

1 ***bcy1* deletion in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is semi-dominant and induce**  
2 **autolytic phenotypes suitable for the improvement of sparkling**  
3 **wines**

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13 Running title: *bcy1* autolytic yeast strains

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Autolysis of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is the main source of molecules  
3 contributing to the quality of sparkling wines made by the traditional method. In  
4 this work the possibility of accelerating this slow process in order to improve the  
5 quality of sparkling wines, by using genetically engineered wine yeast strains,  
6 has been explored. The effect of partial or total deletions of *BCY1* (encoding for  
7 a regulatory subunit of cAMP dependent protein kinase A (PKA)), in haploid and  
8 diploid (heterozygous and homozygous) yeast strains has been studied. It is  
9 proven that heterozygous strains carrying partial or complete deletions of *BCY1*,  
10 show a semi-dominant phenotype for several of the properties studied, including  
11 autolysis under simulated second fermentation conditions, in contrast to  
12 previously published reports describing mutations in *BCY1* as recessive.  
13 Considering the degree of autolysis, ethanol tolerance, and technical feasibility,  
14 deletion of the 3' end of the ORF of a single copy of *BCY1* is proposed as a way  
15 to improve the quality of sparkling wines.

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Keywords: sparkling wine, autolysis, PKA, genetic engineering, autophagy,  
*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

## INTRODUCTION

1  
2 Sparkling wines made by the traditional "Méthode champenoise" are the result  
3 of two main fermentative steps. First, a base wine is made by standard  
4 procedures used for the production of most high quality white wines. For the  
5 second step, called "Prise de mousse", a combination of yeasts  
6 (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or *Saccharomyces bayanus*), sucrose (usually 25  
7 g/l final concentration), and eventually clarifying agents, is added to the base  
8 wine. The mixture is then bottled and allowed to ferment and age. At the end of  
9 the aging period, yeast lees are removed from the bottles by disgorging (25).  
10 Before closing the bottles for marketing, the final character of the wine is  
11 adjusted by adding wine, liquors and sugar in various proportions. The amount  
12 of sugar added will determine the sweetness of the wine.

13       The contribution of yeasts to the properties of sparkling wines during  
14 "Prise de mousse" also takes place in two steps. First, a secondary  
15 fermentation of the added sucrose leads to the production of ethanol, carbon  
16 dioxide and minor secondary products (25). At the end of this step, the sparkling  
17 wine has an ethanol concentration of about 9.5-11.5 % (v/v) and the pressure in  
18 the bottle can reach 5-6 atm (25). After fermentation has been completed an  
19 aging period follows this fermentative step. During aging yeast cells die and  
20 undergo autolysis, releasing intracellular compounds, mostly peptides and  
21 amino acids, to the external medium. Improvement in the sensorial quality of the  
22 wines has been correlated with the products of the hydrolytic degradation of  
23 yeast cells, including free amino acids, peptides, mannoproteins, nucleic acid  
24 derivatives or lipids (27, 30, 31, 39). However, autolysis in enological conditions

1 is a very slow process that leads to long aging periods involving costly storages  
2 of the wines.

3 Two main methods have been devised in order to accelerate the  
4 acquisition of aging-like properties during sparkling wine production: adding  
5 yeast autolysates to the wine, or increasing the temperature of aging (8, 12).  
6 Both procedures cause sensory defects in the final product, which are often  
7 described as toasty (37). A third procedure for accelerating autolysis has been  
8 proposed, based on the use of killer yeast strains, however the effect on wine  
9 quality was not evaluated (48). Finally, several authors have suggested the use  
10 of autolytic yeast strains as a way to improve the quality of sparkling wines by  
11 accelerating the acquisition of aging-like characteristics (27, 28, 46). These  
12 autolytic strains were obtained either by sporulation, random mutagenesis or  
13 genetic engineering of wine strains (7, 16, 46). The latest strategy was based in  
14 the observation that autophagy takes place during "Prise de mousse" (6), for  
15 that reason a gene inducing constitutive autophagy (43) was overexpressed in a  
16 industrial wine yeast strain (7).

17 Because cell death seems to precede autolysis during sparkling wine  
18 production (48), a potential alternative method to accelerate autolysis could be  
19 the construction of wine yeast strains showing a fast loss of viability under  
20 stationary phase or starvation conditions. Several *S. cerevisiae* genes whose  
21 mutation leads to reduced viability in response to nutrient limitation have been  
22 described (13), for example *bcy1* (4, 5, 18, 34, 47), *ard1*, *ubi4*, *slk1*, *ils1-1*, *ypt1*,  
23 *gis1* and *rvs16-1* (10, 22, 34, 50, 51). Among these, we are interested in *bcy1*  
24 defective mutants because they start losing viability during the diauxic shift (34),  
25 when glucose becomes exhausted from the medium (22, 50, 51). This is

1 important in order to allow the engineered strains to complete the secondary  
2 fermentation before cell death.

