin	Plant	<i>Artocarpus integrifolia</i>	Jack fruit lectin	Gal, Gal- β -(1,3)-GalNAc (sialylation independent)	Gal	EY Labs	
RPbAI	Plant	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust lectin	Gal	Gal	EY Labs	
SNA-II	Plant	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Sambucus lectin-II	Gal/GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
SJA	Plant	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Pagoda tree lectin	β -linked GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
DBA	Plant	<i>Dolichos biflorus</i>	Horse gram lectin	GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
SBA	Plant	<i>Glycine max</i>	Soy bean lectin	GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
VVA	Plant	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Hairy vetch lectin	GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
BPA	Plant	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i>	Camels foot tree lectin	GalNAc/Gal	Gal	EY Labs	
WFA	Plant	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese wisteria lectin	GalNAc/sulfated GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
HPA	Animal	<i>Helix pomatia</i>	Edible snail lectin	α -linked GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
GSL-I-A4	Plant	<i>Griffonia simplicifolia</i>	Griffonia isolectin I A4	GalNAc	Gal	EY Labs	
ACA	Plant	<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i>	Amaranthin	Sialylated/Gal- β -(1,3)-GalNAc	Lac	Vector Labs	
ABL	Fungus	<i>Agaricus bisporus</i>	Edible mushroom lectin	Gal- β (1,3)-GalNAc, GlcNAc	Lac	EY Labs	
PNA	Plant	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>	Peanut lectin	Gal- β -(1,3)-GalNAc	Lac	EY Labs	
GSL-II	Plant	<i>Griffonia simplicifolia</i>	Griffonia lectin-II	GlcNAc	GlcNAc	EY Labs	
sWGA	Plant	<i>Triticum vulgare</i>	Succinylated WGA	GlcNAc	GlcNAc	EY Labs	
DSA	Plant	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jimson weed lectin	GlcNAc	GlcNAc	EY Labs	
STA	Plant	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	Potato lectin	GlcNAc oligomers	GlcNAc	EY Labs	
LEL	Plant	<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	Tomato lectin	GlcNAc- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	GlcNAc	EY Labs	
BanLec	Plant	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>	Banana lectin	Man/Glc in α -(1,3) linkage; laminaribose	Glc- β -(1,3)-Glc	Man	Vector Labs
Calsepa	Plant	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Bindweed lectin	Man/Maltose	Man	EY Labs	
NPA	Plant	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Daffodil lectin	α -(1,6)-Man	Man	EY Labs	
GNA	Plant	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop lectin	Man- α -(1,3)-	Man	EY Labs	
HHA	Plant	<i>Hippeastrum hybrid</i>	Amaryllis agglutinin	Man- α -(1,3)-Man- α -(1,6)-	Man	EY Labs	
Con A	Plant	<i>Canavalia ensiformis</i>	Jack bean lectin	Man, Glc, GlcNAc	Man	EY Labs	
Lch-B	Plant	<i>Lens culinaris</i>	Lentil isolectin B	Man, core fucosylated, agalactosylated, biantennary N-glycans	Man	EY Labs	

