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Oenological consequences of sequential inoculation with non‑*Saccharomyces* **yeasts (***Torulaspora delbrueckii* **or** *Metschnikowia pulcherrima***) and** *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* **in base wine for sparkling wine production**

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Abstract The use of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts for the production of quality wine has become increasingly frequent in recent years. Several studies of the influence of *Torulaspora delbrueckii* and *Metschnikowia pulcherrima* on chemical composition have been reported, especially in aspects concerning aroma. The aim of this article was to study the influence of sequential inoculation of these non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* on the composition and quality of base wine for sparkling wine production. The results indicate that sequential inoculation with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts may be an interesting tool for obtaining base wines with different characteristics. On the one hand, *T*. *delbrueckii* Biodiva™ strain increased glycerol concentration, reduced volatile acidity and exerted a positive effect on foaming properties improving foamability (Hm) and foam persistence (Hs). On the other hand, *M*. *pulcherrima* Flavia® strain also increased foam persistence (Hs) and changed the aromatic profile, increasing smoky and flowery notes.

Keywords *Torulaspora delbrueckii* · *Metschnikowia pulcherrima* · Sequential inoculation · Base wine · Foam · Proteins · Aroma

Introduction

Alcoholic fermentation is the anaerobic transformation of sugars, mainly glucose and fructose, into ethanol, carbon dioxide and other secondary products. This process, which is carried out by yeast, makes it possible to turn grape juice into wine. However, grape must is a non-sterile substrate that contains several types of yeasts and bacteria which can grow and consequently affect the final wine composition and quality. The presence of different yeasts in grape juice depends on several factors, such as the grape cultivar, the grape's maturity, pesticide treatments, the development of fungal plagues, climatic conditions and viticultural practices [[1\]](#page-11-0). However, other factors are also important. All contact of grapes and must during harvest, transport and in particular, during winery operations significantly influence the final distribution of yeasts at the beginning of alcoholic fermentation [\[2](#page-11-1)].

Numerous studies have been performed to isolate and identify the yeasts present on the surface of grapes and winery equipment [[1,](#page-11-0) [3\]](#page-11-2). Other studies have focused on the quantitative and qualitative changes in different yeast populations during alcoholic fermentation [\[4](#page-11-3)[–6](#page-12-0)]. In general, these studies have confirmed that during spontaneous alcoholic fermentation, grape must is transformed into wine by the sequential activity of different yeast species. Under these conditions, fermentation generally begins with the growth of weakly fermentative yeast species belonging to the genera *Candida, Debaryomyces, Hanseniaspora, Metschnikowia, Pichia, Torulaspora* and *Zygosaccharomyces* [[7\]](#page-12-1). These species, known collectively as non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts, are practically undetectable after 2 or 3 days of fermentation [[2,](#page-11-1) [3\]](#page-11-2). As these yeasts disappear, highly fermentative strains of the species *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* begin to multiply until they become solely

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responsible for alcoholic fermentation [[3\]](#page-11-2). Evidently, the succession of these different yeast species during alcoholic fermentation influences the final composition of the wine in some of their organoleptic key compounds in such a way that depending on which yeasts have grown, it may be positive in some cases or negative in others [\[8](#page-12-2), [9\]](#page-12-3). Since some of these non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts can produce several negative by-products, wineries usually add sulphur dioxide to the grape juice to prevent their undesirable growth. Moreover, most wineries inoculate selected dry yeast (*S*. *cerevisiae*) in order to guarantee alcoholic fermentation without any deviation. However, other wineries, especially traditional wine cellars, still use spontaneous alcoholic fermentation, because they believe that the sequential development of non-*Saccharomyces* and *Saccharomyces* yeasts confers greater complexity on wines.

The role of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts in winemaking has been reassessed in recent years [[10\]](#page-12-4). Some studies have looked at the use of controlled mixed fermentations using non-*Saccharomyces* and *Saccharomyces* yeast species [[11,](#page-12-5) [12](#page-12-6)]. These studies have shown that mixed fermentations using controlled inoculations of *S*. *cerevisiae* starter cultures and non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts are a feasible way of improving wine complexity, because this practice has been observed that increases the typicality of wines and ensures a correct alcoholic fermentation [\[13](#page-12-7)]. This practice has also been reported as being able to increase some desirable metabolites, such as some acetate esters [[14\]](#page-12-8) and glycerol [\[15](#page-12-9), [16](#page-12-10)]. Moreover, some non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts have been reported as being able to release more polysaccharides than *S*. *cerevisiae* strains [\[17](#page-12-11)].

Hanseniaspora and *Torulaspora* genera have also been reported as improving the presence of some interesting aromas [\[18](#page-12-12), [19\]](#page-12-13) and reducing volatile acidity [[16,](#page-12-10) [20](#page-12-14)]. A non-*Saccharomyces* yeast, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, formerly known as *Saccharomyces rosei* or *Saccharomyces delbrueckii,* has recently received considerable attention from the wine industry. This yeast is a typical representative of the natural microbiota on the grape's surface and just like *S*. *cerevisiae* can be found in most wine-producing regions [\[21](#page-12-15)].

