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This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1720446> since 2019-12-27T12:59:04Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1016/j.foodchem.2019.125228

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(Article begins on next page)

1 **TITLE**

2 **Distribution of bioactive compounds in pearled fractions of tritordeum**

3

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26 **ABSTRACT**

27 Hexaploid tritordeum is the amphidiploid cereal derived from the cross between wild barley
28 and durum wheat. The present study compares two cultivars of tritordeum with other cereals
29 grown in the same experimental area to weigh up its potential use as ingredient for health-
30 valued foods. Tritordeum shows 2.5-fold higher concentration of lutein than common wheat
31 and barley, and 1.2-fold higher than durum wheat, while the concentration of β -glucans is 5
32 folds lower than the one observed for barley. Based on the distribution of bioactive
33 compounds in pearled fractions, the use of whole-grain flours seems the best way to exploit
34 the antioxidant potential of tritordeum. Nevertheless, the internal layers of the kernel of this
35 cereal are characterized on average by high concentrations of antioxidants (32.0 mg/kg and
36 518 mg/kg soluble and cell wall-bound phenolic acids, respectively), making tritordeum
37 interesting also for the production of refined flours rich in bioactive compounds.

38

39

40 **KEYWORDS**

41 Tritordeum, Barley, Wheat, β -glucans, Arabinoxylans, Phenolic acids, Antioxidant capacity,
42 Xanthophylls

43

44

45 1. INTRODUCTION

46 Wheat-based products are central dietary components worldwide owing to their good
47 nutritional and organoleptic qualities. Nevertheless, the application of alternative cereal
48 types and processing technologies for the production of foods rich in bioactive compounds
49 has drawn the attention of both researchers and industrialists in the last few years (Abdel-
50 Aal et al., 2002; Blandino et al., 2013; Delcour, Rouau, Courtin, Poutanen & Ranieri, 2012;
51 Giordano et al., 2017; Taylor & Awika, 2017). Since the beginning of the twentieth century,
52 cereal breeders focused their effort on the development of interspecific hybrids in order to
53 obtain new cereals with increased phytochemical contents and improved agronomic
54 performances and technological qualities. In this sense, tritordeum is a potentially interesting
55 candidate. Hexaploid tritordeum is the amphidiploid cereal derived from the cross between
56 a South American wild barley (*Hordeum chilense* Roem. et Schultz.) and a cultivated durum
57 wheat (*Triticum turgidum* ssp. *durum* Desf.). Besides being used as a genetic bridge for
58 transferring useful barley traits to wheat, tritordeum has been subjected to a breeding
59 program to become a new hullless small cereal crop (Martín, Alvarez, Martín, Barro &
60 Ballesteros 1999). Previous studies have shown that tritordeum is more suitable for
61 breadmaking than for pasta making (Martín et al., 1999). At present, limited information is
62 available on the content and the composition of phenolic acids in tritordeum (Eliášová &
63 Paznocht, 2017; Navas-Lopez, Ostos-Garrido, Castillo, Martín, Gimenez & Piston, 2014).
64 Nevertheless, several studies showed that this novel cereal is characterized by a high
65 content of carotenoids, which give it a strong yellow color (Mellado-Ortega & Hornero-
66 Méndez, 2012 and 2016; Paznocht et al., 2018), and tocopherols (Lachman, Hejtmánková, Orsák,
67 Popov & Martinek, 2018), suggesting its potential use for the production of health-valued
68 foods. Even if not suitable for celiac disease sufferers, tritordeum showed lower levels of
69 gluten immunogenic epitopes than wheat (Vaquero et al., 2018).

70 The aim of the present study was to provide new insight about tritordeum. Tritordeum was
71 compared with other small cereals such as barley, durum wheat and common wheat
72 cultivated side by side in the same experimental area, in order to avoid any environmental
73 influence. The comparison was carried out by means of field experiments in which both grain
74 yield and kernel traits were evaluated. Moreover, kernels were compared for their
75 phytochemical composition, and then pearled to analyze the distribution pattern of bioactive
76 compounds in progressive pearled fractions.

77

78 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

79 **2.1 Experimental design**

80 The present study compared:

- 81 • two cultivars of tritordeum (*xTritordeum martinii* A. Pujadas, nothosp. nov.) registered
82 in the CPVO (Community Plant Variety Office) as Aucan and Bulel (Agrasys S.L.,
83 Barcelona, Spain);
- 84 • a hulled and six-row cultivar of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L., cv. Ketos - Limagrain
85 Italia S.p.A, Fidenza, Italy);
- 86 • a durum wheat cultivar (*Triticum turgidum* ssp. *durum* Desf., cv. Saragolla - Syngenta
87 Italia, S.p.A, Milano, Italy);
- 88 • a common wheat cultivar (*Triticum aestivum* ssp. *aestivum* L., cv. Illico - Syngenta
89 Italia) classified as bread-making-quality wheat (Foca et al., 2007).

90 All the cereal cultivars were cultivated side by side on the same field in northwestern Italy
91 (Cigliano, Piedmont; 45°31'97"N, 8°4'77"E) in a completely randomized block design
92 with four replications. Field trials were carried out during the 2015-2016 growing season,
93 according to the ordinary crop management program applied to barley and wheat in the
94 growing area. The plot size was 7x1.5 m (10.5 m²), planting was performed in 12 cm
95 wide rows at a seeding rate of 450 seeds/m² on 6 November 2015, following an autumn
96 plowing (30 cm) and disk harrowing to prepare a proper seedbed. The previous crop was
97 maize. The nitrogen fertilization performed during the harvest season was in accordance
98 to the agronomic management usually carried out in the North of Italy for the cultivation
99 of barley, durum and common wheat. 170 kg N/ha were provided to plots of tritordeum
100 and durum wheat, split in 50 kg N/ha at the tillering stage (Growth stage - GS 23), 80 kg
101 N/ha at the beginning of stem elongation (GS 31), 40 kg N/ha at the heading stage (GS
102 55). 120 kg N/ha were provided to plots of barley and common wheat, split in 60 kg N/ha
103 at the tillering stage (GS 23) and 60 kg N/ha at the beginning of stem elongation (GS

104 31). Harvesting was carried out with a plot combine-harvester on 21 June for the barley
105 cultivar and on 4 July 2016 for the tritordeum and wheat cultivars, according to their crop
106 cycle.

107

108 **2.2 Analysis of grain quality parameters**

109 Grain yield (t/ha) was calculated on a plot basis. Thousand kernel weight (TKW) was
110 determined on two 200-kernel sets of each sample, using an electronic balance. Test weight
111 (TW) was determined by means of a Dickey-John GAC2000 grain analysis meter (Dickey-
112 John Corp., Auburn, IL), using the supplied program, after validation with reference
113 materials.

114

115 **2.3 Grain pearling**

116 Nine pearled fractions of the kernels of each cultivar were obtained through the incremental
117 pearling of the cereals tested following the approach proposed by Beta, Nam, Dexter &
118 Sapirstein (2005). The pearling consisted of consecutive passages of kernels or pearled
119 kernels in an abrasive-type grain testing mill (Model TM-05C, Satake, Tokyo, Japan).
120 Starting from unprocessed grain samples, the kernels were initially pearled to remove 5%
121 of the original grain weight, and this resulted in a first fraction (0-5% w/w). The remaining
122 kernels were then pearled to remove a second fraction of 5% (5-10% w/w). The pearling
123 process was repeated to remove a third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth fraction (designed
124 fractions of 10-15%, 15-20%, 20-25%, 25-30%, 30-35%, 35-40% w/w). The pearling process
125 was performed at a constant speed and the estimation of the time necessary in order to
126 remove 5% of kernel weight at each pearling passage was experimentally quantified for
127 each cultivar. The pearling process was then monitored by means of a time control, and
128 after each pearling session, the laboratory pearler was cleaned thoroughly to minimize
129 equipment contamination. The residual 60% of the kernel (40-100% w/w) was also collected

130 and milled through a laboratory centrifugal mill (Model ZM-100, Retsch, Haan, Germany)
131 equipped with a 1-mm sieve. The same milling process was performed for the unprocessed
132 grain samples in order to obtain a wholemeal flour. Prior to chemical analyses, all the
133 samples were ground to a fine powder (particle size < 300 µm) with a cyclotec 1093 sample
134 mill (Foss, Padova, Italy), and stored for 2 weeks at -25°C until the beginning of the analyses.

