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Research Data Related to this Submission

There are no linked research data sets for this submission. The following reason is given: Data will be made available on request

1	Highly sensitive monoclonal antibody-based					
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16 Abstract

17 Monoclonal antibody-based techniques have become a useful analytical technology 18 in the agro-food sector. Nowadays, residues of the recently registered fungicide fluopyram are increasingly being found in quality control programs. In the present 19 study, novel chemical derivatives of this pesticide were prepared and specific and high-20 affinity monoclonal antibodies to fluopyram were raised for the first time. Moreover, 21 22 immunoassays to fluopyram were developed in two alternative enzyme-linked 23 immunosorbent assay formats, using homologous and heterologous assay conjugates, with limits of detection below 0.05 μ g L⁻¹. The optimized immunoassays were applied 24 25 to the analysis of fluopyram in fortified plums and grapes of four different varieties as well as in in-house prepared musts and wines. Recoveries were between 76.3% and 26 109.6% and coefficients of variation were below 20%. Quantification limits were well 27 below the maximum residue limits. Immunoassay performance was statistically 28 validated with a reference chromatographic technique using samples from fluopyram-29 30 treated plum and grape cultivars.

31

32 Keywords

33 Fluopyram; Hapten; ELISA; Food safety; Stone fruits; Grapes; Must; Wine

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35 Chemical compounds studied in this article

36 Fluopyram (PubChem CID: 11158353); Penthiopyrad (PubChem CID: 11388558);

37 Fluxapyroxad (PubChem CID: 16095400); Fluopicolide (PubChem CID: 11159021).

38 **1. Introduction**

Succinate dehydrogenase inhibitors (SDHI) were first used in the late 1960s to 39 40 fight fungal pests. The target enzyme, also called complex II, is a fundamental constituent of the mitochondrial respiration chain and the Krebs cycle (Avenot & 41 Michailides, 2010). In recent years, new-generation SDHI fungicides with extended 42 biocide properties have been developed. Due to their unique site of action, these 43 44 compounds show no cross-resistance with other chemical classes such as strobilurin and anilinopyrimidine fungicides. Novel SDHI active principles comprise boscalid, 45 46 penthiopyrad, fluxapyroxad, and fluopyram, which are characterized by lower toxicity 47 to non-target organisms, higher efficiency, and broader spectrum of anti-fungal activity. Fluopyram, a pyridylethylamide, was first commercially registered in the 48 United States in 2012 (Proffer, Lizotte, Rothwell, & Sundin, 2013) and approved for use 49 in the European Union in 2013 (European Commission Regulation, 2013). Structurally, 50 it is characterized by a diaryl aromatic system with two trifluoromethyl substituents 51 52 and an ethylene bridge (Fig. 1a). This bioactive compound shows low toxicity to mammals; the oral LD₅₀ in rats is >2 g kg⁻¹ (Pfeil & Boobis, 2010), though neurotoxic 53 and reproductive effects cannot be discarded in humans (Pesticide Properties 54 55 Database, 2019). The proposed acceptable daily intake and the acute reference dose have been set at 0.01 mg kg⁻¹ and 0.5 mg kg⁻¹, respectively (European Food Safety 56 57 Authority, 2011 and 2013). Fluopyram is nowadays commercialized by Bayer Cropscience under the name of Luna[®] as single or combined formulates. Particularly, 58 Luna[®] Experience, with 20% (w/v) fluopyram and 20% (w/v) tebuconazole as active 59 ingredients, was developed to control intricate plant diseases caused by fungal 60 pathogens. This fungicide is recommended to treat major crops such as grapes, stone 61

fruits, and vegetables for the control of grey mould (botrytis), white mould (sclerotinia), powdery mildew, and other diseases that are responsible for food quality losses. In 2013, residues of fluopyram appeared for the first time in the European Pesticide Monitoring Program, particularly in apples, lettuce, peaches, strawberries, tomatoes, and wine (European Food Safety Authority, 2015).

A few years ago, Polgár et al. reported the analysis of fluopyram and other 67 chemicals in food samples by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) coupled 68 to high-resolution mass spectrometry (MS) (Polgár et al., 2012). Most of the studies 69 70 that were published afterwards for the analysis of fluopyram employed a liquid 71 chromatographic technique with MS and tandem MS detection (Yang et al., 2015; Dzuman, Zachariasova, Veprikova, Godula, & Hajslova, 2015; Gan et al., 2016). Gas 72 chromatography-based methods with electron capture or MS detection have also been 73 74 developed (Lozano, Kiedrowska, Scholten, de Kroon, de Kok, & Fernández-Alba, 2016; Lee et al., 2017). Moreover, multiresidue methods for the simultaneous analysis of 75 76 SDHI fungicides have recently been published (Abad-Fuentes, Ceballos-Alcantarilla, 77 Mercader, Agulló, Abad-Somovilla, & Esteve-Turrillas, 2015).

Nowadays, antibody-based techniques provide complementary strategies for the analysis of chemical residues or contaminants in food. These methods are rapid and sensitive, and can be developed in a variety of formats for economic, portable, and/or easy-to-use applications. In order to generate high-affinity antibodies to a small chemical, a functionalized mimic of the target compound (hapten) must be covalently coupled to a larger immunogenic molecule. Monoclonal antibodies are generally preferred for analytical purposes. Afterwards, antibodies can be incorporated into

85 adequate analytical platforms. The most accepted immunochemical method for the analysis of small molecules is the competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay 86 (cELISA), mostly developed in two alternative formats; the antibody-coated format 87 with direct detection and the conjugate-coated format with indirect detection. 88 Competition is frequently achieved with a covalent protein conjugate of an analogue 89 90 of the target compound. This hapten can be the same as that employed for immunization (homologous hapten) or it can contain molecular differences 91 92 (heterologous hapten) which may enhance assay sensitivity.

