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Wine Spoilage Yeasts: Control Strategy

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Abstract

Traditionally in winemaking, sulphur dioxide (SO₂) is chemically the most widely used for microflora control as antimicrobial preservative. Other tested compounds for selective yeast control are sorbic and benzoic acids. Herein, we discuss the effectiveness and the application of traditional and novel treatments and biotechnologies for chemical and biological control of wine spoilage yeasts. The versatility of the killer toxins and the antimicrobial properties of natural compounds such as carvacrol, essential oils and bioactive peptides will be considered. Some of the wine spoilage yeasts that are intended to control belong to the genera *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Saccharomyces* and *Dekkera/Brettanomyces*, but also the non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts species dominating the first phase of fermentation (*Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Hansenula anomala*, *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*, *Wickerhamomyces anomalus*) and some others, such as *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, depending on the kind of wine to be produced.

Keywords: spoilage yeasts, essential oils, bioactive peptides, winemaking, wine, emerging biotechnologies, killer toxins, monitoring techniques

1. Introduction

Ever since the wild yeast colonies are controlled in grape musts, the fermentation has produced wine with differentiated organoleptic attributes. The control over yeast colonies during the entire winemaking process has given the winemaker the possibility of moulding these characteristics towards producing wine with better quality parameters.

Even though yeasts are responsible for transforming grape must into wine through fermentation, there are yeasts capable of spoiling it (**Figure 1**). Spoiling yeasts are, in most cases,

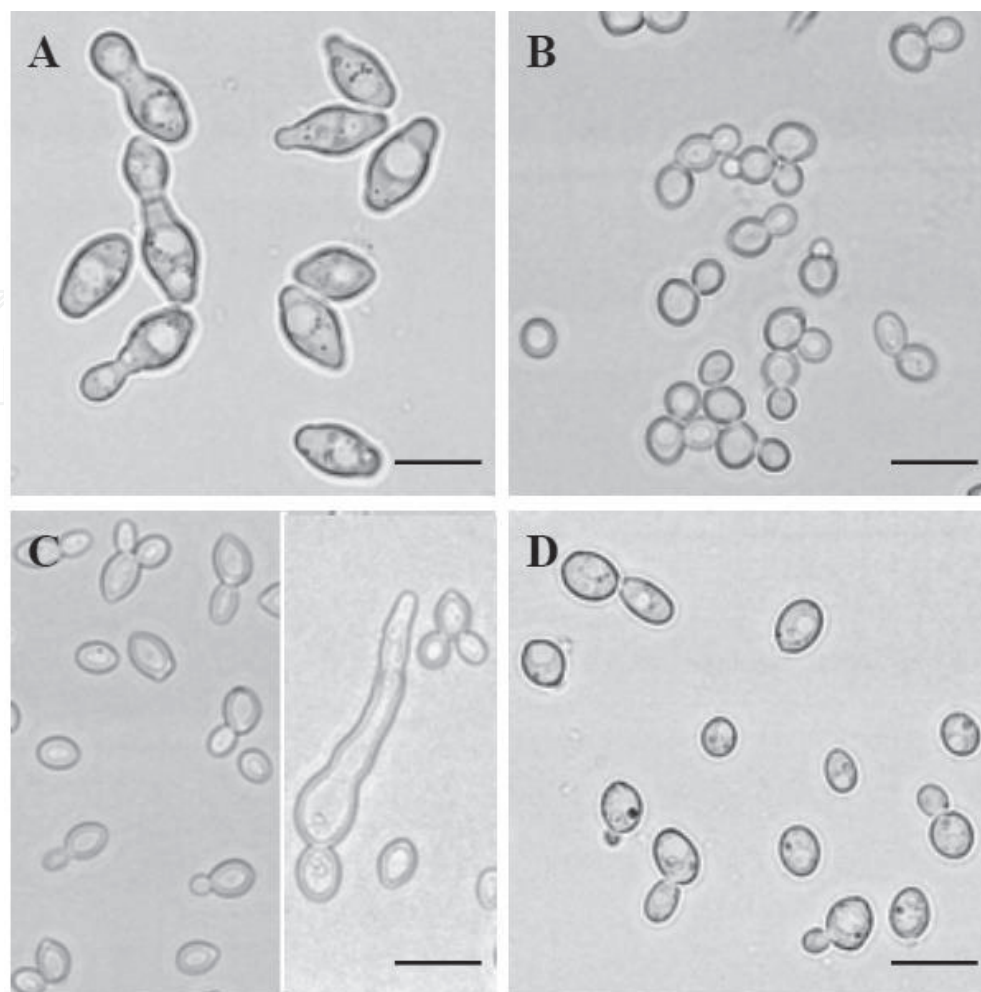


Figure 1. Optical microscopic images of some spoilage yeasts found in wine. (A) *S. ludwigii*; (B) *Z. rouxii*; (C) *Dekkera* spp.; (D) *P. anomala*. Bar scale: 10 μm .

resistant to harsh conditions such as high ethanol concentration, relatively low pH and lethal concentration of sulphites (SO_2) or dimethyl dicarbonate (DMDC) used as antimicrobial agents.

Some yeast genera can be considered as spoilage microorganisms due to their undesirable implantation in food in which they can cause nutritional and sensory quality degradation and consequently lead to major economic losses. Even their implication in relation to public health is currently under suspicion [1]. **Table 1** summarizes some yeast genera known as wine spoilage that also spoils certain food products, particularly specifying the main compounds affecting quality and the effect produced together with potential health hazard.

The uncontrolled use and misuse of antibiotics has caused increasing resistance in a broad group of pathogenic microorganisms, including food-borne pathogens, which, in addition to resisting the effect of antibiotics, are able to survive the processes of food preservation [16].

