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1	QTLs for Malting Flavor Component Associated with Pre-harvest Sprouting
2	Susceptibility in Barley (Hordeum vulgare L.)
3	
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20	# equal contribution as the first author
21	Abbreviation:
22	cM = Centimorgan
23	DH= Doubled Haploid
24	DHLs = Doubled Haploid Lines
25	LOX= Lipoxygenase
26	QTL= Quantitative Trait Loci
27	(S)-9-HPODE = (9S)-9-hydroperoxy-10E, 12Z-octadecadienoic acid
28	(S)-13-HPODE= (13S)-13-hydroperoxy-9Z, 11E-octadecadienoic acid
29	THOD = Trihydroxyoctadecenoic acid

30 9-HPL-like = Hydroperoxide Lyase-like.

31 Abstract

32 Lipoxygenase (LOX) is a key factor affecting quality of beer in terms of foam 33 stability and flavour. Low LOX content is a desirable trait for malting quality. A 34 doubled haploid (DH) population was made from a cross of Australian malting barley 35 Stirling and Canadian malting barley Harrington and mapped with 513 molecular markers. The 120 DH lines with their parents were planted in field trials and 36 37 harvested grains were micro-malted for analysis of LOX content in two consecutive 38 years. LOX content was controlled by both genetic effects and environment 39 conditions. Three QTLs were consistently detected. One QTL flanked by the markers 40 E6216 and SCssr03907 at the telomere region of chromosome 5HL contributed 39% 41 of genetic variation in LOX content. The second QTL close to the centromere region 42 of chromosome 5H accounted for 17% of genetic variation. A minor QTL on 43 chromosome 2H explained 6% of genetic variation but was significant in both years. 44 The Australian variety Stirling contributed to higher LOX content for the three QTLs. 45 The two QTLs mapped at chromosome 5H for LOX content coincided with the QTLs 46 for seed dormancy/pre-harvest sprouting from the same population. The pre-harvest 47 sprouting susceptible alleles were associated with low LOX content, which indicated 48 that the low LOX QTL from the Canadian malting barleys are only useful in the 49 barley growing areas where the pre-harvest sprouting risk is low. New genetic sources 50 for low LOX should be exploited in different germplasm with different mechanisms.

51

52 Keywords

53 Lipoxygenase, Malting flavor, Quantitative trait loci, Seed dormancy

54 **1. Introduction**

55 Lipoxygenases (linoleate:oxygen oxidoreductase, LOX, EC 1.13.11.12) form a family of non-heme-iron-containing fatty acid dioxygenases that are widely 56 57 distributed in plants and animals. The enzymes catalyze the peroxidation of 58 polyunsaturated fatty acids containing a 1Z, 4Z-pentadiene system to yield the 59 (S)-configured hydroperoxy fatty acids and are involved in the first reaction for 60 synthesis of compounds derived from polyunsaturated fatty acids, collectively called 61 oxylipins (Feussner and Wasternack, 2002). They are involved in several plant 62 metabolic processes, such as seed development, germination, vegetative growth, 63 wounding, stress responses, senescence and cell signaling (Porta and Rocha-Sosa, 64 2002). Many isoenzymes of LOX have been found in plants.

Three isoforms of LOX have been described in barley. Through lipoxygenase 65 reactions, the fatty acids can be converted to a variety of secondary metabolites which 66 67 are considered to play a role in staling and off-flavor formation in beer (Feussner et al., 2001; Kuroda et al., 2003a). Besides favouring the yeast performance during 68 69 fermentation, lipids can negatively influence filtration rates, decrease foam stability, 70 and may give rise to the development of off-flavor compounds (Doderer et al., 1992). 71 A lipoxygenase (LOX1) in barley was first reported by Franke and Freshe in 1953. 72 Subsequently a second isoenzyme (LOX2), which generally appears to develop only 73 after germination, was documented (Yabuuchi, 1976; Baxter, 1982; Doderer et al., 1992). LOX-1 is already present in quiescent grains and catalyzes the formation of 74 75 (9S)-9-hydroperoxy-10E, 12Z-octadecadienoic acid [(S)-9-HPODE]. LOX-2 is a 76 germination-associated LOX isoform, which is formed during germination and 77 catalyzes the formation of (13S)-13-hydroperoxy-9Z, 11E-octadecadienoic acid 78 [(S)-13-HPODE] with linoleic acid as the substrate (van Mechelen et al., 1999; 79 Holtman et al., 1997; Doderer et al., 1992). In mature plants its distribution is similar 80 to that of LOX-1 with the highest activity in leaves and roots (Holtman et al., 1996). 81 Expression of the third LOX isoform has been detected only after germination and is 82 similar to that of LOX-2, although in mature vegetative tissues it is present only at low levels (van Mechelen et al., 1999). LOX-1 is of great interest because 9-HPOD 83