93 In a previous study, polyclonal antibodies to fluopyram were reported 94 (Ceballos-Alcantarilla, Agulló, Abad-Fuentes, Abad-Somovilla, & Mercader, 2015). The aim of the present study was to develop and validate highly sensitive monoclonal 95 antibody-based immunoassays for the analysis of fluopyram residues in food samples. 96 A collection of fluopyram haptens was synthesized and high-affinity monoclonal 97 antibodies specific of this compound were generated for the first time. Hapten 98 99 conjugates with a variety of heterologies were prepared in order to study their 100 influence on the performance of monoclonal antibody-based cELISA. The developed immunoassays were applied to the analysis of fluopyram in fruit samples, particularly 101 102 plums and grapes, as well as processed food products such as musts and wines. 103 Fortified food samples and contaminated samples from fruit and vine cultivars were 104 employed for the characterization and validation of the developed immunochemical assays by comparison with a reference chromatographic technique. 105

106 **2. Materials and methods**

107 *2.2. Reagents and instruments*

108 General experimental procedures and techniques for the synthesis and characterization of haptens are reported in the Supplementary Data file. Compounds 109 110 used in this study present minor safety concerns; however, it is advisable to work in a 111 well-ventilated fume hood during synthesis work. Pestanal[®] grade fluopyram (N-(2-(3-112 chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl)ethyl)- α , α , α -trifluoro-o-toluamide, CAS number 113 658066-35-4, Mw 396.7) and other pesticide analytical standards were purchased from Fluka/Riedel-de-Haën (Seelze, Germany). Stock solutions were prepared in anhydrous 114 N,N-dimethylformamide and kept at -20 °C in amber glass vials. Luna[®] Experience 115 116 suspension was kindly provided by Bayer Cropscience (Frankfurt, Germany). Bovine 117 serum albumin (BSA) fraction V was obtained from Roche Applied Science (Mannheim, 118 Germany). Horseradish peroxidase (HRP), ovalbumin (OVA), foetal bovine serum, hybridoma fusion and cloning supplement, and Freund's adjuvants were from 119 120 Sigma/Aldrich (Madrid, Spain). Hapten density of protein conjugates was determined 121 with a 5800 matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF/TOF) 122 mass spectrometry apparatus from AB Sciex (Framingham, MA, USA). HiTrap[™] protein G HP columns for mouse IgG purification were procured from GE Healthcare (Uppsala, 123 124 Sweden).

125 Immunoassays were carried out with Costar® 96-well flat-bottom high-binding 126 polystyrene ELISA plates from Corning (Corning, NY, USA). Peroxidase labelled rabbit 127 anti-mouse immunoglobulin polyclonal antibody (secondary antibody) was from Dako 128 (Glostrup, Denmark). *o*-Phenylenediamine and triphenylphosphate (TPP) were 129 obtained from Sigma/Aldrich (Madrid, Spain). Primary/secondary amine from Varian 130 (Palo Alto, CA, USA) and organic solvents from Scharlab (Barcelona, Spain) were used 131 for sample preparation. Microplate wells were washed with an ELx405 washer from

BioTek Instruments (Winooski, VT, USA). Immunoassay absorbance values were readwith a PowerWave HT microplate reader also from BioTek.

Fluopyram residues were determined by HPLC using a UPLC Acquity system from Waters (Milford, MA, USA) furnished with a binary solvent delivery system, an autosampler, and a BEH C18 (1.7 μ m, 2.1 × 50 mm) column. An Acquity triple quadrupole MS detector, also from Waters, with a Z-spray electrospray ionization source (3.5 kV capillary voltage, and 120 °C and 300 °C source and desolvation temperature, respectively) were employed for tandem mass acquisitions.

140 Fermentations were carried out in an incubator from Selecta (Barcelona, Spain) using Saccaromyces cerevisiae cells from Lallemand Inc (Montreal, Quebec, Canada). 141 142 For density measurements, a Densito 30 PX densitometer from Mettler-Toledo GmbH (Greifensee, Switzerland) was employed. Musts and wine composition was analysed 143 144 with a Surveyor Plus HPLC chromatography system from Thermo Fisher Scientific 145 (Waltham, MA, USA) equipped with refraction index and UV-vis detectors. A Hyper REZ 146 XP carbohydrate H+8 column, also from Thermo Fisher Scientific, was employed as stationary phase at 50 °C. Samples were filtered with 0.2 µm nylon filter devices. 147

A series of buffers and solutions were employed. Coating buffer: 50 mM carbonate–bicarbonate buffer, pH 9.6; PBS: 10 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, with 140 mM NaCl; PBST: PBS containing 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20; PB: 100 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4; washing solution: 150 mM NaCl containing 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20; enzyme substrate buffer: 25 mM citrate and 62 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 5.4.