3 *BCY1* encodes the regulatory subunit of the cAMP-dependent protein  
4 kinase A (PKA) (4, 5, 18, 29, 34, 45, 47, 52). The PKA pathway is activated by  
5 numerous environmental signals and plays a major role in the control of  
6 metabolism, stress resistance, proliferation and filamentous growth (33, 34, 49)  
7 (45). PKA activity is essential for glycolysis (24) and cellular proliferation (36,  
8 44). Conversely, PKA must be inhibited for growth on non-fermentable carbon  
9 sources (24), sporulation (4), stress resistance (2, 17, 21, 44), glycogen and  
10 trehalose accumulation (20, 44), stationary phase adaptation (9, 35, 41) and  
11 autophagy (3).

12 The PKA holoenzyme is a tetramer consisting of a homodimer of two  
13 catalytic subunits, encoded by *TPK1*, *TPK2* and *TPK3* (18, 52) and two  
14 regulatory subunits, encoded by *BCY1* (4, 5, 18, 34, 47, 52). PKA is inactive  
15 when regulatory and catalytic subunits are associated. In the presence of  
16 glucose, cAMP levels are high and PKA is activated. Two cAMP molecules bind  
17 to the C-terminal end of each regulatory subunit, promoting a conformational  
18 change (53). This change causes the PKA holoenzyme dissociation, resulting in  
19 the release and activation of the catalytic subunits (18, 34, 47, 53).

20 *BCY1* is not an essential gene and null mutants display a variety of  
21 phenotypes: inability to grow on non fermentable carbon sources, slow growth  
22 on glucose, stress and starvation intolerance, inability to sporulate and to  
23 accumulate glycogen or trehalose (4, 5, 18, 47). *BCY1* mutations have been  
24 classed according to the level of tolerance to starvation (4, 34). The "early  
25 acting class" of mutations (including null mutations) results in cell death quickly

1 after glucose exhaustion, while the "late acting class" results in cell death during  
2 the stationary phase (7 to 12 days after inoculation in rich medium) (34). Unlike  
3 null mutants, late acting mutants do not show growth defects during the  
4 exponential growth phase. In this work, we performed a more detailed  
5 phenotypic analysis of diploid heterozygous and homozygous mutants carrying  
6 partial or total deletions of *BCY1*, in order to evaluate the potential of *BCY1*  
7 defective mutants for the acceleration of autolysis during sparkling wine  
8 production. The rationale behind this approach was that strains undergoing  
9 accelerated loss of viability under starvation conditions would readily undergo  
10 autolysis under sparkling wine production conditions, once the carbon source  
11 had been completely fermented.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 16 **Microbial strains**

17 *Escherichia coli* DH5 $\alpha$  (*supE44*,  $\Delta$ *lacU169* [ $\Phi$ 80 *lacZ* $\Delta$ M15], *hsdR17*, *recA1*,  
18 *endA1*, *gyrA96*, *thi-1*, *relA1*) (19) was used for the production of the different  
19 plasmids constructed in this study. The genotypes of the *S. cerevisiae* strains  
20 used in this study are shown in Table 1.

21

### 22 **Yeast media, culture conditions and phenotype assays**

23 Yeast strains were grown on liquid YPD (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 2%  
24 glucose) or YPD plates (YPD plus 2% agar). Plates of minimal medium  
25 contained 0.67% yeast nitrogen base, 2% agar, the auxotrophic requirements

1 and 2% of the cognate carbon source: SD (glucose), SG (galactose), SF  
2 (fructose), SS (sucrose), SGy (glycerol), SM (maltose), SR (raffinose), SP  
3 (pyruvate), and SA (potassium acetate). Synthetic base wine contained 0.17%  
4 Yeast Nitrogen Base without amino acids and ammonium sulphate (Difco),  
5 0.6% malic acid, 0.3% tartaric acid, 0.03% citric acid, 0.05% ammonium  
6 sulphate, the appropriate auxotrophic requirements, and ethanol from 0% to 6%  
7 (v/v), pH was adjusted to 3.5 with KOH. Sugar (glucose or sucrose) was added  
8 to a final concentration of 2%. Unless otherwise specified yeast phenotype  
9 assays were started with cells grown overnight at 30°C and 180 rpm on YPD  
10 medium, and washed three times with saline solution (NaCl 0.87% p/v).