84 forms beer-deteriorating substances such as trans-2-nonenal and 85 trihydroxyoctadecenoic acid (THOD) during further reactions in the brewing process (Kobayashi et al., 1993; Kuroda et al., 2002, 2003b). Trans-2-nonenal is known as a 86 87 major component of the cardboard flavour in aged beer (Meilgaard, 1975; Drost et al., 88 1990). THOD is known to have an adverse effect on the quality of beer in terms of 89 foam stability and flavour (Bauer et al., 1977; Yabuuchi and Yamashita, 1979; 90 Kaneda et al., 2001; Kobayashi et al., 2002).

91 The genes encoding LOXs were cloned and then mapped to the LoxA locus on 92 chromosome 4H and the LoxC locus on chromosome 5H, respectively (van Mechelen 93 et al., 1995, 1999). LOX-1 provides the predominant LOX activity in malt and has a 94 relatively low pI compared to LOX-2 (Yang et al., 1993; Yang and Schwarz, 1995). 95 In contrast to these functional characterisations of LOX, little is known about its 96 genetic variation in barley. Recently, LOX-1 null mutants were explored to reduce 97 LOX content in new malting barley varieties (Hirota et al., 2006). Malting barley lines 98 with the mutant gene demonstrated significant improvement of flavour and foam 99 stability (Hirota et al., 2006).

100 The test of wort nonenal potential, which is widely used by brewers to estimate 101 quality of malting related to beer flavour stability, is a kind of forcing test to measure 102 the potential of wort to form 2(E)-nonenal. Recently a successful malt selection and 103 malting methods for improving the flavour stability of beer was identified, which 104 involved in the production of 2(E)-nonenal during mashing. LOXs, which are 105 nonheme ferrus proteins and catalyze the hydroperoxidation of polyunsaturated fatty 106 acids with a 1.4-cis-cis-pentadiene structure, play an important role in this process. It 107 was found that 2(E)-nonenal is produced by the cascade reaction of barley LOX and 108 malt 9-fatty acid hydroperoxide lyase-like activity (9-HPL-like activity) in malt 109 (Larsen et al. 2001; Founier et al., 2001). Thus, LOX activity has been chosen as an 110 indicator for beer quality. However, measurement of LOX activity is a time 111 consuming and labour intensive process as demonstrated in the material and methods 112 section in this paper. Furthermore, the requirement of malting barley grain before the

enzyme assay also restricts the use of the chemical LOX method for early generationselection of LOX in breeding programs.

115 It has been a market mystery that the Canadian malting barley has better malting 116 flavour. In our barley breeding program, significant variation has been observed for 117 LOX content among barley varieties. In general, the Canadian malting barley varieties 118 and the varieties derived from the Canadian varieties showed lower LOX content 119 comparing to Australian malting barley varieties. In this study, we examined LOX 120 content in a DH population from a cross between Australian and Canadian malting 121 barley varieties and identified QTLs for LOX content which will provide tools for 122 marker assisted selection for low LOX in the breeding programs.

124 **2.** Experimental

125 2.1. Plant material

A population of 185 doubled haploid lines (DHLs) was generated by anther culture from a Stirling/Harrington cross and kindly provided by Kirin Australia. This population was previously used to map QTLs controlling seed dormancy/pre-harvest sprouting. Details of the map construction and seed dormancy analysis were reported in the previous publication (Bonnardeaux et al., 2008).

131

132 2.2 .Field experiment

133 The Stirling/Harrington DH population was planted in 2005 and 2006 at the 134 Wongan Hills Research Station, Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA), 135 188 km north-east of Perth. The field plot was planted in a randomised complete block design with plots of 1 by 3 m^2 . Control plots of Stirling (parental line) plants 136 were sown in the first and last rows (rows 1 and 19) and Hamelin (progeny of 137 138 Stirling/Harrington cross) control plots were sown in the middle of the field plot (row 139 11). The control varieties were used for spatial adjustment of the experimental data. 140 The second parental line, Harrington, was planted in an individual plot in the next 141 block in one season.