In this chapter, different technologies and treatments for the control of spoilage yeasts have been revised. These techniques were split into early and emerging technologies in accordance

Yeast species	Food product	Spoilage compounds	Effect observed	Health hazard
<i>Zygosaccharomyces rouxii</i>	Products with 50% sugar [2, 3]	Alcohol, esters [3]	Gas production: bubbling and package expansion [3]	
	Sweet wines [4]		Refermentation and CO ₂ production [4]	
	Mould-ripened soft cheeses [5]			
	Fruit juices, sauces, carbonated soft drinks, salad dressings, ketchup [3, 6]	Alcohol, esters [3]	Gas production: bubbling and package expansion [3]	
<i>Brettanomyces bruxellensis</i>	Bulk, barrel matured and bottled wines [7, 8]	4-ethylphenol, 4-ethylguaiacol, acetic acid [7] Tetrahydropyridines [8]	Off aromas, cloudiness formation in sparkling wine, mousy aroma [7] Unpleasant mousy and medicinal taints [8]	
<i>Pichia anomala</i>	Dairy and baking products, beer, high salt environments and silage [9]			No restriction on handling and no risk to healthy persons [9]
	Lactic acid-rich products [10]			
	Wine, winemaking [7, 8]	Ethyl acetate [7] Acetaldehyde, esters, acetic acid [8]	Oxidation of ethanol [8]	
<i>Pichia guilliermondii</i>	Grape juice [7]	4-ethylphenol [7]	Off-odours barnyard-like or horsey [7]	
	Soft drinks [6]			
<i>Pichia membranaefaciens</i>	Mould-ripened soft cheeses [5]	Acetaldehyde [11]	Chalky film layer [11]	
<i>Saccharomyces ludwigii</i>	Food products with SO ₂ as antiseptic [2]			
	Bottled wines [7]		Spoilage by sediment or cloudiness formation [7]	
	Wine [12]	High acetoin level [12]	Flocculent sediment [11]	
<i>Candida tropicalis</i>	Fresh fruits: orange (<i>Citrus sinensis</i>) and pineapple (<i>Ananas comosus</i>) [13]			Candidiasis has not been transmitted by food products [5]
	Grated raw carrots [14]	CO ₂ [14]	Increase in exudate and softening [14]	

Yeast species	Food product	Spoilage compounds	Effect observed	Health hazard
<i>Hanseniaspora/</i> <i>Kloeckera</i>	Fresh must [15]			
	Various storage products [2]	Low ethanol concentration [2]	Undesirable fermentation products [2]	
	Must under fermentation [7]	Acetate production [7]	Aroma modification at early fermentation stage in winemaking [7]	

Table 1. Some of the most common yeasts often found in grape, musts and wines that can be considered spoilage yeast species in a wide range of food products.

with the novelty of their application in winemaking industry. A brief review of monitoring techniques as a tool for improving quality control in the winery is also included.

2. Technologies for spoilage yeast control

2.1. Early technologies

In the food industry, the control of the spoilage and pathogenic microorganisms was traditionally carried out by means of using thermal processes, to ensure the partial or total elimination of the microflora present [17, 18]. Together with an aseptic and hermetic packaging, it was possible to effectively extend the shelf life of the food products ensuring at the same time its microbiological safety [19, 20]. The main drawback of this kind of inactivation processes is the damage in organoleptic quality due to high processing temperatures. Another traditional way to fight against unwanted microorganisms is the addition of natural or chemically synthesized preservatives, such as organic acids (ascorbic, citric, benzoic, sorbic, etc.) and salts (potassium sorbate, sodium benzoate, sodium metabisulphite, etc.) [21, 22]. It is also possible to limit undesirable microbial development by modifying certain environmental parameters (temperature, pH, water activity, nutrient availability, toxic compounds, etc.) during the production process in order to hinder its growth. In the field of oenology, the ethanol tolerance is believed to be one of the main factors limiting yeast growth [23]. In addition, some of the antimicrobials most commonly used in winemaking are sulphur dioxide (SO₂), dimethyl dicarbonate and sorbic acid.

Yeast species resistant to one preservative also tend to be resistant to others with similar chemical composition. Such is the case of benzoic acid, sorbic acid and sulphur dioxide [24]. Also, sorbic acid resistance has demonstrated to be highly correlated to ethanol resistance [25]. In general, yeast resistance to preservatives seems to be strain dependent and also dependent on the physiological characteristics of the cells [6, 26].

Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) is the chemical additive mainly used in wineries as antioxidant and preservative to control bacteria, moulds and spoilage yeasts [11, 27] considering that its anti-septic property depends on the pH of the media [28]. However, in the last decades, its use is

being reconsidered due to increasing allergic concerns. Researchers are looking for alternative methods to reduce the doses commonly added to grape juice and wine [29, 30].

High doses of SO₂ are needed to control the growth of *Dekkera bruxellensis* in red wine. Barata et al. [23] suggested an average value of 1 mg/L molecular sulphur dioxide to prevent *D. bruxellensis* development during red wine maturation in oak barrels. Similarly, *Saccharomyces ludwigii* and *Zygosaccharomyces bailii* have a strong resistance to SO₂ and, in addition, *Z. bailii* also to organic acids [24].

Due to long-term exposure to SO₂, some wine yeasts have developed certain defence mechanisms to fight against this antimicrobial [28]. The ability of *Brettanomyces bruxellensis* to enter a viable but not culturable (VBNC) state as a survival strategy induced by the presence of SO₂ has been proved [31]. Molecular SO₂ levels as low as 0.2–0.4 mg/L can induce the VBNC cells in different *B. bruxellensis* strains (tested in a synthetic wine medium) [32]. However, the metabolism of this spoilage yeast is maintained, so synthesis and release of volatile phenols continues even under this non-reproductive state [32]. Benito et al. [33] claimed that 20 mg/L of free SO₂ is the minimum concentration required for inhibiting the enzymatic activity of *B. bruxellensis* at pH 3.5.

Dimethyl dicarbonate (DMDC) is a dimethyl ester of dicarbonic acid used as cold sterilant in food industry. It is legally authorized in the USA [34], Australia [35] and Europe [36] as chemical preservative for ensuring the microbiological stability of wines. DMDC antimicrobial effectiveness is maximal at low pH, high ethanol content and low microbial population [37]. At permissible usage levels, DMDC is more effective against yeast than bacteria or moulds [38]. The main mechanism of action of DMDC is to inactivate cellular enzymes such as glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase and alcohol dehydrogenase through reaction with nucleophilic groups (imidazoles, amines and thiols) [39]. DMDC can be used to prevent spoilage yeasts growth in wines [40] as well as to stop alcoholic fermentation in the production of sweet wines [41] or to disinfect musts by removing native flora present [42].

In relation to their specific effect on spoilage yeasts, *Z. bailii*, *S. ludwigii* and *Lachancea thermotolerans* were found to be very sensitive to DMDC; complete cell death (initial population of 10⁶ CFU/mL) can be achieved with a dose of 100–200 mg/L DMDC when added to red wine (12% v/v and pH 3.5) [43]. Later experiments carried by Zuehlke et al. [44] confirmed the toxicity of DMDC against *Z. bailii*. On the contrary, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* can survive in the presence of higher concentrations of DMDC (minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of ≥300 mg/L). Moreover, the addition of DMDC in wines at the maximum dose legally permitted in Europe (200 mg/L; [36]) was proved to be ineffective against lactic acid and acetic acid bacteria [43]. However, resistance to DMDC highly depends on the media composition, since the amount needed to inhibit *Z. bailii* and *S. ludwigii* (10⁶ cells/mL) when DMDC is added to grape must is higher, around 400 mg/L [42]. Based on the different yeast sensitivity towards DMDC, the use of this compound could be suggested as a technology to favour the microbial development of certain yeast species during the initial stages of alcoholic fermentation. The dominance of the selected yeast can be ensured if the inoculum is added 12 h after grape must treatment with DMDC [42].

