

1 **Lager yeast design through meiotic segregation of a fertile *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* x**  
2 ***Saccharomyces eubayanus* hybrid**

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17 **Keywords:**

18 Lager yeast, *S. eubayanus*, brewing, hybrid, tetraploid, sporulation

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21

22 **Abstract**

23 Yeasts in the lager brewing group are closely related and consequently do not exhibit significant  
24 genetic variability. Here, an artificial *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* × *Saccharomyces eubayanus*  
25 tetraploid interspecies hybrid was created by rare mating, and its ability to sporulate and produce  
26 viable gametes was exploited to generate phenotypic diversity. Four spore clones obtained from a  
27 single ascus were isolated, and their brewing-relevant phenotypes were assessed. These F1 spore  
28 clones were found to differ with respect to fermentation performance under lager brewing  
29 conditions (15 °C, 15 °Plato), production of volatile aroma compounds, flocculation potential and

30 temperature tolerance. One spore clone, selected for its rapid fermentation and acetate ester  
31 production was sporulated to produce an F2 generation, again comprised of four spore clones from  
32 a single ascus. Again, phenotypic diversity was introduced. In two of these F2 clones, the  
33 fermentation performance was maintained and acetate ester production was improved relative to the  
34 F1 parent and the original hybrid strain. Strains also performed well in comparison to a commercial  
35 lager yeast strain. Spore clones varied in ploidy and chromosome copy numbers, and faster wort  
36 fermentation was observed in strains with a higher ploidy. An F2 spore clone was also subjected to  
37 10 consecutive wort fermentations, and single cells were isolated from the resulting yeast slurry.  
38 These isolates also exhibited variable fermentation performance and chromosome copy numbers,  
39 highlighting the instability of polyploid interspecific hybrids. These results demonstrate the value of  
40 this natural approach to increase the phenotypic diversity of lager brewing yeast strains.

#### 41 **Contribution to the field**

42 Lager beer fermentations have traditionally been carried out with natural *S. cerevisiae* × *S. eubayanus*  
43 hybrids. These strains possess both the ability to tolerate low temperatures and the ability to utilize  
44 efficiently wort sugars. However, being closely related, strains within the group exhibit limited  
45 phenotypic variability. Since the recent discovery of wild strains of *S. eubayanus*, it has been possible  
46 to generate lager yeast hybrids artificially, thereby increasing the genetic and phenotypic diversity of  
47 lager brewing strains. Here, to demonstrate the potential for further increased diversity, a constructed  
48 tetraploid hybrid was sporulated and spore clones derived from a single ascus were evaluated with  
49 respect to fermentation performance (sugar utilization, stress tolerance and volatile aroma synthesis).  
50 Meiosis introduced variability in a number of key parameters. One fertile spore clone from this F1  
51 generation was sporulated to introduce further diversity and to demonstrate the potential of clone  
52 selection in steering phenotypes in a desirable direction. Genome instability of hybrids was observed,  
53 but this can be exploited to further increase diversity. This was demonstrated by assessing  
54 performance of variants isolated after ten consecutive rounds of fermentation. The approach allows  
55 for the introduction of phenotypic diversity without the need for targeted genetic modification.

56

## 57 **Introduction**

58 Industrial lager yeast are derived from limited genetic stock. The *Saccharomyces pastorianus* yeast  
59 strains used for lager beer fermentation are natural interspecies hybrids of *S. cerevisiae* and *S.*  
60 *eubayanus* (Liti et al., 2005; Dunn and Sherlock, 2008; Nakao et al., 2009; Libkind et al., 2011;  
61 Walther et al., 2014; Gallone et al., 2019; Langdon et al., 2019). Exactly when or how the original  
62 hybridization occurred has been debated but the yeast in use today have originated from a limited  
63 number of strains which were isolated from lager fermentations in Central Europe in the late 19th  
64 century, when the use of pure cultures in brewing became common (Gibson and Liti, 2015; Gallone  
65 et al., 2019; Gorter De Vries et al., 2019). Lager strains originally arose after one or possibly two  
66 hybridization events that probably occurred when a domesticated strain of *S. cerevisiae* encountered  
67 a contaminant *S. eubayanus* strain during a traditional ale fermentation (Dunn and Sherlock, 2008;  
68 Walther et al., 2014; Baker et al., 2015; Monerawela et al., 2015; Okuno et al., 2015; Gallone et al.,  
69 2019; Salazar et al., 2019). A hybrid of the two species would have benefited by inheriting the  
70 superior fermentation performance of the ale strain, in particular the ability to use the key wort sugar  
71 maltotriose (Gibson et al., 2013), and the cryotolerance of the *S. eubayanus* strain (Gibson et al.,  
72 2013; Hebly et al., 2015). No naturally-occurring strains of *S. pastorianus* have been (knowingly)  
73 isolated since the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is unlikely that such strains will be found in the future. In  
74 addition, being interspecies hybrids and mostly aneuploid, existing strains exhibit low sporulation  
75 efficiency and spore viability. As such, increasing diversity through meiotic recombination and sexual  
76 mating, while possible, remains challenging (Gjermansen and Sigsgaard, 1981; Sanchez et al., 2012;  
77 Ota et al., 2018; Turgeon et al., 2021), in particular without the aid of targeted genetic intervention  
78 (Ogata et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2015; Alexander et al., 2016; Xie et al., 2018). Greater functional  
79 diversity amongst lager brewing yeast would be of advantage to the brewing industry, particularly as  
80 there now exists a demand for more efficient resource utilization and an increased trend for variety  
81 in beer characteristics (Kellershohn and Russell, 2015).

82 The discovery of *S. eubayanus* (Libkind et al., 2011) has, for the first time, allowed creation of *de*  
83 *novo* *S. cerevisiae* x *S. eubayanus* hybrids, and strains thus formed show strong fermentation  
84 performance compared to the parental strains as well as producing distinct flavour profiles (Hebly et  
85 al., 2015; Krogerus et al., 2015, 2016, 2017; Mertens et al., 2015; Alexander et al., 2016; Gorter de  
86 Vries et al., 2019). However, both sporulation efficiency and spore viability of *de novo* interspecies  
87 yeast hybrids are limited (Marinoni et al., 1999; Greig et al., 2002; Sebastiani et al., 2002; Bozdog et  
88 al., 2021) just as they are in the naturally occurring *S. pastorianus* strains. Post-zygotic infertility is a  
89 defining feature of allodiploid yeast (Naumov, 1996). However, sterility is not necessarily an obstacle

90 to a hybrid's fitness as clonal propagation allows such strains to survive indefinitely, and potentially  
91 to take advantage of the inherited phenotypes from both parental strains. The lager yeast *S.*  
92 *pastorianus* is, in fact, the classic example of this phenomenon (Kielland-Brandt and Nilsson-  
93 Tillgren, 1995). A number of factors may contribute to hybrid sterility, though recent research suggest  
94 that the inability of diverged chromosomes to undergo recombination is a key factor (Bozdag et al.,  
95 2021). Regardless of the mechanism involved, a consequence of sterility is that increased diversity  
96 through normal chromosomal recombination and cross-over during meiosis is not possible. However,  
97 there are mechanisms by which fertility can be recovered. One such route is endoreplication, whereby  
98 a sterile diploid hybrid doubles its genome content to become an allotetraploid capable of producing  
99 viable diploid spores (Sebastiani et al., 2002). The species barrier can similarly be overcome by  
100 mating diploid parents to generate an allotetraploid hybrid (Gunge and Nakatomi, 1972; Greig et al.,  
101 2002; Krogerus et al., 2017; Charron et al., 2019; Naseeb et al., 2021). Meiotic segregants derived  
102 from such crosses may be expected to vary considerably due to the segregation of orthologous genes  
103 from the parental strains and the creation of unique biochemical pathways and regulatory mechanisms  
104 (Landry et al., 2007), particularly if there exists a high degree of heterozygosity in the parental strains.