142

143 2.3. Micro-malting process

144 120 DH lines were sub-sampled from this population for micro-malting and QTL 145 analysis of LOX content. Barley samples were cleaned and sieved over a 2.2 mm 146 screen prior to micro-malting in a Joe White Systems micro-malting unit without the 147 use of additives. A standard malting schedule was used: Steeping - 19°C, 7h wet, 8h 148 air rest, 3h wet, 4h air rest, 1h wet. Germination was total 96 hours (48 hours at 18°C 149 followed by 48 hours at 16°C), moisture adjusted to 46% at 24 hours. Kilning was 2h 150 at 45°C, 3h at 50°C, 4h at 55°C, 3h at 60°C, 3h at 65°C, 3h at 70°C, 2h at 75°C, and 151 4h at 80°C. Malt rootlets were removed using a custom made rootlet removing 152 machine (Fraser Fabrications P/L, Malaga, Western Australia).

153	
154	2.4. Lipoxygenase Assay
155	We used the Joe White Malting revised version of the Malt Lipoxygenase (LOX).
156	The assay was originally from Baxter (1982). All processes were completed on ice
157	unless otherwise indicated.
158	
159	2.4. 1. Preparation of substrate solution (2.5% linoleic acid)
160	A 5 mL of 0.05 M-borate buffer (pH 9.0) was added to a volumetric flask (10 mL)
161	followed by adding 0.25 mL Tween20, 0.25 mL Linoleic acid and 0.65 mL 1M
162	NaOH. The contents were shaken gently in the ultrasonic bath with ice water until the
163	solution became clear, then distilled water was added to 10 mL.
164	
165	2.4. 2. Enzyme extraction from finished malt
166	Finished malts were milled in a Retsch ZM200 centrifugal mill (Retsch GmBH,
167	Germany) with a 1.0 mm screen and 5 g of milled malt was transferred to 100 mL
168	flask. 50 mL of acetate buffer (pH5.0) containing 0.1 M NaCl was added and kept in
169	ice water bath for 15 min with occasional shaking. The resulting solution was
170	transferred into a 1.5 mL eppendorf tube and centrifuged for 5 min at 10,000 rpm. The
171	supernatant was subsequently transferred to a new eppendorf tube and stored on ice.
172	
173	2.4. 3. Enzyme assay
174	The temperature of the cell holder and phosphate buffer (0.1M, pH 6.8) was
175	equilibrated to 25°C by water circulation. 100 μL enzyme extract and 2850 μL
176	phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 6.8) was added to 50 µL substrate solution, mixed,
177	returned to the cell holder and the absorbance recorded at 1min and 4min at 234 nm.
178	The blank absorbance was measured using 50 μL substrate solution and 2950 μL
179	phosphate buffer at 1 min.

180

181 2.4. 4. Calculation and expression of results

One unit of LOX activity represents an increase in absorbance at 234 nm of 1.0 182



After removing the redundant markers, a framework map with 284 molecular markers were used for QTL mapping. Software package Map Manager QTX was initially used to map the QTL based on each year's data. The data collected over the two years generated similar QTLs for LOX content. Final QTL analyses were performed using the software package QTLNetwork (Yang et al., 2008) to combine the data from the two years which were treated as an environmental factor. In this

software the QTL effects are estimated by the Monte Carlo Markov Chain method/mixed linear model approach. Permutation tests (Doerge and Churchill, 1996) were carried out using 1000 iterations at 1 centimorgan (cM) intervals. A minimum separation of 10 cM ('filtration window') was used to define individual adjacent QTLs. The QTL Network calculates a P value for significance and in the present study a threshold of P < 0.05 was used to declare a significant QTL.

JMP software was used for statistical analysis (SAS Institute). Association of different traits was calculated using stepwise regression analysis by the 'Fit-model' function of JMP software (SAS Institute). A probability of p<0.01 was used to claim association between traits.

223 **3. Results**

224 3.1. Genetic analysis of LOX content

225 The LOX and protein contents in the Stirling/Harrington DH population were 226 assessed over 2 years. The LOX content varied from 8.9 to 48.1 U/g with average 227 22.1 U/g in 2005 trials while the variation was from 13.4 to 48.7 U/g with an average 228 26.5 U/g in 2006. The 2006 samples had significantly higher protein content 229 compared to the 2005 samples (p<0.01). However, the protein content was not 230 correlated to LOX content in both years (R²=0.02 & 0.00 respectively in 2005 and 231 2006). The LOX content was significantly correlated each other in the two years (Fig. 232 1). The 2005 data could explain 39% of the variation of 2006 data for the LOX 233 content. Thus, LOX content was controlled by genetic factors and impacted on by 234 environment in the Stirling/Harrington DH population.