153 2.2. Hapten synthesis

154 The structure of immunizing hapten FP*a* is shown in Fig. 1a and its preparation was

described in a previous article (Ceballos-Alcantarilla et al., 2015). The developed 155 synthetic sequence for the preparation of immunizing hapten FPb is depicted in Fig. 2. 156 Preparation of amino pyridine 8 is described in the Supplementary Data file (Fig. S1). 157 Details of all synthetic steps and characterization data of other intermediate 158 159 compounds can be found in the Supplementary Data file. Hapten FPb was obtained as a white solid. Mp 107.8–109.3 °C (benzene); IR (neat) v_{max} (cm⁻¹) 3267s, 3071w, 160 3040w, 2948m, 2866m, 1717s, 1653s, 1545m, 1399w, 1331s, 1131s, 914m; ¹H NMR 161 (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.94 (br s, 1H, CO₂H), 8.65 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H₆ Py), 7.92 (d, J = 1.2 162 Hz, 1H, H_4 Py), 7.43 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H, H_2 Ph), 7.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H_5 Ph), 7.35 (dd, J =163 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H_6 Ph), 6.69 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H, CONH), 3.99 (dt, J = 5.9, 5.9 Hz, 2H, 164 165 NHCH₂CH₂), 3.30 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H, NHCH₂CH₂), 2.66 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H₆), 2.34 (t, J = 7.4Hz, 2H, H_2), 1.66 (tt, J = 7.4, 6.0 Hz, 2H, H_3), 1.63 (tt, J = 7.6, 6.0 Hz, 2H, H_5), 1.45–1.29 166 (m, 2H, H₄); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.3 (s, C₁), 168.2 (s, CONH), 160.8 (s, C₂ Py), 167 144.9 (s, C_1 Ph), 143.6 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ = 4.0 Hz, C_6 Py), 134.1 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ = 3.6 Hz, C_4 Py), 133.4 (q, 168 ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ = 2.1 Hz, C_{4} Ph), 132.1 (s, C_{3} Py), 132.0 (s, C_{6} Ph), 128.9 (s, C_{5} Ph), 127.1 (q, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ = 169 31.6 Hz, C_3 Ph), 126.3 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF}$ = 4.8 Hz, C_2 Ph), 126.1 (q, ${}^{2}J_{CF}$ = 33.8 Hz, C_5 Py), 123.7 (q, 170 ${}^{1}J_{CF}$ = 274.1 Hz, CF₃ Ph), 122.8 (q, ${}^{1}J_{CF}$ = 272.7 Hz, CF₃ Py), 37.0 (s, NHCH₂CH₂), 35.4 (s, 171 C₆), 34.2 (s, NHCH₂CH₂), 33.9 (s, C₂), 30.8 (s, C₅), 28.5 (s, C₄), 24.5 (s, C₃); ¹⁹F NMR (282 172 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –59.35 (s, CF₃ Ph), –62.73 (s, CF₃ Py); HRMS (TOF, ES+) *m*/z calcd for 173 $C_{22}H_{22}^{35}CIF_6N_2O_3 [M+H]^+ 511.1218$, found 511.1196; UV (PB) ϵ (290 nm) = 0.13 mM⁻¹ 174 cm^{-1} , ϵ (280 nm) = 2.45 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹, ϵ (270 nm) = 4.70 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹, ϵ (260 nm) = 3.35 175 $mM^{-1} cm^{-1}$, ϵ (250 nm) = 2.56 m $M^{-1} cm^{-1}$. 176

177 The synthetic strategies used for the preparation of haptens FP*ha* and FP*hb* 178 (Fig. 1a) are depicted in Fig. S2 and S3. Experimental details and characterization data 179 of all compounds are reported in the Supplementary Data file.

180 2.3. Bioconjugate preparation

Previously to coupling, active esters of the haptens were prepared by reaction of the free carboxylic group with *N*,*N*-disuccinimidyl carbonate and Et₃N in CH₃CN at room temperature (Fig. 2, S2, and S3), following a procedure applied in our laboratory in previous studies (Esteve-Turrillas, Parra, Abad-Fuentes, Agulló, Abad-Somovilla, & Mercader, 2010). *N*-Hydroxysuccinimidyl esters were readily purified by flash column chromatography. Purified active esters were fully characterized by spectroscopic methods (for details see the Supplementary Data file).

188 All of the synthetic haptens were covalently coupled to OVA and HRP, and hapten FPb was also linked to BSA, using the corresponding purified active esters. 189 Conjugates of hapten FPa had been equivalently prepared in a previous study 190 191 (Ceballos-Alcantarilla et al., 2015). Briefly, purified succinimide esters of the haptens 192 were dissolved in anhydrous N,N-dimethylformamide and dropwise added to protein 193 solutions in 50 mM carbonate buffer, pH 9.6, at a ratio of 24, 8, and 10 mol per mol of 194 BSA, OVA, and HRP, respectively, and the mixtures were gently stirred 2 h at room temperature. Bioconjugates were purified by gel filtration chromatography with a 15 195 mL Sephadex G-25 column using PB as eluent at 5 mL min⁻¹. BSA conjugates were filter 196 197 sterilized, brought to 1 mg mL⁻¹ with sterile PB, and stored frozen at -20 °C, OVA 198 conjugates were diluted with PB and stored at -20 °C with 0.01% (w/v) thimerosal, and HRP conjugates were 1:1 diluted with PBS containing 1% (w/v) BSA and 0.02% (w/v) 199

thimerosal, and stored at 4 °C. The obtained hapten-to-protein molar ratio (MR) was
determined by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry after extensive dialysis of the
bioconjugate in MilliQ water (see the Supplementary Data file).

203 2.4. Monoclonal antibody generation

Experimental design was approved by the Bioethics Committee of the 204 205 University of Valencia. Animal manipulation was performed in compliance with the 206 European Directive 2010/63/EU and the Spanish laws and guidelines (RD1201/2005 and 32/2007) concerning the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. Two 207 208 sets of four mice were immunized with BSA-FPa or BSA-FPb conjugate by intraperitoneal injections using Freund adjuvants. Details of the immunization 209 procedures can be found in the Supplementary Data file. For each immunogen, two 210 211 cell fusions were carried out; each of them employing the spleen cells from two 212 equally immunized mice. Hybridomas were generated using PEG1500 as fusing agent and they were grown following regular protocols (Mercader, Suárez-Pantaleón, Agulló, 213 214 Abad-Somovilla, & Abad-Fuentes, 2008a). Hybridoma culture supernatants were screened, twelve days after cell fusion, following a double screening procedure 215 216 consisting of a differential cELISA using 100 nM fluopyram, followed by a checkerboard 217 cELISA, both of them with the homologous OVA coating conjugate (the conjugate 218 carrying the same hapten as the immunizing conjugate) (Mercader, Suárez-Pantaleón, Agulló, Abad-Somovilla, & Abad-Fuentes, 2008b). Further information is provided in 219 220 the Supplementary Data file. High-affinity antibody producing hybridomas were cloned by limiting dilution in hypoxanthine-thymidine medium containing 20% (v/v) foetal 221 222 bovine serum and 1% (v/v) hybridoma fusion and cloning supplement. Stable clones were expanded and cryopreserved in liquid nitrogen. Immunoglobulins were purified from late stationary-phase culture supernatants by ammonium sulphate precipitation and affinity chromatography with protein G. Purified monoclonal antibodies were stored as ammonium sulphate precipitates at 4 °C.