105 In an effort to produce diverse strains of *S. cerevisiae* x *S. eubayanus* for use in the brewing industry,  
106 a fertile tetraploid hybrid strain was here created through rare mating of an ale strain and the type  
107 strain of *S. eubayanus*. This hybrid strain was sporulated and four sibling spores derived from a single  
108 ascus were isolated. The brewing fermentation performance of each F1 meiotic segregant derived  
109 from this strain was characterized and compared with that of its siblings and the original tetraploid  
110 strain as well as the original diploid *S. cerevisiae* and *S. eubayanus* parents. Two of the F1 meiotic  
111 segregants were found to be fertile tetraploids and the isolation of F2 ascus siblings from the best-  
112 performing strain was carried out in order to further improve fermentation performance and flavour  
113 production. In an effort to assess the genotypic and phenotypic stability of the hybrids, one of the F2  
114 spore clones was passaged 10 times in all-malt brewer's wort and fermentation performance of this  
115 serial repitched yeast slurry and three single cell cultures derived from this population were assessed.  
116 Genome sequences were analysed to determine the main genetic changes (SNP, CNV, structural  
117 variation) associated with the observed changes. It is our contention that this approach is a feasible  
118 method for selectively producing natural, genetically and phenotypically diverse strains for the lager  
119 brewing industry.

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121

## 122 **Materials & Methods**

### 123 ***Yeast strains***

124 The two parental strains were *S. cerevisiae* VTT-A-81062 (VTT Culture Collection, Finland), an  
125 industrial brewer's yeast strain, and the *S. eubayanus* type strain VTT-C12902 (VTT Culture  
126 Collection, Finland; deposited as CBS12357 at CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre). The  
127 industrial lager strain A-63015 was included to compare performance of *de novo* hybrids with that of  
128 an industrial strain. A tetraploid hybrid (A-81062 × C12902) strain was created in a previous study  
129 (Krogerus et al. 2017) and is deposited in the VTT Culture Collection as A-15225. Meiotic segregants  
130 of this strain derived from an individual ascus are deposited as A-15226, A-15227, A-15228 and A-  
131 15229. Further meiotic segregants of the tetraploid strain A-15227 are deposited as A-16232, A-  
132 16233, A-16234, A-16235. Strain A-16235 was further passaged through 10 consecutive batch  
133 fermentations in 15 °Plato wort, after which three single cell isolates were isolated from the yeast  
134 slurry. These isolates are here referred to as A235 G10 1-3.

### 135 ***Generation of meiotic segregants***

136 The meiotic segregants of the tetraploid interspecific hybrid A-15255 were obtained by first culturing  
137 A-15255 in YPM medium (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 4% maltose) at 20 °C overnight. It was  
138 then transferred to pre-sporulation medium (0.8% yeast extract, 0.3% peptone, 10% glucose) at a  
139 starting OD600 of 0.3 and allowed to grow for 20 hours at 20 °C. The yeast was then washed with  
140 1% potassium acetate and a thick suspension was plated onto sporulation agar (1% potassium acetate  
141 and 2% agar). The yeast was allowed to sporulate for 7 days at 25 °C. Meiotic segregants were  
142 obtained by dissecting tetrad ascospores treated with Zymolyase 100T (US Biological, USA) on YPD  
143 agar with a micromanipulator. Spore viability was calculated based on the amount of colonies formed  
144 from the dissection of up to 20 tetrads.

### 145 ***DNA content by flow cytometry***

146 Flow cytometry was performed on the yeast strains essentially as described by Haase & Reed (2002)  
147 and Krogerus et al. (2016). Briefly, the yeast strains were grown overnight in YPD medium (1% yeast  
148 extract, 2% peptone and 2% glucose), after which cells were fixed in 70% ethanol, treated with  
149 RNase A (0.25 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) and Proteinase K (1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>), stained with SYTOX Green (2 µM; Life  
150 Technologies, USA), and their DNA content was determined using a FACSAria cytometer (Becton  
151 Dickinson). Measurements were performed on duplicate independent yeast cultures, and 100 000  
152 events were collected per sample during flow cytometry.

153

## 154 ***Genome sequencing and analysis***

155 Genome assemblies of both parent strains, *S. cerevisiae* A-81062 and *S. eubayanus* C-12902, were  
156 first obtained in order to create a reference genome to which sequencing reads from the hybrid strains  
157 could be aligned. A long-read assembly of *S. eubayanus* C-12902 was obtained from Brickwedde et  
158 al. (2018). *S. cerevisiae* A-81062 has been sequenced previously by our group using an Oxford  
159 Nanopore Technologies MinION (Krogerus et al., 2019) and with Illumina technology (Krogerus et  
160 al., 2016). Reads were accessed from SRR9129759 and SRR2911435, respectively. Here, the long  
161 reads were *de novo* assembled using the LRSDAY (version 1.4) pipeline (Yue and Liti, 2018). The  
162 initial assemblies were produced with smartdenovo (available from  
163 <https://github.com/ruanjue/smartdenovo>) using default settings. The assembly was first polished with  
164 medaka (1.2.0; available from <https://github.com/nanoporetech/medaka>), followed by two rounds of  
165 short-read polishing with Pilon (version 1.23; Walker et al., 2014). Alignment of long reads for  
166 medaka was performed with minimap2 (version 2.17-r941; Li, 2018). The contigs in the polished  
167 assemblies were then scaffolded with Ragout (version 2.3; Kolmogorov et al., 2014) to *S. cerevisiae*  
168 S288C (R64-2-1). Because of the relatively high heterozygosity of *S. cerevisiae* A-81062, two  
169 haplotypes were further produced through phasing in WhatsHap (version 1.0; Martin et al., 2016).  
170 Short reads were first mapped to above scaffolds, and variants were called with FreeBayes (version  
171 1.32; Garrison and Marth, 2012). Long reads were also mapped to the above scaffolds with minimap2,  
172 and the resulting VCF and long-read BAM files were then passed to WhatsHap. The two haplotypes  
173 of *S. cerevisiae* A-81062 were then extracted from the resulting phased VCF. Assembly statistics are  
174 available in Supplementary Table S1 and Supplementary Figure S1, while the A-81062 assembly is  
175 available as Supplementary Data 1. A reference genome for the analysis of the hybrid strains was  
176 produced by concatenating *S. cerevisiae* A-81062 haplotype 1 with the obtained assembly of *S.*  
177 *eubayanus* C-12902. The genomes of both parent strains were also separately annotated using  
178 MAKER2 (Holt and Yandell, 2011) as implemented in the LRSDAY pipeline. A horizontal gene  
179 transfer event from *Torulaspora microellipsoides* in the *S. cerevisiae* A-81062 genome was identified  
180 by mapping chromosome XV to scaffold FYBL01000004.1 of *T. microellipsoides* CLIB830 (NCBI  
181 GCA\_900186055.1; Galeote et al., 2018) using minimap2 (with ‘-x asm20’ parameter). Alignments  
182 were visualized with the ‘pafr’-package for R (<https://github.com/dwinter/pafr>).