Lch-A	Plant	<i>Lens culinaris</i>	Lentil isolectin A	Man/Glc	Man	EY Labs
PSA	Plant	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Pea lectin	Man, core fucosylated trimannosyl <i>N</i> -glycans	Man	EY Labs
TJA-I	Plant	<i>Trichosanthes japonica</i>	Trichosanthes japonica agglutinin I	NeuAc- α -(2,6)-Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	Lac	Medicago
WGA	Plant	<i>Triticum vulgare</i>	Wheat germ agglutinin	NeuAc/GlcNAc	GlcNAc	EY Labs
MAL-I	Plant	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Maackia agglutinin II	Sialic acid- α -(2,3)-Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc; SO ₄ -3-Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	Lac	Vector Labs
MAL-II	Plant	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Maackia agglutinin II	Sialic acid- α -(2,3)-Gal- β -(1,3)-(+Sialic acid- α -(2,6)-GalNAc; SO ₄ -3-Gal- β -	Lac	Vector Labs
SNA-I	Plant	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Sambucus lectin-I	Sialic acid- α -(2,6)-linked	Lac	EY Labs
PHA-L	Plant	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	Kidney bean leucoagglutinin	Tri- and tetraantennary β -Gal/Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	Lac	EY Labs
PHA-E	Plant	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	Kidney bean erythroagglutinin	Biantennary with bisecting GlcNAc, β -Gal/Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	Lac	EY Labs
RCA-I/120	Plant	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor bean lectin I	Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	Gal	Vector Labs
AMA	Plant	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and ladies lectin	Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	Lac	EY Labs
CPA	Plant	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	Chickpea lectin	Complex oligosaccharides	Lac	EY Labs
CAA	Plant	<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Pea tree lectin	Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc	Lac	EY Labs
ECA	Plant	<i>Erythrina cristagalli</i>	Cocks comb/coral tree lectin	Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc oligomers	Lac	EY Labs
TJA-II	Plant	<i>Trichosanthes japonica</i>	Trichosanthes japonica agglutinin II	Fuc- α -(1,2)-Gal- β -(1,4)-GlcNAc, terminal β -linked GalNAc	Lac	Medicago
AAL	Fungi	<i>Aleuria aurantia</i>	Orange peel fungus lectin	Fuc- α -(1,6)-linked, Fuc- α -(1,3)-linked	Fuc	Vector Labs
LTA	Plant	<i>Lotus tetragonolobus</i>	Lotus lectin	Fuc- α -(1,3)-linked	Fuc	EY Labs
UEA-I	Plant	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse lectin-I	Fuc- α -(1,2)-Gal	Fuc	EY Labs
PA-I	Bacteria	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Pseudomonas lectin	Terminal α -linked Gal, Gal derivatives	Gal	EY Labs
EEA	Plant	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle tree lectin	Terminal α -linked Gal	Gal	EY Labs
GSL-I-B4	Plant	<i>Griffonia simplicifolia</i>	Griffonia/Bandeiraea lectin I B4	Terminal α -linked Gal	Gal	EY Labs
MPA	Plant	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Osage orange lectin	Terminal α -linked Gal	Gal	EY Labs
VRA	Plant	<i>Vigna radiata</i>	Mung bean lectin	Terminal α -linked Gal	Gal	EY Labs
MOA	Fungus	<i>Marasmius oreades</i>	Fairy ring mushroom lectin	Terminal α -linked Gal	Gal	EY Labs
PBS	N/A	N/A	Phosphate buffered saline	N/A	N/A	Sigma
BSA	Animal	N/A	Bovine serum albumin	N/A	N/A	Sigma


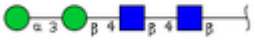



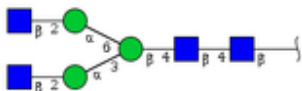



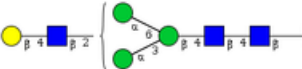
Table S4. Integrated densitometry analysis of Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE protein profiles of the five WPC ingredients using ImageJ. Relative percentage is an average from the three batches (or two batches for WPC 80) for each ingredient.

Peaks of interest	WPC Lac	WPC 35	WPC HF1	WPC HF2	WPC 80
f	0.48	0.29	0.42	0.56	
g	0.61	0.27	0.46	0.47	
	2.48	2.66	3.45	4.82	3.19
	0.74	0.77	0.25	0.33	0.83
	8.98	2.00	9.68	8.55	6.09
a	12.97	8.57	13.38	14.20	4.93
b	15.64	6.41	13.35	13.30	12.08
	1.18	0.37	1.44	1.48	
h					2.20
c	23.57	11.03	28.01	16.38	10.82
d	17.83	52.73	23.88	32.06	44.87
e	14.76	13.71	0.52	2.11	8.76
	0.77	1.20	5.17	5.74	6.24

Table S5. Peak GU values, relative quantification pre- (% area) and post-mannosidase digestion (%D.A.), and assigned potential N-linked glycan structures from the five WPC ingredients.