11 For carbon source utilization assays, known cell numbers as determined  
12 by microscopic cell counts were spotted in SD, SG, SF, SS, SGy, SM, SR, SP  
13 or SA plates. The plates were incubated 2-5 days at 30°C (depending on the  
14 specific medium), and photographed.

15 For fermentation assays 50 ml of synthetic base wine containing different  
16 amounts of ethanol was inoculated to a final concentration of  $10^6$  cells/ml.  
17 Cultures were maintained at 30°C without agitation and samples were  
18 withdrawn periodically. Yeast cells were removed by centrifugation and the  
19 supernatant was stored at -20°C. Residual reducing sugars were quantified  
20 with DNS (3,5-dinitro-salicylic acid) as described by Bernfeld (1). Before  
21 quantification, sucrose containing samples were incubated overnight at 37°C  
22 with invertase 2.8 mg/l (Sigma-Aldrich Química, Tres Cantos, Spain) to ensure  
23 complete hydrolysis.

24 Survival under carbon starvation conditions was studied by inoculating a  
25 known number of cells ( $10^7$  -  $10^8$  cells/ml) on 0,67% Yeast Nitrogen Base, and

1 the auxotrophic requirements. The suspensions were incubated at 30°C and  
2 180 rpm and samples were taken at different times and inoculated in the  
3 appropriate dilutions on YPD plates. The plates were incubated 2 days at 30°C.  
4 Results were expressed as relative viabilities to the control strains for each time  
5 point.

6 The release of amino acids under accelerated second fermentation  
7 conditions was studied by inoculating  $10^6$  cells/ml in 50 ml of synthetic base  
8 wine (4% (v/v) ethanol). Cultures were maintained at 30°C without agitation and  
9 samples were withdrawn at different times. Yeast cells were removed by  
10 centrifugation and the supernatant was stocked at -20°C until amino acids were  
11 quantified by the modified Cd-Ninhydrin method as described by Doi, et al. (11).  
12 Residual reducing sugars were quantified with DNS (3,5-dinitro-salicylic acid) as  
13 described by Bernfeld (1).

14 For stress resistance assays stationary phase yeast cells were obtained  
15 by inoculating YPD medium to a final concentration of  $5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml from a  
16 fresh culture and incubating for 24 h at 30°C and 200 rpm. Yeast cells were  
17 submitted to different stress conditions in suspensions containing  $10^7$  cells/ml  
18 for specific times as follows: for thermal stress, 2 h in YPD medium at 4°C,  
19 37°C, 42°C, 47°C, and 50°C; for oxidative stress, 2 h in YPD medium with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
20 to a final concentration of 5 mM; and for osmotic stress, 3h or overnight in YPD  
21 medium with KCl to a final concentration of 3M. Known cell numbers obtained  
22 by serial dilution were spotted in YPD plates and were incubated 2-3 days at  
23 30°C.

24 Determinations were performed 3 to 6 times and, when appropriate, data  
25 analyzed by one-way ANOVA and C-Dunnett test for means comparisons.

1 Differences were considered significant for  $p < 0.05$ . The calculations were  
2 carried out by means of the SPSS program for Windows, release 13.0, run on a  
3 personal computer.

4

## 5 **Molecular Biology techniques**

6 Unless otherwise specified, all DNA manipulations were performed as  
7 described by Sambrook *et al.* (42). Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was  
8 performed using Pfu TURBO DNA Polymerase (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA)  
9 following the instructions of the supplier. Restriction enzymes were from Roche  
10 Diagnostics SL Barcelona, Spain. Yeast genomic DNA was extracted by the  
11 method of Querol *et al.*, (40). DNA fragments resolved in agarose gels were  
12 purified with the QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (QIAGEN GmbH, Hilden,  
13 Germany). *E. coli* was transformed by electroporation (42) and plasmids were  
14 purified from *E. coli* cells by using the High Pure Plasmid Isolation Kit (Roche).  
15 Transformation of *S. cerevisiae* followed the lithium acetate method described  
16 by Ito *et al.* (23) as modified Gietz and Woods (15). Transformants were  
17 selected in YPD plates containing 200  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  geneticin (G418) (Life  
18 Technologies, Paisley, Scotland). Southern blot analyses were performed using  
19 the DIG High Prime DNA Labeling and Detection Starter Kit II (Roche,  
20 Mannheim, Germany), following the instructions of the supplier.

21

## 22 **Western blot**

23 Protein extracts and western blot were performed as described by Leber  
24 *et al.* (2001) (26) using a rabbit monoclonal antibody anti-acetaldehyde  
25 dehydrogenase (Rockland, Gilbertsville, PA) and the ECL detection system

1 (Amersham Biosciences Europe, Barcelona). This antibody simultaneously  
2 reacts with Ald6p and Ald4p providing an internal control for extract  
3 concentration and gel loading (32).