183 The tetraploid hybrid A-15225 and all derived spore clones and G10 isolates were sequenced by  
184 Biomedicum Genomics (Helsinki, Finland). The sequencing of A-15225 has been described  
185 previously in Krogerus et al. (2017) and reads are available from NCBI-SRA SRR5141258 (referred  
186 to as ‘Hybrid H1’). In brief, an Illumina KAPA paired-end 150 bp library was prepared for each strain

187 and sequencing was carried out with a NextSeq 500 instrument. The newly described Illumina  
188 sequencing reads have been submitted to NCBI-SRA under BioProject number PRJNA357993.  
189 Paired-end reads from the NextSeq 500 sequencing were trimmed and filtered with fastp using default  
190 settings (version 0.20.1; Chen et al., 2018). Trimmed reads were aligned to the concatenated reference  
191 genome described above using BWA-MEM (Li and Durbin, 2009), and alignments were sorted and  
192 duplicates were marked with sambamba (version 0.7.1; Tarasov et al., 2015). Variants were jointly  
193 called in the twelve hybrid strains using FreeBayes (version 1.3.2; Garrison and Marth, 2012). Variant  
194 calling used the following settings: --min-base-quality 30 --min-mapping-quality 30 --min-alternate-  
195 fraction 0.25 --min-repeat-entropy 0.5 --use-best-n-alleles 70 -p 2. The resulting VCF file was filtered  
196 to remove variants with a quality score less than 1000 and with a sequencing depth below 10 per  
197 sample using BCFtools (Li, 2011). The haplotype blocks in the meiotic segregants were obtained  
198 from the filtered VCF file by clustering consecutive reference (haplotype 1) or alternative (haplotype  
199 2) allele calls using the vcf\_process.pl script from <https://github.com/w113/BioScripts>. Variants were  
200 annotated with SnpEff (version 4.5covid19; Cingolani et al., 2012). Visualizations were performed  
201 in R using the ‘karyoploter’ package (Gel and Serra, 2017). Chromosome copy numbers were  
202 estimated based on the median coverage in 10kb windows across each contig in the reference genome  
203 as calculated with mosdepth (version 0.2.6; Pedersen and Quinlan, 2018). Alignment of reads to the  
204 right arm of *S. cerevisiae* chromosome XV was visualized with samplot  
205 (<https://github.com/ryanlayer/samplot>).

206 Structural variations in the *S. cerevisiae* A-81062 parent strain were identified using long sequencing  
207 reads. Long reads were first aligned to the *de novo* assembly produced above using NGMLR (version  
208 0.2.7; Sedlazeck et al., 2018), after which structural variations were called from the alignment using  
209 Sniffles (version 1.0.12; Sedlazeck et al., 2018). Variants were annotated with SnpEff (Cingolani et  
210 al., 2012). Gene ontology enrichment analysis on the set of genes affected by heterozygous structural  
211 variants was carried out with YeastMine (Balakrishnan et al., 2012). Structural variations in the  
212 hybrid strains were estimated from split and discordant Illumina reads using LUMPY (Layer et al.,  
213 2014) and genotyped with svtyper (Chiang et al., 2015) as implemented in smooove (version 0.2.6;  
214 <https://github.com/brentp/smooove>). Variations in all twelve hybrid strains were jointly called, and the  
215 resulting VCF was filtered to remove sites with an imprecise breakpoint or a quality score less than  
216 100 using BCFtools (Li, 2011).

## 217 ***Fermentations***

218 Yeast performance was determined in fermentations carried out at 15 °C in a 15 °Plato all-malt wort.  
219 Yeast was propagated essentially as described previously (Krogerus et al. 2015) with the use of a

220 ‘Generation 0’ fermentation prior to the actual experimental fermentations. The experimental  
221 fermentations were carried out in duplicate, in 2-L cylindroconical stainless steel fermenting vessels,  
222 containing 1.5 L of wort medium. The 15 °Plato wort was produced at the VTT Pilot Brewery from  
223 barley malt and was oxygenated to 15 mg L<sup>-1</sup> prior to pitching. Yeast was inoculated at a rate of 5g  
224 L<sup>-1</sup> to the wort. Wort samples were drawn regularly from the fermentation vessels aseptically, and  
225 placed directly on ice, after which the yeast was separated from the fermenting wort by centrifugation  
226 (9000 × g, 10 min, 1 °C). Samples for yeast-derived flavour compounds and fermentable sugars were  
227 taken from the beer.

### 228 *Wort and beer analysis*

229 The specific gravity, alcohol level (% v/v) and pH of samples was determined from the centrifuged  
230 and degassed fermentation samples using an Anton Paar Density Meter DMA 5000 M (Anton Paar  
231 GmbH, Austria) with Alcoalyzer Beer ME and pH ME modules (Anton Paar GmbH, Austria).  
232 Concentrations of fermentable sugars (glucose, fructose, maltose and maltotriose) were measured by  
233 HPLC using a Waters 2695 Separation Module and Waters System Interphase Module liquid  
234 chromatograph coupled with a Waters 2414 differential refractometer (Waters Co., Milford, MA,  
235 USA). An Aminex HPX-87H Organic Acid Analysis Column (300 × 7.8 mm, Bio-Rad) was  
236 equilibrated with 5 mM H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (Titrisol, Merck, Germany) in water at 55 °C and samples were eluted  
237 with 5 mM H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in water at a 0.3 ml/min flow rate.

238 Yeast-derived flavour compounds were determined by headspace gas chromatography with flame  
239 ionization detector (HS-GC-FID) analysis. 4 mL samples were filtered (0.45 µm), incubated at 60 °C  
240 for 30 minutes and then 1 mL of gas phase was injected (split mode; 225 °C; split flow of 30 mL min<sup>-1</sup>  
241 <sup>1</sup>) into a gas chromatograph equipped with a FID detector and headspace autosampler (Agilent 7890  
242 Series; Palo Alto, CA, USA). Analytes were separated on a HP-5 capillary column (50m × 320 µm ×  
243 1.05 µm column, Agilent, USA). The carrier gas was helium (constant flow of 1.4 mL min<sup>-1</sup>). The  
244 temperature program involved 50 °C for 3 min, 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> to 100 °C, 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup> to 140 °C, 15 °C  
245 min<sup>-1</sup> to 260 °C and then isothermal for 1 min. Compounds were identified by comparison with  
246 authentic standards and were quantified using standard curves. 1-Butanol was used as internal  
247 standard.

### 248 *Yeast analysis*

249 The yeast dry mass content of the samples (i.e. yeast in suspension) was determined by washing the  
250 yeast pellets gained from centrifugation with 25 mL deionized H<sub>2</sub>O and then suspending the washed  
251 yeast in a total of 6 mL deionized H<sub>2</sub>O. The suspension was then transferred to a pre-weighed



252 porcelain crucible, and was dried overnight at 105° C and allowed to cool in a desiccator before the  
253 change of mass was measured. Yeast viability was measured from the yeast that was collected at the  
254 end of the fermentations using a Nucleocounter® YC-100™ (ChemoMetec). Flocculation of the yeast  
255 strains was evaluated using a modified Helm's assay (D'Hautcourt and Smart, 1999).

### 256 ***Data and statistical analysis***

257 Data and statistical analysis on the fermentation and yeast data was performed with R ([http://www.r-](http://www.r-project.org/)  
258 [project.org/](http://www.r-project.org/)). One-way ANOVA and Tukey's post hoc test was performed using the 'agricolae'  
259 package (De et al., 2017). Values were considered significantly different at  $p < 0.05$ . Heatmaps were  
260 drawn with the 'pheatmap' package (Kolde, 2015).

261

## 262 **Results**

### 263 ***Hybrid generation and genomic analysis***

264 The set of 12 *de novo* hybrid strains used in this study were generated according to Figure 1. The  
265 tetraploid interspecies hybrid A225, from a cross between the *S. cerevisiae* A62 ale strain and the *S.*  
266 *eubayanus* C902 type strain, was obtained with 'rare mating' in a previous study (Krogerus et al.,  
267 2017). This interspecies hybrid sporulated efficiently and spores showed a viability of 55%. A set of  
268 four F1 segregants (A226-A229), all derived from the same ascus, were isolated. F1 segregant A227  
269 also sporulated efficiently, and a set of four F2 segregants (A232-A235) were derived from this strain.  
270 F2 segregant A235 was further subjected to ten consecutive batch fermentations in 15 °P wort  
271 (corresponding to approximately 30-40 cells doublings), and three single cell isolates (A235 G10 1-  
272 3) were randomly selected from the resulting yeast population.

