



# Microwave and convective drying kinetics and thermal properties of orange slices and effect of drying on some phytochemical parameters

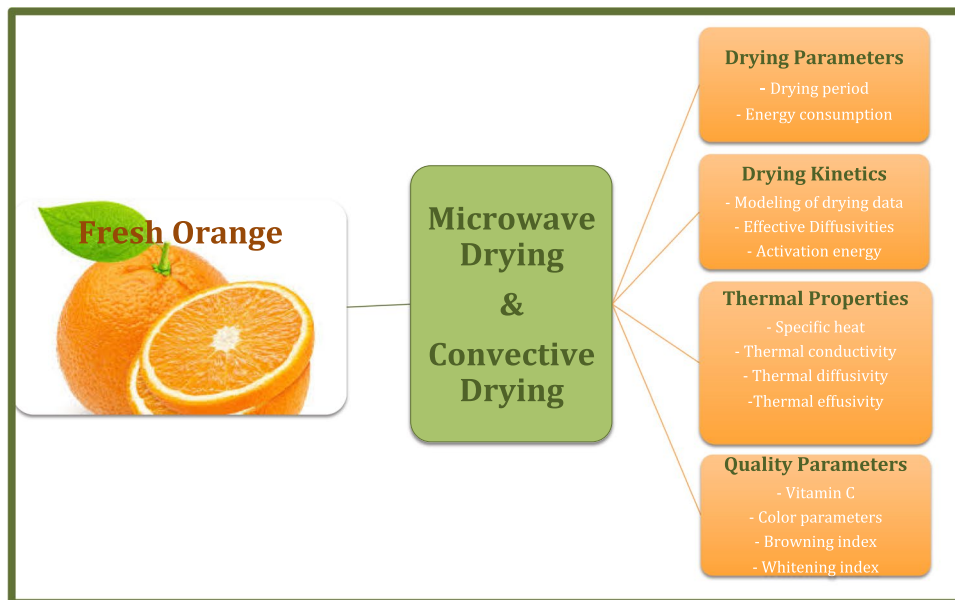
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## Abstract

We dried the orange slices massed  $100 \pm 0.10$  g from the initial moisture content of  $6.97 \pm 0.02$  kg<sub>water</sub> kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup> to the final moisture ones of  $0.12 \pm 0.01$  kg<sub>water</sub> kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup> using two different drying methods defined as convective drying at 50, 75, 100, and 125 °C along with microwave drying at eight output power between 90 and 1000 W. In the study, we measured the drying methods' energy consumption and observed that the microwave drying method's energy consumption was very low at high and low powers. Also, we modeled the results using twenty-one different thin-layer drying equations and obtained results closest to experimental data with the modified Henderson and Pabis equation for all powers in microwave drying and all temperatures in convective drying. We calculated both effective moisture diffusivities and activation energy using the drying data. Some thermal properties such as specific heat, thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, and thermal effusivity were calculated and recorded to be decreasing in all thermal properties with drying. Also, we measured the color parameters known as L, a, b, C,  $\alpha^\circ$ , and  $\Delta E$ , browning index (BI), whitening index (WI), and vitamin C (ascorbic acid) in the study. We concluded that the most suitable drying method is microwave drying at medium powers of 350 and 500 W by considering both drying and quality parameters.

## Graphical abstract



**Keywords** Orange · Energy consumption · Thermal properties · Color · Vitamin C

Extended author information available on the last page of the article

## Introduction

Orange (*Citrus sinensis* L.) belongs to the family Rutaceae and is usually preferred as fresh [1] and juice due to its sour-sweet and refreshing taste [2]. It is one of the most grown, consumed, and traded fruits globally [3]. Also, orange has antioxidant, anticancer, and anti-inflammatory effects thanks to its high concentration of vitamin C, which helps maintain cardiovascular health [4–6]. On the other hand, vitamin C, which is abundant in oranges, strengthens the immune system and helps the human metabolism to be resistant to viral diseases such as COVID-19, which are fought around the world since December 2019 [7, 8]. It is also one of the most important sources of dietary fiber [9] and contains phenolic compounds, minerals, and carotenoids [10]. The orange, which is harvested only at the end of autumn and during the winter season, can be preserved by canned, jam, frozen, and dried in order to extend its consumption life [11]. The drying of unusual fruits such as orange is a preservation method that has become increasingly popular recently worldwide.

Drying, which is also called dehydration, can generally be defined as the evaporation of water in the product by both heat and mass transfer [12]. It provides a significant advantage in terms of transportation and storage, as well as allowing the products to be preserved for a long time by reducing the microbiological activity that occurs in agricultural products after harvest [13, 14]. Drying can be carried out using many methods. In convective drying, which is one of the most common methods, although the initial investment and operating costs are low and the system is simple, this method has significant disadvantages such as long drying time and low energy efficiency as well as causing adverse effects on product quality [15–18]. Due to the disadvantages of convective drying, the use of the microwave drying method has become widespread both in the scientific platform and in the industry in recent years [19]. Microwave drying has a lower drying period, high-energy efficiency, high-drying rate, a high rehydration capacity compared to the convective drying technique [15]. It causes the material to dry spherically by causing heat and mass transfer from the inside to the outside. However, this method's most remarkable disadvantage is that local burns occur by causing polarization at high power levels, especially in fruits with high sugar content [20, 21].

When the literature was examined, it was seen that there were a few studies in which the orange fruit was dried using the convective drying method; however, the microwave drying method was not used directly [22]. In some studies, low doses of microwave output powers were combined with convective drying [23], or the microwave method was applied as a pretreatment [13, 24]. In these

studies, only the drying kinetics of the dried orange fruit were examined, and its thermal properties, color parameters, browning index, whitening index, and vitamin C contents were not investigated. At this point, our study serves as a guide for future studies.

The aim of this study is to; (i) determine the drying kinetics of orange slices dried by convective and microwave drying methods, (ii) measured the energy consumption of the techniques, (iii) compare fresh and dried orange slices in terms of vitamin C, color parameters, browning and whitening indexes, and (iv) decide the most suitable drying method according to quality and drying parameters.

## Material and methods

### Material

Orange fruits (*Citrus sinensis* L. var. “Washington novel”) were purchased from a local grocery store, and healthy fruits of the average size were used in the trials. Fruits were kept in a cooling unit providing humidity control at +4 °C until the drying process. Orange massing  $100 \pm 0.10$  g was used in each trial, and the fruits were sliced transversely in equal thicknesses of  $0.5 \pm 0.05$  cm with a slicing apparatus. The slices used in the drying trials were cut from the central part of the fruit, corresponding to the pulpy and juicy parts.

### Drying processes

Both microwave and convective drying experiments were carried out using an intermittent microwave dryer (Arçelik, MD 592, Turkey) with operating conditions of 50 Hz, 2900 W, and ~ 10 A. The oven's microwave function can operate at eight different output power ranging from 90 to 1000 W. Convective drying function can be adjusted to nine different temperatures between 50 and 250 °C. Also, an air velocity of  $1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  is produced with the help of a fan mounted in the middle of the oven's inner-rear wall during convective drying. The oven's magnetron, which produces microwave energy, provides energy for 30 s and cuts the energy for the next 30 s. Thus, the intermittent function is completed. Simultaneously, in cases where the microwave energy is activated or passivized, the 280 cm glass rotary table, where the products are placed in the oven, changes the direction of rotation to the right or left. Thus, more uniform heating is provided on the surfaces of the products. Microwave output powers of 90, 160, 350, 500, 650, 750, 850, and 1000 W were used during the microwave drying, while convective drying trials were fulfilled at 50, 75, 100, and 125 °C along with  $1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  air velocity. The mass loss due to time in the dried product was measured by a system that automatically saves the results obtained from a precision

scale attached to the bottom of the glass rotary table where the products are placed. By using the initial and final masses of the products kept in an oven at 105 °C for 24 h, the initial moisture content was determined using the following equation:

$$M_o = \frac{W_{\text{water}}}{W_{\text{DM}}} \tag{1}$$

where  $M_o$  is the initial moisture content of orange slices (kg water kg<sup>-1</sup> dry matter),  $W_{\text{water}}$  is the water mass of the product (g), and  $W_{\text{DM}}$  is the dry mass of the product (g).

The drying rate ( $DR$ ) and moisture content ( $MR$ ) were, respectively, calculated using the following equations:

$$DR = \frac{M_{t+dt} - M_t}{d_t} \tag{2}$$

$$MR = \frac{M - M_e}{M_o - M_e} \tag{3}$$

where  $DR$  is the drying rate (kg water kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>),  $M_{t+dt}$  is the moisture content at  $t + d_t$  time (kg water kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup>),  $M_t$  is the moisture content at  $t$  time (kg water kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup>),  $d_t$  is the drying time at  $t$  time (min),  $MR$  is the moisture content,  $M$  is the moisture content at any time (kg water kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup>),  $M_o$  is the initial moisture content of the material (kg water kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup>), and  $M_e$  is the equilibrium moisture content (kg water kg<sub>DM</sub><sup>-1</sup>). Since the drying time is short and drying is provided under controlled conditions,  $M_e$  is accepted as zero [25].

In each drying experiment, the energy consumption was determined using a single-phase electricity meter (Makel, M600 2251, Turkey) connected directly to the dryer [26].

### Effective moisture diffusivity and activation energy

Experimental data was explained by Fick's diffusion equation [27]. Fick's second law of unsteady-state diffusion is shown in Eq. (4).

$$MR = \frac{M - M_e}{M_o - M_e} = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n + 1)^2} \exp\left(-\frac{(2n + 1)^2 D_{\text{eff}} \pi^2}{4L^2} t\right) \tag{4}$$

For extended drying times, Eq. (4) was rearranged, replacing "n" with 1.

$$MR = \frac{M - M_e}{M_o - M_e} = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \exp\left(-\frac{D_{\text{eff}} \pi^2}{4L^2} t\right) \tag{5}$$

$$\ln(MR) = \ln\left(\frac{8}{\pi^2}\right) - \left(-\frac{D_{\text{eff}} \pi^2}{4L^2}\right) t \tag{6}$$

Diffusivities of orange slices were found by plotting experimental data regarding  $\ln(MR)$  versus drying time  $t$  in Eq. (6) since the plot gave a straight line with a slope as the following equation:

$$\text{Slope} = \frac{\partial^2 D_{\text{eff}}}{4L^2} \tag{7}$$

As the temperature is not a measurable variable in microwave drying, the Arrhenius equation was rearranged to determine the relationship between the kinetic rate constant and the microwave output power ratio to sample amount instead of the temperature for calculation of the activation energy. In convective drying, since the temperature is a measurable parameter, the absolute temperature was used instead of microwave output power in the equation. The activation energy for microwave drying was calculated using Eq. (8) and Eq. (9), while for convective drying, it was determined using Eqs. (10) and (11) [28, 29].

$$k = k_o \exp\left(\frac{-E_a m}{P}\right) \tag{8}$$

$$D_{\text{eff}} = D_o \exp\left(\frac{-E_a m}{P}\right) \tag{9}$$

where  $k$  is the drying rate constant obtained by using the modified Henderson and Pabis' equation (min<sup>-1</sup>),  $k_o$  is the pre-exponential constant (min<sup>-1</sup>),  $D_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective moisture diffusivity (m<sup>2</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>),  $D_o$  is the pre-exponential factor (m<sup>2</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>),  $E_a$  is the activation energy (W g<sup>-1</sup>),  $P$  is the microwave output power (W), and  $m$  is the mass of fresh material (g).

$$k = k_o \exp\left(\frac{-E_a}{RT}\right) \tag{10}$$

$$D_{\text{eff}} = D_o \exp\left(\frac{-E_a}{RT}\right) \tag{11}$$

where  $E_a$  is the activation energy (kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>),  $T$  is the absolute temperature (K), and  $R$  is the universal gas constant (8.314 × 10<sup>-3</sup> kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>).

The relationship between the theoretical drying rate constant ( $k_{\text{th}}$ ) and the theoretical effective moisture diffusivity was shown in the following equation:

$$k_{\text{th}} = A(D_{\text{eff}})_{\text{th}} \tag{12}$$

where  $k_{\text{th}}$  is the theoretical drying rate constant (min<sup>-1</sup>),  $(D_{\text{eff}})_{\text{th}}$  is the effective theoretical diffusivity (m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>), and  $A$  is the stabilization constant (s min<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-2</sup>).

## Determined of thermal properties

Some thermal properties of orange slices, namely specific heat, thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, and thermal effusivity, as a function of moisture content according to the dry base, were determined via calculation. Specific heat was calculated using the following equation (Eq. 13) [30]:

$$C_p = 837 + 3348 \left( \frac{X}{1+X} \right) \quad (13)$$

where  $C_p$  is the specific heat ( $\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$ ), and  $X$  is the moisture content as the dry base at any time ( $\text{kg water kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1}$ ).

