

Identification of Wine Related Yeast Species by Capillary Electrophoresis Single Strand Conformation Polymorphism Analysis (CE-SSCP) of the 26S rRNA Gene



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Introduction

In wine industry yeast spoilage presents a severe problem related to great economic loss. *Dekkera bruxellensis* is described as the most serious spoilage yeast, due to its ability to produce high amounts of volatile phenols which cause off-flavours [2]. *Pichia guilliermondii* has the ability to produce the same phenols with efficiencies as high as those found in *D. bruxellensis* [3]. Besides its beneficial effect in wine fermentation *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is also able to cause spoilage after fermentation as it resists high ethanol concentrations [4]. Yeasts of the genus *Zygosaccharomyces* also cause spoilage in wines and among them *Zygosaccharomyces baillii* is considered one of the most dangerous and frequently found yeasts in spoiled food and beverages [1].

It is important to detect spoilage yeasts quickly to allow wineries to intervene rapidly and effectively. In recent years there has been a great effort to develop rapid identification techniques. In comparison to traditional culture dependent methods, these new PCR-based methods allow faster detection and identification. CE-SSCP presents a powerful analysis technique that separates DNA fragments of the same length according to their sequence [6]. It is based on the heat denaturation of PCR amplified DNA where single stranded fragments are formed. These fragments are subjected to capillary electrophoresis under non denaturing conditions, where they form folded conformations due to their sequence. In this study, a CE-SSCP assay was developed based on a 164 bp fragment of the D1/D2 domain of the 26S rRNA gene in order to distinguish between various wine yeasts.

Materials and Methods

Yeast strains

Genomic DNA of 22 wine related yeast species was used. The strains were obtained from the Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Portugal (ISA), the Portuguese Yeast Culture Collection, Portugal (PYCC), the American Type Culture Collection, USA (ATCC), the Centraalbureau voor Schimmeltcultures, The Netherlands (CBS) and the Colección Española de Cultivos: Tipos, Spain (CECT).

DNA isolation

Total yeast genomic DNA was isolated from cultures grown in 1 ml YPD medium for 48 hours at 30 °C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation and DNA isolation was performed as previously described. Yeast cells were cultivated in 5 ml of YPD medium (24 h, 28°C, 160 rpm) and DNA isolation was performed using a previously described method [1]. DNA was quantified, diluted to 20 ng/μl using 10 mM Tris-HCl 1 mM EDTA pH 8.0 and stored at -80°C until use.

| Primer | SSCPF | SSCPR |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Position in D1/D2 domain (<i>S. cerevisiae</i>) [bp] | 78 - 95 | 225 - 242 |
| Sequence (5' - 3') | CGAGTGGTAATTGGAGA | TACCACCCATTAGAGCT |
| 5' - fluorochrome | HEX | 6-FAM |

Primers and PCR amplification

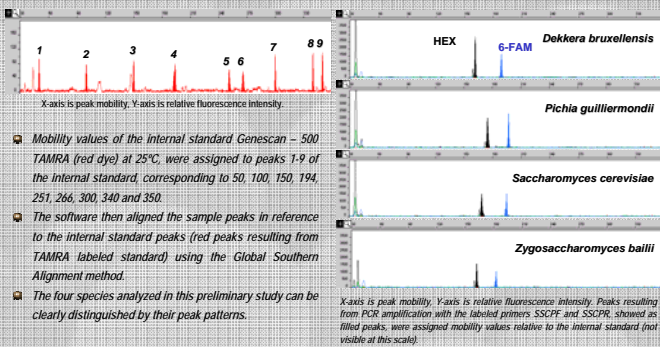
Based on sequence polymorphisms of the D1/D2 domain of the 26S rDNA primers were designed for the amplification of a 164 bp fragment (SSCPF and SSCPR). The 5' ends of the forward and reverse primer were labelled with the fluorescent dyes HEX and 6-FAM, respectively. The PCR reactions contained 20 ng template DNA, 0.4 μM of each primer, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 mM of each deoxyribonucleoside triphosphate, 1x Taq polymerase buffer (MBI Fermentas) and 0.5 U Taq polymerase (MBI Fermentas), all adjusted to a final volume of 4 μl with MilliQ water. PCR was carried out in a iCycler thermal cycler (BioRad). An initial denaturation step of 94 °C for 4 min was followed by 36 cycles of 30 sec at 94 °C, 30 sec at 50 °C and 30 sec at 72 °C, with a final extension of 2 PC for 10 min. Correct amplification was checked by agarose gel electrophoresis. Samples were stored at -20 °C until CE-SSCP analysis.

