

Technical

✕ The Phospholipid Content of Foods¹

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ABSTRACT

The content of total lipids and total and component phospholipids in ca. 140 foods was compiled in response to frequent requests for data by researchers in nutrition and medicine, and to fill the apparent need for a reliable up-to-date tabulation of recent data. Eggs, organ meats, lean meats, fish, shellfish, cereal grains and oilseeds are good sources of phospholipids, especially the choline phosphatides: phosphatidylcholine, sphingomyelin and lysophosphatidylcholine. Leafy vegetables, fruiting parts, roots and tubers are, with few exceptions, relatively poor dietary sources of total lipids and phospholipids. Foods or tissues in which the phospholipids perform similar functions also have similar relative phospholipid distributions. The data were tabulated by food group in separate tables with appropriate discussion. The use of conversion factors for calculating the total and individual phospholipids, sources of error, and research needs are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Phospholipids are integral components of cell membranes in human, animal and plant tissues. They are involved in the function of cell membranes and their ability to interact with metabolites, ions, hormones, antibodies and other cells. It has been shown that dietary lecithin may increase serum choline levels (1). Ingested choline or lecithin and their effect on improved learning and memory in animals and humans and possible beneficial effects in neurological disorders have received the attention of researchers (2). Phospholipids are good emulsifiers and commercial preparations derived from soybean and corn oils are used extensively in manufactured foods such as margarines, bakery items, frostings, nondairy creamers, confectionery products, ice creams and pan coatings. Staling and off-flavors are often related to the deterioration of the functional lipids in foods such as potatoes. Frequent inquiries by researchers in nutrition and medicine, and the lack of a reliable compilation on the lecithin content of foods, prompted us to undertake this study.

In this report, we use the terms "lecithin" and "phosphatidylcholine" interchangeably. Food manufacturers use the term lecithin (here identified as "commercial lecithin") to denote emulsifiers prepared during oil refining. For example, commercial soybean lecithin is a mixture of phospholipids plus a small amount of other lipids and is usually marketed in ca. 35% vegetable oil.

The literature since 1960 was searched for data on the lipid classes in foods. Available data were critically evaluated and appropriate data were summarized on the total lipids, total phospholipids and the major phospholipids, including the choline phosphatides: phosphatidylcholine (PC), sphingomyelin (SPH), and lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC).

Information is available on the total lipid and total phospholipid contents of many foods; however, only data

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from more complete analyses were selected for this compilation. No foods to which commercial lecithin was added were included.

UNITS AND CONVERSIONS

Consistent with other food composition tables from this agency we report total lipids in g/100 g of food and the phospholipids in mg/100 g of food. Data originally reported on the dry basis were converted to the wet weight basis. Moisture values were taken from Agriculture Handbook No. 8 (3) when they were not given in the reference. Likewise, we reported total lipids from Agriculture Handbook No. 8 when no data were given.

Data that were reported as mole percent were converted to weight percent by first calculating the molecular weight of each lipid class from appropriate fatty acid data.

Conversion of Phosphorus to Phospholipid

Given the amount of phosphorus in a sample, one may calculate the amount of phospholipid if the proportion of the molecular weight of phosphorus to the molecular weight of phospholipid is known. The Official and Tentative Methods of the AOCS (1975) (4) give an approximate factor of 30 for crude soybean oil to estimate the content of lecithin. The result would be lecithin in the commercial sense. Included would be total phospholipids plus other lipid components that are concentrated during the degumming step of oil refining. Recently, Chapman (5) determined the molecular weights of the phospholipids in crude soybean and sunflower oils and proposed a general factor of 25 for these oils. This smaller factor estimates the phosphatides only. The factor 25 may be used for other oils whose phospholipids have similar molecular weights as those of sunflower or soybean oil.