The thermal conductivity of orange slices in microwave and convective drying was determined by the following equation (Eq. 14) [31].

$$k = 0.49 - 0.44 \exp(-0.206X) \quad (14)$$

where  $k$  is the thermal conductivity ( $\text{W m}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$ ).

In calculating the thermal diffusivity of the drying material, it is important to determine the drying material's density primarily. Density was detected by the following equation (Eq. 15) [32, 33]:

$$\rho = 147.95 \left( \frac{X}{X_0} \right) + 691.46 \quad (15)$$

where  $\rho$  is the density ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ ), and  $X_0$  is the initial moisture content ( $\text{kg water kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1}$ ).

Equation 16 shows thermal diffusivity [31, 34], while Eq. 17 used in calculation thermal effusivity [35, 36].

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{\rho C_p} \quad (16)$$

$$e = \sqrt{k \rho C_p} \quad (17)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the thermal diffusivity ( $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ), and  $e$  is the thermal effusivity ( $\text{W s}^{1/2} \text{m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-1}$ ).

## Color parameters, browning index, and whitening index

Color measurements of orange slices were carried out using an automatically calibrated colorimeter (Konika Minolta CR10, Japan), measuring according to the CIE Lab method [37]. Accordingly,  $L$ , which refers to brightness,  $a$ , which is represented redness, and  $b$ , which is attributed to yellowness, were measured using the colorimeter; however,  $C$ , namely Chroma, and  $\alpha^\circ$ , called hue angle, were calculated using the following equations through  $a$  and  $b$ .

$$C = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \quad (18)$$

$$\alpha^\circ = -\tan \frac{b}{a} \quad (19)$$

However, the total color change ( $\Delta E$ ) was calculated using the following equation. As the numerical value of the total color change increases, the change in color compared to the fresh product also increases.

$$\Delta E = \sqrt{(L_f - L_d)^2 + (a_f - a_d)^2 + (b_f - b_d)^2} \quad (20)$$

where  $\Delta E$  is the total color change;  $L_f$ ,  $a_f$ , and  $b_f$  are the brightness, redness, and yellowness of the fresh product,  $L_d$ ,  $a_d$ , and  $b_d$  are the brightness, redness, and yellowness of the dried ones, respectively.

Another indicator showing the change in color is the browning index ( $BI$ ) and is calculated using the equations below. As the numerical value of the browning index increases, the darkening that occurs in the product also increases [38].

$$x = \frac{a + (1.75 \times L)}{[(5.645 \times L) + (a - (3.012 \times b))]} \quad (21)$$

$$BI = \frac{[100 \times (x - 0.31)]}{0.17} \quad (22)$$

One of the markers representing the darkening of the product is also the whitening index ( $WI$ ), and it was calculated with the following equation depending on  $L$ ,  $a$ , and  $b$  [39].

$$WI = 100 - \sqrt{(100 - L)^2 + a^2 + b^2} \quad (23)$$

## Determination of vitamin C

Vitamin C was analyzed according to the method outlined in our previous study [26]. The analysis was performed with a high-performance liquid chromatographic HPLC (PerkinElmer, Waltham, Massachusetts, U.S) method and a C18 SDS column (PerkinElmer, Waltham, Massachusetts, U.S).

## Data analysis

The averages of drying data and the standard errors of the estimate along with ANOVA tests were analyzed using the JMP 7 statistical program. All drying trials were performed with three replications and color parameters with twenty-one replications.

Time-dependent moisture ratios ( $MR$ ) obtained from drying trials were modeled with NLREG2.0 statistical program using 21 different thin-layer drying equations (Eqs. 24–44) defined in Table 1. The same statistical program calculated drying constants and coefficients in the thin layer

**Table 1** Mathematical thin-layer drying models used for the approximation [37]

Model no	Model name	Model equation	Eq. no.
1	Lewis	$M_R = \exp(-kt)$	(24)
2	Page	$M_R = \exp(-kt^n)$	(25)
3	Modified Page	$M_R = \exp[-(kt)^n]$	(26)
4	Henderson and Pabis	$M_R = a \exp(-kt)$	(27)
5	Yagcioglu et al. (Logarithmic)	$M_R = a \exp(-kt) + c$	(28)
6	Two-term	$M_R = a \exp(-k_0t) + b \exp(-k_1t)$	(29)
7	Two-term exponential (Approximation of diffusion)	$M_R = a \exp(-kt) + (1 - a) \exp(-kat)$	(30)
8	Wang and Singh	$M_R = 1 + at + bt^2$	(31)
9	Thomson	$t = a. \ln(M_R) + b[\ln(M_R)]^2$	(32)
10	Diffusion approach	$M_R = a \exp(-kt) + (1 - a) \exp(-kbt)$	(33)
11	Verma et al	$M_R = a \exp(-kt) + (1 - a) \exp(-gt)$	(34)
12	Modified Henderson and Pabis	$M_R = a \exp(-kt) + b \exp(-gt) + c \exp(-ht)$	(35)
13	Simplified Fick's diffusion (SFFD) equation	$M_R = a \exp[-c(t/L^2)]$	(36)
14	Modified Page equation-II	$M_R = \exp[-k(t/L^2)^n]$	(37)
15	Midilli et al	$M_R = a \exp(-kt^n) + bt$	(38)
16	Weibull distribution	$M_R = a - b \exp[-(kt)^n]$	(39)
17	Aghbashlo et al.	$M_R = \exp(-k_1t/1 + k_2t)$	(40)
18	Logistic	$M_R = a_0/(1 + a \exp(kt))$	(41)
19	Jena and Das	$M_R = a \exp(-kt + b\sqrt{t}) + c$	(42)
20	Demir et al	$M_R = a \exp(-kt)^n + c$	(43)
21	Alibas	$M_R = a \exp((-kt^n) + (bt)) + g$	(44)

$M_R$ , moisture ratio;  $a, a_0, b, c, g, h$ , coefficients and  $n$ , microwave drying exponent specific to each equation;  $k, k_0, k_1, k_2$ , drying coefficient specific to each equation;  $t$ , time;  $L$ , thickness

drying equations. The equation with the closest results to the experimental data was chosen as the most successful drying model. The same statistical program determined the regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) and the standard error of the estimate ( $SEE$ ) between the measured and estimated data using thin-layer drying equations. However, the root-mean-square error ( $RMSE$ ) and Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) were calculated using the following equations:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (MR_{pre, i} - MR_{exp, i})^2}{N}} \tag{45}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (MR_{exp, i} - MR_{pre, i})^2}{N - n_i} \tag{46}$$

where  $RMSE$  is the root-mean-square error,  $MR_{exp, i}$  is the experimental moisture ratio found in any measurement,  $MR_{pre, i}$  is the predicted moisture ratio for this measurement,  $N$  is the total number of observations, and  $n_i$  is the number of constants.

The regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ), the standard error of the estimate ( $SEE$ ), the root-mean-square error ( $RMSE$ ), and Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) were taken as the basis for the selection of the most successful model. Regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ), which should be

as close to 1.00 as possible in order to define the model as successful, was the main criterion that enabled a rough selection among thin-layer drying equations. For this reason, the highest  $R^2$  was a very important guide in choosing the best model. When the  $R^2$  of two or more of the thin layer drying equations were the same,  $SEE$ ,  $RMSE$ , and  $\chi^2$  were used to determine the most successful model, respectively. The second criterion for the selection of the most successful model was the proximity of  $SEE$ ,  $RMSE$ , and  $\chi^2$  to 0.00. When similar  $R^2$  values were detected, the proximity of these three statistical indicators to 0.00 was examined, respectively. Consequently, the equation or equations that give the closest results to the experimental data are defined as the most successful model.

The parameter  $k$  of modified Henderson and Pabis' equation along with  $k_0, D_0$ , and  $E_0$  parameters were calculated through the same statistical program, which automatically calculated the coefficient of regression ( $R^2$ ) and the standard error of the estimate ( $SEE$ ).

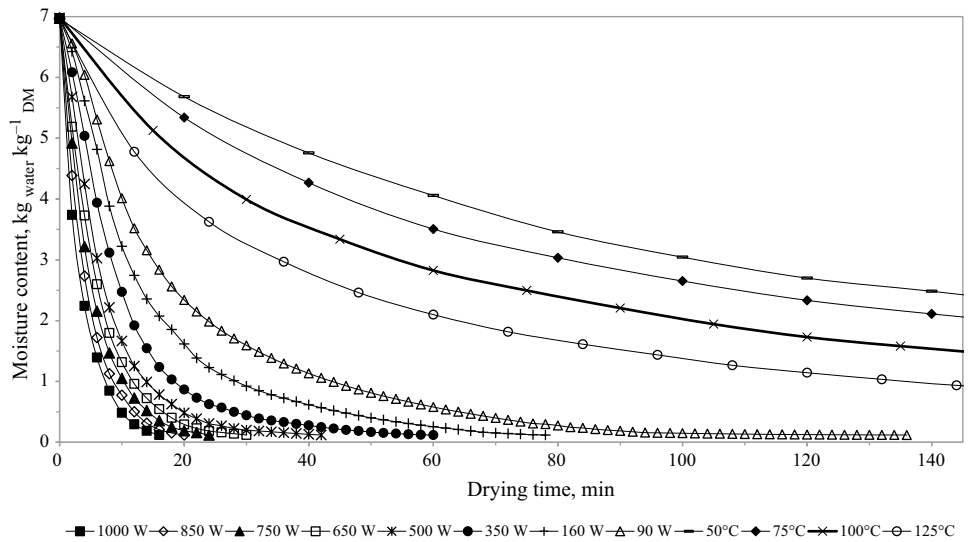
## Results and discussion

### Drying process

The drying time-dependent moisture content of the orange slices is presented in Fig. 1. Accordingly, orange slices with initial moisture of  $6.97 \pm 0.02 \text{ kg}_{\text{water}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1}$  were dried by convective drying at 50, 75, 100, and 125 °C and microwave drying at 90, 160, 350, 500, 650, 750, 850, and 1000 W until their final moisture was  $0.12 \pm 0.01 \text{ kg}_{\text{water}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1}$ . While the most extended method was convective drying at 50 °C, the shortest one was microwave drying at 1000 W, the highest microwave output power. In microwave drying, the drying time decreased significantly as the microwave output power increased. However, increasing the drying temperature caused a significant shortening of the drying time in convective drying. Drying time at

1000 W, the shortest drying method, was 8.5 times shorter than 90 W with the longest drying time for the microwave drying technique, while 195 times shorter than 50 °C. Convective drying at 50 °C was about 23 times longer than 90 W, the longest-lasting microwave drying technique. The 125 °C dried the orange slices approximately 7 times faster than 50 °C and nearly 3 and 29 times slower than 90 W and 1000 W. Shu et al. [40] dehydrated citrus fruit by microwave drying and determined drying times at 800, 700, and 600 W to be 18, 36, and 38 min, respectively. Their measurements of drying times were in parallel with our study. Talens et al. [19] emphasized that the drying time of orange peels dried with the microwave technique decreases with the increase of the applied power density. Darvishi et al. [41] assigned that by drying lemon slices at 720 W instead of 180 W, there was an 83% reduction in the drying period.

**Fig.1** Microwave and convective drying curves of orange slices on dry basis



**Fig.2** Microwave and convective drying rates of the orange slices

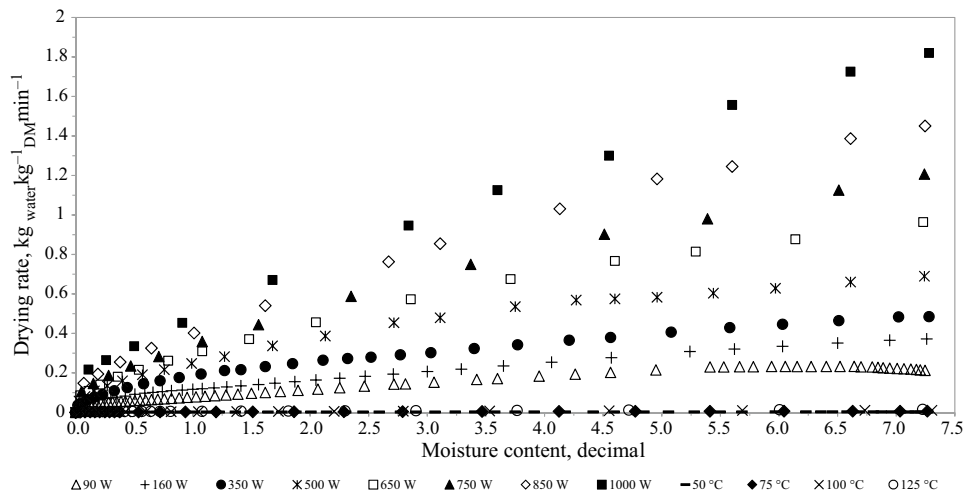




Figure 2 represents the drying rate dependent on moisture content. According to the figure, the average drying rate increased with the increase in microwave power output power, in other words, with the decrease in drying time. Also, the average drying rate increased with the rise in ambient temperature in convective drying. Accordingly, the average drying rate determined at 1000 W was approximately 5 times higher than at 90 W, while it was 334 times higher than at 50 °C. However, the average drying rate at 1000 W was 57, 40, and 16% higher than at 650, 750, and 850 W, respectively. The average drying rate increased 3.38 times as the temperature increased from 50 to 125 °C. Since the drying time was much shorter at microwave output powers between 1000 and 500 W, the constant-rate drying period was not observed; that is, the drying process took place in the falling-rate drying period from the beginning to the end. On the other hand, a constant-rate drying period occurred at the end of the drying periods at microwave powers between 350 and 90 W. Also, the constant-rate drying period was monitored at the end of the convective drying processes. Li et al. [15] underlined that the drying rate in convective drying increases with the increase of the applied temperature and the shortening of the drying time. Shu et al. [40] reported that the average drying rate of citrus peel increased with increasing microwave power. Similarly, Darvishi et al. [41] keynoted that the increase in the microwave power density applied to the lemon slices caused the drying rate to increase significantly.