Torulaspora delbrueckii has previously been suggested for the vinification of musts low in sugar and acidity, and it has been used for the production of red and rosé wines in Italy [\[22](#page-12-16)] and for Sauvignon Blanc in South Africa [\[12](#page-12-6)]. More recently, [\[19](#page-12-13)] used *T*. *delbrueckii* in pure cultures and cultures mixed with *S*. *cerevisiae* yeast to ferment botrytised musts. This study demonstrated that a mixed culture of *T*. *delbrueckii* and *S*. *cerevisiae* was the best combination for improving the analytical profile of sweet wines because it considerably reduced the production of volatile acidity (53 %) and acetaldehyde (60 %). The presence of *T*. *delbrueckii* has also been reported to increase the presence of some volatile compounds [\[23](#page-12-17)] because of its higher β-glucosidase activity [\[19](#page-12-13)]. In addition, some strains of *T*. *delbrueckii* also appeared to have a greater polysaccharide production capacity than *S*. *cerevisiae* [\[17](#page-12-11), [24](#page-12-18)].

Another non-*Saccharomyces* yeast which is attracting attention from the wine industry is *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*. This yeast is generally present during the early stages of grape juice fermentation [[25\]](#page-12-19) and has also shown some relevant detectable effects in wine composition. In specific terms, *M*. *pulcherrima* is a high producer of β-glucosidase [\[26](#page-12-20)] and its presence in mixed cultures can decrease the volatile acidity and increase the production of mediumchain fatty acids, higher alcohol, esters, terpenols and glycerol [[15,](#page-12-9) [27\]](#page-12-21).

Some authors have also reported that *M*. *pulcherrima* can decrease the titratable acidity of the final wines [[15,](#page-12-9) [28](#page-12-22)]. This effect on the total acidity can be considered positive or negative, depending on the initial acidity level of the grape juice [\[28](#page-12-22)]. It has also been reported that *M*. *pulcherrima* has a higher capacity to release polysaccharides during alcoholic fermentation compared to *S*. *cerevisiae* [\[24](#page-12-18)]. More recently, sequential fermentations using *M*. *pulcherrima* and *S*. *cerevisiae* have been reported as producing wines with a significantly lower ethanol concentration [\[16](#page-12-10)].

Another recently described interesting aspect is that *M*. *pulcherrima* has an antimicrobial activity. The presence of *M*. *pulcherrima* does not influence the growth of *S*. *cerevisiae* but has a broad and effective antimicrobial action on undesired wild spoilage yeasts, such as *Brettanomyces/Dekkera* [\[29](#page-12-23)].

Today, sparkling wines account for an important percentage of the high-quality wine market and they are the type of wines for which sales have increased most in recent years [[30\]](#page-12-24). There are significant differences between sparkling and still wines, of which the presence of a high carbon dioxide concentration (10–12 g/L) is the most important. The persistence of the foam of sparkling wines is one of the major factors affecting their visual organoleptic characteristics [[31\]](#page-12-25). The ability of sparkling wines to form a stable collar is considered a criterion of quality by consumers [\[32](#page-12-26)]. It has been reported that the proteins and mannoproteins composition of base wines exert a major influence on their foaming properties [\[31](#page-12-25), [32\]](#page-12-26). Some authors have studied the influence of the different *S*. *cerevisiae* strains during the first and second fermentation of sparkling wines, as well as during the ageing period [\[33](#page-12-27), [34](#page-12-28)]. However, to our knowledge, there are no previous specific studies of the influence of sequential inoculation of non-*Saccharomyces* and *S*. *cerevisiae* during the first fermentation on the chemical composition and foaming properties of base wines in sparkling wine production.

The aim of this study was to determine the effect on the organoleptic quality and analytical composition of base

wines obtained by sequential inoculation of two different non-*Saccharomyces* (*M*. *pulcherrima* and *T*. *delbrueckii*) and *S*. *cerevisiae* during the first fermentation of base wines of the AOC Cava.

Materials and methods

Chemicals

All products were of high purity and suitable for high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Absolute ethanol, hydrochloric acid, l-tartaric acid, sodium hydroxide, D-glucose and D-fructose were purchased from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain). Ammonium acetate, ammonium chloride, ammonium formate, L-glutamine, L-aspargine, L-alanine, l-isoleucine, l-methionine, l-threonine, l-cysteine, L-tyrosine, L-valine, glycine, L-phenylalanine, glutamicacid, L-serina, L-leucine, L-histidine, L-tryptophan and L-lysine were provide by Sigma−Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany). Difco yeast nitrogen base w/o amino acids and ammonium sulphate were purchased from B. D. Becton, Dickinson and Company (Franklin Lakes, USA). Yeast extract, peptone, agar and lysine agar were purchased from Oxoid (Barcelona, Spain).

A Shodex P-82 pullulan calibration kit (P-5, *M*w = 5.9 kDa; P-10, *M*w = 11.8 kDa; P-20, *M*w = 22.8 kDa; P-50, *M*w = 47.5 kDa; P-100, *M*w = 112 kDa; P-200, *M*w = 212 kDa; P-400, $Mw = 404$ kDa; P-800, $Mw = 788$ kDa) was obtained from Waters (Barcelona, Spain), and a pullulan 1.3 kDa and four BioChemika dextrans (12, 25, 50 and 80 kDa) were obtained from Fluka (St. Louis, MO, USA). The polysaccharides used as external standards for quantification were pectins from citrus fruit $(>90\%)$, and dextrans synthesised by Leuconostoc mesenteroides (\geq 99.9 %) were provided by Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

The protein used as an external standard for quantification was bovine serum albumin (BSA) purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

All solutions were filtered beforehand through 0.22 μ m acetate cellulose filters (Millipore GSE).

