

Energy saving brewing method

5 All patent and non-patent references cited in the application are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to energy saving methods for preparing barley based beverages, for example malt based beverages, such as beer. The invention further-
more relates to barley plants useful in the disclosed methods. In particular, the inven-
tion describes barley plants with combined traits of null-lipoxygenase-1 (null-LOX-1),
null-lipoxygenase-2 (null-LOX-2) and null-S-adenosylmethionine:methionine S-
methyltransferase (also denoted null-S-methionine (Met)- S-methyltransferase or
15 null-MMT) in one plant, i.e. a null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2–null-MMT barley plant (herein
also interchangeably denoted double-null-LOX–null-MMT), which is particularly useful
for the energy saving methods to prepare barley based beverages described herein.

20 BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Malting facility and brewhouse

25 Barley – *Hordeum vulgare*, L. – is a diploid cereal that is widely grown in different climates for food and beverage production. Beverages based on said plant are produced in large quantities, employing highly energy consuming methods, for example in the malting and brewhouse facilities for kiln drying and wort boiling operations, respectively.

30 Malting usually involves steeping of barley kernels to promote germination, followed by kiln drying at elevated temperatures, which makes the process particularly energy consuming. Key objectives of kiln drying include: (i) germination termination; (ii) drying the germinated barley grains; (iii) enzyme denaturation, particularly lipase and LOX enzymes in wild-type barley; and (iv) conversion of the dimethyl sulphide (DMS)
35 precursors (DMSP), principally consisting of S-methyl-Met (SMM), into volatile DMS

[after kiln drying of a normal pale malt, the DMSP content is on average 4 ppm in dry weight (see Technology Brewing and Malting, Kunze, 2004, VLB Berlin, pp. 158-162)]. Certain enzyme activities are preserved during kiln drying (e.g. amylase, protease, etc).

5 In the brewhouse, there is in general terms consumed about half of the energy in the brewing process, corresponding to an energy load in the range 48,000–83,000 kJ/hL (Modern brewhouse technology, Brauwelt International 2004, p. 410-412). Most of the energy is consumed in the process of wort boiling, the goal of which is in general to provide: (i) coagulation of protein; (ii) inactivation of enzymes; (iii) wort sterilization;
10 (iv) extraction of hop compounds; (v) isomerization of α -acids; and (vi) evaporation of unwanted volatile compounds, e.g. the sulphury and stale off-flavours DMS and trans-2-nonenal (T2N), respectively.

Wort is traditionally boiled for at least 50–60 min to allow for an overall evaporation of
15 at least 10–15% (see Technology Brewing and Malting, Kunze, 2004, VLB Berlin, Chapter 11), but now often improved by technological means to 6–8%. It has also been attempted to reduce energy consumption even further, for example by minimizing evaporation to as little as 3–4%, combined with a stripping process that extracts unwanted volatile compounds into injected steam (see e.g. Bonacchelli et al., 2007). It
20 is thought that the levels of unwanted, volatile compounds in wort makes it difficult to further reduce, or even eliminate, evaporation.

T2N

25 T2N – a volatile C₉ alkenal with a boiling point of 88°C – was characterized in 1970 as the molecule conferring the cardboard-like off-flavour in beer (Jamieson and Gheluwe, 1970). Since the taste-threshold level for T2N in humans is extremely low, previously determined to be around 0.7 nM or 0.1 ppb (Meilgaard, 1975), products with even minute levels of the aldehyde are perceived as aged. However, levels of T2N are
30 generally very low in fresh beer (Lermusieau et al., 1999), indicating that processes during ageing promote liberation of free T2N from corresponding adducts (Nyborg et al., 1999). A subsequent observation revealed correlation between the T2N potential of wort and formed free T2N after product storage (Kuroda et al., 2005).

Kiln drying and wort boiling represent separate processing steps that may be targets for manipulation in order to achieve reduced levels of T2N in barley-based beverages. While kiln drying at high temperatures confer inactivation of the enzymes involved in T2N formation, such as lipases and LOXs (see e.g. Technology Brewing and Malting, Kunze, 2004, VLB Berlin, p. 162), free T2N also can be removed by wort boiling.

The barley kernel contains three LOX enzymes – known as LOX-1, LOX-2, and LOX-3 (van Mechelen et al., 1999). The major activity of LOX-1 catalyzes the formation of 9-hydroperoxy octadecadienoic acid (9-HPODE; see **FIG. 1A** for a partial overview of the LOX pathway) – a precursor of both T2N and trihydroxy octadecenoic acids (THAs) – from linoleic acid. LOX-2 mainly catalyzes the conversion of linoleic acid to 13-HPODE, which is further metabolized to hexanal, a C₆ aldehyde with a ~0.4-ppm-high taste threshold (Meilgaard, supra). Given LOX-2's very little 9-HPODE-forming activity, several reports have noted that T2N is produced via a biochemical pathway involving conversion of linoleic acid to 9-HPODE, initially catalyzed by LOX-1, followed by cleavage of 9-HPODE through 9-hydroperoxide lyase action (see, for example, Kuroda et al., 2003, 2005; Noodermeer et al., 2001).

With regard to the above-mentioned properties of LOX-1, said enzyme is a useful target for inactivation in efforts to lower T2N levels in barley-based products, actually substantiated by the following two observations: (i) Kuroda et al. (2005) suggested a correlation between LOX-1 activity and the wort T2N potential, primarily because LOX-2 has been considered inferior with respect to formation of the T2N potential in said wort. However, there appears to be no correlation between the overall LOX activity in malt and the wort T2N potential; (ii) methods have been described to obtain reduced activity of LOX-1 in barley.

Several different barley plants have been developed that share the property of partially or totally reduced LOX-1 activity. For example, barley kernels and barley plants having a low LOX-1 activity were disclosed in PCT Application WO 02/053721 to Douma, A.C. et al., while WO 2005/087934 to Breddam, K. et al. focused on two different barley mutants deficient in LOX-1 activity – a splice site mutant and a mutant with a premature translational stop codon. In addition, EP 1609866 to Hirota, N. et al. described a barley plant with no LOX-1 activity, which was identified by screening a collection of barley landraces.

DMS

In barley-based beverages – as also in many vegetables and foodstuffs, including tea,
5 cocoa, milk, wines, spirits (such as rum), sweet corn, and numerous cooked vegetables
– DMS adds prominent odour and flavour notes to the product. Depending on beer
type, DMS levels typically can reach 150 ppb (150 µg/L), with said compound often
contributing to undesirable "cooked vegetable" or "cabbage-like" flavours. In this
10 regard, it is not only important that the sensory threshold is around 30-45 µg/L
(Meilgaard, 1982), but also that the DMS-derived flavour remains unnoticed at
levels <10 ppb.

The aforementioned kiln drying and wort boiling processing steps in beer production
influence the levels of DMS in barley-based beverages, primarily because both of said
15 processes may induce chemical conversion of SMM to DMS (see e.g. Technology
Brewing and Malting, Kunze, 2004, VLB Berlin, p. 160). Due to the latter compound's
boiling point of only 37-38°C, a major part of the DMS will simply evaporate to the
atmosphere. However, when duration or vigor of wort boiling is inadequate to convert
residual SMM, DMS may continue to form as the wort cools – with high probability of
20 transfer to the beer.

SMM represents almost all, possibly all, of the DMSP pool in germinating barley
kernels, synthesized by the action of functional components of the SMM cycle
(**FIG. 1B**). Here, MMT catalyzes the transfer of a methyl group from S-adenosyl-Met
25 (AdoMet) to Met, forming SMM. The latter compound can in turn serve as methyl donor
for Met synthesis from homocysteine (Hcy), a reaction catalyzed by the enzyme Hcy-S-
methyltransferase (HMT).

In the scientific literature, it has been considered an opportunity to regulate SMM
30 synthesis by using, for example, antisense technology (McElroy and Jacobsen, 1995).
However, no guidance was provided on relevant target genes to antisense. Despite
that, it was expected that the likelihood of a positive outcome was questionable as
large reductions in SMM levels could be harmful to barley growth and development.
Alternative solutions for obtaining lower level of SMM were not discussed by McElroy
35 and Jacobsen (supra). And also, as discussed in detail herein below, antisense

technologies have not been successfully applied in barley to completely abolish gene expression.

Technological methods for reducing the level of DMS in beer have been developed.

5 Thus, AU 38578/93 described a method of reducing DMS levels in malt, comprising steam treatment of said malt. In patent application US 2006/0057684 to Bisgaard-Frantzen, H. et al. was described brewing methods comprising heat treatment of mash at $\geq 70^{\circ}\text{C}$. And in U.S. Patent No. 5,242,694 to Reuther, H. was noted methods for
10 preparing low-carbohydrate beer, wherein the methods comprise extensive boiling of wort followed by washing of said wort with carbon dioxide (CO_2). However, all of the aforementioned treatments are known to consume high levels of energy, possibly altering malt or wort characteristics.

Mutant barley plants

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Unfortunately no methods are available for preparing transgenic barley plants that completely lack expression of a given protein. In general for barley, application of antisense techniques lead to transgenic plants still expressing some of the protein in question (see for example Robbins et al. 1998; Stahl et al., 2004; Hansen et al., 2007).