### Modeling of drying data

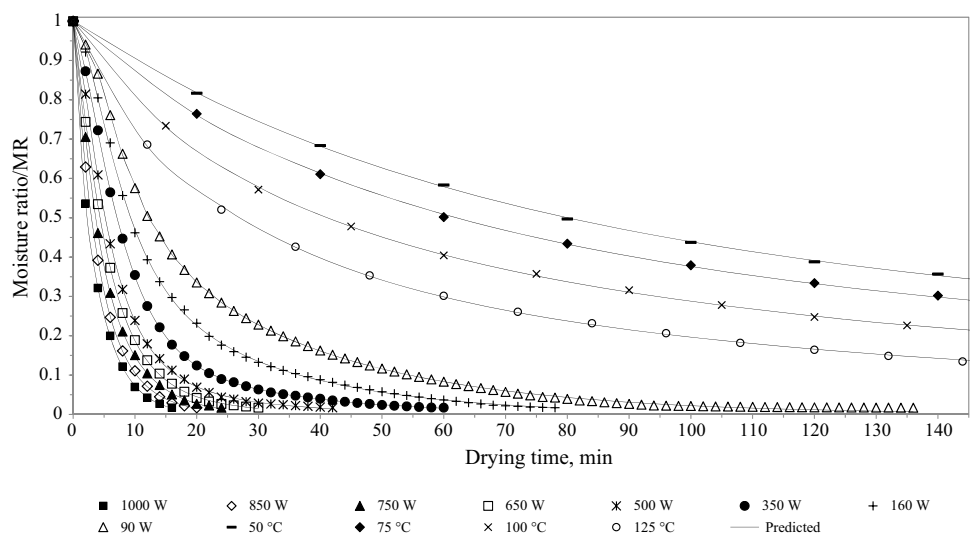
Figure 3 highlights measured and predicted moisture ratios corresponding to drying time. In the figure, predictions of the most successful models are used in determining predicted moisture ratios. Accordingly, in the 8<sup>th</sup> minute,

corresponding to half of the total drying time at 1000 W, 88% of the total separable moisture evaporated from the orange slices via mass transfer. At 850, 750, 650, 500, 350, 160, and 90 W during the 8th minute of drying, this value was about 84, 79, 74, 68, 55, 44, and 34%, respectively. In convective drying processes at 50, 75, 100, and 125 °C, approximately 88% of the total separable moisture evaporated from the orange slices at 540, 210, 135, and 90 min, respectively. Shu et al. [40] reported that during the sixth minute of the drying period, during the drying of citrus peel at 800 W, 84% of the detachable moisture evaporated from the product, whereas at 500 W, only 48% of the moisture evaporated during the same period. Darvishi et al. [41] stated that during the drying of lemon slices at 720 W, 92.5% of the detachable moisture evaporated from the slices in the second minute of drying, but 60% of the moisture was removed from the product in a similar time at 180 W.

Table 2 shows the regression coefficient (*R*<sup>2</sup>), the standard error of the estimate (*SEE*), the root-mean-square error (*RMSE*), and Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) between the experimental data and the predicted data obtained with thin-layer drying equations. According to the table, the experimental data's closest estimates were obtained with the Modified Henderson and Pabis equation in all output powers of microwave drying and all ambient temperatures of convective drying.

Table 3 represents statistical results and coefficients obtained from the Modified Henderson-Pabis thin-layer drying equation for the different microwave power densities. All microwave power densities' regression coefficients were ranged from 0.9997 and 1.000. However, it was ranged from 0.9980 and 0.9999 at convective drying. As both the microwave power density and ambient temperature decreased, the numerical value of *k*, called drying constant, declined, as well.

**Fig. 3** The change of moisture ratio with drying time (prediction data were obtained from Modified Henderson and Pabis's model)



**Table 2** Statistical results obtained from different thin-layer drying models for the different drying methods

Model No	$R^2$	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$	$R^2$	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$
	1000 W				850 W			
1	0.9978	0.0152	8.4430 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.0194 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9996	0.0062	7.1129 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.5653 10 <sup>-05</sup>
2	0.9998	0.0044	2.6740 10 <sup>-03</sup>	9.1929 10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.9998	0.0045	3.3262 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.3523 10 <sup>-05</sup>
3	0.9978	0.0163	8.4430 10 <sup>-03</sup>	9.1651 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9996	0.0065	7.1129 10 <sup>-03</sup>	6.1837 10 <sup>-05</sup>
4	0.9980	0.0154	1.1728 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.7684 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9996	0.0064	7.9584 10 <sup>-03</sup>	7.7411 10 <sup>-05</sup>
5	0.9987	0.0134	1.8712 10 <sup>-09</sup>	5.2519 10 <sup>-18</sup>	0.9999	0.0038	2.2177 10 <sup>-16</sup>	6.7624 10 <sup>-32</sup>
6	1.0000	0.0023	2.9109 10 <sup>-04</sup>	1.5252 10 <sup>-07</sup>	0.9999	0.0036	8.9850 10 <sup>-04</sup>	1.2686 10 <sup>-06</sup>
7	0.9996	0.0071	1.1676 10 <sup>-04</sup>	1.7527 10 <sup>-08</sup>	0.9999	0.0032	9.9601 10 <sup>-04</sup>	1.2125 10 <sup>-06</sup>
8	0.9397	0.0854	5.2214 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.5053 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9429	0.0789	5.4896 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.6833 10 <sup>-03</sup>
9	0.9995	0.0312	1.0732 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.4807 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9985	0.0688	1.2558 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.9276 10 <sup>-04</sup>
10	0.9997	0.0063	2.1217 10 <sup>-03</sup>	6.7522 10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.9999	0.0033	1.8263 10 <sup>-04</sup>	4.5860 10 <sup>-08</sup>
11	1.0000	0.0023	4.6433 10 <sup>-04</sup>	3.2340 10 <sup>-07</sup>	0.9999	0.0032	2.6512 10 <sup>-04</sup>	9.6649 10 <sup>-08</sup>
12	1.0000	0.0029	8.2955 10 <sup>-05</sup>	2.0644 10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.0000	0.0027	1.3435 10 <sup>-04</sup>	3.9709 10 <sup>-08</sup>
13	0.9980	0.0167	1.1728 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.0631 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9996	0.0068	7.9584 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.7088 10 <sup>-05</sup>
14	0.9998	0.0048	2.6740 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.0725 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9998	0.0047	3.3262 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.5213 10 <sup>-05</sup>
15	0.9999	0.0037	1.5564 10 <sup>-04</sup>	4.3605 10 <sup>-08</sup>	0.9999	0.0040	2.0012 10 <sup>-04</sup>	6.2930 10 <sup>-08</sup>
16	0.9999	0.0034	2.3922 10 <sup>-12</sup>	1.0301 10 <sup>-23</sup>	0.9999	0.0038	1.0129 10 <sup>-14</sup>	1.6123 10 <sup>-28</sup>
17	0.9994	0.0085	4.0209 10 <sup>-03</sup>	2.0787 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9999	0.0032	9.9876 10 <sup>-04</sup>	1.2192 10 <sup>-06</sup>
18	0.9980	0.0167	5.5559 10 <sup>-03</sup>	4.6303 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9996	0.0068	7.9584 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.7088 10 <sup>-05</sup>
19	1.0000	0.0027	3.9991 10 <sup>-13</sup>	2.8787 10 <sup>-25</sup>	0.9999	0.0039	5.8460 10 <sup>-12</sup>	5.3704 10 <sup>-23</sup>
20	0.9987	0.0147	1.6136 10 <sup>-08</sup>	4.6867 10 <sup>-16</sup>	0.9999	0.0040	1.1742 10 <sup>-08</sup>	2.1665 10 <sup>-16</sup>
21	1.0000	0.0028	1.0081 10 <sup>-10</sup>	2.2865 10 <sup>-20</sup>	0.9999	0.0041	1.3611 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.9111 10 <sup>-22</sup>
<i>No</i>	750 W				650 W			
1	0.9992	0.0084	7.6426 10 <sup>-03</sup>	6.3277 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9990	0.0092	1.0363 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.1454 10 <sup>-04</sup>
2	0.9993	0.0086	8.9695 10 <sup>-03</sup>	9.5080 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9991	0.0090	1.3506 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.0848 10 <sup>-04</sup>
3	0.9992	0.0088	7.6425 10 <sup>-03</sup>	6.9028 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9990	0.0096	1.0363 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.2272 10 <sup>-04</sup>
4	0.9993	0.0086	6.4101 10 <sup>-03</sup>	4.8561 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9991	0.0091	8.6633 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.5774 10 <sup>-05</sup>
5	0.9994	0.0080	9.8313 10 <sup>-15</sup>	1.2565 10 <sup>-28</sup>	0.9993	0.0083	8.1177 10 <sup>-14</sup>	8.1105 10 <sup>-27</sup>
6	0.9994	0.0083	1.3539 10 <sup>-04</sup>	2.6476 10 <sup>-08</sup>	0.9994	0.0082	6.0212 10 <sup>-04</sup>	4.8340 10 <sup>-07</sup>
7	0.9992	0.0088	7.6426 10 <sup>-03</sup>	6.9030 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9990	0.0095	1.2548 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.7994 10 <sup>-04</sup>
8	0.9461	0.0742	5.5431 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.6313 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9333	0.0786	6.7897 10 <sup>-02</sup>	5.2686 10 <sup>-03</sup>
9	0.9983	0.0836	3.7629 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.6734 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9956	0.1638	8.9488 10 <sup>-02</sup>	9.1521 10 <sup>-03</sup>
10	0.9993	0.0083	3.7914 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.8687 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9991	0.0090	4.7698 10 <sup>-03</sup>	2.8001 10 <sup>-05</sup>
11	0.9994	0.0084	2.3323 10 <sup>-03</sup>	7.0717 10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.9992	0.0087	2.6440 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.6039 10 <sup>-06</sup>
12	0.9999	0.0044	5.4766 10 <sup>-04</sup>	5.5702 10 <sup>-07</sup>	0.9999	0.0029	2.4054 10 <sup>-04</sup>	9.2574 10 <sup>-08</sup>
13	0.9993	0.0090	6.4101 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.3416 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9991	0.0095	8.6632 10 <sup>-03</sup>	9.2371 10 <sup>-05</sup>
14	0.9993	0.0091	8.9695 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.0459 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9991	0.0094	1.3506 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.2452 10 <sup>-04</sup>
15	0.9996	0.0069	5.9035 10 <sup>-04</sup>	5.0341 10 <sup>-07</sup>	0.9997	0.0053	6.8159 10 <sup>-04</sup>	6.1942 10 <sup>-07</sup>
16	0.9997	0.0064	2.3094 10 <sup>-16</sup>	7.7037 10 <sup>-32</sup>	0.9998	0.0046	1.4781 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.9132 10 <sup>-22</sup>
17	0.9993	0.0087	6.1252 10 <sup>-03</sup>	4.4340 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9990	0.0096	1.0184 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.1854 10 <sup>-04</sup>
18	0.9993	0.0090	6.4103 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.3419 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9991	0.0094	1.0784 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.4313 10 <sup>-04</sup>
19	0.9998	0.0054	1.8413 10 <sup>-12</sup>	4.8975 10 <sup>-24</sup>	0.9999	0.0038	2.1915 10 <sup>-12</sup>	6.4038 10 <sup>-24</sup>
20	0.9994	0.0084	1.4696 10 <sup>-07</sup>	3.1194 10 <sup>-14</sup>	0.9993	0.0087	3.2314 10 <sup>-11</sup>	1.3922 10 <sup>-21</sup>
21	0.9997	0.0067	7.2282 10 <sup>-12</sup>	8.4902 10 <sup>-23</sup>	0.9998	0.0046	8.6897 10 <sup>-12</sup>	1.0983 10 <sup>-22</sup>
Model No	$R^2$	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$	$R^2$	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$
	500 W				350 W			
1	0.9961	0.0173	2.7411 10 <sup>-02</sup>	7.8714 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9935	0.0213	4.7630 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.3443 10 <sup>-03</sup>
2	0.9966	0.0167	3.5713 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.4030 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9939	0.0210	5.7109 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.4864 10 <sup>-03</sup>
3	0.9961	0.0177	2.7411 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.2650 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9935	0.0216	4.7630 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.4251 10 <sup>-03</sup>



