

**Table S1.** Composition of the experimental diets (in % w/w).

| Diet                     | Iron-Deficient<br>(ID) | DGM-Fortified<br>(DGM) | Fortified 50% by<br>encapsulated<br>DGM<br>(EC50) | Fortified 100% by<br>encapsulated DGM<br>(EC100) |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| DGM <sup>a</sup>         | –                      | 1.14                   | –   | –  |
| Encap. DGM <sup>b</sup>  | –                      | –                      | 3.75  | 8.25   |
| Rice                     | 37.50                  | 37.50                  | 37.50   | 37.50  |
| Casein                   | 16.40                  | 15.84                  | 15.80   | 15.15  |
| Corn starch              | 24.59                  | 24.04                  | 23.19   | 21.43  |
| Corn oil                 | 4.98                   | 4.94                   | 3.24  | 1.14   |
| Mineral mix <sup>c</sup> | 3.50                   | 3.50                   | 3.50  | 3.50   |
| Vitamin mix <sup>d</sup> | 1.00                   | 1.00                   | 1.00  | 1.00   |
| Maltodextrin             | 10.00                  | 10.00                  | 10.00   | 10.00  |
| Salt                     | 0.83                   | 0.83                   | 0.83  | 0.83   |
| Calcium phosphate        | 0.24                   | 0.25                   | 0.25  | 0.27   |
| Calcium carbonate        | 0.08                   | 0.07                   | 0.07  | 0.06   |
| Potassium citrate        | 0.33                   | 0.33                   | 0.33  | 0.33   |
| Methionine               | 0.24                   | 0.23                   | 0.23  | 0.22   |
| Choline bitartrate       | 0.20                   | 0.20                   | 0.20  | 0.20   |
| Magnesium oxide          | 0.08                   | 0.08                   | 0.08  | 0.08   |
| <i>Calculated values</i> |                        |                        |   |  |
| ME, kcal/g               | 3.70                   | 3.70                   | 3.60  | 3.60   |
| Crude protein, %         | 17.00                  | 17.00                  | 17.00   | 17.10  |
| Crude fat, %             | 5.20                   | 5.20                   | 5.10  | 5.20   |
| Fe, mg/kg                | 7.70                   | 31.60                  | 17.30   | 29.60  |

<sup>a</sup> Defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (Fe: 2,700 mg/kg)<sup>b</sup> Encapsulated DGM (Fe: 400 mg/kg)<sup>c</sup> Envigo 06053<sup>d</sup> AIN-93-VX Envigo 94047

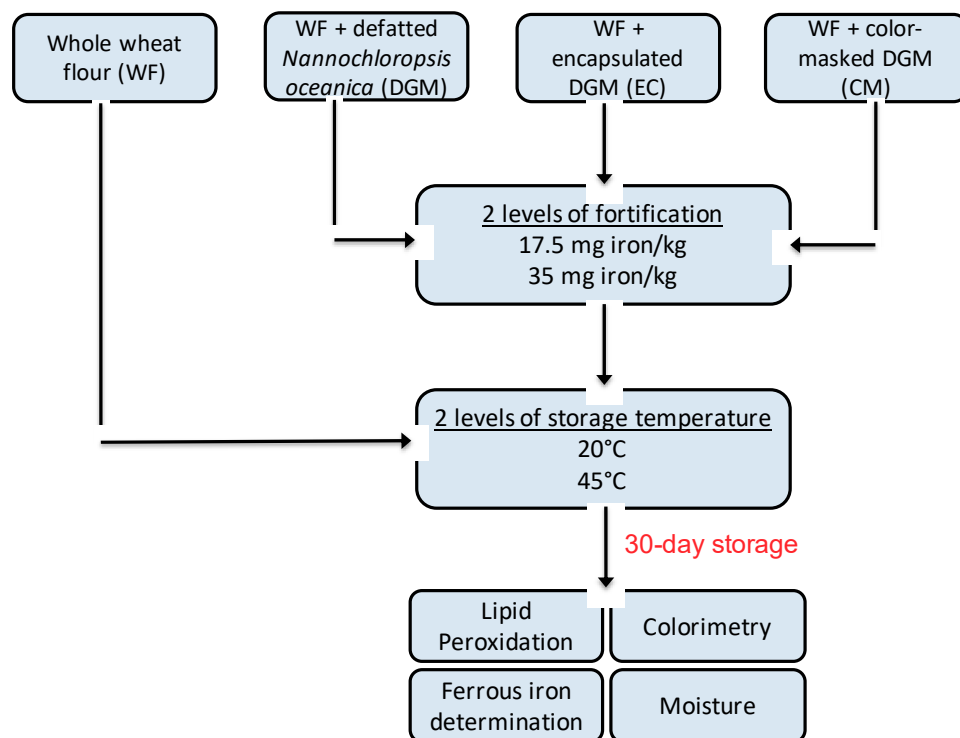
**Table S2.** Moisture, dry matter, protein and fat content of experimental flours (% w/w).