Grape samples

The study was carried out with grapes of the *Vitis vinifera* cv. Macabeo. The grapes were manually picked from vineyards of Juvé & Camps SL in Espiells [AOC Cava; 41° 27′ 1.8972″ (N) and 1°49′ 6.6216″ (E)] during the 2013 vintage. The grapes were immediately transported to the experimental winery of the Oenology Faculty of the Rovira i Virgili University in Constantí (Tarragona, Spain).

Winemaking procedure

The grapes (1,200 kg) were crushed with an automatic crusher (Delta F2, Bucher Vaslin SA, Chalonnes sur Loire, France) and pressed with a pneumatic press (Marzola, Navarrete, La Rioja, Spain) to obtain a yield of 0.6 L/kg of grape juice. Since non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts are usually very sensitive to high concentrations of sulphur dioxide, the grape juice was immediately sulphited with a relatively low dose (30 mg/L of potassium disulphite) and filtered with a rotary vacuum filter (Della Toffola, Treviso, Italia). Seventy litres of filtered grape juice was then pumped to each of nine stainless steel tanks with a capacity of 100 L. These tanks were equipped with a jacket for temperature control. The initial density of the grape juice was 1,071. Three tanks were immediately inoculated with 250 mg/L of a commercial *S*. *cerevisiae* yeast strain considered as control (QA23®, Lallemand Inc., Montreal, Canada). Another three tanks were initially inoculated with 250 mg/L of a commercial *T*. *delbruekii* (Biodiva™, Lallemand Inc., Montreal, Canada), and 24 h later, when the density had fallen to around ten units, these tanks were reinoculated with 250 mg/L of the control *S*. *cerevisiae* yeast strain (QA23®, Lallemand Inc., Montreal, Canada). Finally, the remaining three tanks were initially inoculated with 250 mg/L of a commercial *M*. *pulcherrima* (Flavia®, Lallemand Inc., Montreal, Canada), and 36 h later, these tanks were reinoculated with 250 mg/L of the control *S*. *cerevisiae* yeast strain (QA23®, Lallemand Inc., Montreal, Canada). All the grape juices were supplemented with 400 mg/L of a yeast fermentation nutrient (Nutrient Vit Blanc, Lallemand Inc., Montreal, Canada). All vinifications were performed at 18 ± 1 °C. Once the alcoholic fermentations were finished, the wines were racked and sulphited (40 mg/L of potassium disulphite). All the wines were maintained in airtight vessels at 4 °C until the analysis, which took place three months later, when the wines were stable against potassium hydrogen tartrate precipitation [[35\]](#page-12-29). No treatment with bentonite was performed because base wines were nearly stable $[36]$ $[36]$, and the use of bentonite as riddling agent during second fermentation guarantees the stability of the future sparkling wines [[32\]](#page-12-26).

Synthetic grape juice fermentations

Similar fermentations were also performed by triplicate in a synthetic grape juice reproducing the experimental conditions developed in the natural grape juice. The aim of this experimental approach was to study the effect of sequential inoculations in a simpler matrix. A modification of the synthetic grape juice described by Riou et al. [[37\]](#page-12-31) was used. The only change was in the sugar concentration that was 170 g L (85 g/L glucose and 85 g/L fructose).

The yeast assimilable nitrogen (YAN) content in grape must was 300 mg N/L, as well as 120 mg N/L ammoniacal nitrogen (ammonium chloride), and 180 mg N/L amino acids (4.65 mg N/L asparagine, 11.39 mg N/L glutamic acid, 10.40 mg N/L serine, 47.87 mg N/L glutamine, 3.05 mg N/L histamine, 3.40 mg N/L glycine, 8.87 mg N/L threonine, 29.60 mg N/L arginine, 22.90 mg N/L alanine, 1.51 mg N/L tyrosine, 2.41 mg N/L cysteine, 5.29 mg N/L valine, 2.93 mg N/L methionine, 11.95 mg N/L tryptophan, 3.20 mg N/L phenylalanine, 3.47 mg N/L isoleucine, 5.14 mg N/L leucine, 1.62 mg N/L lysine). This synthetic grape juice also contained 1.70 g/L of the yeast nitrogen base (YNB) w/o amino acids and ammonium and 4 g/L tartaric acid, and adjusted to pH 3.2 with sodium hydroxide.

Wine sampling and yeast isolation during fermentations

Samples were taken from each vat during the vinification process at the beginning and the end of alcoholic fermentation. The initial point was 24 h after first inoculation, and the final point was when the density was lower than 995. Fifty-microlitres sterile plastic flasks were then filled with the must/wine from the centre of the vessels, kept under refrigerated conditions and transported to the laboratory. After dilutions, the samples were spread on two culture media plates. The first was YPD (yeast extract 1% (w/v), peptone 1 % (w/v), glucose 2 % (w/v) and agar 2 % w/v) which allows all yeasts to grow [[38\]](#page-12-32). The second culture medium was lysine agar (LYS), which is unable to support the growth of *S*. *cerevisiae* [[39\]](#page-12-33). The plates were incubated for 48 h at 28 °C. Yeast colonies were counted, and ten colonies were randomly selected from each medium and from each fermentation sample for identification.

DNA extraction and identification of yeast colonies

Yeast identification was carried out by means of PCR– RFLP of the 5.8S-ITS ribosomal region, as previously described [[40\]](#page-12-34). Specific differentiation between *C*. *zempellina* and *C*. *stellata* was employing the restriction enzyme MboI [\[41](#page-12-35)]. The results are presented as the arithmetic mean of the percentage of imposition of the three replicates.