135

136 **2.4 Chemical analyses**

137 **2.4.1 Chemicals**

138 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenol (BHT, ≥99.0%),
139 ethanol (CHROMASOLV®, 99.8%), ethylacetate (CHROMASOLV®, 99.8%), hexane
140 (CHROMASOLV®, 97.0%), (±)-6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchromane-2-carboxylic acid
141 (Trolox, 97%), hydrochloric acid (HCl, 37.0%), methanol (CHROMASOLV®, 99.9%),
142 potassium hydroxide (KOH, 90.0%), sodium hydroxide (NaOH, ≥98.0%), *tert*-butyl methyl
143 ether (MTBE, CHROMASOLV®, 99.9%), *trans*-β-Apo-8'-carotenal, 2,4,6-Tris(2-pyridyl)-s-
144 triazine (TPTZ) and phenolic acid standards (caffeic acid ≥98%, *p*-coumaric acid ≥98%, *t*-
145 ferulic acid ≥99%, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid ≥99%, sinapic acid ≥98%, syringic acid ≥95% and
146 vanillic acid ≥97%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, Missouri, US). 3,5-
147 Dichloro-4-hydroxybenzoic acid (DHB) was purchased from Thermo Fisher (Waltham,
148 Massachusetts, US), while xanthophylls standards (lutein ≥95% and zeaxanthin ≥98%) were
149 purchased from Extrasynthese (Lyon, France).

150

151 **2.4.2 Proximate composition analysis**

152 The moisture content, determined in order to express all the results on a dry weight (dw)
153 basis, was obtained by oven-drying at 105 °C for 24 h. The moisture values are reported as
154 Supplementary Material in Table S1. The total protein content (conversion factor: 5.70) was
155 obtained according to the Kjeldahl method by means of a Kjelttec system I (Foss Tecator

156 AB, Höganäs, Sweden) (Sovrani et al., 2012). The ash content was determined in a muffle
157 furnace according to the AOAC (1990) procedure. The total dietary fiber (TDF) and β -glucan
158 contents were determined by means of the Megazyme total dietary fiber analysis kit and the
159 Megazyme mixed-linkage β -glucan assay kit, respectively. Total arabinoxylans were
160 extracted according to Rouau and Surget (1994) and quantified by means of colorimetric
161 determination (Douglas, 1981; Kiszonas, Courtin & Morris, 2012) through a D-xylose
162 calibration curve (range: 0.05 – 0.5 mg/mL; $y = -2.2213 x^2 + 2.7996 x + 0.0968$, $R^2 = 0.9978$).
163

164 **2.4.3 Extraction of the soluble and cell wall-bound phenolic acids**

165 The extraction of soluble (free and conjugated) and cell wall-bound phenolic acids was
166 performed according to the procedure proposed by Li, Shewry and Ward (2008) and
167 Nicoletti, Martini, De Rossi, Taddei, D'Egidio and Corradini (2013) with some modifications.
168 DHB was used as internal standard to ensure that losses due to the extraction method were
169 accounted for. Three individual extractions were carried out for each sample (n=3) for both
170 soluble and cell wall-bound phenolic acids.

171 Extraction of soluble phenolic acids

172 One hundred and twenty-five milligrams of each sample were added with 50 μ L DHB (1
173 mg/mL) and then extracted with 1 mL of 80:20 (v/v) ethanol:water solution. The mixtures
174 were vortexed for 30 sec, and then sonicated (35 kHz, Sonorex Super RK 156 BH, Bandelin
175 Electronic, Berlin, Germany) for 10 min, maintaining the temperature at 4°C to avoid starch
176 gelatinization. Samples were centrifuged at 10,600 x g for 10 min, and a second extraction
177 was carried out with 80:20 (v/v) ethanol:water solution. The pellet was discarded, while the
178 supernatants were collected and then evaporated to dryness under a nitrogen stream.
179 Samples were hydrolyzed with 2 M NaOH (400 μ L) for 2 h under continuous stirring at 4°C.
180 After acidification to pH 2 with HCl, soluble phenolic acids were extracted with 500 μ L of

181 ethyl acetate. After centrifugation at 10,600 x g for 2 min the upper layer was transferred in
182 a clean microcentrifuge tube. The extraction was repeated twice, and the combined
183 supernatants were evaporated to dryness under a nitrogen stream and then reconstituted in
184 100 µL of 80:20 (v/v) methanol:water solution.

185 Extraction of cell wall-bound phenolic acids

186 Samples (125 mg) were extracted two times with 80:20 (v/v) ethanol:water in order to
187 remove soluble phenolic acids. Mixtures were vortexed before being sonicated for 10 min.
188 Samples were then centrifuged at 10,600 x g for 10 min, and the supernatant was removed
189 and discarded. Fifty microliters of the internal standard solution (2 mg/mL) were added to
190 the remaining pellet prior to hydrolysis 4 h under continuous stirring at 4°C, by adding 2 M
191 NaOH (400 µL). After acidification to pH 2 with HCl, the bound phenolic acids were extracted
192 with 800 µL of ethyl acetate and then centrifuged at 10,600 x g for 2 min. The extraction was
193 repeated another time. The combined supernatants were evaporated to dryness under a
194 nitrogen stream, and then reconstituted in 200 µL of 80:20 (v/v) methanol:water solution.

195

196 **2.4.4 Quantification of soluble and cell wall-bound phenolic acids by means of RP-** 197 **HPLC/DAD**

198 The phenolic extracts were filtered through a 0.2 µm filter and then analyzed by means of a
199 high performance liquid chromatograph Agilent 1200 Series (Agilent Technologies, Santa
200 Clara, CA, USA) coupled to an Agilent 1200 Series diode array detector. The
201 chromatographic method was developed starting from the one proposed by Shao, Hu, Yu,
202 Mou, Zhu & Beta (2018). Separations were carried out using a 150 x 4.6 mm, 5 µm, Gemini
203 RP-18 column (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA); the column temperature was set at 35
204 °C. The mobile phase consisted of 0.1% acetic acid in water (solvent A) and 0.1% acetic
205 acid in methanol (solvent B). The following operating linear gradient was used: 0-22 min, 9-
206 42% B; 22-27 min, 42-90% B; 27-32 min, 90% B. Finally, the mobile phase was brought to

207 9% B in 3 min, and this was followed by 16 min of equilibration. The flow rate of the mobile
208 phase was 1 mL/min. Phenolic acids were identified using the retention times and the UV/Vis
209 spectra of their respective standards. Solutions of individual phenolic acid standards were
210 also prepared and diluted to different concentrations to obtain calibration curves for
211 quantification purposes. Retention time, detection wavelength and the principal parameters
212 of the calibration curves are reported as Supplementay Material in Table S2.

213

214 **2.4.5 Extraction of xanthophylls and quantification by means of RP-HPLC/DAD**

215 The extraction of xanthophylls was performed has previously reported in Giordano et al.
216 (2017). Each sample was analyzed in triplicate and *trans*- β -Apo-8'-carotenal was used as
217 internal standard to ensure that losses due to the extraction method were accounted for.
218 Samples (0.3 g) were extracted for 6 min at 85 °C with 95% ethanol, containing 1 g/L BHT.
219 The extracts, including solids, were hydrolyzed with 125 μ L of KOH (0.8 g/mL) at 85°C for
220 10 min, chilled on ice. Fifty microliters of the internal standard solution (4.5 μ g/mL) were
221 added prior the addition of 3 mL of cold deionized water. This was followed by the addition
222 of 3 mL of hexane, containing 1 g/L BHT. The test tubes were then vortexed and centrifuged
223 at 1,200 g for 10 minutes. The extraction was repeated four times, and the combined
224 supernatants were evaporated to dryness under a nitrogen stream, and then dissolved in
225 150 μ L of methanol:MTBE (1:1 v/v).

226 The chromatographic method was developed starting from the one proposed by Moros,
227 Darnoko, Cheyran, Perkins & Jerrel (2002). Separations were carried out using a 100 x 4.6
228 mm, 3 μ m, C30 carotenoid YMC column (YMC Co., Kyoto, Japan); the column temperature
229 was set at 35°C. The mobile phase consisted of methanol:MTBE:water [81:15:4, v/v;
230 (solvent A)] and MTBE:methanol [91:9, v/v; (solvent B)]. The following operating linear
231 gradient was used: 0-3 min, 5-15% B; 3-7 min, 15-40% B; 7-8 min, 40-100% B; 8-13 min,

232 100% B. Finally, the mobile phase was brought to 5% B in 1 minute, and this was followed
233 by 10 minutes of equilibration. The flow rate of the mobile phase was 1 mL/min. Xanthophylls
234 were identified using the retention times and the UV/Vis spectra of their respective standards
235 (lutein and zeaxanthin). Individual xanthophyll standards were also prepared and diluted to
236 different concentrations to obtain calibration curves for quantification purposes. Retention
237 time, detection wavelength and the principal parameters of the calibration curves are
238 reported as Supplementay Material in Table S3.