Its use before the end of fermentations is not recommended since the antimicrobial effect of DMDC can be also exerted against the fermenting species such as *S. cerevisiae* and *Oenococcus oeni* [40]. These same authors stated that the action of DMDC added during vinification has a transitory nature, so the preservation effect does not last with time and a fractional dosage might be needed, especially if the goal is to protect the wine during barrel maturation [45].

There also exists a synergistic activity to increase the inactivation effect against wine yeast and bacteria between DMDC and sulphur dioxide in both potassium and sodium metabisulphite salts [40, 43]. In this regard, the use of DMDC allows a significant reduction of sulphur content in grape juice and semi-sweet wines [46].

Regarding health issues, DMDC does not represent any threat since it is naturally, rapidly and completely hydrolysed to methanol and carbon dioxide in aqueous solutions [46]. Notwithstanding, a disadvantage of the use of DMDC in winemaking is its potential toxicity during handling [39].

With relation to the use of weak acids, benzoic and sorbic acids are able to control spoilage yeasts in wines when used in certain concentrations. The lipophilic character of benzoic and sorbic acids allows their diffusion in its undissociated form through cell membranes [24]. However, so far, benzoic acid is not authorized for use in wine [47].

Z. bailii is a wine spoilage yeast species highly resistant to commonly used preservatives such as benzoic and sorbic acids [48]. Similarly, *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii* is an osmophilic yeast responsible for spoilage in high sugar content beverages. Among the chemical compounds with antimicrobial properties used in food products, potassium sorbate, sodium benzoate, dimethyl dicarbonate and vanillin showed good results to control the growth of *Z. rouxii* in concentrated grape juice [26]. After applying a mathematical model, a maximum inhibitory effect with average growth reduction of 40% was estimated using each of the four preservatives alone with the following doses: potassium sorbate (>4.7 mM), sodium benzoate (>10.4 mM), dimethyl dicarbonate (>1 mM) and vanillin (>30 mM).

B. bruxellensis has also a strong resistance to benzoic and sorbic acids. The required sorbic acid dose to arrest its growth and its enzymatic activity exceeds long the legal limit in wine (250 mg/L) [33]. And as it was previously mentioned, benzoic acid is still forbidden as wine additive. According to Loureiro and Malfeito-Ferreira [49], *B. bruxellensis* can stand up to 950 mg/L of sorbic acid at pH 3.5.

Among the physicochemical parameters that can be handled in the cellar, the storage temperature and the level of ethanol in wine together can exert a synergistic limiting effect on the growth of the wine spoilage yeast *B. bruxellensis*. The optimal combination range of both parameters to halt the proliferation of these microorganisms is above 14% v/v ethanol content and below 12°C storage temperature [50]. Similarly, trials in synthetic media revealed that *D. bruxellensis* proliferation can be hindered by ethanol concentrations above 14.5–15.0% (v/v) [23]. According to Couto et al. [51], the temperature-time binomial necessary for the thermal destruction of *Dekkera/Brettanomyces* yeast cells largely depends on the ethanol and phenolic contents, particularly ferulic acid, of the wine. Significant reductions in population of contaminated wine samples (initial inoculum of approximately 1×10^7 CFU mL⁻¹) can be achieved with temperatures above 35°C. It is worth mentioning that *B. bruxellensis* behaves differently in

white and red wines, showing less development in white wines [23]. In addition, SO₂ requirements may be reduced with low storage temperatures, as the optimal growth temperature for *Brettanomyces* is 25–28°C [52]. These authors provided a limiting range of below 15°C and above 0.4 mg/L molecular SO₂ for controlling spoilage by *Brettanomyces* in stored red wines, although complete eradication cannot be ensured with these conditions.

2.2. Emerging technologies

2.2.1. High hydrostatic pressure

The high hydrostatic pressure (HHP) treatment is a non-thermal process used to inhibit pathogenic microorganisms including spoilage microbes as well as enzymes [53]. According to these authors, the food products that are treated do not change nutritional or modify their sensory quality. The HHP uses pressure-transmitting liquids (water, ethanol solutions, sodium benzoate solutions, etc.) to homogeneously transfer pressure to the food sample [54]; the process may be batch, semi-continuous or continuous. The use of HHP is also expected to increase the shelf life [55] of a wide range of food products able to be treated including meat, eggs, vegetables, seafood [53], fruits such as sweet cherries [56] or mango pulp [57], juices [55, 58] and Serrano ham [59], among others.

In the winemaking industry, the HHPs have been used to reduce or inhibit the presence of spoilage yeasts such as *B. bruxellensis*. In this matter, Van Wyk and Silva [60] have used 200 MPa for 3 min achieving a reduction of up to 5.8 log but higher than 6 log when increasing the pressure to 400 MPa during a much shorter period of time (5 seg). These parameters were also evaluated by González-Arenzana et al. [61] but also considering pH and amount of ethanol in wines; high ethanol and high pH needed less pressure (100 MPa) to inactivate *B. bruxellensis* cells, while at lower ethanol and lower pH the pressure used was higher (200 MPa). The HHP could also be used as a treatment for grapes in order to reduce wild yeast populations in order to be able to use yeast starters [62]; HHP has shown to increase pigment extraction and ethanol and methanol increase in wines after treatment. In the case of beer pasteurization, the use of 600 MPa allows beer with different ethanol content to have more than 7 log reductions of *S. cerevisiae* within 5 s [63].

2.2.2. Pulsed light irradiation

The pulsed light irradiation is a technique used to inactivate microorganisms in food products. The pulses are stored electricity in UV lamps that do not contain mercury but xenon [64], released in very short periods of time (fractions of millionths or thousandths of a second) that are rich in UV-C light (from 200 to 280 nm in the spectrum) [65]. This sterilization technique can cause DNA damage in the same way that continuous UV light does, nonetheless irradiation with pulsed light may also induce distortion in cell membranes and vacuoles [66]; therefore, the pulsed light irradiation may be considered an improved version of the UV treatment [64].