**Table 2** (continued)

Model No	R <sup>2</sup>	SEE	RMSE	χ <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	SEE	RMSE	χ <sup>2</sup>
4	0.9966	0.0165	2.4077 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.3770 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9944	0.0202	4.4440 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.1111 10 <sup>-03</sup>
5	0.9976	0.0143	1.4202 10 <sup>-13</sup>	2.3356 10 <sup>-26</sup>	0.9968	0.0155	1.7498 10 <sup>-10</sup>	3.3900 10 <sup>-20</sup>
6	0.9977	0.0143	4.8308 10 <sup>-04</sup>	2.8522 10 <sup>-07</sup>	0.9968	0.0158	6.6503 10 <sup>-05</sup>	5.0779 10 <sup>-09</sup>
7	0.9961	0.0176	2.4194 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.4389 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9938	0.0212	3.7579 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.5096 10 <sup>-03</sup>
8	0.8821	0.0976	1.0017 10 <sup>-01</sup>	1.1037 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.8450	0.1057	1.3098 10 <sup>-01</sup>	1.8338 10 <sup>-02</sup>
9	0.9874	0.3729	2.4502 10 <sup>-01</sup>	6.6037 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9959	0.2955	3.4141 10 <sup>-01</sup>	1.2460 10 <sup>-01</sup>
10	0.9968	0.0162	9.6532 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.0790 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9952	0.0187	1.4011 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.1734 10 <sup>-04</sup>
11	0.9970	0.0160	7.3940 10 <sup>-03</sup>	6.3303 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9953	0.0187	1.2105 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.6224 10 <sup>-04</sup>
12	0.9998	0.0049	2.8235 10 <sup>-04</sup>	1.0961 10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.0000	0.0019	3.9374 10 <sup>-06</sup>	1.9224 10 <sup>-11</sup>
13	0.9966	0.0169	2.4077 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.7126 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9944	0.0205	4.4440 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.1865 10 <sup>-03</sup>
14	0.9966	0.0171	3.5713 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.4768 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9939	0.0213	5.7109 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.6109 10 <sup>-03</sup>
15	0.9988	0.0106	2.6908 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.8496 10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.9978	0.0130	5.4599 10 <sup>-03</sup>	3.4227 10 <sup>-05</sup>
16	0.9991	0.0090	2.3167 10 <sup>-10</sup>	6.5600 10 <sup>-20</sup>	0.9986	0.0103	1.0376 10 <sup>-09</sup>	1.2362 10 <sup>-18</sup>
17	0.9961	0.0177	2.5707 10 <sup>-02</sup>	7.2693 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9937	0.0213	3.6655 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.4362 10 <sup>-03</sup>
18	0.9967	0.0169	2.7432 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.7136 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9944	0.0205	4.4439 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.1864 10 <sup>-03</sup>
19	0.9996	0.0062	2.5113 10 <sup>-09</sup>	7.7084 10 <sup>-18</sup>	0.9992	0.0078	1.5639 10 <sup>-13</sup>	2.8082 10 <sup>-26</sup>
20	0.9976	0.0147	2.7690 10 <sup>-07</sup>	9.3711 10 <sup>-14</sup>	0.9968	0.0158	1.7892 10 <sup>-08</sup>	3.6755 10 <sup>-16</sup>
21	0.9992	0.0087	1.1367 10 <sup>-13</sup>	1.5793 10 <sup>-26</sup>	0.9988	0.0098	8.7709 10 <sup>-12</sup>	9.1724 10 <sup>-23</sup>
No	160 W	90 W						
1	0.9907	0.0248	6.4089 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.2127 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9899	0.0245	6.0887 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.8163 10 <sup>-03</sup>
2	0.9913	0.0243	5.1243 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.7640 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9938	0.0195	3.1436 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.0481 10 <sup>-03</sup>
3	0.9907	0.0251	6.4089 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.3235 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9899	0.0249	6.0887 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.9319 10 <sup>-03</sup>
4	0.9909	0.0249	6.3413 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.2329 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9901	0.0246	6.1346 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.9915 10 <sup>-03</sup>
5	0.9958	0.0171	1.4189 10 <sup>-12</sup>	2.1764 10 <sup>-24</sup>	0.9948	0.0182	1.9917 10 <sup>-08</sup>	4.3386 10 <sup>-16</sup>
6	0.9965	0.0159	1.1909 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.5759 10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.9972	0.0136	6.1038 10 <sup>-05</sup>	4.2063 10 <sup>-09</sup>
7	0.9907	0.0251	6.4089 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.3235 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9957	0.0163	2.5835 10 <sup>-02</sup>	7.0789 10 <sup>-04</sup>
8	0.8519	0.1002	1.4268 10 <sup>-01</sup>	2.1428 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.7565	0.1224	1.8428 10 <sup>-01</sup>	3.6016 10 <sup>-02</sup>
9	0.9973	0.3053	7.8300 10 <sup>-04</sup>	6.4536 10 <sup>-07</sup>	0.9779	1.5446	3.7485 10 <sup>-01</sup>	1.4903 10 <sup>-01</sup>
10	0.9945	0.0194	2.1361 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.9330 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9966	0.0144	7.2088 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.6839 10 <sup>-05</sup>
11	0.9948	0.0191	1.3511 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.9734 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9966	0.0146	6.3057 10 <sup>-03</sup>	4.3490 10 <sup>-05</sup>
12	0.9997	0.0044	5.0070 10 <sup>-04</sup>	2.9494 10 <sup>-07</sup>	0.9997	0.0049	3.2364 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.2641 10 <sup>-05</sup>
13	0.9909	0.0252	6.3413 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.3473 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9901	0.0250	6.1346 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.1162 10 <sup>-03</sup>
14	0.9913	0.0246	5.1243 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.8387 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9938	0.0198	3.1436 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.0809 10 <sup>-03</sup>
15	0.9950	0.0189	5.4451 10 <sup>-03</sup>	3.2944 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9782	0.0372	1.1589 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.5164 10 <sup>-04</sup>
16	0.9959	0.0172	6.2286 10 <sup>-11</sup>	4.3107 10 <sup>-21</sup>	0.9997	0.0067	2.9312 10 <sup>-12</sup>	9.7008 10 <sup>-24</sup>
17	0.9938	0.0205	2.4183 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.1560 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9964	0.0148	7.2516 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.5772 10 <sup>-05</sup>
18	0.9909	0.0252	6.3413 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.3473 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9901	0.0250	6.1347 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.1162 10 <sup>-03</sup>
19	0.9964	0.0160	6.9064 10 <sup>-12</sup>	5.2999 10 <sup>-23</sup>	0.9950	0.0181	1.1544 10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.5045 10 <sup>-20</sup>
20	0.9958	0.0173	3.2921 10 <sup>-08</sup>	1.2042 10 <sup>-15</sup>	0.9948	0.0184	6.3201 10 <sup>-10</sup>	4.5097 10 <sup>-19</sup>
21	0.9959	0.0174	5.2653 10 <sup>-11</sup>	3.0804 10 <sup>-21</sup>	0.9959	0.0167	9.3175 10 <sup>-11</sup>	1.0128 10 <sup>-20</sup>
Model No	R <sup>2</sup>	SEE	RMSE	χ <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	SEE	RMSE	χ <sup>2</sup>
	50 °C				75 °C			
1	0.9348	0.0569	2.2548 10 <sup>-01</sup>	5.1899 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9608	0.0513	8.9461 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.3230 10 <sup>-03</sup>
2	0.9904	0.0221	5.2326 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.8540 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9983	0.0108	1.3328 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.9200 10 <sup>-04</sup>
3	0.9348	0.0575	2.2548 10 <sup>-01</sup>	5.3004 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9608	0.0523	8.9461 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.6700 10 <sup>-03</sup>
4	0.9464	0.0521	2.1635 10 <sup>-01</sup>	4.8799 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9715	0.0447	9.5814 10 <sup>-02</sup>	9.9450 10 <sup>-03</sup>
5	0.9796	0.0325	5.0800 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.7400 10 <sup>-21</sup>	0.9847	0.0334	7.7700 10 <sup>-11</sup>	6.8200 10 <sup>-21</sup>
6	0.9989	0.0076	9.6740 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.0200 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9997	0.0051	6.8960 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.6200 10 <sup>-05</sup>
7	0.9584	0.0459	1.8608 10 <sup>-01</sup>	3.6098 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9835	0.0340	6.4181 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.4620 10 <sup>-03</sup>

**Table 2** (continued)

Model No	R <sup>2</sup>	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$	R <sup>2</sup>	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$
8	0.9789	0.0365	2.7833 10 <sup>-02</sup>	9.4700 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9777	0.0384	2.4625 10 <sup>-02</sup>	4.3300 10 <sup>-04</sup>
9	0.9986	2.0095	4.6701 10 <sup>-01</sup>	2.9080 10 <sup>-01</sup>	0.9996	3.1298	8.2246 10 <sup>-01</sup>	7.8051 10 <sup>-01</sup>
10	0.9348	0.0581	2.2548 10 <sup>-01</sup>	5.4156 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9533	0.0610	6.6078 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.6780 10 <sup>-03</sup>
11	0.9988	0.0078	8.2010 10 <sup>-03</sup>	7.1600 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9996	0.0051	6.4860 10 <sup>-03</sup>	4.7600 10 <sup>-05</sup>
12	0.9998	0.0034	7.3400 10 <sup>-03</sup>	6.1000 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9999	0.0029	3.5530 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.6400 10 <sup>-05</sup>
13	0.9464	0.0527	2.1635 10 <sup>-01</sup>	4.9860 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9715	0.0456	9.5814 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.0378 10 <sup>-02</sup>
14	0.9904	0.0223	5.2325 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.9170 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9983	0.0111	1.3328 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.0100 10 <sup>-04</sup>
15	0.9944	0.0172	8.6650 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.1800 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9987	0.0098	1.6130 10 <sup>-03</sup>	3.0700 10 <sup>-06</sup>
16	0.9959	0.0148	1.4000 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.1400 10 <sup>-22</sup>	0.9989	0.0093	1.3200 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.0600 10 <sup>-22</sup>
17	0.9971	0.0121	1.3558 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.9200 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9957	0.0173	1.7632 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.3700 10 <sup>-04</sup>
18	0.9464	0.0527	2.1635 10 <sup>-01</sup>	4.9860 10 <sup>-02</sup>	0.9715	0.0456	9.5814 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.0378 10 <sup>-02</sup>
19	0.9934	0.0187	1.3000 10 <sup>-09</sup>	1.8400 10 <sup>-18</sup>	0.9977	0.0133	6.2000 10 <sup>-10</sup>	4.5400 10 <sup>-19</sup>
20	0.9796	0.0328	9.9700 10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.0800 10 <sup>-12</sup>	0.9847	0.0341	1.1000 10 <sup>-06</sup>	1.4200 10 <sup>-12</sup>
21	0.9962	0.0144	1.0300 10 <sup>-07</sup>	1.1900 10 <sup>-14</sup>	0.9990	0.0091	3.8800 10 <sup>-09</sup>	1.8600 10 <sup>-17</sup>
No	100 °C				125 °C			
1	0.9539	0.0561	7.8499 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.4560 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9439	0.0583	7.9543 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.6280 10 <sup>-03</sup>
2	0.9988	0.0093	6.8110 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.1000 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9987	0.0091	8.9250 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.7600 10 <sup>-05</sup>
3	0.9539	0.0574	7.8499 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.7780 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9439	0.0597	7.9543 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.9600 10 <sup>-03</sup>
4	0.9670	0.0486	8.6494 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.2290 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9600	0.0504	8.5428 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.0280 10 <sup>-03</sup>
5	0.9822	0.0366	2.9600 10 <sup>-12</sup>	1.0100 10 <sup>-23</sup>	0.9792	0.0373	3.2500 10 <sup>-11</sup>	1.2300 10 <sup>-21</sup>
6	0.9997	0.0047	3.2190 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.2700 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9994	0.0066	4.0800 10 <sup>-03</sup>	2.0300 10 <sup>-05</sup>
7	0.9539	0.0574	7.8499 10 <sup>-02</sup>	6.7780 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9758	0.0392	5.6036 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.4540 10 <sup>-03</sup>
8	0.9723	0.0438	2.5753 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.5300 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9620	0.0540	3.2834 10 <sup>-02</sup>	1.3860 10 <sup>-03</sup>
9	0.9995	2.6275	7.5706 10 <sup>-01</sup>	6.6131 10 <sup>-01</sup>	0.9998	1.5428	4.2916 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.0720 10 <sup>-03</sup>
10	0.9997	0.0049	4.6300 10 <sup>-03</sup>	2.4800 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9439	0.0613	7.9543 10 <sup>-02</sup>	7.3260 10 <sup>-03</sup>
11	0.9997	0.0047	2.6370 10 <sup>-03</sup>	8.0500 10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.9994	0.0066	3.1040 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.1200 10 <sup>-05</sup>
12	0.9999	0.0032	4.2700 10 <sup>-03</sup>	2.5000 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9999	0.0025	3.1070 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.3300 10 <sup>-05</sup>
13	0.9670	0.0499	8.6494 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.6620 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9600	0.0517	8.5428 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.4500 10 <sup>-03</sup>
14	0.9988	0.0093	6.8110 10 <sup>-03</sup>	5.3700 10 <sup>-05</sup>	0.9987	0.0093	8.9250 10 <sup>-03</sup>	9.2200 10 <sup>-05</sup>
15	0.9989	0.0092	1.2400 10 <sup>-03</sup>	1.8800 10 <sup>-06</sup>	0.9990	0.0082	1.3370 10 <sup>-03</sup>	2.1800 10 <sup>-06</sup>
16	0.9990	0.0089	5.0800 10 <sup>-11</sup>	3.1500 10 <sup>-21</sup>	0.9992	0.0076	2.6400 10 <sup>-11</sup>	8.5400 10 <sup>-22</sup>
17	0.9943	0.0202	1.7574 10 <sup>-02</sup>	3.4000 10 <sup>-04</sup>	0.9950	0.0177	1.4324 10 <sup>-02</sup>	2.2600 10 <sup>-04</sup>
18	0.9670	0.0499	8.6493 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.6620 10 <sup>-03</sup>	0.9600	0.0517	8.5428 10 <sup>-02</sup>	8.4500 10 <sup>-03</sup>
19	0.9980	0.0126	2.5000 10 <sup>-11</sup>	7.6600 10 <sup>-22</sup>	0.9983	0.0110	2.0200 10 <sup>-11</sup>	5.0000 10 <sup>-22</sup>
20	0.9822	0.0376	8.5400 10 <sup>-07</sup>	8.9100 10 <sup>-13</sup>	0.9792	0.0382	2.8000 10 <sup>-07</sup>	9.5900 10 <sup>-14</sup>
21	0.9985	0.0113	6.2900 10 <sup>-09</sup>	5.1200 10 <sup>-17</sup>	0.9997	0.0051	1.9600 10 <sup>-10</sup>	4.9900 10 <sup>-20</sup>