239

240 **2.4.6 Determination of DPPH radical scavenging activity (AC_{DPPH})**

241 DPPH radical scavenging activity (QUENCHER procedure – direct measurement on solid
242 sample, Gökmen, Serpen & Fogliano, 2009) was carried out as reported in Giordano et al.
243 (2017). The DPPH radical scavenging activity was expressed as mmol of Trolox
244 equivalents/kg of sample (dw) through a calibration curve (linearity range: 0.5-5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$;
245 $y=18.573x-1.3947$, $R^2: 0.999$). The analysis was carried out in triplicate ($n=3$).

246

247 **2.4.7 Determination of antioxidant capacity by means of the FRAP assay (AC_{FRAP})**

248 The FRAP (Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power) assay adapted into QUENCHER method
249 was performed as described by Serpen, Gökmen and Fogliano (2012). Briefly, FRAP
250 reagent was prepared by mixing the aqueous solution of 10 mM TPTZ and 20 mM ferric
251 chloride in 300 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 3.6) at a ratio of 1:1:10 (v:v:v). Samples (2
252 mg) were analyzed by adding FRAP working solution (2 mL). The reaction was carried out
253 under stirring at 1,000 rpm (PCMT Thermoshaker, Grant Instruments, Cambridge, UK). After
254 exactly 120 min from the first introduction of FRAP solution onto solid samples,
255 centrifugation was performed for 1 min at 20,800 x g, and the absorbance was measured at
256 593 nm. The final results were expressed as mmol Trolox equivalents/kg of sample (dw)

257 through a calibration curve (linearity range: 0.2-8 µg/mL; $y=0.1663x+0.0078$, $R^2: 0.998$). The
258 analysis was carried out in triplicate (n=3).

259

260 **2.4.8 Statistical analyses**

261 One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was applied in order to compare wholemeal flours
262 on the basis of cereal cultivar and, different pearled fractions within the same cereal cultivar.

263 The REGW-Q test was performed for multiple comparisons. A 0.05 threshold was used to
264 reject the null hypothesis.

265 Statistical analyses were carried out by means of SPSS for Windows statistical package,
266 Version 25.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois).

267 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

268 3.1 Field experiments, grain yields and chemical composition of the wholemeal flours

269 The cultivation of tritordeum for the production of health-valued foods is increasing in Italy.
270 The present study compared two cultivars of tritordeum (cvs. Aucan and Bulel) selected in
271 Southern Spain, with three cultivars of barley, durum wheat and common wheat. All cereals
272 tested were grown under the same environmental conditions (Supplementary material -
273 Figure S1) in an experimental area located in the North-West of Italy. The two cultivars of
274 tritordeum showed a grain yield of 4.5-5.0 t/ha (Table 1), about two times higher than the
275 one observed by Villegas et al. (2010) in different Mediterranean regions located in Spain,
276 Lebanon and Tunisia, with higher drought stress. Nevertheless, in comparison to both barley
277 and wheat, tritordeum presented minor yield, showing on average significantly lower TKW
278 (39.4 g) than both durum and common wheat (47.9 and 46.8 g, respectively). As far as the
279 test weight was concerned tritordeum did not differ significantly from durum wheat (72.7 vs
280 72.9 kg/hL), while a significant higher value was recorded for the common wheat cultivar.
281 Both TKW and TW observed for tritordeum were in accordance with previous studies
282 performed on this cereal (Alvarez, Ballesteros, Sillero & Martín, 1992; Martín et al., 1999),
283 highlighting that at present the cultivars of this new cereal resulted in lower values than
284 wheat for these grain qualitative parameters.

285 The wholemeal flour of tritordeum was characterized by the highest protein content (14.3%
286 dw). The two varieties of tritordeum showed a TDF content similar to the one of durum and
287 common wheat. Cv. Bulel showed a significantly higher TDF (14.7% dw) than cv. Aucan
288 (12.2% dw). As expected, the highest TDF was observed in the wholemeal flour of barley,
289 because of the presence of the hulls covering the grain. The content of β -glucans of
290 tritordeum was higher than the one of durum wheat (0.652% dw vs 0.389% dw).
291 Nevertheless, both Aucan and Bulel cvs. showed a β -glucan content 24% lower than
292 common wheat and 5 folds lower than the six-row barley cultivar. Similar concentrations of

293 β -glucans were observed previously for other 5 tritordeum lines grown in Cordoba (Rakha,
294 Saulnier, Åman & Andersson, 2012), confirming the low β -glucan content of this novel
295 cereal. Contrarily, the content of total arabinoxylans in tritordeum was significantly higher
296 than the one observed in all the other cereal tested, and the highest concentration was
297 observed in the cv. Aucan (2.15% dw).

298 The antioxidant capacity, determined by means of the DPPH and FRAP assays and
299 performed directly on solid samples (Gökmen et al., 2009), was the highest in the wholemeal
300 flour of barley (11.6 and 35.3 mmol Trolox eq/kg dw, respectively). The wholemeal flour of
301 tritordeum did not differ significantly from durum and common wheat. Nevertheless,
302 significant differences were observed in the concentration antioxidant compounds, such as
303 phenolic acids and xanthophylls.

304 Limited information is available about the concentration and the composition of phenolic
305 acids in tritordeum (Eliášová & Paznocht, 2017; Navas-Lopez et al., 2014). The present
306 study measured the concentration of individual phenolic acids across soluble (free and
307 conjugated phenolic acids) and cell wall-bound fractions. Like other cereals, the content of
308 cell wall-bound phenolic acids of tritordeum was higher than that of soluble phenolic acids.
309 Durum wheat showed the highest SPA (Soluble Phenolic Acids) content but the lowest
310 concentration of total CWBPAs (Cell Wall-Bound Phenolic acids), while an opposite trend
311 was observed in barley. Tritordeum showed a concentration of soluble phenolic acids 1.9
312 folds higher than barley, but 42% lower than durum wheat. An opposite trend was observed
313 for cell wall-bound phenolic acids: tritordeum showed a concentration of CWBPAs 1.6 folds
314 higher than that of durum wheat, but 32% lower than barley. The concentration of SPAs and
315 CWBPAs in tritordeum was 33% higher and 12% lower than common wheat. As reported in
316 Figure 1A, which shows the chromatogram at 280 nm of soluble phenolic acids of cv. Bulel,
317 the main soluble phenolic acids detected in tritordeum were sinapic acid, followed by ferulic,
318 vanillic, syringic, *p*-hydroxybenzoic and *p*-coumaric acid. On the contrary, ferulic acid was

319 the predominant component of cell wall-bound phenolic acids (Figure 1B), followed by
320 sinapic, *p*-coumaric, caffeic, syringic, vanillic and *p*-hydroxybenzoic acids. Moreover, the
321 concentration ratio of these compounds varies according to the cereal species, and the
322 phenolic acid profile of tritordeum was clearly closer to the one observed for the durum and
323 common wheat cultivar than that of barley (Figure 1C, D). As far as the two main phenolic
324 acids are concerned, in the soluble fraction, the sinapic/ferulic (S/F) acid ratio was 3 both in
325 tritordeum and durum wheat. S/F ratio decreased to 2 in common wheat and to 1 in barley.
326 Concerning the cell wall-bound fraction, tritordeum and durum wheat showed a F/S ratio of
327 18 and 15, respectively. Higher F/S ratios were observed in both barley (67) and common
328 wheat (23). It is worth noting that the barley cultivar tested in the present study showed a
329 soluble and cell wall-bound phenolic acid profile totally different from the one observed in
330 tritordeum and wheat: vanillic acid and *p*-coumaric acids were 23 and 7% of SPAs,
331 respectively; while cell wall-bound *p*-coumaric acid was even higher than sinapic acid
332 because of the presence of the hulls around the kernel (Butsat & Siriamornpun, 2010).

333 Previous studies showed that tritordeum is characterized by a high proportion of lutein
334 esterified with fatty acids (Atienza, Ballesteros, Martín & Hornero-Méndez, 2007; Rodríguez-
335 Suarez, Mellado-Ortega, Hornero-Méndez & Atienza, 2014; Mellado-Ortega and Hornero-
336 Méndez, 2018). The esterification is supposed to increase lutein stability during storage and
337 at high temperatures, thus improving lutein retention through the food chain. All the samples
338 analyzed in the present study were subjected to saponification with KOH in order to obtain
339 free xanthophylls before chromatographic analysis. The concentration of lutein observed in
340 the tritordeum cultivars tested in the present study was similar to the one detected by
341 Mattera, Hornero-Méndez and Atienza (2017). The highest lutein concentration was
342 detected in the wholemeal flour of cv. Bulel (6.14 mg/kg dw); on the contrary the cv. Aucan
343 showed a significant lower content of lutein (4.54 mg/kg dw), which did not differ significantly
344 from durum wheat (4.58 mg/kg dw). The lowest concentration was detected in common

345 wheat and barley, characterized by a lutein content 3 folds lower than the one detected in
346 the cv. Bulel. The concentrations of zeaxanthin detected in the two cultivars of tritordeum
347 tested in the present study were lower than the one detected in other lines of tritordeum
348 (Paznocht et al., 2018). According to previous studies which showed that *H. chilense* has a
349 higher concentration of zeaxanthin than tritordeum (Mellado-Ortega and Hornero-Méndez,
350 2015), the cultivar of barley tested in the present study showed a concentration of
351 zeaxanthin about 3 folds higher than tritordeum.