Standard wine analysis

The analytical methods recommended by the OIV (2014) [\[42](#page-12-36)] were used to determine the ethanol content, titratable acidity, pH, volatile acidity and glycerol.

Measurement of foaming properties

The samples were centrifuged (10 min at 12,000 g) and tempered at 18 °C for 24 h before analysis. All foam measurements were taken using the Mosalux procedure [\[43](#page-13-0)]. A glass cylinder placed on a glass frit was filled with 100 mL of the sample. Carbon dioxide was then injected into the glass cylinder through the glass frit, with a constant gas flow of 115 mL/min under a constant pressure of 100 kPa.

Two parameters were measured: Hm corresponding to the maximum height reached by the foam after $CO₂$ injection through the glass frit and Hs corresponding to the stable height during CO2 injection. Hm represented the foamability (the wine's ability to foam), and Hs represented the foam stability (persistence of the foam collar or the wine's ability to have a stable foam). Both parameters, Hm and Hs, are expressed in mm. All measurements were determined in triplicate.

Polysaccharides extraction from samples

The samples were processed using the methodology described by [[44\]](#page-13-1). Briefly, 10 mL of wine samples was centrifuged for 20 min at 10,000×*g* in a Biofuge Primo (Heraeus, Hanau, Germany). The supernatant was concentrated to a final volume of 2 mL using a vacuum evaporator (Univap 100ECH, Uniequip, Martinsried, Germany). The total soluble polysaccharides were precipitated by the addition of 10 mL cold acidified ethanol (HCl 0.3 M in absolute ethanol) and kept for 24 h at 4 °C. The samples were then centrifuged $(10,000\times g, 15 \text{ min})$ and the supernatants discarded. Finally, the precipitates were dissolved in 1 mL of ultra-pure water, frozen to −20 °C and freeze-dried using a lyophilizer (Christ Alpha 1–4, Martin Christ, Osterode am Harz, Germany).

Determination of polysaccharides by HRSEC-RID

The soluble fractions were analysed by high-resolution size-exclusion chromatography (HRSEC) [[44\]](#page-13-1) in order to determine the molecular distribution and quantify the proteins obtained from samples. The lyophilised samples were resuspended in 1 mL of 50 mM ammonium formate, filtered through 0.22 um acetate cellulose filters (Millipore GSE), and then, $100 \mu L$ was injected into the chromatographic system. The analyses were carried out in an HPLC Agilent 1200 Series system (Agilent Technologies Inc., Santa Clara, USA) with a refractive index detector. Separation was carried out at 20 °C, using two different Shodex gel permeation HPLC columns (OHpak SB-803 HQ and SB-804 HQ, 300 mm \times 8 mm I.D.; Showa Denko, Japan). The mobile phase consists of an aqueous solution of 50 mM ammonium formate applied with a constant flow of 0.6 mL/min for 60 min, and the cell RID temperature was 35 °C. The molecular weight distribution of the wine fractions was followed by calibration with pullulan and dextran

standards of different molecular weights (see above). The polysaccharides were quantified according to the peak area for each fraction, using the external standard method with pectin and dextran commercial standards. The calibration curve was obtained by injection of standard solutions, under the same conditions as for the samples analysed, in the range between 0 and 2 g/L.

Sample preparation for protein analysis and for enrichment of wines with colloids

Aliquots of 15 mL of white wines and synthetic wines were centrifuged (10 min at $12.000 \times g$) in a Sorvall RC-5C (Heraeus, Hanau, Germany) and dialysed in tubes of a molecular weight cut-off of 3,500 Da (Membrane Filtration Products Inc., San Antonio, TX, USA). The dialysed samples were lyophilised (Christ Alpha 1–4, Martin Christ, Osterode am Harz, Germany) and preserved at −20 °C until the time of analysis. A similar procedure was applied to aliquots of 200 mL of synthetic wines in order to obtain a colloid extract to enrich samples of 200 mL of control white wine with the released colloids *from S*. *cerevisiae* and both sequential inoculations. These enriched wines were used to measure the foaming properties in comparison with the original control wine.

Determination of proteins by HRSEC-DAD

The soluble fractions were analysed by high-resolution size-exclusion chromatography (HRSEC) in order to determine the molecular distribution and quantify the proteins obtained from samples [[45\]](#page-13-2). The lyophilised samples were resuspended in 0.6 μL of 300 mM ammonium acetate and were centrifuged at 12,000 g for 5 min. The supernatant was filtered through 0.22 μ m acetate cellulose filters (Millipore GSE), and $100 \mu L$ of supernatant was then injected into the chromatographic system. The analyses were carried out in an HPLC Agilent 1200 Series system (Agilent Technologies Inc., Santa Clara, USA) with a DAD detector monitored at 230, 280 and 320 nm. Separation was carried out at 20 °C using a Shodex gel permeation HPLC columns (OHpak SB-803 HQ, 300 mm \times 8 mm I.D.; Showa Denko, Japan). The mobile phase consists of an aqueous solution of 300 mM ammonium acetate applied with a constant flow of 0.6 mL/min for 70 min. The proteins were quantified according to the peak area for each fraction and using the external standard method with BSA (see above) in the range between 0 and 10 mg/mL $(r^2 > 0.99)$.

