

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0733-5210(18)30602-7

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcs.2018.11.012>

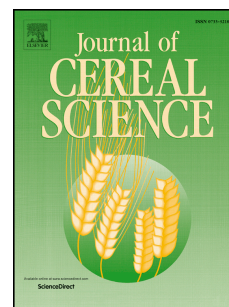
Reference: YJCRS 2671

To appear in: *Journal of Cereal Science*

Received Date: 4 August 2018

Revised Date: 28 November 2018

Accepted Date: 28 November 2018



Please cite this article as: Guindo, D., Teme, N., Vaksman, M., Doumbia, M., Vilms, I., Guitton, B., Sissoko, A., Mestres, C., Davrieux, F., Flidel, Geneviève., Kouressy, M., Courtois, B., Rami, J.-F., Quantitative trait loci for sorghum grain morphology and quality traits: Toward breeding for a traditional food preparation of West-Africa, *Journal of Cereal Science* (2019), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcs.2018.11.012>.

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Quantitative trait loci for sorghum grain morphology and quality traits: toward breeding for a traditional food preparation of West-Africa

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Abstract

One of the most frequently consumed sorghum food in Mali is a thick porridge, known as tô. Many grain traits contribute to its firmness and color, which are the most important qualities for consumers. These traits are related to chemical composition, physical properties, but also grain size, shape, glume adherence and color, pericarp thickness, or the presence of a testa. Quantitative trait loci for tô consistency, tô color, 16 grain traits, as well as day to flowering and grain yield, were investigated in two elite breeding populations, involved in a marker assisted selection program. A total of 51 and 71 QTLs were detected for P114 and P118, respectively. Several QTLs with high R^2 corresponded to major genes segregating in the populations such as the Z gene for pericarp thickness, the B2 and B1 genes for testa presence, the P gene for anthocyanin, and a QTL for flowering time. Many QTLs with moderate effect were detected for grain attributes associated to tô quality, without showing antagonism between grain quality and yield. The results of this study will contribute to producing new varieties combining grain productivity and grain quality favorable alleles, through the use of marker assisted selection.

Keywords: QTL; sorghum; tô; grain quality

1 Introduction

Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* L. Moench) is the fourth cereal in Africa in terms of total production (> 25 M tons) and the third in West Africa (> 11 M tons) where it is mainly used as human food (FAO, 2014). In West Africa, sorghum is particularly appreciated because of its good adaptation to environmental conditions. In rural areas, it is a major source of nutrients (energy, protein, vitamins and minerals) in human food. It is mainly cultivated in a family farming context to feed the family members and, possibly, generate income for family expenses through marketing of the surplus. While human consumption is based on grains, sorghum stems and leaves are also used to feed animals.

Rooney and Murty (1982) classified the sorghum-based food in eight groups according to the methods of preparation: thick porridges, thin porridges, steam cooked products, boiled sorghum, unleavened bread, leavened bread, snack food, and alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages. One of the most frequently consumed sorghum food in Africa is a thick porridge, known as tô in Mali, and as tuwo, ugali, bogobe, sankati, oka-baba or dibu in other countries. Tô is traditionally prepared using dehulled grains that are pounded into flour just before its preparation (Fliedel, 1995). After sieving, the flour is dispersed in cold water, acidified with lemon or tamarind juice or alkalinized with ashes. This mixture is then poured in boiling water and cooked while stirring constantly. Tô is consumed during the two main meals (lunch and dinner), but sometimes the remains of dinner are consumed during breakfast (Anglani, 1998; Kayode et al., 2005; Rooney and Murty, 1982). A good quality tô has a firm consistency with a good color and taste, is non sticky, and keeps its texture overnight (Fliedel, 1995). However, tô taste is generally considered as secondary because it is partly masked by the accompanying sauce (Fliedel, 1995; Trouche et al., 1999).

Several studies have explored grain quality traits contributing to a good tô consistency (Anglani, 1998; Bello et al., 1990; Cagampang and Kirleis, 1984; Chandrashekar and Kirleis,

1988; Fliedel, 1995; Perez Bouvier, 1988; Rooney and Murty, 1982; Trouche et al., 1999). The quality of the final product is influenced by both physical and biochemical properties of the grain that can play a role at various steps of the process. The first step is dehulling, which aims at eliminating most of the bran (pericarp and germ) and providing a clean and intact endosperm. It is traditionally performed manually using a mortar and pestle. Dehulling is mostly affected by some physical properties of the grain such as endosperm texture, grain hardness, pericarp thickness, and grain roundness. Hard grains have a better resistance to abrasion and allow a complete removal of brans without breaking the grains, thus the harder the grains, the better the quality of dehulling. Pericarp thickness is also important for manual dehulling which is performed on washed grain. Some additional water is added during the pounding to soften the pericarp and make easier its removal. A thick pericarp absorbs more water and is more easily detached during the dehulling than a thin pericarp (Scheuring et al., 1983). Finally, grain roundness has an impact on dehulling, as spherical grains are more uniformly dehulled because the entire grain surface is reachable during the abrasion phase. The second step of the process is the milling of dehulled grain, which aims at delivering the finest flour. The finer the flour is, the more damaged the starch granules composing the grain endosperm are, and the more soluble they are during cooking, increasing the firmness. The efficiency of the milling step is also mainly influenced by the texture of the endosperm, a floury endosperm providing finer flour. Finally, during cooking, the last step of the process, the amylose content of the starch fraction of the endosperm is the main factor influencing the final firmness of the porridge (Bello et al., 1990; Fliedel, 1995; Kayode et al., 2005; Trouche et al., 1999).

Tô color appreciation depends on the geographical area; a good tô color ranges from white, light yellow, to light green, red or brown (Bello et al., 1990; Fliedel, 1995; Kayode et al., 2005; Trouche et al., 1999). In Mali, light colors such as white and light yellow are preferred.

Tô color is affected by the color of the flour, which in turn is affected by the presence of a pigmented testa coat and/or the presence of plant anthocyanins. A colored testa can color the flour when the testa coat is not fully removed during the dehulling. Furthermore, in humid conditions, the plant anthocyanins can spread from the glumes to grain endosperm when anthocyanins are present in glumes and glumes adhere to grains. Thus, glume adherence and glume color are also traits to be considered as possible factors influencing the color of tô.

Most of the sorghum landraces cultivated in West-Africa are well adapted to the local preparations and produce appropriate quality food. In the sixties and seventies, sorghum breeding in West Africa has mainly been focused on the improvement of productivity. However, these new varieties were not adopted by farmers-consumers because of their poor grain quality, making them not suitable for local preparations. In the eighties, the priorities in terms of breeding criteria were revised and grain quality became an important criterion in sorghum breeding. Since, sorghum breeders have attempted to combine productivity and desired grain traits in the new varieties (Chantreau et al., 1997; Flidel, 1995; Kayode et al., 2005; Trouche et al., 1999).

Since the nineties, significant progress on knowledge of sorghum genetics has been accomplished. A number of genetic studies have been conducted on important agronomic traits using mapping populations and detection of quantitative traits loci (QTLs) (reviewed by Mace and Jordan (2011)) including grain quality traits (Boyles et al., 2017; Rami et al., 1998; Rhodes et al., 2017). An association mapping study between grain quality traits and specific genes involved in synthesis pathways of starch and grain storage proteins was also conducted (de Alencar Figueiredo et al., 2010). The sequencing of the sorghum genome (Paterson et al., 2009) permitted the large development of Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) markers and the production of high density genetic maps, enabling whole genome association mapping

studies (Morris et al., 2013a; Murray et al., 2009), including some on grain quality traits (Boyles et al., 2017; Sukumaran et al., 2012).

These studies provided breeders with information regarding the genetic control of grain quality traits. However, in most cases, the experimental populations that have been used were disconnected from elite breeding material because of the time needed to develop them. For this reason, QTLs detected in such populations have often shown to be not transferable and not applicable in breeding populations. Recent marker assisted breeding methodologies such as marker assisted recurrent selection (MARS) propose to integrate QTL detection and breeding in the same process (Ragot et al., 2007). In such approaches, genetic markers are used to identify key QTLs involved in target traits and environments, and to monitor recombination in consecutive generations and pyramiding of favorable alleles through crossing of progenies. The choice of the parents is in this case not guided by contrasting attributes aimed at maximizing the number of detected QTLs but by parents' performance and complementarity (good by good crosses) with the objective to focus on useful QTLs that are segregating in the genetic material that is currently of interest to breeders.

In this study, we report the QTL discovery phase of such marker assisted selection program aimed at jointly improving grain yield, crop adaptation and grain quality of sorghum. The results obtained in this study have been used to guide the development of improved sorghum varieties for West-Africa through marker-aided selection.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Plant material

Two bi-parental breeding populations named P114 and P118 were used for this study. The population P114 was derived from a cross between Keninkeni and Tiandougou. P118 was derived from a cross between Lata3 and Tiandougou. Tiandougou is a caudatum line with large grain size, floury endosperm, and a thick pericarp. Keninkeni and Lata3 are guinea lines with medium grain size, vitreous endosperm, and thin pericarp.

The P114 and P118 populations were composed of 401 and 403 F_3 progenies, respectively. A single F_1 plant of each cross was selected and selfed to produce the F_2 generation. Single F_2 plants were advanced to F_3 generation in off-season using flowering initiation masks. For each F_3 individual, $F_{3.5}$ bulks of seeds were produced for the needs of phenotyping experiments, using 10 selfed F_4 plants.

2.2 Field experiments

The P114 population was evaluated in 2010 during the rainy season at the Cinzana research station (13°15'N, 5°58'E °N, 265 m ASL) from the Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER) of Mali. An unreplicated experimental design including 447 plots (401 progenies and 23 replications of the two parents) was used with the two parents regularly distributed every 10 progenies.

The P118 population was evaluated in 2011 during the rainy season at the Sotuba research station (12°39'N, 7°56'E, 381 m ASL) from IER. An augmented experimental design including 29 blocks of 16 plots was used with the two parents used as checks within each block. The 404 progenies were randomly allocated to the plots. The design was completed to 464 plots by adding supplementary replications of the parents. In both experiments, each plot included two rows of 10 plants.

For both populations, the number of days from sowing to the apparition of the first flag leaf (DTFL) was recorded. The presence of anthocyanins (ANTHO) was evaluated by visual

appreciation on plant leaves with a score from 0 to 1, where 0 was for tan (no anthocyanins) plants, 1 for plants with anthocyanins, and 0.5 for segregating families.

After harvest, panicles were dried during three weeks. For P118, glumes adherence (GLUMAD) and glumes color (GLUMCOL) were evaluated by visual observation before threshing. A three-point scale (1, 3 and 5) was used for GLUMAD. 1 represented many adherent glumes, 3 some adherent glumes and 5 no adherent glumes. A score of 1 to 4 was used for GLUMCOL with 1 being yellow, 2 red, 3 black, and 4 a mix of colors. The panicles were then threshed and grain yield (GYLD) was measured by weighing the grain harvested in each plot. The result was expressed in g/m². The grains were stored in a cold room until grain quality measurements.

2.3 Grain shape measurements

Samples were cleaned manually to remove the broken, moldy or insect-damaged kernels, straws, stones and dust. For each individual and the two parents of the population P118, 10 g of clean grain, representing 200 to 400 grains, were scattered and scanned on a flatbed photo scanner with lid removed to produce 8-bit gray scale images at 200 dpi with a dark background. A dedicated script (<https://github.com/jframi/grainito>) was developed as part of the ImageJ 1.46 software (Schneider et al., 2012) to detect grains on each image and analyze their shape. The grainito script loops on a series of images and successively applies i) image thresholding using one of the algorithms for automatic threshold value determination available in ImageJ, ii) watershed algorithm to separate grains that may be closely grouped together into masses, iii) particle detection based on target size and circularity of grains. An additional R script was used to detect the outliers that occurred from masses of grains that could not be accurately corrected by the watershed algorithm and correct the results accordingly.