Pulsed light has been evaluated in the last decade as an efficient technique against foodborne spoilage microorganisms in commercial and fresh fruit juices using pulsed light against *S. cerevisiae* and pathogenic bacteria [67], or apple juices [68] where the combination of pulsed

light with ultrasound has been evaluated as an alternative to inactivate *S. cerevisiae*: fresh strawberries [69] with reductions of 1 log colonies of yeast and microfungi lengthening shelf life 2 days; cured meat products [70] against pathogenic bacteria. Nevertheless, there are studies on the use of pulsed light on several food products; in wine or in the winemaking industry the evaluation of this technique appears to be scarce. The use of pulsed light might not be limited to just inactivating spoilage yeast in grapes and musts but also as a technique to potentially improve polyphenols extraction during maceration, thus increasing pigment compounds in wine.

2.2.3. Electric pulses

The electric pulses (EPs) are a method used for food preservation that avoids the use of chemical compounds as well as the use of thermal treatments [71]. Thus, it can be considered a cold temperature treatment that may preserve foodborne properties.

Hülsheger et al. [72] demonstrated that EPs have different effect on microorganisms. Yeasts and Gram-positive bacteria are more resistant than Gram-negative bacteria to the disruption caused by cellular structures by low-energy pulses while most of the microorganisms (>99%) die with high-energy pulses. The colonies were also more susceptible to die at logarithmic growth phase than when in steady state. Besides the growth phase, Gásková et al. [73] have shown that there are other factors involved in the efficiency of electric pulses for killing yeasts; such factors include the amplitude and the duration of the pulses, the size of the yeast cells and the temperature and conductivity of the media where the yeasts grow.

Electric pulses have been used lately in the production of fruit juices for its efficacy in microbial reduction and for keeping their sensorial and nutritional properties [74]. The use of EP to eliminate spoilage yeasts such as *S. cerevisiae* in orange juice requires less intensity pulses than those to inactivate other pathogens microorganisms such as the bacteria *Escherichia coli* or *Listeria innocua* [75].

The effect of EP could be combined with the use of other antimicrobial technology like the lyticase digestion; the combined effect of both techniques may be a biotechnological application for spoilage yeast control since the use of mild EP (2–4.5 kV/cm) affects the cell-wall porosity and therefore lower doses of lyticase are needed to effectively inactivate *S. carlsbergensis*, *Kluyveromyces lactis* and *K. marxianus* [76].

Biotechnology applications of the electric pulses or the electroporation, other than spoilage yeasts control, may include genetic transformation of cells by incorporation of foreign DNA, extraction of intracellular metabolites and biomass drying [71].

2.2.4. Natural extracts

The use of antimicrobials extracted from nature such as chitosan, essential oils (active ingredients: eugenol, allicin, carvacrol, thymol and limonene), spices or nisin is very widespread in food preservation [21], but the limits of its antifungal activity and their potential applications as winemaking additives remain to be further explored.

Chitosan (β -1,4-D-glucosamine) is a linear heteropolysaccharide obtained by deacetylation of chitin. The high density of amino groups present in its structure makes chitosan a bioactive polymer [77]. This polysaccharide with antimicrobial activity is found in nature being part of the exoskeletons of arthropods, diatoms and algae, and the cell wall of some fungi (particularly zygomycetes) [78]. In a study carried out by Rojo et al. [26], where a dose of 300 mg/L of chitosan was added to a high sugar culture media in order to assess its inhibition properties to control the wine spoilage yeast *Z. rouxii*, it was found that with such a high dose of chitosan, tripling the allowable dose in wines (100 mg/L), no inhibition effect exists. Previously, *Z. rouxii* had been already reported as sensitive yeast to chitosan (completely inactivated by 100–400 mg/L), but this result was only based on the study of one strain isolated from a spoiled carbonated beverage [79]. Similarly, *S. ludwigii* has been identified as yeast very resistant to chitosan (5 g/L of chitosan was required to inactivate *S. ludwigii*). The minimum inhibitory concentration for *Brettanomyces/Dekkera* ranges from 0.2 to 0.5 mg/mL of chitosan, depending on the molecular weight [80]. Low-molecular-weight chitosan has higher antifungal properties. With respect to impact on sensory quality, the addition of chitosan may adversely affect the colour of the wine, mainly through a reduction of the colour intensity [80]. Moreover, Gómez-Rivas et al. [77] observed that in mixed fermentations *B. bruxellensis* and *B. intermedius* are more sensitive to chitosan than *S. cerevisiae*. Taillandier et al. [81] have also tested the use of chitosan of fungal origin to control *B. bruxellensis* in winemaking and concluded that its mechanism of action is a complex combination of both physical adsorption on cell wall and the biological interaction by changing permeability of cell membrane, together with an observed effect on the growing rate and the physiological state of *B. bruxellensis*. Petrova et al. [82] also reported on the efficacy of chitosan as strategy to control *B. bruxellensis* development in red wines, with an average reduction of 3 logs in the culturability. It has been proved that when applied in the vineyard chitosan can act as an inducer of the plant defence system, mainly by enhancing the polyphenolic phytoalexins synthesis, and therefore it represents a useful protection treatment against powdery mildew infection [83]. Chitosan can be also used as natamycin carrier to protect the cheese surface from fungal contamination and thus extend its shelf life [84]. It is also possible to use microencapsulation techniques with chitosan to dose oily compounds, such as essential oils, with the additional advantage of protecting the active ingredient (e.g. limonene) and thus preserving its antimicrobial properties [85].

S. cerevisiae has demonstrated strong resistant to chitosan, doses above 2 g/L are needed to fully inhibit it. Conversely, *B. bruxellensis* seems to be very susceptible to this natural extract, 0.2 g/L can effectively inactivate it. *Hanseniaspora uvarum* and *Z. bailii*, other spoilage wine yeasts, can be also inhibited by chitosan with 0.4 g/L [86]. However, all these results correspond to growth inhibition assays in laboratory media. As expected, these authors observed that the antimicrobial effect of chitosan is less under winemaking conditions. Regarding the performance of alcoholic fermentation, a slight delay in the beginning of the fermentation was observed, but without major repercussions [86].

Among the essential oils extracted from plants, those from cinnamon, clove, garlic, onion, oregano and thyme are the inhibitoriest against food spoilage yeasts [87]. Antimicrobial activity of these compounds is well documented [88].

Eugenol is the main component of clove oil ($\approx 85\%$). So far, eugenol has proven to be effective as antibacterial and antifungal in several food products [89]. Both eugenol and thymol act on the membrane and cell wall, causing cell lysis [90]. These same authors suggested the use of eugenol and thymol as lysing agents to extract the genomic DNA from yeast cell instead of using zymolyase and sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS). However, according to Kubo et al. [91] eugenol alone may not respond as effective antimicrobial against *Z. bailii* and *S. cerevisiae*, since the concentration required for ensuring the fungicidal effect is quite high ($800\text{ }\mu\text{g/mL}$).