CE-SSCP data acquisition

For CE-SSCP data acquisition PCR products were diluted 1:40 in ultrapure sterile water. 1 μl diluted PCR product was combined with 1125 μl deionized formamide, 0.25 μl internal DNA molecular weight standard Genescan-500 TAMRA (PE Applied Biosystems) and 0.5 μl 5.5 M NaOH. Samples were mixed thoroughly and incubated at 95 °C for 5 min. Following by incubation on ice for denaturation and subsequent formation of single stranded conformations.

CE-SSCP analysis was performed using an ABI Prism 310 genetic analyzer (PE Applied Biosystems) with a 47 cm length, 50 μm inner diameter capillary. The non denaturing polymer used consisted of 3% (w/v) GEL Scan Polymer (PE Applied Biosystems) and 10% (w/v) glycerol. As electrophoresis buffer 1x TBE containing 10% glycerol was used. The injection time and voltage were set to 5 sec and 15 kV respectively. While electrophoresis voltage was 12 kV. The syringe pump time was 300 sec and data collection was performed during 25 min. As the electrophoresis temperature has a great influence on the mobility values, analysis was carried out at three different constant temperatures (35, 30 and 25 °C) in order to compare the results. A matrix file was created following the manufacturer's instructions to account for spectral overlap of the various fluorescent molecules. To obtain comparable results, Gene Scan Analysis Software 3.5 (PE Applied Biosystems) was used.

1 CE-SSCP data analysis



Mobility values of the internal standard Genescan - 500 TAMRA (red dye) at 25°C, were assigned to peaks 1-9 of the internal standard, corresponding to 50, 100, 150, 194, 251, 266, 300, 340 and 350.

The software then aligned the sample peaks in reference to the internal standard peaks (red peaks resulting from TAMRA labeled standard) using the Global Southern Alignment method.

The four species analyzed in this preliminary study can be clearly distinguished by their peak patterns.

X-axis is peak mobility. Y-axis is relative fluorescence intensity. Peaks resulting from PCR amplification with the labeled primers SSCP-F and SSCPR, showed as filled peaks; were assigned mobility values relative to the internal standard (not visible at this scale).

2 Intraspecific variation and influence of electrophoresis temperature on the mobility values

| Species | Strain | 35°C | | 30°C | | 25°C | |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | HEX | 6-FAM | HEX | 6-FAM | HEX | 6-FAM |
| <i>Dekkera bruxellensis</i> | ISA 1600 | 155.44 | 190.60 | 158.60 | 189.79 | 161.46 | 188.70 |
| | ISA 1649 | 155.25 | 190.91 | 158.74 | 189.80 | 161.36 | 188.98 |
| | ISA 1791 | 155.10 | 190.91 | 158.61 | 189.95 | 161.43 | 188.72 |
| | ISA 2104 | 155.05 | 190.74 | 158.54 | 189.81 | 161.58 | 188.58 |
| | average | 155.21 | 190.79 | 158.62 | 189.84 | 161.46 | 188.75 |
| <i>Pichia guilliermondii</i> | ISA 2105 | 0.18 | 0.15 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.17 |
| | ISA 2126 | 187.07 | 197.26 | 180.83 | 197.70 | 174.99 | 197.28 |
| | ISA 2131 | 186.69 | 197.42 | 181.19 | 198.20 | 174.62 | 197.28 |
| | ISA 2145 | 186.36 | 197.30 | 180.72 | 197.57 | 174.88 | 197.27 |
| | average | 186.79 | 197.42 | 180.89 | 197.80 | 174.87 | 197.30 |
| <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> | L169 | 0.33 | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.28 | 0.17 | 0.05 |
| | L170 | 116.20 | 193.36 | 114.92 | 193.88 | 168.74 | 194.74 |
| | L170 | 175.98 | 193.22 | 174.96 | 194.06 | 168.68 | 194.60 |
| | L196 | 177.78 | 192.66 | 174.66 | 193.60 | 168.49 | 194.60 |
| | PYCC 4455T | 176.87 | 193.00 | 174.85 | 194.06 | 168.72 | 194.73 |
| <i>Zygosaccharomyces baillii</i> | average | 176.71 | 193.06 | 174.85 | 193.90 | 168.66 | 194.67 |
| | SD (μ) | 0.81 | 0.31 | 0.13 | 0.22 | 0.11 | 0.08 |
| | ISA 1149 | 161.10 | 189.26 | 159.18 | 185.88 | 162.28 | 182.69 |
| | ISA 1214 | 160.11 | 191.26 | 158.67 | 188.41 | 161.68 | 184.16 |
| | ISA 1265 | 161.88 | 188.73 | 159.14 | 185.74 | 162.29 | 182.81 |
| Intraspecific variation | PYCC 5167T | 160.87 | 189.06 | 159.25 | 186.15 | 162.33 | 182.80 |
| | average | 160.89 | 189.58 | 159.06 | 186.55 | 162.12 | 183.12 |
| | SD (μ) | 0.58 | 1.14 | 0.26 | 1.25 | 0.30 | 0.70 |