Morrison and coworkers (6) developed lipid class-specific factors for wheat flour lipids based on the ratio of the molecular weight of each lipid class to the molecular weight of phosphorus (Table I). Given that the glycerol-phosphate-

TABLE I

Data for Quantifying Wheat Flour Phospholipids from Phosphorus Distribution (6)

| Phospholipid | P factor ^a |
|--|-----------------------|
| N-Acylphosphatidylethanolamine (NAPE) | 31.35 |
| N-Acyllysophosphatidylethanolamine (NALPE) | 23.22 |
| Diphosphatidylglycerol (DPG) | 22.75 |
| Phosphatidylglycerol (PG) | 24.22 |
| Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) | 23.22 |
| Phosphatidylcholine (PC) | 24.60 |
| Phosphatidylinositol (PI) | 27.09 |
| Phosphatidylserine (PS) | 24.67 |
| Lysophosphatidylglycerol (LPG) | 16.08 |
| Lysophosphatidylethanolamine (LPE) | 15.08 |
| Lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC) | 16.47 |
| Lysophosphatidylinositol (LPI) | 18.95 |
| Lysophosphatidylserine (LPS) | 16.53 |
| Phosphatidic acid (PA) | 21.83 |

^aWeight P × factor = weight phospholipid.

amino base moieties are constant within a given lipid class, it follows that the fatty acids associated with the lipid class determine its molecular weight. Morrison's individual factors should be useful for determining the amounts of lipid classes in other cereal commodities, provided that the average molecular weights of their fatty acids are similar to those from wheat flour.

Sources of Errors

Phospholipids are less soluble in nonpolar organic solvents than nonpolar lipids. They are more tightly bound and more inaccessible to solvents than the depot lipids which are primarily nonpolar acylglycerols. Incomplete extraction leads to errors in the total lipids and to distortions among the relative amounts of component lipid classes. The reporting of data on the 100 g food basis tends to accentuate these errors. For example, Gregor (7) reported lower total lipids and a different relative distribution of the phospholipids in carrot root than Soimajarvi and Linko (8), who ascribed the difference to the incomplete extraction of the lipids (Table II).

Jensen et al. (11), who reviewed the lipids in human milk, pointed out that the data by Szegledi-Janko (10), which were cited by Morrison (12), were too high and obviously in error. The values for the total phospholipids in human milk and their relative distribution as reported by Hess and Helman (9) and Jensen et al. (11) are also in poor agreement. We concur with Jensen that more work on human milk lipids is needed.

The summary of all available data on the phospholipids in any given food is impossible for a number of reasons. Researchers using recent analytical techniques tend to report more lipid components. The component phospholipids are often reported as percentages of either the total phospholipids or the total lipid phosphorus without any information on the amounts of total lipids, total phospholipids, or total phosphorus being reported. The data in Table II show how much these values can vary among authors. We therefore refrained from taking the values for the total phospholipids or total lipid phosphorus from other sources for the purpose of converting to common units. The data we have chosen are for common foods and are representative rather than true averages. All data are referenced and blanks in the tables denote lack of reported data.

PHOSPHOLIPID CONTENTS

Milk

Milks are essentially fat in water emulsions. The phospholipids are concentrated in the membranes of the milk fat globules which perform similar or identical functions in various milks. The relative phospholipid distribution is

similar among the milks and appears to be function-related (13). The amount and relative distribution of the phospholipids appear to be function-related in many foods, as we shall point out in the following discussion. Morrison (13) suspected that small amounts of lysolecithin in milk were artifacts of the methodology. How much of the lysolecithin that is reported in other commodities is an artifact of methodology is unclear.

Eggs

The content of total phospholipids and the relative distribution of component phosphatides of eggs of various avian species are remarkably uniform (Table III). Eggs are an excellent source of the choline phospholipids: PC, SPH and LPC. The lipids reside almost exclusively in the egg yolk.

Meats

Limited data on beef muscle show considerable similarity relative to phospholipid contents (Table IV). Data on fattened and lean beef show large differences in total lipids. However, these differences are due to increases in adipose neutral fat in fattened beef. The total phospholipids and their relative distribution are about the same in the lean and fattened beef.

Total lipids in calf tissues are lower than in corresponding tissues in mature beef but the phosphatide content appears to be about the same. Age, therefore, appears to have insignificant effects on the phospholipid concentration in beef. Data on organ meats are limited. Rouser et al. (29) determined the phospholipid distribution in human, bovine, mouse and frog liver, kidney and spleen. They reported among vertebrates little or no species variability of the phospholipid class distribution of organs and most subcellular particulates. The apparent connection between phospholipid function and phospholipid content and distribution in similar foods and tissues seems to be supported by the similarity of the respective data for the various milks, the eggs from various avian species, the livers of pork, chicken and turkey, the various beef muscles, the white (breast) and dark (thigh) meats of poultry, and the hearts and gizzards of poultry. Among animal tissues, beef brain contains the highest amount of phospholipids.