273 For the genomic analysis of the hybrid strains, a new *de novo* assembly of parent strain *S. cerevisiae*  
274 A62 was produced for use as reference genome. The genome of A62 has been assembled previously  
275 using a hybrid strategy (assembly from 150 bp Illumina reads, and scaffolding with PacBio reads)  
276 (Krogerus et al., 2016). Here, a long-read assembly was instead produced with smartdenovo using  
277 reads generated with the Oxford Nanopore MinION from our previous study (Krogerus et al., 2019).  
278 The assembly was polished once with long reads in Medaka, and twice with Illumina reads in Pilon.  
279 The resulting assembly consisted of 21 scaffolds (including the 16 chromosomes and mitochondrial  
280 DNA) and spanned a genome size of 12.68 Mbp (assembly statistics available in Supplementary  
281 Table S1 and Supplementary Figure S1). A total of 29517 heterozygous single nucleotide  
282 polymorphisms were detected, corresponding to a heterozygosity of around 0.23%. The heterozygous  
283 SNPs were phased in whatshap using the long sequencing reads, and the two haplotypes were

284 extracted. 90% of the heterozygous SNPs (26569) were phased into a total of 29 blocks (1.45 per  
285 scaffold). The first haplotype was selected to be used as reference for the *S. cerevisiae* A62 parent  
286 strain. The reference genome for the *S. eubayanus* C902 parent strain was obtained from Brickwedde  
287 et al. (2018). The genomes were separately annotated using the MAKER-based pipeline in LRSDAY,  
288 and a total of 5945 and 5430 protein-coding genes were detected, respectively. For analysis of the  
289 hybrid strains produced in this study, a concatenated reference genome of *S. cerevisiae* A62 and *S.*  
290 *eubayanus* C902 was used.

### 291 Chromosome copy number variation

292 Chromosome copy numbers of the F1 hybrid and derived spore clones were estimated based on  
293 median coverage of the sequencing reads and flow cytometry with SYTOX Green-staining  
294 (fluorescence histograms available in Supplementary Figure S2). Diversity in both ploidy and  
295 individual chromosome copy numbers were observed (Figure 2). The two parent strains have been  
296 previously shown to be diploid (Krogerus et al., 2016). The genome of the F1 hybrid A225 consisted  
297 of two copies of each chromosome from *S. cerevisiae* and *S. eubayanus*. An exception was the *S.*  
298 *cerevisiae* chromosome III with only one copy, likely related to the rare mating. The mitochondrial  
299 genome in A225 and derived strains was inherited from *S. eubayanus*.

300 The four F1 hybrid spores were found to include two tetraploid strains (A226 and A227) and two  
301 diploid strains (A228 and A229). The diploid strains contained one copy of each chromosome from  
302 both *S. cerevisiae* and *S. eubayanus* (Figure 2). The tetraploid F1 strains contained two copies of each  
303 chromosome. Exceptions included chromosome I (three copies from *S. eubayanus* in strain A227),  
304 chromosome III (no copy from *S. cerevisiae* in A226 and A227, and an additional copy from *S.*  
305 *eubayanus* in A227), chromosome IV (with an additional copy from *S. eubayanus* in A227) and  
306 chromosome XII (four and three copies of the *S. eubayanus* form in A226 and A227, respectively).

307 Of the four F2 segregants derived from A227, two were again diploid (A232 and A233) and two were  
308 tetraploid (A234 and A235). The diploid strains contained one copy of each chromosome from *S.*  
309 *cerevisiae* and *S. eubayanus*, the exception being chromosome III for which only *S. eubayanus* was  
310 represented (2 copies) due to the lack of the corresponding *S. cerevisiae* chromosome in the parental  
311 A227 strain. Similarly, the diploid F2 hybrids did not contain the *S. cerevisiae* chromosome XII but  
312 this was compensated by having two copies of the *S. eubayanus* form of the chromosome. The  
313 tetraploid F2 hybrids possessed two copies of both the *S. cerevisiae* and *S. eubayanus* chromosomes  
314 with the exception that *S. cerevisiae* chromosome III was absent (three and two copies of the *S.*

315 *eubayanus* form were present in A234 and A235 respectively). Both strains contained four copies of  
316 *S. eubayanus* chromosomes IV and XII from both parental species (Figure 2).

317 Further chromosome copy number variation was observed in the G10 isolates of A235, and  
318 interestingly all three single cell isolates exhibited different profiles (Figure 2). Compared to A235,  
319 all three single cell isolates carried an additional two copies of *S. eubayanus* chromosome III.  
320 Furthermore, A235 G10 1 had lost both copies of *S. cerevisiae* chromosome XII, while A235 G10 2  
321 had lost two out of four copies of *S. eubayanus* chromosome XII.

### 322 Single nucleotide and structural variations

323 Recombination was observed within the parental sub-genomes of the F1 spore clones. As the  
324 reference genome of *S. cerevisiae* A62 was phased, recombination in the *S. cerevisiae* sub-genome  
325 of the F1 spore clones could be easily observed by presence of either of the two haplotype blocks  
326 (Figure 3). Such visualization could not be produced for the *S. eubayanus* sub-genome because of a  
327 considerably lower heterozygosity level (0.002%; Hebly et al., 2015). Of the 24726 heterozygous  
328 SNPs observed in the A225 F1 hybrid (24117 and 609 in the *S. cerevisiae* and *S. eubayanus* sub-  
329 genomes, respectively), 23017 segregated in a 2:2 pattern in the four F1 spore clones. Compared to  
330 A225, a total of 132 *de novo* SNPs were detected in the four F1 spore clones. Of these, 22 were  
331 missense mutations and two conservative in-frame insertions (Table 2). A 2:2 segregation pattern was  
332 observed for many of these SNPs (i.e. mutation present in two out of four spore clones), suggesting  
333 that the mutation might have been heterozygous in the F1 hybrid, despite showing a 0/0 genotype  
334 (i.e. only reference allele detected), and therefore not a true *de novo* mutation.

335 A total of 1726 heterozygous SNPs were observed in the A227 F1 spore clone which was sporulated  
336 to produce the F2 spore clones A232-A235. However, a vast majority of these SNPs remained  
337 heterozygous in all four spore clones (1337), and only 38 segregated in a 2:2 pattern. In contrast to  
338 A227, only 8 *de novo* SNPs were detected in the four F2 spore clones. Of these, seven were intergenic  
339 and one a silent mutation. Hence, the four F2 spore clones were almost identical to A227 at a single  
340 nucleotide level, suggesting that any phenotypic differences between A227 and the four F2 spore  
341 clones are a result of larger-scale genomic variations.

342 Among the three single cell isolates of A235 that had undergone 10 consecutive batch fermentations  
343 in 15 °Plato wort, a total of 33 *de novo* SNPs were found. Only three of these SNPs were shared  
344 between all three single cell isolates. Of the 33 SNPs, three were missense mutations, one was a  
345 conservative inframe deletion, and one a conservative inframe insertion (Table 3). The affected genes

346 include *PYCI* (YGL062W), encoding a pyruvate carboxylase. Of the remaining, twenty were  
347 intergenic and eight were silent mutations.

348 Structural variations (SVs) in the *S. cerevisiae* A62 parent strain were estimated from the long reads  
349 using Sniffles. A total of 94 heterozygous SVs were identified, including 67 deletions, 27 insertions,  
350 3 inversions, 1 duplication and 1 translocation (Supplementary Data 2). These SVs affected 18 genes,  
351 and the following cellular component GO terms were significantly enriched among the list:  
352 extracellular region (GO:0005576; *p*-value 1.2e-5), anchored component of membrane  
353 (GO:0031225; *p*-value 6.4e-4), fungal-type cell wall (GO:0009277; *p*-value 8.2e-4) and cell wall  
354 (GO:0005618; *p*-value 0.001). SVs in the F1 hybrid and derived spore clones were estimated from  
355 split and discordant Illumina reads using LUMPY through smooove. A total of 39 SVs were detected  
356 across the twelve strains (F1 hybrid, F1 spore clones, F2 spore clones, and G10 isolates), including  
357 24 deletions, 2 duplications and 13 translocations (Supplementary Data 3). 12 deletion calls in the *S.*  
358 *cerevisiae* sub-genome of the F1 hybrid were supported by the SVs called for the A62 parent strain  
359 using the long reads. Of the 39 SVs in the hybrids, only five were absent from the F1 hybrid,  
360 suggesting few *de novo* SVs were formed during meiosis and the 10 consecutive batch fermentations  
361 in wort. While there was evidence of recombination within the *S. cerevisiae* sub-genome in the F1  
362 and F2 hybrids, no recombination between the sub-genomes appears to have taken place, as indicated  
363 by the lack of split reads mapping to chromosomes from both sub-genomes.