Analysis of volatile compounds

The analysis of volatile compounds was tasked to the Laboratory for Aroma Analysis and Oenology of the University of Zaragoza (Zaragoza, Spain) according to the methods proposed and validated by Barata et al. [[46\]](#page-13-3).

The quantification of major compounds was carried out using the method previously described [\[47\]](#page-13-4). The extract was prepared in accordance with this method with adjustments [[46\]](#page-13-3): in 15-mL screw-capped centrifuge tubes, containing 4.1 g of ammonium sulphate, were added 2.7 mL of wine, 6.3 mL of water, 20 µL of internal standard solution (2-butanol, 4-methyl-2-pentanol, 4-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-pentanone, heptanoic acid and 2-octanol at 200 µg/mL in ethanol), and 0.25 mL of dichloromethane. The tubes were shaken for 90 min and then centrifuged at $867 \times g$ for 10 min. Once the phases had been separated, the dichloromethane phase was recovered with a 0.5-mL syringe and transferred to a 0.3 mL vial. The extract was then analysed by GC in a Hewlett-Packard 5890 series II gas chromatograph with FID. This instrument was equipped with capillary column DB-WAX (30 m and 0.32 mm I.D. and 0.5-µl film thickness) from J&W Scientific preceded by a $2 \text{ m} \times 0.53 \text{ mm}$ uncoated precolumn. Chromatographic conditions were as follows: hydrogen as the carrier gas (2.2 mL/min; split injection mode 1:10 (split relation) with 3-µL injection volume; injector temperature at 250 °C; and detector temperature at 250 °C). The initial column temperature was 40 °C for 2 min, heated to 200 at 2 °C min, and remaining at that temperature for 30 min. Quantitative data were obtained by interpolation of relative peak areas in the calibration graphs built by interpolation of relative peak areas in the calibration graphs built by the analysis of synthetic wines containing known amounts of the analytes.

This analysis was carried out using the methods proposed and validated by [[48](#page-13-5)] with adjustments [[46](#page-13-3)]: standard SPE cartridges (1 mL total volume) filled with 50 mg of LiChrolut EN resins were placed in the vacuum manifold extraction system, and the sorbents were conditioned by rinsing the cartridges with 6 mL of dichloromethane, 2 mL of methanol, and finally, 2 mL of a water–ethanol mixture (12 $\%$, v/v). The cartridges were then loaded with 15 mL of wine sample and 10 µL of a surrogate standards solution containing 3-octanone, β-damascene and heptanoic acid (all at 200 µL/g of ethanol). This mixture was passed through the SPE cartridges (2 mL/min) followed by a wash step using 5 mL of 40 $%$ water–methanol solution. The resins were then dried by letting air pass through (negative pressure of 0.6 bars, 10 min). Analytes were recovered in a 2-mL vial, by elution with 0.6 mL of dichloromethane. Twelve microlitres of an internal standard solution (300 mg/L of 4-hydroxy-4methyl-2-pentanone and 2-octanol) was added to the eluted sample. The extract was then analysed by GC with ion-trap MS detection. CP-3800 gas chromatographic

Fig. 1 Percentage of presence of the different yeasts at the beginning and at the end of alcoholic fermentation

analyses were performed under the conditions described in [\[48\]](#page-13-5).

Results and discussion

Sensory analysis

All sensory analyses were performed in the tasting room of the Faculty of Oenology of Tarragona (Rovira I Virgili University) which was designed according to UNE-EN ISO 8589:2010 [[49\]](#page-13-6). Tasting was carried out with the ISO official tasting glasses (ISO 3591.1977). To evaluate the effect of sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* or *M*. *pulcherrima* and *S*. *cerevisiae* versus the control fermented only with *S*. *cerevisiae* on wine organoleptic characteristics, all the wines were tasted by a group of nine expert tasters from the Rovira i Virgili University. Two sensory triangle tests were conducted to compare the control wine with both sequential inoculation wines according to UNE ISO 4120.1983. In all the cases, the main objective was to determine whether tasters were able to recognise the wine that was different. The second objective was to determine which wine was preferred by the panellists who correctly identified the different wines.

Statistical analysis

One-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) was carried out using SPSS 15.0 software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL). The level of significance of sensory triangle tests was deter-mined following Jackson's method [\[50](#page-13-7)].

Yeast population kinetic

Figure [1](#page-5-0) shows the percentage of presence of the different yeasts at the beginning and the end of alcoholic fermentation of the different experimental conditions. When the culture medium was YPD, a high presence of indigenous non-*Saccharomyces* yeast, *Candida zemplinina* (formerly *C*. *stellata*), was detected at the beginning of the fermentation in all the samples (between 50 and 57 %). The presence of *C*. *zemplinina* at the beginning of alcoholic fermentation has previously been described as very common in spontaneous and in inoculated fermentation [[2,](#page-11-1) [3](#page-11-2)]. However, the presence of the initially inoculated yeast was confirmed in all cases. Specifically, *S*. *cerevisiae* was present at 50 %, whereas *T*. *delbrueckii* and *M*. *pulcherrima* were present at 50 and 43 %, respectively, in their corresponding inoculated tanks. These data confirm that in all cases, the inoculated yeasts were present at the beginning of the alcoholic fermentation despite the high presence of *C*. *zemplinina*. The initial high population of *C*. *zemplinina* as well as the presence of the corresponding inoculated yeasts was confirmed when the LYS medium was employed. In the particular case of the grape juice inoculated with *S*. *cerevisiae*, the presence of *C*. *zemplinina* was 100 % which is quite logical because only non-*Saccharomyces* can grow in this medium. By contrast, *T*. *delbrueckii* and *M*. *pulcherrima* were present

Table 1 Standard parameters

All data are expressed as the arithmetic mean of three replicates \pm standard deviation. TA titratable acidity

Different letters indicate the existence of statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between samples

at 43 and 40 %, respectively, in their corresponding inoculated tanks in the LYS medium at the beginning of alcoholic fermentation.