227 2.5. Antibody-coated direct competitive ELISA

Microplates were coated with 100 μ L per well of antibody solution in coating 228 buffer by overnight incubation at 4 °C. Then, microwells were washed four times with 229 230 washing solution. The competitive reaction was carried out during 1 h at room 231 temperature by sequentially adding 50 µL per well of fluopyram standard solution in PBS plus 50 µL per well of HRP tracer solution in PBST. After washing the wells as 232 233 before, the enzymatic activity was revealed at room temperature with 100 µL per well of a freshly prepared 2 mg mL⁻¹ o-phenylenediamine solution in enzyme substrate 234 235 buffer containing 0.012% (v/v) H_2O_2 . The reaction was stopped after 10 min with 100 μ L per well of 1 M H₂SO₄ and the absorbance was immediately read, in a dual 236 wavelength mode, at 492 nm using 650 nm as the reference wavelength. 237

238 2.6. Conjugate-coated indirect competitive ELISA

Coating was performed with 100 μ L per well of OVA conjugate solution in coating buffer by overnight incubation at room temperature. After washing the plate as described in section 2.5, the competitive reaction was carried out by mixing 50 μ L per well of fluopyram standard solution in PBS plus 50 μ L per well of antibody solution in PBST and incubation at room temperature during 1 h. Then, plates were washed as before and 100 μ L per well of a 1/2000 secondary antibody dilution in PBST was added. After 1 h at room temperature, plates were washed again and the enzyme

activity was revealed and the absorbance was read as described for the direct assayformat.

248 2.7. Sample preparation

Plum trees and grapevines of different varieties (Garnacha, Bobal, Tempranillo, 249 250 and Macabeo) from the Utiel-Requena region (Spain) were treated at harvest season 251 with a Luna[®] Experience suspension prepared following the manufacturer instructions and using a manual nebulizer. Two suspensions were prepared, one at the 252 253 recommended dose (treatment T1) of the active ingredient (0.038%, v/v) and the other 254 at a double concentration (treatment T2). Fruit blank samples were harvested before 255 the treatment. Fluopyram-containing samples were collected at different days after 256 fungicide application (D1 to D7 for plums and D1 and D3 for grapes). Then, stones from plum samples were discarded, grape berries were separated from the stems, and the 257 258 fruits were chopped with a grinder. A fraction of grapes was destined to must and 259 wine preparation and the remaining fruit samples were used for pesticide extraction.

260 Blended grape berries were filtered to obtain must samples which were stored at -20 °C until analysis. Wine samples were in-house prepared from musts to which a 261 262 portion of the solid fraction obtained after filtration was added as required for red 263 wine production, except for the Macabeo white must in order to produce white wine. Then, 60 mL of must was inoculated with 2×10⁶ cells of *Saccaromyces cerevisiae* per 264 265 millilitre and incubated at 28 °C with continuous orbital agitation at 150 rpm. When fermentation was finished, solids were discarded by centrifugation and wine samples 266 were stored at -20 °C until analysis. 267

Pesticides were extracted from plums and grapes by the standard QuEChERS 268 (Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged, and Safe) procedure as follows. Chopped 269 samples were further homogenized with an Ultra-Turrax blender from IKA (Staufen, 270 Germany) and 5 g of homogenate was mixed, in a 50-mL polypropylene centrifuge 271 tube, with 0.5 g of sodium acetate and 5 mL of acetonitrile containing 1% (v/v) acetic 272 acid and 500 μ g L⁻¹ of TPP as internal standard. Then, 2 g of anhydrous MgSO₄ was 273 added and vigorously stirred with a vortex during 1 min. After centrifugation at 2040×g 274 for 5 min, 1 mL of organic extract was collected in an Eppendorf tube and treated with 275 50 mg of primary/secondary amine and 150 mg of anhydrous MgSO₄. The formed 276 suspension was strongly vortex stirred during 1 min and centrifuged again at 6700×g 277 278 for 5 min. The supernatant was filtered through a Teflon membrane (0.2 μ m of 279 diameter) and stored at -20 °C until analysis.

280 2.8. Sample analysis

For cELISA analysis, cleaned-up acetonitrile plum extracts and grape extracts of 281 282 the four varieties, as well as the corresponding must and wine samples were conveniently diluted with MilliQ water and analysed by the optimized immunoassays. 283 Thus, five different fruit samples, four musts and four wines were evaluated. Eight-284 point standard curves, including a blank, were prepared from a 50 μ g L⁻¹ fluopyram 285 286 solution in MilliQ water by six-fold serial dilution in water. Antibody or enzyme tracer solutions were prepared in 2×PBS containing 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20. Experimental 287 values were fitted to a four-parameter logistic equation using the SigmaPlot software 288 package from SPSS Inc. (Chicago, IL, USA). Assay sensitivity was defined as the 289 290 concentration of analyte at the inflection point of the fitted curve, typically

corresponding to a 50% reduction (IC₅₀) of the maximum absorbance (A_{max}). The limit of detection (LOD) was calculated as the concentration of analyte at a 10% drop of A_{max} , and the linear range was estimated as the concentration range between a 20% and 80% decrease of A_{max} . The limit of quantification (LOQ) for fluopyram residue immunoanalysis in the studied food samples was defined as the lowest assayed concentration for which recovery values between 80% and 120%, and coefficients of variation (CV) below 20%, were obtained.

298 UPLC-MS/MS determinations were carried out with a multicomponent calibration curve of 7 standards (0, 3, 10, 30, 100, 300, and 1000 μ g L⁻¹) prepared by 299 serial dilution of fluopyram in acetonitrile containing 500 μ g L⁻¹ of TPP as internal 300 standard. A five microlitre sample was used and a binary mobile phase was applied at 301 400 μ L min⁻¹, consisting of 0.5% (v/v) formic acid in MilliQ water (eluent A) and 302 acetonitrile (eluent B). Starting from a 50% (v/v) mixture of both eluents, elution was 303 304 carried out by linearly increasing eluent B, during 4 min, until a 95% (v/v) proportion 305 was reached, and then the mobile phase was maintained isocratic during 2 min. The 306 obtained retention times under the aforementioned conditions were 1.1 and 2.1 min for fluopyram and TPP, respectively. Signal response was determined from the 307 quotient between the analyte peak area and that of the internal standard multiplied by 308 309 the concentration of the latter. Monitored ions were m/z 397 and 328, for fluopyram 310 and TPP, respectively. Weighted (1/x) least squares calibration curves were established by linear regression of the signal and the concentration values of fluopyram. The LOD 311 value of the chromatographic method was calculated as $3s_0/b$, where s_0 is the standard 312 deviation (n = 10) of the signal at 3 μ g L⁻¹ of fluopyram and b is the slope of the 313 314 calibration curve.