364 In addition to the above mentioned SVs in the *S. cerevisiae* A62 parent strain, a heterozygous  
365 horizontal gene transfer event was observed on the right arm of chromosome XV, which contained  
366 an approx. 155 kbp region derived from *Torulaspora microellipsoides* (Supplementary Figure S3).  
367 This region includes the shorter 65 kb HGT region C that was originally described in *S. cerevisiae*  
368 EC1118 (Novo et al., 2009; Marsit et al., 2015) and is similar in size to the one later observed in *S.*  
369 *cerevisiae* CFC (a brewing strain) as a likely ancestral event (Peter et al., 2018). Because of  
370 heterozygosity, only two of the F1 spore clones (A226 and A229) carry this HGT region  
371 (Supplementary Figure S4). The presence of the HGT region C in wine yeast has been shown to  
372 improve oligopeptide utilization during wine fermentations (Marsit et al., 2015), yielding an  
373 advantage in nitrogen-limited media, but its effect in wort fermentations remains unclear.

#### 374 ***Phenotypic variation in the strain breeding panel***

375 A range of brewing-relevant industrial phenotypes were assessed in the twelve *de novo* hybrids and  
376 the parent strains. These 22 phenotypes included consumption and uptake of maltose and maltotriose,  
377 fermentation rate, flocculation, viability, growth at 4 and 37 °C, and formation of eleven aroma-active

378 compounds. Extensive phenotypic variation was observed between the strains (Figure 4). Both  
379 hierarchical clustering based on Euclidean distance (Figure 4A) and principal component analysis  
380 (Figure 4B-C) grouped the F1 hybrid in between the parent strains, while F1 and F2 spore clones  
381 grouped around the strain they were derived from (A225 and A227, respectively). As has been  
382 observed in previous studies on *de novo* brewing yeast hybrids (Mertens et al., 2015; Krogerus et al.,  
383 2016, 2018b), both mid-parent and best-parent heterosis was observed among the different hybrid  
384 strains and the various phenotypes.

### 385 *Aroma diversity*

386 Interest towards beer with novel and diverse flavours is increasing (Aquilani et al., 2015; Carbone  
387 and Quici, 2020; Gonzalez Viejo and Fuentes, 2020), and the results here suggest that hybridization  
388 and subsequent sporulation can give rise to lager yeast strains with both enhanced and diverse  
389 production of aroma-active compounds. 3-methylbutyl acetate, with its banana- and pear-like aroma,  
390 is one of the most important yeast-derived flavor compounds in beer (Pires et al., 2014). Here, we  
391 measured higher concentrations of this ester in the beer produced with the F1 hybrid A225 compared  
392 to either of the parent strains (Figure 4D). Of the four F1 spore clones, one (A227) produced higher  
393 levels of 3-methylbutyl acetate than the F1 hybrid. The F1 strain A227 was chosen for further  
394 sporulation and spore clone screening due to its high production of 3-methylbutyl acetate. Two out  
395 of four F2 spore clones produced the highest levels of 3-methylbutyl acetate among all tested strains,  
396 reaching 2.5-fold higher levels than the most productive parent strain (*S. eubayanus* C902). This ester  
397 was produced only at very low levels by the *S. cerevisiae* A62 parent strain.

398 Similarly to 3-methylbutyl acetate, considerable variation was observed for ethyl hexanoate  
399 formation. Ethyl hexanoate, with its apple- and aniseed-like aroma, is another important yeast-derived  
400 flavour compound in beer (Pires et al., 2014). Again, the F1 hybrid produced higher concentrations  
401 of this ester compared to either parent strain (Figure 4E). Of the F1 spore clones, A227 again produced  
402 the highest levels of ethyl hexanoate, while the highest levels among all tested strains was observed  
403 in the four F2 spore clones derived from A227. Two-fold higher ethyl hexanoate levels were observed  
404 in the beers made from these strains compared to the better parent strain (*S. cerevisiae* A62). Low  
405 concentrations of this ester were produced by the *S. eubayanus* C902 parent strain and the industrial  
406 control *S. pastorianus* A15.

407 As 3-methylbutyl acetate and ethyl hexanoate formation was strongly associated with the two parent  
408 strains, *S. eubayanus* C902 and *S. cerevisiae* A62, respectively, hybridization yielded a strain  
409 producing high levels of both. Interestingly, a strain producing several-fold higher levels of both these

410 esters could be derived by selecting meiotic segregants. Highest concentrations of ethyl hexanoate  
411 were seen with the four F2 hybrids. In the case of 3-methylbutyl acetate, the highest concentrations  
412 were also seen in F2 hybrids, though in this case only for the two tetraploid strains.

#### 413 *Fermentation performance*

414 In addition to greater aroma diversity, brewers also demand strains with efficient fermentation. As  
415 expected based on previous studies with similar hybrids (Krogerus et al. 2015, 2016, 2017), the  
416 tetraploid strain A225 fermented wort more rapidly and completely than the parental strains (Figure  
417 4A and 4G). Alcohol level at the end of the hybrid fermentation was 6.7% (v/v) compared to 5.7%  
418 and 4.9% for the ale and *S. eubayanus* strain respectively. A direct comparison of the fermentation  
419 performance of the tetraploid hybrid and four F1 sibling strains revealed clear differences that were  
420 associated with ploidy. The maximum fermentation rate of the tetraploid F1 siblings was slightly  
421 higher than that of the parental hybrid (Figure 4G). Alcohol level was higher relative to the parent  
422 (approx. 6.5% compared to 6.2%). Fermentation rates of the diploid strains were similar to that of the  
423 parental tetraploid in the early stage of the fermentation (up to 72h), but were lower thereafter. Final  
424 yields of alcohol in the strains A228 and A229 were 4.2 and 4.4%, respectively. Similarly to the F1  
425 spore clones, the fermentation performance of the F2 spore clones appeared to be associated with  
426 ploidy. While little difference was seen in the maximum fermentation rates (Figure 4G), due to similar  
427 performance early in fermentation, the tetraploid strains A234 and A235 finished at higher alcohol  
428 levels (7.0 and 6.9%, respectively) compared to the diploid strains A232 and A233 (6.0 and 5.7%,  
429 respectively). Of the *de novo* hybrid strains, A225-A227 all outperformed the industrial lager yeast  
430 A15 that was included as a reference with respect to maximum fermentation rate.

#### 431 *Flocculation*

432 The *S. cerevisiae* A62 parent showed strong flocculation, while flocculation potential was low in the  
433 *S. eubayanus* C902 parent strain. The F1 hybrid also showed comparably strong flocculation relative  
434 to the parent strain, and interestingly two out of the four F1 siblings showed strong flocculation, while  
435 the others showed weak flocculation (Figure 4F). Flocculation potential was not linked to the ploidy  
436 of the spore clones, suggesting that the heterozygous genotype of the *S. cerevisiae* A62 parent may  
437 be responsible. Indeed, a number of heterozygous SVs linked with extracellular region and cell wall  
438 were identified, including a 135 bp deletion in *FLO5* and a 65 bp deletion in *TIR2* (Supplementary  
439 Data 2), which could potentially explain this loss of flocculation in half the spore clones. A227 and  
440 the F2 spore clones and derived G10 isolates all exhibited weak flocculation. The *TIR2* deletion was

441 identified from the short-read data, and was present in spore clones A226 (strong flocculation) and  
442 A227 (weak flocculation), however the *FLO5* deletion was not detected.