4

#### 5 **Construction of *BCY1* defective strains**

6 The cassettes for the interruption of *BCY1* in the genome of *S. cerevisiae* were  
7 constructed as follows. A selection/excision cassette containing the gene coding  
8 for *S. cerevisiae* FLP recombinase and a expression cassette for G418  
9 resistance (KanMX), flanked by two copies of the FRT (FLP target) was PCR  
10 amplified from pHFKH using primers PromBCY1-preFRT and TermBCY1-  
11 postFRT (Table 2). Plasmid pGPCR3 was the result of cloning this 3.5 kb  
12 amplicon into pGEM-T (Promega) following the instructions of the supplier. In  
13 order to extend the *BCY1* homologous regions in pGPCR3 the following *S.*  
14 *cerevisiae* genomic DNA fragments were PCR amplified: tBCY1 (positions 1328  
15 to 1855 from *BCY1* start codon), iBCY1 (positions -500 to 18 from start codon),  
16 sBCY1 (positions 653 to 1211 from *BCY1* start codon), the sequences of the  
17 primers used for these amplifications are shown in Table 2. These PCR  
18 fragments were inserted, downstream (tBCY1) or upstream (iBCY1 or sBCY1)  
19 the selection/excision cassette in pGPCR3 following the strategy described by  
20 Geiser et al. (2001) (14). The resulting plasmids were named pITGPCR3  
21 (containing tBCY1 and iBCY1) and pSTGPCR3 (containing tBCY1 and sBCY1),  
22 (see maps in figure 1). These plasmids were digested with XbaI before yeast  
23 transformation. Correct integration of the insertion cassettes was verified by  
24 Southern Blot analysis using the DIG High Prime DNA Labeling and Detection

1 Starter Kit II (Roche, Mannheim, Germany), following the instructions of the  
2 supplier.

3       When necessary, excision of the selection/excision cassette from  
4 transformants was done as follows. Yeast cells were grown for 14 days in YPD  
5 non-selective medium at 30°C and 180 rpm. Fresh medium was inoculated  
6 every day with  $10^{-4}$  the volume of the previous culture, in order to avoid cultures  
7 of *BCY1* deleted strains entering the stationary phase. Appropriate cell numbers  
8 were inoculated on YPD plates and incubated for 24 h at 30°C. The colonies  
9 were replica-plated to YPD plates containing 200 µg/ml geneticin and 40 µg/ml  
10 B-CIP (5-Bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate). Sensitive strains were identified  
11 by poor growth and blue staining, due to the release of intracellular  
12 phosphatases. Verification of selection marker excision was done by Southern  
13 blot as described for the primary transformants.

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## RESULTS

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### 18 **Construction of strains carrying partial or complete deletions of *BCY1***

19 The first attempts to disrupt *BCY1* in *S. cerevisiae* were performed by  
20 transforming BY4741 or BY4743 with the 3.5 kb amplicon obtained by using  
21 pHF<sub>KH</sub> as template and primers Prom*BCY1*-preFRT and Term*BCY1*-postFRT  
22 (see Materials and Methods). This PCR fragment contains 90 bp terminal  
23 extensions homologous to the *BCY1* ORF flanking regions in order to direct  
24 homologous recombination (long terminal tails were chosen because the  
25 *Saccharomyces* genome deletion project ([11](http://www-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

1 sequence.stanford.edu/group/yeast\_deletion\_project/deletions3.html) reported  
2 that systematic deletion of *BCY1* required the use of such long tails). Because  
3 no transformants were recovered, plasmid pGPCR3 was constructed and  
4 sequenced as described in Material and Methods. Sequence of the plasmid  
5 obtained indicated that the long terminal tails of the synthetic primers carried  
6 mutations and deletions that precluded their usefulness for homologous  
7 recombination. We decided to incorporate longer homologous regions to  
8 pGPCR3, as described in Materials and Methods, giving rise to plasmid  
9 pITGPR3, for total *BCY1* deletion and pSTGPR3, for partial *BCY1* deletion. The  
10 limits of this partial deletion were chosen in order to mimic mutation *bcy1-53*  
11 that has been described as “late acting class” by Peck et al. (1997) (34). The  
12 following strains were constructed by this strategy: LT11 (haploid, BY4741, total  
13 *BCY1* deletion), LT21 (diploid, BY4743, total *BCY1* deletion of one allele), LS11  
14 (haploid, BY4741, partial *BCY1* deletion) and LS21 (diploid, BY4743, partial  
15 *BCY1* deletion of one allele). LT22 (diploid, BY4743, total *BCY1* deletion of both  
16 alleles) was constructed by excision of the selection marker cassette from LT21  
17 and transformation of the resulting strain with pITGPCR3.