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Also, effective methods for preparing specific mutations using chimeric RNA/DNA or site directed mutagenesis have not been developed for use in barley plants. In line with this, and despite intensive efforts, inventors of the present application remain unaware of any published example on successful oligonucleotide-directed gene targeting in barley. Although not pursued in barley, Iida and Terada (2005) note that

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oligonucleotide-directed gene targeting has been tested in maize, tobacco and rice – but in all cases with the herbicide-resistance gene acetolactate synthase (ALS) as a target. According to the conclusion by Iida and Terada (supra), it remains to be established whether the above-mentioned strategy, with appropriate modifications, is applicable to genes other than those directly selectable, such as the ALS genes.

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Although not yet substantiated, targeted mutagenesis using zinc-finger nucleases represents another tool that potentially could allow future investigations in basic plant biology or modifications in crop plants (Durai et al., 2005; Tzfira and White, 2005; Kumar et al., 2006). Also in this case, however, mutagenesis has not been pursued or successfully applied in barley.

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Nonetheless, barley mutants may be prepared by random mutagenesis using irradiation or chemical treatment, such as incubating kernels for 12 h to over night with a solution of sodium azide (NaN_3). An example concerns barley kernels mutagenized through the use of NaN_3 , and subsequently screened for high levels of free phosphate in an effort to screen for low-phytate mutants (Rasmussen and Hatzack, 1998); a total of 10 mutants out of 2,000 screened kernels were identified. Although far from always possible, finding a particular mutant after NaN_3 treatment is dependent on persistence and an effective screening method.

10 Sustainability

In a world seeking solutions to its energy, environmental and food challenges, one focus of society is to limit or reduce atmospheric CO_2 concentrations – especially focusing on CO_2 emissions from industrial systems. The principal reason is that an increase in the concentration of a greenhouse gas causes a change in Earth's energy balance, with CO_2 being the largest single contributor. As a consequence of the widespread concern about climate change, and also based on economic rationales and constraints, breweries may play an active part by using energy as efficiently as possible, and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from operations more effectively. Until now, the focal point has been on technological means to solve the above-mentioned issues on sustainability.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Heat treatment methods have been described for reduction of LOX activity and DMS levels of DMS. Said treatment was generally undertaken during malting and/or preparation of wort, meaning that products of LOX activity were allowed to accumulate in barley until undertaking of the heat treatment. Analysis of barley revealed that significant amounts of products of LOX activity were present in barley, even prior to malting (Wackerbauer and Meyna, 2002). It is apparent that heat treatment methods are highly energy consuming.

The present invention provides methods for preparing a cereal based beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof (notably low levels of

DMS and T2N and precursors thereof), wherein the method involves reduced energy input, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 (i) providing a cereal plant, or part thereof, wherein said cereal plant comprises:
 - (a) a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1; and
 - (b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2; and
 - (c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT;
- (ii) optionally malting at least part of said cereal, thereby obtaining malted cereal;
- 10 (iii) mashing said cereal and/or malted cereal and optionally additional adjuncts, thereby obtaining a wort;
- (iv) heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s), wherein at the most 4% of the wort volume is evaporated, thereby obtaining heated wort;
- 15 (v) processing said heated wort into a beverage;

thereby preparing a cereal derived beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof.

- 20 In particular, the invention provides methods for preparing a barley based beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof (notably low levels of DMS and T2N and precursors thereof), wherein the method involves reduced energy input, the method comprising the steps of:

- 25 (i) providing a barley plant, or part thereof, wherein said barley plant comprises:
 - (a) a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1; and
 - (b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2; and
 - (c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT;
- (ii) optionally malting at least part of said barley, thereby obtaining malted
30 barley;
- (iii) mashing said barley and/or malted barley and optionally additional adjuncts, thereby obtaining a wort;
- (iv) heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s), wherein at the most 4% of the wort volume is evaporated, thereby obtaining
35 heated wort;

(v) processing said heated wort into a beverage;

thereby preparing a barley derived beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof.

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It is also an objective of the present invention to provide barley plants suitable for use in the disclosed methods. Thus, it is an objective of the invention to provide agronomically useful barley plants comprising all of the three different traits, i.e. a null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2–null-MMT barley plant (herein also denoted "double-null-
10 LOX–null-MMT"). Selection of a useful barley plant concerns not only plant vigour, but also the combined lack of LOX-1, LOX-2 and MMT enzymic activities, utilizing biochemical assays as described in detail herein below. The barley plants according to the present invention may be introduced into any suitable breeding scheme, such as selfing, backcrossing, crossing to populations, and the like.

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A way to accelerate the process of plant breeding comprises the initial multiplication of generated mutants by application of tissue culture and regeneration techniques. As described in Example 3 and schematically shown in **FIG. 3**, a traditional barley breeding scheme was employed to generate a barley plant with the double-null-
20 LOX–null-MMT trait from a double-null-LOX barley plant and a null-MMT plant. Thus, another aspect of the present invention is to provide cells, which upon growth and differentiation produce barley plants having the double-null-LOX–null-MMT trait. For example, breeding may involve traditional crossings, preparing fertile anther-derived, doubled haploid plants using tissue culturing such as anther culture or microspore
25 culturings.

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The present invention discloses that reduced energy input for kiln drying is achievable through application of null-LOX grains, because there is no need to inactivate endogenous LOX enzyme. The double-null-LOX–null-MMT mutant described by the
30 present invention can be utilized for production of a raw material lacking the corresponding enzyme activities, making the mutant of interest to achieve lower energy consumption during kiln drying in the malting facility, but also in the brewhouse because of reduced heat input during wort boiling.

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From a beer or beverage quality standpoint, there is also a need for a double-null-LOX-null-MMT raw material, in order to functionally eliminate or drastically reduce T2N and DMS levels in the products.

5 In addition to the above-mentioned, potential properties of a double-null-LOX-null-MMT malt, a corresponding barley could be useful for the production of off-flavour-low barley beer, here defined as beer produced through omission of the malting process, but instead providing a mash consisting of numerous external enzymes (e.g. Onda Pro, an enzyme mixture produced by Novozymes). As addressed herein below in

10 Example 7, it was surprising by the present inventors to find that wort produced by mashing unmalted double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley raw material contained very low levels of T2N and DMS off-flavours, while that from wild-type barley was surprisingly high in DMS levels despite that the barley kernels had not undergone germination. Accordingly, some DMS precursors (DMSP) must be present in the dry, mature barley

15 kernel – a new, not-yet described property, which is explored in beer products of the instant application. Accordingly, double-null-LOX-null-MMT grains are useful in the production of barley-brewed wort and beer in order to minimize levels of T2N and DMS in fresh and aged beer products.

20 DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 presents simplified overviews of the barley biochemical pathways leading to formation of T2N (**A**), and SMM (**B**). Enzymes absent in Triple-Null barley are highlighted in black boxes. Enzyme abbreviations are those defined in the instant

25 application. **FIG. 1B** shows selected components of the SMM cycle in which SMM is synthesized by methyl transfer from S-adenosylmethionine (SAM) to methionine (Met), catalyzed by the enzyme Met-S-methyltransferase (MMT). SMM can in turn serve as methyl donor for Met synthesis from homocysteine (Hcy), in a reaction catalyzed by the enzyme Hcy-S-methyltransferase (HMT). The illustration shows how the essentially

30 irreversible reactions are connected. Each turn of the cycle is futile as it consumes and then regenerates two Mets while converting ATP to adenosine, PPi and Pi (not shown).

FIG. 2 shows results of HPLC experiments to verify the null-MMT phenotype of Mutant 8063 and Mutant 14018. (**A**) An example on HPLC-based separation of an extract from

35 shoots of cv. Prestige, showing elution of aspartic acid (Asp), glutamic acid (Glu),

asparagine (Asn), serine (Ser) and SMM. Fluorescence of OPA-derivatized extracts of barley shoots were excited at 340 nm and emission measured at 450 nm. **(B)** HPLC-based separation of extracts from the indicated mutants and wild-type cv. Sebastian. Separation of components in a mutant extract provided a chromatogram without SMM-specific peaks.

FIG. 3 illustrates the work flow from crossing of null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2 (double-null-LOX) and null-MMT barley plants to the Triple-Null barley.

FIG. 4 highlights LOX activities in samples derived from the indicated plants. Results of total LOX activity determinations in mature barley kernels are shown with grey bars, while those in black indicate LOX-2 activities in germinating embryos. Very low LOX activities were observed in both null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2 and Triple-Null plants.

FIG. 5 illustrates that germinated Triple-Null plants cannot synthesize SMM (upper panel in which the corresponding peak is absent in the UPLC chromatogram), while said compound is easily detectable as a corresponding chromatogram peak in an extract of germinating wild-type barley, cv. Quench (lower panel). The elution positions of selected amino acids are indicated.

FIG. 6 details graphically the workflow of micro-maltings and -mashings **(A)**, in addition to that of pilot-maltings, -mashings and -brewings of kernels from wild-type barley **(B)** and the Triple-Null mutant **(C)**. The flow of individual samples (marked in grey boxes) is illustrated with arrows. Start, intermediate and end products are marked in bold font type on top of the list; processes are in italics font type. In **(A)**, numbers in italics below the flow list refer to sampling points for determination of levels of free T2N and its precursors (2 and 4), and DMSP and DMS (1, 2, 3), where measuring point 4 represents cooled-down, heated wort. For micro-mashing of barley flour, samples were measured at sampling points 2, 3 and 4. In **(B)** and **(C)**, DMSP, DMS, T2N precursor and free T2N levels were determined at all sampling points.