WPC 35	GU	% Area	% D.A.	WPC 80	GU	% Area	% D.A.	WPC lac	GU	% Area	% D.A.	WPC HF1	GU	% Area	% D.A.	WPC HF2	GU	% Area	% D.A.	Potential Structures
				1	2.52	0.69														
1	2.68	22.79	26.22	2	2.67	2.78	45.27		2.66		8.12		2.66		8.75		2.66		7.69	M1
2	2.95	7.73																		
3	3.13	5.40		3	3.11	0.24														
4	3.32	0.97																		
5	3.42	1.35	2.48																	M2
6	3.66	2.82		4	3.66	1.38														
7	4.18	0.10																		
8	4.31	1.55		5	4.29	0.35														F(3)M2/M3
9	5.01	0.47																		
				6	5.44	0.15		1	5.43	0.18	1.12	1	5.42	0.56	1.75	1	5.42	0.58	2.63	A2/F(6)A1/M4
												2	5.70	0.31						F(6)M4/A1G(4)1
10	5.96	1.63	1.39	7	5.95	1.38		2	5.95	1.52		3	5.95	2.32		2	5.94	2.57		F(6)A2/M4A1
				8	6.21	2.26		3	6.20	1.83		4	6.21	2.21		3	6.19	2.12		M5/F(6)A1G(4)1/A2[6]G(4)1
11	6.49	6.56		9	6.49	6.87	0.58	4	6.48	6.40		5	6.46	6.10		4	6.45	6.98		A2G(4)1/A2[6]G(4)1
12	6.85	9.56	8.75	10	6.84	14.94	12.06	5	6.83	14.78	13.2	6	6.82	14.12	13.01	5	6.81	14.32	11.3	A2GalNAc2/F(6)A2[3]G(4)1/A1[6]G(4)1S(3)1/A1[6]G(4)1S(6)1
13	7.11	12.68	9.97	11	7.11	21.34	9.95	6	7.10	22.01	16.6	7	7.10	20.15	15.49	6	7.07	13.60		M6/M6D1/M6D2/A2G1S1
																				A2G(4)2/A2G1S(3)1/F(6)A2G(4)1GalNAc1/A2G4)1S(6)1/A2[3]G(4)1S(3)1/F(6)A1G1S1
14	7.44	10.39	8.86	12	7.42	28.84	9.49	7	7.41	22.45	15.7	8	7.41	22.30	15.93	8	7.39	20.80	14.4	F(6)A2G(4)GlcNAc1/F(6)A2[6]G(4)1S(6)1/F(6)A2G(4)1S1/A3G(4)2/F(6)A3G1
15	7.77	4.66	4.19					8	7.85	5.46		9	7.87	6.23	5.62	9	7.88	6.60	6.24	M7/A2G2S1/F(6)A3G(4)2/F(6)A2G1GalNAc1S1/A3G2GalNAc1
16	8.16	3.40		13	8.16	5.14		9	8.16	6.74	6.26	10	8.17	6.56	5.9	10	8.16	6.43	5.65	A4G(4)2/F(6)A2G(4)1S1GalNAc1S1
17	8.50	4.08		14	8.49	7.33		10	8.47	9.22	6.63	11	8.48	9.66	6.57	11	8.46	7.87	4.93	A2G1GalNAc1S2/F(6)A2G(4)2S(3,3)2/A3G2S(6)1/F(6)A4G2
18	9.04	1.06		15	9.04	1.38		11	9.01	2.31		12	9.03	2.49	2.39	12	9.03	2.75		F(6)A2G(4)2S(6,6)2/F(6)A2G(4)2S2/F(6)A2G2Ga1S1/A3G3S1
19	9.50	2.79		16	9.50	4.94		12	9.47	6.98	3.05	13	9.49	7.00	2.87	13	9.48	6.60	4.46	M9/F(6)A2G2AS(6)1