As expected, the preponderance of *S*. *cerevisiae* at the end of alcoholic fermentation was clear in all the cases in the YPD medium and was 100 % in the case of the tank inoculated only with *S*. *cerevisiae*, and also when sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* and *S*. *cerevisiae* was carried out. This has been previously described by [[51\]](#page-13-8) probably due to the difficulty of surviving elevated alcoholic [[52](#page-13-9)]. This preponderance was also present when the sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* and *S*. *cerevisiae* was applied. However, in that case, a slight presence of *T*. *delbrueckii* (13 %) was detected, confirming the ability of this non-*Saccharomyces* yeast to survive at high ethanol concentrations [[20](#page-12-14), [48](#page-13-5)]. These data were confirmed when the LYS medium was employed. In that case, the percentage of *T*. *delbrueckii* was 100 %. By contrast, no colonies were detected in the tanks inoculated only with *S*. *cerevisiae* or with *M*. *pulcherrima* and then with *S*. *cerevisiae*. These results are quite logical, since *S*. *cereviaise* cannot grow in this medium and the other non-*Saccharomyces* yeast present at the initial point of the different medium, *C*. *zemplinina* and *M*. *pulcherrima* cannot survive at high ethanol concentrations $[2, 4]$ $[2, 4]$ $[2, 4]$ $[2, 4]$ $[2, 4]$.

Taken together, these data confirm that all the inoculated yeasts were at least present in a significant level in their corresponding vats, although in all cases the presence of indigenous *C*. *zemplinina* was really high. This yeast is present in all fermentations around 50–60 %, and for this reason, it is expected that the effect of its presence on the properties of wine is comparable with control. The validity of the experimental design is consequently confirmed.

Standard parameters

Table [1](#page-6-0) shows the standard parameters of the white wines and synthetic wines. The ethanol content, titratable acidity and pH of all the samples were very similar, indicating that no statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) were caused in these parameters by sequential inoculation of both non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts. *M*. *pulcherrima* has been previously described as being able to significantly decrease ethanol content [\[16](#page-12-10)], but this was not the case under our experimental conditions. The glycerol content and volatile acidity from sequential inoculations with *M*. *pulcherrima* were also similar to the control wines. However, the development of *T*. *delbrueckii* at the beginning of alcoholic fermentation produced some interesting differences in volatile acidity and glycerol concentration. Specifically, wines from sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* had significantly higher glycerol content and significantly lower volatile acidity than their corresponding control wines. In the particular case of volatile acidity, this difference was drastic in the synthetic medium, in which the volatile acidity was more than three times lower. These data are consistent with previously published data, which have described *T*. *delbrueckii* as producing wines with lower volatile acidity and higher glycerol content [[17,](#page-12-11) [21\]](#page-12-15).

Foam parameters

Figure [2](#page-7-0) shows the foam parameters of white wines and synthetic wines. The results for foamability (Hm) were very interesting. Sequential inoculation with the employed strain of *T*. *delbrueckii* seems to improve the foam characteristics of white wine, because both parameters, Hm and Hs, increased significantly in white wine (by 17 and 20 %, respectively). By contrast, sequential inoculation

Fig. 2 Foam parameters of synthetic and natural wines. All data are expressed as the arithmetic mean of three replicates \pm standard deviation. *Different letters* indicate the existence of statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$)

with *M*. *pulcherrima* did not improve Hm, but significantly increased Hs in white wine, and the increase was even higher than in the case of *T*. *delbrueckii* (35 %).

This tendency was also observed in the synthetic wines but to a lesser degree. Specifically, Hm was slightly but significantly higher (9 %) in sequential inoculation, whereas no differences were observed in the case of *M*. *pulcherrima*. No significant differences were found in Hs in any

Table 2 Proteins

of the experimental conditions, possibly because Hs is not stable in that media.

Proteins and polysaccharides

Proteins and mannoproteins released by yeasts have been reported as exerting a positive effect on foam parameters [\[33](#page-12-27)]. Molecular exclusion HPLC of all the samples was performed for this reason (Table [2](#page-7-1)). The total protein content of white wines and synthetic wines was significantly higher in samples from sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* than in the corresponding controls. These differences were mainly due to the lower molecular weight fraction (LMw; molecular weight < 60 kDa). Since proteins can stabilise the bubble's film because of their surface properties [[33\]](#page-12-27), the increase in LMw protein fraction may be related to the improved foam parameters observed in this wine.

It has been described that it exists a relationship between foam characteristics and chemical composition of base wines and their corresponding sparkling wines [[36\]](#page-12-30). Consequently, it is expected that the corresponding sparkling wines maintain these characteristics.

By contrast, the total protein content of wines from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* was similar to the controls. Some slight but significant differences were observed in the high molecular weight fraction (HMw; molecular weight > 80 kDa). However, no differences were found in any of the other fractions.