From each image, the mean values over all grains were computed for the following parameters: major (MAJOR) and minor (MINOR) axis lengths of an ellipse fitted to each detected grain, grain roundness (GRND), computed as the ratio of the minor axis to the major axis, and grain whiteness (GWTN), computed as the mean of the grain pixel intensities. Thousand grain weight (TGW) was also computed from the number of grains detected on the image and the weight of grain placed on the scanner.

2.4 Grain quality measurements

Most chemical properties of the grain were determined by NIRS. NIRS spectral acquisitions were performed on 5 g of whole grains using quartz ring cups of 36 mm inside diameter and a monochromator Foss NIRS instrument (NIRS 6500). The reflectances from 1100 to 2500 nm at 2 nm intervals were collected. Two spectra were collected for each sample and the mean of spectra used for data analyses.

Protein content (PR), lipid content (LIP), amylose content (AMY), were predicted using the equations developed by de Alencar Figueiredo et al. (2006) and pericarp thickness (PERTH) was predicted using the quantitative equation developed by Guindo et al. (2016). The predictions were validated on sub-samples of the populations using the reference methods described in de Alencar Figueiredo et al. (2006) and Guindo et al. (2016). The new reference data were then included in the database and the NIRS equations were re-established and used for prediction of the whole populations. In the case of AMY, for which NIRS calibration models behave poorly (de Alencar Figueiredo et al., 2006), reference data using differential scanning calorimetry (Mestres et al., 1996) were obtained on a random subset of 200 individuals of the population P118 (AMY_Lab) in addition to the AMY variable.

The color of the testa layer (TESTA) was assessed on ten kernels. A scale from 0 to 1 was used where 0 indicated non pigmented testa, 1 pigmented testa, and 0.5 segregating families where both pigmented and non-pigmented testa were present. Based on crossing studies with

the ATx623 inbred line, which is known to have the b1b1 B2B2 genotype (Raab et al., 1984) at the B1 and B2 genes controlling the testa layer pigmentation, the genotypes of Tiandougou, Keninkeni and Lata3 lines have been determined as b1b1 B2B2, B1B1 b2b2, and B1B1 b2b2, respectively.

Endosperm texture (ET) was determined by visual assessment on ten grains. A notation on a 1 to 5 scale developed by Maxson et al. (1971) was used where 1 corresponded to a completely vitreous endosperm and 5 to a completely floury endosperm.

Twenty grams of grains were dehulled during 5 minutes using a tangential abrasive dehulling device (Oomah et al., 1981) and the dehulled grains were weighed. The dehulling yield (DHYLD) was computed as the percentage of the weight of dehulled grains to the initial weight. The operation was replicated twice on two independent samples and the results averaged.

Tô consistency (TOCONS) was evaluated on mini-tô prepared in the food technology laboratory of Sotuba research station (IER). Dehulled grains were ground into flour using a Cyclone Sample Mill grinder. Tô was prepared based on the traditional method adapted to a small quantity of flour. Ten grams of flour were dispersed in a stainless beaker in 40 ml of water containing 4% of potash (ashes). Then the slurry was cooked on a hotplate for 10 min. After cooking, the porridge was poured into a cylinder (2 cm high and 4 cm in diameter). It was stored for about 24 hours at room temperature before testing. The upper part of the mini-tô was removed. Scoring was done by manual compression of the porridge between the thumb and forefinger by three experienced manipulators and a consensual score was then assigned to the sample with a scale rating from 1 (very consistent), 2 (consistent), 3 (soft), 4 (very soft and sticky) and 5 (very soft and very sticky). Each sample was evaluated twice and the mean value was used. The color of the tô (TOCOL) was also assessed visually on a 1 to 4 scale (1 light, 2 light brown, 3 red, 4 black).

2.5 Genotyping

DNA was extracted from a bulk of 10 F₄ plants on 382 and 400 families for P114 and P118, respectively, using the MATAB method (Risterucci et al., 2000). For P114, 200 markers were used including 76 Simple Sequence Repeat (SSR) markers and 124 SNP markers. For P118, 228 SNP markers were used. 49 SNP markers were common to the two populations. The SSR primers used in this study were described in Mace et al. (2009). The information regarding SNP markers used in this study is accessible on the SNP genotyping service web page of the Integrated Breeding Platform ("Integrated Breeding Platform," n.d.). SNP genotyping was outsourced to LGC Genomics and SSR genotyping was performed in the Grand Plateau Technique Regional de G  notypage of Montpellier (GPTR).

2.6 Statistical analysis

For both trials, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted on the replicated parents tested as block effects using a linear model. The trait values were adjusted from the block effect when it was significant. Trait correlations were computed and tested for significance at 5%.

2.7 Map construction

Marker segregations were checked for distortion to the expected ratios (3/8, 1/4, 3/8) using a Chi² test at a significance level of 1% and 1%. The genetic maps were built using Mapmaker (Lander et al., 1987). Linkage groups were determined using the group command with a LOD threshold of 3.0 and maximum distance of 50 cM. Loci were ordered in each group using the "order" command with the default parameters of the function. When several local orders were equally probable, the one in agreement with the expected order deduced from the physical positions of the markers was kept. The map distances for the final ordered linkage groups were computed using the Haldane mapping function.

2.8 QTL detection

The qtl R-package (Broman et al., 2003) was used for QTL analysis. The penalized likelihood model selection approach described by Manichaikul et al. (2009) was used to explore multiple QTL models and refine QTL positions in a multiple QTL framework. The *stepwiseqtl* function was used for forward/backward model selection using Haley-Knott regression, considering only additive QTL models, and with a maximum number of 8 QTLs. The main effect LOD penalty was computed for each trait from 1000 permutations of a two QTLs genome scan using the *scantwo* function with a significance level of 0.05. The position of each QTL in the final model was refined using the *refineqtl* function. The LOD value and percentage of phenotypic variance for each QTL were estimated from a drop-one analysis comparing the full model to each sub-model with one QTL dropped. The additive effect of each QTL was estimated as half the difference between the homozygotes classes of Keninkeni/Lata3 and Tiandougou parents. A positive additive effect thus corresponds to a QTL for which the Keninkeni and Lata3 parents bring a positive effect for populations P114 and P118, respectively. Confidence intervals of all QTLs were determined using the function *lodint* with a 1 LOD support interval. For the purpose of graphical representation of genetic maps, and to enable the comparison of QTLs positions between the two populations, all markers and QTLs of P114, were projected on P118 using the physical map as a bridge between the two maps and interpolating the genetic distances based on common markers. The same thing was done with the candidate genes reported by de Alencar Figueredo (2010) that were located on the sorghum genome. The projection was performed using the *ziplinR* R package (<https://github.com/jframi/ziplinR>). All graphical representations of maps comparisons and QTL positions were done using Spidermap software (Rami, unpublished). QTL co-localizations were determined based on the overlaps of the QTL confidence intervals.

3 Results

Table 1 summarizes the mean values of the traits measured for the parents, and the descriptive statistical parameters for their progenies: minimum (Min), maximum (Max), mean values, standard deviation (SD), and coefficient of variation (CV). Fig 1 shows the distribution of the traits for the two populations.

The two guinea parents, Keninkeni and Lata3 were not evaluated in the same experiment and could not thus be directly compared. All three parents were elite varieties of a breeding program and were therefore not expected to exhibit large differences for all traits.

Tiandougou, the common parent of the two populations, was the latest flowering with a 5 days DTFL difference as compared to Keninkeni and Lata3. It was also more productive than the two guinea parents (+ 340 g.m⁻², and + 87 g.m⁻² for GYLD as compared to Keninkeni and Lata3, respectively). In terms of grain morphology, Lata3 had slightly bigger grains than Tiandougou and Keninkeni (TGW of 23g, 22g, and 20g, respectively). The image analyses showed that Tiandougou grains were rounder than the grains of Lata3 (0.87 and 0.76 for GRND, respectively). Tiandougou had a thick pericarp (PERTH), while Keninkeni and Lata3 had a thin one and none of the three parents had a pigmented testa layer (TESTA). Tiandougou had slightly more adherent glumes than Lata3 (GLUMAD) and the glumes of Lata3 were black while the ones of Tiandougou were yellow (GLUMCOL of 1 and 3 respectively), which is related to the absence of anthocyanins (ANTHO) in the plant for the Tiandougou parent as compared to the two other parents. In terms of biochemical composition of the grain, Lata3 had a slightly higher content of amylose, lipids, and proteins than the two other parents that were similar for these traits.

For technological traits, Keninkeni and Lata3 had the same range of value for DHYLD with values superior to that of Tiandougou in both populations. The firmest tô (TOCONS) was observed with Lata3 while the two other parents had similar values of tô consistency. Lata3

had a more vitreous endosperm than Tiandougou and Keninkeni (ET value of 1.9, 2.4 and 2.5, respectively).

For each population trial, an analysis of variance was performed on the replications of the parents to test for a block effect. No significant block effect was observed except for TGW in P118 ($P < 0.05$). This suggested a good homogeneity of plots in both P114 and P118. The progeny means of TGW in P118 were adjusted from the block effect.

All the traits exhibited transgressive segregations in both populations (Fig 1), except some qualitative traits for which the two parents belonged to opposite classes (ANTHO, PERTH, GLUMCOL). Transgressive segregations were particularly important for PROT, AMY, TGW, ET, and GYLD. This indicates that the guinea and caudatum parents probably differed in their allelic composition at the genes controlling most of these traits.

Pearson correlation coefficients (r) between quantitative traits are displayed in Table 2. The strongest correlation was found between PERTH and GWTN in population P118 ($r = -0.84$) indicating that the whiteness of the grain is mostly due to the thickness of the pericarp in this population. PERTH was also correlated to DHYLD ($r = 0.47$ and $r = 0.39$ in P118 and P114, respectively) indicating that a large part of dehulling yield was explained by the thickness of the pericarp and that dehulling was successful in removing the outer layers of the grain. DHYLD was positively correlated to TGW in population P114 ($r = 0.45$) and to a lesser extent in population P118 ($r = 0.14$). Surprisingly, DHYLD was also positively correlated to amylose content in both populations ($r = 0.38$ and 0.32 in P114 and P118, respectively). DHYLD was positively correlated to GYLD, which could be explained by the important positive correlation between GYLD and TGW (0.53 and 0.28 in P114 and P118, respectively).

A strong positive correlation was observed between ET and TESTA in both populations ($r = 0.56$ and 0.52 in P114 and P118, respectively). The presence of TESTA was also negatively correlated to both amylose content obtained by prediction AMY ($r = -0.44$ and -0.31

in P114 and P118, respectively), as well as those obtained by reference method AMY_Lab ($r=-0.21$ in P118) and positively correlated to TOCOL ($r=0.41$ and 0.30 in P114 and P118, respectively) indicating that part of the *tô* color was due to the presence of a pigmented testa in the grain. TOCOL was also positively correlated to ANTHO in P114 ($r=0.39$). Interestingly, this correlation was not found in P118, even though ANTHO was positively correlated to GLUMCOL in this population ($r=0.42$) and that anthocyanins in glumes are known to cause colored *tô*.

The grain morphology descriptors (MAJOR, MINOR, GRND and TGW) measured by image analysis on population P118 were correlated together as they were all related to the size and the shape of the grain. Grain amylose (AMY) and protein (PROT) contents were negatively correlated in both populations ($r=-0.56$ and -0.52 in P114 and P118, respectively) and PROT was positively correlated with lipid content (LIP) ($r=0.39$ and 0.46 in P114 and P118, respectively). AMY and AMY_Lab were positively correlated in P118 ($r=0.62$). This relatively low correlation confirmed the poor performance of NIRS to predict amylose from whole grain as previously reported by de Alencar Figueredo et al. (2006) ($R^2=0.70$).

The consistency of the *tô* was positively correlated with amylose content ($r=-0.32$ and -0.26 between TOCONS and AMY_Lab and AMY respectively in P118, and $r=-0.11$ between TOCONS and AMY in P114), taking into account that a consistent *tô* is represented by a low value of TOCONS. Given the negative correlation between AMY and PROT and LIP, the consistency of the *tô* was negatively correlated with PROT and LIP ($r=0.34$ and 0.20 , respectively) in P118.

3.1 Linkage maps and segregation analysis

The total map distances were 1792 cM and 1346 cM and the average distance between markers 10 cM and 6 cM for P114 and P118, respectively. The longest gap with no marker

was 40 cM for both populations. The marker order was in agreement with the known positions of the markers on the genome sequence.

The segregation ratios were analyzed and compared to the Mendelian segregation ratios in F_3 generation (3/8, 1/4, 3/8) using a chi-square test. Fig 2 to 6 displayed the genetic map showing distorted markers. In P114, a total of 67 markers were significantly distorted at $P < 0.01$ and 40 of the 67 were significant at $P < 0.001$. In P118 a total of 51 markers showed segregation distortions at $P < 0.01$, among them, 37 were significant at $P < 0.001$.

Most of the distorted markers were organized in cluster. In P114, the top of chromosome 1, from 0 to 73 cM, was strongly distorted in favor of the Keninkeni allele. The two extremities of chromosome 3 (0 to 29 cM and 136 to 175 cM) were distorted in favor of the Tiandougou allele. Several segments of chromosome 4 were also distorted in favor of the Tiandougou parent. The bottom extremity of chromosome 6 (86 to 142 cM) was distorted in favor of the Keninkeni allele, as were the top of chromosome 8 (0 to 30 cM), and the two extremities of chromosome 10 (0 to 44.9 cM and 119.6 to 168.8 cM). In P118, a segment of chromosome 2 (132 to 155 cM) was distorted in favor of Lata3 allele. Most of the chromosome 4 was distorted in favor of Tiandougou allele, as was the bottom extremity of chromosome 9 (66 to 117 cM). Finally, two segments of chromosome 6 were distorted in favor of Lata3 allele.

3.2 QTL detection

The phenotypic data collected on both populations along with genotypic data and genetic maps were used to detect QTLs using a multiple QTL model. The QTLs detected in both populations are represented on Fig 2 to 6 and summarized in Table 3. The forward/backward model selection used a main effect LOD penalty computed for each trait from 1000 permutations of a two QTLs genome scan with a significance level of 0.05. The LOD penalties ranged from 3.35 to 3.73 for P118 and from 3.47 to 3.82 for P114 (Table 3).

In P114, a total of 51 QTLs were identified for 12 traits out of the 13 traits investigated. No QTL was detected for TOCONS in the P114 population. In P118, 71 QTLs were identified for the 20 traits that were measured in this population. The number of QTLs per trait ranged from 1 (PERTH in P114 and P118, GYLD, TOCONS, TOCOL, and ANTHO in P118) to 8 (ET in P114, MAJOR, GRND, and DTFL in P118). The difference in the total number of detected QTLs and the number of QTLs per trait in the two populations can be explained by the different genetic background represented by Keninkeni and Lata3 parents and by the fact that the two populations were evaluated in two different environments.

Several QTLs showed high LOD score and R^2 values corresponding to the segregation of major genes. This was the case for PERTH on chromosome 2 in position 90 (LOD value of 86.9 and 81.5 and R^2 of 64.9 and 60.8 on P114 and P118 respectively), for GWTN on the same location (LOD value of 72.5 and R^2 of 48.2 on P118), DTFL on chromosome 3 in position 74 (LOD value of 78.9 and 78.0 and R^2 of 55.7 and 48.7, on P114 and P118, respectively), TESTA on chromosome 4 in position 109 (LOD value of 40.1 and 39.3, and R^2 of 33.4 and 33.6, on P114 and P118, respectively) and on chromosome 2 in position 45 (LOD value of 24.5 and 20.8, and R^2 of 18.1 and 15.7, on P114 and P118, respectively), and ANTHO on chromosome 6 in position 102 (LOD value of 77.2 and 78.2, and R^2 of 58.0 and 59.5, on P114 and P118, respectively). The major QTL for PERTH and GWTN corresponds to the Z gene controlling mesocarp thickness (Ayyangar et al., 1934) for which map location was reported on the same locus by Boivin et al. (1999). The two major QTLs for TESTA on chromosomes 2 and 4 correspond to the B2 and B1 genes respectively. The QTL on chromosome 4 colocalizes with the Tan1 gene recently cloned by Wu et al. (2012) (Fig 2 to 6). The QTL on chromosome 2 colocalizes with the B2 gene previously mapped on chromosome 2 (Dufour et al., 1997; Rami et al., 1998) and for which a candidate gene (Sb02g006390, renamed Sobic.002G076600 in v3.1 of sorghum genome assembly) was

recently proposed by Morris et al. (2013b). The major QTL for ANTHO on chromosome 6 corresponds to the P gene already reported at the same location (Rami et al., 1998). Finally, the major QTL for DTFL on chromosome 3 has been investigated in a separate study involving the P118 population and has been shown to be involved in the fine tuning of photoperiod sensitivity (Guitton et al., 2018).

On top of chromosome 1, a QTL for TGW was detected on P114. At this locus, the Tiandougou allele conferred larger grains. This QTL was confirmed by two QTLs for MAJOR and MINOR grain axes detected at the same location in population P118 with Tiandougou allele also increasing grain size, though no QTL for TGW was located at that position for P118. Tiandougou allele was also associated in this region with higher PROT and higher GLUMAD (high value of GLUMAD correspond to low level of glume adherence). A QTL for ET was detected in the middle of chromosome 1 in both populations, associated to a QTL for DHYLD in population P118. Tiandougou allele at this locus conferred higher dehulling yield and more vitreous endosperm. Finally, one QTL for LIP was detected in the bottom part of chromosome in both populations, with Keninkeni and Lata3 conferring higher lipid content.

On chromosome 2, the major QTL for TESTA (B2 gene) was associated to a QTL for ET on both populations and a QTL for AMY on P114 and AMY_Lab on P118. At this locus, the Tiandougou allele conferred a pigmented testa, floury endosperm with lower amylose content. This association between the B2 gene and amylose content and endosperm texture is consistent with results reported previously in guinea x caudatum crosses (Rami et al., 1998).

On the same chromosome, the PERTH QTL was associated to QTLs for LIP and DHYLD on both populations. At this locus, the Tiandougou allele conferred a thick pericarp, higher lipid content and a lower dehulling yield. This QTL was colocalizing with two QTLs for TGW and MINOR on population P118.

On chromosome 3, a QTL for ET was detected in P114 with no colocalization with other QTL and for which the Tiandougou allele was associated with vitreous endosperm. In both populations, QTLs for GYLD and AMY were associated with the major QTL for DTFL on the same chromosome. The Tiandougou allele conferred delayed flowering in both populations but interestingly, higher yield and amylose content in P114 but lower yield and amylose content in P118. In P114, the Tiandougou allele at this QTL was also associated to higher TGW, higher DHYLD and lower PROT.

On chromosome 4, the only QTL for TOCONS was detected in P118 and colocalized with a QTL for AMY_Lab. The Lata3 allele at this QTL conferred higher \hat{t} consistency and higher amylose content confirming the relationship between amylose content and \hat{t} consistency reported by Flidel (1995). A QTL for DTFL was found in both populations on the same chromosome, with Tiandougou allele contributing early flowering. In P114, this QTL was colocalizing with a QTL for GYLD, TGW and DHYLD at which the Keninkeni allele provided higher yield, larger grains and higher dehulling yield. The main QTL for TESTA, corresponding to the Tan1 (B1) gene, was colocalizing with QTLs for TOCOL and ET in both populations and with QTLs for MINOR, GWTN, GLUMCOL and GWTN in P118, and ANTHO in P114. The colocalization of TOCOL with the Tan1 gene suggested that the pigmented testa had an impact on the final color of the \hat{t} , even after grain dehulling. The colocation of ET and TESTA QTLs at the two loci involved in the genetic control of pigmented testa seems to indicate a functional link between this trait and the texture of the endosperm. The colocation of Tan1 with a QTL for ANTHO in P114 and a QTL for GLUMCOL in P118 also suggested that this gene was also involved in the pigmentation at the whole plant level as reported by Wu et al. (2012). Two QTLs for AMY were also detected on chromosome 4 for P114, one with a positive effect from Keninkeni, colocalizing with the amylose extender (Ae1) gene, and the other one with a positive effect from Tiandougou.

On chromosome 5, colocalizing QTLs for AMY, ET and PROT were detected in P114, with the Tiandougou allele conferring higher amylose content, softer endosperm and lower protein content. In the same region, a QTL for MAJOR was detected for P118, at which the Tiandougou allele increased the length of the grain. A QTL for GYLD was also detected on the same chromosome in P114 with Tiandougou allele having a positive effect and QTLs for GRND and GWTN were detected in a neighboring region in P118 with Tiandougou allele having a positive effect.

On chromosome 6, QTLs for TGW, MAJOR, and MINOR were detected together in P118 with Tiandougou allele conferring a positive effect to grain size. Two QTLs for LIP were detected in both populations with a positive effect of Tiandougou allele. These QTLs were close to a QTL for ET in P114 colocalizing with a QTL for DHYLD in P118, for which the Keninkeni and Lata3 alleles conferred vitreous endosperm and higher dehulling yield. The major QTL for ANTHO on the same chromosome was associated with a QTL for TOCOL in P114 and QTLs of GLUMCOL and GWTN in P118. The Keninkeni and Lata3 alleles at this locus were both associated with high anthocyanins, colored tô for Keninkeni, colored glumes and darker grain for Lata3. The colocalization of QTLs for TOCOL, GLUMCOL, and ANTHO suggest that the pigments of the glumes can pass inside the grain when conditions are favorable and result in a colored tô.

On chromosome 7, the same colocalization of QTLs for DHYLD, DTFL, and TGW were observed for both populations. This locus was associated with a QTL for GYLD in P114 and with QTLs for GRND and MAJOR in P118. In both cases the guinea allele (Keninkeni or Lata3) was associated with higher dehulling yield, later flowering, higher yield and bigger grains. The Keninkeni allele was also associated with higher yield while the Lata3 allele contributed longer grains. These findings suggest that this locus plays a major role in the shape of the grain and consequently on grain size and grain yield.

On chromosome 8, one QTL for ET was detected at the top of the chromosome in P114, with the Tiandougou allele contributing to vitreous endosperm. Another QTL was found in P114 at the bottom of the chromosome for PROT with a positive effect of Tiandougou allele. In P118, only a small effect QTL for DTFL was detected at the bottom end of the chromosome.

On chromosome 9, a QTL for GYLD was detected in P114, with a positive effect of Tiandougou allele. This QTL colocalized with two QTLs for GRND and MAJOR in P118 for which the Tiandougou allele contributed to a rounder grain with a reduced major axis. This locus, similarly to the ones detected on chromosomes 1, 3 and 7, revealed a relation between grain morphology and grain yield.

Finally, on chromosome 10, two QTLs for GRND and MAJOR were detected in P118 with Tiandougou allele contributing to rounder grains with reduced major axis. This QTL colocalized with a QTL for AMY in P114, with Keninkeni allele having a positive effect. A QTL for LIP was detected in P114 with a large effect ($R^2=17\%$) of the Tiandougou allele on lipid content. This QTL did not colocalize with any other trait. Two QTLs for DHYLD and ET were also detected in P114, with Tiandougou allele contributing to a more vitreous endosperm and higher dehulling yield.

4 Discussion

Ideotypes of sorghum varieties for West-African agro-ecosystems are complex constructions that need to combine adaptation for diverse and variable environments, stable productivity, quality characteristics for a large range of traditional end-uses or emerging value chains, and morphological attributes that meet farmers' preferences. Breeding such varieties is challenging as it requires measuring and assembling a large range of traits not always positively genetically correlated. Modern breeding using molecular markers provides a unique opportunity to investigate the genetic control of this large number of target traits and to monitor the process of pyramiding the favorable alleles for the genes involved in their variation. To be efficiently implemented, the use of molecular markers has to be tightly integrated into the breeding program while minimizing disruption to the breeding process. This study represents the QTL discovery phase of a marker assisted recurrent selection project that aims at combining grain productivity and grain quality.

We have analyzed two large sorghum breeding populations that were designed for this purpose using three complementary elite parents. The genotyping of the two populations provided two genetic maps with optimal marker density for QTL detection. The ordering of genetic markers was robust and consistent with their known position on the sorghum genome sequence, attesting of the quality of the genotyping data and the interest of using populations with a large number of progenies. A total of 20 traits have been measured and the trait variation in each population showed transgressive segregation in most cases. Except for the TOCONS trait in the P114 population, QTLs were detected for all measured traits. One QTL for $t\hat{o}$ consistency, which was one of our primary breeding targets, was found in population P118 and colocalized with a QTL for amylose content, confirming the role of amylose in the firmness of the $t\hat{o}$. The fact that only one QTL was found for this trait underlines the difficulty of obtaining reliable measurements because of the complexity of the cooking process and the

subjectivity of consistency appraisal. For this reason, a good understanding of the process and of the factors that affect the quality of the final product is essential in order to focus breeding efforts on heritable components of t \hat{o} quality. QTLs for grain shape parameters were reported for the first time in sorghum, thanks to an image analysis procedure that provided a rapid and reliable way to access many shape parameters at the same time.

The construction of the two genetic maps showed many highly significant segregation distortions for the molecular markers analyzed in both populations, that underlined the challenge of using real breeding populations as mapping populations. Most of the distorted markers were organized in clusters. The strongest distortions were observed on chromosomes 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8 for P114 and on chromosomes 4 and 9 for P118. A possible explanation of these high rates of segregation distortion is a selection bias that may have occurred in F₂ generation favoring one of the parental alleles. Actually, given the photoperiod sensitivity of the populations, the production of the F₃ generation was achieved in off-season in Mali from March to May 2009 using flower initiation masks. It is possible that the artificial flowering initiation process introduced a selection bias in some regions of the genome involved in the response to photoperiod. Similarly, it is also possible that F₂ plants experienced high temperatures during the flowering phase in April-May 2009 in Bamako, an issue that may have been exacerbated by the use of initiation masks. A maximum temperature of 41°C observed during 6 days and an average of 38°C were reported over this period. The presence of high temperatures during flowering has been reported to cause pollen infertility in many crop species (Bita and Gerats, 2013). Selection biases that could explain the distortions observed in both populations can also be interpreted in the light of co-localization of segregation distortions with detected QTLs. On top of chromosome 1, in the region of the most distorted zone in population P114, two QTLs were detected for TGW and PROT. The distortion observed in this region was in favor of the allele linked to smaller grains with fewer

proteins. In the bottom part of chromosome 4, highly distorted in both populations in favor of Tiandougou allele, several QTLs were detected colocalizing with the Tan1 gene controlling pigmentation of testa layer for which both Keninkeni and Lata3 had the B2 allele conferring a pigmented testa. It is possible that some progenies showing a pigmented testa may have been discarded during the population development from F₂ to F₃ generation. It is however difficult to link segregation distortions to detected QTLs, as QTL detection itself may have been affected by unbalanced genotypic classes. Distorted markers are known to affect the estimation of genetic distance between markers and the order of markers (Lorieux et al., 1995) as well as QTL detection (Xu, 2008; Zhang et al., 2010). Most of the time, segregation distortions are detrimental to QTL detection but Xu (2008) reported that it can be beneficial especially in case of purely additive QTLs.

The genetic mapping of several genes with major effect was a key result for designing the target ideotypes according to breeding objectives. Among the regions of the genomes that were significantly associated with the variation of the traits analyzed in the two populations, five corresponded to genes with major effects and important pleiotropic effects. This was the case of the gene for pericarp thickness on chromosome 2 known as the Z gene (Ayyangar et al., 1934), the two genes controlling the presence of pigmented testa layer on chromosomes 4 and 2, known as B1 and B2, respectively, the gene controlling plant anthocyanin on chromosome 6, known as P, and one gene for flowering time that has been shown to be involved in the control of the critical photoperiod trait (Guitton et al., 2018). Another major QTL for plant height (data not shown) segregating in the two populations was also located on chromosome 7 and most likely corresponded to the Dw3 gene. Interestingly, the B2 locus on chromosome 2 was found to be associated with endosperm texture and amylose content in both populations, a result already reported by Rami et al. (1998). The fact that the B1 locus that was mapped on chromosome 4 was also associated with a QTL for endosperm texture in

both populations suggested a functional link between the presence of a pigmented testa and the physical properties of the endosperm. It is possible that the presence of a pigmented testa in the peripheral layers of the grain modifies the kinetics of grain dessication and subsequently the texture of the endosperm. Morris et al. (2013b) proposed a putative bHLH transcription factor as a possible candidate for the B2 gene, based on association studies and orthology with genes known to control grain tannins in rice and Arabidopsis. There is no established link of this gene with starch biosynthesis pathway that could explain the colocalization with a QTL for amylose content. A better explanation seems to be an important linkage disequilibrium between the B2 gene and a gene involved in grain amylose content in this region. The segregation of major genes in the two populations explained a significant part of the variation of the traits, but may also have limited the power of detection for QTLs with small effects and thus reduced the prediction accuracy of the genetic value of selected progenies. The segregation of such genes with major effects in elite material is probably a consequence of the diversity of ideotypes that are considered by breeding programs. In fact, depending on the breeding objectives, these genes may either be considered as beneficial or detrimental, which may have limited the selection pressure on particular alleles for these genes. This specificity of elite sorghum germplasm of West-African breeding programs has to be taken into account for designing marker assisted breeding schemes.

In addition to loci with major and pleiotropic effects, many QTLs with moderate effects have been detected for most of the traits that have been analyzed. No major antagonism was detected between grain quality traits and grain yield, suggesting that it is possible to combine the favorable alleles of both categories to breed for productive varieties with satisfactory grain quality attributes. Based on QTL results, it is possible to identify what is the most favorable parental allele in each region of the genome and define one or more genotypic ideotypes that correspond to ideal patterns of recombination between the two parents with respect to the

breeding objectives. Recurrent crossing of progenies from both populations, accurately monitored by molecular markers, will facilitate the production of families with accumulated favorable alleles that can be further evaluated by breeders through conventional breeding.

5 Acknowledgements

This study was funded by the Generation Challenge Programme and the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture under the Grant Number G4008.48.

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737 **7 Tables**738 **Table 1. Descriptive statistics of progenies and mean values of parents.** N: number of data, Min.: minimum, Max: maximum, SD: standard

739 deviation, CV: coefficient of variation, P1: Value of Lata3 for P118 and Keninkeni for P114, P2: Value of Tiandougou

Trait		Pop.	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	S.D.	C.V.	P1	P2
AMY_Lab (%)	Amylose content (wet lab data)	P118	184	17.7	24.5	21.6	1.4	6.7	22.2	21.6
AMY (%)	Amylose content (NIRS)	P114	377	18.3	22.4	20.8	0.8	3.7	21.5	21.4
AMY (%)		P118	400	19.2	23.2	21.6	0.8	3.5	22.0	21.5
ANTHO (0 to 1 scale)	Plant anthocyan	P114	382	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.4	81.2	1.0	0.0
ANTHO (0 to 1 scale)		P118	398	0.0	1.0	0.6	0.4	69.1	1.0	0.0
DHYLD (%)	Dehulling yield	P114	379	28.3	95.0	70.8	10.5	14.9	84.1	65.4
DHYLD (%)		P118	400	53.3	90.0	79.9	4.6	5.8	85.1	73.1
DTFL (d)	Days to flowering	P114	382	52.2	75.7	64.3	5.2	8.1	65.4	70.0
DTFL (d)		P118	400	70.5	103.0	83.9	5.9	7.1	83.0	87.8
ET (1 to 5 scale)	Endosperm texture	P114	382	1.2	4.6	2.4	0.7	27.5	2.5	2.4
ET (1 to 5 scale)		P118	369	1.0	4.5	2.6	0.7	26.4	1.9	2.3
GYLD (g/ha)	Grain yield	P114	382	408.3	5746.7	3046.4	955.8	31.4	3604.5	3947.3
GYLD (g/ha)		P118	400	486.7	5363.3	2286.1	784.2	34.3	2822.8	2910.1
LIP (%)	Lipid content	P114	377	2.3	4.5	3.5	0.4	10.4	2.8	3.7
LIP (%)		P118	400	3.7	6.0	4.7	0.4	7.9	5.1	4.7
PERTH (0 to 1 scale)	Pericarp thickness	P114	377	-0.2	1.2	0.6	0.4	78.0	1.0	0.0
PERTH (0 to 1 scale)		P118	400	-0.2	1.1	0.6	0.4	75.0	1.0	0.0
PROT (%)	Protein content	P114	377	7.6	15.3	11.6	1.1	9.2	10.7	10.7
PROT (%)		P118	400	7.4	16.8	11.0	1.2	10.7	11.5	10.1
TESTA (0 to 1 scale)	Presence of testa	P114	327	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.4	143.9	0.0	0.0

TESTA (0 to 1 scale)		P118	369	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.3	164.7	0.0	0.0
TGW (g)	Thousand grains weight	P114	378	11.0	26.4	19.3	3.0	15.5	20.0	21.7
TGW (g)		P118	400	15.3	29.2	22.3	2.2	9.8	23.1	22.1
TOCOL (1 to 4 scale)	Tô color	P114	379	1.0	3.0	1.5	0.7	46.9	2.4	1.0
TOCOL (1 to 4 scale)		P118	400	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.2	17.8	1.0	1.1
TOCONS (1 to 5 scale)	Tô consistency	P114	379	1.0	4.0	1.9	0.8	41.6	2.2	2.1
TOCONS (1 to 5 scale)		P118	174	1.0	3.0	1.8	0.4	25.4	1.7	2.3
GLUMAD (1 to 5 scale)	Glume adherence	P118	400	1.0	5.0	4.1	1.4	34.7	4.4	4.9
GLUMCOL (1 to 4 scale)	Glume color	P118	399	1.0	3.0	1.6	0.7	44.2	3.0	1.0
GRND (0 to 1 scale)	Grain shape: roundness	P118	400	0.73	0.90	0.81	0.03	3.81	0.76	0.87
GWTN (0 to 255 scale)	Grain whiteness	P118	400	128.6	180.0	159.6	10.8	6.8	146.0	180.8
MAJOR (pixels*)	Grain shape: major axis	P118	400	22.9	28.9	25.5	1.1	4.2	26.8	25.5
MINOR (pixels*)	Grain shape: minor axis	P118	400	18.5	23.0	20.7	0.7	3.6	20.4	22.2

*1 pixel = 0.127 mm

742 **Table 2. Pearson phenotypic correlation in P114 and P118 populations.**

Trait	Pop	AMY	ANTHO	DHYLD	DTFL	ET	GYLD	LIP	PERTH	PROT	TESTA	TGW	TOCOL	TOCONS	AMY_Lab	GLUMAD	GLUMCOL	GRND	GWTN	MAJOR
ANTHO	P114	0.07																		
ANTHO	P118	0.09																		
DHYLD	P114	0.38	0.12																	
DHYLD	P118	0.33	0.11																	
DTFL	P114	0.38	-0.02	0.34																
DTFL	P118	-0.26	-0.09	0.02																
ET	P114	-0.33	-0.04	-0.24	-0.08															
ET	P118	-0.1	-0.01	-0.21	0.05															
GYLD	P114	0.4	0.03	0.34	0.29	-0.07														
GYLD	P118	0.18	0.18	0.24	-0.29	0.05														
LIP	P114	-0.13	-0.17	-0.08	0.08	-0.09	-0.1													
LIP	P118	-0.36	-0.2	-0.18	0.16	-0.24	-0.19													
PERTH	P114	0.13	0.04	0.39	-0.03	-0.21	0.01	-0.27												
PERTH	P118	0.32	0.02	0.47	0.03	-0.04	-0.05	-0.13												
PROT	P114	-0.56	-0.11	-0.1	-0.29	-0.13	-0.32	0.4	0.06											
PROT	P118	-0.52	-0.11	0.09	0.19	-0.3	-0.28	0.46	0.2											
TESTA	P114	-0.44	0.14	-0.1	0.01	0.57	0.03	-0.13	-0.22	-0.14										
TESTA	P118	-0.31	0.01	-0.14	0	0.52	0.14	-0.13	-0.11	-0.17										
TGW	P114	0.25	-0.09	0.45	0.38	-0.17	0.53	0.12	0.01	0.01	-0.06									
TGW	P118	0.05	-0.02	0.15	-0.15	0.01	0.28	0.09	-0.17	-0.07	-0.01									
TOCOL	P114	-0.14	0.39	0.18	-0.11	0.11	0.06	-0.14	0.11	-0.07	0.41	-0.06								
TOCOL	P118	-0.16	0.1	-0.07	0.01	0.25	0.03	-0.05	-0.01	-0.01	0.3	-0.02								
TOCONS	P114	-0.11	0.07	0.13	-0.05	-0.07	-0.17	0.2	0.05	0.18	-0.04	-0.09	0.13							
TOCONS	P118	-0.27	-0.13	-0.12	0.1	-0.1	-0.13	0.16	0.09	0.34	-0.04	-0.07	-0.1							
AMY_Lab	P118	0.63	0.11	0.27	-0.09	-0.12	0.16	-0.27	0.17	-0.41	-0.21	0	-0.09	-0.32						
GLUMAD	P118	0.04	-0.11	0.08	-0.07	0	0.35	-0.06	-0.03	-0.17	0.1	0.08	-0.01	-0.1	0.1					
GLUMCOL	P118	0.1	0.52	0.13	-0.13	0.04	0.22	-0.15	0.04	-0.16	0.22	0.09	0.12	0	0.1	-0.11				
GRND	P118	0.14	0.13	0.02	-0.11	0.07	0.07	-0.29	-0.17	-0.21	-0.1	-0.18	-0.06	-0.06	0.03	0.15	0.02			
GWTN	P118	-0.15	-0.14	-0.48	0.08	-0.08	-0.07	0.16	-0.84	-0.15	-0.19	0.13	-0.12	0	-0.1	-0.01	-0.25	0.16		
MAJOR	P118	-0.01	-0.19	0	-0.06	-0.15	0.18	0.27	-0.08	0.08	-0.11	0.72	-0.04	0.04	-0.02	0.11	-0.07	-0.61	0.16	
MINOR	P118	0.14	-0.08	0.02	-0.2	-0.1	0.27	0.01	-0.28	-0.12	-0.24	0.64	-0.12	-0.01	0	0.28	-0.06	0.38	0.36	0.5

Table 3. QTLs detected in P118 and P114 populations. The rows highlighted in blue correspond to QTLs of the same trait co-localizing in both populations. Penal.: penalty, Chr.: chromosome, Conf1: lower limit of QTL confidence interval, Peak: QTL position, Conf2: upper limit of QTL confidence interval, LOD: lod value at QTL position, R^2 : percentage of phenotypic variance explained by the QTL, add.: additivity effect.

Trait	P118								P114							
	Penal.	Chr.	Conf1	Peak	Conf2	LOD	R^2	add	Penal.	Chr.	Conf1	Peak	Conf2	LOD	R^2	add
AMY	* 3.46	Sb02	38.3	49.8	56.3	3.88	8.40	0.43	3.59	Sb02	37.4	42.0	45.7	13.59	11.41	0.35
	3.63	Sb02	78.3	86.3	92.3	11.20	10.97	0.32								
	3.63	Sb03	67.5	77.5	85.5	5.81	5.52	0.22	3.59	Sb03	67.9	72.3	74.7	10.33	8.50	-0.28
	* 3.46	Sb04	17.0	21.4	27.0	3.49	7.52	0.41								
									3.59	Sb04	50.1	62.4	67.8	5.99	4.80	0.19
	3.63	Sb04	91.0	95.0	112.0	6.72	6.42	-0.22								
									3.59	Sb04	116.6	139.6	142.3	6.62	5.33	-0.22
									3.59	Sb05	0.4	48.6	77.7	4.47	3.54	-0.16
ANTHO									3.59	Sb10	34.2	38.8	43.8	4.39	3.48	0.10
									3.67	Sb04	101.3	109.6	118.3	5.73	2.70	0.09
	3.64	Sb06	100.2	102.2	104.2	78.19	59.53	0.41	3.67	Sb06	100.8	101.7	102.3	77.20	57.99	0.42
DHYLD	3.58	Sb01	91.4	98.4	106.4	6.99	5.61	-1.38								
									3.52	Sb01	154.2	159.6	174.8	4.40	3.43	2.81
	3.58	Sb02	88.3	92.3	96.3	25.06	22.39	2.93	3.52	Sb02	84.1	87.0	91.7	17.53	14.81	5.50
									3.52	Sb03	69.6	74.7	77.7	9.92	7.99	-3.96
									3.52	Sb04	85.4	90.7	96.4	7.00	5.54	3.01
	3.58	Sb04	105.0	107.4	109.0	4.65	3.68	-0.43								
	3.58	Sb06	87.2	91.2	96.2	5.95	4.75	1.19								
									3.52	Sb07	50.6	65.6	79.8	5.36	4.20	2.77
DTFL									3.52	Sb10	108.5	116.1	125.7	5.58	4.38	-3.38
									3.59	Sb01	121.8	127.9	131.7	8.01	3.56	1.25
	3.69	Sb02	133.5	137.3	141.3	12.96	5.39	1.74								
	3.69	Sb03	72.5	74.5	75.5	78.01	48.71	-5.25	3.59	Sb03	73.7	74.7	74.7	78.90	55.72	-4.97
	3.69	Sb03	122.5	127.5	132.5	6.93	2.78	-1.22								
	3.69	Sb04	68.0	81.0	89.0	4.13	1.63	0.98								
									3.59	Sb04	89.6	92.4	95.6	5.14	2.24	0.98
									3.59	Sb06	18.9	37.4	77.5	3.64	1.57	-0.91
	3.69	Sb07	83.2	90.2	100.2	6.30	2.52	1.21	3.59	Sb07	64.1	83.0	95.1	4.86	2.11	0.99
	3.69	Sb08	20.5	109.5	118.5	4.59	1.82	-1.02								
ET	3.69	Sb10	60.0	67.5	73.5	4.45	1.76	0.89								
	3.69	Sb10	128.0	132.8	132.8	5.09	2.02	-1.01								
	3.57	Sb01	86.4	95.4	105.4	5.79	5.57	0.21	3.77	Sb01	66.9	83.2	179.1	5.21	3.21	0.15
	3.57	Sb02	37.3	45.2	47.3	13.64	13.79	-0.30	3.77	Sb02	42.9	46.7	54.0	16.82	11.15	-0.29
									3.77	Sb03	14.0	17.6	24.5	9.07	5.73	0.20
	3.57	Sb04	107.4	110.8	115.0	4.98	4.77	0.18	3.77	Sb04	106.0	109.6	113.2	11.03	7.05	0.21
									3.77	Sb05	17.6	32.4	37.5	7.79	4.88	-0.18
	3.57	Sb06	3.2	3.2	11.2	4.39	4.19	0.16								
									3.77	Sb06	86.7	93.4	99.9	5.52	3.41	-0.16

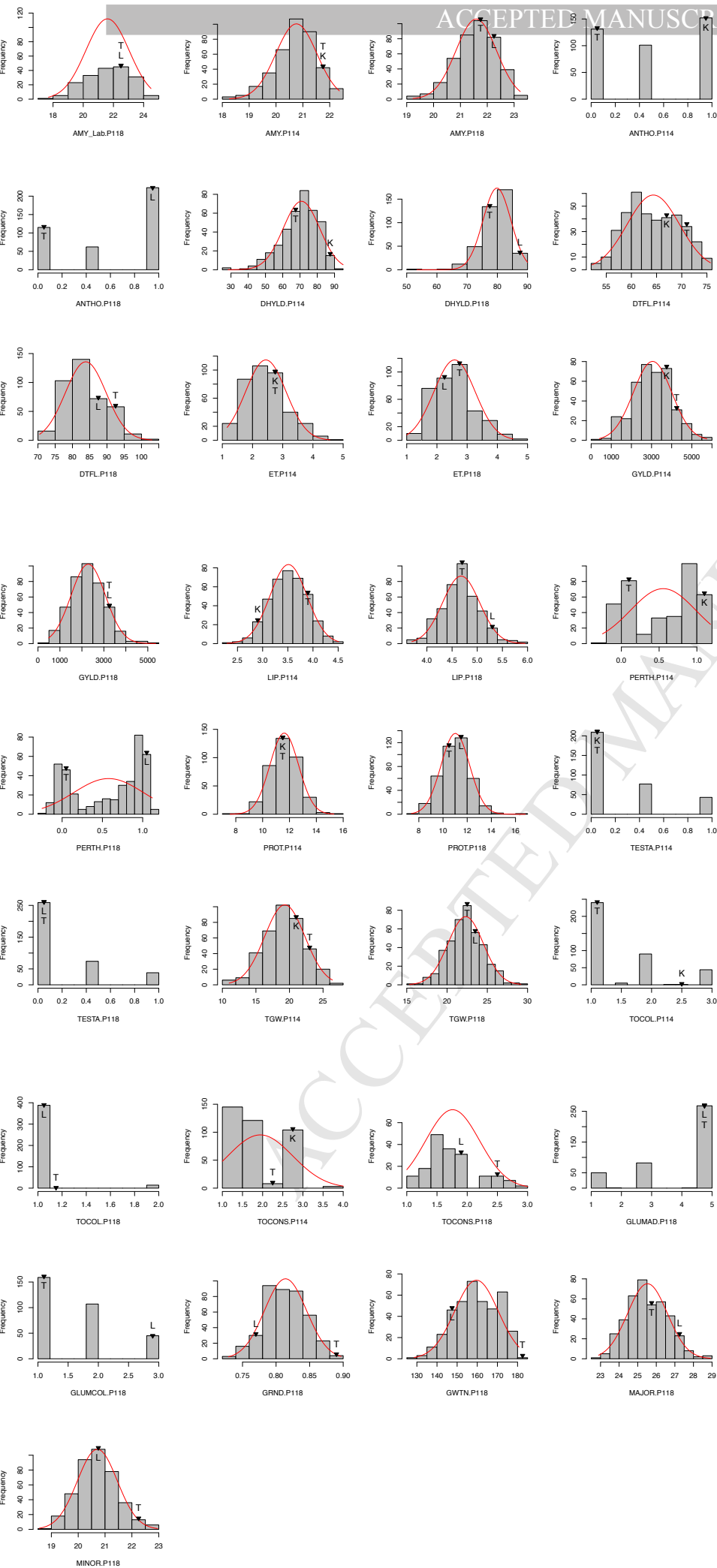
Trait	P118								P114							
	Penal.	Chr.	Conf1	Peak	Conf2	LOD	R ²	add	Penal.	Chr.	Conf1	Peak	Conf2	LOD	R ²	add
									3.77	Sb08	11.2	17.5	23.4	8.73	5.50	0.20
									3.77	Sb10	88.0	97.8	115.4	7.50	4.69	0.19
GYLD	3.65	Sb03	71.7	77.5	83.5	6.44	7.14	254.38	3.54	Sb03	56.6	67.9	75.7	7.20	5.79	-298.20
									3.54	Sb04	86.3	90.7	92.1	10.63	8.73	345.49
									3.54	Sb05	90.9	99.7	105.7	6.43	5.14	-288.78
									3.54	Sb07	70.4	73.7	81.1	18.20	15.65	460.80
									3.54	Sb09	39.3	51.0	64.1	4.22	3.33	-211.37
LIP	3.35	Sb01	143.4	149.4	159.4	6.69	6.56	0.11	3.63	Sb01	120.5	130.2	156.4	3.82	3.29	0.09
	3.35	Sb02	83.3	92.3	104.3	4.96	4.81	-0.10	3.63	Sb02	85.5	91.7	104.1	3.79	3.27	-0.08
	3.35	Sb06	65.2	93.2	99.2	7.59	7.48	-0.13	3.63	Sb06	75.7	80.3	83.8	8.40	7.44	-0.13
									3.63	Sb10	75.8	82.7	84.8	17.94	16.88	-0.18
PERTH	3.57	Sb02	87.3	90.3	92.3	81.51	60.87	0.45	3.47	Sb02	87.7	88.4	89.9	86.90	64.92	0.45
PROT									3.65	Sb01	10.5	17.2	18.0	6.79	6.17	-0.41
	3.71	Sb01	57.4	66.4	71.4	7.23	7.24	-0.39								
									3.65	Sb03	57.6	69.6	74.7	6.40	5.81	0.32
									3.65	Sb03	146.1	152.0	155.5	3.77	3.37	0.19
									3.65	Sb05	1.6	25.6	37.5	4.95	4.45	0.26
	3.71	Sb06	29.2	39.2	47.2	7.15	7.17	-0.44								
									3.65	Sb06	50.6	55.1	62.2	6.03	5.46	-0.37
									3.65	Sb08	101.2	116.4	117.9	7.10	6.46	0.33
TESTA	3.71	Sb09	83.0	94.0	103.0	3.93	3.86	0.25								
	3.50	Sb02	38.3	45.2	46.3	20.83	15.73	-0.16	3.82	Sb02	42.9	45.7	50.5	24.53	18.15	-0.20
TGW	3.50	Sb04	109.0	111.0	112.0	39.35	33.60	0.24	3.82	Sb04	108.7	109.6	111.4	40.11	33.39	0.26
									3.55	Sb01	5.7	13.4	18.0	5.05	4.14	-0.96
	3.73	Sb02	83.3	100.2	105.3	4.04	3.59	-0.42								
									3.55	Sb03	69.6	72.3	76.7	10.03	8.49	-1.08
									3.55	Sb04	84.6	88.4	93.6	5.29	4.35	0.79
	3.73	Sb06	63.2	73.2	84.2	4.38	3.90	-0.51								
									3.55	Sb07	64.1	68.8	72.6	20.98	19.02	1.62
TOCOL	3.73	Sb07	92.2	95.2	98.2	15.93	15.17	1.02								
	3.43	Sb04	107.0	112.0	122.0	5.66	6.31	0.06	3.69	Sb04	101.3	107.8	116.6	12.04	12.07	0.29
TOCONS									3.69	Sb06	99.0	101.7	103.5	9.81	9.69	0.26
	3.52	Sb04	21.4	26.2	30.0	3.69	9.31	-0.17								
GLUMAD	3.60	Sb01	16.4	24.4	39.4	5.56	5.35	0.38								
	3.60	Sb03	123.5	145.5	151.5	7.67	7.47	0.47								
	3.60	Sb06	38.2	48.2	59.2	6.00	5.79	-0.47								
GLUMCOL	3.51	Sb04	107.4	117.0	124.0	7.55	6.67	0.19								
	3.51	Sb06	99.2	102.2	104.2	21.73	20.91	0.63								
GRND	3.65	Sb02	1.3	6.3	9.3	4.81	2.93	-0.01								
	3.65	Sb02	140.3	143.3	150.3	11.68	7.41	-0.01								
	3.65	Sb02	161.3	170.4	170.4	3.71	2.25	0.01								
	3.65	Sb05	72.7	79.7	89.7	4.94	3.02	-0.01								
	3.65	Sb07	1.2	5.2	11.1	6.59	4.06	-0.01								
	3.65	Sb07	93.2	97.2	100.2	23.75	16.20	-0.02								
	3.65	Sb09	39.0	46.0	53.0	8.09	5.02	-0.01								
	3.65	Sb10	40.0	42.0	46.0	6.54	4.03	-0.01								
GWTN	3.67	Sb02	89.3	91.3	93.3	72.54	48.18	-10.02								
	3.67	Sb03	130.5	134.5	139.5	6.65	2.94	-2.13								
	3.67	Sb04	108.0	110.8	128.0	8.03	3.57	-2.62								
	3.67	Sb05	67.7	83.7	91.7	4.64	2.02	-1.88								
	3.67	Sb06	11.2	18.2	25.2	4.83	2.11	-1.07								
	3.67	Sb06	97.2	101.2	104.9	7.80	3.47	-2.46								

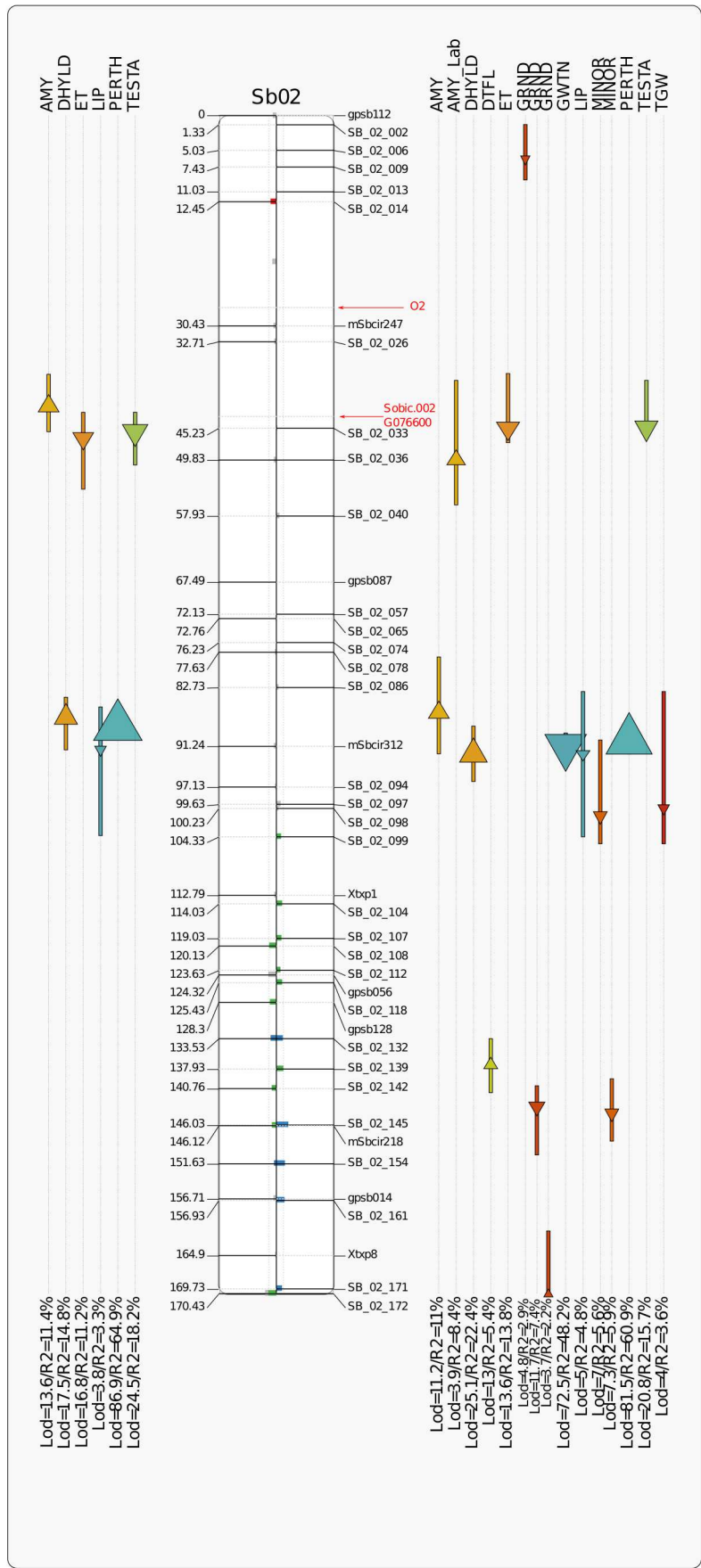
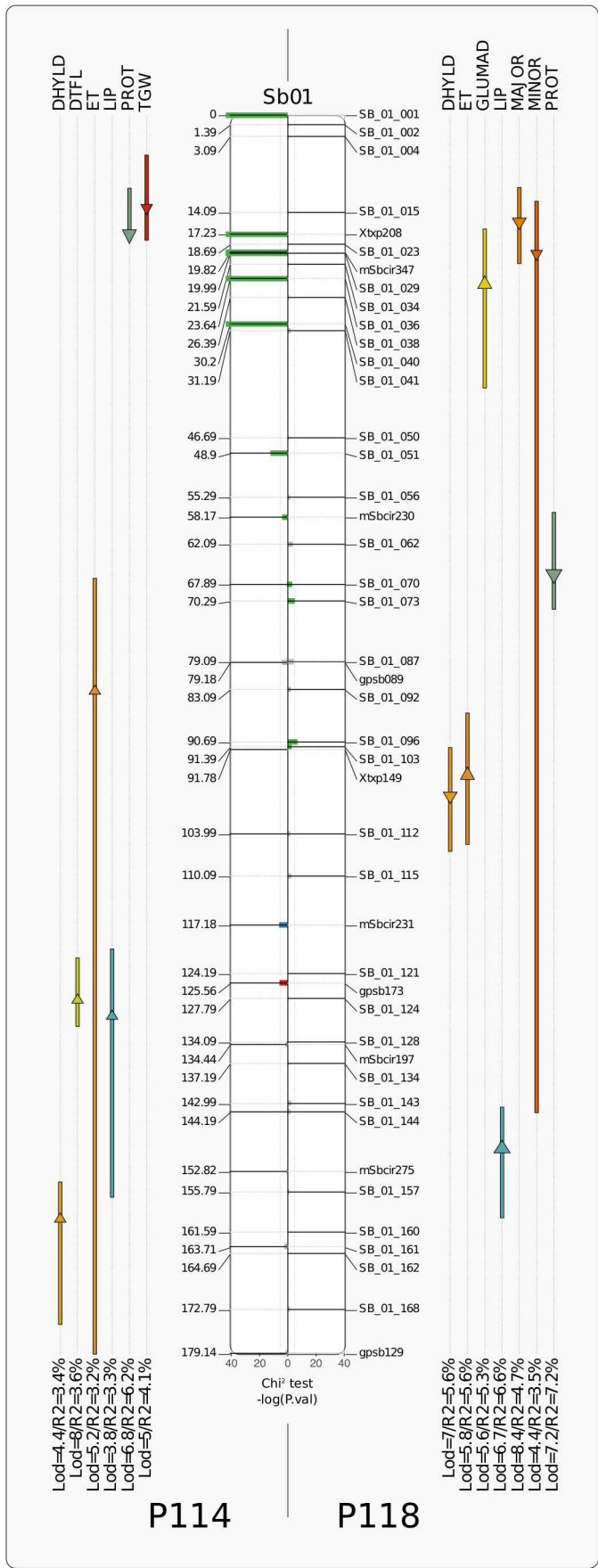
Trait	P118								P114							
	Penal.	Chr.	Conf1	Peak	Conf2	LOD	R ²	add	Penal.	Chr.	Conf1	Peak	Conf2	LOD	R ²	add
MAJOR	3.54	Sb01	10.4	15.4	21.4	8.40	4.71	-0.28								
	3.54	Sb04	65.0	71.0	84.0	9.22	5.20	-0.34								
	3.54	Sb05	4.7	8.7	19.7	6.96	3.87	-0.27								
	3.54	Sb06	57.2	68.1	73.2	4.24	2.32	-0.22								
	3.54	Sb06	92.2	96.2	100.2	6.99	3.89	-0.30								
	3.54	Sb07	92.2	95.2	98.2	33.90	22.16	0.60								
	3.54	Sb09	0.0	31.0	41.0	3.96	2.17	0.19								
	3.54	Sb10	28.0	43.0	69.0	5.38	2.96	0.22								
MINOR	3.56	Sb01	12.4	20.0	144.2	4.42	3.48	-0.16								
	3.56	Sb02	90.3	101.3	105.3	6.98	5.58	-0.21								
	3.56	Sb02	139.3	144.3	148.3	7.34	5.88	-0.23								
	3.56	Sb03	7.5	23.5	81.5	3.66	2.86	0.16								
	3.56	Sb04	108.0	110.8	112.0	9.12	7.38	-0.25								
	3.56	Sb06	68.2	73.2	82.2	6.75	5.38	-0.21								

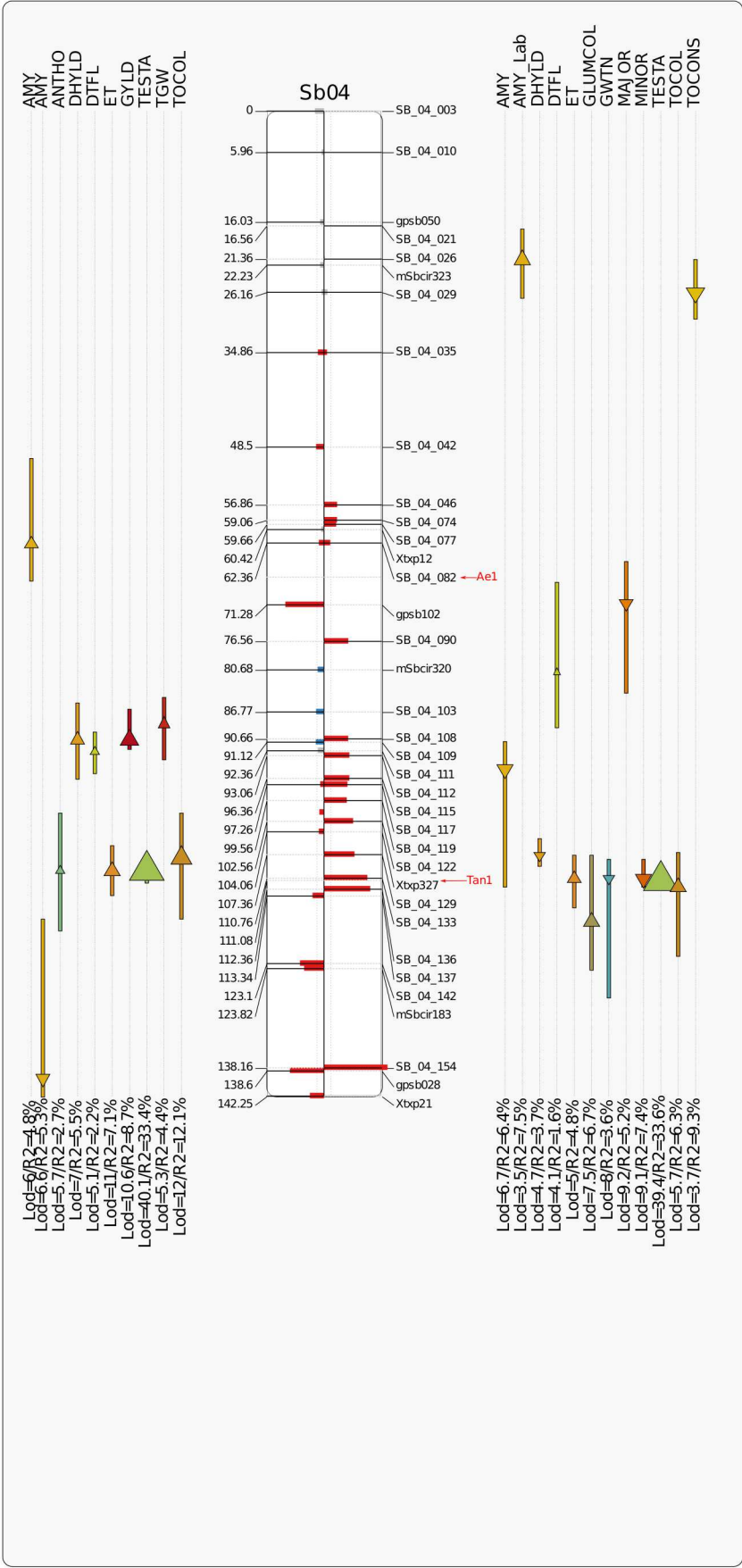
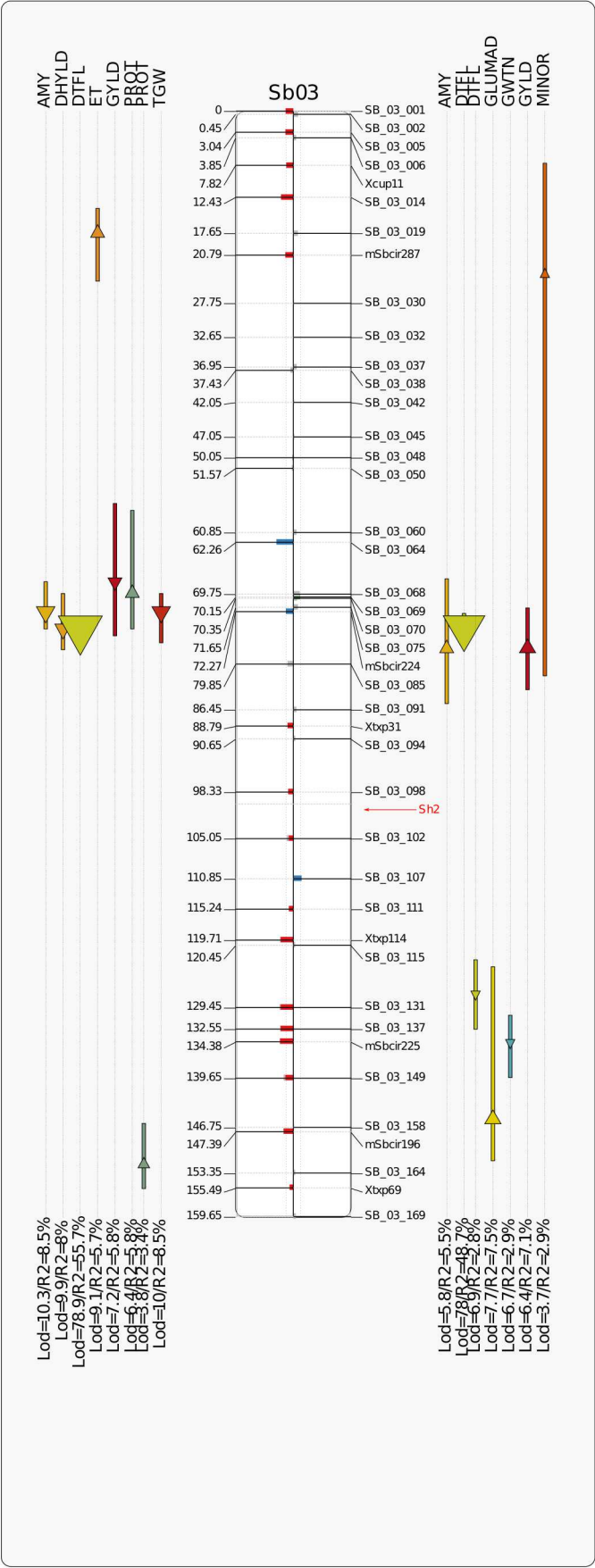
8 Figure Captions

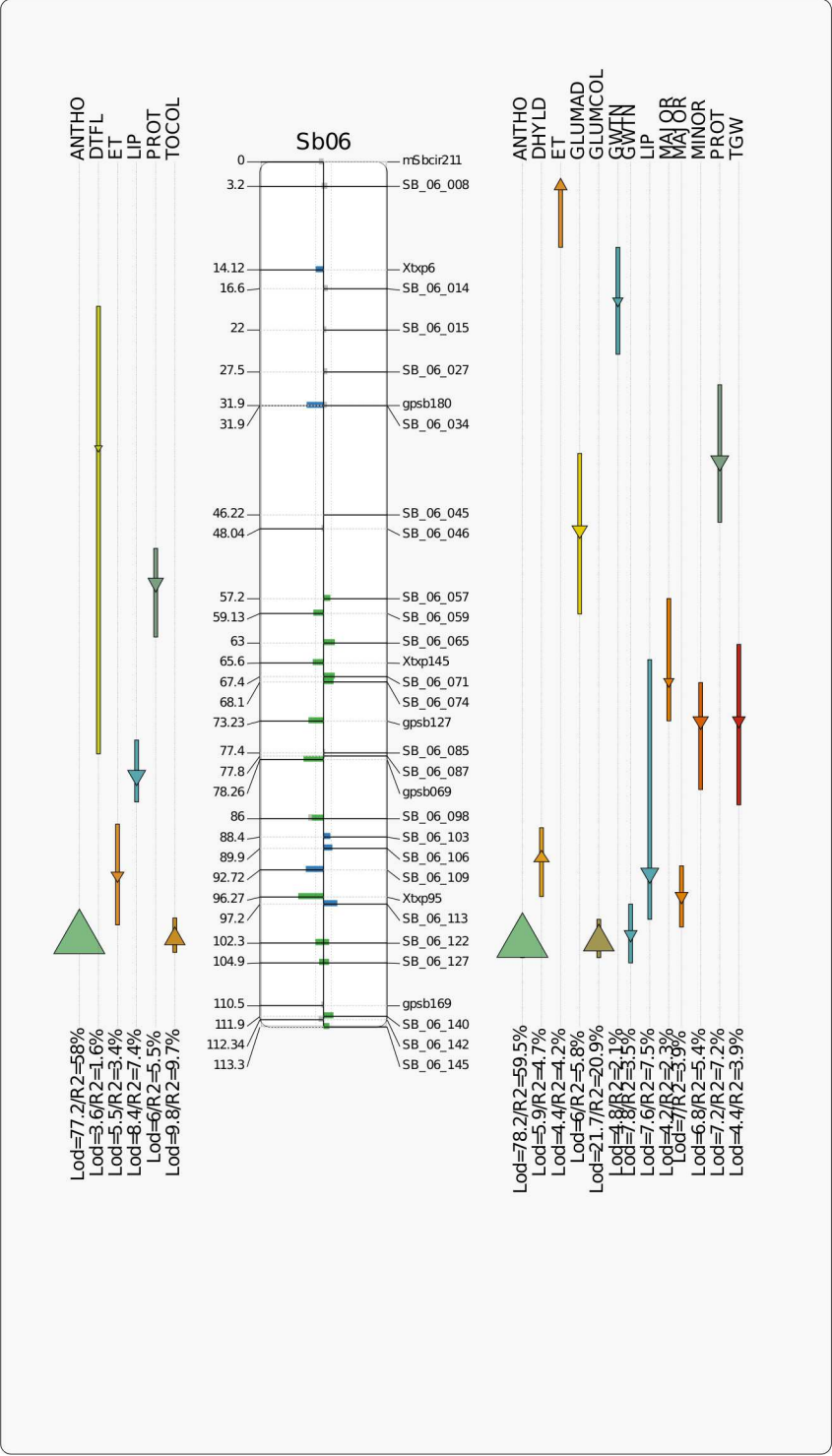
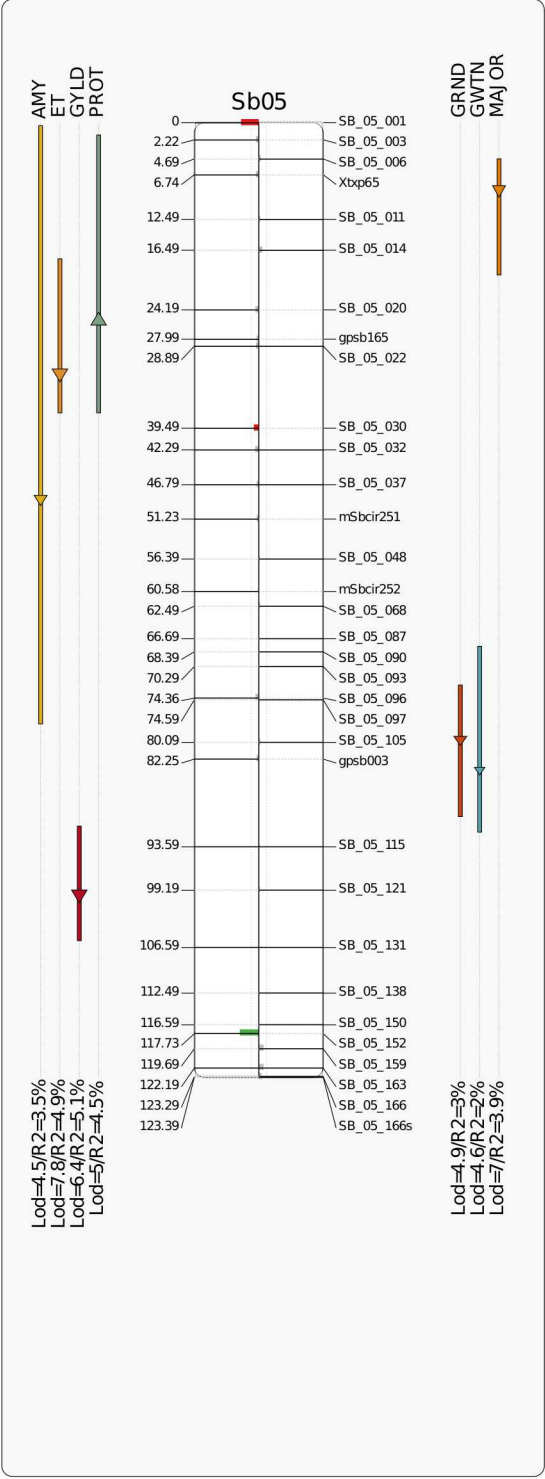
Fig 1: Distribution of the traits for the two populations P114 and P118. Laboratory amylose content (AMY_Lab); predicted amylose content (AMY); Presence of anthocyanins (ANTHO); Grain Dehulling yield (DHYLD); Date to first flag leaf (DTFL); Endosperm texture (ET); Grain yield (GYLD); Lipid content (LIP); Pericarp thickness (PERTH); Protein content (PR); Color of the testa layer (TESTA); Thousand grain weight (TGW); Color of the tô (TOCOL); Tô consistency (TOCONS); Glume adherence (GLUMAD); Glume color (GLUMCOL); Grain roundness (GRND); Grain whiteness (GWTN); Grain major axis length (MAJOR); Grain minor axis length (MINOR).