R<sup>2</sup>, coefficient of regression; SEE, standard error of estimate;  $\chi^2$ , Chi-square; RMSE, root-mean-square error.

Soysal [22] found that  $k$ , the drying constant, increased with the increase of microwave output power, just like our findings. Similarly, Alibas [42] emphasized that the  $k$  coefficient increased depending on the rising microwave output power.

### Effective moisture diffusivities and activation energy

Effective moisture diffusivities and regression coefficients ( $R^2$ ) determined for both microwave and convective drying

methods are shown in Table 4. Effective moisture diffusivities in convective drying were calculated according to temperature and the universal gas constant using the Arrhenius equation. However, the equation was rearranged by considering microwave output power and product mass instead of temperature and the universal gas constant in microwave drying. Accordingly, the increase in both microwave output power and ambient temperature led to an increase in effective moisture diffusion. Similarly, the increase in not only the microwave output power but also ambient temperature caused also the slope to increase. The slope was 0.027 at

**Table 3** Statistical parameters and coefficients of the Modified Henderson models for microwave and convective drying methods

$P_D/W \text{ g}^{-1}$	$R^2$	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$	Drying constant and coefficients					
					$k$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$g$	$h$
10	1.0000	0.0029	$8.2955 \times 10^{-05}$	$2.0644 \times 10^{-08}$	13.1900	0.1170	0.4494	0.4336	1.0012	1.0011
8.5	1.0000	0.0027	$1.3435 \times 10^{-04}$	$3.9709 \times 10^{-08}$	4.2326	-0.1270	0.7655	0.3614	0.7951	2.0427
7.5	0.9999	0.0044	$5.4766 \times 10^{-04}$	$5.5702 \times 10^{-07}$	1.6612	$-0.1349 \times 10^{+04}$	0.4646	$0.1350 \times 10^{+04}$	0.5567	1.6608
6.5	0.9999	0.0029	$2.4054 \times 10^{-04}$	$9.2574 \times 10^{-08}$	1.4080	-5.5466	0.3655	6.1809	0.4336	1.3200
5	0.9998	0.0049	$2.8235 \times 10^{-04}$	$1.0961 \times 10^{-07}$	1.2169	$-0.2781 \times 10^{+04}$	0.2333	$0.2782 \times 10^{+04}$	0.2691	1.2167
3.5	1.0000	0.0019	$3.9374 \times 10^{-06}$	$1.9224 \times 10^{-11}$	1.1565	-1.5978	2.3783	0.2193	0.8313	0.1748
1.6	0.9997	0.0044	$5.0070 \times 10^{-04}$	$2.9494 \times 10^{-07}$	1.1325	-2.1926	2.7138	0.4771	0.8959	0.1711
0.9	0.9997	0.0049	$3.2364 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.2641 \times 10^{-05}$	0.8858	$-0.4530 \times 10^{+04}$	$0.4531 \times 10^{+04}$	0.5781	0.8857	0.1288
$T(^{\circ}\text{C})$	$R^2$	SEE	RMSE	$\chi^2$	Drying constant and coefficients					
					$k$	$a$	$b$	$c$	$g$	$h$
50	0.9998	0.0034	$7.3400 \times 10^{-03}$	$6.1000 \times 10^{-05}$	0.0011	0.1982	0.4626	0.3399	0.0182	0.0059
75	0.9999	0.0029	$3.5530 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.6400 \times 10^{-05}$	0.0031	0.3297	0.2925	0.3786	0.0091	0.0298
100	0.9999	0.0032	$4.2700 \times 10^{-03}$	$2.5000 \times 10^{-05}$	0.0054	0.4531	0.3844	0.1629	0.0271	0.0690
125	0.9999	0.0025	$3.1070 \times 10^{-03}$	$1.3300 \times 10^{-05}$	0.0070	0.3658	0.4614	0.1729	0.0338	0.1204

$P_D$  is the microwave power density ( $\text{W g}^{-1}$ );  $T$  is the ambient temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ );  $R^2$  is the regression coefficient;  $SEE$  is the standard error of the estimate;  $RMSE$  is the root-mean-square error;  $\chi^2$  is the Chi-square;  $k$  is the drying constant ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ );  $a, b, c, g, h$  is the drying coefficients

**Table 4** Estimated effective moisture diffusivity and regression coefficient of linear model at various microwave output power densities

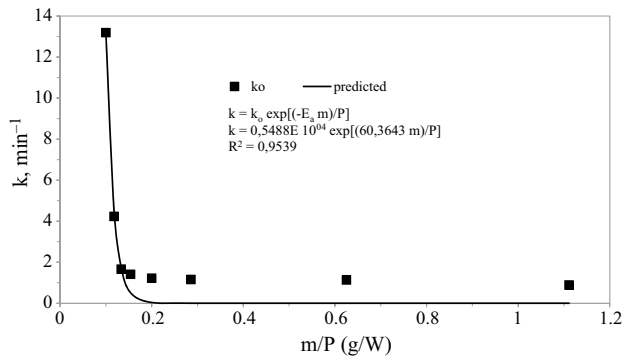
$P/W$	$m/\text{g}$	$P_D/W \text{ g}^{-1}$	$S^{**}$	$D_{\text{eff}}/\text{m}^2 \text{ min}^{-1**}$	$D_{\text{eff}}/\text{m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1**}$	$R^2$
1000	100	10	0.997043	$1.2214 \times 10^{-07}$	$2.0356 \times 10^{-09}$	0.9566
850	100	8.5	0.338186	$4.1428 \times 10^{-08}$	$6.9046 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9567
750	100	7.5	0.105786	$1.2959 \times 10^{-08}$	$2.1598 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9543
650	100	6.5	0.09050	$1.1086 \times 10^{-08}$	$1.8477 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9555
500	100	5	0.074871	$9.1718 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.5286 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9525
350	100	3.5	0.055214	$6.7638 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.1273 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9504
160	100	1.6	0.038286	$4.6900 \times 10^{-09}$	$7.8167 \times 10^{-11}$	0.9522
90	100	0.9	0.026757	$3.2778 \times 10^{-09}$	$5.4629 \times 10^{-11}$	0.9625
$T/^{\circ}\text{C}$	$T/\text{K}$	$R/\text{kJ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$	$S^{**}$	$D_{\text{eff}}/\text{m}^2 \text{ min}^{-1**}$	$D_{\text{eff}}/\text{m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1**}$	$R^2$
125	398	$8.314 \times 10^{-03}$	0.012316	$1.3628 \times 10^{-08}$	$2.2713 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9567
100	373	$8.314 \times 10^{-03}$	0.009820	$9.4000 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.5667 \times 10^{-10}$	0.9769
75	348	$8.314 \times 10^{-03}$	0.006634	$5.9401 \times 10^{-09}$	$9.9002 \times 10^{-11}$	0.9638
50	323	$8.314 \times 10^{-03}$	0.004857	$2.7023 \times 10^{-09}$	$4.5038 \times 10^{-11}$	0.9467

\* $P < 0.01$ , Means with same letter do not show significance.  $P$  is the microwave output power,  $m$  is the mass of the product,  $P_D$  is the microwave density,  $T$  is the ambient temperature,  $R$  is the Universal gas constant,  $S$  is the slope,  $D_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective moisture diffusivity,  $R^2$  is the regression coefficient

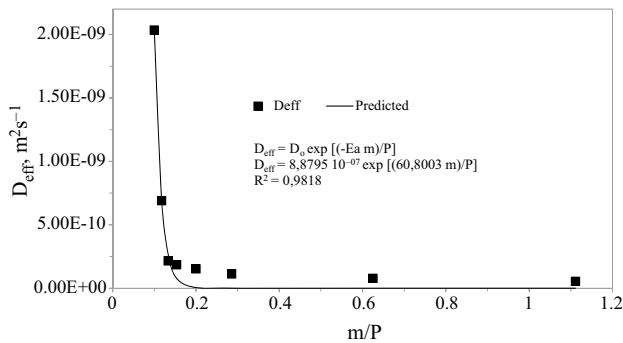
90 W and 0.997 at 1000 W, while effective moisture diffusivity was  $5.46 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 90 W and  $2.04 \times 10^{-09} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 1000 W. Effective moisture diffusivities' regression coefficients obtained from experimental data at microwave output powers between 90 and 1000 W varied between 0.9504 and 0.9625. Slope and effective moisture diffusivity at 125  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  were, respectively, 0.0123 and  $2.2713 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , while these values were, respectively, 0.0049 and  $2.7023 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 50  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The regression coefficients of

effective moisture diffusivities in convective drying were between 0.9467 and 0.9769.