Poultry

Dark tissues of chicken and turkey contain higher total lipid and total phospholipid concentrations than light meat (Table V). However, the phospholipid class distribution among white and dark meats appears to be similar. Organ meats have a higher phospholipid content than muscular tissues. Similar organs from chicken and turkey appear to have similar phospholipid distributions. Marion and co-workers (30) reported higher lipid contents in mature chickens. This increase was primarily due to an increase in

TABLE II

Variation in the Total Lipid and Phospholipid Contents of Carrots and Human Milks as Reported by Different Investigators

| Food | Total lipids | Total phospholipid | Phosphatidylcholine | Phosphatidylethanolamine | Reference |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | ----- (mg/100 g food) ----- | | | | |
| Carrot root | 45 | 26 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 7 |
| | 281 | 68 | 29.0 | 18.0 | 8 |
| Human milk | 3,800 | 60 | 17.0 | 15.0 | 9 |
| | (4,380) ^a | 201 | 57.0 | 51.0 | 10 |
| | (4,380) ^a | 11 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 11 |

^aAgriculture Handbook, no. 8-1, 1976, p. 107.

PHOSPHOLIPIDS IN FOODS

TABLE III

The Total Lipid and Phospholipid Contents of Dairy and Egg Products

| Product | Total lipid (g/100 g food) | Total phospholipids | PC | PE | PS | PI | SPH | LPC | LPE | Reference |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whole milk: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cow | 3.66 | 34 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 9 | | 0.2 | 13, 14 |
| Sheep | 7.00 | 51 | 15 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 15 | | | 13, 14 |
| Indian buffalo | 6.89 | 29 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 13, 14 |
| Skim milk | 0.03-0.94 | 10-160 | | | | | | | | 12 |
| Cream, pasteurized | 37.5 | 150-160 | | | | | | | | 12 |
| Butter | 81.1 | 140-250 | | | | | | | | 12 |
| Cottage cheese, moderate fat | 7.1 | 376 | 123 | 114 | | | 139 | | | 15 |
| Eggs, whole: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicken | 11.15 | 3,490 | 2,687 | 578 | | | 82 | 56 | | 16 |
| Duck | 13.77 | 3,656 | 2,766 | 605 | | | 90 | 66 | | 16 |
| Goose | 13.27 | 3,318 | 2,455 | 624 | | | 100 | 51 | | 16 |
| Quail | 11.09 | 3,638 | 2,923 | 382 | | | 107 | 51 | | 16 |
| Turkey | 11.88 | 3,540 | 2,885 | 457 | | | 74 | 52 | | 16 |
| Egg, chicken: | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 0.015 | 2.8 | 1.2 | tr | | | 0.9 | 0.7 | | 17 |
| Powder | 87.0 | 13,301 | 10,763 | 2,209 | | | | | | 18 |
| Yolk | 31.8 | 10,306 | 6,771 | 1,917 | | 64 | 486 | 419 | | 15, 19, 20 |