18

### 19 ***BCY1* deletion behaves as a semi-dominant mutation**

20 As a first step towards the technological characterization of the *BCY1* deleted  
21 strains, all the strains generated during this work (LS11, LT11, LS21, LT21 and  
22 LT22), as well as Y27300 were assayed for known phenotypes of *BCY1*  
23 defective strains. These included survival to heat shock, osmotic stress and  
24 oxidative stress, as well as growth in different fermentable and non-fermentable  
25 carbon sources. The results of this analysis are shown in tables 3 and 4. As

1 expected, the stress resistance of haploid strains carrying a complete deletion  
2 of *BCY1* (LT11), or diploid strains homozygous for the same deletion (LT22),  
3 were hypersensitive to all the stress conditions analyzed (table 3). Even though  
4 *BCY1* loss of function mutations have been described as recessive (47), results  
5 obtained for strain LT21 clearly suggest that *BCY1* deletion behaves as a semi-  
6 dominant mutation, showing an intermediate response to heat shock and  
7 osmotic stress and similar to LT22 for oxidative stress. Surprisingly, Y27300, an  
8 heterozygous strain also carrying a complete deletion of the *BCY1* ORF in the  
9 same genetic background (BY4743), showed a slightly better response to heat  
10 shock stress than LT21.

11         The effect of partial deletion of *BCY1* was quite less pronounced as  
12 compared to total deletion of the ORF. The stress tolerance observed for the  
13 haploid strain carrying the partial deletion, LS11, paralleled that of the  
14 heterozygous LT21 strain, while the stress tolerance of the strain heterozygous  
15 for the partial deletion, LS21, was indistinguishable from the wild type BY4743  
16 strain, with the only exception of a somewhat reduced tolerance to oxidative  
17 stress.

18         The phenotypic differences observed between the strains were confirmed  
19 by testing growth in different carbon sources (table 4). LT11 and LT22 showed  
20 the strongest dependence on easily fermentable carbon sources. The  
21 unexpected differences previously found between Y27300 and LT21 were  
22 confirmed and the parallelism between LS11 and LT21 was again observed.

23         All these results challenged the accepted view of *BCY1* mutations as  
24 recessive (47) and prompted us to continue the technological characterization

1 of *BCY1* mutants by also including heterozygous strains. This would have  
2 practical consequences that will be discussed later.

3

#### 4 **Ethanol tolerance under simulated second fermentation conditions.**

5 Tolerance to ethanol of the different *BCY1* defective strains was tested under  
6 conditions that resemble those of second fermentation experiments. For this  
7 purpose synthetic base wines containing different amounts of ethanol and 2%  
8 glucose or sucrose were prepared. The fermentative capacity of each strain  
9 was studied by inoculating these media and recording sugar consumption at  
10 least until it was exhausted in all cultures with the control strains. Strain LT11  
11 was impaired for the fermentation of sugar added to the base wine already in  
12 the absence of ethanol, and it was completely unable to do so in the presence  
13 of 2% or 4% ethanol (almost 1.5% of residual sugar at the end of the  
14 experiment). Results for sucrose consumption in the presence of 4% ethanol  
15 are shown in figure 2. In contrast, LT21, a diploid strain heterozygous for the  
16 same deletion, completely fermented glucose in the absence of ethanol (data  
17 not shown) and left less than 0.5% residual sugar in the presence of 2%, 4% or  
18 6% ethanol, showing again a semi-dominant effect of *BCY1* deletion. Results  
19 for sucrose consumption in the presence of 6% ethanol are shown in figure 3.  
20 No apparent reduction in fermentative power was observed for the strains  
21 partially deleted for *BCY1*, LS11 and LS21. These results are relevant for the  
22 practical application of the findings described in this work, as will be discussed  
23 below.