315 3. Results and discussion

316 3.1. Hapten design and synthesis

317 A fundamental aspect for the generation of sensitive and specific antibodies towards a small analyte is the way the hapten structure of the bioconjugate is 318 319 displayed to the immune system, which depends particularly on the linker tethering 320 site. In this study, which is directed to the production of monoclonal antibodies 321 suitable for the development of a sensitive immunoassay for the analysis of the 322 fungicide fluopyram, two haptens have been used for the preparation of the 323 immunogenic conjugates: hapten FPa, used in an earlier study for the generation of polyclonal antibodies (Ceballos-Alcantarilla et al., 2015), and the new hapten FPb (Fig. 324 325 1a). In principle, the structures of the two haptens adequately mimic, both structurally and electronically, the analyte, since they maintain integrally the structure and 326 327 functional groups thereof, incorporating a spacer arm for binding to the carrier protein at opposed positions of the molecular skeleton, thus enabling antagonistic display 328 329 modes during the immune response. Additionally, two haptens (haptens FPha and FPhb), structurally heterologous from the previous ones (Fig. 1a), were also prepared 330 331 in order to evaluate their influence on the performance of the monoclonal antibody-332 based cELISA. The former, in which the CF_2 group of the linker was replaced by a CH_2 333 group and the ortho-CF₃ group in the distal aryl ring was shifted to the regioisomeric 334 para-position, had the same linker tethering site as hapten FPa, and the latter, in 335 which the CF₃ group of the proximal aryl ring was suppressed, held the linker at the same site as hapten FPb. 336

337

The novel immunizing hapten FPb was prepared by a convergent synthetic

338 sequence, which involved the independent preparation of two appropriately substituted aromatic moieties, the aryl moiety that incorporated the carboxylated C6 339 hydrocarbon chain that constituted the spacer arm and the substituted pyridine 340 341 system, which were joined together to complete the hapten skeleton in the final steps 342 of the synthesis (Fig. 2). The synthesis started with the commercially available 343 substituted benzoic acid 1, which, after protection of the carboxylic group as a benzyl ester, was transformed into aryl iodide 4. This transformation involved reduction of 344 the nitro group to the corresponding amino group, using iron powder in acid medium, 345 346 followed by substitution of the amino group by iodine, using tert-butyl nitrite to generate the corresponding 4-phenyl radical and diiodomethane as the source of 347 348 iodine. Subsequent palladium-catalysed Sonogashira cross-coupling reactions with the terminal alkyne 5 took place under very smooth conditions affording the 4-alkenyl 349 350 derivative 6. Completion of the introduction of the saturated hydrocarbon chain at the C-4 position of the phenyl ring was undertaken by palladium catalysed heterogeneous 351 352 hydrogenation of the triple bond of compound **6** under low hydrogen pressure. Under these conditions, we achieved not only complete hydrogenation of the triple bond but 353 354 also hydrogenolysis of the benzyl ester moiety to directly afford acid 7 in excellent 355 yield. The entire carbon framework of the target hapten FPb was completed by a 356 reaction of amidation between benzoic acid 7 and the amino group of previously described amino pyridine 8 mediated by the phosphonium salt coupling reagent 357 PyAOP (Han & Kim, 2004). The synthesis of hapten FPb was completed by acid 358 359 catalysed hydrolysis of the tert-butyl ester moiety of amide 9. Overall, the synthesis of hapten FPb proceeded in 7 steps with an overall yield of ca. 27%. 360

361

The synthetic strategy used for the preparation of the heterologous assay

haptens, FPha and FPhb, is based on the syntheses previously developed for the preparation of the immunizing haptens, FPa and FPb, respectively. Their synthesis involved the initial preparation of the aryl and heteroaromatic moieties, each with appropriate functionalization at the different positions of the aromatic ring, which were joined together to complete the skeleton of each hapten by an amidation reaction (Fig. S2 and S3).

368 3.2. Immunoreagent characterization

Haptens were activated through their transformation into the corresponding 369 370 N-hydroxysuccinimidyl esters using N,N-disuccinimidyl carbonate for subsequent conjugation to carrier proteins. Since purified active esters of the haptens were 371 employed, the same coupling procedure was followed for the preparation of 372 373 immunizing and assay conjugates. Conjugate BSA-FPb was obtained with high yields 374 and an optimum MR of 16.5 was achieved, the same as the MR of conjugate BSA-FPa which was previously reported (Ceballos-Alcantarilla et al., 2015). Regarding assay 375 376 conjugates, the MR values were 1.5, 4.5, and 4.5 for OVA-FPb, OVA-FPha, and OVA-FPhb, respectively, and 1.5 for the three prepared HRP conjugates. The 377 corresponding MALDI-TOF spectra are depicted in Fig. 3. 378

A collection of monoclonal antibodies was generated; five from conjugate BSA–FP*a*, namely FP*a*-type antibodies, and five from conjugate BSA–FP*b*, namely FP*b*type antibodies. All of them were characterized by checkerboard direct and indirect cELISA using homologous and heterologous conjugates (conjugates carrying the same or different hapten compared to the immunizing conjugate). Among FP*a*-type antibodies, only FP*a*#12 afforded enough signal (higher than 0.8) in the direct assay

385 format (Table S1). The absence of signal was probably due to weak or no recognition of the enzyme tracer by the antibody or to a loss of the antibody binding capacity upon 386 immobilization to the polystyrene surface of the microplate. Interestingly, antibody 387 FPa#12 bound the heterologous tracer of hapten FPha but not the other heterologous 388 conjugates (FPb and FPhb). Regarding FPb-type antibodies in the direct assay format 389 390 (Table S1), the homologous tracer conjugate and, in most cases, tracer FPhb were recognized. Haptens with opposite linker tethering sites were not bound by any of the 391 392 monoclonals in this format. The highest affinity was displayed by antibody FPb#12 393 together with tracer HRP–FPb, showing a subnanomolar value ($IC_{50} = 0.75 \text{ nM}$).

