EFFECTIVENESS OF HIGHER FATTY ACIDS C₈, C₁₀ AND C₁₂, DIMETHYL DICARBONATE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE FOR INHIBITION OF RE-FERMENTATION AND MALOLOACTIC ACTIVITIES IN WINE

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Abstract


The issue of preventing the re-fermentation and protection against undesirable malolactic fermentation (MLF) in order to safe content of acids in wine is very complicated. In this paper the saturated higher fatty acids (HFA) – C₈, C₁₀ and C₁₂, dimethyl dicarbonate (DMDC) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) were tested. The re-fermentation test showed the strongest inhibition power at ratio 2:8, 1:9 and 0:10 as C₈:C₁₀ acids – 65 days without re-fermentation. MLF experiments confirmed that addition of SO₂ into the fermenting media causes rapid inhibition of lactic acid bacteria metabolic activity. Malic acid concentrations were proportionally decreasing during 6 days of experiment and at the end the content of this acid varied between 0.16 and 0.22 g/L, the only exception formed a variant with the addition of SO₂ (1.57 g/L of malic acid). After calculation of the average consumption rate of malic acid, the results showed the inhibition power – SO₂ (81.05%) followed by variant of 40 mg/L mixture of HFA (40.76%), a variant of 200 mg/L of DMDC (31.98%) and a variant of 20 mg/L mixture of HFA (12.59%). The addition of HFA can significantly reduce the dosage of other preservatives, especially SO₂. Based on results, this method can be recommend in the production of wines with residual sugar and also wines made from over-mature material to prevent undesirable MLF.

Keywords: yeast inhibition, malolactic fermentation, octanoic acid, decanoic acid, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, dimethyl dicarbonate

INTRODUCTION

Malolactic fermentation (MLF) is the second stage of winemaking for most of the red and some white wines. MLF can increase microbiological stability and enhance wine flavor and aroma (BARTOWSKY *et al*., 2002; NEHME *et al*., 2008). A wines undergoing malolactic conversion are cloudy due to the presence of bacteria and cells of dead yeasts, and may have the curious smell of buttered popcorn, due to the production of diacetyl. Wines, especially wines with residual sugar, could be considered as a hostile life medium for micro-organisms. Few of them are able to spoil these wines during storing, therefore causing irreversible organoleptic damages. The last fundamental step of winemaking to stopping and prevention of re-fermentation or start of undesirable MLF is addition of SO₂. The possibility of new fermentation during maturing in barrels or bottle ageing seems to prove the survival of yeasts a long time after the first alcoholic fermentation (DIVOL *et al*., 2006). The issue of preventing or stopping of MLF in order to safe content of acids in wine is very complicated (SON *et al*., 2009; RODRIGUEZ-NOGALES *et al*., 2013). Especially in over-mature material with higher pH where improved growth of lactic acid bacteria can occur. Current methods used in practice, such as cooling and filtration, SO₂ doses or lysozym treating, leading to increasing costs and are undoubtedly very laborious and particularly
Higher saturated fatty acids (mg/L) were studied for their inhibitory effect on alcoholic and malolactic fermentation many years ago (VIEGAS et al., 1991; VIEGAS et al., 1995). Some of the higher fatty acids (HFA) with 16 or 18 carbons, C₁₆ and C₁₈, are fermentation activators. On the contrary, other HFA with shorter chain, in particular acids, hexanoic C₆, octanoic C₈, decanoic C₁₀ and dodecanoic acid C₁₂ have fungicidal and antibacterial properties (VIEGAS et al., 1991; VIEGAS et al., 1995; CARRETE et al., 2002). They are made by yeasts themselves during alcoholic fermentation and may contribute to its difficulties in completing the course (SACORREIA et al., 1983; ALEXANDRÉ et al., 1996). Strong properties to inhibit yeasts and lactic acid bacteria (GARBAY et al., 1995; GUILLOUX-BENATIER et al., 1998) with the current potential for treatment of wine against re-fermentation is likely to offer a mixture of saturated higher fatty acids (HFA) C₈, C₁₀ and C₁₂ (BAROŇ et al., 2011). HFA are currently not used for inhibition of malolactic fermentation and the possibly prevention of re-fermentation in wine technology and wine storage. Published works demonstrate the properties of HFA. Most experiments were performed in synthetic media, not in real musts or wines.

This paper is aimed on inhibition of malolactic fermentation and the possibility of prevention of re-fermentation in wine technology and wine storage. The aim is to show the use of HFA, which may pose a sparing and safe alternative to this process.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Re-fermenting test**

Wine for re-fermenting test was made from sterilized must with inoculated yeasts *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (ZYMAFLORE VL1) and alcoholic fermentation was stopped by cooling and SO₂ addition. Each flask volume 750 ml (n = 2), was treated as outlined in Tab. I. Experiment was performed by room temperature about 22 °C. To determine the effect of HFA on the re-fermentation was selected wine divided into twelve variant (n = 2). Within eleven variant was added a mixture of HFA, one variant served as a control. The bottles were closed only with temporary fermentation stopper and stored at room temperature in order to support of re-fermentation. As a detection of re-fermentation in the bottle was used sensory testing and controlling of carbon dioxide production. Time of re-fermentation was set as the average of two bottles rounded to the day.