Carvacrol and thymol are phenolic compounds being part of the essential oil from oregano and thyme [92]. According to Chavan and Tupe [93], low concentrations of carvacrol and thymol ($\leq 64\text{ mg/L}$; used independently) are effective in limiting the growth of several wine spoilage yeasts, including *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*, *Z. rouxii*, *S. pombe*, *Debaryomyces hansenii* and *D. bruxellensis*. Results for minimum inhibitory concentration values were comparable or even better than those of potassium metabisulphite. The antifungal mechanism of these two essential oils' active ingredients is based on the membrane damage and leakage of cytoplasmic content, thus increasing permeability.

As for allicin (diallyl thiosulphinate), it is the main bioactive component of garlic extract [94]. It is well known for its antioxidant, antibacterial and antifungal activities [95] and also for its anticancer activity [96, 97]. The main mechanism involved in the antimicrobial effect of allicin is based on its rapid reaction with thiol-containing proteins [94]. Thus, allicin can regulate the activity of enzymes containing very reactive or unshielded SH groups. With relation to its potent antifungal properties, allicin is effective against a wide range of yeasts, among them *S. pombe*, *S. cerevisiae* [98], *Aspergillus* spp. [99] and *Candida* spp. [100]. It also affects the synthesis of mycotoxins and inhibits the germination of spores as well as the growth of the hyphae [100]. Yoshida et al. [98] set the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of allicin in 5 mg/mL for *S. pombe* and 10 mg/mL for *S. cerevisiae*. Moreover, chitosan and garlic extract, used independently, have also shown promising results as treatments for the control of fungal diseases of the vine due to pruning [101]. In the medical field, allicin and its derivatives have been proposed as antifungal prophylactic due to their strong efficacy in inhibiting microbial development [102]. However, further studies are still required to confirm the potential therapeutic use of allicin [103].

Despite their interesting antimicrobial properties, there still exist some limitations to the use of some of these natural extracts such as their solubility in water, their susceptibility to oxidation (part of its effectiveness is lost) and the impact on sensory attributes [21]. A possible solution to the low water solubility of some natural extracts is their transformation into nanoemulsions [104, 105] or the use of nanoencapsulation techniques to protect their antimicrobial properties [106].

The inhibition activity on the growth of some wine spoilage yeasts using different antimicrobial compounds was measured by agar diffusion tests (**Figure 2**). The dark areas around the disks suggest the inhibitory effect in growing colonies, thus demonstrating their effectiveness. This assay can be used to assess the susceptibility of the yeast species to each of the antimicrobials, taking into account the limitations due to the diffusion properties of the antifungal compounds in solid media.

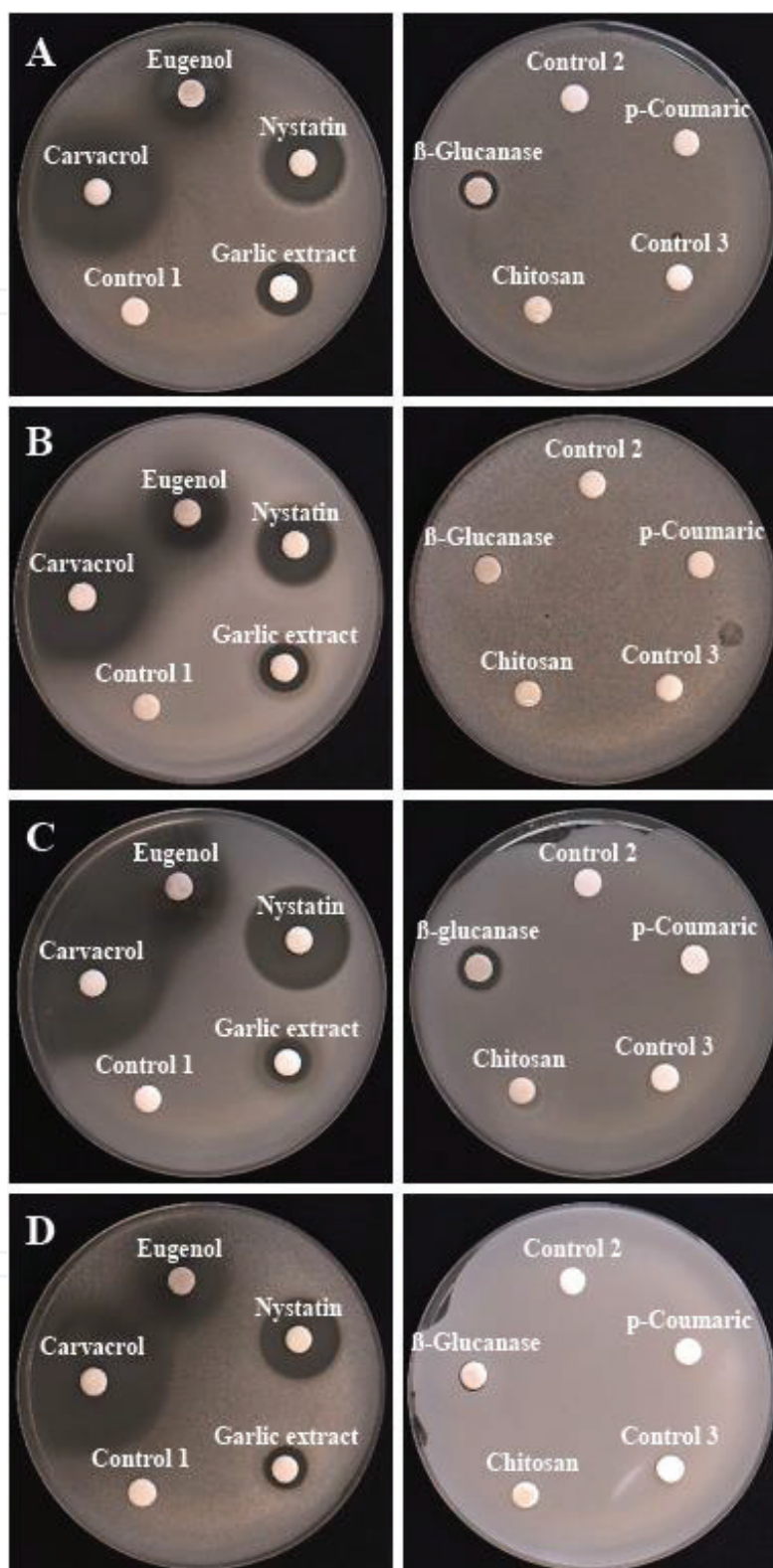


Figure 2. Agar diffusion tests for antimicrobial screening. Antimicrobials tested: eugenol, carvacrol, nystatin (antibiotic), garlic extract (allicin), chitosan, β -glucanase and *p*-coumaric acid. Controls used for the preparation of the antimicrobials: control 1-water, control 2-ethanol and control 3-acetic acid. Yeast species tested: (A) *S. ludwigii*, (B) *D. bruxellensis*, (C) *P. anomala* and (D) *Z. rouxii*.