#### 443 *Spore viability*

444 Both the domesticated strains studied here had a low level of sporulation and spore viability. In the  
445 A15 lager strain, sporulation was not observed and in the *S. cerevisiae* A62 ale strain, it was only  
446 observed at a low level (21%) and of these only 8% were found to be viable. In contrast, the  
447 sporulation efficiency of the *S. eubayanus* strain was high and spores were generally viable (Table  
448 1). Sporulation in the A225 tetraploid strain was intermediate between the parents with spore viability  
449 measured as 55%. In the F1 and F2 generation, sporulation and spore viability was largely influenced  
450 by ploidy with spore viability ranging from 0% to 95%. Diploid strains were found to have low  
451 sporulation efficiency and to be sterile. An exception was the diploid F2 spore clone A232, which  
452 had a spore viability of 78% (Table 1).

#### 453 *Phenotypic stability of an F2 spore clone*

454 The phenotypic stability of the three G10 isolates of the F2 segregant A235, isolated after 10  
455 consecutive fermentations in industry-strength all-malt wort, was assessed by comparing the isolates  
456 and the G10 mixed population to A235. In wort fermentations, the G10 mixed population did not  
457 perform as well as the original A235 strain, despite a relatively rapid fermentation rate in the first 72  
458 hours (Figure 5A). The final alcohol yield was 6.9%, compared to 7.1% for the original strain. It was  
459 however clear that the G10 population was phenotypically heterogenous in nature. The three single  
460 cell isolates derived from the G10 population showed clearly different capacities to ferment the wort.  
461 Weakest performance was observed with isolate 2, best performance with isolate 3 and an  
462 intermediate performance with isolate 1. Aroma formation was also affected by the repeated wort  
463 fermentations. Significantly lower amounts of 3-methylbutyl acetate were formed by the G10  
464 population and single cell isolates compared to A235 (Figure 5B), while ethyl hexanoate levels in the  
465 G10 isolates were similar or slightly lower than A235 (Figure 5C). Furthermore, while A235 was able  
466 to sporulate, none of the three single cell isolates produced ascospores when inoculated onto  
467 potassium acetate agar (Table 1).

468

## 469 Discussion

470 Limited phenotypic and genetic diversity exists between industrial lager yeasts (Okuno et al., 2015;  
471 Gallone et al., 2019; Langdon et al., 2019). In this study, we sought to explore how the fertility of a  
472 newly created tetraploid *S. cerevisiae* × *S. eubayanus* interspecies hybrid could be exploited to  
473 expand the phenotypic diversity of this group. Rare mating was used to produce a polyploid hybrid.  
474 This can occur, e.g. by inactivation of one *MAT* locus or through spontaneous gene conversion to  
475 produce parental strains that are homozygous for mating type (*MATa/MATa* or *MATα/MATα*) (Gunge  
476 and Nakatomi, 1972; Greig et al., 2002; Sipiczki, 2018). In the current study, rare mating appears to  
477 have been facilitated through the former mechanism. Sequencing of the F1 hybrid suggests that one  
478 *MAT* locus in the diploid parental *S. cerevisiae* cell was lost through whole-chromosome deletion of  
479 chromosome III, effectively producing a cell that was hemizygous for mating type. Similar losses of  
480 the same chromosome have also recently been observed in artificial *S. cerevisiae* × *S. kudriavzevii*  
481 and *Saccharomyces kudriavzevii* × *Saccharomyces uvarum* hybrids (Karanyicz et al., 2017; Morard  
482 et al., 2020). What induced the parental *S. eubayanus* cell to engage in rare mating remains unclear.  
483 Loss of one copy of chromosome III has previously been observed in allotriploid and allotetraploid  
484 hybrids derived from the A62 ale strain (Krogerus et al., 2016). The strain, therefore, appears  
485 susceptible to this change and, as a result, is particularly suitable for natural allopolyploid  
486 hybridization. To what extent chromosome III loss is responsible for hybridization in interspecies  
487 hybrids requires further investigation.

488 As observed in previous studies on allotetraploid yeast (Greig et al., 2002; Sebastiani et al., 2002;  
489 Antunovics et al., 2005; Naseeb et al., 2021) there appeared to be no post-zygotic barrier to  
490 reproduction with the F1 hybrid investigated here. Fertility of the F1 spore clones was also limited to  
491 tetraploid strains (via endomitosis (Sebastiani et al., 2002) or, as is most likely the case here, self-  
492 fertilization of homo- or hemizygous diploid spores). Interestingly, fertile strains were observed  
493 among both diploid and tetraploid F2 spore clones. Antunovics et al. (2005) showed persistent fertility  
494 of a presumed allopolyploid hybrid over several generations, though in that case the fertility was restricted  
495 to allotetraploid cells. The mechanisms that facilitate this phenomenon are not yet known but appear  
496 to be unrelated to chromosome pairing as fertility was not directly influenced by ploidy (Greig et al.  
497 2002). Further investigation is necessary to elucidate the processes involved, and may even help to  
498 clarify those processes that contribute to speciation. Marcet-Houben & Gabaldón (2015) have, for  
499 example, suggested that an ancient interspecies hybridization may have led to the creation of the  
500 ancestral *S. cerevisiae* lineage. Regardless of the mechanisms involved, generation of allotetraploid  
501 hybrids appears to be potentially useful for generating diversity through meiotic recombination



502 (Bozdag et al., 2021; Naseeb et al., 2021). Here, no evidence of recombination between the two  
503 parental sub-genomes of the hybrid was observed, rather only within the parental sub-genomes.

504 Industrial lager beer fermentation is currently dominated by Froberg-type *S. pastorianus* strains, and  
505 there exists little diversity within the group (Gallone et al., 2019; Langdon et al., 2019). Creating new  
506 flavour profiles, e.g. in response to the increased consumer demand for higher product quality and  
507 beer with novel and diverse flavours (Aquilani et al., 2015; Carbone and Quici, 2020; Gonzalez Viejo  
508 and Fuentes, 2020), is hampered by the low level of diversity amongst commercial brewing yeast  
509 strains. Previous research has shown that interspecific hybridization is an effective way of introducing  
510 new aromatic diversity among lager yeasts (Krogerus et al., 2015; Mertens et al., 2015; Nikulin et al.,  
511 2018; Turgeon et al., 2021). Not only can distinct aroma profiles of different parent strains be  
512 combined, but aroma formation is often improved compared to either of the parents from heterosis.  
513 Here, we show that sporulation of fertile allotetraploid hybrids could be exploited to further improve  
514 aroma production, as beer concentrations of two important aroma-active esters 3-methylbutyl acetate  
515 and ethyl hexanoate were up to 2.5-fold higher in the F2 spore clones compared to the best parent.  
516 The variation between spore clones can also be exploited to tailor the *de novo* hybrid towards specific  
517 desired traits. It must, however, be emphasised, that much of the phenotypic variation observed here  
518 was likely due to segregation and loss-of-heterozygosity in the heterozygous *S. cerevisiae* sub-  
519 genome.

520 Phenotypic stability is an essential trait in any industrial yeast and this is particularly relevant for  
521 interspecies hybrids where genomes are known to be inherently unstable. Here, the stability of the F2  
522 spore clone A235 was assessed after consecutive wort fermentations. The results showed clearly  
523 differences in performance between A235 and the G10 population but also between the single-cell  
524 cultures. Differences were evident for fermentation capacity, flocculation and flavour profile and  
525 were not due to structural variation as no such changes were apparent. There were however several  
526 CNV changes with respect to chromosomes. The single-cell cultures all gained two extra copies of *S.*  
527 *eubayanus* chromosome III. Isolate 1 lost both copies of the *S. cerevisiae* chromosome XII, while  
528 Isolate 2 lost two copies of *S. eubayanus* chromosome XII. Morard et al. (2019) also observed that  
529 copy number gains of chromosome III resulted in increased ethanol tolerance, possibly from  
530 upregulation of stress-related genes located on it. Voordeckers et al. (2015) in a study of ethanol  
531 adaptation also noted changes in the number of these same chromosomes. In response to high ethanol,  
532 several strains independently gained copies of one or both of these chromosomes. The authors  
533 suggested that these changes may be an early adaptive response to ethanol, which would be followed  
534 by more refined changes with additional exposure. It may be that the G10 yeast in this study are

535 similarly showing signs of early adaptation to ethanol, which reached up to and over 7% in these  
536 fermentations. The higher cell viability of G10 populations is consistent with an improved tolerance,  
537 though the exact relationship between these specific CNVs and phenotype has yet to be resolved.