Wine for MLF test, each flask volume 750 ml (n = 2), was inoculated with commercial strain of bacteria *Viniflora Oenos* – Christian Hansen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I: Content of individual HFA in re-fermentation test</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Higher saturated fatty acids (mg/L)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Variant</td>
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<td>C₈</td>
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<td>C₁₀</td>
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<th>II: Parameters of treated wines</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chemical characteristic</strong></td>
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<td>Alcoholic degree %, ethanol (v/v)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Titratable acidity (g/L tartaric acid)</td>
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<tr>
<td>pH</td>
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<td>Residual sugar (g/L)</td>
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<td>Free SO₂ (mg/L)</td>
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<td>Total SO₂ (mg/L)</td>
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In view of its properties, especially the possibility of reducing the use of SO₂, DMDC is currently being tested with a view to registration in the OIV International Code of Winemaking Practices (COSTA et al., 2008; EDER 2011).
Effectiveness of Higher Fatty Acids C8, C10 and C12, Dimethyl Dicarbonate and Sulphur Dioxide for Inhibition of Yeasts. For inhibition was used a mixture of HFA C8, C10 (2:8) dissolved in 70% vol. ethanol, with 100 ml ethanol solution containing 10 g of this mixture, C12, DMDC and SO2. Analysis of basic parameters was performed as outlined in Tab. II.

Calculation of consumption rates
Malic acid consumption kinetic can be deduced from general consumption kinetics, since most of the available models assume malic acid utilization equal to function of time t,

\[
\frac{dM_t}{dt} = f(t) \\
\frac{dM_t}{dt} = kM_t \\
\ln M_t = \ln M_0 - kt
\]

where \( M_t \) represents concentration of malic acid, \( M_0 \) and \( M_t \) represent malic concentration at time zero and \( t \), respectively. Consumption rates \( k_i \) induced by used treatments were calculated according to Eq. (1) for each day. Average consumption rate was calculated from individual consumption rates.

Analytical determinations
HPLC estimation of acids and sugars
Must samples were centrifuged (3000 × g; 6 min) and diluted with 10× demineralised water. The estimation was performed by means of IC in the Shimadzu LC-10A system plus the thermostat (column oven) CTO-10Acvp set at 60 °C. The manual injection Rheodyne valve had a loop with the volume of 20 μl. The separation was performed in an isocratic regime with the mobile phase of 2 mM sulphuric acid at the flow rate of 0.75 ml/min in the column Watrex Polymer IEX H form 10 μm; 250 × 8 mm with 10 × 8 mm. Spectrophotometric detection was performed by the DAD detector SPD-MAvp. Organic acids were measured at 210 nm. The quantification of the individual analyses was performed on the basis of external calibration.

Statistical evaluation
The results obtained were statistically analysed using the statistical program STATISTICA 10. Evaluated were the means and standard deviations using ANOVA with subsequent Tukey’s test at significance level of \( p < 0.01 \).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Re-fermentation test
First experiment was carried out with re-fermenting wine (see Materials and Methods). The obtained results (Fig. 1) demonstrate the inhibitory effect of HFA on yeasts initiating the re-fermentation. While the control sample started to re-ferment after 25 days, a sample with addition of HFA (variants 10, 11, 12) resisted few times longer – 65 days. The enhancement of stability against re-fermentation by octanoic and decanoic acid was quantified at different ratios of C8 and C10. Decanoic acid was found to be more toxic than octanoic acid, which correlates with the higher liposolubility of its undissociated form (VIEGAS et al., 1997; SACORREIA et al., 1986). Results showed the strongest inhibition power of ratio 2:8, 1:9 and 0:10 as C8:C10. Higher fatty acids dramatically reduce the need of SO2 addition in stored and bottled wines with residual sugar (BARON et al., 2011).

Inhibition of MLF
For the MLF experiment the tested wine was inoculated by lactic bacteria (see Materials and Methods). After the beginning of MLF, the wine...
was divided into ten variants (n = 2) and treated by different concentrations of HFA mixture \( C_8, C_{10} \) (2:8), individual \( C_{12}, \) SO\(_2\), a DMDC at two doses. Mixture of HFA was chosen as the base of re-fermentation test. The evolution of major organic acids was monitored during six days and results are shown in Table III and Fig. 2.