352

353 **3.2 Distribution of dietary fiber components in pearled fractions**

354 As demonstrated by several studies (Beta et al., 2005; Giordano et al., 2017; Liyana-
355 Pathirana, Dexter & Shahidi, 2006), bioactive compounds are unevenly distributed in the
356 grains and the distribution pattern depends on both the type of cereal and the class of
357 nutrient considered. Tritordeum and other small cereals can be commercialized in different
358 ways from whole-grain to refined flour. Nevertheless, at present no one has analyzed the
359 distribution of bioactives in the pearled fractions of tritordeum, thus exploring alternative
360 ways of using this cereal for the production of health-valued foods.

361 The distribution of ash, protein and dietary fiber components observed in the present study
362 is shown in Table 2. In accordance with previous studies (Fardet, 2010; Zanoletti et al.,
363 2017), TDF decreased progressively from the external to the internal layers of both
364 tritordeum, barley and wheat kernels. As expected, the highest concentration was observed
365 in the first two pearled fractions of barley, characterized respectively by 83.0 and 79.6% of
366 TDF, as they correspond mainly to the hulls which cover the kernel. Unlike TDF, the
367 distribution of β -glucans differed depending on the cereal species. The two cultivars of
368 tritordeum tested were closer to durum wheat in terms of distribution of β -glucans, showing
369 the highest β -glucan concentration in the intermediated layers of the kernel (from 10-15% to
370 20-25% pearled fractions). A different distribution pattern was observed in the common

371 wheat cultivar, which showed the highest content of β -glucans in the 5-10% pearled fraction
372 and a gradual decrease moving toward the endosperm. In agreement with previous studies
373 (Blandino et al., 2015), the concentration of β -glucans in barley was the lowest in the
374 outermost pearled fractions and the highest in the residual pearled kernel (3.94% w/w).
375 Contrary to TDF and β -glucans, total arabinoxylans were uniformly distributed in the pearled
376 fractions of tritordeum. A similar distribution pattern was also observed in durum and
377 common wheat. On the contrary, barley showed a gradual decrease of total arabinoxilans
378 from the 0-5% to the 25-30% pearled fraction.

379

380 **3.3 Distribution of soluble and cell wall-bound phenolic acids in pearled fractions and** 381 **their antioxidant capacity**

382 In accordance with previous papers (Liyana-Pathirana et al., 2006; Giordano et al., 2017;
383 Blandino et al., 2013) SPAs gradually decreased moving from the outermost pearled
384 fractions towards the innermost one. Interestingly, as shown in Table 3, the relative
385 proportion of these compounds vary not only according to the cereal species, but also
386 depending on the pearled fraction. The main soluble phenolic acid observed in the pearled
387 fractions of tritordeum was sinapic acid, which represent on average more than 60% of SPAs
388 in each fraction. The concentration of sinapic acid decreased moving towards the internal
389 layers of the kernel, in fact the lowest content was observed in the residual pearled kernel.
390 A similar distribution pattern was observed for ferulic acid. Nevertheless, the S/F ratio was
391 different depending on the pearled fraction and decrease from 4 to 2 moving from the 0-5%
392 pearled fraction to the 40-100% residual pearled kernel. All the other phenolic acids detected
393 represented less than 10% of SPAs regardless of the pearled fraction, and their
394 concentration usually decreased from the outermost to the innermost kernel layers. The
395 common and durum wheat cultivars tested showed a similar distribution pattern of phenolic
396 acids in their pearled fractions, even if the proportion of individual compounds was a bit

397 different (i.e. sinapic acid represent from 61 to 70% of SPAs in durum wheat, while in
398 common wheat only from 51 to 58%). The barley cultivar showed a characteristic phenolic
399 acid profile and distribution. The 0-5% and 5-10% pearled fractions, which mainly
400 corresponds to the hulls, showed not only a low concentration of SPAs (47.9 and 63.6 mg/kg
401 dw, respectively), but they also differed completely from the other fractions for their phenolic
402 acid profile: ferulic acid represents 27% of SPAs, *p*-coumaric acid 20%, vanillic acid 20%,
403 sinapic acid 17%, syringic acid <10%, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid <10%. Contrary to all the other
404 cereals, the phenolic acid profile observed from the 10-15% pearled fraction to the residual
405 pearled kernel was not characterized by a clear prevalence of sinapic acid. In fact, in the 10-
406 15% pearled fraction sinapic acid was only 31% of SPAs, while ferulic and vanillic acids
407 represented 20 and 32% of SPAs, respectively. The same phenolic acids were 20, 44 and
408 22% of SPAs, respectively, in the 40-100% residual pearled kernel. The highest content of
409 SPAs and of the three main soluble phenolic acids was observed in the 15-20% pearled
410 fraction, then a significant and gradual decrease of the concentration of these compounds
411 was observed at each pearling step.

412 The content of CWBPAs decreased from the outermost to the innermost layers of the kernels
413 regardless of the cereal species (Table 4). Both cv. Aucan and cv. Bulel showed a peculiar
414 distribution pattern of cell wall-bound phenolic acids in their pearled fractions. In fact,
415 tritordeum showed a higher retention of CWBPAs in the residual pearled kernel when
416 compared to both the durum and common wheat cultivar. As far as the 0-5% and 5-10%
417 pearled fractions are concerned, the concentration of CWBPAs of tritordeum was on
418 average 39% lower than the one observed in the same fractions of the common wheat
419 cultivar, whereas in the residual pearled kernel the concentration of CWBPAs was 36%
420 higher in tritordeum. The high content of cell wall-bound phenolic acids in the internal layers
421 of the kernel of tritordeum makes both whole-grain and refined flour, derived from this novel

422 cereal, interesting ingredients for the production of functional foods, especially given the role
423 that cell wall-bound phenolic acid may have on human health (Fardet, 2010).

424 Contrary to soluble phenolic acids, genotypes showed less variation in the relative
425 percentage of individual cell wall-bound phenolic acids in each pearled fraction. Ferulic acid
426 was the main cell wall-bound phenolic acid in all the pearled fractions, representing more
427 than 80% of CWBPAs. The only exception was observed in the 0-5% and 5-10% pearled
428 fractions of barley. In these two fractions, characterized by the highest CWBPA content
429 (5027 and 5857 mg/kg dw, respectively), sinapic acid was not detected, while ferulic and *p*-
430 coumaric acids were more than 98% of CWBPAs (49% both). A high concentration of *p*-
431 coumaric acid (30% of CWBPAs) was observed also in the 10-15% pearled fraction,
432 probably due to the presence of hull residues (Hernanz et al., 2001; Nordkvist, Salomonsson
433 & Åman, 1984).

434 Although phenolic acids are among the main antioxidant compounds of cereals (Adom &
435 Liu, 2002; Beta et al., 2005), many other compounds may have antioxidant properties
436 (Cömert & Gökmen, 2017), therefore extraction-independent procedures in association with
437 the DPPH and FRAP assays were carried out for the analysis of the antioxidant capacity of
438 the pearled fractions (Figure 2A and B). As expected, both methods highlighted the higher
439 antioxidant capacity in the outer layers of the kernel regardless of the cereal species. Even
440 if the 0-5% and 5-10% pearled fractions of the barley cultivar showed the highest
441 concentration of CWBPAs, their antioxidant activity was lower than other barley fractions.
442 Concerning the residual pearled kernel, the 40-100% residue of barley was characterized
443 by the highest antioxidant capacity (AC_{DPPH} : 5.36 mmol Trolox eq/kg dw; AC_{FRAP} : 9.89 mmol
444 Trolox eq/kg dw) in comparison to the other cereals tested (AC_{DPPH} : 2.40 mmol Trolox eq/kg
445 dw; AC_{FRAP} : 3.81 mmol Trolox eq/kg dw, average values), even if it was not the one
446 characterized by the highest levels of both SPAs and CWBPAs, confirming that several
447 compounds may influence the antioxidant potential of a raw material. The antioxidant

448 capacity of the residual pearled kernel of tritordeum was higher than the same fraction of
449 both durum and common wheat. In particular, cv. Aucan showed an AC_{FRAP} equal to 4.89
450 mmol Trolox eq/kg dw, which was 54% and 40% higher than observed in the same fraction
451 of durum and common wheat, respectively. The antioxidant capacity was also higher than
452 that observed in the cv. Bulel (+34%), suggesting an intraspecific variability.