FIG. 7 shows that beer made of Triple-Null malt generates around four times more beer foam than that of a beer brewed on malt of wild-type cv. Quench – irrespective of pressurized or normal wort boiling.

FIG. 8 provides one example on how NaN₃-mutagenized barley kernels may be propagated. Kernels of generation M0 grow into plants that develop kernels of generation M1. These may be sown for development into M1 plants, which produce new kernels of generation M2. Next, M2 plants grow and set kernels of generation M3. Kernels of generation M3 may be allowed to germinate, for example for analysis of coleoptiles of the germinated M3 plants. Additionally, flowers derived from kernels of M3 plants may be used in crossings with barley lines or cultivars to obtain plants of generation M4. A similar figure is presented as FIG. 1A in PCT patent application WO 2005/087934 to Breddam, K. et al.

FIG. 9 shows a simplified, schematic overview of a preferred beer production process, including steeping of barley grain (1), malting (2), kiln drying (3), milling of the dried malt (4), mashing (5), filtration (6), wort boiling in the presence of added hops (7), fermentation in the presence of yeast (8), beer maturation (9), beer filtration (10), packaging, such as the packaging into bottles, cans, or the like (11), and labeling (12). The individual processes can be grouped into sections comprising malt production (1-3), wort production (4-7), fermentation (8-9), and the preparation of the finished beer (10-12). Although a preferred method is illustrated, other methods may be envisaged that omit some of the depicted steps (filtration may, for example, be omitted, or hops may not be added – or additional steps may be added, such as addition of adjuncts, sugars, syrups, or carbonate).

FIG. 10 illustrates how to identify null-LOX-1 derived DNA fragments in beer (mixture comprising 50% null-LOX-1) and wort samples (Triple-Null) produced using null-LOX-1 raw materials, but not in beer produced using flour of a mixture of normal malt and wild-type barley (Tuborg). Template volume of the concluding PCR amplification is indicated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Definitions

In the description, figures, and tables that follow, a number of terms are used. In order to provide the specifications and claims, including the scope to be given such terms, the following definitions are provided:

As used herein, "a" can mean one or more, depending on the context in which it is used.

5 The term "agronomic trait" describes a phenotypic or genetic trait of a plant that contributes to the performance or economic value of said plant. Such traits include disease resistance, insect resistance, virus resistance, nematode resistance, drought tolerance, high salinity tolerance, yield, plant height, days to maturity, kernel grading (i.e. kernel size fractionation), kernel nitrogen content and the like.

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The term "barley" in reference to the process of making barley based beverages, such as beer, particularly when used to describe the malting process, means barley kernels. In all other cases, unless otherwise specified, "barley" means the barley plant (*Hordeum vulgare*, L.), including any breeding line or cultivar or variety, whereas part of
15 a barley plant may be any part of a barley plant, for example any tissue or cells.

In the process of "barley brewing", wort is prepared by incubating an extract of unmalted barley with an enzyme mixture that hydrolyzes the barley components. A wort produced by barley brewing may be denoted "barley wort", or "barley-brewed" wort.

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By "disease resistance" is intended that the plants avoid disease symptoms, which are the outcome of plant-pathogen interactions. In this way, pathogens are prevented from causing plant diseases and the associated disease symptoms. Alternatively, the disease symptoms caused by the pathogen are minimized or reduced, or even
25 prevented.

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"DMSP" as used herein is an abbreviation for DMS precursor or DMS potential, i.e. the molecules that can be converted to DMS during the production of beverages. SMM represents the major part of, if not all, DMSP. The level of DMSP is defined herein as
30 the quantity of DMS that can be generated from DMSP in the specified plant material, or product thereof, by boiling at alkaline conditions for 1 h. As defined herein, 1 ppb DMSP can be converted to 1 ppb DMS.

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As used herein the term "double null-LOX" refers to a first mutation resulting in a total
35 loss of functional LOX-1 and a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional

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LOX-2. Thus, a "double null-LOX barley plant" is a barley plant comprising a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1 and a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2. Similarly, "double null-LOX kernels" are kernels having a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1 and a second mutation
5 resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2.

The term "double-null-LOX-null-MMT" refers to a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1 and a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT. Thus, a "double-null-
10 LOX-null-MMT barley plant" is a barley plant comprising a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1 and a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT. Similarly, "double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels" are kernels having a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1 and a second mutation resulting in a total
15 loss of functional LOX-2 and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT. An example of a useful double-null-LOX-null-MMT is denoted "Triple-Null" and described in the Examples herein below.

A "cereal" plant, as defined herein, is a member of the Graminae plant family,
20 cultivated primarily for their starch-containing seeds or kernels. Cereal plants include, but are not limited to barley (*Hordeum*), wheat (*Triticum*), rice (*Oryza*), maize (*Zea*), rye (*Secale*), oat (*Avena*), sorghum (*Sorghum*), and Triticale, a rye-wheat hybrid.

By "encoding" or "encoded", in the context of a specified nucleic acid, is meant
25 comprising the information for translation into the specified protein. A nucleic acid or polynucleotide encoding a protein may comprise non-translated sequences, e.g. introns, within translated regions of the nucleic acid, or may lack such intervening non-translated sequences, e.g. in cDNA. The information by which a protein is encoded is specified by the use of codons.

30 As used herein, "expression" in the context of nucleic acids is to be understood as the transcription and accumulation of sense mRNA or antisense RNA derived from a nucleic acid fragment. "Expression" used in the context of proteins refers to translation of mRNA into a polypeptide.

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The term "gene" means the segment of DNA involved in producing a polypeptide chain; it includes regions preceding and following the coding region (promoter and terminator). Furthermore, plant genes generally consist of exons interrupted by introns. After transcription into RNA, the introns are removed by splicing to generate a mature messenger RNA (mRNA). The "splice sites" between exons and introns are typically determined by consensus sequences acting as splice signals for the splicing process, consisting of a deletion of the intron from the primary RNA transcript and a joining or fusion of the ends of the remaining RNA on either side of the excised intron. In some cases, alternate or different patterns of splicing can generate different proteins from the same single stretch of DNA. A native gene may be referred to as an "endogenous gene".

As used herein, "heterologous" in reference to a nucleic acid is a nucleic acid that originates from a foreign species, or, if from the same species, is substantially modified from its native form in composition and/or genomic locus by deliberate human intervention.

The term "germination" as used herein means the beginning or resumption of growth by a barley kernel in various compositions, such as normal soil as found in nature.

Thus, a germinating embryo is an embryo undergoing germination. Germination can also take place in the soil of pots placed in growth chambers and the like, or for example take place on wet filter paper placed in standard laboratory Petri dishes or during malting (for example, in steep tanks or germination boxes of the malting factory). Germination is generally understood to include hydration of the kernels, swelling of the kernels and inducing growth of the embryo. Environmental factors affecting germination include moisture, temperature and oxygen level. Root and shoot development is observed.

The term "kernel" is defined to comprise the cereal caryopsis, also denoted internal seed, the lemma and palea. In most barley varieties, the lemma and palea adhere to the caryopsis and are a part of the kernel following threshing. However, naked barley varieties also occur. In these, the caryopsis is free of the lemma and palea and threshes out free as in wheat. The terms "kernel" and "grain" are used interchangeably herein.

"Grain development" refers to the period starting with fertilization of the egg cell by a pollen cell. During fertilization metabolic reserves – e.g. sugars, oligosaccharides, starch, phenolics, amino acids, and proteins – are deposited, with and without vacuole targeting, to various tissues in the kernel (grain) endosperm, testa, aleurone, and scutellum, thus leading to kernel (grain) enlargement, kernel (grain) filling, and ending with kernel (grain) desiccation.

The term "total loss of functional ..." refers to the lack of the given enzymatic activity. Thus a barley plant with a "total loss of functional LOX-1 and LOX-2 is a barley plant with no detectable LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities. In the context of the present invention, LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities are determined by an assay procedure determining the formation of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE from linoleic acid, even though LOX-1 and LOX-2 enzymes may have other activities. Preferably, formation of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE from linoleic acid is determined as described in Example 4 of international patent PCT/DK2009/050355. The activity should be determined using protein extracts of germinated embryos. In the context of the present invention, generation of a chromatogram peak corresponding to less than 5%, preferably less than 3% of the 9-HPODE peak of the standard shown in **FIG. 5A** of international patent PCT/DK2009/050355, and/or a peak corresponding to less than 5%, preferably less than 3% of the 13-HPODE peak of the standard shown in **FIG. 5A** of international patent PCT/DK2009/050355, when using linoleic acid as substrate, is considered as no detectable LOX-1 and LOX-2 activity, when using the assay described in Example 4 of international patent PCT/DK2009/050355. Molecular approaches to obtain a total loss of functional LOX comprise generation of mutations that either cause a total absence of transcripts for said enzyme, total absence of the corresponding encoded enzyme, or mutations that totally inactivate the encoded enzyme. Similarly, a barley plant with "total loss of functional MMT" refers to the lack of the MMT enzymatic activity, i.e. a barley plant with no detectable MMT activity when using the assay described in Example 2 herein below. Alternatively, MMT activity of a barley plant is determined by isolating MMT cDNA of said barley and determining whether the protein encoding by said cDNA is capable of catalyzing transfer of a methyl group from SAM to Met, thereby forming SMM.