394 As expected, all of the antibodies bound the homologous OVA coating conjugate (Table S2). In this case, the obtained IC₅₀ values for fluopyram were in the 395 low-to-mid nanomolar range. No differences were generally observed between FPa-396 and FPb-type antibodies, indicating a similar capability of the two employed 397 398 immunogens to generate high-affinity binders. When binding to heterologous conjugates occurred, it was exclusively to the heterologous conjugate with 399 400 homologous linker tethering site, i.e. the only heterologous conjugate recognized by FPa-type antibodies was OVA-FPha and the only heterologous conjugate recognized 401 by FPb-type antibodies was OVA-FPhb, with the exception of antibody FPb#32. As 402 403 observed for other small chemical molecules (Mercader, Parra, Esteve-Turrillas, Agulló, 404 Abad-Somovilla, & Abad-Fuentes, 2012; López-Moreno, Mercader, Agulló, Abad-Somovilla, & Abad-Fuentes, 2014), linker location at an opposite site compared to the 405 homologous hapten constituted a harsh heterology, and the corresponding conjugate 406 was frequently not recognized by monoclonal antibodies. On the contrary, minor 407 408 modifications of the assay hapten framework generally help to increase the sensitivity 409 of the immunoassay, particularly if those changes affect a proximal site of the linker. This trend agrees with that observed in this study; the modification of the 410 411 functionalization of the homoaromatic ring of hapten FPhb at a proximal site of the 412 linker did not hinder antibody binding, and the IC₅₀ value could be reduced. However, 413 the combination of two changes at proximal and distal sites, such as those of hapten 414 FPha – elimination of the geminal difluoride group and switch of the trifluoromethyl position – probably caused that only a limited number of FPa-type antibodies 415 recognized this hapten. The highest sensitivity in this format ($IC_{50} = 0.53$ nM) was 416 observed with antibody FPb#12 combined with the heterologous OVA-FPhb conjugate. 417

418 In order to assess the specificity of the prepared monoclonal antibodies, 419 indirect cELISA tests were carried out using the homologous conjugate. A series of different analytes were evaluated including fungicides of the SDHI family 420 421 (penthiopyrad, boscalid, and fluxapyroxad), the main metabolite of fluopyram (2-422 (trifluoromethyl)benzamide, also called M25), tebuconazole, which is coformulated in 423 Luna[®] Experience together with fluopyram, and other pesticides commonly found in 424 fruit samples, such as fluopicolide, fenhexamid, cyprodinil, fludioxonil, azoxystrobin, and trifloxystrobin. FPb-type antibodies showed high specificity and no remarkable 425 inhibition was observed with any of the studied molecules; just cross-reactivities below 426 1% were seen for a few antibodies with SDHI compounds and fluopicolide (Table S3). 427 Interestingly, all of the FPa-type antibodies showed moderate or slight cross-reactivity 428 429 with fluopicolide. Fluopyram and fluopicolide share the 3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl moiety which probably explains the observed cross-430 reactivity. However, it was surprising that those antibodies that were obtained using a 431 hapten with the linker located at such heteroaromatic ring (FPa-type) recognized 432

433 fluopicolide, whereas it was not or only slightly bound by FPb-type antibodies generated from a hapten displaying such immunodeterminant moiety at a distal 434 position of the spacer arm. Apparently, this result seems to contradict the 435 Landsteiner's principle (Landsteiner, 1962). However, it is possible that haptens can 436 adopt a folded conformation, similar to the more stable conformation of fluopyram 437 438 itself (Fig. 1b), so that during the immune response the common immunogenic elements with fluopicolide are more exposed in hapten FPa than in hapten FPb, 439 resulting in the generation of antibodies with higher cross-reactivity to fluopicolide 440 from the former than from the latter. 441

442 3.3. Immunoassay characterization

443 Two immunoassays were selected for further development and validation using monoclonal antibody FPb#12 in combination with the homologous tracer conjugate for 444 445 the direct cELISA format and the heterologous OVA-FPhb conjugate for the indirect format. The IC₅₀ values of these assays were one order of magnitude lower than the 446 best values previously published with polyclonal antibodies (Ceballos-Alcantarilla et al., 447 2015). Immunoreagent concentrations were optimized in order to reach A_{max} values 448 449 around 1.0. Moreover, the influence of pH and ionic strength of the immunoreaction 450 buffer was studied. With the direct assay, the Amax and the IC₅₀ values smoothly 451 decreased at pH values lower and higher than PBS (Fig. S4). On the other hand, minute influence was found over the A_{max} value of the indirect assay only at basic pHs. The IC₅₀ 452 value of this assay was little altered at acidic pH values but it rapidly decreased at basic 453 pHs. Regarding the ionic strength, minimal effects were observed over the direct 454 assay; the A_{max} and IC_{50} values were only slightly lowered at I = 50 mM. With the 455

456 indirect assay, low influence was observed over the A_{max} value in the studied salt 457 concentration range; however, low ionic strength values sharply raised the IC₅₀ value 458 whereas it was decreased at salt concentrations higher than PBS.

Tolerance of the selected immunoassays to the presence of methanol, ethanol, 459 and acetonitrile was evaluated. In the studied concentration range, both 460 immunoassays were quite tolerant to these solvents, even to acetonitrile which usually 461 462 strongly influences negatively the analytical parameters of immunoassays (Fig. S5). 463 Lower variation of the A_{max} and IC_{50} values were observed with the indirect assay than 464 with the direct assay. For the former, higher solvent contents slightly increased the 465 A_{max} value, whereas little changes of the IC₅₀ value were observed along the studied solvent concentration range. For the latter assay, increasing solvent concentrations 466 moderately raised the A_{max} value and the IC₅₀ value was doubled or more at 5% (v/v) 467 468 solvent contents.