538 Genomic stability of brewing yeast is vital from an industrial point-of-view. This is because, in  
539 contrast to other beverage fermentations, brewing yeast is reused for multiple consecutive  
540 fermentations. The instability that was demonstrated here for the tetraploid F2 segregant A235,  
541 highlights the importance of stabilizing *de novo* yeast hybrids before they are suitable for industrial  
542 use. While instability is not a desirable trait for industrial yeast, rapid genome resolution in  
543 interspecies hybrids, such as that seen in this and other studies (Dunn et al., 2013; Peris et al., 2017;  
544 Smukowski Heil et al., 2017), suggests that stable genomes may evolve within a short time and,  
545 furthermore, that *de novo* hybrid genomes may be amenable to directed evolution to improve their  
546 industrial potential (Krogerus et al., 2018a; Gorter de Vries et al., 2019). This opens up the possibility  
547 of further improving and developing the strains in a targeted manner.

548 A key feature of the modern brewing market is a demand for diversity in beer character. Until now  
549 brewers have satisfied this demand through the creative use of malts and hops. This study, and related  
550 investigations, have shown that there is also significant potential to direct or fine-tune the flavour  
551 profile of beers through the creation of novel brewing yeast strains or modification of existing  
552 brewing yeast strains. Here, a number of development steps were undertaken (hybridization,  
553 sporulation, adaptation) to introduce diversity. It is clear however that further improvement may be  
554 achieved through the addition of even more developmental steps, e.g. further rounds of sporulation,  
555 or evolutionary engineering. Importantly, all stages in the strain development included here could  
556 feasibly occur in nature. Strains thus produced are therefore suitable for immediate application in  
557 brewing, with the proviso that genome stabilization has occurred prior to application. Further  
558 investigation is required to determine the dynamics of genome stabilization following hybridization.

559

560 **Conflict of Interest**

561 The authors affiliated with VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd were employed by the  
562 company. The remaining authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any  
563 commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

564 **Acknowledgements**

565 Eero Mattila and Niklas Fred are thanked for assistance in the VTT Pilot Brewery, and Aila Siltala  
566 for skilled technical assistance.

567 **Author Contributions**

568 Conceived the study: BG

569 Designed experiments: KK, BG

570 Performed experiments: KK, FM, VV, BG

571 Analysis of experimental data: KK

572 Analysis of genome data: KK, SC, GP, MDC, JXY, GL

573 Wrote the manuscript: KK, BG

574 **Funding**

575 Research at VTT was supported by the Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Svenska Kulturfonden - The  
576 Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland, PBL Brewing Laboratory, the Academy of Finland  
577 (Academy Project 276480). Research in GL lab was supported by ATIP-Avenir (CNRS/INSERM),  
578 ARC (grant number n°PJA 20151203273), FP7-PEOPLE-2012-CIG (grant number 322035), the  
579 French National Research Agency (grant numbers ANR-13-BSV6-0006-01 and 11-LABX-0028-01),  
580 Cancéropôle PACA (AAP émergence 2015) and DuPont Young Professor Award. JXY was  
581 supported by a post-doctoral fellowship from ARC (PDF20150602803).

582

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## 815 **Figure Legends**

816 **Figure 1** - Overview of the yeast strains generated in this study.

817

818 **Figure 2** - Chromosome copy numbers and ploidy of the parent and hybrid strains. Chromosome  
819 copy number variations (CNV) in the *S. cerevisiae* A-81062 (top) and *S. eubayanus* C12902 (bottom)  
820 sub-genomes of the hybrid strains compared to the parent strains (the numbers inside the cells indicate  
821 the estimated absolute chromosome copy number). A blue color indicates a chromosome loss, while  
822 a red color indicates a chromosome duplication compared to the parent strain (e.g., -1 corresponds  
823 to one less chromosome in the hybrid compared to the parent strain). NA, not available.

824

825 **Figure 3** - Haplotype blocks (red and blue) in the *S. cerevisiae* sub-genome of the F1 hybrid and the  
826 four F1 spore clones.

827

828 **Figure 4** - Phenotypic variation in the parent strains and hybrids. (A) Heatmap depicting the variation  
829 of the 22 phenotypic traits in the parent strains, F1 hybrid, F1 spore clones and F2 spore clones. (B  
830 and C) Principal component analysis of the 22 phenotypic traits. (D) 3-methylbutyl acetate and (E)  
831 ethyl hexanoate concentrations in the beers produced with the above 11 strains and a commercial  
832 lager yeast control. (F) The flocculation potential of the above 11 strains as measured by Helm's test.  
833 (G) The maximum fermentation rate observed among the above 11 strains and a commercial lager  
834 yeast control during the wort fermentations. (D-G) Values are means from two independent  
835 fermentations and error bars where visible represent the standard deviation. Values with different  
836 letters (a-j) above the bars differ significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) as determined by one-way ANOVA and  
837 Tukey's test.

838

839 **Figure 5** - Fermentation performance of the G10 isolates and the mixed population. (A) The alcohol  
840 content (% volume) of the 15 °P wort fermented with the F2 spore clone A235, the tenth generation  
841 mixed population derived from it, and the three single cell isolates from the tenth generation  
842 population. (B) The 3-methylbutyl acetate and (C) ethyl hexanoate concentrations in the beers  
843 produced with the above strains. Values are means from two independent fermentations and error  
844 bars where visible represent the standard deviation. Values with different letters (a-b) above the bars  
845 differ significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) as determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's test.

846 **Table 1.** Strains used in this study and their spore viabilities, flocculation potential, and post-  
 847 fermentation viability. Spore viability was assessed by dissecting at least 16 tetrads by  
 848 micromanipulation and observing colony formation after 4 days (YPM media, 24°C). ND: not  
 849 determined. NA: not available.

VTT Code	Short Code	Strain	Spore viability (%)	Flocculation potential (%)	Post-fermentation viability (%)
A-81062	A62	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> ale strain	8	99 ± 0.0	97 ± 0.2
A-63015	A15	<i>S. pastorianus</i> lager strain	0	ND	92 ± 0.4
C-12902	C902	<i>S. eubayanus</i> type strain	96	3.0 ± 3.1	64 ± 2.0
A-15225	A225	Hybrid of A-81062 and C-12902	55	92 ± 1.3	76 ± 2.0
A-15226	A226	Meiotic segregant of A-15225	63	96 ± 1.1	71 ± 3.4
A-15227	A227	Meiotic segregant of A-15225	95	4.2 ± 0.1	76 ± 0.5
A-15228	A228	Meiotic segregant of A-15225	0	88 ± 0.8	98 ± 0.1
A-15229	A229	Meiotic segregant of A-15225	0	2.8 ± 4.0	95 ± 0.1
A-16232	A232	Meiotic segregant of A-15227	78	0.6 ± 0.1	94 ± 0.1
A-16233	A233	Meiotic segregant of A-15227	0	1.0 ± 4.9	93 ± 0.2
A-16234	A234	Meiotic segregant of A-15227	78	0.0 ± 3.1	17 ± 2.1
A-16235	A235	Meiotic segregant of A-15227	86	6.9 ± 4.1	6 ± 0.6
NA	A235 G10 1	Single cell isolate after 10 consecutive batch fermentations with A-16235	NA	ND	93 ± 0.4
NA	A235 G10 2	Single cell isolate after 10 consecutive batch fermentations with A-16235	NA	ND	93 ± 0.1
NA	A235 G10 3	Single cell isolate after 10 consecutive batch fermentations with A-16235	NA	ND	83 ± 0.5