Despite their interesting antimicrobial properties, there still exist some limitations to the use of some of these natural extracts such as their solubility in water and the impact on sensory attributes [21].

2.2.5. Antimicrobial peptides

Antimicrobial peptides are important molecules naturally occurring in the immune system [107] and may have different amino acids conformation. Their importance as antimicrobial agents increased when bacteria and other pathogens became more resistant to drugs [108]. Among the most studied peptides are tritrpticin and indolicidin, related cathelicidins [109] rich in Arg and Trp residues [110] as well as the lactoferricin. Other peptides having microbicidal activity are cecropins, defensins, magainins, melittin and alamethicin [111].

Tritrpticin is a positively charged peptide with tryptophan (Trp) residues [112] that has antifungal activity besides having antibacterial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria [113, 114]; it is naturally found in granules of bovine and porcine neutrophils [115] as well as in insects [107, 116, 117]. The electrostatic interaction between the cationic residue and the negative charge of phospholipids in the membrane has been recognized as an important factor in the microbicidal action found in these biomolecules [118].

Indolicidin is another peptide with antimicrobial activity against both fungi and bacteria (Gram-positive and Gram-negative) [119]. Similar to tritrpticin, indolicidin is a tryptophan (Trp)-rich peptide [120] that also contains proline (Pro) residues in its configuration [121]; its structure resembles that of detergent micelles and of phospholipid vesicles [122]. It has been isolated from cytoplasmic granules of bovine neutrophils [123] but it is also present in humans and other mammals as well as in some primitive vertebrates [124]. It acts directly on the lipidic bilayer [125] causing disruption in the cell membrane.

Lactoferricin B (Lfcin B) is a peptide obtained during the gastric digestion of the bovine protein lactoferrin [126]. Despite the fact that other mammals including humans also produce lactoferricins, the Lfcin B has higher antimicrobial potency [127]. Lfcin B shows different properties including antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, antitumour, anti-inflammatory and immunoregulatory [127].

Antimicrobial peptides are important for the control of spoilage yeasts in food products. Lfcin B derivatives reduce spoilage yeasts such as *D. bruxellensis* [128] and *Z. bailii* and *Z. bisporus* [129] in wine production. Peptides are used to control the most common spoilage yeasts in dairy products such as *K. marxianus*, *D. hansenii*, *Candida* spp. and other spoilage yeasts such as *Zygosaccharomyces microellipsoides*, *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa*, *Yarrowia lipolytica*, *Torulospira* and *Pichia* [130]. Mozzarella cheese packaged with films of chitosan with up to 60% lysozyme has antimicrobial activity against yeast *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and other bacteria and moulds [131].

In medical applications, indolicidin has antimicrobial activity against different pathogens such as yeasts, viruses, bacteria, fungi and protozoa [132]. Indolicidin has been tested against candidiasis produced by fungi *Candida albicans* [133], and nosocomial pathogen yeasts *Candida krusei* and *Candida parapsilosis* [134] responsible for bloodstream infections

[109]. It is also known that indolicidin directly binds DNA forming a complex with the catalytic HIV-1 integrase [124] producing inhibitory activity in it with an implication on the HIV virus replication cycle [135]. Lfcin B has fungicidal activity against the pathogenic yeast *Candida tropicalis* and fungicidal properties against the fungi *Candida neoformans* and *C. albicans* [136].

A drawback in the use of some antimicrobial peptides like tritrpticin and indolicidin for treatment of infectious diseases produced by pathogen agents is the hemolytic activity observed against blood hematocytes [113, 115, 132]; therefore, it is important to use alternative antimicrobial peptides with less toxicity in immunocompromised patients [133].

2.2.6. Killer toxins and β -glucanases

Killer toxins are known as pore proteins produced by yeast metabolism and are able to kill sensitive yeast cells by forming cell wall or cell membrane disruptions [137]. There are different killer toxins produced by either *Saccharomyces* and non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts used as antimicrobials.

Among the toxins produced by non-*Saccharomyces*, Tdkt is produced by the species *Torulaspora delbrueckii* with β -glucanase and chitinase activity against yeasts *B. bruxellensis*, *Pichia guilliermondii*, *Peronospora manshurica* and *Pichia membranaefaciens* [138]; toxin Kwkt is obtained from the species *Kluyveromyces wickerhamii* and toxin Pikt is produced by the species *Wickerhamomyces anomalus* (formerly *Pichia anomala*), both are used against spoilage yeasts *Brettanomyces/Dekkera* [139]; toxin Kpkt is produced by the species *Tetrapisispora phaffii* and it could be used to control spoilage yeasts in winemaking [140] since it has proven fungicidal activity against yeast *Hanseniaspora/Kloeckera* [141]. This last yeast is also used as killer yeast against some fungal pathogens in plants and also to fight infections produced by fungi in animals and humans due to its high β -1,3-glucanase activity producing disruptions in the cell wall [142].

S. cerevisiae has also shown the ability to produce killer toxins; four different killer yeasts from this species produce killer toxins K1, K2, K28 and Klus. These yeasts are able to produce the toxins during spontaneous wine fermentation as the population of other yeasts decreases [143]. The killer toxin K1, for example, having the glycosylated subunits α and β , is released out of the cytoplasm [144]. The killer toxin forms a channel in the membrane of target cells through which ions are conducted to the exterior producing cellular death. The activity observed in some killer toxins is due to β -glucanases, which has been used to produce a synthetic β -glucanases preparation as antibacterial material against yeasts *D. bruxellensis* and *Z. bailii* [145]. The effect of β -glucanases on the cell integrity can be observed in **Figure 3** where cells of the species *S. ludwigii* have been disrupted after the addition of two different β -glucanases.