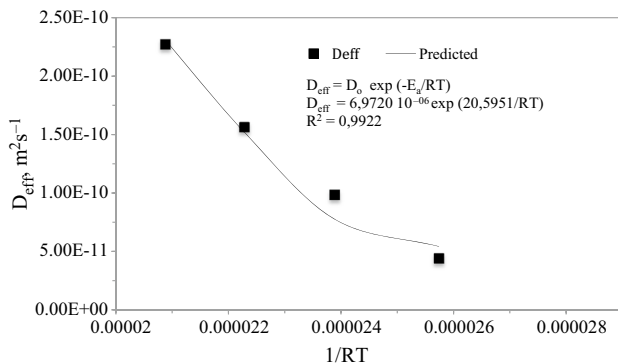
Figure 4 represents the relationship between kinetic rate constant,  $k$ , for the Modified Henderson and Pabis model and sample amount/output power for microwave drying, whereas Fig. 5 points out the association with effective moisture diffusivities,  $D_{\text{eff}}$ , versus sample amount/output power for the same drying method. Both figures, in which nonlinear equations were placed, had a similar trend to each other. The activation energy ( $E_a$ ) of orange slices dried with microwave



**Fig. 4** The relationship between the values of  $k$  (Modified Henderson-Pabis model) versus sample amount/power

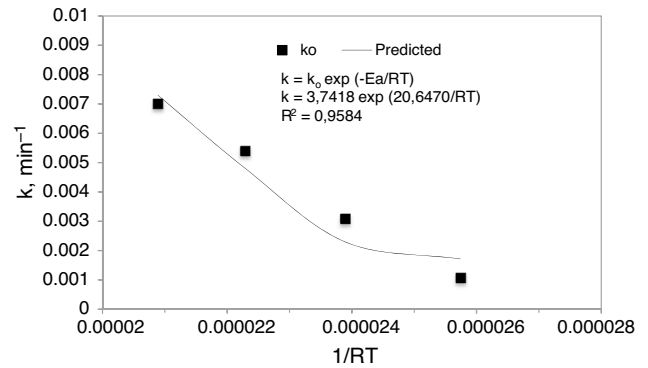


**Fig. 5** The relationship between the values of effective moisture diffusivity ( $D_{\text{eff}}$ ) versus sample amount/power

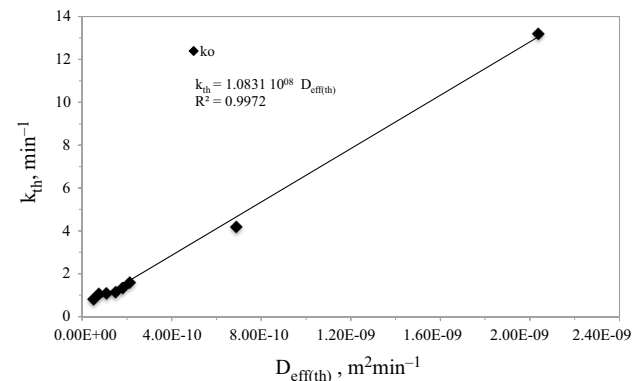


**Fig. 6** The relationship between the values of  $k$  (Modified Henderson-Pabis model) versus  $1/RT$

technique was calculated through these nonlinear equations derived from the relationships not only between  $k$  and  $m/P$  but also between  $D_{\text{eff}}$  and  $m/P$ . According to these equations, the activation energy calculated in Fig. 4 was  $60.36 \text{ W g}^{-1}$ , but in Fig. 5 was  $60.80 \text{ W g}^{-1}$ . Both activation energies calculated through these two equations were almost the same as each other. The regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) of the relationship



**Fig. 7** The relationship between the values of effective moisture diffusivity ( $D_{\text{eff}}$ ) versus  $1/RT$



**Fig. 8** The relationship between the values of  $k_{\text{th}}$  (Modified Henderson and Pabis model) and effective diffusivities  $D_{\text{eff,th}}$  for microwave drying

between  $k$  and  $m/P$  in Fig. 4 was 0.9539. In contrast, the regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) of the relationship between  $D_{\text{eff}}$  and  $m/P$  in Fig. 5 was 0.9818.

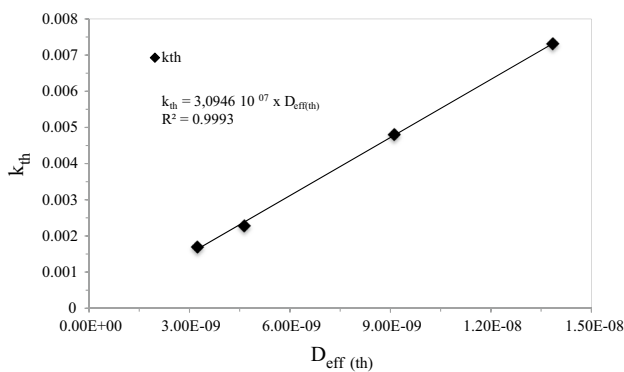
Figure 6 shows the relationship between effective moisture diffusivity ( $D_{\text{eff}}$ ) and  $1/RT$ , defined as the ratio of temperature and the universal gas constant to 1. On the other hand, Fig. 7 represents the relationship between the drying constant  $k$  and  $1/RT$  of the modified Henderson and Pabis equation, which is the ideal model in convective drying. Just as the related figures in microwave drying, Figs. 6 and 7 had a similar trend. The activation energy was calculated according to the relationship between  $D_{\text{eff}}$  and  $1/RT$  is  $20.60 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . Contrarily, it was determined in the relationship between  $k$  and  $1/RT$  was  $20.65 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . The regression coefficient of the relationship between  $D_{\text{eff}}$  and  $1/RT$  was 0.9922, but that of the association between  $k$  and  $1/RT$  was 0.9584.

Figure 8 addresses the linear relationship between the theoretical kinetic rate constant ( $k_{\text{th}}$ ) of the Modified Henderson and Pabis equation and the effective theoretical moisture diffusivities ( $(D_{\text{eff}})_{\text{th}}$ ) in microwave drying. At the same

time, the figure represents the equation and regression coefficient of this linear relationship. Accordingly, the regression coefficient of the linear relationship between  $k_{th}$  and  $(D_{eff})_{th}$  was 0.9972. The value of the stabilization constant (A) was  $1.0831 \times 10^{08} \text{ s min}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .

Figure 9 represents the linear association between the  $k_{th}$  of Modified Henderson and Pabis equation, called the ideal model in convective drying, and  $D_{eff(th)}$ . The linear regression coefficient of this relationship was 0.9993. Also, the stabilization coefficient (A) in convective drying was also calculated as  $3.0946 \times 10^{07} \text{ s min}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$ .

Rafiee et al. [22] examined the drying kinetics of oranges by convection drying at 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80 °C, and determined that the effective diffusivity increase with the rise of temperature. Also, they calculated the activation energy in convective drying to be  $18 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , which was parallel to our study. Deng et al. [2] stated that the effective diffusivity



**Fig. 9** The relationship between the values of  $k_{th}$  (Modified Henderson and Pabis model) and effective diffusivities  $D_{eff_{th}}$  for convective drying

of orange peels decreased due to the fall in temperature in convective drying. Darvishi et al. [41] emphasized that the effective diffusivity of lemon slices dried with microwave technique increases with increasing output power. They reported that the activation energy in microwave drying was approximately 5.6 times lower than ours at  $10.911 \text{ W g}^{-1}$ . Deng et al. [2] Just as in our work, Dadali et al. [43] also found that effective moisture diffusivity of spinach leaves dried with microwave drying increases with the increase in microwave output power. Similarly, Evin [44] reported that increasing microwave output power also increased effective moisture diffusivity of *Gundelia tournefortii* L. dehydrated by microwave technique. Al-Harashsheh et al. [45] addressed that the effective moisture diffusivity between 160 and 800 W varied from  $1.14 \times 10^{-06}$  to  $6.09 \times 10^{-06} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Sarimeseli [46] highlighted that the effective moisture diffusivities of microwave dried coriander leaves between 180 and 900 W output powers were varied from  $0.63 \times 10^{10}$  to  $2.20 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Besides, they stated that the slope also increased with increasing microwave power. Both Demirhan and Ozbek [47] and Alibas and Kacar [27] found that the activation energy of celery leaves calculated not only between  $k$  and  $m/P$  but also between  $D_{eff}$  and  $m/P$  was similar to each other.

**Energy consumption**

Table 5 figures out the drying time and average drying rate as well as the energy consumption values of the drying methods. According to the table, energy consumption peaked at 650 W with a value of 0.325 kWh for microwave drying. At microwave output powers below and above 650 W, where the peak was measured, energy consumption decreased with the increase or decrease in output power.

**Table 5** Drying parameters of orange slices dried with microwave and convective drying methods

	Drying Methods	DP ** min	ADR ** $\text{kg water kg}^{-1}_{DM} \text{ min}^{-1}$	EC ** kWh
MD	1000 W	$16.00 \pm 0.58^g$	$0.6675 \pm 0.0045^a$	$0.267 \pm 0.010^e$
	850 W	$20.00 \pm 1.15^g$	$0.5779 \pm 0.0012^b$	$0.283 \pm 0.016^e$
	750 W	$24.00 \pm 0.76^{fg}$	$0.4759 \pm 0.0026^c$	$0.300 \pm 0.010^e$
	650 W	$30.00 \pm 1.15^{fg}$	$0.4252 \pm 0.0028^d$	$0.325 \pm 0.013^e$
	500 W	$38.00 \pm 1.73^{fg}$	$0.3628 \pm 0.0015^e$	$0.317 \pm 0.014^e$
	350 W	$54.00 \pm 1.39^{fg}$	$0.2477 \pm 0.0017^f$	$0.315 \pm 0.008^e$
	160 W	$78.00 \pm 2.31^f$	$0.1553 \pm 0.0022^g$	$0.208 \pm 0.006^e$
	90 W	$136.00 \pm 4.62^e$	$0.1316 \pm 0.0010^h$	$0.204 \pm 0.007^e$
CD	50 °C	$3120.00 \pm 47.26^a$	$0.0021 \pm 0.0001^i$	$91.000 \pm 1.378^a$
	75 °C	$1140.00 \pm 40.41^c$	$0.0035 \pm 0.0002^i$	$38.000 \pm 1.347^b$
	100 °C	$675.00 \pm 10.39^b$	$0.0048 \pm 0.0001^i$	$25.310 \pm 0.390^c$
	125 °C	$460.00 \pm 15.01^d$	$0.0068 \pm 0.0007^i$	$19.930 \pm 0.650^d$

DP drying period (min); ADR average drying rate ( $\text{kg}_{water} \text{ kg}_{DM}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ ); EC total energy consumption (kWh).  $\pm$  SEE

\*\* $p < 0.01$ , Column mean values with different superscripts are significantly different

The energy consumption measured in microwave drying at 650 W was 21.72% and 59.31% higher than at 1000 W and 90 W, respectively. In contrast, the energy consumption measured in the convective drying method was much higher than that recorded at all microwave output powers. The energy consumption measured at 50 °C was approximately 280, 446, 4, and 5 times higher than at 650 W, 90 W, 75 °C, and 125 °C, respectively.

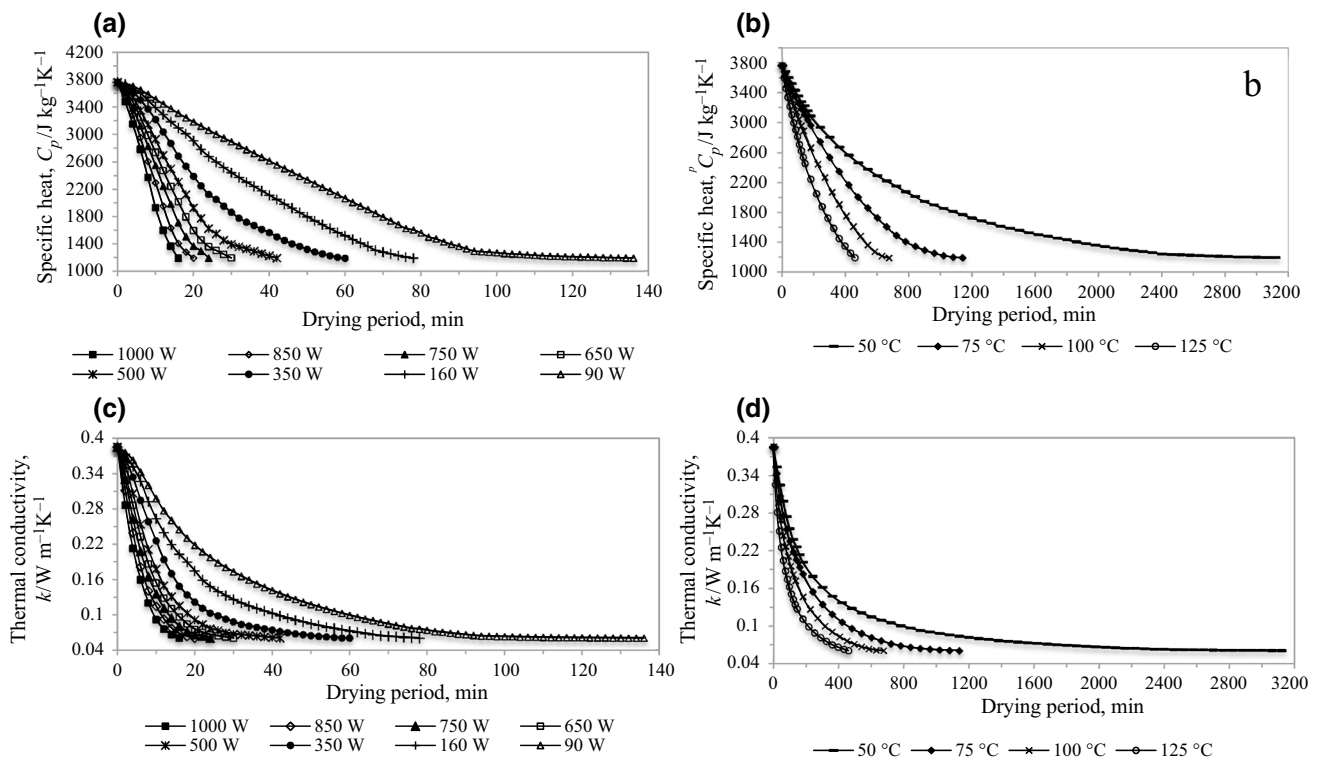
## Thermal properties

Figure 10 sheds light on the time-dependent specific heat and thermal conductivity of orange slices dried by microwave and convective drying methods. On the other hand, Fig. 11 focuses on the time-dependent thermal diffusivity and thermal effusivity of the samples dried by microwave and convective drying methods. According to both figures, all of these four thermal properties were maximally measured in fresh oranges, the highest moisture content, but tended to decrease as the product dried. Except for thermal diffusivity, all other thermal properties of the completely dried products were detected to be at the lowest level. The main reason for the high specific heat of the fresh product, which is approximately 85% water, is due to the natural phenomenon, which includes the high specific heat of the water to prevent the rapid cooling and heating of living metabolisms in nature.