453

454 **3.4 Distribution of xanthophylls in pearled fractions**

455 As observed for the wholemeal flour, lutein was the main xanthophyll detected in each
456 pearled fraction regardless of the cereal species. Tritordeum showed higher levels of lutein
457 than barley, durum wheat and common wheat in all the pearled fractions (Figure 2C).
458 Moreover, the comparison of the two cultivars of tritordeum showed that cv. Bulel was
459 characterized by higher concentration of lutein than cv. Aucan, with the exception of the 0-
460 5% fraction. The residual pearled kernel of cv. Bulel showed a lutein content even 48%
461 higher than observed in the same fraction of cv. Aucan, confirming that differences may
462 occur among tritordeum genotypes for their lutein content (Atienza et al., 2007). Mellado-
463 Ortega and Hornero-Méndez (2018) showed that carotenoids are homogeneously
464 distributed among the germ fraction (7.1% of the grain weight) and the residual kernel
465 (92.9% of the grain weight) of tritordeum. The pearling process carried out in the present
466 study highlights that an unevenly distribution of lutein occurs moving towards the innermost
467 layers of kernels of tritordeum. In fact, after an initial increase in the concentration of lutein
468 moving from the outermost pearled fraction to the intermediated ones, a significant decrease
469 in the concentration was observed in the residual pearled kernel (-26% cv. Aucan; -10% cv.
470 Bulel). A similar distribution pattern was observed in barley (27% drop in the residual pearled
471 kernel). Contrarily, both the durum and common wheat cultivars did not show any significant
472 decrease in their lutein content after the last pearling step. Therefore, even if cv. Aucan
473 showed from 26 to 48% more lutein than cv. Saragolla from the 0-5% to the 35-40% pearled

474 fractions, in the residual pearled kernel it was 11% lower (3.93 vs 4.4 mg/kg dw,
475 respectively).

476 In accordance with previous studies (Atienza et al., 2007; Mellado-Ortega and Hornero-
477 Méndez, 2012 and 2018), the concentration of zeaxanthin in tritordeum was the highest in
478 the intermediate pearled fractions and a gradual decrease was observed moving towards
479 the internal layers of the kernel (Figure 2D). A similar distribution pattern was observed in
480 all the other cereals tested, and, as expected, barley showed the highest concentration of
481 zeaxanthin (2.52 mg/kg dw in the 15-20% fraction).

482

483 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

484 This study highlights that tritordeum could be an excellent raw material for the production of
485 health-valued foods. The cultivation of tritordeum in a Continental region, located in the north
486 of Italy, resulted in a grain yield about two times higher than the one observed in
487 Mediterranean regions characterized by higher drought stress (Villegas et al., 2010).
488 Nevertheless, a significant gap in the yield was observed between tritordeum and all the
489 other cereal tested. Further studies are necessary to estimate the yield of tritordeum in a
490 wider range of locations, and to improve its yield by means of both breeding programs and
491 the optimization of the agricultural practices. Both the wholemeal flour and the pearling
492 fractions of tritordeum turned out to be interesting as far as total arabinoxylans, lutein and
493 phenolic acids are concerned. Therefore, tritordeum has several potential end-uses in the
494 production of health-valued foods. A better understanding of antioxidant value of different
495 pearled fractions will provide millers critical information to identify the best way to use
496 tritordeum for the production of health-valued ingredients or food products. As for other
497 cereals, the distribution of bioactive compounds in the pearled fractions points out that the
498 use of whole-grain flours of tritordeum is the best way to exploit its antioxidant potential,
499 since a reduction in the concentration of phenolic acids occur after removing the outer layers

500 of the kernel. Nevertheless, the high concentration of antioxidant compounds in the internal
501 layers of tritordeum makes this cereal interesting also for the production of refined flour rich
502 in antioxidant compounds, even if a highly refined flour could result in a reduction of the
503 concentration of lutein.
504

505 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

506 This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public,
507 commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

508 The authors would like to thank Andrea Borio, Federica Gagliardi and Ilaria Fino (Università
509 degli Studi di Torino) and Stefania Monteduro (Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale)
510 for their precious help and cooperation in laboratory and field activities.

511

512 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

513 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Kernel traits and chemical composition of the wholemeal flours of tritordeum, barley, durum and common wheat.

Cereal	Cultivar	Grain yield	TKW	TW	Ash	Proteins	TDF	β -glucans	TAX	SPAs ¹	CWBPA ^s ²	Lutein	Zeaxanthin	AC _{DPPH}	AC _{FRAP}
		t/ha	g	kg/hL	%	%	%	%	%	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mmol Trolox eq/kg	mmol Trolox eq/kg
Tritordeum	Aucan	5.0 ^c	40.3 ^b	72.7 ^b	1.66 ^{bc}	14.4 ^a	12.2 ^c	0.691 ^c	2.15 ^a	64.3 ^b	976 ^b	4.54 ^b	0.438 ^c	4.01 ^b	7.84 ^b
Tritordeum	Bulel	4.5 ^c	38.5 ^b	72.7 ^b	1.48 ^c	14.1 ^a	14.7 ^b	0.614 ^d	1.71 ^b	51.7 ^c	767 ^c	6.14 ^a	0.513 ^{bc}	3.98 ^b	8.25 ^b
Barley	Ketos	7.5 ^a	37.9 ^b	60.9 ^c	2.30 ^a	9.60 ^d	25.2 ^a	3.46 ^a	1.27 ^c	31.2 ^d	1283 ^a	2.13 ^c	1.41 ^a	11.6 ^a	35.3 ^a
Durum wheat	Saragolla	6.2 ^b	47.9 ^a	72.9 ^b	1.85 ^b	12.5 ^b	12.2 ^c	0.389 ^e	1.06 ^d	99.6 ^a	539 ^d	4.58 ^b	0.450 ^c	3.81 ^b	7.60 ^b
Common wheat	Illico	8.0 ^a	46.8 ^a	81.2 ^a	1.52 ^c	11.7 ^c	13.0 ^{bc}	0.853 ^b	1.35 ^c	43.6 ^c	985 ^b	2.20 ^c	0.612 ^b	3.43 ^b	8.05 ^b
SEM		0.3	1.2	0.6	0.05	0.08	0.3	0.015	0.05	2.4	34	0.18	0.026	0.15	0.69
P (F)		<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

TKW, thousand kernel weight; TW, test weight; TDF, total dietary fiber; TAX: total arabinoxylans; SPAs, soluble phenolic acids (free and conjugated forms); CWBPAs, cell wall-bound phenolic acids; AC, antioxidant capacity determined by means of the DPPH and FRAP assays.

Composition is expressed on a dw basis. Means followed by different letters are significantly different, according to the REGW-Q test (the ANOVA level of significance is shown in the table).

SEM, standard error of the mean.

¹ sum of the SPAs determined by means of RP-HPLC/DAD.

² sum of the CWBPAs determined by means of the RP-HPLC/DAD.

Table 2. Ash, protein, total dietary fiber (TDF), β -glucan and total arabinoxylans (TAX) content of the pearled fractions of tritordeum, barley, durum and common wheat.