24

#### 25 **Loss of viability under carbon starvation conditions.**

1 Loss of viability under carbon starvation conditions was chosen in order to  
2 further assess the differences between the deletion strains under study. This  
3 test revealed to be more sensitive than the plate assays used in the first step of  
4 this characterization. It has also the advantage of focusing on the actual  
5 objective of this work, identifying genetic modifications potentially leading to  
6 accelerated autolysis in *S. cerevisiae*. The results of the analysis are shown in  
7 figure 4. There was a clear detrimental effect on cell survival of both mutations  
8 tested (complete or partial *BCY1* deletion) either on haploid strains or in diploid  
9 heterozygous strains. After one day under starvation conditions the viability  
10 drop was noticeably higher for all the mutant strains tested as compared to the  
11 cognate controls. As expected, the ability to survive under starvation conditions  
12 was specially reduced in LT11 (viability was almost completely lost after two  
13 days). Again, the behaviour of LS11 and LT21 was more or less similar, with  
14 relative viability stabilising at 20-30 % of the wild type after four days. This  
15 confirmed the semi-dominant character of *BCY1* deletion. Interestingly, this test  
16 also served to reveal a semi-dominant behaviour of the partial deletion of *BCY1*,  
17 even though LS21 was almost indistinguishable from the wild type strain in all  
18 the previous assays.

19

## 20 **Release of amino acids to the external medium**

21 The release of amino acids under accelerated second fermentation conditions  
22 (figure 5) was tested for a number of mutant strains as described in Materials  
23 and Methods. Because of its low ethanol tolerance, LT11 was excluded from  
24 this analysis. The results of this assay confirmed the picture deduced from the  
25 previous experiments under starvation conditions. All the mutant strains

1 experienced accelerated autolysis as compared to their wild type counterparts  
2 (BY4741 and BY4743). After three days, before sugar was completely  
3 exhausted, LS11 had already released more amino acids to the medium than all  
4 the other strains tested, the difference with the BY4741 control strain reaching a  
5 maximum after ten days of incubation. The heterozygous strain LS21 carrying  
6 the same partial deletion in one of the alleles of *BCY1* showed a similar kinetics  
7 of amino acid release, although the amounts released were intermediary  
8 between the control and, LT21. The disparities are less pronounced with  
9 prolonged incubation, especially for the haploid strains. All the differences  
10 discussed above were confirmed by ANOVA analysis ( $p < 0.05$ ). This experiment  
11 confirms that strains partially or totally deleted for *BCY1* undergo accelerated  
12 autolysis. The co-dominant character of both the partial and total deletion of  
13 *BCY1* is also confirmed by this experiment.

14

### 15 **Autophagy.**

16 It has been described that Ald6p is preferentially degraded during autophagy, in  
17 contrast to Ald4 (32). The availability of antibodies simultaneously recognising  
18 both enzymes provides an excellent experimental tool for monitoring autophagy.  
19 In order to strengthen the observations described above, the effect of *BCY1*  
20 mutations on yeast autophagy was tested for the diploid strains LS21, LT21,  
21 and LT22 compared to the wild type strain BY4743. The results are shown in  
22 figure 6. As expected, a clear reduction in the relative Ald6p levels was  
23 observed for the control BY4743 strain after 10 days of incubation under  
24 nitrogen starvation conditions. The total lack of *BCY1* activity in LT22 results in  
25 clearly higher relative Ald6p levels under the same conditions (figure 6). Again

1 the intermediate relative levels of Ald6p in LT21 prove the semi-dominant  
2 behaviour of BCY1 deletion (figure 6). In this assay Ald6p levels were very  
3 similar for BY4743 and LS21 (figure 6).

## 5 DISCUSSION

6 Two main observations can be highlighted from the results presented above.  
7 First, neither a total deletion of the ORF nor a partial deletion involving the last  
8 13 codons are completely recessive, as previously described, but they are  
9 codominant. Second, heterozygous strains carrying one of the mutant *BCY1*  
10 versions mentioned above, undergo accelerated autolysis under conditions  
11 resembling those of second fermentation during sparkling wine production. Both  
12 findings have practical implications for the genetic improvement of second  
13 fermentation wine yeast strains. The second one because it suggest a genetic  
14 engineering strategy for industrial strains aimed to accelerate autolysis, using  
15 *BCY1* as a target. The former one because *in situ* deletion of one single copy of  
16 *BCY1* in industrial strains would be technically much simpler than the  
17 consecutive deletion of two or more copies of the gene. In addition,  
18 heterozygous strains would have the advantage of an intermediary phenotype,  
19 especially in the case of the partial deletion, showing little or no increase in  
20 ethanol susceptibility but still undergoing accelerated autolysis as compared to  
21 the wild type strains.

22 One of the main expected consequences of PKA constitutive activity of  
23 *BCY1* defective strains is delayed or reduced autophagy, and this has been  
24 confirmed for several of the strains analyzed in this work. The results we have  
25 obtained are hence in contrast with a previous observation that strains

1 specifically impaired in autophagy do not show accelerated autolysis (7). This is  
2 probably due to the pleiotropic effects of *BCY1* mutations, impaired autophagy  
3 being just one of them.