Therefore, the specific heat also decreased due to the loss of water in the product during drying [48, 49]. Moreover, if the water, which is high in the pores of the fresh products, is replaced by air via drying, that is, by evaporation, the specific heat of the dry samples decreases [50]. In a striking view, the increase in the specific heat of the raw material with the increase in moisture content can also be due to the adhesion force of the high water rate in the fresh product content [51].

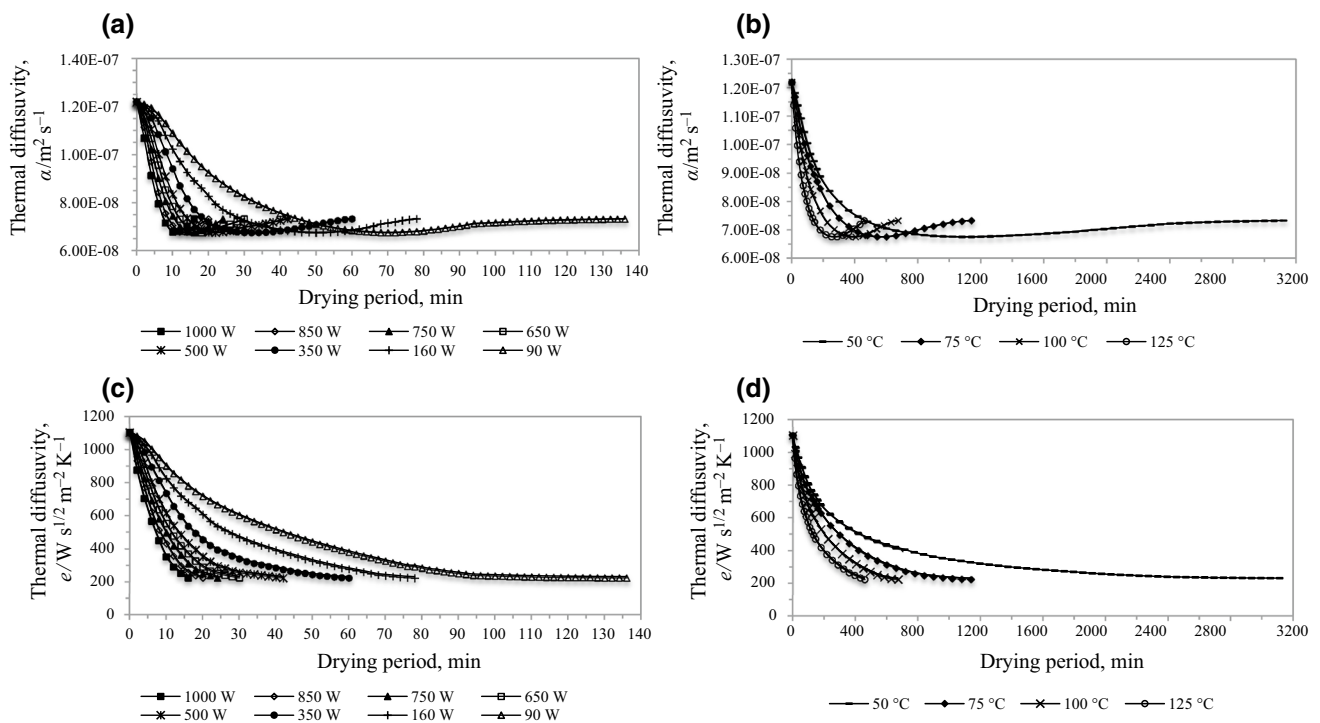
On the other hand, the reason for the high thermal conductivity is that fresh products with high water content have a lot of water in their tissues but lack air. In dried products, the air takes up the place of the tissues emptied by the evaporation of water by drying, and therefore thermal conductivity increases [52]. From another perspective, due to the high number of ions and dipoles in fresh samples with high moisture content, the lattice vibration increases, and this ensures high thermal conductivity [53]. The reason for being high the thermal diffusivity and thermal effusivity of fresh samples is that the thermal conductivity increase rate is higher than the specific heat and bulk density at the high moisture content [53].

The mean specific heat of fresh orange slices was  $3764.79 \pm 0.38 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ . The average specific heat decreased as the microwave output power decreased. While the average specific heat was  $2404.39 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at 1000 W, the highest power level, this value was  $2080.44 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at the lowest power of 90 W. Similarly, we observed that the



**Fig. 10** Variation of specific heat and thermal conductivity during drying period; **a**, specific heat for microwave drying; **b**, specific heat for convective drying; **c**, thermal conductivity for microwave drying; **d**, thermal conductivity for convective drying





**Fig. 11** Variation of thermal diffusivity and thermal effusivity during drying period; **a**, thermal diffusivity for microwave drying; **b**, thermal diffusivity for convective drying; **c**, thermal effusivity for microwave drying; **d**, thermal effusivity for convective drying

average specific heat increases with the increase of temperature in convective drying. The average specific heat, which was  $1946.81 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ , was  $2466.54 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  $125^\circ\text{C}$ . However, the specific heat of orange slices dried by both convective and microwave drying varied between  $1190.65$  and  $1192.92 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ .

The thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, and thermal effusivity of fresh orange slices are  $0.385 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ ,  $1.22 \times 10^{-07} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and  $1103.45 \text{ W s}^{1/2} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$ , respectively. Just like the average specific heat, the average values of thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, and thermal effusivity also increased with increasing power in microwave drying and with increasing temperature in convective drying. The average thermal conductivity, which is  $0.162$  and  $0.158 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  $1000 \text{ W}$  and  $125^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively, was calculated as  $0.128$  and  $0.116 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  $90 \text{ W}$  and  $50^\circ\text{C}$ . The thermal conductivity of microwave and convective dried products had a value of  $0.0606 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ .

Since the final moisture contents of the dried orange slices were the same, the density, which is determined as  $839.41 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  in fresh product and used in the calculation of thermal diffusivity and effusivity, was similar with  $693.98 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  in all-drying methods.

The average thermal diffusivity and average thermal effusivity were found as  $8.24 \times 10^{-08} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $535.50 \text{ W s}^{1/2} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  $1000 \text{ W}$ , respectively; however, these values are  $8.18 \times 10^{-08} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $532.06 \text{ W s}^{1/2} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at  $125^\circ\text{C}$ .

While the average thermal diffusivity was determined as  $7.85 \times 10^{-08}$  and  $7.66 \times 10^{-08} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  at  $90 \text{ W}$  and  $50^\circ\text{C}$ , the average thermal effusivity at the same drying levels was calculated as  $437.51$  and  $401.17 \text{ W s}^{1/2} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$ . Since the final moisture level is almost the same in all drying methods, the thermal diffusivity of dry products is also almost the same in each method with  $7.33 \times 10^{-08} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The thermal effusivity of the products dried by different techniques varied between  $223.57$  and  $224.08 \text{ W s}^{1/2} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-1}$ . Similarly, Ajala et al. [54] calculated that as the temperature used in the study increased, the thermal diffusivity decreased. Septien et al. [55] underlined that while the thermal diffusivity was  $14.6 \times 10^{-08} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  for the raw material, it declined to  $27.0 \times 10^{-08} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  in the dried product. Chakraborty et al. [56] determined that as the drying progresses and the moisture content decreases accordingly, the specific heat capacity, thermal conductivity, and thermal diffusivity decrease significantly. Lemus-Mondaca et al. [35] stated that specific heat, thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, and thermal effusivity were the highest at fresh Stevia leaves, followed by infrared, vacuum, and convective dried samples.

**Color parameters, browning and whitening index**

Table 6 presents the color parameters and browning index of orange slices dried by both convective and microwave drying methods compared to fresh produce. According to

**Table 6** Comparative quality parameters of orange slices dried by microwave and convective drying techniques with fresh produce

Drying Methods	Color parameters				$\Delta E^{**}$	BI**	WI**	Vitamin C** mg 100 g <sup>-1</sup> D.W
	L**	a**	b**	C**				
Fresh	56.34 ± 0.25 <sup>a</sup>	14.13 ± 0.64 <sup>a</sup>	55.80 ± 1.62 <sup>a</sup>	57.58 ± 1.41 <sup>a</sup>	0.00 ± 0.00 <sup>j</sup>	222.75 ± 12.75 <sup>h</sup>	27.73 ± 1.22 <sup>ab</sup>	315.70 ± 4.07 <sup>a</sup>
MD								
1000 W	37.21 ± 0.51 <sup>h</sup>	7.13 ± 0.13 <sup>g</sup>	43.87 ± 0.48 <sup>e</sup>	44.44 ± 0.50 <sup>e</sup>	23.74 ± 1.14 <sup>c</sup>	317.34 ± 2.86 <sup>h</sup>	23.07 ± 0.15 <sup>e</sup>	83.17 ± 3.64 <sup>h</sup>
850 W	44.00 ± 0.33 <sup>g</sup>	8.40 ± 0.35 <sup>f</sup>	48.00 ± 0.12 <sup>d</sup>	48.73 ± 0.15 <sup>d</sup>	15.82 ± 0.70 <sup>d</sup>	265.46 ± 3.86 <sup>c</sup>	25.77 ± 0.20 <sup>d</sup>	100.09 ± 3.08 <sup>g</sup>
750 W	47.09 ± 0.27 <sup>e</sup>	9.87 ± 0.18 <sup>de</sup>	49.73 ± 0.29 <sup>c</sup>	50.70 ± 0.26 <sup>c</sup>	12.03 ± 0.55 <sup>f</sup>	248.87 ± 2.12 <sup>de</sup>	26.71 ± 0.13 <sup>bcd</sup>	115.62 ± 2.78 <sup>e</sup>
650 W	49.96 ± 0.23 <sup>d</sup>	10.33 ± 0.18 <sup>d</sup>	51.73 ± 0.47 <sup>b</sup>	52.76 ± 0.45 <sup>b</sup>	8.92 ± 0.48 <sup>g</sup>	238.93 ± 4.09 <sup>efg</sup>	27.28 ± 0.31 <sup>abc</sup>	126.47 ± 4.94 <sup>d</sup>
500 W	51.50 ± 0.22 <sup>bc</sup>	13.20 ± 0.31 <sup>b</sup>	52.07 ± 0.24 <sup>b</sup>	53.72 ± 0.16 <sup>b</sup>	6.72 ± 0.80 <sup>hi</sup>	230.86 ± 2.21 <sup>fgh</sup>	27.63 ± 0.16 <sup>ab</sup>	163.31 ± 4.96 <sup>c</sup>
350 W	52.42 ± 0.11 <sup>b</sup>	13.80 ± 0.31 <sup>ab</sup>	52.40 ± 0.58 <sup>b</sup>	54.19 ± 0.50 <sup>b</sup>	5.56 ± 0.83 <sup>i</sup>	226.44 ± 3.50 <sup>gh</sup>	27.88 ± 0.31 <sup>a</sup>	180.79 ± 2.30 <sup>b</sup>
160 W	50.67 ± 0.23 <sup>cd</sup>	11.27 ± 0.37 <sup>c</sup>	51.87 ± 0.29 <sup>b</sup>	53.08 ± 0.27 <sup>b</sup>	7.78 ± 0.18 <sup>gh</sup>	234.35 ± 1.06 <sup>fgh</sup>	27.54 ± 0.10 <sup>ab</sup>	128.95 ± 4.84 <sup>d</sup>
90 W	46.09 ± 0.34 <sup>f</sup>	9.53 ± 0.24 <sup>de</sup>	49.27 ± 0.24 <sup>cd</sup>	50.18 ± 0.28 <sup>cd</sup>	13.19 ± 0.46 <sup>ef</sup>	255.04 ± 2.13 <sup>cd</sup>	26.34 ± 0.12 <sup>cd</sup>	104.45 ± 4.49 <sup>fg</sup>
CID								
50 °C	35.46 ± 0.30 <sup>i</sup>	6.07 ± 0.25 <sup>h</sup>	40.73 ± 0.37 <sup>f</sup>	41.18 ± 0.40 <sup>f</sup>	27.07 ± 0.13 <sup>b</sup>	297.18 ± 0.88 <sup>b</sup>	23.44 ± 0.04 <sup>e</sup>	86.71 ± 1.85 <sup>h</sup>
75 °C	46.25 ± 0.07 <sup>ef</sup>	9.07 ± 0.24 <sup>ef</sup>	48.20 ± 0.20 <sup>cd</sup>	49.05 ± 0.24 <sup>d</sup>	13.80 ± 0.38 <sup>e</sup>	241.27 ± 1.71 <sup>ef</sup>	27.24 ± 0.12 <sup>abc</sup>	113.54 ± 3.03 <sup>ef</sup>
100 °C	34.63 ± 0.43 <sup>i</sup>	5.67 ± 0.29 <sup>h</sup>	40.20 ± 0.46 <sup>f</sup>	40.60 ± 0.50 <sup>f</sup>	28.13 ± 0.16 <sup>b</sup>	304.51 ± 0.47 <sup>b</sup>	23.07 ± 0.11 <sup>e</sup>	82.68 ± 1.33 <sup>h</sup>
125 °C	31.59 ± 0.48 <sup>j</sup>	4.73 ± 0.23 <sup>i</sup>	37.80 ± 0.58 <sup>g</sup>	38.10 ± 0.60 <sup>g</sup>	32.08 ± 0.27 <sup>a</sup>	327.89 ± 2.79 <sup>a</sup>	21.69 ± 0.14 <sup>f</sup>	78.42 ± 2.15 <sup>h</sup>