Cereal (Cultivar)	Pearled fraction	Ash %	Proteins %	TDF %	β -glucans %	TAX %
Tritordeum (Aucan)	0-5%	2.51 ^b	14.3 ^e	34.0 ^a	0.650 ^c	2.21 ^a
	5-10%	2.71 ^{ab}	14.9 ^d	27.1 ^b	0.840 ^b	1.92 ^a
	10-15%	2.81 ^a	15.4 ^c	22.1 ^c	0.888 ^b	2.03 ^a
	15-20%	2.86 ^a	16.5 ^a	19.7 ^{cd}	0.912 ^b	2.01 ^a
	20-25%	2.50 ^b	16.2 ^{ab}	17.4 ^{de}	1.02 ^a	2.00 ^a
	25-30%	2.50 ^b	16.5 ^a	16.7 ^{ef}	0.882 ^b	2.14 ^a
	30-35%	2.19 ^c	15.9 ^{bc}	14.2 ^{fg}	0.869 ^b	2.08 ^a
	35-40%	2.06 ^c	15.9 ^{bc}	12.5 ^g	0.865 ^b	2.08 ^a
	40-100%	1.27 ^d	13.3 ^f	7.25 ^h	0.625 ^c	1.99 ^a
	SEM	0.07	0.1	0.53	0.025	0.07
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Tritordeum (Bulel)	0-5%	3.11 ^c	14.1 ^e	36.0 ^a	0.619 ^d	1.61 ^{bc}
	5-10%	3.85 ^a	15.2 ^d	30.7 ^b	0.889 ^b	1.88 ^a
	10-15%	4.02 ^a	16.2 ^{bc}	29.0 ^c	0.992 ^a	1.67 ^{ab}
	15-20%	3.48 ^b	16.5 ^b	23.2 ^d	1.03 ^a	1.44 ^{cd}
	20-25%	2.79 ^d	16.9 ^a	18.2 ^e	0.992 ^a	1.36 ^d
	25-30%	2.70 ^{de}	16.4 ^b	16.4 ^f	0.894 ^b	1.41 ^{cd}
	30-35%	2.44 ^e	16.3 ^b	14.0 ^g	0.841 ^{bc}	1.74 ^{ab}
	35-40%	2.15 ^f	15.9 ^c	11.8 ^h	0.801 ^c	1.63 ^{bc}
	40-100%	1.18 ^g	13.4 ^f	9.42 ⁱ	0.488 ^e	1.63 ^{bc}
	SEM	0.07	0.1	0.30	0.018	0.05
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.01	
Barley (Ketos)	0-5%	7.88 ^a	5.09 ^g	83.0 ^a	0.224 ^f	6.18 ^a
	5-10%	5.51 ^b	6.34 ^f	79.6 ^b	0.455 ^e	3.58 ^b
	10-15%	5.48 ^b	11.8 ^d	60.3 ^c	1.56 ^d	2.91 ^c
	15-20%	5.02 ^c	15.4 ^a	38.4 ^d	2.87 ^c	3.10 ^c
	20-25%	3.63 ^d	14.9 ^a	25.9 ^e	3.25 ^b	1.99 ^d
	25-30%	3.08 ^e	13.7 ^b	22.6 ^e	3.23 ^b	1.54 ^e
	30-35%	2.61 ^f	12.8 ^c	18.5 ^f	3.29 ^b	1.48 ^e
	35-40%	2.18 ^g	12.2 ^d	16.1 ^f	3.36 ^b	1.50 ^e
	40-100%	1.01 ^h	8.63 ^e	9.80 ^g	3.94 ^a	1.17 ^e
	SEM	0.08	0.14	0.62	0.038	0.10
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Durum wheat (Saragolla)	0-5%	2.78 ^{ef}	13.4 ^{bc}	31.7 ^a	0.387 ^e	0.862 ^e
	5-10%	3.35 ^d	13.6 ^{bc}	30.0 ^a	0.482 ^d	0.994 ^{cd}
	10-15%	3.75 ^b	13.7 ^{abc}	25.3 ^b	0.665 ^{abc}	1.02 ^{bcd}
	15-20%	4.18 ^a	14.3 ^a	21.4 ^c	0.709 ^a	1.08 ^{abc}
	20-25%	3.72 ^{bc}	14.0 ^{ab}	17.5 ^d	0.684 ^{ab}	1.17 ^a
	25-30%	3.47 ^{cd}	13.6 ^{bc}	14.7 ^{de}	0.684 ^{ab}	1.12 ^{ab}
	30-35%	2.92 ^e	13.3 ^c	13.0 ^{ef}	0.642 ^{bc}	1.06 ^{abc}
	35-40%	2.64 ^f	13.3 ^c	11.1 ^f	0.619 ^c	0.942 ^{de}
	40-100%	1.27 ^g	10.9 ^d	5.84 ^g	0.288 ^f	1.11 ^{ab}
	SEM	0.07	0.2	0.62	0.014	0.027
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Common wheat (Illico)	0-5%	3.23 ^c	10.4 ^g	58.0 ^a	1.20 ^d	1.31 ^d
	5-10%	4.13 ^a	15.0 ^{bc}	37.2 ^b	1.76 ^a	1.38 ^{cd}
	10-15%	3.61 ^b	15.9 ^a	27.2 ^c	1.60 ^b	1.55 ^{bc}
	15-20%	2.96 ^d	15.4 ^{ab}	18.6 ^d	1.41 ^c	1.69 ^{ab}
	20-25%	2.17 ^e	14.4 ^{cd}	16.1 ^{de}	1.18 ^d	1.74 ^a
	25-30%	2.13 ^e	14.1 ^{de}	12.9 ^{ef}	1.07 ^e	1.66 ^{ab}
	30-35%	1.80 ^f	13.5 ^{ef}	10.6 ^{fg}	0.960 ^f	1.55 ^{bc}
	35-40%	1.58 ^f	12.9 ^f	9.55 ^{fg}	0.959 ^f	1.58 ^{ab}
	40-100%	0.775 ^g	10.4 ^g	7.18 ^g	0.584 ^g	1.24 ^d
	SEM	0.057	0.2	0.60	0.018	0.04
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

Data are expressed on a dw basis. For each cereal cultivar, means followed by different letters are significantly different, according to the REGW-Q test (the ANOVA level of significance is shown in the table). SEM, standard error of the mean.

Table 3. The main soluble phenolic acids (free and conjugated forms) detected in the pearled fractions of tritordeum, barley, durum and common wheat.

Cereal (Cultivar)	Pearled fraction	Sinapic acid	Ferulic acid	Vanillic acid	p-Coumaric acid	SPAs ¹
		mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg
Tritordeum (Aucan)	0-5%	109 ^a	29.4 ^a	12.3 ^a	4.31 ^a	170 ^a
	5-10%	114 ^a	29.2 ^a	11.7 ^a	3.34 ^b	172 ^a
	10-15%	109 ^a	29.2 ^a	10.8 ^b	3.06 ^c	166 ^a
	15-20%	90.1 ^b	25.5 ^b	9.54 ^c	2.60 ^d	139 ^b
	20-25%	79.1 ^c	23.9 ^{bc}	8.78 ^d	2.28 ^e	125 ^c
	25-30%	80.0 ^c	26.2 ^b	9.30 ^{cd}	2.39 ^{de}	129 ^{bc}
	30-35%	63.9 ^d	22.0 ^{cd}	7.92 ^e	2.00 ^f	106 ^d
	35-40%	56.6 ^e	20.5 ^d	7.21 ^f	1.84 ^f	95.0 ^e
	40-100%	20.2 ^f	9.16 ^e	2.98 ^g	1.01 ^g	36.8 ^f
	SEM	1.6	0.58	0.16	0.07	2.6
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Tritordeum (Bulel)	0-5%	124 ^c	33.9 ^b	15.1 ^a	6.32 ^a	195 ^b
	5-10%	145 ^a	37.2 ^a	14.3 ^b	4.52 ^b	217 ^a
	10-15%	130 ^b	34.3 ^b	12.1 ^c	3.55 ^c	193 ^b
	15-20%	106 ^d	29.6 ^c	10.4 ^d	2.83 ^d	160 ^c
	20-25%	84.4 ^e	25.3 ^d	8.79 ^e	2.21 ^e	130 ^d
	25-30%	64.2 ^f	20.6 ^e	7.27 ^f	1.82 ^f	101 ^e
	30-35%	56.0 ^g	18.8 ^f	6.66 ^g	1.61 ^g	89.7 ^f
	35-40%	43.9 ^h	15.6 ^g	5.59 ^h	1.34 ^h	72.1 ^g
	40-100%	14.2 ⁱ	7.65 ^h	2.38 ⁱ	0.776 ⁱ	27.2 ^h
	SEM	1.3	0.37	0.11	0.041	1.8
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Barley (Ketos)	0-5%	6.28 ^g	12.8 ^f	9.60 ^d	10.7 ^b	47.9 ^g
	5-10%	12.8 ^f	17.3 ^e	12.3 ^{cd}	11.6 ^a	63.6 ^{ef}
	10-15%	39.7 ^b	26.1 ^b	41.3 ^a	7.95 ^c	129 ^b
	15-20%	60.1 ^a	32.1 ^a	43.4 ^a	4.84 ^d	158 ^a
	20-25%	41.8 ^b	25.2 ^b	31.2 ^b	3.39 ^e	114 ^c
	25-30%	31.4 ^c	22.2 ^c	14.3 ^c	2.43 ^f	79.8 ^d
	30-35%	24.1 ^d	20.0 ^d	13.5 ^{cd}	2.03 ^{fg}	67.0 ^e
	35-40%	18.6 ^e	17.9 ^e	10.6 ^{cd}	1.77 ^g	55.0 ^{fg}
	40-100%	3.22 ^g	6.92 ^g	3.41 ^e	0.668 ^h	15.7 ^h
	SEM	0.88	0.48	1.10	0.154	2.2
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Durum wheat (Saragolla)	0-5%	110 ^e	40.3 ^d	9.70 ^d	4.05 ^a	176 ^{de}
	5-10%	174 ^c	56.4 ^c	10.9 ^c	3.84 ^a	256 ^c
	10-15%	208 ^b	65.8 ^b	12.2 ^b	3.87 ^a	302 ^b
	15-20%	244 ^a	74.4 ^a	13.2 ^a	4.04 ^a	349 ^a
	20-25%	202 ^b	62.9 ^b	11.4 ^{bc}	3.54 ^b	291 ^b
	25-30%	165 ^c	52.2 ^c	9.84 ^d	3.04 ^c	240 ^c
	30-35%	128 ^d	41.5 ^d	8.09 ^e	2.57 ^d	188 ^d
	35-40%	102 ^e	34.1 ^e	6.95 ^f	2.20 ^e	153 ^e
	40-100%	23.6 ^f	9.79 ^f	2.22 ^g	0.907 ^f	38.8 ^f
	SEM	3.8	1.30	0.23	0.056	5.5
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Common wheat (Illico)	0-5%	97.8 ^b	38.8 ^b	15.1 ^a	5.34 ^a	174 ^b
	5-10%	105 ^a	45.7 ^a	14.0 ^b	4.44 ^b	184 ^a
	10-15%	71.4 ^c	36.4 ^b	11.0 ^c	3.00 ^c	134 ^c
	15-20%	57.5 ^d	30.7 ^c	9.15 ^d	2.28 ^d	110 ^d
	20-25%	44.9 ^e	25.1 ^d	7.32 ^e	1.87 ^e	87.1 ^e
	25-30%	36.7 ^f	21.5 ^e	6.12 ^f	1.50 ^f	72.0 ^f
	30-35%	35.3 ^f	20.3 ^{ef}	5.67 ^g	1.48 ^f	68.2 ^{fg}
	35-40%	31.4 ^f	17.9 ^f	4.91 ^h	1.22 ^g	60.1 ^g
	40-100%	15.0 ^g	6.72 ^g	1.76 ⁱ	0.520 ^h	25.7 ^h
	SEM	1.6	0.63	0.09	0.043	2.2
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