TABLE IV

The Total Lipid and Phospholipid Contents of Meats

| Meat | Total lipid (g/100 g meat) | Total phospholipid | PC | PE | PS | PI | SPH | LPC | Reference | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | (mg/100 g meat) |
| Beef: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brain | 12.1 | 5,433 | 1,307 | 1948 | 871 | 242 | 944 | | | 21 |
| Muscle: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Psoas major | 4.1 | 660 | 407 | 207 | | | 46 | | | 22 |
| Extensor carpi radialis | 1.5 | 590 | 368 | 171 | | | 51 | | | 22 |
| Biceps femoris: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fattened | 7.4 | 827 | (385) ^a | 148 | (75) ^b | 38 | 63 | | | 23 |
| Lean | 2.3 | 853 | (365) ^a | 161 | (64) ^b | 37 | 99 | | | 23 |
| L. dorsi: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fattened | 12.4 | 690 | (340) ^a | 124 | (96) ^b | 32 | 44 | | | 23 |
| Lean | 1.7 | 597 | (260) ^a | 106 | (48) ^b | 44 | 69 | | | 23 |
| Masseter: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fattened | 3.8 | 1,163 | (589) ^a | 286 | (141) ^b | 41 | 46 | | | 23 |
| Lean | 4.6 | 1,120 | (439) ^a | 279 | (123) ^b | 68 | 70 | | | 23 |
| Calf: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muscle: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Masseter | 1.33 | 867 | (333) ^a | 168 | (96) ^b | 40 | 39 | | | 24 |
| L. dorsi | 1.13 | 853 | (318) ^a | 197 | (95) ^b | 49 | 60 | | | 24 |
| Biceps femoris | 1.05 | 897 | (348) ^a | 178 | (95) ^b | 46 | 44 | | | 24 |
| Pork: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muscle: | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. dorsi | 2.58 | 596 | 304 | 167 | (57) ^c | | 34 | 29 | | 25 |
| Semitendinosus: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Light | 7.2 | 727 | 451 | 198 | | | 78 | | | 26 |
| Dark | 4.4 | 810 | 469 | 257 | | | 83 | | | 26 |
| Organ: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kidney | 2.90 | 2,340 | 842 | 398 | 164 | 70 | 328 | | | 27 |
| Liver | 3.70 | 2,901 | 1,688 | 618 | 38 | 209 | 131 | 61 | | 28 |
| Lung | 2.00 | 1,590 | 795 | 191 | 127 | 80 | 191 | | | 27 |
| Spleen | 2.45 | 1,240 | 409 | 174 | 161 | 25 | 236 | | | 27 |
| Rabbit: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Skeletal muscle | 2.26 | 510 | 276 | (122) ^d | | 20 | | | | 27 |

^aPC + LPC.^bPS + PA + CL.^cPS + PI.^dPE + E. plasmalogen + S. plasmalogen + PS.

neutral depot lipids.

Finfish and Shellfish

Phospholipids constitute from ca. 15 to 80% of the total lipids (TL) of lean fish (Table VI). We have defined lean fish as having less than 5% total lipid (34). The phospholipid contents of shellfish, which normally have less than

3% total lipid, are very similar to those of the lean fish. The data in Figure 1 show that the phospholipid concentration (percentage of TL) decreases rapidly with increased fat content to ca. 10% of total lipid in fatty fish. The dark muscles from finfish appear to have a higher concentration of phospholipids than do light muscles of corresponding fat content. Lysophosphatidylcholine has been reported for

TABLE V

The Total Lipid and Phospholipid Contents of Poultry Tissues

| Tissue | Total lipid (g/100 g) | Total phospholipids | (mg/100 g tissue) | | | | | Reference |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|----|-------------------|-----------|
| | | | PC | PE | PS | PI | SPH | |
| Chicken, roaster or fryer: | | | | | | | | |
| Breast | 1.12 | 782 | 391 | 187 | 100 | tr | 56 | 30 |
| Thigh | 3.26 | 1,386 | 662 | 352 | 186 | tr | 101 | 30 |
| Skin | 13.73 | 906 | 316 | 247 | 82 | tr | 124 | 30 |
| Gizzard | 2.54 | 1,153 | 353 | 368 | 102 | tr | 165 | 30 |
| Heart | 3.20 | 1,718 | 675 | 509 | 227 | tr | 195 | 30 |
| Liver | 5.60 | 2,542 | 1,120 | 829 | 146 | tr | 291 | 30 |
| Neck bones | 6.7 | 844 | 333 | 272 | 73 | | (89) ^a | 31 |
| Commercially deboned neck | 15.0 | 570 | 224 | 115 | 10 | | (39) ^a | 31 |
| Turkey: | | | | | | | | |
| Breast | 0.73 | 418 | 231 | 92 | (33) ^b | | 43 | 32 |
| Thigh | 2.48 | 526 | 282 | 137 | (34) ^b | | 53 | 32 |
| Liver | 6.02 | 2,875 | 1,655 | 818 | | | 402 | 33 |
| Gizzard | 1.35 | 1,000 | 422 | 465 | | | 113 | 33 |
| Heart | 2.93 | 2,125 | 1,117 | 646 | | | 362 | 33 |

^aSPH + LPC.

^bPS + PI.