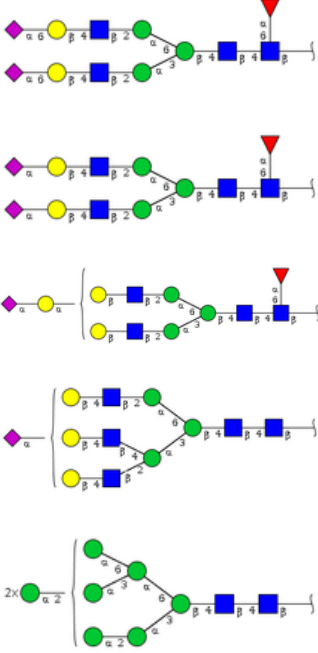
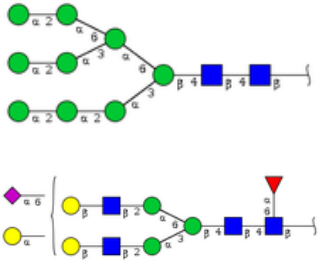
Table S6. Predicted structures present in WPC 35, WPC 80, WPC Lac, WPC HF1 and WPC HF2. n.d. not determined. Structure notation is according to the Oxford notation.

	RT (min)	GU	Structure	Structure notation
1	16.4	2.52	n.d.	
2	17.23	2.66		M1
3	18.73	2.95	n.d.	
4	19.65	3.11	n.d.	
5	20.67	3.32	n.d.	
6	21.16	3.42		M2
7	22.32	3.66		LNnT
8	24.63	4.18	n.d.	
9	25.14	4.30	 	DSL M3
10	27.86	5.01	n.d.	
11	29.31	5.42	  	A2 F(6)A1 M4
12	30.19	5.71	 	F(6)M4 A1G(4)1

13	30.95	5.95		F(6)A2 M4A1
14	31.70	6.20		M5 F(6)A1G(4) A2[6]G(4)1
15	32.47	6.47		A2G(4)1 A2[3]G(4)1
16	33.42	6.83		A1[6]G(4)1S(6)1 F(6)A2[3]G(4)1 A1[6]G(4)1S(3)1 A2GalNAc2

17	34.11	7.09		<p>M6 A2G1S1</p>
18	34.32	7.17		<p>A2G(4)2 F(6)A2G(4)1GalNAc1 A2G1S(3)1 <u>A2G(4)1S(6)1</u> <u>A2[3]G(4)1S(3)1</u> <u>F(6)A1G1S1</u></p>
19	34.88	7.41		<p><u>F(6)A2[6]G(4)1S(6)1</u> F(6)A2G(4)1S1 <u>A3G(4)2</u> <u>F(6)A3G1</u> F(6)A2GalNAc2</p>

20	35.87	7.84		<p style="text-align: center;"> M7 <u>A2G2S1</u> <u>F(6)A3G(4)2</u> <u>F(6)A2G1GalNAc1S1</u> <u>A3G2GalNAc1</u> </p>
21	36.55	8.16		<p style="text-align: center;"> <u>A4G(4)2</u> <u>F(6)A2G(4)1S1GalNAc1S1</u> </p>
22	37.23	8.48		<p style="text-align: center;"> <u>A2G1GalNAc1S2</u> <u>F(6)A2G(4)2S(3,3)2</u> <u>A3G2S(6)1</u> <u>F(6)A4G2</u> </p>

23	38.31	9.03		<p style="text-align: center;"> <u>F(6)A2G(4)2S(6,6)2</u> <u>F(6)A2G(4)2S2</u> <u>F(6)A2G2GalS1</u> <u>A3G3S1</u> M8 </p>
24	39.16	9.48		<p style="text-align: center;"> M9 <u>F(6)A2G2GalS(6)1</u> </p>