The optimized assay parameters of the selected immunoassays are listed in Table 469 1. Both immunoassays showed high sensitivity to fluopyram, with IC₅₀ values around 470 0.2 μ g L⁻¹ and LOD values in the nanogram per litre scale. The theoretical working 471 472 range of the standard curve was calculated as the IC₂₀–IC₈₀ interval, and covered about 473 one order of magnitude. Moreover, the direct assay showed excellent precision of the 474 A_{max} value for inter-day and intra-day determinations but a slight deviation of the IC₅₀ values was observed in both cases. For the indirect assay, the values of the two assay 475 parameters (A_{max} and IC₅₀) were highly precise for inter-day and intra-day 476 477 measurements.

478 *3.4. Recovery studies*

479 These studies were carried out with fluopyram-free samples of a stone fruit (plums), three varieties of red grapes (Bobal, Garnacha, and Tempranillo), and one 480 481 variety of white grapes (Macabeo), all of them directly collected from the fields. Moreover, blank musts and wines of the four grape varieties were prepared. For 482 483 winemaking, glucose and fructose concentration as well as glycerol, ethanol, and 484 acetic acid contents were measured (Table S4). Fermentation was monitored by measuring the must density, and the process was considered completed at 0.998 g 485 mL^{-1} (time of fermentation was between 140 and 170 h). The Bobal must variety had 486 the lowest carbohydrate contents, whereas the Macabeo must contained double 487 amount of glycerol than the Bobal must. The obtained wines showed reduced contents 488 489 of glucose and fructose, as expected, and contained between 10.0% and 12.5% ethanol 490 (v/v), as many commercial wines. The glycerol and acetic acid concentrations were similar in the four wines. 491

492 A preliminary study was carried out to estimate the matrix effects of plum and 493 grape extracts, must, and wine of the four varieties over the optimized immunoassays. 494 As depicted in Fig. S6, variations of the A_{max} value higher than 20% were only observed at low dilution factors for all fruit extracts in the direct assay, and low matrix effects 495 496 were generally found with fruit samples in the indirect assay. On the contrary, lower matrix effects were observed with must samples in the direct assay than in the indirect 497 498 format, particularly with Garnacha and Tempranillo musts. Finally, the Amax value 499 slightly increased with the lowest dilutions of wine samples in the direct assay but 500 higher matrix effects occurred in the indirect format, particularly with Garnacha and 501 Bobal wine samples.

502 Blank samples of the described foodstuffs were fortified with fluopyram from 5 to 500 μ g L⁻¹, diluted 1/25, 1/50, and 1/150, and analysed by the two described 503 immunoassays. Raw data are listed in Table S5 and S6, and average values are 504 505 summarized in Table 2. Excellent recoveries and CV values below 20% were found with 506 all of the studied samples when the direct assay was employed. With the indirect assay, excellent recoveries were obtained with CV values below 20% for plum and all 507 grape extracts, the Macabeo white must, and the four wine varieties (Table S6). For 508 red musts with the indirect assay, recoveries were generally between 70% and 90% for 509 Bobal and Garnacha varieties, or below 70% for Tempranillo must, and CV values were 510 511 below 20%.

The experimental LOQs for plum and grape extracts of the four varieties were 5 512 $\mu g \ L^{-1}$ with both immunoassays (Tables S5 and S6), which is much lower than the 513 maximum residue limits set by the EU (0.5 mg kg⁻¹ for plums and at 1.5 mg kg⁻¹ for 514 wine grapes) and the US (0.5 mg kg⁻¹ for plums and 2.0 mg kg⁻¹ for wine grapes) (EU 515 Pesticide Database, 2019; Global MRL Database, 2019). For must and wine samples, 516 the LOQs with the direct assay were either 5 or 10 μ g L⁻¹, depending on the variety, 517 except for the Garnacha wine, with the darkest red colour, which was 50 μ g L⁻¹. 518 Concerning the indirect assay, the LOQ for the Macabeo white must was 5 μ g L⁻¹. 519 Matrix effects from red must varieties seemed to occur in this immunoassay, so no 520 521 LOQ could be established according to the previously described definition. The LOQs for wine samples in this format were either 5 or 10 μ g L⁻¹, depending on the variety. 522

523 3.5. Validation studies

524 Fluopyram concentration in in-field treated samples was determined both by

525 UPLC–MS/MS, as a reference chromatographic method, and by the developed immunoassays. The obtained values (Table S7) were statistically compared by Deming 526 regression and Bland-Altman dispersion analysis. The regression line for the direct 527 immunoassay was y = 1.014x - 0.142, with a 95% confidence interval from 0.978 to 528 1.050 for the slope and from -0.633 to 0.349 for the intercept, so those values were 529 statistically equal to 1 and 0, respectively (Fig. 4a). Therefore, a good correlation 530 between the chromatographic and immunochemical results of the direct assay exists. 531 The regression line for the indirect assay was y = 0.902x+0.227, with a 95% confidence 532 interval from 0.873 to 0.930 for the slope and from -0.275 to 0.730 for the intercept. 533 In this case, the slope was slightly lower than 1 and the intercept was statistically equal 534 535 to 0. This result suggests certain underestimation of the fluopyram concentration by the indirect immunoassay. According to the Bland-Altman plots (Fig. 4b), only random 536 537 deviations exist between chromatographic and immunochemical results of both immunoassays; the experimental values were mainly within the limits of agreement 538 539 (mean ± 1.96s) and they were arbitrarily distributed above and below the average line. A t-Student analysis indicated that the mean difference between both methods was 540 not statistically different from 0 for the direct assay whereas a bias of $-7 \ \mu g \ L^{-1}$ was 541 542 revealed for the indirect immunoassay.