|                                      | % Moisture | % Dry Matter | % Crude Protein | % Fat |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| Whole wheat flour                    | 9.6        | 90.4         | 14.6            | 2.1   |
| Whole DGM*, 50% fortification        | 9.4        | 90.6         | 14.9            | 2.4   |
| Whole DGM, 100% fortification        | 9.4        | 90.6         | 15.0            | 2.0   |
| Encapsulated DGM, 50% fortification  | 9.3        | 90.7         | 14.6            | 3.9   |
| Encapsulated DGM, 100% fortification | 9.0        | 91.0         | 14.5            | 7.4   |
| Color-masked DGM, 50% fortification  | 9.6        | 90.4         | 14.8            | 2.3   |
| Color-masked DGM, 100% fortification | 9.3        | 90.7         | 14.9            | 2.2   |

\*DGM, defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica*

**Table S3.** Collected panelist demographics for the sensory evaluation of Indian flat bread.

|                           |                       | <b>Day 0</b> | <b>Day 21</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Total number of panelists |                       | 59           | 53            |
| Gender                    | Male (%)              | 33.9         | 36.0          |
|                           | Female (%)            | 62.7         | 60.0          |
|                           | Non-conforming (%)    | 1.7          | 0.0           |
|                           | Prefer not to say (%) | 1.7          | 4.0           |
| Mean age (years)          |                       | 34.6         | 32.6          |
| Age range (years)         |                       | 21 - 71      | 19 - 71       |



**Figure S1.** Experimental design for the shelf-life study of whole wheat flour (WF) fortified with defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (DGM); encapsulated DGM (EC); or color-masked DGM (CM), at 50% and 100% iron fortification rates, and stored at 20°C or 45°C for 30 days.

**Table S4.** Effect of addition of non-encapsulated (DGM), encapsulated (EC) and color-masked (CM) defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* to wheat flour (WF, control) on moisture content (%w/w)<sup>1</sup>.