TABLE VI

The Total Lipid and Phospholipid Contents of Fish and Shellfish

| Fish—common name | Cut or portion | Total lipid (g/100 g fish) | Total phospholipids | (mg/100 g fish) | | | | | | Reference |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----|-----|-----|-----------|
| | | | | PC | PE | PS | PI | SPH | LPC | |
| Abalone | Total flesh | 1.05 | 695 | 285 | 222 | 35 | 35 | 7 | tr | 35 |
| Anchovies | Total edible | 0.7 | 300 | 189 | 57 | 12 | 15 | 4 | | 1 |
| Clam | Total edible | 1.45 | 532 | 217 | 16 | 96 | | 129 | | 37 |
| Chlamys | Total edible | 1.60 | 508 | 151 | 82 | 75 | | 133 | | 37 |
| Cod | White meat | 0.59 | 520 | 359 | 99 | 26 | | | | 38 |
| Crab: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh water | Total edible | 2.52 | 696 | 362 | 188 | 14 | 28 | 28 | | 7 |
| Marine | Total edible | 2.23 | 580 | 331 | 128 | 29 | 23 | 29 | | 6 |
| Queen | Total edible | 0.75 | 560 | 347 | 157 | | | 28 | | 40 |
| Crayfish (fresh water) | Muscle | 1.77 | 530 | 289 | 139 | (56) ^a | | 25 | | 41,42 |
| Eel: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salt water | Muscle | 18.3 | 1,684 | 596 | 180 | 264 | | 325 | 222 | 43 |
| Fresh water | Muscle | 18.3 | 2,196 | 637 | 171 | 406 | | 488 | 279 | 43 |
| Hake | Flesh | 1.55 | 459 | 289 | 96 | 14 | 28 | 18 | | 5 |
| Herring | White muscle | 3.82 | 937 | 499 | 219 | 140 | | 66 | | 37 |
| | Dark muscle | 19.61 | 2,584 | 1,384 | 686 | 360 | | 115 | | 37 |
| Mackerel | White muscle | 1.91 | 726 | 196 | 220 | 86 | | 224 | | 37 |
| | Dark muscle: | | | | | | | | | |
| | Male | 10.14 | 2,328 | 111 | 1,442 | 625 | | 151 | | 37 |
| | Female | 10.54 | 2,410 | 774 | 1,309 | 335 | | 994 | | 37 |
| Menhaden | Total edible | 3.53 | 194 | 122 | (33) ^b | | | 6 | 16 | 45 |
| Mullet (salt water) | Muscle | 6.9 | 483 | 107 | 58 | 81 | | 104 | 100 | 43 |
| Neptune | Muscle | 1.16 | 223 | 97 | 47 | 17 | | 56 | | 37 |
| Octopus | Total edible | 0.79 | 618 | 260 | 185 | 31 | 24 | 19 | | 46 |
| Pilchard | Fillet | 5.01 | 914 | 484 | 228 | 18 | 37 | 55 | | 18 |
| Pomfret | Fillet | 4.5 | 900 | 464 | 204 | 30 | 20 | 51 | | 32 |
| Smelt | Whole body | 1.25 | 427 | 222 | 141 | | | 21 | | 48 |
| Squid | Muscle | 1.68 | 1,098 | 777 | 114 | 83 | | 102 | | 37 |
| Thrissoles (Indian) | Total edible | 5.4 | 900 | 517 | 191 | 45 | 29 | 34 | | 22 |
| Trout, rainbow | Fillet | 2.1 | 347 | 231 | 74 | 15 | 6 | 6 | | 49 |
| Tuna | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Dorsal | 3.79 | 617 | 166 | 132 | 93 | | 211 | | 37 |
| | Ventral | 13.9 | 1,938 | 641 | 503 | 194 | | 153 | | 37 |
| | Dark muscle | 5.06 | 1,756 | 692 | 244 | 240 | | 557 | | 37 |
| Wrasse | Muscle | 0.75 | 500 | 295 | 65 | 50 | | 60 | | 50 |

^aPS + PI.

^bPE + PS.