The term "LOX-1 activity" refers to the enzymatic activity of the barley LOX-1 enzyme. Particularly, in the context of the present invention, "LOX-1 activity" is the enzyme-

catalyzed dioxygenation of linoleic acid to 9-HPODE, and to a much lesser extent 13-HPODE. Even though the LOX-1 enzyme is capable of catalyzing other reactions, for the purpose of determining the activity of LOX-1 according to the present invention, only the 9- and 13-HPODE forming activities should be considered. **FIG. 1A** outlines the biochemical pathway wherein linoleic acid is converted to 9-HPODE.

The term "LOX-2 activity" refers to the enzymatic activity of the barley LOX-2 enzyme. Particularly, in the context of the present invention, "LOX-2 activity" is the enzyme-catalyzed dioxygenation of linoleic acid to 13-HPODE, and to a much lesser extent 9-HPODE. Even though the LOX-2 enzyme is capable of catalyzing other reactions, for the purpose of determining the activity of LOX-2 according to the present invention, only the 13- and 9-HPODE forming activities should be considered. **FIG. 1A** outlines the biochemical pathway wherein linoleic acid is converted to 13-HPODE.

The term "malt beverage" and the term "malt based beverage" refer to beverages prepared using malt, preferably beverages prepared by a method including a step of incubating malt with hot water. The terms are used interchangeably herein. Malt beverages may, for example, be beer or maltinas. Beer of the instant application may also be produced using "barley brewing" (cf. abovementioned definition).

The term "fermented malt beverage" refers to malt beverages, which have been fermented, i.e. incubated with yeast.

"Malting" is a special form of germination of barley kernels taking place under controlled environmental conditions – including, but not limited to steep tanks and germination boxes of the malting factory. In accordance with the process of the present invention, malting begins to occur during and/or after the barley kernels have been steeped. The malting process may be stopped by drying of the barley kernels, for example, in a kiln drying process. Kiln drying is usually performed at elevated temperatures, but an advantage of the present invention is that kiln drying may be performed at lower temperatures. In case that the malt has not been kiln dried, it is denoted "green malt". A malt composition prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley is understood to comprise double-null-LOX-null-MMT malt, such as pure double null-LOX-null-MMT malt, or any blend of malt comprising double null-LOX-null-MMT malt. Preferably, said composition is prepared only from double-null-LOX-null-MMT

malt. Malt may be processed, for example, by milling and thus referred to as "milled malt" or "flour".

5 "Mashing" is the incubation of milled malt in water. Mashing is preferably performed at a specific temperature, and in a specific volume of water. The temperature and volume of water are of importance, as these affect the rate of decrease of enzyme activity derived from the malt, and hence especially the amount of starch hydrolysis that can occur; protease action may also be of importance. Mashing can occur in the presence of adjuncts, which is understood to comprise any carbohydrate source other than malt, 10 such as, but not limited to, barley (including e.g. double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley), barley syrups, or maize, or rice – either as whole kernels or processed products like grits, syrups or starch. All of the aforementioned adjuncts may be used principally as an additional source of extract (syrups are typically dosed during wort heating). The requirements for processing of the adjunct in the brewery depend on the state and type 15 of adjunct used, and in particular on the starch gelatinization or liquefaction temperatures. If the gelatinization temperature is above that for normal malt saccharification, then starch is gelatinized and liquefied before addition to the mash.

The term "MMT activity" refers to the enzymatic activity of the barley methionine S-methyltransferase enzyme. In the context of the present invention, "MMT activity" is the 20 MMT-catalyzed methylation at the sulfur atom of Met to yield SMM. Even though the MMT enzyme may be capable of catalyzing other reactions, for the purpose of determining the activity of MMT according to the present invention, only the SMM-forming activity should be considered. **FIG. 1B** outlines the biochemical reactions wherein Met 25 is converted to SMM by methylation.

"Mutations" include deletions, insertions, substitutions, transversions, and point mutations in the coding and noncoding regions of a gene. Deletions may be of the entire gene, or of only a portion of the gene, wherein the noncoding region preferably is 30 either the promoter region, or the terminator region, or introns. Point mutations may concern changes of one base or one base pair, and may result in stop codons, frameshift mutations or amino acid substitutions. With reference to **FIG. 8** herein – which presents an overview on how grains of mutated barley may be propagated in a breeding program – grains of generation M3, and directly propagated grains thereof, or 35 of any subsequent generation, including the plants thereof, may be termed "raw

mutants". Further, still with reference to **FIG. 8** herein, the term "breeding line" refers to grains of generation M4, and any subsequent generation, including the plants thereof, which may be the result of a cross to a cultivar plant, or the result of a cross to another breeding line with a separate, specific trait.

5

The term "null-LOX" refers to the presence of a mutation in a LOX-encoding gene, causing a total loss of function of the encoded LOX enzyme (either LOX-1 or LOX-2 or both LOX-1 and LOX-2). Mutations that generate premature termination (nonsense) codons in a gene encoding LOX represent only one mechanism by which total loss of functional LOX can be obtained. Molecular approaches to obtain total loss of functional LOX comprise the generation of mutations that cause a total absence of transcripts for said enzyme, or mutations that cause total inactivation of the encoded enzyme. "Null-LOX" with reference to a plant refers to a plant having a mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX enzyme.

15

As used herein, the term "null-MMT" refers to a total loss of functional S-adenosylmethionine : methionine S-methyltransferase enzyme (also denoted methionine S-methyl transferase enzyme). Thus, a "null-MMT barley plant" is a barley plant comprising a mutation in the gene encoding MMT that results in a total loss of functional MMT. Similarly, "null-MMT kernels" are kernels comprising a mutation in the gene encoding MMT, resulting in a total loss of functional MMT.

20

"Operably linked" is a term used to refer to the association of two or more nucleic acid fragments on a single polynucleotide, so that the function of one is affected by the other. For example, a promoter is operably linked with a coding sequence when it is capable of affecting the expression of that coding sequence, i.e. that the coding sequence is under the transcriptional control of the promoter. Coding sequences can be operably linked to regulatory sequences in sense or antisense orientation.

25

"PCR" or "polymerase chain reaction" is well known by those skilled in the art as a technique used for the amplification of specific DNA segments (U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,800,159 to Mullis, K.B. et al.).

30

"Plant" or "plant material" includes plant cells, plant protoplasts, and plant cell tissue cultures from which barley plants can be regenerated – including plant calli, and plant

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cells that are intact in plants, or parts of plants, such as embryos, pollen, ovules, flowers, kernels, leaves, roots, root tips, anthers, or any part or product of a plant. Plant material may in one embodiment be plant cells from which no barley plants can be regenerated.

5

By the term "plant product" is meant a product resulting from the processing of a plant or plant material. Said plant product may thus, for example, be malt, wort, a fermented or non-fermented beverage, a food, or a feed product.

10 As used herein, "recombinant" in reference to a protein is a protein that originates from a foreign species, or, if from the same species, is substantially modified from its native form in composition by deliberate human intervention.

15 A "specialist beer taste panel" within the meaning of the present application is a panel of specialists extensively trained in tasting and describing beer flavours, with special focus on aldehydes, papery taste, old taste, esters, higher alcohols, fatty acids and sulfur components. Although a number of analytical tools exist for evaluating flavour components, the relative significance of flavour-active components are difficult to assess analytically. However, such complex properties can be evaluated by taste
20 specialists. Their continuous training includes tasting and evaluation of standard beer samples.

By the term "splice site" is meant the boundaries between exons and introns of a gene. Thus, a splice site may be the border going from exon to intron (called a "donor site"),
25 or the border separating intron from exon (denoted "acceptor site"). A splice site in plants typically comprises consensus sequences. The 5' end of an intron, in general, consists of a conserved GT dinucleotide (GU in the mRNA), and the 3' end of an intron usually consists of a conserved dinucleotide AG. The 5' splice site of an intron thus comprises the 5' end of an intron, and the 3' splice site comprises the 3' end of an
30 intron. Preferably, within the context of the present invention, the splice site of an intron is either the 5' splice site consisting of the most 5' dinucleotides of the intron (which in general is GT), or the 3' splice site consisting of the most 3' dinucleotides of the intron (which in general is AG).

Unless otherwise noted, "T2N" means trans-2-nonenal (T2N) in the free form. T2N is sometimes also referred to as 2-E-nonenal.

5 By the term "T2N potential" is described the chemical substances which have the capacity to release T2N, or be converted into T2N, in one or more reactions. In the present context, the T2N potential is defined as the concentration of T2N released into a solution, e.g. wort or beer, during incubation for 2 h at 100°C, pH 4.0. In practical terms, the starting T2N concentration is determined, after which the solution is incubated for 2 h at 100°C, pH 4.0, followed by determination of the T2N concentration.
10 The difference between the starting and the end T2N concentration is denoted the T2N potential. The thermal, acidic treatment causes liberation of T2N from the T2N potential, e.g. from "T2N adducts", the latter term used to describe T2N conjugated to one or more substances, including, but not limited to protein(s), sulphite, cellular debris, cell walls, or the like. In general, T2N adducts per se are not sensed by humans as off-
15 flavours. However, T2N released from said T2N adducts may give rise to an off-flavour.

"Tissue culture" indicates a composition comprising isolated cells of the same or different types, or a collection of such cells organized into parts of a plant – including, for example, protoplasts, calli, embryos, pollen, anthers, and the like.