Even though both compounds have same disruptive inhibition mechanism, the activity of the β -glucanases is not the same. Such an activity is compared in **Figure 4** where YPD liquid growing media have been inoculated with four different wine spoilage yeasts: *S. ludwigii*, *D. bruxellensis*, *P. anomala* and *Z. rouxii*. The media where β -glucanase II has been used did not show any growth indicating total effectiveness of the treatment, while the media where

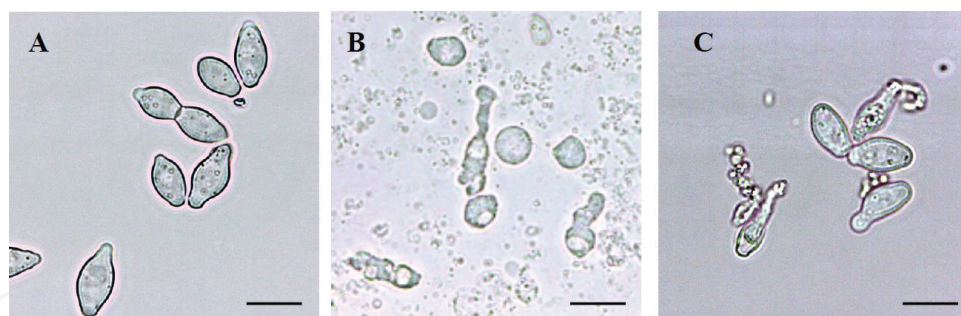


Figure 3. Effect of β -glucanases on the yeast's cell wall after the addition of β -glucanase I (B) and β -glucanase II (C) to *S. ludwigii* (A). Bar scale 10 μ m.

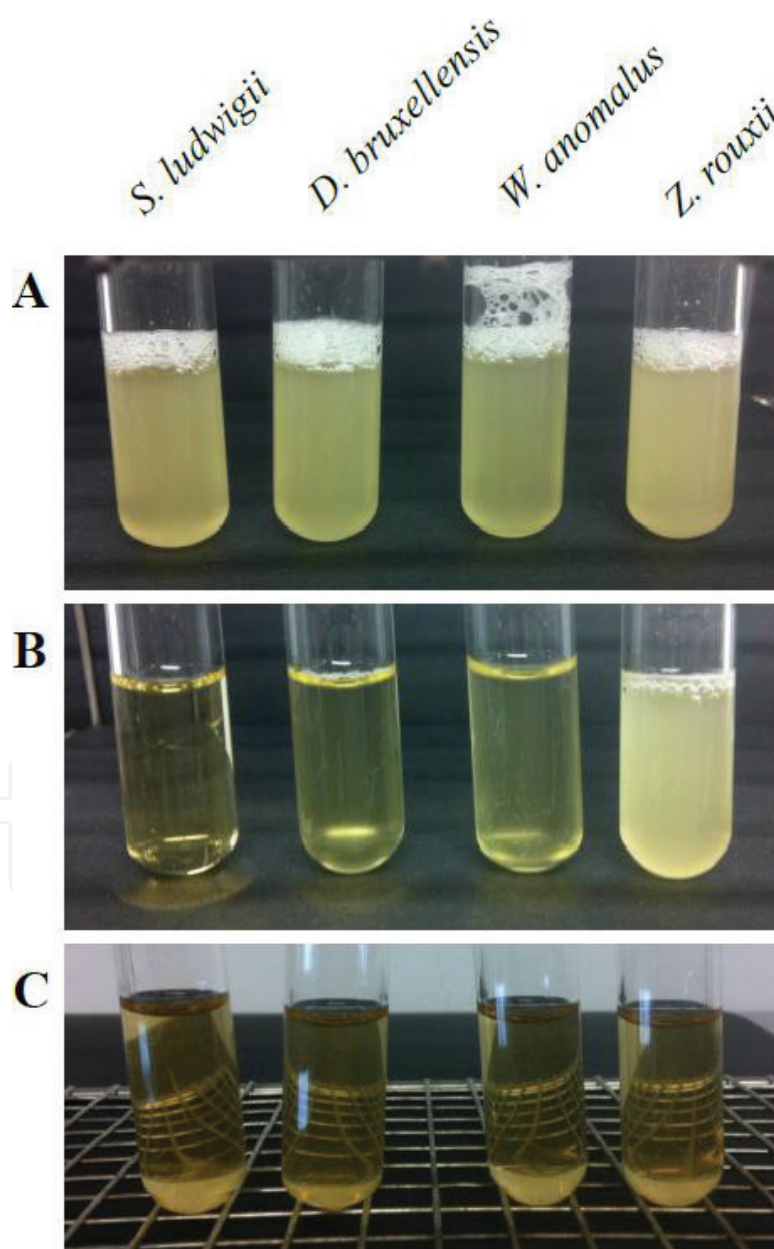


Figure 4. Comparison of the effect of two β -glucanases in YPD liquid growing media with same optical density (OD) of *S. ludwigii*, *D. bruxellensis*, *P. anomala* and *Z. rouxii*. The trials are grouped in (A) control, (B) β -glucanase I and (C) β -glucanase II.

β -glucanase I has been added showed CO₂ production and turbidity formation in function of the sensibility of each yeast species. Wine spoilage yeast *S. ludwigii* appears sensitive to both β -glucanases, as no foam has been formed after the addition of either compound.

In the case of β -glucanase, the inhibition zone observed in the agar plates suggests a low diffusion ability and thus limited antimicrobial activity; however, when grown in liquid media in the presence of same β -glucanase all the spoilage yeasts showed sensitivity (see **Figure 2**).

The yeasts could be neutral or sensitive to toxins produced by killer yeasts. In this matter, [146] have shown that the yeast species *B. bruxellensis*, *B. anomalus*, *D. anomala*, *B. custerisanius*, *H. uvarum*, *S. cerevisiae* and *Z. bailii* have either sensitive or neutral nature towards killer toxins produced by the species *K. wickerhamii* and *C. pyralidae*. Santos et al. [147] have also described the resistance of the species *S. cerevisiae* to the toxin CYC 1410 produced by the species *Ustilago maydis* during wine production; therefore, this procedure could inhibit the implantation of *B. bruxellensis* spoilage yeast. Cytoplasmatic β -glucanases have also shown, on the other hand, interesting contribution to wine-sensory properties as polysaccharides are released from the autolysis of non-*Saccharomyces* yeast cells during wine production [148]. Polysaccharides can improve mouth-feel properties of wines by changing their viscosity.

A summary of certain emerging antifungal compounds is presented in **Figure 5**.