Table [3](#page-8-0) shows the polysaccharide fraction of the different wines. The total polysaccharide concentration of white wine fermented by sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* was very similar to the controls. This similar behaviour was observed in all molecular weight fractions. However, sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* produced a white wine with a significantly higher concentration of total polysaccharides. This increase was mainly

All data are expressed as the arithmetic mean of three replicates ± standard deviation. *HMw* high molecular weight fraction, *IMw* intermediate molecular weight fraction, *LMw* low molecular weight fraction

Different letters indicate the existence of statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between samples

Table 3 Polysaccharides

Parameter	S. cerevisiae	$T.$ delbrueckii $+ S.$ cerevisiae	M. pulcherrima $+ S$. cerevisiae
$HM_w (M_w > 144 \text{ kDa})$	$55.8 \pm 2.5 a$	$49.2 \pm 5.6 a$	68.8 ± 0.7 b
IM_{w} (144 kDa > M_{w} > 40 kDa)	62.9 ± 4.6 ab	57.9 ± 6.6 a	$69.9 \pm 2.0 b$
LM_w (40 kDa > M_w > 5 kDa)	$29.9 \pm 5.4 a$	$26.1 \pm 5.6 a$	37.8 ± 6.3 a
Total polysaccharides	148.7 ± 6.3 ab	$139.0 \pm 4.2 a$	$186.9 \pm 27.1 b$
Total oligosaccharides	155.8 ± 53.5 ab	224.8 ± 37.5 a	$114.0 \pm 17.2 b$
Total polysaccharides	$55.2 \pm 6.9 a$	72.4 ± 7.0 b	52.4 \pm 4.7 a
Total oligosaccharides	232.7 ± 18.4 a	$147.4 \pm 1.9 b$	105.2 ± 19.2 c

All data are expressed as the arithmetic mean of three replicates ± standard deviation. *HMw* high molecular weight fraction, *IMw* intermediate molecular weight fraction, *LMw* low molecular weight fraction

Different letters indicate the existence of statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between samples

due to the high and the intermediate molecular weight fraction (HMw; 144–1,000 kDa; IMw; 40–144 kDa). *M*. *pulcherrima* and *T*. *delbrueckii* have previously been reported as releasing higher amounts of polysaccharides [\[17](#page-12-11), [24\]](#page-12-18). However, this was not the case in our experimental conditions with *T*. *delbrueckii*. The oligosaccharide (Mw < 5 kDa) concentration of wines fermented with both sequential inoculations was also statistically similar to the controls. However, the oligosaccharide concentration of the wines fermented with sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* was significantly higher than in wines fermented with sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima*.

The chromatogram profiles obtained in the synthetic wine were quite different to those obtained in the white wines, probably due to no polysaccharides from grapes being present in this medium. Only two peaks can be distinguished under these conditions—one peak for oligosaccharides, and other for polysaccharides. In this medium, the content of polysaccharides obtained by sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* was significantly higher and the content of oligosaccharides significantly lower than in the controls. By contrast, sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* led to similar polysaccharide concentrations and significantly lower oligosaccharide concentrations than in the control.

This dissimilar behaviour of *T*. *delbrueckii* and *M*. *pulcherrima* in synthetic wine as compared to white wine seems to indicate that the composition of the fermentation media exerts some influence on the polysaccharide and oligosaccharide release by these non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts. Indeed, some authors have suggested that the lower the content of colloids in the media, the higher the release of colloids by yeasts [\[53](#page-13-10)]. White wine comes from a grape juice containing grape polysaccharides, whereas the synthetic juice did not. Moreover, some of the original polysaccharides of the grape juice would have precipitated or been hydrolysed, making it impossible to establish a complete balance. In any case, sequential inoculation with *T*.

Fig. 3 Influence of the addition of the colloids released by the different yeasts on foam parameters of wine. All data are expressed as the arithmetic mean of three replicates ± standard deviation. *Different letters* indicate the existence of statistically significant differences $(p < 0.05)$

delbrueckii produced larger amounts of polysaccharides than the controls in the synthetic medium. These data are consistent with those reported by other authors, who described *T*. *delbrueckii* as releasing more polysaccharides than *S*. *cerevisiae*, although this behaviour was not observed in the white wine.

The foaming properties of the different enriched control wines were measured in order to clarify whether the positive effects of sequential inoculation of *T*. *delbreuckii* and *M*. *pulcherrima* on the foam properties were due to the combination of colloids released by these yeasts during alcoholic fermentation (Fig. [3\)](#page-8-1). In all cases, the enriched wines presented significantly enhanced parameters of the foam (Hm and Hs). However, the increase in Hm was significantly higher in the wines which were enriched with the colloids released by the sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii*. Consequently, these data confirm that sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* has a clearly positive effect on this parameter. This improvement of the foam is presumably due to the released proteins included in the ensemble of colloids, which as mentioned above, exert a positive influence on bubble's film stability [[31,](#page-12-25) [32\]](#page-12-26).

Table 4 Fermentative volatile

All data are expressed as the arithmetic mean of three replicates ± standard deviation Different letters indicate the existence of statistically significant differences (*p* < 0.05) between samples

Volatile compounds

Table [4](#page-9-0) shows the fermentative volatile composition of white wines. In general, the production of total acids by both sequential inoculations with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts was significantly lower than in controls. However, acetic acid must be considered as accounting for more than 85 % in all cases, and the data should therefore be analysed separately.