20 As used herein, "transgenic" includes reference to a cell that has been modified by the introduction of a heterologous nucleic acid, or that the cell is derived from a cell so modified. Thus, for example, transgenic cells express genes that are not found in an identical form within the native form of the cell, or express native genes that are
25 otherwise abnormally expressed, under-expressed, or not expressed at all as a result of deliberate human intervention. The term "transgenic" as used herein in reference to plants, particularly barley plants, does not encompass the alteration of the cell by methods of traditional plant breeding – e.g. NaN₃-based mutagenesis, or by naturally occurring events without deliberate human invention.

30 "Wild barley", *Hordeum vulgare* ssp. *spontaneum*, is considered the progenitor of contemporary cultivated forms of barley. The transition of barley from a wild to a cultivated state is thought to have coincided with domestication of the plant into "barley landraces". These are genetically more closely related to modern cultivars than wild
35 barley.

The term "wild-type" barley refers to a conventionally generated barley plant.

Preferably, the term refers to the barley plant from which the barley plants of the instant invention have been derived, i.e. the parental plants. Wild-type barley kernels are

generally available from, for example, seed companies as "cultivars" or "varieties" –

i.e. those genetically similar kernels that are listed by national plant breeding

organizations. Despite the availability of several null-LOX-1 barley cultivars (e.g. cvs.

Chamonix and Charmay), but for the purpose of a better understanding of the instant

invention, all null-LOX-1, null-LOX-2, double-null-LOX and double-null-LOX-null-MMT

plants are herein considered mutant plants, and not wild-type plants. The notations

"cultivar" and "variety" are used interchangeably herein.

By the term "wort" is meant a liquid extract of malt, such as milled malt, or green malt,

or milled green malt. In barley brewing, wort may also be prepared by incubating an

extract of un-malted barley with an enzyme mixture that hydrolyzes the barley

components. In addition to said malt or barley-derived extracts, the liquid extract may

be prepared from malt and additional components, such as additional starch-containing

material partly converted into fermentable sugars. The wort is in general obtained by

mashing, optionally followed by "sparging", in a process of extracting residual sugars

and other compounds from spent grains after mashing with hot water. Sparging is

typically conducted in a lauter tun, a mash filter, or another apparatus to allow

separation of the extracted water from spent grains. The wort obtained after mashing is

generally referred to as "first wort", while the wort obtained after sparging is generally

referred to as the "second wort". If not specified, the term wort may be first wort,

second wort, or a combination of both. During conventional beer production, wort is

boiled together with hops, however the present invention provides methods for

reducing boiling or avoiding boiling of wort. Wort without hops, may also be referred to

as "sweet wort", whereas wort boiled/heated with hops may be referred to as "boiled

wort".

Methods for preparing a barley based beverage

The present invention relates to methods for preparing a barley based beverage with

low levels of off-flavours and precursors thereof, wherein the methods involve reduced

energy input. The off-flavours are as described herein below, but preferably the off-

flavours are T2N and DMS. The methods involve use of a barley plant, which preferably is a double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant. Such barley plants are described in more detail herein below.

- 5 According to the present invention, the method in general comprises a step of malting said double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant, although in some embodiments of the invention, the barley based beverage is prepared using unmalted barley. Malting is described in more detail in the section "Malting" herein below.
- 10 The method furthermore comprises a step of preparing wort by mashing a double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley or a double-null-LOX-null-MMT malt or a mixture thereof – optionally in the presence of additional adjuncts. Mashing is described in more detail in the section "Mashing" herein below.
- 15 The method also comprises a step of heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s), wherein at the most 4%, for example at the most 2% of the wort volume is evaporated, thereby obtained heated wort. This step is described in more detail herein in the section "Heating wort".
- 20 Finally, the method comprises processing heated wort into a beverage. That part of the method is described in more detail in the section "Preparation of beverages" herein below.

Malting

- 25 By the term "malting" is to be understood germination of steeped barley kernels in a process taking place under controlled environmental conditions – for example, as illustrated in **FIG. 9**, steps 2 and 3 – followed by a drying step. Said drying step may preferably be kiln drying of the germinated kernels at elevated temperatures.
- 30 Prior to drying, the steeped and germinated barley grains are referred to as "green malt", which may also represent a plant product according to the present invention. This aforementioned sequence of malting events is important for the synthesis of numerous enzymes that cause grain modification, processes that principally
- 35 depolymerize cell walls of the dead endosperm to mobilize the grain nutrients and

activate other depolymerases. In the subsequent drying process, flavour and colour are generated due to chemical browning reactions.

Malting is a highly energy consuming process. Due to the need for high temperature, in particular kiln drying also is an energy consuming process. There are several objectives of kiln drying, including in particular: (i) drying the germinated barley kernels; (ii) stopping germination; (iii) denaturation of lipoxygenases in order to decrease levels of T2N and T2N potential; and (iv) generation of DMS from precursors and removal of DMS in order to decrease levels of DMS potential and DMS.

According to the present invention, kiln drying can be performed at low temperature, and still accomplishing the above-mentioned objectives. By employing a barley plant with loss of functional LOX-1 and LOX-2 there is no requirement for denaturation of lipoxygenases. By employing a barley plant with loss of functional MMT there is no requirement for decreasing the levels of DMS and DMS potential, because said levels are minute in such barley plants. Accordingly, barley grains may be dried and germination may be stopped even at low temperatures.

Thus malting according to the present invention preferably comprises the steps of:

- (a) steeping double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley;
- (b) germinating said barley; and
- (c) drying, preferably by kiln drying, said barley.

Steeping may be performed by any conventional method known to the skilled person. One non-limiting example involves steeping at a temperature in the range of 10 to 25°C with alternating dry and wet conditions. During steeping, for example, the barley may be incubated wet for in the range of 30 min to 3 h followed by incubation dry for in the range of 30 min to 3 h and optionally repeating said incubation scheme in the range of 2 to 5 times. The final water content after steeping may, for example, be in the range of 40 to 50%.

Germination may be performed by any conventional method known to the skilled person. One non-limiting example involves germination at a temperature in the range of 10 to 25°C, optionally with changing temperature in the range of 1 to 4 h.

A non-limiting example of a suitable steeping and germination scheme is outlined in Example 9 herein below.

5 The kiln drying may be performed at conventional temperatures, such as at least 75°C, for example in the range of 80 to 90°C, such as in the range of 80 to 85°C. Thus, the malt may, for example be produced by any of the methods described by Briggs et al. (1981) and by Hough et al. (1982). However, any other suitable method for producing malt may also be used with the present invention, such as methods for production of
10 specialty malts, including, but not limited to, methods of roasting the malt. Non-limiting examples are described in Examples 6 and 8 and 9.

Preferably, however, said kiln drying is performed at a low temperature, more preferably at a temperature below 80°C, yet more preferably at a temperature below
15 75°C, such as at temperature below 70°C, for example at a temperature below 65°C, such as at temperature below 60°C, for example at a temperature below 55°C, such as at temperature below 50°C, for example at a temperature below 45°C, such as at temperature below 41°C. Thus, it is preferred that the temperature does not rise above 80°C, preferably does not rise above 75°C at any time during kiln drying.

20 In order to sufficiently dry the germinated barley kernels, the kiln drying time may increase if said drying is performed at a low temperature. Preferably, kiln drying is performed for a time sufficient to reduce the water content of the germinated kernels to less than 10%, preferably to less than 8%, more preferably to less than 6%. Thus, at a
25 conventional kiln drying temperature of 85°C, kilning time may be in the range of 1 to 3 h, whereas kilning at a temperature in the range of 70 to 80°C may require a kilning time of in the range of 1 to 10 h; kilning at a temperature in the range of 50 to 70°C may require a kilning time of in the range of 3 to 50 h, whereas kilning at a temperature of below 50°C, for example in the range of 40 to 50°C, may require a kilning time of
30 more than 40 h, such as in the range of 40 to 60 h, for example in the range of 45 to 52 h, such as 48 h.

In one aspect, the invention also relates to malt compositions prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley kernels by malting, preferably by malting as described
35 herein directly above.

Said malt compositions comprise low levels of T2N and T2N potential even when prepared at the low kilning temperatures as described above. In particular, said malt compositions comprise low levels of T2N potential (and T2N precursors).

5

It has been described that LOX activity in barley kernels may be reduced by a soaking process, wherein barley may be subjected to high temperatures and/or lactic acid treatment. However, such soaking processes are also energy consuming. Furthermore, such treatment may have other adverse effects, such as reducing desirable enzymatic activities, e.g. phytase activity. In addition, such treatment only reduces LOX activity from the point when the heat treatment is undertaken and thus without effect on the prior accumulation of products derived from LOX activity.

10

In one embodiment according to the invention, the plant products are prepared using a method, wherein the barley kernels are not subjected to soaking at a temperature of at least 70°C. It is also preferred that the plant products according to the invention are prepared using a method, wherein the barley kernels are not subjected to soaking at a temperature of at least 57°C in the presence of lactic acid.

15

It is preferred that said malt compositions comprise less than 60%, preferably less than 50%, more preferably less than 40%, even more preferably less than 30%, for example less 20% T2N compared to a malt composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or from cv. Quench or from cv. Rosalina.

20

It is furthermore preferred that said malt compositions – even when kiln dried at a temperature of range of 70 to 80°C – comprise less than 60%, preferably less than 50%, more preferably less than 40%, even more preferably less than 30%, more preferably less than 20% T2N compared to a malt composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or from cv. Quench or from cv. Rosalina.