L brightness/darkness; a redness/greenness; b yellowness/blueness; C Chroma;  $\alpha^\circ$  hue angle;

$\Delta E$  total color difference; BI browning index; WI whitening index.;  $\pm$  SEE

\*\* $p < 0.01$ , Column mean values with different superscripts are significantly different

the table, the closest color parameters to fresh orange slices were measured in the products dried with the microwave drying method at 350 W, 500 W, and 160 W, respectively. Compared to fresh produce, the most color loss occurred with convective drying at 125 °C, 100 °C, and 50 °C. The reason for this dramatic loss of color parameters in convective drying at 50 °C was that more oxidation occurred in the product due to the too-long drying time. On the other hand, the loss of color at 125 °C and 100 °C, defined as the highest ambient temperatures, was due to the overheating of the orange slices, which have a heat-sensitive structure. Similarly, the color loss was relatively high at 1000 W, the shortest drying method. The loss of color parameters in the shortest drying technique was caused by the penetration of very high microwave energy into the product; in other words, excessive heat increases in the product. Despite the adverse effects of 125 °C, 100 °C, and 50 °C on color parameters, 75 °C was a hopeful method for preserving color.

The color change, browning index, and whitening index, which are essential factors in understanding how much color loss the product is exposed to due to heat, temperature, air-flow, etc., showed that the microwave drying technique at 350 W is the most effective method in terms of color preservation. On the other hand, 100 °C, 50 °C, especially 125 °C and 1000 W, caused the most color change, browning index, and whitening index, namely, the color quality of the product decreases.

Although there were limited studies in the literature directly related to oranges' drying, most of these studies were on orange juice and peels. Moreover, studies with other citrus fruits were designed similarly, and these studies focused more on peel and fruit juice than fruit. In a very limited number of studies dealing with the fruit part of both oranges and other citrus fruits, the convective drying method was used rather than the microwave technique. Farahmandfar et al. [57] dried Thomson variety orange peels using different techniques and reported that the brightness, redness, and yellowness of the microwave-dried peels at 600 W and 360 W were close to fresh peels. They also stated that the browning index calculated at 360 W was close to the fresh produce. Bozkir [13] dehydrated the Valencia variety with the convective drying method at 50 °C, 60 °C, and 70 °C and emphasized that the color change ( $\Delta E$ ) decreased due to the increase in temperature. We noticed that the color parameters of fresh orange slices measured in a study conducted by Karabacak et al. [58] were in parallel with our results. Deng et al. [2] dehydrated the orange peels with five ambient temperatures between 50–70 °C and, unlike our finding in our study, found that the most color loss occurred at 65 °C. Garau et al. [59] dried orange peel and pulp by convective drying by applying seven ambient temperatures from 30 °C to 90 °C and found that the least color change for peel and pulp occurred at 40 °C and 50 °C, respectively.

They detected moderate discoloration at 70 °C, in contrast to our findings.

### Analysis of vitamin C

Table 6 illustrates the vitamin C concentration of orange slices dried by convective and microwave drying methods with fresh ones. The closest drying method to the vitamin C content of fresh orange slices was the microwave technique at 350 W. The convective drying ways at 125 and 100 °C, defined as the highest temperatures in this study, adversely affected the concentration of vitamin C in orange slices, extremely sensitive to heat. Similarly, 1000 W, the shortest drying method that causes high heat, and 50 °C, the most prolonged drying method that causes an increase in oxidation, also negatively affected the orange slices' vitamin C concentration. Accordingly, vitamin C measured at 350 W, despite having the highest concentration, was about 75% less than that of fresh produce. The concentration of vitamin C at 125 °C, 100 °C, 1000 W, and 50 °C was 2.31, 2.19, 2.17, and 2.09 lower than that measured at 350 W, respectively. Strikingly, the fresh product's vitamin C content was approximately four times higher than measured at 125 °C, 100 °C, 1000 W, and 90 W. Although convective drying methods caused a decrease in vitamin C' concentration, 75 °C was one of the ideal techniques for preserving the concentration.

Bozkir [13] analyzed the vitamin C content of orange slices dried at 50, 60, and 70 °C along with fresh ones and determined that slices dried at 50 °C and 70 °C had 56% and 79% less vitamin C concentrations, respectively, than fresh ones. Karabacak et al. [58] found that the ascorbic acid content of orange slices dried by vacuum drying was approximately 2–2.5 times reduced compared to fresh ones. Deng et al. [2] measured the vitamin C content of convective dried orange peels at different temperatures from 50 to 70 °C. They noted that products dried at 65 °C had higher vitamin content than those dried at other temperatures. However, they addressed that the vitamin content of those dried at 65 °C was reduced by almost half compared to fresh orange peels.

### Correlations of measured data

Table 7 shows positive or negative linear correlations among measured or calculated parameters during microwave and convective drying of orange slices. Accordingly, many negative or positive significant linear correlations were determined across color parameters as expected. The strongest of positive relationships were recorded those between  $L$  and  $a$  or  $b$ , between  $a$  and  $b$ , between  $\Delta E$  and  $\alpha^\circ$ , and between  $BI$  and  $\Delta E$ . On the other hand, the strongest negative linear relationships were also found between  $C$  and  $\Delta E$ , and  $BI$  and between  $WI$  and  $BI$ . Alibas et al. [37]

**Table 7** Linear correlations between drying and quality parameters measured or calculated during microwave and convective drying of orange slices

<i>L</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>C</i>	$\alpha^\circ$	$\Delta E$	<i>BI</i>	<i>WI</i>	<i>V-C</i>	<i>DP</i>	<i>ADR</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>D<sub>eff</sub></i>	
1.0000	0.9599	0.9828	0.3508	-0.4247	-0.3818	-0.4124	0.3558	0.5092	0.1888	-0.5338	0.1498	-0.4394	<i>L</i>
	1.0000	0.9226	0.3945	-0.4461	-0.4273	-0.4432	0.4000	0.5139	0.0607	-0.5244	0.0183	-0.4317	<i>a</i>
		1.0000	0.2899	-0.3578	-0.3112	-0.3340	0.2613	0.4889	0.2280	-0.5942	0.1988	-0.4629	<i>b</i>
			1.0000	-0.8913	-0.9877	-0.9122	0.8954	0.7453	-0.5192	0.2001	-0.5750	-0.2533	<i>C</i>
				1.0000	0.9168	0.8940	-0.8880	-0.7537	0.4346	-0.1117	0.4854	0.2748	$\alpha^\circ$
					1.0000	0.9477	-0.9316	-0.7661	0.4935	-0.1443	0.5467	0.3078	$\Delta E$
						1.0000	-0.9892	-0.6585	0.3497	-0.0268	0.3987	0.4765	<i>BI</i>
							1.0000	0.5957	-0.3824	0.1084	-0.4329	-0.3892	<i>WI</i>
								1.0000	-0.3068	-0.1831	-0.3274	-0.3090	<i>V-C</i>
									1.0000	-0.4907	0.9936	-0.2201	<i>DP</i>
										1.0000	-0.5234	0.6890	<i>ADR</i>
											1.0000	-0.2178	<i>EC</i>
												1.0000	<i>D<sub>eff</sub></i>

*L* brightness or darkness; *a* redness, , yellowness; *C* Chroma;  $\alpha^\circ$  hue angle;  $\Delta E$  total color change; *BI* browning index; *WI* whitening index; *V-C* vitamin C; *DP* drying period; *ADR* average drying rate; *EC* energy consumption; *D<sub>eff</sub>* effective moisture diffusivity

underlined that there are powerful positive linear relationships between *L* and *a* or  $\alpha^\circ$ , between *a* and  $\alpha^\circ$ , and between *b* and *C*.

Strikingly, we observed significant negative correlations at the medium level between Vitamin C and  $\alpha$  or  $\Delta E$ . However, we noticed a moderate positive correlation between Vitamin C and Chroma. This positive relationship proved that with the increase of chroma, which represents the vividness of color at high numerical values, vitamin C in orange slices also increased.

On the other hand, we found that there is a highly strong positive relationship between energy consumption and the drying period. This correlation was related to the longer the drying time, the more energy the dryer consumes.

## Conclusion

In this study, orange slices were dried from  $6.97 \pm 0.02 \text{ kg}_{\text{water}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1}$  initial moisture content to  $0.12 \pm 0.01 \text{ kg}_{\text{water}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1}$  final moisture content using microwave and convective drying methods. Microwave drying processes, which were completed between 16 and 136 min depending on the output power used in the study, were performed at eight different microwave output power levels between 90 and 1000 W. On the other hand, in convective drying processes completed in 460 to 3120 min, four different drying temperatures of 50, 75, 100, and 125 °C and an air velocity of  $1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  were applied together. The average drying rate was  $0.668 \text{ kg}_{\text{water}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$  at 1000 W, while this value was  $0.002 \text{ kg}_{\text{water}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$  at 50 °C, respectively. The average drying rate

was  $0.248 \text{ kg}_{\text{water}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$  at 350 W, the optimum drying method.

Experimental data were converted into predictive data using 21 different thin-layer drying equations. In contrast, the best prediction model for all powers of microwave drying and all ambient temperatures of convective drying was the Modified Henderson and Pabis equation. Also, effective moisture diffusivities and activation energy were calculated in the study. While the activation energy for microwave drying was about  $60 \text{ W g}^{-1}$ , it was nearly  $20.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  for convective drying.

The energy consumption of all drying methods during the drying process was measured. It was found that almost all output powers of microwave drying had a very low energy consumption compared to convective drying. Among all microwave output powers, the lowest and highest energy consumptions were measured at 90 W and 650 W, respectively.

Due to the evaporation of the water in the orange slices with drying, all of the thermal properties, namely specific heat, thermal conductivity, thermal diffusivity, and thermal effusivity, as well as the density, decreased.

Color parameters closest to the fresh product were obtained at 350 W microwave drying, followed by 500 W and 160 W. The drying methods that damaged the dried products the most in terms of color were 125 °C, 100 °C, 1000 W, and 50 °C. Similarly, the highest color change and browning index were also recorded in these four drying techniques. In contrast, the lowest whitening index was calculated in these methods.

The closest Vitamin C concentration to the fresh product was measured at 350 W, just as determined in color

parameters. Not only 125 and 100 °C, which are the highest ambient temperatures, but also 1000 W, which is the shortest drying method where high heat penetrates the product, negatively affected vitamin C concentration. On the other hand, 50 °C with a very long drying time, which causes high oxidation in orange slices, adversely affected the concentration.

The ideal drying, considering both drying and quality parameters, was achieved at 350 W. Orange slices dried at 125 °C, 100 °C, 100 W, and 50 °C caused adverse effects in terms of color parameters and vitamin C.

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**Authors' contribution** Ilknur Alibas: supervisor, designing the study, modeling data, data statistics, calculating effective moisture diffusivity and activation energy, quality parameters analyses such as color, vitamin C, browning, and whitening index, writing, and reviewing the manuscript. Aslihan Yilmaz: drying the material, modeling data, data statistics, investigation, and analyses of color parameters.

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**Data availability** All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

**Consent to participate** The study does not involve any animal and human component dealing with genetically manipulated materials either in the process or experiment.

**Ethical approval** Ethics approval is not required, as the study does not include any animal or human stuff.

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