The production of acetic acid by sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* was significantly lower than in the controls. These data are consistent with the trends observed for the volatile acidity (Table [1\)](#page-6-0) and agree with previously published data, which described acetic acid production during alcoholic fermentation as being minor when *T*. *delbrueckii* is present [[19\]](#page-12-13). By contrast, sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* originated white wines with acetic acid concentration which was similar to the controls.

Some slight but significant differences were found in some of the other acids, depending on the yeast. However, these differences were too small to provide any organoleptic difference.

The production of higher alcohols in white wines by both sequential inoculations with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts was significantly higher, with 3-methyl-1-butanol being mainly responsible for this increase. In any case, these data confirm that the development of *T*. *delbrueckii* and *M*. *pulcherrima* significantly increases the production of higher alcohols, as described previously [[15,](#page-12-9) [23\]](#page-12-17).

The development of *T*. *delbrueckii* or *M*. *pulcherrima* during alcoholic fermentation has been reported as inducing lower production of acetaldehyde [\[20](#page-12-14)]. Our data confirm that this is true in sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima*, but not in the case of *T*. *delbrueckii*.

In general, the production of total major esters in wines from sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* was similar to the controls, whereas it was lower in the wines from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima*. However, the fact that ethyl acetate represents more than 60 % in all the samples must be considered. If ethyl acetate is not considered, no significant differences in the total major esters would be detected in any of the experimental conditions.

As was the case with higher alcohols, some slight but significant differences were found in some of the other major esters, depending on the yeast. However, these differences were too small to provide any important organoleptic difference.

With regard to the minor esters, no differences were found between the control wines and those fermented by sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii*. However, the presence of these minor esters was significantly lower in the wines from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima*. This lower minor ester concentration was mainly due to a

drastic decrease in butyl acetate concentration (of around 90 %).

Some authors have found that the development of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts tends to create wines with higher ester concentrations [\[9](#page-12-3), [14\]](#page-12-8). As discussed above, no major differences were found in any of the sequential inoculation with non-*Saccharomyces*, with the sole exception of butyl acetate, which was at much lower levels in the wines produced from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima*.

By contrast, the production of lactones by both sequential inoculations with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts was significantly higher, and g-decalactone was responsible for this increase.

In general, no great differences in the aromatic profile of fermentative volatile compounds were found in any of the experimental conditions. In the case of *T*. *delbrueckii*, these data are consistent with other studies, which found only slight differences [[20\]](#page-12-14).

Table [5](#page-11-4) shows the volatile phenols of the different wines. Sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* did not lead to major differences in volatile phenols. Only some slight but significant increases were detected in 4-ethylphenol and 4-vinylphenol. However, these compounds were in all cases far below the perception threshold, and they, therefore, have no sensory implications. By contrast, the total volatile phenols concentration of the wines from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* was significantly higher than in the controls. This increase was due to 4-vinylphenol, 2-methoxyphenol and especially 2,6-dimethoxyphenol. This latter compound, which has a smoky aroma [\[54](#page-13-11)], was present in wines from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* at a concentration four times higher than in the controls, and above its perception threshold $(570 \mu g/l)$ [\[48](#page-13-5)]. Therefore, the presence of this compound should be perceived.

Sensory evaluation

Table [6](#page-11-5) shows the sensory analysis results. Two triangular tests were performed, comparing the control with both sequential inoculation wines. Six tasters were able to distinguish the wines from sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii* from the control wines, whereas three could not. These data are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) and consequently indicates the existence of sensory differences between these wines. Moreover, five of the six tasters who correctly identified the different wines preferred the wine from sequential inoculation with *T*. *delbrueckii*.

The comparison between wines from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima* was even more significant ($p < 0.01$). In this case, eight tasters were able to distinguish between the wines, and five of them attributed smoky and flowery aromas to the wine fermented by sequential inoculation with *M*.

Table 5 Volatile phenols of white wines

All data are expressed as the arithmetic mean of three replicates \pm standard deviation

Different letters indicate the existence of statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between samples

Table 6 Sensorial analysis results for wines

Triangular test	Positive identifications		Preferences		
			S. cerevisiae	T. delbrueckii + S. cerevisiae	M. pulcherrima $+ S$. cerevisiae
S. cerevisiae versus T. delbrueckii $+$ S. cerevisiae 6/9		0.05			
S. cerevisiae versus M. pulcherrima $+$ S. cerevisiae 8/9		0.01	-4	$\overline{}$	

pulcherrima. The smoky perception is probably associated with the higher production of 2, 6-dimethoxyphenol since it has been previously described that has this olfactory note [\[54\]](#page-13-11). However, the detected flowery notes cannot be associated with any of the measured volatile compounds. In any case, there was no clear preference because among the tasters who correctly identified the different wines four preferred the control, while the other four preferred the wine from sequential inoculation with *M*. *pulcherrima*.

Conclusion

It can, therefore, be concluded that sequential inoculation with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts may be a useful tool for obtaining base wines with different characteristics. On the one hand, the *T*. *delbrueckii* Biodiva™ strain exerts a positive effect on foaming properties, improving foamability (Hm) and foam persistence (Hs). On the other hand, *M*. *pulcherrima* Flavia® strain also increases foam persistence (Hs) and changes the aromatic profile by increasing smoky and flowery notes. Further studies are needed to verify whether these different characteristics produced by sequential inoculation of non-*Saccharomyces* remain in the corresponding sparkling wines after the second fermentation and bottle ageing.

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