4         We have not found a convincing explanation to the different behavior of  
5 Y27300 and LT21. Both strains have been constructed in the same genetic  
6 background, BY4743, and both carry a complete deletion of the ORF of *BCY1*  
7 and in both cases the interruption cassettes carry the gene conferring  
8 resistance to geneticin. The only appreciable difference consists in the fact that  
9 the cassette used for the construction of the strain LT21 carries additional  
10 sequences aimed to facilitate the excision of the cassette for marker recycling.  
11 Perusal of the genomic context in order to find essential genes whose  
12 expression could be impaired by changes in the *BCY1 locus* failed to identify  
13 any essential gene adjacent to it.

14         The information obtained in this work has been used to design two  
15 alternative genetic engineering strategies for the improvement of industrial  
16 second fermentation yeast strains. In one of them we are trying to sequentially  
17 delete the 3' end of all the copies of *BCY1* in one or two of the commercial  
18 strains available at our collection. Indeed, preliminary results with an industrial  
19 strain heterozygous for this deletion indicate that it is able to complete second  
20 fermentation while undergoing accelerated autolysis (data not shown). The  
21 second strategy, based on the observations by Portela *et al.* (38) would consist  
22 in making phenocopies of heterozygous strains partially deleted in *BCY1*, by  
23 non-directed insertion of a one or a few copies of the truncated version of the  
24 gene in the genome of the industrial strains.

25

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3

4

1 Table 1. *S. cerevisiae* strains used in this work.

Strains	Genotype	Origin
BY4741	<i>MATa his3Δ leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0</i>	EUROSCARF <sup>a</sup>
LS11	<i>MATa his3Δ leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 bcy1-53::Kan-FLP-FRT</i>	This study
LT11	<i>MATa his3Δ leu2Δ0 met15Δ0 ura3Δ0 bcy1::Kan-FLP-FRT</i>	This study
BY4743	<i>MATa/α his3Δ1/his3Δ1 leu2Δ0/leu2Δ0 lys2Δ0/LYS2 MET15/met15Δ0 ura3Δ0/ura3Δ0</i>	EUROSCARF <sup>a</sup>
Y27300	<i>MATa/α his3Δ1/his3Δ1 leu2Δ0/leu2Δ0 lys2Δ0/LYS2 MET15/met15Δ0 ura3Δ0/ura3Δ0 BCY1/bcy1::KanMX4</i>	EUROSCARF <sup>a</sup>
LS21	<i>MATa/α his3Δ1/his3Δ1 leu2Δ0/leu2Δ0 lys2Δ0/LYS2 MET15/met15Δ0 ura3Δ0/ura3Δ0 BCY1/bcy1-53::Kan-FLP-FRT</i>	This study
LT21	<i>MATa/α his3Δ1/his3Δ1 leu2Δ0/leu2Δ0 lys2Δ0/LYS2 MET15/met15Δ0 ura3Δ0/ura3Δ0 BCY1/bcy1::Kan-FLP-FRT</i>	This study
LT22	<i>MATa/α his3Δ1/his3Δ1 leu2Δ0/leu2Δ0 lys2Δ0/LYS2 MET15/met15Δ0 ura3Δ0/ura3Δ0 bcy1::Kan-FLP-FRT /bcy1::Kan-FLP-FRT</i>	This study

<sup>a</sup> European *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Archive for Functional Analysis

7 Table 2. Primers used in this work.

Primer	Sequence 5' → 3'	Insert
PromBCY1- -preFRT	5'- CCATTACACGCATTTTCACGCATACATAAATAGGAAGATCATTTACA - - ACAAGCAGATTATTTTCAAAGACAACAGTAAGAATAAACGATG - <u>TATCACGAGGCCCTTTTCG</u> - 3'	KAN-FLP- FRT
TermBCY1- -postFRT	5'- GAAGGAAGAAGAAAGAAAAAGGGAACAGAAGAAGAAAGAAAAAG - - AGAAAGGAAATTCATGTGGATTTAAGATCGCTTCCCCTTTTACTTA - <u>GATAAGCTGTCAAACATGAG</u> - 3'	KAN-FLP- FRT
PreFRT'- iBCY3'	5'- <u>CGAAAGGGCCTCGTGAT</u> AGGGCAAAGAAGATACCATCG - 3'	iBCY1
5'GEM – iBCY5'	5'- <u>CGACTCACTATAGGGCGAAT</u> CTAGAAGAGGAGCATACGACTTCG - 3'	iBCY1
PostFRT'- tBCY5'	5'- <u>CTCATGTTTTGACAGCTTATCTTCTTCCTTCAACGTCTACG</u> - 3'	tBCY1
3'GEM – tBCY3'	5'- <u>GGTGACACTATAGAATACTC</u> TAGAGCTGTCTTGTAGATCCTTTGG - 3'	tBCY1
PreFRT'- StopsBCY3'	5'- <u>CGAAAGGGCCTCGTGAT</u> ATTATCATGCAGGACCCAGTAAACGTTG - 3'	sBCY1
5'GEM – sBCY5'	5'- <u>CGACTCACTATAGGGCGAAT</u> CTAGAGGACTACTTCTATGTGCTCG – 3'	sBCY1