Data are expressed on a dw basis. For each cereal cultivar, means followed by different letters are significantly different, according to the REGW-Q test (the ANOVA level of significance is shown in the table).

SEM, standard error of the mean.

¹ sum of the SPAs determined by means of the RP-HPLC/DAD.

Table 4. The main cell wall-bound phenolic acids detected in the pearled fractions of tritordeum, barley, durum and common wheat.

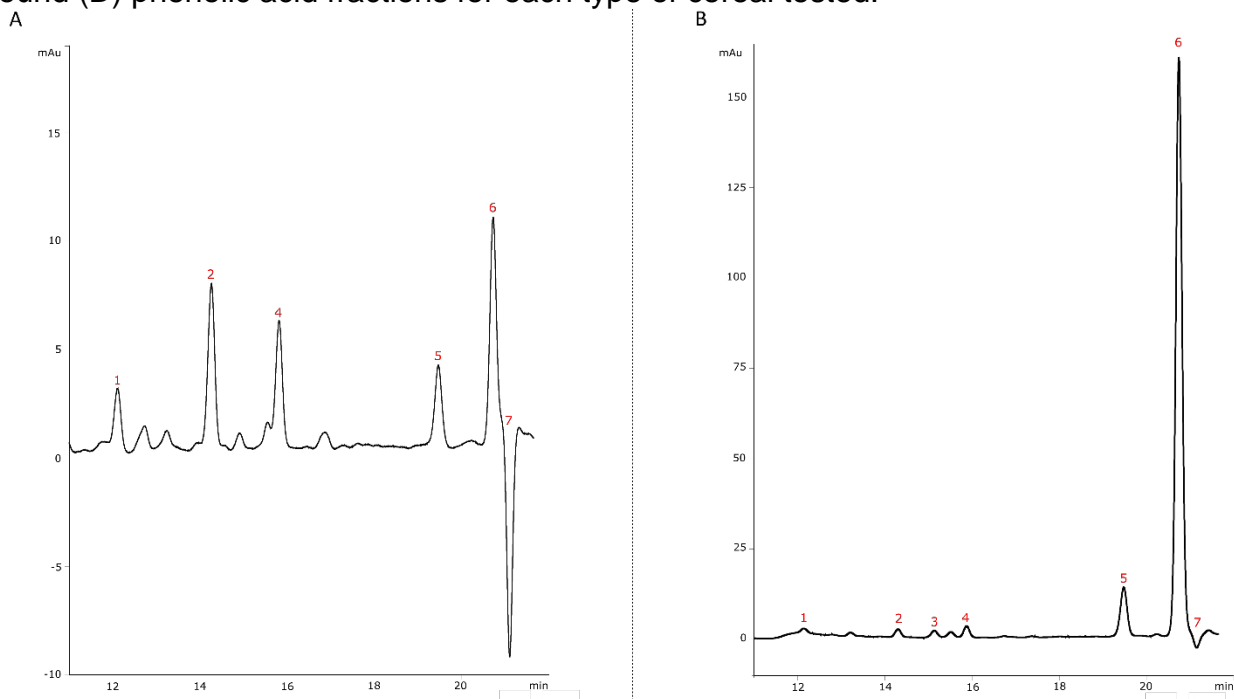
Cereal (Cultivar)	Pearled fraction	Ferulic acid	Sinapic acid	<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid	Vanillic acid	CWBPA ¹
		mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg
Tritordeum (Aucan)	0-5%	1409 ^a	72.3 ^a	136 ^a	15.2 ^a	1669 ^a
	5-10%	1427 ^a	70.9 ^a	70.3 ^b	12.2 ^b	1614 ^a
	10-15%	1331 ^a	68.1 ^a	44.4 ^c	9.80 ^c	1483 ^b
	15-20%	1204 ^b	56.6 ^b	33.4 ^{cd}	8.58 ^d	1327 ^c
	20-25%	1130 ^{bc}	51.9 ^b	28.5 ^d	7.08 ^e	1238 ^{cd}
	25-30%	1033 ^{cd}	43.4 ^c	26.1 ^d	6.58 ^e	1127 ^{de}
	30-35%	941 ^{de}	40.7 ^c	24.3 ^{de}	5.72 ^f	1027 ^{ef}
	35-40%	890 ^e	31.8 ^d	20.8 ^{de}	5.12 ^f	962 ^f
	40-100%	486 ^f	21.7 ^e	11.5 ^e	3.14 ^g	529 ^g
	SEM	28	1.4	3.1	0.17	30
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Tritordeum (Bulel)	0-5%	1406 ^{ab}	77.0 ^{ab}	96.9 ^a	14.9 ^a	1643 ^a
	5-10%	1586 ^a	83.3 ^a	42.8 ^b	10.5 ^b	1766 ^a
	10-15%	1519 ^a	65.5 ^b	34.7 ^c	8.47 ^c	1661 ^a
	15-20%	1294 ^{bc}	49.9 ^c	27.0 ^d	7.24 ^d	1403 ^b
	20-25%	1143 ^{cd}	45.3 ^{cd}	21.7 ^{de}	5.57 ^e	1235 ^{bc}
	25-30%	995 ^{de}	35.6 ^{de}	18.2 ^{ef}	4.88 ^{ed}	1069 ^{cd}
	30-35%	934 ^e	37.1 ^{de}	17.6 ^{ef}	4.63 ^f	1008 ^d
	35-40%	819 ^e	30.3 ^{ef}	14.7 ^f	4.06 ^f	880 ^d
	40-100%	470 ^f	20.2 ^f	7.43 ^g	2.92 ^g	506 ^e
	SEM	49	3.2	1.62	0.22	55
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Barley (Ketos)	0-5%	2398 ^c	n.d.	2564 ^b	25.3 ^b	5027 ^b
	5-10%	2976 ^a	n.d.	2804 ^a	30.5 ^a	5857 ^a
	10-15%	2729 ^b	50.7 ^a	1233 ^c	24.7 ^b	4098 ^c
	15-20%	1992 ^d	45.6 ^a	220 ^d	14.9 ^c	2326 ^d
	20-25%	1219 ^e	26.0 ^b	90.3 ^{de}	10.0 ^d	1374 ^e
	25-30%	923 ^f	19.3 ^c	72.0 ^{de}	7.58 ^{de}	1042 ^{ef}
	30-35%	793 ^{fg}	17.0 ^{cd}	62.4 ^{de}	6.26 ^{ef}	895 ^f
	35-40%	679 ^g	13.2 ^d	52.1 ^{de}	5.55 ^{ef}	765 ^f
	40-100%	305 ^h	6.69 ^e	16.5 ^e	3.37 ^f	338 ^g
	SEM	59	1.52	39.6	0.82	93
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Durum wheat (Saragolla)	0-5%	1059 ^b	56.3 ^b	75.0 ^a	13.8 ^a	1228 ^b
	5-10%	1123 ^b	63.5 ^a	35.8 ^b	10.6 ^b	1250 ^{ab}
	10-15%	1207 ^a	69.6 ^a	25.0 ^c	9.65 ^b	1326 ^a
	15-20%	1113 ^b	65.3 ^a	18.2 ^d	7.43 ^c	1217 ^b
	20-25%	929 ^c	51.7 ^b	14.5 ^{de}	6.18 ^d	1012 ^c
	25-30%	854 ^d	40.4 ^c	13.1 ^{ef}	5.57 ^{de}	922 ^d
	30-35%	725 ^e	32.8 ^d	10.8 ^{ef}	4.55 ^{ef}	781 ^e
	35-40%	599 ^f	27.6 ^d	9.04 ^{fg}	3.58 ^f	645 ^f
	40-100%	301 ^g	15.7 ^e	4.57 ^g	1.90 ^g	326 ^g
	SEM	17	1.6	1.28	0.26	20
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	
Common wheat (Illico)	0-5%	2561 ^a	84.8 ^a	116 ^a	22.1 ^a	2834 ^a
	5-10%	2492 ^a	78.7 ^a	68.3 ^b	13.3 ^b	2699 ^a
	10-15%	1587 ^b	42.4 ^b	40.8 ^c	8.71 ^c	1704 ^b
	15-20%	1412 ^c	43.2 ^b	36.2 ^{cd}	5.85 ^{de}	1516 ^c
	20-25%	1328 ^c	33.2 ^c	32.0 ^d	5.92 ^d	1415 ^c
	25-30%	1072 ^d	25.4 ^{cd}	25.5 ^e	4.80 ^{ef}	1140 ^d
	30-35%	914 ^e	23.9 ^d	21.3 ^{ef}	4.24 ^f	974 ^{de}
	35-40%	833 ^e	23.6 ^d	19.7 ^f	4.03 ^f	890 ^e
	40-100%	348 ^f	19.7 ^d	6.88 ^g	2.46 ^g	381 ^f
	SEM	39	2.0	1.36	0.27	43
P (F)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	