**Table 2.** *de novo* SNPs in F1 spore clones of *S. cerevisiae* × *S. eubayanus* A225 hybrid.

Chromosome	Position	Reference allele	Alternative allele	Gene	Amino acid change	A225	A226	A227	A228	A229
Sc_chrI	183704	A	C	YGL053W	Gln24Pro	0/0	0/1	0/0	0	1
Sc_chrI	184911	TAAGA	CAAGT	YAR028W	Met12Leu	0/0	0/0	0/1	0	0
Sc_chrI	218873	G	T	YAL067C	Glu63Asp	0/0	0/0	1/1	1	0
Sc_chrI	218890	G	C	YAL067C	Ser69Thr	0/0	0/0	1/1	1	0
Sc_chrII	791876	AGCA	TGGT	YBR298C	CysSer374ThrThr	0/0	0/0	0/1	0	1
Sc_chrIII	7048	G	C	YAL069W-like	Met57Ile	0	.	.	0	1
Sc_chrIV	1284545	G	A	YDR420W	Val500Ile	0/0	1/1	1/1	0	0
Sc_chrV	584634	T	C	YJL225C-like	Ile291Thr	0/0	0/0	1/1	1	0
Sc_chrVI	42156	C	T	YHR216W	Arg482Lys	0/0	0/1	0/1	0	.
Sc_chrVI	115367	AAGAA	GGGAG	YFL023W	Lys497Arg	0/0	0/0	1/1	1	0
Sc_chrVI	130649	GGGAAAAGGA AAAGGAAAAG	GGGAAAAGGAAAAG GAAAAGGAAAAG	YFL015C	Phe19_Leu20 ins-LeuPhe	0/0	0/0	1/1	1	0
Sc_chrVII	844553	G	A	YGR189C	Leu404Phe	0/0	0/0	0/1	0	0
Sc_chrIX	299627	CTCAAATTCAA ATT	CTCAAATTCAAATTC AAATTCAAATTCAAA TT	YIL031W	Asn408_Ser4 13dup	0/0	0/1	0/1	0	0
Sc_chrX	8820	C	T	YNL336W	Ala138Val	0/0	0/0	0/1	1	0
Sc_chrXI	677693	CATA	AATG	YBR298C-like	Met90Ile	0/0	0/0	1/1	0	1
Sc_chrXI	677814	A	T	YBR298C-like	Leu50His	0/0	0/0	1/1	0	1
Sc_chrXI	677842	T	G	YBR298C-like	Lys41Gln	0/0	0/0	.	0	1
Sc_chrXII	2376	AGCAGT	GGCACC	YLL064C	Thr17Gly	0/0	0/0	0/1	0	1
Sc_chrXIV	555793	C	A	YNL033W	Leu274Ile	0/0	0/0	0/0	1	1
Sc_chrXIV	692789	CTCCCTAAGT	ATCTCCAAGC	YNR044W	Leu340Pro	0/0	0/0	1/1	1	0
Sc_chrXIV	776965	T	C	YIR042C	Lys76Glu	0/0	0/0	0/0	1	1
Se_chr5	272439	T	G	YER056C	Asn356His	0/0	0/1	0/1	0	0
Se_chr10	14626	A	G	YAL063C-like	Ile933Thr	0/0	0/0	0/1	0	0
Se_chr15	313419	C	G	YOR009W-like	Phe91Leu	0/0	0/1	0/1	0	0

**Table 3.** *de novo* SNPs in G10 single cell isolates derived from the F2 spore clone A235.

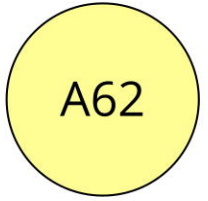
<b>Chromosome</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Reference allele</b>	<b>Alternative allele</b>	<b>Gene</b>	<b>Amino acid change</b>	<b>A235</b>	<b>A235 G10 1</b>	<b>A235 G10 2</b>	<b>A235 G10 3</b>
Sc_chrV	584552	CT	AC	YJL225C-like	p.Leu264Thr	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0
Sc_chrV	584565	T	G	YJL225C-like	p.Val268Gly	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0
Sc_chrVII	386689	TTGAT	TT	YGL062W	p.Asp672del	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1
Sc_chrX	8832	G	A	YNL336W	p.Arg142Lys	0/0	0/1	0/1	0/1
Sc_chrXII	1050334	CTG	CTGTTG	YLR437C	p.Gln18dup	0/0	.	1/1	0/0





*S. cerevisiae*

*S. eubayanus*

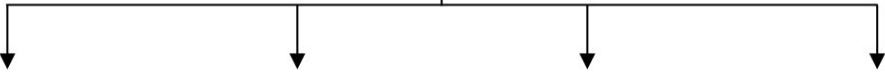


Rare mating



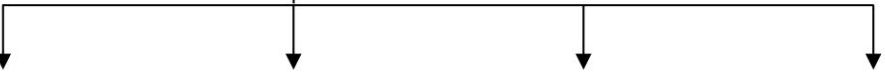
F1 Hybrid

Sporulation and dissection of ascus



F1 spore clone

Sporulation and dissection of ascus



F2 spore clone

10 consecutive wort fermentations and isolation of 3 random colonies



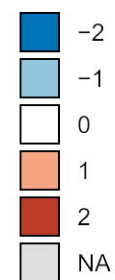
Stabilized F2 spore clone

*S. cerevisiae* sub-genome

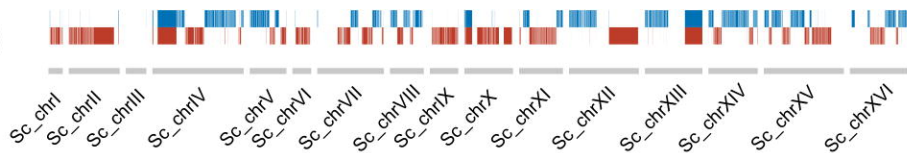
*S. eubayanus* sub-genome

	Sc	Se	Sc × Se								A235_G10_1	A235_G10_2	A235_G10_3	
	A62	C902	A225	A226	A227	A228	A229	A232	A233	A234	A235			
Ploidy	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4
Sc_chrI	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrII	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrIII	2	NA	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sc_chrIV	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrV	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrVI	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrVII	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrVIII	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrIX	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrX	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrXI	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrXII	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	2
Sc_chrXIII	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrXIV	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrXV	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Sc_chrXVI	2	NA	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr1	NA	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr2	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr3	NA	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	2	4	4	4
Se_chr4	NA	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4
Se_chr5	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr6	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr7	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr8	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr9	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr10	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr11	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr12	NA	2	2	4	3	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	2	4
Se_chr13	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr14	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr15	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Se_chr16	NA	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2

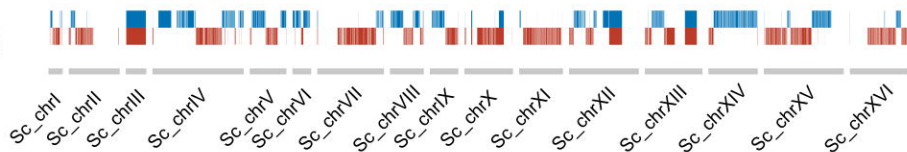
Chromosome CNV compared to parent strains



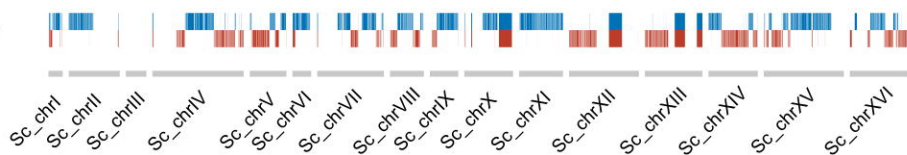
# A229



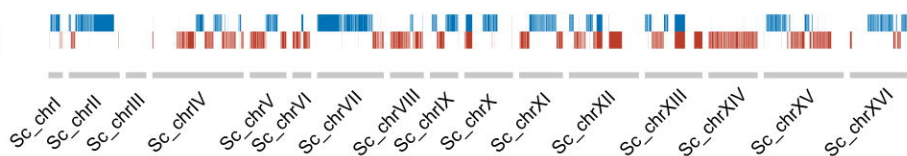
# A228



# A227



# A226



# A225