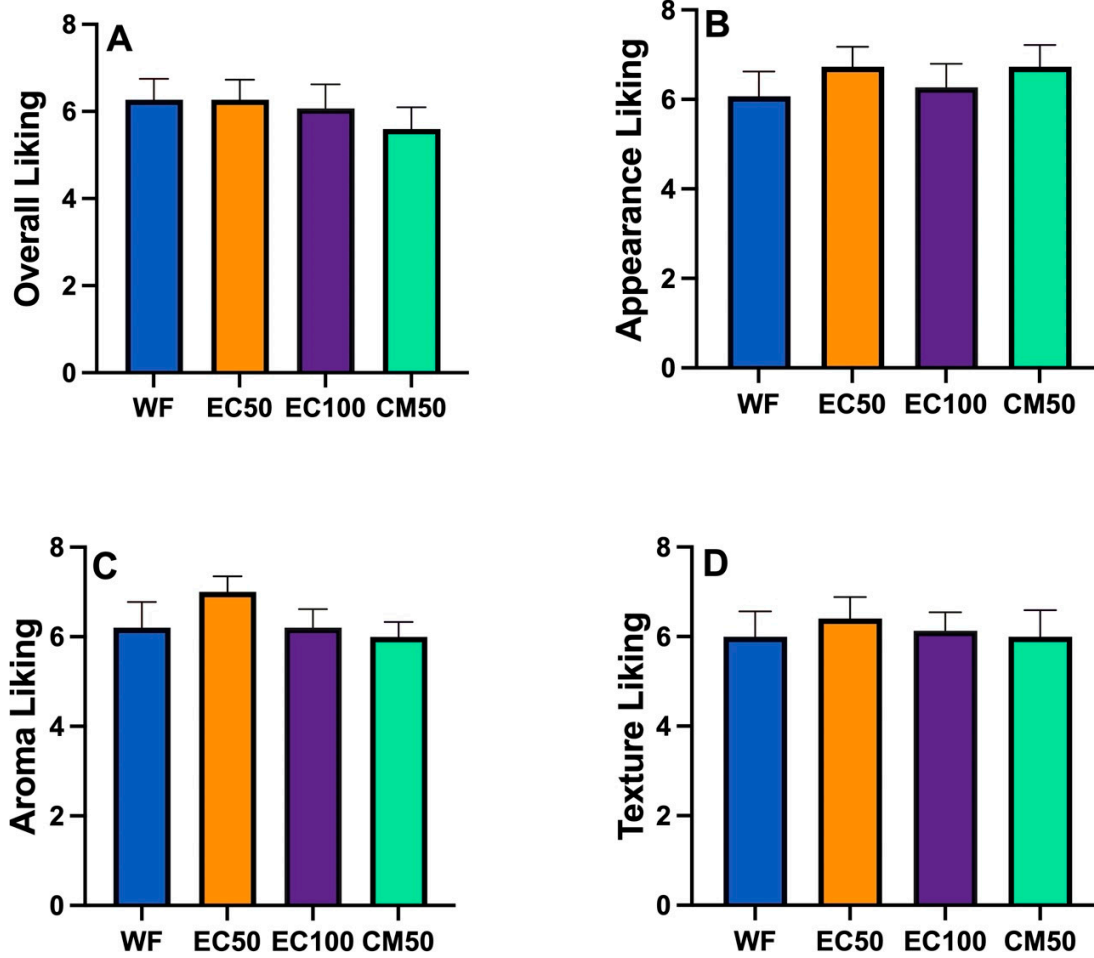
| Sample | Day 0     | 20°C      |           | 45°C      |           |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|        |           | Day 15    | Day 30    | Day 15    | Day 30    |
| WF     | 6.12±0.14 | 6.72±0.35 | 5.64±0.09 | 5.47±0.12 | 5.29±0.13 |
| DGM50  | 5.67±0.15 | 5.58±0.04 | 5.91±0.24 | 5.82±0.21 | 4.81±0.20 |
| DGM100 | 5.84±0.03 | 5.63±0.81 | 4.21±1.44 | 5.56±0.13 | 4.51±0.10 |
| EC50   | 5.20±0.78 | 5.47±0.32 | 5.36±0.23 | 5.82±0.11 | 5.23±0.00 |
| EC100  | 5.10±0.31 | 5.70±0.02 | 5.10±0.00 | 4.17±0.93 | 4.22±0.08 |
| CM50   | 5.38±0.48 | 5.99±0.06 | 4.85±0.58 | 5.84±0.23 | 4.62±0.85 |
| CM100  | 5.38±0.10 | 5.77±0.19 | 5.17±0.27 | 5.51±0.28 | 4.63±0.02 |

<sup>1</sup>Data are expressed as means ± S.E. Within the same column, means denoted with a \* are significantly different (P<0.05) from the control; n = 2.