Fig. 2 shows the distribution of average LOX content in 2005 and 2006. A normal distribution pattern was observed, which suggested that multiple genes/QTLs control LOX content in the Stirling/Harrington DH population. Australian malting barley variety Stirling consistently showed higher LOX content.

239

240 *3.2. Molecular linkage map*

The molecular linkage maps included 513 markers. Except for chromosome 7H, a single linkage group was established for each chromosome (Fig. 3). Molecular markers for each chromosome varied from 33 on chromosome 1H to 104 on chromosome 2H. The 7 chromosomes covered 1043 cM with an average marker distance of 2 cM.

246

247 3.3. Genetic mapping of LOX content

Genomic scanning of the 7 chromosomes identified three significant quantitative trait loci (QTL) for LOX content. Two QTL for LOX content were mapped on chromosome 5H and the third mapped on chromosome 2H (Fig. 3). The most significant QTL was located on the telomere region of chromosome 5HL and flanked by the markers E6126 and SCssr03907. This QTL could explain 39% of the

phenotypic variation. The second locus was mapped close to the centromere region of chromosome 5H and flanked by the markers Bpb9719 and Bpb6967. This QTL explains 17% of the LOX content variation. The third QTL was mapped between the markers Bpb8292 and Bpb4523 on chromosome 2H and accounted for 6% of LOX content variation (Fig. 3; Table 1). There was no QTL x QTL or QTL x environment interaction detected. Thus additive effects were the predominant factors controlling LOX content. The Australian variety Stirling contributed to increasing LOX content.

261 *3.4. Association of LOX content with seed dormancy*

The seed dormancy was assessed in the Stirling/Harrington DH population in the previous study (Bonnardeaux et al., 2008). The association of LOX content with seed dormancy is shown in Fig. 4. The X-axis shows the average germination and the Y-axis shows average LOX content of each DH line respectively. Linkage analysis revealed that the individuals with higher germination rates or less dormancy have lower LOX content (r=0.65***). The seed dormancy could explain 42% phenotypic variation of the LOX content in the DH population (p<0.001).

269

270 4. Discussion

271 Due to the difficulty for the measurement of LOX activity, the early generation 272 selection of LOX in breeding programs is prohibitive. In the present study, the LOX 273 content was stable over two continued years and they were controlled by genetic 274 factor and impacted on by environment slightly in the Stirling/Harrington DH 275 population. Then the QTLs controlling LOX content were detected in the 276 Stirling/Harrington DH population. As these QTLs were consistently detected over 277 two years, they are considered to be authentic loci controlling the LOX content. The 278 molecular markers associated with the QTLs will provide an effective tool for 279 selection of low LOX in the breeding program through marker-assisted selection.

The previous research showed barley contains at least two distinct isoenzymes, LOX-1 and LOX-2 (Yabuuchi, 1976; Baxter, 1982; Doderer et al., 1992; Yang et al., 1993). The two isozymes of seed LOX, were cloned and then mapped to the LoxA

283 locus on chromosome 4H and the LoxC locus on chromosome 5H, respectively (van 284 Mechelen et al., 1995, 1999). The product related to the third cDNA (loxB) has not 285 been identified so far. LOX-1 provides the predominant LOX activity in malt and has 286 a relatively low pI compared to LOX-2 (Yang et al., 1993; Yang and Schwarz, 1995). 287 The LOX-1 null mutants have been identified and a gene-specific marker has 288 provided the perfect tool for selecting low LOX malting barley varieties (Hirota et al., 289 2006). In the present study, no QTL was detected on chromosome 4H, which 290 indicated that the structural gene of LOX-1 may or may not play a key role for 291 determining the LOX content in the present study. This phenomenon has been 292 observed in QTL mapping for a lot of traits including enzyme activity for 293 alpha-amylase and beta-glucanase (Li et al., 2009). One possibility is that both parents 294 have the same allele for the structural gene. We are in the process to survey the 295 sequence variation of LOX-1 in different barley varieties. Further research would 296 examine the combination of the low LOX QTLs in the present study with the LOX-1 297 null mutant gene to investigate the effect on malt and beer quality.