The influence of electrophoresis temperature on the mobility values CE-SSCP analysis was evaluated at (35, 30 and 25 °C). A single DNA isolation, PCR amplification and CE-SSCP analysis was performed for each strain of the 4 species.

The standard deviation decreased with the temperature and showed values of 0.05 - 0.30 at 25 °C, compared to 0.15 - 1.14 at 30°C.

The intraspecific variation showed standard deviations of less than 1 mobility value between strains belonging to the same species. An exception is *Z. baillii*, that presented higher variation in the 6-FAM labeled strand at 35 and 30 °C. This was due to strain ISA1214, that differed in mobility values from the other strains. Sequencing of the D1/D2 domain of these strains revealed that strain ISA1214 has one base pair difference in comparison to the other strains.

Subsequent analysis were always performed at 25 °C.

3 Reproducibility - Determination of run to run variation

| Species | Strain | Average (SD) | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| | | HEX | 6-FAM |
| <i>D. bruxellensis</i> | ISA 1600 | 162.08 (0.23) | 187.60 (0.42) |
| | ISA 1649 | 162.00 (0.32) | 187.96 (0.32) |
| <i>P. guilliermondii</i> | ISA 2105 | 174.55 (0.67) | 196.73 (0.27) |
| | ISA 2126 | 174.54 (0.43) | 196.89 (0.15) |
| <i>S. cerevisiae</i> | L 169 | 167.86 (0.49) | 194.39 (0.14) |
| | L 170 | 168.07 (0.46) | 194.28 (0.12) |
| <i>Z. baillii</i> | ISA 1265 | 162.38 (0.21) | 182.39 (0.41) |
| | PYCC 4531 | 162.36 (0.29) | 182.48 (0.30) |

A single DNA extraction and quantification was performed for two strains of each of the four species mentioned in the Table.

Duplicate PCR amplifications per strain were carried out and from each PCR product two CE-SSCP samples were prepared and analyzed in three CE-SSCP runs at 25 °C. Average and standard deviation were calculated between the results of the resulting 12 runs for each strain.

Standard deviations were less than 1 mobility value.