543 4. Conclusions

Novel haptens of fluopyram have been prepared and specific high-affinity monoclonal antibodies to this new-generation SDHI fungicide have been raised for the first time. Different types of heterologous haptens were studied. Most monoclonals bound heterologous conjugates in which the heterologies were introduced at a

548 proximal site of the linker, whereas heterologous haptens with the linker at an opposite position seemed to hinder monoclonal antibody binding. Preparation of 549 550 haptens with a homologous linker site and a heterology at a proximal position was shown to be a good approach for enhancing immunoassay sensitivity in both the direct 551 and the indirect assay formats. Two immunoassays using different cELISA formats were 552 553 characterized and optimized, showing good performance for the analysis of fluopyram in fortified plum and grape samples of four varieties as well as the corresponding in-554 house prepared musts and wines. Statistical analysis of results demonstrated good 555 agreement between a reference chromatographic method and the developed 556 immunoassays, particularly the direct assay. 557

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570 Appendix A. Abbreviations used

BSA: bovine serum albumin; cELISA: competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; CV: coefficient of variation; HRP: horseradish peroxidase; LOD: limit of detection; LOQ: limit of quantification; MALDI-TOF: matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry; MR: molar ratio; OVA: ovalbumin; PB: phosphate buffer; PBS: phosphate buffered saline; PBST: PBS containing Tween 20; SDHI: succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor; TPP: triphenyl phosphate; UPLC–MS/MS: ultra-high performance liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass spectrometry.

578 Appendix B. Supplementary material

579 Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, 580 at

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670 Figure captions

Fig. 1. a) Molecular structures of fluopyram, immunizing haptens (FPa and FPb), and 671 672 heterologous assay haptens (FPha and FPhb). b) Global minimum energy conformation 673 of fluopyram. Calculations were performed using Molecular Mechanics (MM3) as 674 implemented in the CAChe program. A systematic conformational search was performed (all rotatable bonds were rotated by 24° degree steps) and the geometry of 675 the generated more stable conformer was refined by performing an optimized 676 geometry calculation in MOPAC using PM3 parameters. The elements are represented 677 678 in the following manner: carbon, grey; oxygen, red; nitrogen, blue; chlorine, yellow; 679 fluorine, green. The dashed line denotes an intramolecular hydrogen bond between 680 the pyridine nitrogen atom and the hydrogen atom of the amide moiety. This bond could be reinforced by simultaneous interaction of the same hydrogen with the 681 682 fluorine atoms of the spatially proximal CF₃ group.

Fig. 2. Synthetic sequence for the preparation of hapten FPb.

Fig. 3. MALDI-TOF spectra of proteins (blue) and the corresponding conjugates with haptens FP*b* (green), FP*ha* (orange), and FP*hb* (cyan). a) BSA conjugate; b) OVA conjugates; c) HRP conjugates.

Fig. 4. a) Deming regression plots for comparison of results from the analysis of in-field 687 treated plums (solid symbols) and grapes (open symbols) obtained by a reference 688 chromatographic technique and the developed direct and indirect cELISA. The solid 689 690 line represents the regression line and the dashed lines are the 95% confidence interval. b) Bland-Altman dispersion plots depicting the average difference between 691 determinations of the compared methods (solid line) and the ±1.96s limits (dashed 692 lines). The mean difference was 3.6 μ g L⁻¹ for the direct assay and -7.7 μ g L⁻¹ for the 693 indirect assay. ELISA values are the mean of 5 independent determinations while HPLC 694 values are the mean of two replicates. 695

Highlights

- Fluopyram regioisomeric haptens with opposite linker tethering sites were used.
- High-affinity monoclonal antibodies to fluopyram were generated for the first time.
- Two ELISAs were optimized for fluopyram analysis with LOD values below 0.05 μg L⁻¹.
- Immunoassay performance was verified in plum, grape, must, and wine samples.
- Immunochemical results were validated with LC-MS using contaminated samples.



Table 1. Normalized standard curves, assay conditions, and analytical parameters of the developed immunoassays for fluopyram analysis (n = 12).

^a Linear range calculated as the IC_{20} - IC_{80} interval. ^b Inter-day and intra-day precision calculated as de coefficient of variation of 4 independent repeats.

Table 2. Average recovery values and coefficients of variation obtained by the two optimized cELISAs for fluopyram fortified plum and grape extracts, must, and wine samples of different varieties (n = 5).

must, and while samples of unreferit varieties (n – 5).								
		Immunoassays for fluopyram						
		Direct		Indirect				
Matrix	Variety	R (%, ±s) ^a	CV (%, ±s) ^b	R (%, ±s)	CV (%, ±s)			
Plum	-	103.4 ± 7.6	9.8 ± 3.8	94.8 ± 8.6	8.0 ± 2.7			
Grape	Bobal	102.8 ± 7.9	6.0 ± 2.6	100.2 ± 4.2	6.6 ± 4.2			
	Garnacha	102.0 ± 2.8	5.7 ± 2.8	97.5 ± 6.9	8.5 ± 6.5			
	Tempranillo	103.7 ± 10.8	9.4 ± 4.3	102.3 ± 11.5	8.9 ± 6.1			
	Macabeo	100.8 ± 4.6	12.1 ± 4.6	96.0 ± 10.0	7.5 ± 3.6			
Must	Bobal	104.4 ± 6.2	6.8 ± 2.9	76.3 ± 8.1	12.5 ± 2.3			
	Garnacha	108.5 ± 9.3	11.1 ± 4.8	78.5 ± 6.7	12.1 ± 2.6			
	Tempranillo	109.6 ± 5.8	13.4 ± 4.0	_c	-			
	Macabeo	108.6 ± 11.4	9.6 ± 4.7	98.7 ± 3.9	8.7 ± 5.5			
Wine	Bobal	101.2 ± 9.2	12.3 ± 4.9	95.0 ± 8.9	17.1 ± 2.8			
	Garnacha	108.5 ± 4.4	15.7 ± 2.9	87.0 ± 3.2	13.3 ± 3.7			
	Tempranillo	106.4 ± 5.1	12.9 ± 3.4	93.6 ± 6.3	11.4 ± 2.4			
	Macabeo	108.2 ± 9.3	6.2 ± 3.3	100.3 ± 3.7	12.2 ± 4.4			

^a Average recovery values. ^b Average coefficients of variation. ^c Out of range.





Figure(s) Click here to download high resolution image



	m/z	Δm /hapten	$\Delta(m/z)$	MR
BSA	66406			
BSA-FPb	74502	492.1	8095	16.5





a nign resolution image

Supplementary Material Click here to download Supplementary Material: Supplementary Material.docx

Declaration of interests

 \boxtimes The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

□The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: