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| 2  | Transfer kinetics of labeled aroma   |
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| 3  | compounds from liquid media into coffee  |
| 4  | beans during simulated wet processing  |
| 5  | conditions   |
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#### 22 Abstract

23 The transfer kinetics of three labelled compounds (butanal, 2-24 phenyethanol, isoamyl acetate) was studied from a liquid medium into the coffee beans during simulated wet 25 processing using four media (M) (M1: contained dehulled 26 27 beans, M2: contained demucilaginated beans, M3: contained depulped beans, M4: contained depulped beans with 28 29 yeast). Trials were carried out at 25°C, under agitation and for five time periods (0, 6, 12, 24 and 48 hours), and then the 30 labelled volatiles were analyzed by SPME-GC-MS. 31

The three labelled molecules were transferred into the coffee 32 beans with different mass transfer rates; reaching at 12hrs in 33 the M4, 0.2±0.03 ,11.2±0.66 and 1.3±0.04µg/g of coffee 34 35 respectively for butanal, 2-phenyethanol and isoamyl acetate. 36 The parchment resistance significantly affected the mass transfer of the 2-phenylethanol. Butanal and isoamyl acetate 37 underwent metabolic reactions, which decreased their 38 amount in the coffee beans. Furthermore, an interaction 39 between molecules and the yeast was observed and 40 41 decreased significantly the butanal's transfer.

42 Keywords: Coffee fermentation; aroma compounds; transfer;43 kinetics; parchment resistance.

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### 45 **1. Introduction**

Coffee consumption has recorded a significant growth rate 46 47 over the past 50 years, which has resulted in coffee being ranked as the second most traded global commodity in 48 financial terms (Hameed et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2015; Ramírez-49 50 Martínez et al., 2013). Coffee products owe this popularity to 51 their unique sensory and pleasant flavor (Pereira et al., 2019). 52 Thereby, the coffee industry has dedicated its efforts in improving the final beverage quality using roasting and 53 54 brewing steps (de Carvalho Neto et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2015). 55 Moreover, several studies have highlighted that postharvest 56 processing could have a direct impact on the quality and value of the final product (Joët et al., 2010; Pereira et al., 2017; 57 58 Selmar et al., 2006).

Actually, the postharvest process is a crucial step in producing coffee beans suitable for transport and roasting, and it aims to remove the components surrounding the beans (skin, pulp, mucilage and parchment). There are three main commonly used ways to eliminate these layers: dry processing, wet processing and semi-dry processing (Hameed et al., 2018; Pereira et al., 2017; Silva, 2014).

In the dry processing, the whole coffee cherries are sun/airdried until their moisture content reaches 10% to 12%. After

68 drying, the skin and the pulp are removed and, then, the beans are dehulled to obtain the green beans ready for roasting 69 (Pereira et al., 2019). Dry processing offers a coffee with a 70 heavy body and smooth, sweet, and complex cupping quality 71 72 attributes (Duarte et al., 2010; Hameed et al., 2018; Poltronieri 73 & Rossi, 2016). The wet processing, in contrast, involves more 74 complex steps. First, the skin and pulp of the cherries are 75 removed mechanically, then the depulped beans are fermented in order to degrade the mucilage layer by 76 77 microbiological activity and finally, the beans are sundried 78 (Pereira et al., 2019). Wet processing provides a lower-bodied coffee, with higher acidity and more aroma than the other 79 80 processes (Joët et al., 2010; Pereira et al., 2017;). Finally, the 81 semi-dry processing is a transitional system of wet and dry 82 processing, the skin and pulp of cherries are mechanically 83 removed, then, the depulped beans are sun/ air dried until their moisture content reaches 10 to 12% (Ribeiro et al., 84 2017). Semy-dry processing produces different cup quality, 85 somewhat similar to that of wet-processed coffee with less 86 87 acidity and somewhat less body than dry-processed coffee.

In previous studies (Selmar et al., 2006), it has been shown
that the chosen conditions during the post-harvest treatment
(wet or dry or semi-dry) could affect the metabolic activities
within the beans thus affecting their chemical composition in

92 different ways. While the dry-processed beans contain more 93 simple sugars, the wet-processed beans present a superior concentration of free amino acids. These compounds (simple 94 sugars and amino acids) are important aroma precursors in the 95 96 formation of aroma compounds during roasting (Bytof et al., 2005; Knopp et al., 2006). Furthermore, fermenting yeast 97 98 cultures produce many flavor compounds, such as esters, 99 alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, and terpenoids during the mucilage removal process. Accordingly, it has been proposed 100 that these microbial metabolites can diffuse into the coffee 101 beans leading to an intense perception of "floral" and "fruity" 102 103 aromas and high acidity in the brewed coffee (Pereira et al., 104 2015; Lee et al., 2017; Mussatto et al., 2011). Based on this 105 observation, many studies were conducted to modulate the 106 coffee aroma quality using yeast starter cultures (Bressani et 107 al., 2018; Pereira et al., 2015; Evangelista et al., 2014; Ribeiro 108 et al., 2017). Moreover, Lee et al., 2017 and Martinez et al., 109 2019 have shown that fermentation affects green coffee beans' composition in volatile compounds such as 2-110 phenyethanol and volatile phenols produced by yeasts, which 111 112 were preserved after light roasting. However, the direct relationship between the microbial activities during the 113 114 fermentation and coffee quality is not yet known, but it is 115 assumed that a diffusion process of those metabolites into

116 coffee beans during the fermentation step could occur117 (Pereira et al., 2019).

118 Therefore, this work was undertaken to assess the existence 119 of a transfer of volatile compounds likely to be produced by 120 the yeast into the coffee beans. For this purpose, three deuterium labelled stable isotope aroma compounds have 121 122 been selected to track their transfer from the external 123 environment to the coffee beans. Indeed, those compounds do not exist in natural conditions. This type of labelling induces 124 125 a slight increase in the molecular weight of the labelled compounds without modifying its structural or chemical 126 127 properties; this mass modification will allow us to detect and 128 identify the labelled molecule in the study medium after 129 analysis by mass spectrometry coupled with a separation 130 method (GC, HPLC) (Zachleder et al., 2018).

Furthermore, trials were conducted to study the transfer kinetics of these three labelled molecules and to investigate certain transfer parameters such as grain permeability, parchment resistance and the effect of the presence of yeast on the transfer of these volatile compounds.

# 136 **2. Materials and methods**

# 137 2.1. Plant material, pre-treatment, and sampling of coffee 138 cherries

10 kg of fresh coffee cherries (variety *Coffea Arabica*) were
purchased from the Tarrazu cooperative (Tarrazu, Costa Rica).
Harvested in March 2018, they were frozen at -18 °C to curb
any microbiological and enzymatic activity. The frozen samples
were transported to France and stored in a cold room at -18
°C.

To work on homogeneous samples in terms of maturity, the
coffee cherries were sorted according to their size and color.
Only mature red cherries with 12–14 mm in diameter were
selected for the study.

149 Before the experimentation, samples were disinfected by 150 introducing frozen cherries into a chlorinated solution with 200 ppm of active chlorine for 10 minutes. Then, they were 151 washed with sterile water and manually depulped under 152 sterile conditions (using a Bunsen burner and sterilized 153 154 equipment). The removed pulp corresponded to approximately 40 to 45% of the total cherry weight. Then, 10 g 155 of depulped coffee beans were used for each trial. 156

## 157 **2.2. Labeled molecules.**

158 The labeled molecules were purchased from CDN-isotopes159 (Quebec, Canada). These volatile molecules include an

160 aldehyde, butanal (CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CD<sub>2</sub>CHO), an alcohol, 2-161 phenylethanol (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH) and an ester, isoamyl acetate ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCOCD<sub>3</sub>). In order to quantify the labelled 162 volatile molecules, calibration curves were plotted for each of 163 164 the compounds. First, the stock solution was prepared using a 165 mix of the three volatile compounds dissolved in 2% of 166 ethanol. Afterwards, three dilutions were carried out from this 167 stock solution  $(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \text{ and } \frac{1}{4})$ .

168 Then, 100  $\mu$ l of each dilution were introduced into samples of 169 1.5 g of ground coffee beans and weighed in glass vials 170 (repeated 4 times). In addition, to ensure reproducibility, 171 samples were spiked with 100  $\mu$ L of a solution of benzyl 172 butyrate used as an internal standard (with a concentration of 173 5  $\mu$ L/L), and then, they were analyzed by SPME-GC-MS.

### 174 **2.3. First experimental approach**

To characterize the transfer kinetics of labelled compounds, a stepwise experimental approach was adopted using four different study media with increasing complexity from M1 to M4, a representative schematic of these 4 media is presented in Fig.1.

In the first step, the transfer was studied in M1 medium,
composed of manually depulped and dehulled coffee beans,
and this medium was used to estimate the permeability of the

coffee beans to the diffusion of volatile molecules. Afterwards
in M2 medium, depulped and demucilaginated coffee beans
were used in order to estimate the resistance of the
parchment to the transfer of the compounds.

Finally, the transfer was studied in M3 and M4 media. The M3 medium contained depulped coffee beans and was used as a control medium to evaluate the effect of the presence of yeast that can be observed in the M4 medium. In the latter, the transfer was studied in realistic simulated conditions of wet controlled fermentation, using depulped coffee beans inoculated with the selected yeast LSCC1.

The yeast strain used in the M4 media and for the additional 194 195 tests, Saccharomyces cerevisiae LSCC1, was provided by 196 Lallemand SAS (Toulouse, France) in active dry form and belongs to Lallemand's collection of selected coffee yeasts. 197 Before the inoculation, yeast, with a viability of  $2.01 \times 10^{10}$ 198 cfu/g, were rehydrated in distilled water (1/10, p/v) for 30 199 200 minutes. For the fermentation trials, for 1g of pulped coffee, 0.01 mL of rehydrated yeast and 0.99 ml of distilled water 201 202 were added to submerge the depulped coffee bean.

In all trials, coffee beans were submerged in distilled water (10
mL/10 g coffee beans) containing a mix of labelled volatile
molecules. All compounds were added at the same
concentration (40 µg/mL of distilled water). This concentration

207 was determined knowing the natural concentration value of 208 these compounds in fresh coffee beans in order to ensure a 209 concentration gradient in the medium in favor of compound 210 entry.

All samples were maintained at 25 °C. Agitation was carried out with an orbital shaker (SSL1-Stuart, UK) at a low speed of 120 rpm during the entire transfer period. Five time periods (0, 6, 12, 24 and 48 hours) were chosen to investigate the mass transfer kinetics. All trials were independent and performed in triplicate.

At the end of the transfer experiment, samples were washed three times with water to stop the transfer reaction and to remove labeled molecules adhering to the grain surface, and then they were ground and frozen at -80 °C until being analyzed.

#### 222 **2.4. Second experimental approach: additional tests**

To properly interpret our results, additional tests were conducted to investigate the interaction between the labelled volatile molecules and the yeast strain LSCC1 used for this study.

As for the first experimental approach, 2 mL of a solution containing rehydrated yeast at a concentration of 1 mg/mL and a mixture of the 3 labelled molecules at a concentration of 40 mg/mL was prepared, the samples were vortexed for 10

231 seconds to homogenize the mix and then they were analyzed232 immediately.

### 233 **2.5. Volatile compounds analyses**

## • Extraction by SPME

Coffee bean samples were ground to a fine particle size  $\approx$  500 235 236 μm (Retsch-ZM200, France). Volatile compounds of coffee 237 beans were extracted using the SPME (DVB/Carboxen/PDMS, 50/30 μm, Supelco, USA, solid-phase-microextraction). Ground 238 239 coffee (1.50±0.05 g) was weighed in screw-capped glass vials 240 and mixed with 2 mL of pure water. Subsequently, the vials 241 were placed for 15 min in a thermostatically regulated oven at 242 50 °C, to reach sample headspace equilibrium. Then they were 243 subjected to SPME at 50 °C for 45 min.

### • GC-MS Analysis

The labelled volatile compounds were analyzed in an Agilent 245 6890 gas chromatograph coupled to a mass spectrometer 246 247 Agilent 5973 (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, USA). The SPME 248 fiber was desorbed in a polar column DB-WAX (60 m x 0.25 mm, 0.25 µm phase film thickness, Agilent J&W GC column, 249 USA) under splitless mode with the injector temperature set at 250 251 250 °C. Hydrogen was used as the gas vector with the flow rate 252 fixed at 1.5 mL/min. The initial oven temperature was 40 °C (5

253 min), and then it was increased by 2 °C/min to 170 °C and then 254 by 10 °C/min to 250 °C. The final column temperature was 255 maintained for 10 min.

The mass spectrometer was operated at 70 eV in electron 256 257 impact (EI) ionization mode. The source of ionization heated at 258 230 °C. After the ionization, the molecules were subsequently sorted according to their report mass/charge (m/z), by a 259 260 quadrupole analyzer maintained at 150 °C sweeping an interval [40 to 350] m/z in SCAN mode. The results set were 261 processed using MassHunter Qualitative Analyses software 262 263 (version B.08.00).

#### 264 **2.6. Statistical analyses**

265 Means and standard deviations reported were calculated from 266 triplicate trials and they were subjected to ANOVA followed by 267 post-hoc comparison of means by Tukey's test, performed 268 using the XIstat version 2018.5. Differences were considered 269 significant when the probability value  $p \le 0.05$ .

## 270 2.7. Transfer rate calculation

271 The transfer rate R ( $\mu$ g/g/h) was calculated using the following 272 formula:

273 
$$R = \frac{\Delta C_i}{\Delta t}$$

274 C<sub>i</sub>: The transferred masses of labelled molecules in the coffee
275 beans [µg/g]

#### 276 t : transfer time (h)

#### i : studied compound

## 278 3. Results and discussion

#### 279 **3.1. Transfer kinetics study**

Results of the mass transfer kinetics of the labelled volatiles 280 281 are shown in fig.2. All trials showed a mass transfer of the 282 labelled volatile compounds into the coffee beans (fig.2). 283 These results confirm previous work by de Carvalho Neto et 284 al., (2017); Pereira et al., (2015); Evangelista et al., (2014); Silva 285 et al., (2013), who postulated that a transfer process could exist of volatile metabolites, that are produced by the yeast 286 287 during the fermentation, into the coffee beans.

288 The transfer kinetic of the alcohol (2-phenylethanol), studied 289 during the coffee fermentation using the M4 medium (see section 2), showed a significant increase into the coffee beans 290 291 during the 48 hrs (fig.2) and presented three transfer regimes. 292 During the first hours, the recorded amount showed an exponential increase reaching, at 6 hrs, about 50% of the total 293 transferred amount of 2-phenylethanol. This exponential 294 295 phase was followed by a deceleration phase noticed by the decrease of the transfer speed, which became constant 296 297 between 12 hrs and 48 hrs of transfer and represented the 298 "constant rate state" (table 1).

299 In the meantime, the transfer profile of the aldehyde (butanal) 300 and the ester (isoamyl acetate) represented a regime going through a maximum reached at 6 hrs of transfer (fig.2). 301 Moreover, the total content of butanal in the coffee beans 302 303 showed a significant decrease that was faster than that 304 observed for the isoamyle acetate profile (table 1). Essentially, 305 a high concentration gradient was maintained to avoid the loss 306 of molecules by the reverse transfer; thereby, this decrease can be explained by a degradation mechanism of these 307 308 compounds inside the bean. Lee et al., (2016) also showed, 309 during the green coffee fermentation, that some volatiles were degraded and researchers correlated this fact to the 310 311 metabolism of aroma precursors in green coffee beans by 312 Rhizopus oligosporus. Moreover, in their study, Selmar et al., 313 2006 measured the expression of the germination-specific 314 enzyme isocitrate lyase and they identified that during the first 315 two days of the coffee wet-process, the germination-related 316 metabolism recorded the highest activity throughout the postharvesting process. Therefore, it can be assumed that after 317 their transfer in the coffee beans, butanal and isoamyle 318 319 acetate undergo an enzymatic reaction that occurs during the germination. However, 2-phenylethanol seems not to be 320 321 affected by this degradation process as it's transferred amount

into the coffee beans continued to increase by accumulation to reach  $15.84\pm0.62 \ \mu g/g$  after 48 hrs.

324 Indeed, the transfer of volatile compounds is governed by 325 thermodynamic and kinematic parameters related to the composition, the physical state of the matrix and their 326 327 interaction with the physicochemical properties of the molecules (Voilley et al., 2011). In our case, the molecules 328 329 were transferred from liquid medium to organic matrix (the 330 coffee bean) by imposing a transfer gradient. According to the physicochemical properties presented in table 2, with a lower 331 332 molecular weight and a lower LogP, 2-phenylethanol would 333 have an easier transport than the isoamyle acetate. While butanal has the lowest molecular weight and a LogP<1 334 335 between the three molecules used, and contrary to what was 336 expected, the 2-phenylethanol represented the highest 337 transfer rate with a transfer speed 16 times faster than that of butanal (during the first 6 hours) (table 1). In their study, Lee 338 339 et al., (2016) reported an increase of 43% of 2-phenylethanol 340 in the fermented coffee beans compared to the unfermented 341 green coffee beans. Thus, it speculates that the alcohol 342 undergoes an intense diffusion process during the fermentation, which is required to influence the overall coffee 343 quality (Pereira et al., 2019) and this intense transfer cannot 344 345 be explained exclusively by the physicochemical properties of the compound but maybe by the existence of other pathwayssuch as active transport observed in plants.

348 Previous studies (De Castro & Marraccini, 2006) have reported 349 the existence of metabolite exchanges between the pericarp (pulp) and the endosperm (seed) either by passive transfer or 350 351 by active transport (i.e. sugars, caffeine). Accordingly, 352 molecules can be transferred into the coffee bean by these 353 two transport pathways, and the assumption of the existence of a specific active transport of the higher alcohol (2-354 phenyethanol) can explain the reported high rate transfer of 355 356 this compound.

#### 357 3.2. Mass transfer resistance study

358 Labelled compound contents (Butanal, Isoamyl acetate and 2-

359 Phenylethanol) at 12 hrs of transfer, studied in four media

360 (M1, M2, M3 and M4) are visualized in Fig.3.

The transferred amount of 2-phenylethanol reached  $18.8\pm1.75$   $\mu$ g/g in the green coffee beans (M1), while this amount was significantly lower in the green coffee beans with parchment (M2) (Fig.3.c.). Accordingly, and as assumed by Lee et al., (2015) and Ramírez-Martínez et al., (2013), the parchment induces a potential mass transfer resistance. However, the quantified amounts in the three media M2, M3 and M4 were 368 quite close, 11.5 $\pm$ 2.5, 12.7 $\pm$ 1.4 and 11.2 $\pm$ 0.66 µg/g, 369 respectively with no significant difference, thereby, pointing 370 out that the presence of mucilage and/or yeast and 371 fermentation mechanisms do not have a significant effect on 372 the transfer rate of 2-phenylethanol.

373 Furthermore, the isoamyl acetate content, in all conducted 374 trials (in the M1, M2, M3 and the M4 media), ranged between 375  $0.8\pm0.42$  and  $1.3\pm0.04 \mu g/g$  (fig.3.b). Based on statistical tests, 376 this variation showed no significant difference (fig.3.b). Thus, it 377 can be concluded that the parchment and the mucilage have 378 no influence on the transfer rate of this molecule. The 379 physicochemical changes occurring during the fermentation do not affect the mass transfer of this ester either. 380

381 With regards to butanal, no significant differences in the 382 concentration of this aldehyde were observed in the media M1, M2 and M3 (fig.3.a), which was around 0.6  $\mu$ g/g. Again, 383 the parchment did not show any resistance to the transfer of 384 385 this molecule. However, the butanal content quantified in the 386 M4 medium (with yeast) was significantly lower,  $0.2\pm0.03 \mu g/g$ 387 (fig.3.a). In contrast to the alcohol and the ester, the presence 388 of Saccharomyces cerevisiae LSCC1 leads to a decrease of the butanal transferred mass. In their study, Chalier et al., (2007), 389 showed that an interaction might exist between aroma 390

391 compounds and mannoprotein isolated from Saccharomyces 392 *cerevisiae* strains, which reduces their volatility; the nature of the observed interaction has not been characterized for the 393 targeted molecules in this study, but they explain in their 394 395 study that this interaction is linked to the physico-chemical 396 properties of the compound on the one hand and those of the 397 mannoproteins constituting the walls of the yeast cells on the 398 other hand. Hence, it can be assumed that the yeast, used in the M4 medium, affected the volatility of butanal. In this 399 400 context, trials were conducted to verify the yeast LSCC1 401 retention effect on the three molecules studied (section 2.4.).

402 Measurements of interaction between yeasts and the three 403 aroma compounds are presented in fig.4. As expected, the 404 volatility of butanal was significantly affected by yeast. A 405 decrease of up to 90% of this aldehyde content was observed 406 when compared to the medium without yeast (NY) (fig.4.a). 407 The explanation could be an adsorption of the molecule on the yeast cell walls. This interaction between yeast and butanal 408 409 could induce a slower transfer of this compound into coffee 410 beans during fermentation (fig.3.a).

In contrast, isoamyl acetate did not significantly interact with
yeast (fig.4.b). Chalier et al., (2007) reported that the strength
of interactions between aroma compounds and yeast cell walls

414 depends on the physicochemical nature of the volatile415 compound.

416 In addition, the 2-phenylethanol volatility was significantly 417 affected by yeast, and, in contrast to butanal, the amount increased by 30% compared to the medium without yeast. In 418 419 their study, Comuzzo et al., (2011) observed that 2-420 phenylethanol did not interact with Saccharomyces cerevisiae 421 cell walls. However, the yeast strain used in our study, was known to produce different aroma compounds, especially 422 423 higher alcohols. Thereby, the 2-phenylethanol concentration probably increased in the medium increasing the volatile 424 425 fraction in the headspace.

Thus, volatile compound transfer, governed by a concentration gradient, undergoes several deviations induced by complex physicochemical interactions between the molecule and the different transfer media. This affects their transfer from mucilage to the coffee beans during the fermentation.

The parchment, which is of a fibrous structure that is very close to wood (Ramírez-Martínez et al., 2013), shows a physical resistance and consequently, it acts as a molecular filter. Only 2-phenylethanol was held back by this barrier related to its conformation (table 2), whereas, the labelled aldehyde and ester seemed not to be retained by the

parchment. This fibrous layer is a natural coffee seed 437 protection against digesting enzymes from the gut of 438 frugivorous animals, and keep the coffee seed available to 439 germination-related metabolism after harvesting, which is 440 441 initiated by the pulp removal (De Castro & Marraccini, 2006; 442 Selmar et al., 2006). Hence, during the coffee wet treatment, 443 the biochemical composition of the coffee beans undergoes several metabolic reactions (Patui et al., 2014; Selmar et al., 444 445 2006) which occur simultaneously to molecule transfers. These 446 reactions can induce their disappearance but, at the same time, the appearance of other products. In our study, it seems 447 that only 2-phenylethanol was not affected by these reactions. 448 449 Thus, from a broad perspective, it would be interesting to 450 study the mechanism of these reactions and transfer into the 451 coffee beans and evaluate their impact on the aromatic profile 452 of the final product. Moreover, it is well known (De Castro & 453 Marraccini, 2006) that the existence of active transport may 454 accelerate the transfer rate of specific molecules into coffee 455 beans during the wet processing. In our case, this could explain the high transfer rate of 2-phenylethanol reported 456 457 throughout the kinetic study.

Even if the higher alcohols are known for their higher sensory
threshold (Dzialo et al., 2017), 2-phenylethanol seems to be an
interesting aroma compound by its high transfer rate into the

461 coffee beans during fermentation. Thereby, in their review,
462 Pereira et al., (2019) postulate that using yeast strains with
463 important higher alcohol production can enhance the sensory
464 quality of the coffee beverage, by providing floral notes
465 (Pereira et al., 2019).

However, some volatile compounds can interact with yeast,
inducing thereby a significant decrease of their transfer rate.
During our study, it seems that butanal was highly retained by
the yeasts *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* LSCC1, while, the 2phenylethanol and the isoamyl acetate were not affected.

## 471 4. Conclusion

The volatile transfer into the green coffee beans during 472 473 fermentation was highlighted and the kinetic study of three 474 labelled volatiles was established. Throughout their transfer, 475 the aroma compounds were influenced by several factors, 476 such as the parchment resistance, the interaction with the yeast cell walls and the degradation reactions into the coffee 477 478 beans. The 2-phenylethanol seemed to be an interesting aroma compound as it had the highest transfer rate compared 479 to butanal and isoamyl acetate in spite of its retention by the 480 481 parchment.

482 Thus, it was possible to conclude that all these volatile 483 compounds that can be produced by yeast during

fermentation could be transferred into the coffee beans with 484 485 different rate and concentration. This fact can enable the 486 coffee industry to modulate the coffee aromatic profile by controlling the fermentation step. In the future, it will be 487 488 necessary to follow the fate of these transferred molecules 489 throughout the processing steps (drying, roasting, and brewing) in order to evaluate the impact of the transfer of 490 491 volatile compounds on the quality of the final product using a sensorial study. 492

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# **Experimental media**



Fig.1. Schematic representation of the media used to study the transfer kinetics of labelled compounds

## **Transfer kinetics**



**Fig.2.** Mass transfer kinetics of labeled compounds into depulped coffee beans (M4) during wet-process treatment. Right vertical axis for 2-phenylethanol and left vertical axis for butanal and isoamyl acetate.

## Mass transfer resistance







**Fig.3.** Labeled compound content in coffee beans after 12h of transfer. M1: coffee beans, M2: demucilaginated coffee beans, M3: depulped coffee beans, M4: fermented depulped coffee beans. Different labels (A-B) indicate that means significantly differ at p<0.05 (based on Tukey test).

# Yeast effect on the mass transfer







**Fig.4.** Effect of yeast presence on aroma peak area in headspace between a medium with (Y) and without (NY) yeasts. Different labels (A-B) indicate that means significantly differ at p<0.05 (based on Tukey test).

| Compound/time   | Transfer rate (μg/g/h)           |                             |                                 |                           |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                 | 0-6h                             | 6-12h                       | 12-24h                          | 24-48h                    |
| Butanal         | 0,045±0,005 <sup>a</sup>         | -0,038±0,005 <sup>b</sup>   | -0,004±0,001 <sup>c</sup>       | -0,004±10 <sup>-4 c</sup> |
| Isoamyl acetate | <b>0,088±</b> 0,008 <sup>a</sup> | -0,002±3.10 <sup>-3 b</sup> | -0,015±0,02 <sup>b</sup>        | -0,008±0,009 <sup>b</sup> |
| 2-Phenylethanol | <b>0,757±</b> 0,16 <sup>a</sup>  | 0,453±0,06 <sup>ab</sup>    | <b>0,173±</b> 0,06 <sup>b</sup> | 0,161±0,01 <sup>b</sup>   |

**Table 1**. Transfer speed of labeled compounds calculated from the kinetic study.

Different labels (a-b) indicate that means significantly differ at p<0.05 (based on Tukey test).

|                                       | Butanal  | Isoamyl acetate      | 2-Phenylethanol      |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Molecular weight<br>(g/mol)           | 72,1   | 130,19               | 122,17               |
| Topological Polar<br>Surface Area (A) | 17,1.10 <sup>2</sup>   | 23,3.10 <sup>2</sup> | 20,2.10 <sup>2</sup> |
| Solubility in water<br>(mg/L at 25°C) | 71000  | 2000                 | 22200                |
| Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )          | 0,803  | 0,876                | 1,02                 |
| LogP <sup>*</sup><br>(hydrophobicity) | 0,88   | 2,25                 | 1,36                 |
| Conformation                          | and the second s | - And in             |                      |

 Table 2. Physicochemical properties of the studied molecules (PubChem, 2019)

\*LogP: partition coefficient, more the LogP>1, more the molecule is hydrophobic.