Our attention was focused on four important organic acids – malic acid, lactic acid, citric acid and acetic acid. The content of acetic acid in the monitored variants differed minimally. Significant inhibition of MLF occurred in the variant with 60 mg/L SO\(_2\), where the lower content (1.01 g/L) of lactic acid was observed and citric acid content was significantly higher (0.22 g/L) (Tab. III). Special attention was paid to the content of malic acid, which significantly affects the taste and quality of wine, while not only its final concentration is important, but also the kinetic of its degradation (UGLIANO et al., 2003; HERNANDEZ-ORTE et al., 2009; EDER, 2011). Malic acid values were proportionally decreasing during the experiment and at the end of the experimental period the content of this acid varied between 0.16 and 0.22 g/L, the only exception was again formed at the variant with the addition of SO\(_2\) (Fig. 2). This was probably due to a greater inhibition of lactic acid bacteria with SO\(_2\).

To have more precise idea about the kinetic of malic acid degradation and so the proportion of inhibition, average consumption rates were calculated (see Materials and Methods). Tab. IV shows data gained from the calculation with standard deviation. After six days the strongest inhibition properties against lactic acid bacteria were investigated in the case of SO\(_2\), which was the only variant where the MLF was definitely stopped after experiment.

The inhibition power was compared and calculated by Tukey’s test, \( p < 0.01 \) (Tab. IV). All the variants were divided into 3 groups. For a simple quantification, the ratio between the average consumption rates and the control variant was calculated in percentages. The MLF experiment showed the highest inhibition power in the case...
of SO₂ (81.05%) followed by the variant of 40 mg/L mixture of HFA (40.76%), a variant of 200 mg/L of DMDC (31.98%) and the variant of 20 mg/L mixture of HFA (12.59%). The lowest inhibition power was evaluated in the case of 2 and 4 mg/L mixture of HFA (−3.22%, resp. −1.82%), which can be considered as stimulants. The experiment showed a significant inhibition power of HFA and DMDC (EDER 2012). The inhibitory effect of other variants on the lactic acid bacteria was not significant.

### CONCLUSIONS

The prevention of re-fermentation and undesirable MLF in order to save the content of residual sugar resp. organic acids in wine is very complicated. HFA were shown as a useful complementary method for SO₂ dosing during wine storage. The procedure uses a mixture of HFA reducing the labor intensity of wines with residual sugar. And according to today’s requirements on SO₂ reduction, especially in the case of bio-wines, this mixture could be used very effectively.

The most effective can be the addition of HFA in combination with reduced dose of SO₂ in home-winemaking conditions, where it is not possible to use expensive operations commonly used in larger wineries (cooling down, sterile filtration). HFA protect wines containing residual sugar against re-fermentation and they can also effectively increase the wholesomeness of the product.

In the case of the inhibition of lactic bacteria by HFA there was found out that permissible concentrations are not sufficient for stopping the MLF. However, in combination of HFA with SO₂, there could be sufficient synergistic inhibitory effect when using a lower dose of SO₂. Simultaneously the wine can be protected, at least partly, to prevent unwanted MLF.

### SUMMARY

This work is aimed on inhibition of wine re-fermentation by mixture of saturated higher fatty acids (HFA) and comparison of HFA – C₈, C₁₀, and C₁₂, dimethyldicarbonate (DMDC) and SO₂ efficiency against malolactic activity.

In re-fermentation test was found out the same and the strongest inhibition power of ratio 2:8, 1:9 and 0:10 as C₈:C₁₀ acids – 65 days without re-fermentation compared to 25 days as a control variant. MLF experiment has confirmed that addition of SO₂ into the fermenting media causes rapidly inhibition of lactic bacteria metabolic activity. Malic acid values were proportionally decreasing during 6 days of experiment and at the end was the content of this acid between 0.16 to 0.22 g/L, the only exception formed a variant with the addition of SO₂ (1.57 g/L) where was MLF completely stopped. In the case of HFA and DMDC, kinetic of malic acid degradation showed some inhibition power which was not sufficient to MLF stopping. After calculation of malic acid consumption rate results showed the inhibition power – SO₂ (81.05%) followed by variant of 40 mg/L HFA mixture (40.76%), 200 mg/L DMDC (31.98%) and 20 mg/L HFA mixture (12.59%). Addition of HFA can significantly reduce the dosage of other preservatives especially SO₂. Optimized properties against re-fermentation with the current potential for treatment of wine to lactic acid bacteria is likely to offer a mixture of HFA C₈-C₁₀ (2:8) dissolved in 70% vol. ethanol, with 100 ml ethanol solution containing 10g of this mixture. Such a mixture is prepared in a liquid state and there is unlikely to create a solid phase at low temperatures, which makes it very easy to dose in practice. The advantage of the proposed mix is high fungicidal
activity of C₈ and C₁₀ acids, and the inhibitory effect against yeasts and lactic acid bacteria. Secondary purpose of C₈ acid is to increase the solubility of C₁₀ acid. Addition of HFA can significantly reduce the dosage of other preservatives such as SO₂.

Described method is now in the Czech Republic three-years testing program under the auspices of the OIV (The International Organisation of Vine and Wine).

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