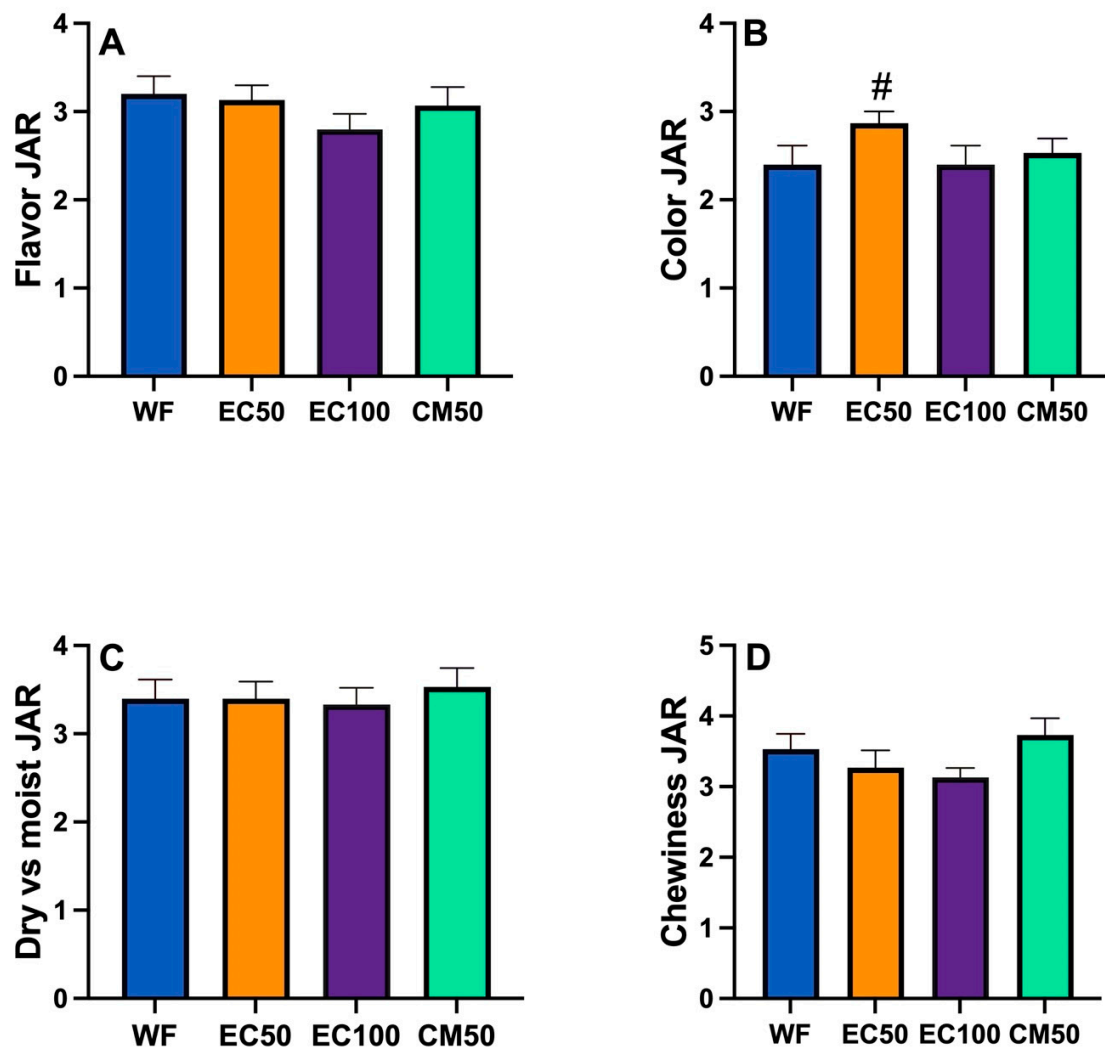
**Table S5.** Normality (Shapiro-Wilk) and Variance Homogeneity (Spearman's rho) test of variables

| Variable       | P-value | rho value |
|----------------|---------|-----------|
| Appearance     | 0.3625  | -0.1255   |
| Aroma          | 0.6246  | -0.1394   |
| Flavor         | 0.7459  | -0.1532   |
| Texture        | 0.9889  | -0.0314*  |
| Overall Liking | 0.0939  | -0.2157   |

\*heterogeneous variance ( $p = 0.3275$ )