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It is furthermore preferred that said malt compositions – even when kiln dried at a temperature of range of 50 to 70°C – comprise less than 60%, preferably less than 50%, more preferably less than 40%, even more preferably less than 30%, more preferably less than 20% T2N compared to a malt composition prepared in the same

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manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or from cv. Quench or from cv. Rosalina.

5 It is furthermore preferred that said malt compositions – even when kiln dried at a temperature of range of 40 to 50°C – comprise less than 60%, preferably less than 50%, more preferably less than 40%, even more preferably less than 30%, more preferably less than 20% T2N compared to a malt composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Quench or from cv. Rosalina.

10

In addition to the low levels of T2N and T2N potential, the malt according to the invention also comprises low levels of DMS and DMS precursor, even when prepared at the low kilning temperatures described above.

15 Interestingly, DMS is a rather volatile compound with a boiling point of 37°C–38°C (Imashuku, supra), and during malt production, for example during kiln drying, the composition is generally subjected to heat, such that substantial amounts of DMS evaporate. However, during cooling of a normal malt composition, more DMS may be generated from DMS precursors (DMSP). One major advantage of the present
20 invention is that no, or only very little, DMSP (in particular SMM) is generated in the malt composition.

Methods for reducing DMS concentration in malt have been described. Many of these methods rely on highly energy consuming heat treatment of malt. Said heat treatment
25 may simply be heating of malt, for example during kiln drying or it may involve volatilization and/or removal of free DMS by application of steam. Thus, steam treatment of malt may reduce the levels of free DMS in malt, but again representing a process with high energy consumption. Furthermore, these methods mainly reduce the level of free DMS in malt, with only little effect on the level of SMM. In one embodiment of the
30 invention, the malt compositions of the invention have only been subjected to limited treatment that involve volatilizing and removing free DMS by steam, or alternatively have not been subjected to treatment that involve volatilizing and removing free DMS using steam during kiln drying.

In one embodiment of the invention, it is preferred that the malt according to the invention has not been treated with a bromate salt, such as potassium bromate or calcium bromate.

5 The malt compositions of the invention preferably comprise at the most 3, preferably at the most 2, more preferably at the most 1, even more preferably at the most 0.5, such as at the most 0.2 µg/g free DMS. In addition, it is preferred that the malt compositions of the invention preferably comprises at the most 2, preferably at the most 1, more preferably at the most 0.5 µg/g, even more preferably at the most 0.2 µg/g DMSP. The
10 concentration of DMSP, which preferably may be SMM, is here and elsewhere in this document indicated as the concentration of DMS, which may be liberated from said DMSP.

It is furthermore preferred that said malt compositions – even when kiln dried at a
15 temperature in the range of 70 to 80°C – comprise at the most 2, preferably at the most 1, more preferably at the most 0.5 µg/g, even more preferably at the most 0.2 µg/g DMSP (preferably SMM).

It is furthermore preferred that said malt compositions – even when kiln dried at a
20 temperature of range of 50 to 70°C – comprise at the most 2, preferably at the most 1, more preferably at the most 0.5 µg/g, even more preferably at the most 0.2 µg/g DMSP (preferably SMM).

It is furthermore preferred that said malt compositions – even when kiln dried at a
25 temperature of range of 40 to 50°C – comprise at the most 2, preferably at the most 1, more preferably at the most 0.5 µg/g, even more preferably at the most 0.2 µg/g DMSP (preferably SMM).

In another aspect the invention relates to green malt compositions comprising at the
30 most 5000, more preferably at the most 2500, yet more preferably at the most 1000, even more preferably at the most 500, yet more preferably at the most 250, for example at the most 150 ppb DMSP. It is also preferred that said green malt compositions comprises at the most 200, preferably at the most 150, more preferably at the most 100, even more preferably at the most 50, such as at the most 25 ppb free
35 DMS.

Although the primary use of malt is for beverage production, it can also be utilized in other industrial processes, for example as an enzyme source in the baking industry, or in the food industry as a flavouring and colouring agent, e.g. in the form of malt or malt
5 flour or indirectly as a malt syrup, etc. Thus, the plant product according to the invention may be any of the aforementioned products.

In another aspect, the plant products according to the invention comprise, or even consist of syrup, such as a barley syrup, or a barley malt syrup. The plant product may
10 also be an extract of barley or malt.

Malt may be further processed, for example by milling. Thus, the plant product according to the invention may be any kind of malt, such as unprocessed malt or milled malt, such as flour. Milled malt and flour thereof comprise chemical components of the
15 malt and dead cells that lack the capacity to re-germinate.

Preferably milling is performed in a dry state, i.e. the malt is milled while dry. Thus, it is preferred that malt is not milled under water.

20 **Mashing**

The method according to the invention comprises a step of producing wort by mashing double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley and/or malt and optionally additional adjuncts. Said mashing step may also optionally comprise sparging, and accordingly said mashing
25 step may be a mashing step including a sparging step or a mashing step excluding a sparging step.

In general, wort production is initiated by the milling of the double-null-LOX-null-MMT malt and/or double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley. If additional adjuncts are added, these
30 may also be milled depending on their nature. If the adjunct is a cereal, it may for example be milled, whereas syrups, sugars and the like will generally not be milled. Milling will facilitate water access to grain particles in the mashing phase. During mashing enzymatic depolymerization of substrates initiated during malting may be continued.

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In **FIG. 9**, steps 4 to 6 illustrate a common method for preparation of wort from malt. In general, wort is prepared by combining and incubating milled malt and water, i.e. in a mashing process. During mashing, the malt/liquid composition may be supplemented with additional carbohydrate-rich adjunct compositions, for example milled barley, maize, or rice adjuncts. Unmalted cereal adjuncts usually contain little or no active enzymes, making it important to supplement with malt or exogenous enzymes to provide enzymes necessary for polysaccharide depolymerization etc.

During mashing, milled double-null-LOX-null-MMT malt and/or milled double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley – and optionally additional adjuncts are incubated with a liquid fraction, such as water. The incubation temperature is in general either kept constant (isothermal mashing), or gradually increased, for example increased in a sequential manner. In either case, soluble substances in the malt/barley/adjuncts are liberated into said liquid fraction. A subsequent filtration confers separation of wort and residual solid particles, the latter also denoted "spent grain". The wort thus obtained may also be denoted "first wort". Additional liquid, such as water may be added to the spent grains during a process also denoted sparging. After sparging and filtration, a "second wort" may be obtained. Further worts may be prepared by repeating the procedure. Non-limiting examples of suitable procedures for preparation of wort is described by Briggs et al. (supra) and Hough et al. (supra).

It has been described that LOX activity may be reduced by heat treatment of the enzymes and that DMS levels may be reduced by heat treatment. Also, it has been described that wort may be heat treated to reduce LOX activity and reduce levels of DMS and/or that mashing may be performed at high temperatures in order to reach the same objective. However, heat treatment may have adverse effects, such as reducing other enzymatic activities and heat treatment is furthermore energy consuming. In addition, heat treatment only reduces lipoxygenase activity and DMS levels from the point when the heat treatment is undertaken and thus it does not affect the prior accumulation of LOX activity derived products and DMS precursors.

Accordingly, in one embodiment of the invention wort is prepared using a method wherein the initial mashing temperature does not exceed 70°C, preferably does not exceed 69°C, thus for example the initial mashing temperature may be in the range of 30°C to 69°C, such as in the range of 35°C to 69°C, for example in the range of 35°C

to 65°C, such as in the range of 35°C to 55°, for example in the range of 35°C to 45°C, such as approximately 40°C. It is also preferred that the wort according to the invention has not been subjected to temperatures of 70°C or higher for more than 25 min, preferably not for more than 20 min, and that the wort has not been subjected to
5 temperatures of 78°C or more, for more than 20 min, preferably not for more than 15 min, more preferably not for more than 10 min during mashing. If the mashing temperatures are too high, this property will affect the enzymatic activities in the mash and may reduce, or even abolish, desirable enzymatic activities, which will result in an altered quality of the wort. It is furthermore preferred that the wort according to the
10 invention has not been subjected to temperatures of 65°C or higher for more than 100 min, preferably not for more than 90 min, more preferably not for more than 80 min, yet more preferably not for more than 70 min during mashing.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the temperature during mashing does not
15 exceed 80°C, preferably does not exceed 78°C.

One non-limiting example of a suitable mashing is:

- (1) mashing-in at a temperature in the range of 35-45°C, such as approximately
20 40°C, in the range of 10 to 30 min, such as approximately 20 min;
- (2) heating to a temperature in the range of 60 to 70°C, preferably in the range of 60 to 65°C, such as approximately 65°C, in the range of 30 to 90 min, preferably in the range of 45 to 75 min, such as approximately 60 min;
- (3) heating to a temperature in the range of 70 to 80°C, preferably in the range
25 of 75 to 78°C, such as approximately 78°C, in the range of 5 to 15 min, such as approximately 10 min.

Another non-limiting example of a suitable mashing is:

- (4) mashing-in at a temperature in the range of 55-65°C, such as approximately
30 60°C, in the range of 10 to 30 min, such as approximately 20 min;
- (5) heating to a temperature in the range of 60 to 70°C, preferably in the range of 60 to 65°C, such as approximately 65°C, in the range of 30 to 90 min, preferably in the range of 45 to 75 min, such as approximately 60 min;

(6) heating to a temperature in the range of 70 to 80°C, preferably in the range of 75 to 78°C, such as approximately 78°C, in the range of 5 to 15 min, such as approximately 10 min.