Fig 2 to 6: Genetic maps, segregation distortions and detected QTLs. Populations P114 and P118 are represented on left side and right side of chromosomes, respectively. Segregation distortions are represented in the body of each chromosome as bar plots of $-\log(P)$ value) of a chi square test. Green, red, and blue bars represent segregation distortions in favor of Keninkeni or Lata3 homozygous class, Tiandougou homozygous class and heterozygous class, respectively. QTLs are represented by a triangle located at the QTL location and a rectangle representing the confidence interval. The orientation of the QTL triangles represent the sign of the additive effect of the QTL: toward top for Keninkeni and Lata3 alleles, toward bottom for Tiandougou allele. Red arrows indicate the location of known or candidate genes.



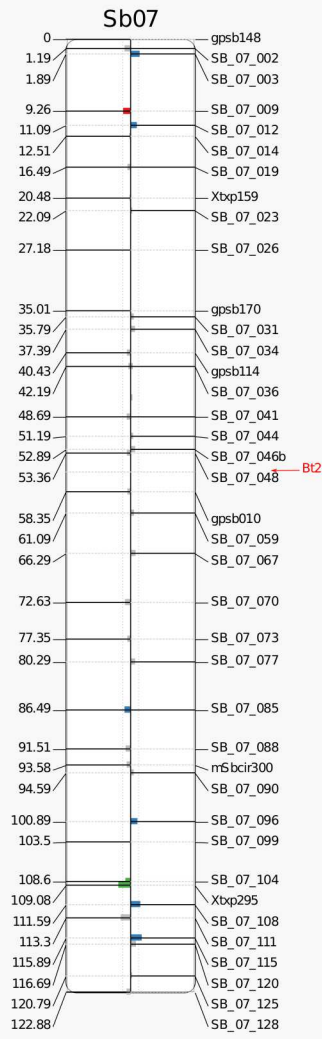






DHYLD
DTFL
GYLD
TGW

Lod=5.4/R²=4.2%
Lod=4.9/R²=2.1%
Lod=18.2/R²=15.7%
Lod=21/R²=19%

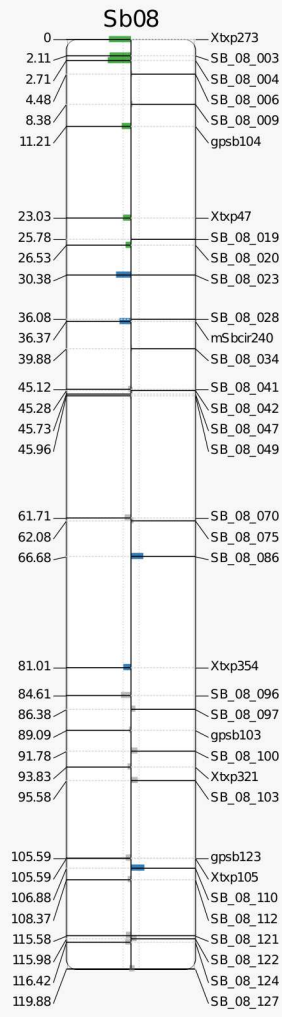


DHYLD
DTFL
GRND
MAJOR
TGW

Lod=4.8/R²=3.8%
Lod=6.3/R²=2.5%
Lod=36.9/R²=4.1%
Lod=23.7/R²=16.2%
Lod=33.9/R²=22.2%
Lod=15.9/R²=15.2%

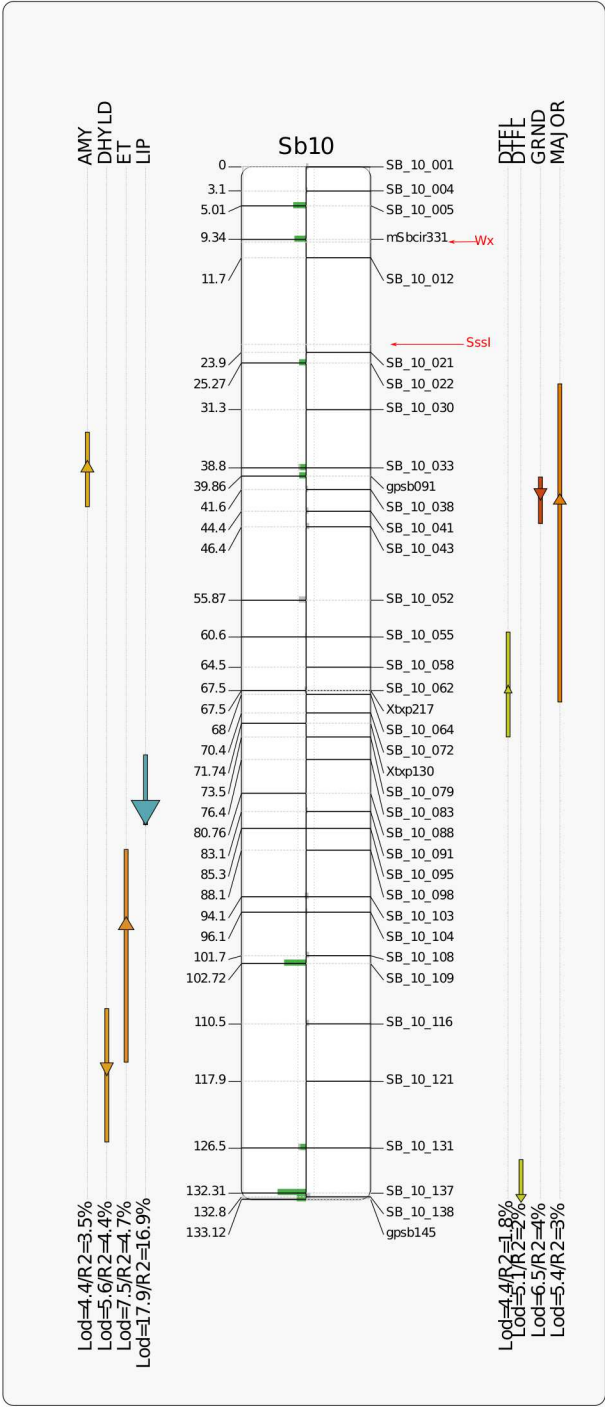
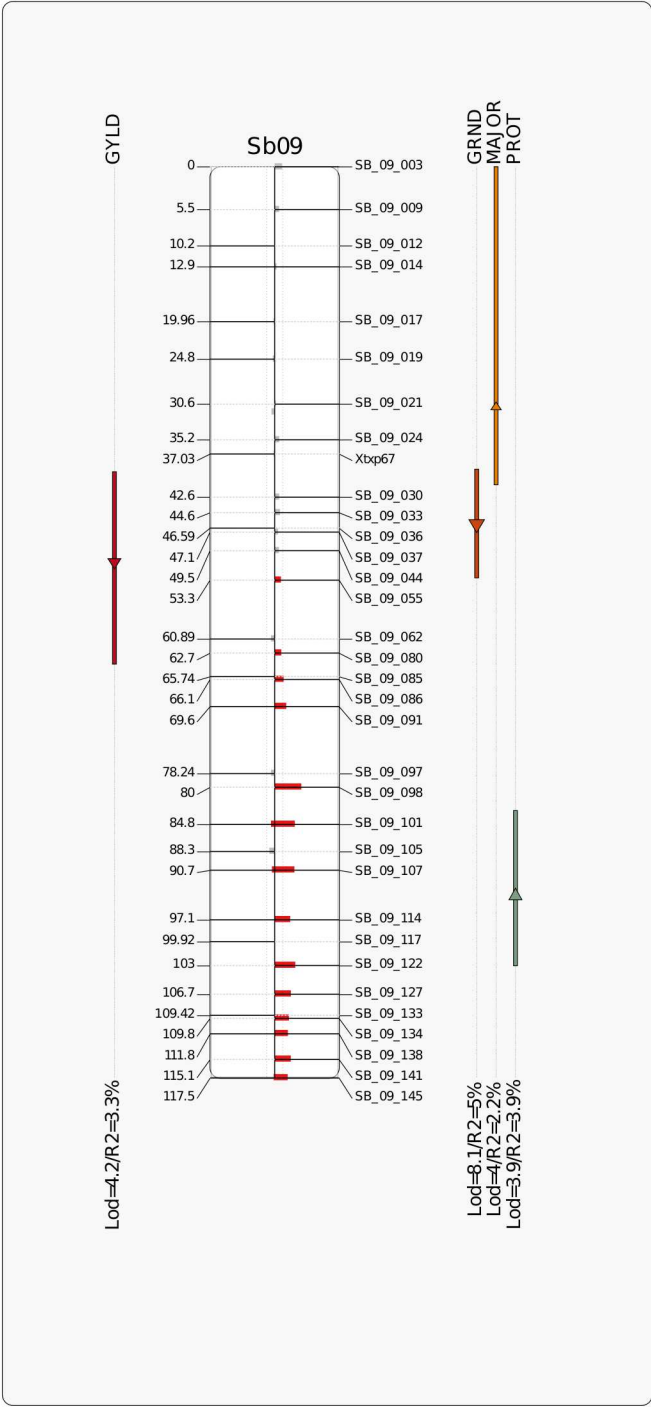
ET
PROT

Lod=8.7/R²=5.5%
Lod=7.1/R²=6.5%



DTFL

Lod=4.6/R²=1.8%



- A QTL detection conducted in breeders' populations as part of a marker-assisted selection program
- Major genes with large effect still segregates in breeding population derived from elite material
- There is no major antagonism to jointly improve grain yield and grain quality in West-African sorghum germplasm