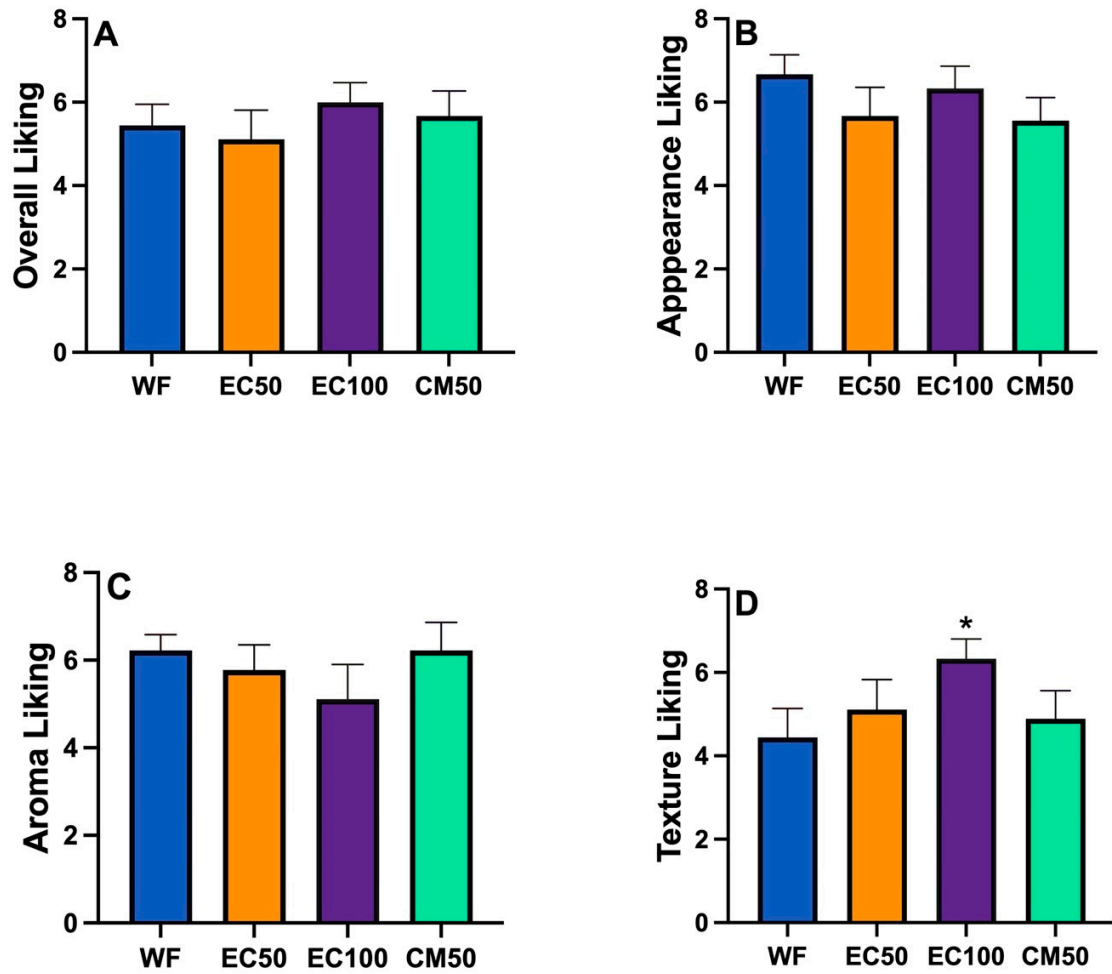


**Figure S2.** Hedonic scores of Indian panelists consuming whole wheat flour (WF) samples fortified with encapsulated defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (EC) and color-masked defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (CM) at day 0 on (A) Overall liking; (B) Appearance liking; (C) Aroma liking and (D) Texture liking. Means with a \* denote significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) than the control. \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ ,  $n = 15$ .