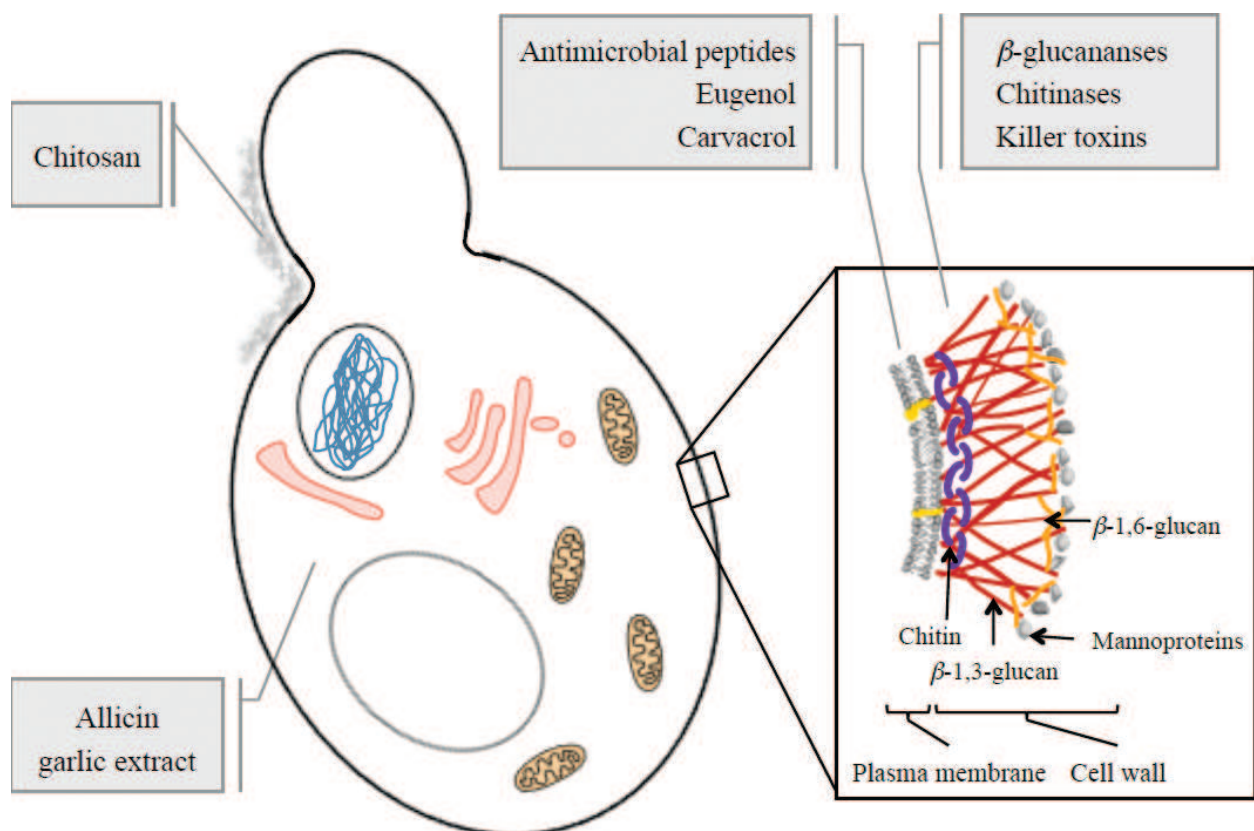


Figure 5. Schematic representation of the main mechanisms involved in the antimicrobial effect of different compounds on a yeast cell. The arrows indicate the target of each compound in the yeast structure: Plasma membrane (antimicrobial peptides, eugenol and carvacrol), cell wall (β -glucanases, chitinases and killer toxins), endoplasmatic enzymes (allicin) and physical adsorption on cell wall (chitosan).

3. Yeast populations monitoring techniques

Parallel to the use of technologies that reduce the colonization of spoilage yeasts in food products, there are technologies able to monitor the yeasts and bacteria populations and their nature in the alcoholic and malolactic fermentations during wine production. One of these techniques is the flow cytometry (FCM) [149]; other techniques are fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS), quantum dots (QDs) and emerging monitoring technologies such as mass cytometry (Cy-TOF), imaging flow cytometry and, recently, spectral cytometry.

FCM, used for counts of microorganism populations in wine, allowed the simultaneous determination of yeasts for as low as 10^3 cells/mL and, despite its size, populations of malolactic bacteria higher than 10^4 cells/mL [150]. FCM is able to show real-time situation of microorganisms in different matrices although it is considered complicated implementation due to the cost of reagents and the need of recruiting trained staff. FCM that relies on the use of complementary fluorescence dying to selectively determine specific type of microorganisms [151] through, for example, the metabolic enzyme activity or antigen expression is known as fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS). This technology is useful in monitoring changes in yeast cellular organelles' biogenesis such as the mitochondria [152].

The QD is a technology based on the production of semiconductor nanoparticles made from cadmium salts crystals with chloride (Cl), tellurium (Te) and sulphide (S) by target microbial cells such as spoilage yeast [153]. These nanoparticles are used as biomarkers of nucleic acids and proteins and can be detected visually when they are excited by a light source. QDs are photostable and they have a wide range of absorption while they have a narrow emission peak [154].

Imaging flow cytometry has been used to compare the mode of action in which different killer toxins affect cell structures. Comitini et al. [140] saw that the toxin Kpkt from *T. phaffii* had different mode of action from that of the toxin K1 from *S. cerevisiae*; all yeast cells dead to toxin K1 after well-known membrane disruption forms potassium channels, have nucleic acids stained with propidium iodide (PI) while dead cells exposed to Kpkt are not all stained with PI. These results suggested a difference in the way that both toxins have to kill yeast cells. Flow cytometry analyses showed that Kpkt causes disruption in the cell-wall integrity due to very specific β -glucanase activity [15].

The spectral cytometry was developed as to increase the accuracy and the precision of flow cytometry results by a higher resolution obtained with spectral analysis from more discrete bands of emission of multiple stained samples [155] as in the case of microbial counts in foodborne matrices stained with PI. Spectral measurements combined with flow cytometry technique allow obtaining fluorescence and RAMAN spectra analysis of large particles in chemical and biological processes [156].

4. Future trends

Several antimicrobial techniques have been developed to control the presence of spoilage yeasts in food products through the years. These techniques aim to diminish the negative eco-

nomic impact of having contaminated/spoiled products as well as the potential health threat that this may represent. Some of these techniques are already in use by the winemaking industry and others may be explored by the different process of stages from vine to bottled wine.

The trend observed is that the winemaking industry is targeting the use of innocuous control techniques to avoid spoilage yeasts during the entire process in order to preserve varietal aromas from grapes, to protect and to extend the anthocyanins extraction yield and, in the best-case scenario, to improve the overall quality of wines.

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