9  
10 pHFKH plasmid hybridization sites are underlined. pGPCR3 plasmid hybridization sites are double  
11 underlined. Italics indicate added nucleotides to create restriction site XbaI. Shaded region indicates  
12 added stop codons.

1  
2  
3

Table 3. Stress responses.

Strain	Temperature						Osmotic (KCl 3M)		Oxidative (H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> 5mM)
	4°C	30°C	37°C	42°C	47°C	50°C	3 h	ON	
BY4741	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	++	+/-
LS11	++	++	++	+	-	-	+/-	+	-
LT11	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BY4743	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+
LS21	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+/-
LT21	+	++	++	+	+/-	-	+	+	-
LT22	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Y27300	++	++	++	++	+/-	+/-	+	+	-

4  
5  
6  
7  
8

++: normal growth; +: reduced growth; +/-: very reduced growth; -: no growth

9 Table 4. Growth on different carbon sources.

10

	Glucose	Sucrose	Galactose	Raffinose	Fructose	Maltose	Glycerol	AcK	Pyruvate
BY4741	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+
LS11	++	++	+/-	++	++	+/-	-	+	+/-
LT11	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
BY4743	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++
LS21	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++
LT21	++	++	+	++	++	+/-	+/-	+	+
LT22	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Y27300	++	++	+	++	++	+	+/-	+	++

11  
12  
13

++: normal growth; +: reduced growth; +/-: very reduced growth; -: no growth

## 1 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

2  
3 FIG. 1. (A) pITGPCR3 plasmid containing iBCY1 (*BCY1* initial region from -500 to 18 respect  
4 first ATG) and tBCY1 (*BCY1* terminal region from 1328 to 1855 respect first ATG); (B)  
5 pSTGPCR3 plasmid containing sBCY1 (*BCY1* region from 653 to 1211 respect first ATG) and  
6 tBCY1. FLP, *FLP* gene that encodes FLP recombinase; TEFp, *TEF* gene promoter; Kan, gene  
7 of transposon Tn903 coding for aminoglycoside phosphotransferase; TEft, *TEF* gene  
8 terminator; FRT, FLP recombinase recognition sequences; LacZ $\alpha$ , *E. coli* beta-galactosidase  
9 gene alpha peptide; ORI, *E. coli* pMB1 replication origin; AmpR, *E. coli* beta-lactamase gene;  
10 F1ORI, F1 phage replication origin.

11  
12 FIG. 2. Fermentative capacity of haploid strains on synthetic base wines containing 4% ethanol  
13 and 2% sucrose, as described in Materials and Methods. Residual reducing sugars were  
14 quantified at several time points, as described in Materials and Methods. BY4741 (circles);  
15 LS11 (squares); LT11 (triangles). Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (vertical  
16 bars).

17  
18 FIG. 3. Fermentative capacity of diploid strains on synthetic base wines containing 6% ethanol  
19 and 2% sucrose as described in Materials and Methods. Residual reducing sugar were  
20 quantified at several time points, as described in Materials and Methods. BY4743 (circles);  
21 LS21 (squares); LT21 (triangles). Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (vertical  
22 bars).

23  
24 FIG. 4. Relative loss of viability of haploid and diploid strains under carbon starvation conditions.  
25 Cells were inoculated in S- medium as described in Materials and Methods. The number of  
26 viables was calculated by plating in YPD medium. (A) Haploid cells: BY4741 (circles); LS11  
27 (squares); LT11 (triangles). (B) Diploid cells: BY4743 (circles); LS21 (squares); LT21 (triangles).  
28 Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (vertical bars).

29

1 FIG. 5. Release of amino acids by haploid and diploid strains under accelerated second  
2 fermentation conditions. Results are expressed as milligrams of leucine equivalents per ml.  
3 BY4741 (white bar), LS11 (striped bar), BY4743 (dotted bar), LS21 (squared bar), LT21 (black  
4 bar). Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (vertical bars).

5

6 FIG. 6. Ald6p and Ald4p levels of diploid strains (BY4743, LS21, LT21 and LT22) under nitrogen  
7 starvation conditions, detected by wester blot as described in Materials and Methods.