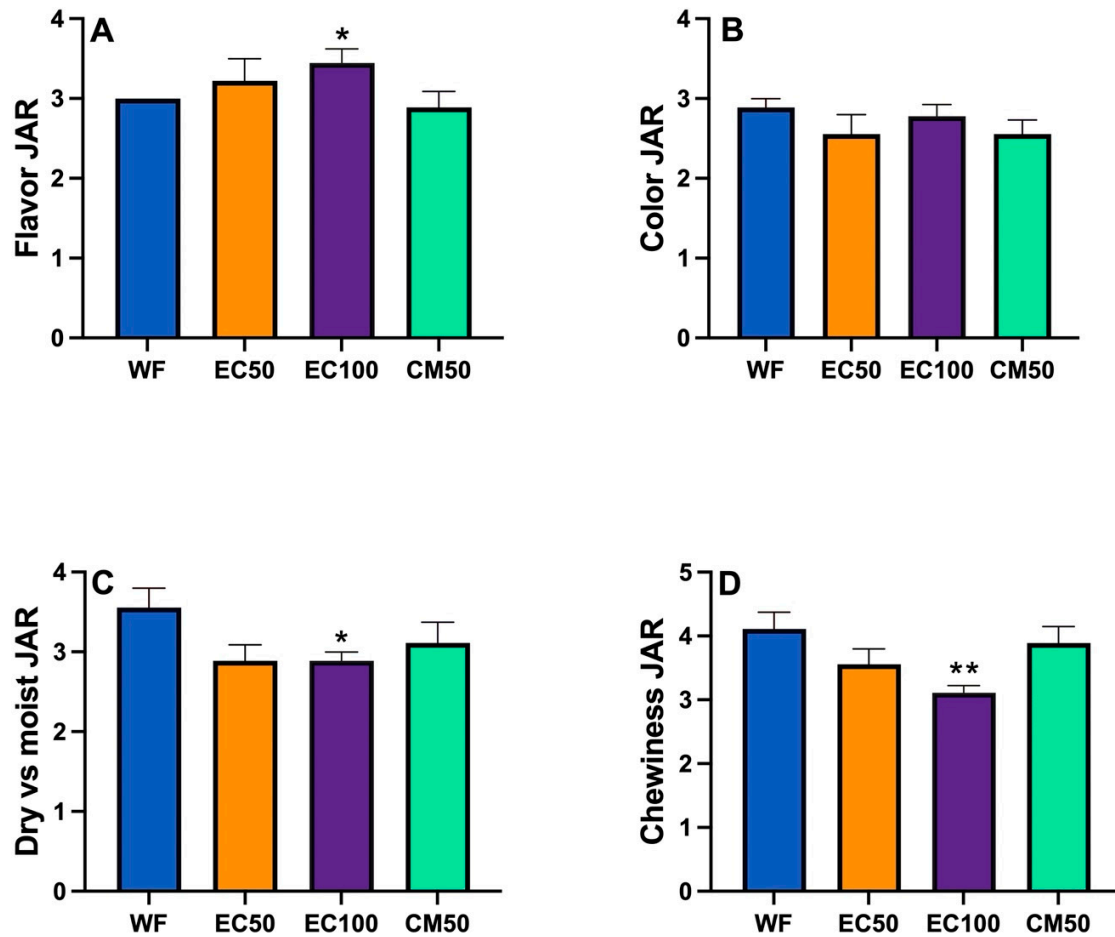


**Figure S3.** Just-about-right scales (% Indian panelists) of whole wheat flour (WF) samples fortified with encapsulated defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (EC) and color-masked defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (CM) at day 0 on (A) flavor, (B) color, (C) dry vs moist, and (D) chewiness.  $P = 0.07$ ,  $n = 15$ .





**Figure S4.** Hedonic scores of Indian panelists consuming whole wheat flour (WF) samples fortified with encapsulated defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (EC) and color-masked defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (CM) at day 21 on (A) Overall liking; (B) Appearance liking; (C) Aroma liking and (D) Texture liking. Means with a \* denote significant difference ( $P<0.05$ ) than the control.  $n = 9$ .



**Figure S5.** Just-about-right scales (% Indian panelists) of whole wheat flour (WF) samples fortified with encapsulated defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (EC) and color-masked defatted *Nannochloropsis oceanica* (CM) at day 21 on (A) flavor, (B) color, (C) dry vs moist, and (D) chewiness. Means with a \* denote significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) than the control. \*\* $P < 0.01$ ,  $n = 9$ .