PHOSPHOLIPIDS IN FOODS

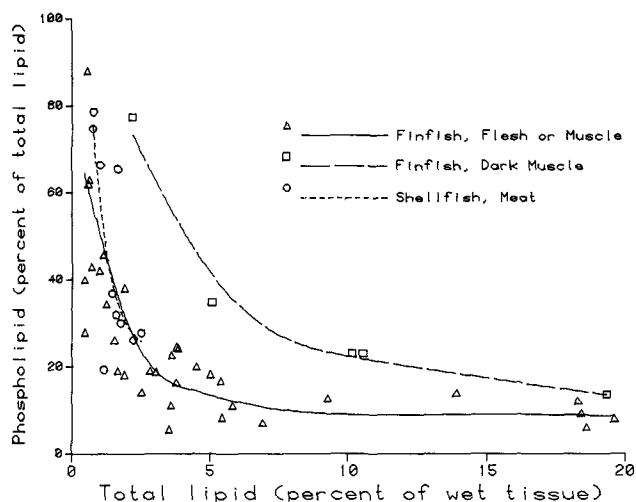


FIG. 1. Relationship between phospholipid and total lipid (percentage wet weight) of tissues of finfish and shellfish in Table VI. The fitting of curves was accomplished by computer using the procedure Smooth, TellaGRAF Users Manual, Version 40, Integrated Software Systems Corp., San Diego, CA, 1981, p. B-43.

several species. The values for eel and mullet are extremely high. More data are needed to confirm these aberrations.

In most species, PC is the major phosphatide. However, both light and dark muscles of mackerel have higher amounts of PE than PC. SPH is the major phosphatide in the dorsal muscles of tuna and is also relatively high in the dark muscles of the female mackerel. These observations are based on few data. More research is needed on the lipid classes in fish.

Cereal Grains and Related Products

Morrison (51) has extensively reviewed the cereal lipids. Cereal grains have relatively high amounts of lysolecithin and lysophosphatidylethanolamine which reside in the starch portion of the grain (Table VII). These two lipid classes account for ca. 50% of the total phospholipids in nonglutinous rice starch and for over 90% of the phospholipids in the starches of glutinous rice, corn and wheat.

The total lipid content of maize may vary from 0.4 to 17% among low and high oil varieties (66). Jellum (67) observed extreme differences in the relative distribution of the fatty acids in the lipids of different cultivars of corn. The work of Weber (55) and Tan and Morrison (56) seems to indicate that the amount and distribution of the phospholipids in the whole kernel corn are relatively uniform among strains. The higher values for LPC reported by Tan and Morrison may be attributed to more efficient analytical techniques. The data on amylomaize (a high oil variety) and LG-11 maize (oil content typical of commercial varieties) are probably representative of actual differences that may exist. Much of the lipid is concentrated in the corn germ. The germ of amylomaize has a slightly higher concentration of total lipids and a lower concentration of phospholipids than the LG-11 corn. The higher total lipid and phospholipid contents of the whole kernel grain may be attributed mainly to the relatively larger germ size of high oil strains.

The different kinds of wheat appeared to be relatively alike in their phospholipid composition. Somewhat inconsistent data were found for low- and high-grade winter and spring wheat flours (64). Time of planting appears to have greater effect on the phosphatides than does the grade of the flour.

Vegetables, Legumes, Seeds, Fruits and Fruit Juices

Sparse data show that most leafy vegetables, fruiting parts,

roots and tubers have lower phospholipid contents than seeds such as the legumes or oil seeds (Table VIII). Khor and Tan (72) reported relatively high total and phospholipid contents in the young leaves of cassava. We were unable to find detailed phospholipid analyses for nuts. Some published data on the lecithin and choline content of common vegetables appeared to be questionable and are not reported here.

Commercial Lecithin

Scholfield (87) has reviewed the literature on the composition of soybean lecithin. Table IX contains data (88) for crude commercial corn and soybean lecithin. The relative amounts of the various lipid components may vary in other samples depending on processing conditions and on the extent to which the lecithin was tailored for specific purposes. Nieuwenhuyzen (89) reported a typical composition of soybean lecithin as follows: PC, 20%; PE, 15%; PI, 20%; PA and other phospholipids, 5%; carbohydrates and sterols, 5%; and TG, 35%.

Other Compilations

An earlier compilation of choline and lecithin by Wurtman (90) contains values that disagree with what we found in the literature (Table X).

Given these and other differences, Wurtman's (90) estimation of daily intake of choline may be in error.

Griffith and Nye (91) reported values for total choline, as the free base or as the chloride, in animal and plant products. They took these data from reports that were published in 1943-45. These data are not comparable to our compilation.

DISCUSSION

Eggs, organ meats, lean meats, fish, shellfish, cereal grains and oilseeds are good sources of phospholipids, especially the choline phospholipids. Leafy vegetables, fruits and tubers contain very low amounts of phospholipids.