298 It has been a market mystery that the Canadian malting barley varieties especially 299 Harrington and its derived varieties have better malting and wort flavor. This is 300 consistent with our general observation that the Canadian malting barley varieties 301 have lower LOX content. The present study demonstrated that the two major QTLs 302 for low LOX content were mapped on chromosome 5H. Their locations differed from 303 that of the LoxC locus on chromosome 5H (van Mechelen et al., 1995, 1999). Instead 304 these two QTLs coincided with the two major QTLs for seed dormancy/pre-harvest 305 sprouting tolerance (Bonnardeaux et al., 2008). The non-dormancy or pre-harvest 306 sprouting susceptible alleles contributed to low LOX content (Fig 4). Previous 307 research showed that LOX is not directly involved in the induction of grain dormancy 308 as no significant differences were observed in lipoxygenase mRNA levels in 309 developing grains grown under dormant or non-dormant conditions (van Mechelen et 310 al., 1999). It is not clear if this association is due to pleiotrophic effects of the genes 311 controlling seed dormancy/pre-harvest sprouting tolerance or multiple gene clusters. 312 The recently developed new molecular markers targeted the specific chromosome

313 region will provide a tool to further dissect the chromosomal region (Zhang et al., 314 2010). These QTL regions were also reported to control other hydrolytic enzyme 315 activity and malting quality (Li et al., 2009). In contrast, the pre-harvest sprouting 316 susceptible allele increased hydrolytic activity of alpha-amylase and beta-glucanase, 317 but decrease the LOX content in the present study. In the practical point view, the 318 association of low LOX content with pre-harvest sprouting susceptibility 319 demonstrated that the low LOX QTL from the Canadian malting barleys are only 320 useful in the barley growing areas where the pre-harvest sprouting risk is low. New 321 genetic sources for low LOX should be exploited in different germplasm with 322 different mechanisms

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325

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433						
434	Legends to Figures					
435	Fig. 1					
436	Leverage plot of LOX content in 2005 and 2006 in the Stirling/Harrington DH					
437	population. The X-axis shows the average LOX content in 2006 and the Y-axis shows					
438	the average LOX content in 2005.					
439	Fig. 2					
440	Distribution of average LOX content in 2005 and 2006 in the Stirling/Harrington DH					
441	population. The X-axis shows the average LOX content in 2005 and 2006, the Y-axis					
442	shows the Number of individuals.					
443	Fig. 3					
444	Molecular linkage map of SSR and DArT markers and the QTL for LOX content in					
445	Stirling/Harrington DH population. Chromosomes 2H,5H and 6H split into two					
446	fragments from the centromere regions and genetic distance between the two					
447	fragments is 0. The vertical bar indicated the QTL region associated with LOX					
448	content.					
449	Fig. 4					
450	Association of LOX content with seed dormancy in the Stirling/Harrington DH					
451	population. X-axis shows the average germination of individuals. Y-axis shows the					

451 population. A taxis shows the average germination of matviduals. I taxis shows the
452 average LOX content. The horizontal dashed line indicates the population average of
453 LOX content. The oblique dashed lines show the linear model between seed
454 dormancy and LOX content,

Table 1

Chromosomal locations, marker intervals, additive effects, heritability and positive parents for LOX content in the Stirling/Harrington DH population. The F value for genome-wide significant $P_{0.05}$ is 7.9.

QTL	Maker interval	Additive	Heritability	F value	Positive
		effect			
Qtl2-1	Bpb8292-Bpb1098	1.70±0.30	0.06	13.7	Stirling
Qtl5-1	Bpb9719-Bpb6967	2.85±0.35	0.17	15.1	Stirling
Qtl5-2	E6216-SCssr03907	4.27±0.30	0.39	45.4	Stirling





Average LOX content









0000 bPb 0359 bPb_0386 bPb_3780 bPb_7068 bPb_7313 bPb_7165 Bmag500 bPb_3202 bPb_4246 bPb_5027 bPb_8708 EBmag0755B bPb_3586 bPb_2751 bPb_7193 bPb_8135 bPb_9065 bPb_1009 bPb_3807 bPb_0597 bPb_3927 bPb_6002 GBM1021 GBM1075a bPb_2464 bPb_7550 bPb_5822 BMAG173 bPb_1466 bPb_2592

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