5 As mentioned above, the wort composition may be prepared by mashing double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants, or parts thereof, such as unmalted double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels, in particular milled, unmalted double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels, or parts thereof. Unmalted barley kernels lack or contain only a limited amount of enzymes beneficial for wort production, such as enzymes capable of degrading cell walls or
10 enzymes capable of depolymerising starch into sugars. Thus, in embodiments of the invention where unmalted double-null-LOX-null-MMT is used for mashing, it is preferred that one or more suitable, external brewing enzymes are added to the mash. Suitable enzymes may be lipases, starch degrading enzymes (e.g. amylases), glucanases [preferably (1-4)- and/or (1-3,1-4)- β -glucanase], and/or xylanases (such as
15 arabinoxylanase), and/or proteases, or enzyme mixtures comprising one or more of the aforementioned enzymes, e.g. Cereflo, Ultraflo, or Ondea Pro (Novozymes). A method for producing a beverage from wort prepared from unmalted barley may also be referred to as "barley brewing", and a wort composition thereof as "barley wort", or "barley-brewed" wort.

20 The wort composition may also be prepared by using a mixture of malted and unmalted double null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants, or parts thereof, in which case one or more suitable enzymes may be added during preparation. More specifically, barley of the invention can be used together with malt in any combination for mashing – with or
25 without external brewing enzymes – such as, but not limited to, the proportions of barley : malt = approximately 100 : 0, or approximately 75 : 25, or approximately 50 : 50, or approximately 25 : 75.

In other embodiments of the invention, it is preferred that no external enzymes, in
30 particular that no external protease, and/or no external cellulase and/or no external α -amylase and/or no external β -amylase and/or no external maltogenic α -amylase is added before or during mashing.

The wort obtained after mashing may also be referred to as "sweet wort". In conventional methods, the sweet wort is boiled with or without hops where after it may be referred to as boiled wort.

- 5 The term "approximately" as used herein means $\pm 10\%$, preferably $\pm 5\%$, yet more preferably $\pm 2\%$.

Heating wort

- 10 The method for preparing a barley based beverage according to the present invention involves a step of heating wort obtained after the mashing step described herein above in the section "Mashing".

- 15 It is an advantage of the present invention that barley based beverages with low levels of off-flavours and precursors thereof – in particular T2N and DMS and precursors thereof – may be prepared without the requirement for extensive heating of wort.

- 20 In conventional brewing, wort is generally boiled for an extensive length of time. Wort boiling has several objectives, in particular: (i) inactivation of enzymes; (ii) coagulation of protein; (iii) sterilization of the wort; (iv) extraction of hop compounds; (v) isomerisation of α -acids; (vi) conversion of DMSP to DMS; and (vii) evaporation of DMS and T2N.

- 25 Several of these objectives may be reached without extensive boiling. Thus, sterilization only requires short boiling or heating. Extraction of hop compounds may also be done during a short boiling or heating. Pre-isomerized α -acids are commercially available and may be added to the wort.

- 30 By employing a barley plant with loss of functional LOX-1 and LOX-2 there is no requirement for denaturation of LOXs. Furthermore, the requirement for reduction of T2N levels is also abolished by employing a barley plant with loss of functional LOX-1 and LOX-2. By employing a barley plant with loss of functional MMT there is also no requirement for decreasing the levels of DMS and DMS potential, because said levels are minute in such barley plants. In addition, barley grains may be dried and
35 germination may be stopped even at low temperatures.

It has been attempted to reduce the energy consumption during wort boiling by various means, for example by reducing evaporation to as little as 3% combined with a stripping process extracting unwanted volatile compounds into steam. However, generation of steam is also an energy consuming process.

It has also been attempted to prepare wort without classic wort boiling. However, these methods in general utilize high temperatures of up to 95°C during mashing as well as stripping of wort with steam, thus considered high-energy-consuming processes.

The present method provides the possibility for reduced evaporation, and preferably even in the absence of a stripping process. Thus, according to the methods of the present invention wort is heated in a manner so that preferably at the most 4%, yet preferably at the most 3%, even more preferably at the most 2%, even more preferably at the most 1.5%, yet more preferably at the most 1%, even more preferably at the most 0.5%, even more preferably at the most 0.1%, such as at the most 0.01% of the wort volume is evaporated. Even more preferably the aforementioned reduced evaporation is performed in the absence of steam treatment of the wort. It is also preferred that the aforementioned reduced evaporation is performed in the absence of stripping of the wort, e.g. with steam.

The reduced evaporation may be accomplished by heating wort in an essentially closed container or preferably in a closed container.

It is furthermore preferred that no extensive evaporation of liquid is undertaken in any of the other steps of the method. A preferred embodiment of the present invention accordingly relates to methods for preparing barley based beverages with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof (preferably T2N and DMS and precursors thereof), wherein the method involves reduced energy input, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a barley plant or part thereof, wherein said barley plant comprises:
 - (a) a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1; and
 - (b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2; and
 - (c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT;

- (ii) optionally malting at least part of said barley, thereby obtaining malted barley;
- (iii) mashing said barley and/or malted barley and optionally additional adjuncts, thereby obtaining a wort;
- 5 (iv) heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s);
- (v) processing said heated wort into a beverage;

wherein at the most 4%, for example at the most 3%, such as at the most 2%, for example at the most 1.5%, such as at the most 1% of the liquid volume is evaporated
10 during the method after completion of step (ii), or even after completion of step (iv) above, thereby preparing a barley derived beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof.

It is preferred that step (iv) herein above is performed with the wort in an essentially
15 closed container, such as in a closed container.

In a further preferred embodiment, the invention provides methods for preparing barley based beverages with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof (preferably T2N and DMS and precursors thereof), wherein the method involves
20 reduced energy input, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a barley plant or part thereof, wherein said barley plant comprises:
 - (a) first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1; and
 - (b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2; and
 - 25 (c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT;
- (ii) optionally malting at least part of said barley, thereby obtaining malted barley;
- (iii) mashing said barley and/or malted barley and optionally additional adjuncts, thereby obtaining a wort;
- 30 (iv) heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s);
- (v) processing said heated wort into a beverage;

wherein the liquid/wort/beverage is heated to a temperature above 80°C for at the most 30 min, more preferably for at the most 20 min, thereby preparing a barley derived
35 beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof.

Preferably, said liquid/wort/beverage is heated to a temperature in the range of 80 to 99.8°C, preferably to a temperature in the range of 80 to 99.5°C, such as to a temperature of 80 to 99°C, yet more preferably to a temperature of in the range of 90 to 99°C, yet more preferably to a temperature of in the range of 95 to 99°C for at the most 30 min, preferably at the most 20 min, such as for in the range of 10 to 30 min, for example for in the range of 10 to 20 min during said method.

First, second and further worts may be combined, and thereafter subjected to heating or each individual kind or wort may be heated. According to the methods of the invention, the wort must not necessarily be boiled. The non-boiled wort, either a pure first wort or a combined wort, is also referred to as "sweet wort"; after boiling it may be referred to as "boiled wort". If the wort is to be used in production of beer, hops are frequently added prior to boiling.

In traditional brewing methods, the wort is boiled for a long time, in general in the range of 60 min to 120 min, in order to evaporate at least 5% and some times even up to 25% of the wort volume. However, extended boiling is undesirable for a number of other reasons, for example because extended boiling requires pronounced energy supply.

According to the present invention, wort with low levels of T2N, T2N potential, DMS and DMSP can be produced from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley even without extended boiling. Thus, the wort according to a preferred embodiment of the invention is boiled for at the most 30 min, more preferably for at the most 15 min, even more preferably for at the most 10 min, yet more preferably for at the most 5 min, even more preferably for at the most 1 min, yet more preferably the wort is not boiled at all. It is furthermore, preferred that after completion of step ii) of the method according to the invention the liquid/wort/beverage is boiled for at the most at the most 30 min, more preferably for at the most 15 min, even more preferably for at the most 10 min, yet more preferably for at the most 5 min, even more preferably for at the most 1 min, yet more preferably the liquid/wort/beverage is not boiled at all. Preferably, heating of wort is undertaken in an essentially closed container, preferably in a closed container.

In this context the term, "boiling" means bringing the liquid or wort or beverage to a temperature where water evaporates. Accordingly, at normal pressure boiling would mean to bring an aqueous liquid, such as wort, to 100°C or slightly above.

5 It is thus also preferred that the wort according to an embodiment of the invention is kept at a temperature of at least 100°C for at the most 30 min, more preferably for at the most 15 min, even more preferably for at the most 10 min, yet more preferably for at the most 5 min, even more preferably for at the most 1 min, yet more preferably the wort is not heated to a temperature of at least 100°C at all. Furthermore, it is preferred
10 that after completion of step (ii) of the method according to the invention the liquid/wort/beverage is kept at a temperature of at least 100°C for at the most at the most 30 min, more preferably for at the most 15 min, even more preferably for at the most 10 min, yet more preferably for at the most 5 min, even more preferably for at the most 1 min, yet more preferably the liquid/wort/beverage is not at all heated to a
15 temperature of at least 100°C.

It is also preferred that the entire method of preparing barley based beverages according to the invention at no time involves heating to a temperature of more than 99.8°C, preferably 99.5°C, yet more preferably 99°C.

20 Rather the method may involve a step of heating wort to a temperature of at the most 99.8°C, such as at the most 99.5°C, for example at the most 99°C, such as at the most 98°C for a limited amount of time. Said limited amount of time is preferably at the most 30 min, more preferably at the most 15 min, even more preferably at the most 10 min.