Incomplete extraction of the total lipids and phospholipids can cause serious errors in the phospholipid values that are reported on the 100 g food basis. Various authors report different numbers and kinds of phospholipids depending on the analytical techniques used. Evidence suggests that the phospholipid content and distribution is similar in related foods and tissues where the phospholipids perform similar functions.

More research is needed on the phospholipids in animal products such as beef, pork, lamb and fish. The effect of breed, age, sex, season and feeding habits need to be examined. More research is also needed on nuts, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables. Cultivar, geographical location and growing season may be some variables that should be examined.

Complete documentation of reports, including the actual weights of quantities on which relative percentage compositions are based, is a must. Data from documents lacking essential quantitative information cannot be compared or combined with similar data from elsewhere. We would like to ask prospective authors to ensure the usefulness of their reports by including basic quantitative data along with any relative data they may have to report.

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TABLE VII
The Total Lipid and Phospholipid Contents of Cereal Grains and Related Products

| Product | Total lipid (g/100 g product) | Total phospholipid | PC | PE | PS | PI | PA | CL | PG | LPC | LPE | Reference |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-------------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|------------|
| Barley, whole grain | 3.0 | 506 | 258 | 45 | 29 | 8 | tr | 9 | 3 | 145 | | 52, 53, 54 |
| Corn (<i>Zea mays</i>): | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whole grain: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial hybrid | 3.7 | 213 | 139 | 15 | | 26 | 3 | 17 | 2 | 10 | | 55 |
| Amylomaize | 8.0 | 350 | 70 | 28 | | 36 | 51 | (1) ^a | 7 | 127 | 15 | 56 |
| LG-11 maize | 4.2 | 315 | 58 | 15 | | 21 | 7 | (2) ^a | 3 | 178 | 13 | 56 |
| Endosperm: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Amylomaize | 1.8 | 195 | 21 | 5 | | 6 | 8 | (1) ^a | 4 | 130 | 14 | 56 |
| LG-11 maize | 1.2 | 253 | 3 | 1 | | 3 | 1 | (3) ^a | 0.4 | 216 | 16 | 56 |
| Germ: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Amylomaize | 41.6 | 1,077 | 331 | 153 | | 201 | 293 | | 17 | 8 | 10 | 56 |
| LG-11 maize | 38.3 | 1,279 | 658 | 171 | | 217 | 68 | | 32 | 20 | | 56 |
| Starch: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Amylomaize | 0.9 | 187 | | | | | | | | 161 | 14 | 56 |
| LG-11 maize | 0.6 | 226 | | | | | | | | 199 | 15 | 56 |
| dehulled (groats) | 5.8 | 1,439 | 430 | 213 | 46 | | (57) ^b | | 136 | (294) ^c | | 56 |
| Oats, dehulled | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brown | 2.1 | 85 | 29 | 33 | | 3 | | | 3 | 2 | 0.5 | 57 |
| Bran | 17.9 | 365 | 153 | 148 | 23 | 23 | | | 4 | tr | tr | 57 |
| Endosperm | 0.4 | 57 | 17 | 22 | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 57 |
| Starch: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nonglutinous | 0.9 | (272) ^d | 69 | 60 | 9 | | | | | 106 | 29 | 58 |
| Glutinous | 0.8 | (118) ^d | 7 | 5 | | 4 | | | | 99 | 2 | 58 |
| Rye: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whole grain flour | 3.1 | (743) ^d | 273 | 90 | 184 | | | | | 196 | | 59 |
| Endosperm flour | 1.2 | (192) ^d | 37 | 60 | 38 | | | | | 57 | | 59 |
| Germ | 16.5 | 1,071 | 346 | 132 | 230 | | 165 | | 97 | 0 | 0 | 61 |
| Triticale: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whole grain flour | 3.4 | 938 | 321 | 186 | 206 | | | | | 225 | | 60 |
| Light (Endosperm) flour | 1.7 | (493) ^d | 135 | 125 | 78 | | | | | 155 | | 60 |
| Wheat: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whole grain: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Soft | 2.5 | 667 | 49 | (19) ^e | | | 18 | | | 476 | 53 | 62 |
| Hard | 2.5 | 1,060 | 164 | (56) ^e | | | 10 | | | 408 | 64 | 63 |
| Hard red spring | 2.6 | 949 | 179 | (50) ^e | | 69 | 17 | | | 458 | 55 | 63 |
| Durum | 2.8 | 1,021 | 173 | (35) ^e | | 63 | | 17 | | 545 | 63 | 63 |
| Flour: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| High-grade winter | 1.0 | 251 | 47 | 10 | | | | | | 78 | 12 | 64 |
| High-grade spring | 1.1 | 307 | 76 | 13 | | | | | | 102 | 15 | 64 |
| Low-grade winter | 1.4 | 253 | 65 | 13 | | | | | | 68 | 10 | 64 |
| Low-grade spring | 1.5 | 300 | 84 | 16 | | | | | | 88 | 10 | 64 |
| Starch | 0.7 | 677 | | | (29) ^f | | | | | 548 | 72 | 65 |