4 Analysis of other wine related yeast species

| Species | Strain | HEX | 6-FAM | Species | Strain | HEX | 6-FAM |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| <i>Candida cantarelli</i> | PYCC 3073 | 166.21 | 190.06 | <i>Pichia guilliermondii</i> | ISA 2105 | 174.63 | 197.09 |
| <i>Candida famata</i> | PYCC 3056 | 161.00 | 189.34 | | ISA 2126 | 174.64 | 197.08 |
| | | 170.59 | | | ISA 2145 | 174.64 | 197.07 |
| <i>Candida stellata</i> | CBS 157 | 161.45 | 192.63 | <i>Rhodotorula mucilaginosa</i> | IGC 5166 | 163.46 | 193.48 |
| | | 177.52 | 197.55 | IGC 4456 Type/CBS 380 | 163.26 | 195.48 | |
| <i>Candida vanderwaltii</i> | PYCC 3671 | 161.39 | 193.72 | IGC 4565/CBS 378 | 163.46 | 195.63 | |
| <i>Candida veronae</i> | PYCC 3664 | 160.81 | 189.15 | <i>Saccharomyces bayanus</i> | IGC 4569/CBS 425 | 163.37 | 195.48 |
| <i>Candida vini</i> | ISA 1007 | 161.42 | 192.61 | IGC 4568/CBS 424 | 163.55 | 195.94 | |
| | PYCC 2597 | 161.56 | 192.61 | IGC 4455 Type/CBS 1171 | 168.07 | 194.29 | |
| <i>Dekkera anomala</i> | ISA 1652 Type | 161.16 | 193.86 | <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> | IGC 2608/CBS 1782 | 167.80 | 193.86 |
| | IGC 5133 | 161.22 | 193.59 | IGC 3983 | 167.95 | 194.00 | |
| <i>Dekkera bruxellensis</i> | ISA 1600 | 161.48 | 188.70 | IGC 3931 | 168.09 | 194.00 | |
| | ISA 1700 | 162.13 | 187.82 | <i>Saccharomyces ludwigii</i> | ISA 1089 | 183.92 | 193.05 |
| | ISA 2117 | 162.08 | 187.70 | ISA 1088 | 184.10 | 193.18 | |
| | ISA 1189/CBS 276 | 162.09 | 187.71 | IGC 4570 Type | 166.63 | 194.88 | |
| <i>Hanseniaspora uvarum</i> | MTL/IG/10 | 184.40 | 193.32 | IGC 4576/CBS 406 | 166.54 | 195.04 | |
| | IGC 3886 Type/CBS 712 | 169.47 | 186.37 | IGC 4578/CBS 5629 | 166.59 | 194.88 | |
| <i>Kluyveromyces marxianus</i> | ATCC 10022/CBS 6432 | 169.47 | 186.63 | IGC 4656 | 166.63 | 194.89 | |
| | IGC 3286 | 169.41 | 186.65 | <i>Saccharomyces ludwigii</i> | ISA 1083 | 155.84 | 190.44 |
| | IGC 2902 | 169.35 | 186.53 | IGC 5167 Type/ISA 1149 | 116.26 | 182.71 | |
| <i>Lodderomyces elongisporus</i> | ISA 1421 | 186.37 | 202.23 | ISA 1022/IGC 4267 | 162.66 | 182.19 | |
| | ISA 1308 | 185.26 | 202.09 | IGC 4806 | 162.35 | 182.90 | |
| <i>Metschnikowia pulcherrima</i> | PYCC 5625 | 160.95 | 158.72 | CBS 2856 | 162.79 | 182.32 | |
| | IGC 4384 | 160.88 | 157.57 | <i>Zygosaccharomyces baillii</i> | IGC 5335 Type | 162.26 | 182.75 |
| | IGC 4121 Type/CBS 5759 | 156.05 | 190.69 | IGC 5336 | 162.28 | 182.79 | |
| <i>Pichia anomala</i> | IGC 2495 | 156.02 | 190.51 | IGC 5337 | 162.21 | 182.78 | |
| | IGC 3294 | 155.91 | 190.49 | IGC 5381 | 162.37 | 182.78 | |
| | IGC 4380 | 156.04 | 190.64 | <i>Zygosaccharomyces rouxii</i> | PYCC 5276 Type | 163.28 | 189.15 |
| | | | | IGC 3693/CBS 5714 | 163.32 | 189.09 | |
| | | | | IGC 3694/CBS 5717 | 163.39 | 189.17 | |

Distinct strains of 22 wine related yeast species were analyzed. Due to the high reproducibility of the method a single DNA isolation, PCR amplification and CE-SSCP run were performed.

It was possible to separate yeast species based on their mobility values of both strands. However, some species showed very similar mobility values: *Dekkera anomala* and *Candida vini*; *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces paradoxus*; *Zygosaccharomyces baillii* and *Zygosaccharomyces bisporus*.

Within the *Saccharomyces sensu stricto* complex it was possible to distinguish *S. bayanus* from *S. cerevisiae* and *S. paradoxus*, showing a difference of 3 mobility values in the HEX labeled strand.

Candida famata, *Candida stellata*, *Issatchenkia orientalis* and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* strains showed a more complex peak pattern consisting of several peaks. This might be due to several stable single strand conformations for both strands.

Metschnikowia pulcherrima was the only species where the HEX labeled strand showed higher mobility values than the 6-FAM labeled strand.

Conclusions

We identified a 164 bp fragment inside the D1/D2 domain of the 26S rDNA, that shows sufficient nucleotide divergence among species and can be used for the distinction of wine related yeast species based on their CE-SSCP mobility values.

The range of mobility values (156 - 187 for primer SSCPF and 158 - 202 for primer SSCPR) creates a sufficiently high number of combinations for the unequivocal distinction of 16 from 22 wine related yeast species. However, three pairs of species (*Dekkera anomala* and *Candida vini*; *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces paradoxus*; *Zygosaccharomyces baillii* and *Zygosaccharomyces bisporus*) were not distinguishable.

Intraspecific standard deviations increased with the capillary electrophoresis temperature. At 25°C, standard deviations associated to run-to-run variations, evaluated for 8 strains, were less than 0.7 mobility values, showing that CE-SSCP is a reproducible and portable method for wine yeast identification.

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Acknowledgements

This study was financially supported by the programs POCI 2010 (FEDER/CT, POCIAGR56102/2004, POCIAGR56711/2004), and AGRO (ENOSAFE, N° 762).



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