Data are expressed on a dw basis. For each cereal cultivar, means followed by different letters are significantly different, according to the REGW-Q test (the ANOVA level of significance is shown in the table).

SEM, standard error of the mean.

¹ sum of the CWBPAs determined by means of the RP-HPLC/DAD.

Figure 1. RP-HPLC/DAD chromatograms of soluble (A) and cell wall-bound phenolic acids (B) of the wholemeal flour of tritordeum (cv. Bulel). In the tables below is reported the distribution of individual phenolic acids (relative percentage) across soluble (C) and cell wall-bound (D) phenolic acid fractions for each type of cereal tested.



C

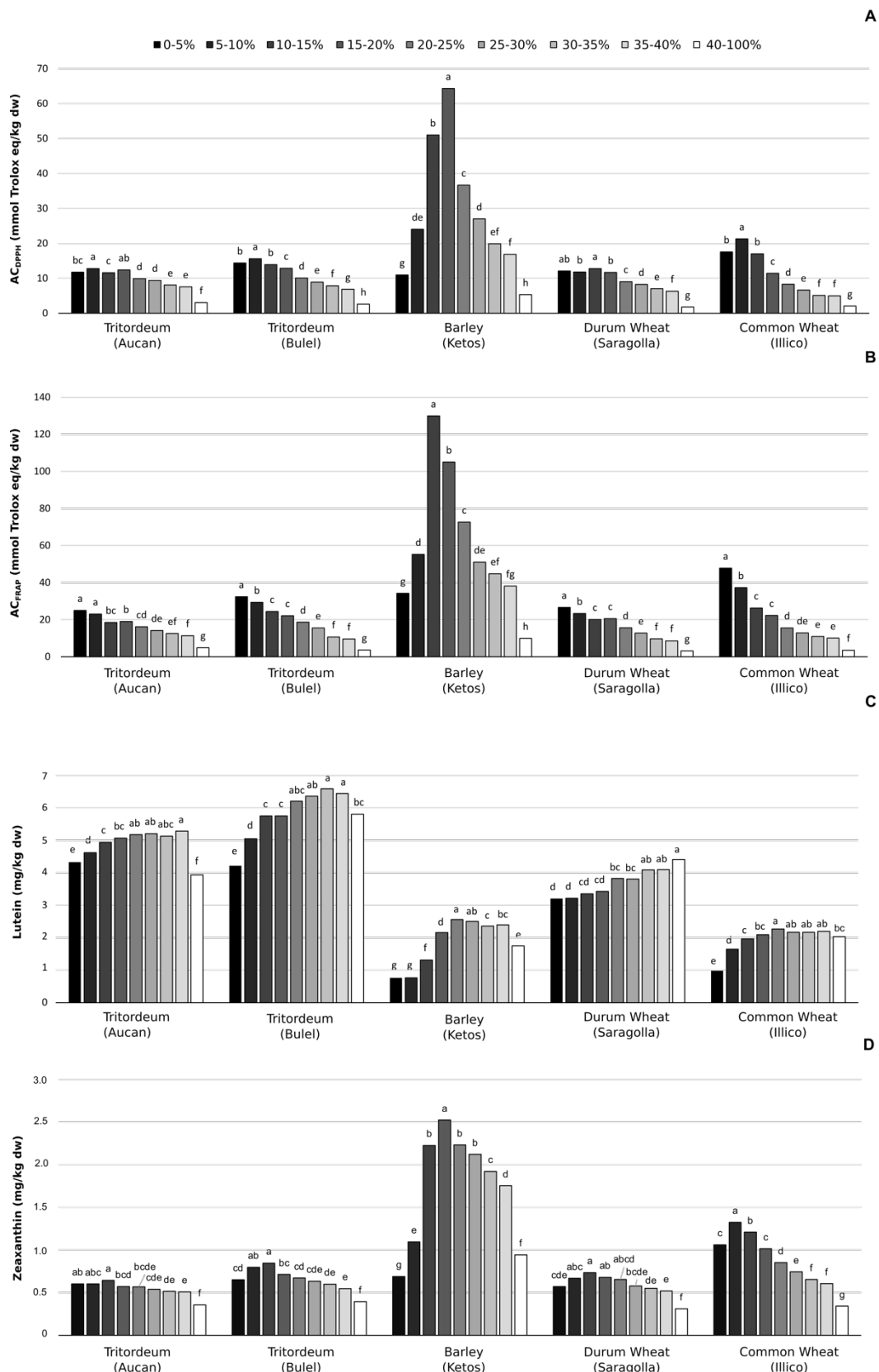
Cereal (Cultivar)	% Phenolic acid						
	1	2	4	5	6	7	
Tritordeum (Aucan)	4	8	5	2	21	60	
Tritordeum (Bulel)	4	9	4	3	22	59	
Barley (Ketos)	6	23	5	7	34	25	
Durum wheat (Saragolla)	3	5	2	2	23	66	
Common wheat (Illico)	4	8	4	2	25	56	

D

Cereal (Cultivar)	% Phenolic acid						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tritordeum (Aucan)	<1	<1	<1	<1	3	89	6
Tritordeum (Bulel)	<1	<1	<1	<1	2	91	5
Barley (Ketos)	<1	<1	<1	<1	30	67	1
Durum wheat (Saragolla)	<1	<1	<1	<1	2	90	6
Common wheat (Illico)	<1	<1	<1	<1	2	91	4

The chromatograms reported are obtained at 280 nm: 1. *p*-Hydroxybenzoic acid; 2. Vanillic acid; 3. Caffeic acid; 4. Syringic acid; 5. *p*-Coumaric acid; 6. Ferulic acid; 7. Sinapic acid (quantified at 320 nm). The red to green gradient shows from the lowest to the highest relative percentage of phenolic acids within the same cereal.

Figure 2. Antioxidant capacity [AC, determined by means of DPPH (A) and FRAP (B) assays)] and xanthophyll [lutein (C) and zeaxanthin (D)] distribution in the perled fractions of tritordeum, barley, durum and common wheat (the name of the cultivars is reported in brackets).



Data are expressed on a dw basis. For each cereal cultivar, bars overlooked by different letters are significantly different, according to the REGW-Q test.