^aCL + NALPE.

^bPI + PA.

^cLPC + LPE + LPS.

^dSum of component phosphatides.

^ePE + PG.

^fPS + PI + LPS + LPI.

PHOSPHOLIPIDS IN FOODS

TABLE VIII

The Total Lipid and Phospholipid Contents of Vegetables, Legumes, Seeds, Fruit and Fruit Juices

| Food | Total lipid (g/100 g food) | Total phospholipid | (mg/100 g food) | | | | | | Reference |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----------|
| | | | PC | PE | PS | PI | PA | PG | |
| Alfalfa seed | 12.6 | | 300 | 64 | | 96 | | | 68 |
| Alocasia macrorrhiza tubers | 0.2 | 41 | 17 | 12 | | 6 | | | 69 |
| Apple, pulp | 0.09 | 40 | 21 | 10 | 0.4 | 6 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 70 |
| Bean, common, white | 1.5 | | 320 | 90 | | 100 | | | 68 |
| Bean, common, red | 1.5 | | 577 | 97 | | 99 | | | 68 |
| Carrot, root | 0.28 | 55 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8,71 |
| Cassava, leaf | 3.02 | 1,456 | tr | 495 | 21 | 121 | | 634 | 72 |
| Cucumber | 0.10 | 50 | 23 | 16 | 1 | 3 | 0.4 | 3 | 73 |
| Garden pea | 0.8 | 575 | 357 | 103 | | 116 | | | 68 |
| Grapefruit juice | 0.1 | 17 | 8 | 6 | 0.2 | 3 | 0.2 | | 74,75 |
| Lemon juice | 0.1 | 31 | 12 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 0.7 | | 74 |
| Orange juice | 0.1 | 31 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 74,76 |
| Peanut | 48.5 | 620 | 270 | 50 | | 150 | 25 | | 68 |
| Peppers, sweet | 0.4 | 8 | 6 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.3 | tr | 0.2 | 73 |
| Pinenut | 51.0 | 1,000 | 540 | 110 | | 300 | | | 68 |
| Potato, peeled raw | 0.15 | 76 | 38 | 22 | 1 | 12 | 0.4 | 1 | 77,78,79 |
| Rapeseed | 44.5 | 1,535 | 747 | 127 | | 282 | | | 80 |
| Soybean, mature | 20.8 | 2,038 | 917 | 536 | | 287 | 102 | (71) ^a | 81 |
| Spinach | 0.3 | 157 | 37 | 36 | | 11 | 14 | 49 | 82 |
| Sunflower seed | 57.4 | 1,092 | 385 | (142) ^b | | 265 | 142 | | 83 |
| Sweetpotato, centennial, raw | 0.44 | 120 | 28 | 43 | 5 | 22 | 2 | 5 | 84,85,86 |

^aPG + CL.^bPE + PG.

TABLE IX

The Phospholipid Contents of Commercial Lecithins (88)

| Product | Total neutral lipid | Total glycolipids | Total phospholipid | (g/100 g product) | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | PC | PE | PS | PI | PA | PG |
| Corn | 52.8 | 18.4 | 28.8 | 12.6 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 6.6 | 3.9 | 0.6 |
| Soybean | 36.8 | 13.2 | 50.0 | 19.3 | 8.2 | 0.3 | 9.6 | 3.7 | 0.6 |

TABLE X

Comparison of Choline and Lecithin Compilation

| | Wurtman (90) our compilation | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| | ----- (mg lecithin/100 g food) ----- | |
| Egg | 394 | 2,687 |
| Milk, whole | 6-10 | 12 |
| Carrots | 5-8 | 29 |
| Potatoes | 0.3 | 38 |

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