25 Thus, it is preferred that the wort is heated to a temperature above 80°C, preferably in the range of 80 to 99.8°C, such as in the range of 80 to 99.5°C, for example in the range of 80 to 99°C, yet more preferably to a temperature of in the range of 90 to 99°C, yet more preferably to a temperature of in the range of 95 to 99°C for at the most 30
30 min, preferably at the most 20 min, such as for in the range of 10 to 30 min, for example for in the range of 10 to 20 min.

In an additional embodiment of the invention, it is preferred that the wort is not subjected to (e.g. washing with CO₂) subsequent to boiling of wort and prior to
35 fermentation.

Wort

In another aspect, the invention relates to types of plant products, which are wort
5 compositions. Said wort compositions are preferably prepared from malt compositions
derived from double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels. Said malts may be prepared from only
double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels, or mixtures comprising other kernels as well. The
invention also relates to wort compositions prepared using double-null-LOX-null-MMT
10 barley, or parts thereof, such as green malt, alone or mixed with other components.

The wort compositions according to the invention are preferably prepared by mashing
as described herein above in the section "Mashing". Furthermore, the wort
compositions may have been heated as described herein above in the section "Heating
wort".

15 It is preferred that said wort compositions preferably comprise less than 60%, more
preferably less than 50%, even more preferably less than 40% T2N potential compared
to a wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably
from cv. Power or cv. Rosalina.

20 Said wort may be the first, and/or the second, and/or further worts and/or mixtures
thereof. The wort composition may be sweet wort, heated wort, or a mixture thereof.
Heated wort is preferably heated as described in the section "Heating wort" herein
above. The wort composition may also be barley wort. In general, a wort composition
25 contains a high content of amino nitrogen and fermentable carbohydrates, the latter
mainly being maltose.

The wort may in one embodiment be sweet wort, i.e. wort which has not been
subjected to heat treatment. Said sweet wort preferably comprises less than 60%,
30 more preferably less than 50% T2N potential compared to a wort composition prepared
in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Rosalina.
If said wort has been prepared from malt that was kiln dried at low temperatures it may
even comprise less T2N potential. Thus in embodiments of the invention wherein said
sweet wort has been prepared from malt, which has been kiln dried at a temperature in
35 the range of 50 to 70°C, then said sweet wort may preferably comprise less than 50%,

even more preferably less than 45%, such as less than 40% T2N potential compared to a wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power. In embodiments of the invention wherein said sweet wort has been prepared from malt, which has been kiln dried at a temperature in the range of 40 to 50°C, then said sweet wort may preferably comprise less than 50%, even more preferably less than 40%, yet more preferably less than 30% T2N potential compared to a wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina.

10 Said sweet wort preferably also comprises low levels of DMSP, preferably less than 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP (preferably SMM). Even if said wort has been prepared from malt that was kiln dried at low temperatures it still comprises low levels
15 of DMSP. Thus in embodiments of the invention wherein said sweet wort has been prepared from malt, which has been kiln dried at a temperature in the range of 50 to 70°C, then said sweet wort may preferably comprise less than 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet more
20 preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP. In embodiments of the invention wherein said sweet wort has been prepared from malt, which has been kiln dried at a temperature in the range of 40 to 50°C, then said sweet wort may preferably comprise less than 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet
25 more preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP.

Preferably, said sweet wort also comprises low levels of DMS, preferably less than 90 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L DMS.

30

The wort may also be wort, which has only been heat treated for a short time, such as at a temperature in the range of 95 to 99.8°C or in the range of 95 to 99°C for in the range of 10 to 30 min. In this case said wort preferably comprises at the most 60%, more preferably at the most 50%, even more preferably at the most 45%, more
35 preferably at the most 40% T2N potential compared to a wort composition prepared in

the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv Rosalina. Said wort also preferably comprises at the most 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP. Said wort also preferably comprise at the most 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L DMS.

The wort may also be heated wort (preferably heated as described herein above in the section "Heating wort") in which case the wort preferably comprises at the most 60%, more preferably at the most 50%, yet more preferably at the most 40% T2N potential compared to a wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power.

Said heated wort preferably also comprises low levels of DMSP, preferably less than 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP. In embodiments of the invention wherein said cooled wort has been prepared from malt, which has been kiln dried at a temperature in the range of 50 to 70°C, then said sweet wort may preferably comprise less than 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP. Even in embodiments of the invention wherein said cooled wort has been prepared from malt, which has been kiln dried at a temperature in the range of 40 to 50°C, then said sweet wort may preferably comprise less than 150 µg/L, more preferably less than 100 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP. Said heated wort preferably also comprises low levels of DMS, preferably less than 30 µg/L, more preferably less than 20 µg/L DMSP.

The wort may also be heated wort (preferably heated as described herein above in the section "Heating wort"), which subsequently has been cooled (herein also referred to as cooled wort) in which case the wort preferably comprises at the most 60%, more preferably at the most 50%, yet more preferably at the most 40% T2N potential

compared to a wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Rosalina. In embodiments of the invention wherein said cooled wort has been prepared from malt, which has been kiln dried at a temperature in the range of 40 to 50°C, then said sweet wort may preferably comprise
5 less than 50%, even more preferably less than 40%, yet more preferably less than 30% T2N potential compared to a wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Rosalina.

Said cooled wort preferably also comprises low levels of DMSP, preferably less than
10 90 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 15 µg/L DMSP. Said cooled wort preferably also comprises low levels of DMS, preferably less than 90 µg/L, even more preferably less than 50 µg/L, yet more preferably less than 30 µg/L, even more preferably less than 20 µg/L DMS.

15 In one specific embodiment of the invention the wort composition according to the present invention is a barley wort, such as heated barley wort, i.e. wort prepared by incubating unmalted (and preferably milled) double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels with water, preferably by mashing and sparging. Such barley wort is characterized by
20 extremely low levels of T2N and T2N potential. It is preferred that said barley wort comprises less than 50%, more preferably less than 40%, even more preferably less than 30% T2N potential compared to a barley wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power. It is also preferred that said barley wort preferably comprises less than 50%, more preferably less than 40%, even
25 more preferably less than 30% T2N precursor compared to a barley wort composition prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina.

Beverages

30 In a preferred aspect, the present invention relates to beverages, more preferably barley based beverages prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley. Said beverages may in one preferred embodiment be malt beverages, even more preferred fermented beverages, such as fermented malt beverages, preferably alcoholic
35 beverages, such as beer, wherein said beverage is prepared using double-null-

LOX-null-MMT barley, or parts thereof. Hence, in one preferred embodiment of the invention, the beverage is preferably prepared by fermentation of double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley, or parts thereof, or extracts thereof, for example by fermentation of wort from double-null-LOX-null-MMT malt, alone or in combination with other ingredients.

5

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the above-mentioned beverage is prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a barley plant or part thereof, wherein said barley plant comprises:
 - 10 (a) a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1; and
 - (b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2; and
 - (c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT;
- (ii) optionally malting at least part of said barley, thereby obtaining malted barley;
- 15 (iii) mashing said barley and/or malted barley and optionally additional adjuncts, thereby obtaining a wort;
- (iv) heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s), wherein at the most 4% of the wort volume is evaporated, thereby obtained heated wort;
- 20 (v) processing said heated wort into a beverage.

However, in other embodiments the invention relates to any barley based beverage prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley. Thus, the invention also relates to barley based beverages prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley using
25 conventional methods, such as conventional brewing methods.

In some embodiments of the invention, the beverage is a non-fermented beverage, for example wort, preferably wort prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT malt.

30 It is also comprised within the present invention that said beverage may be prepared from unmalted barley plants, preferably unmalted double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants, or parts thereof, e.g. by barley brewing.

The beverage may be a non-alcoholic beverage, such as non-alcoholic beer or other kinds of non-alcoholic beverages, such as non-alcoholic malt beverages, such as maltina.

5 Preferably, however, said beverage is prepared from a malt composition prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley kernels. More preferably, said beverage is beer. This may be any kind of beer known to the person skilled in the art. In one embodiment, the beer is, for example, a lager beer. The beer is preferably brewed using a malt composition comprising germinated double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley, more preferably
10 said beer is brewed using a malt composition prepared exclusively from germinated double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley. The malt composition may, however, also comprise other components, for example other germinated or non-germinated cereals, such as wild-type barley, double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley, wheat and/or rye, or non-germinated raw materials that comprise sugars, or compositions derived from malted or
15 unmalted raw materials, including syrup compositions. Preferably, however, all barley, such as all malted and/or unmalted barley and/or germinated and/or non-germinated barley used for preparation of said beer is preferably double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley.

20 Thus, the invention also relates to methods of producing a beverage comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a malt composition comprising germinated double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels;
- (ii) processing said malt composition into a beverage.

25 In a preferred embodiment, the beverage according to the invention is beer that has been produced from wort prepared from kilned malt (preferably prepared as described herein above in the section "Malting"), more preferably by mashing said kilned malt (preferably as described herein above in the section "Mashing"), wherein said mashing
30 may also optionally contain a sparging step. Furthermore, said wort has preferably been heated, preferably as described herein above in the section "Heating wort", although in certain embodiments of the invention, the wort may be heated in a conventional manner by boiling. Beer thus produced may also be referred to as "malted" herein. However, the beverage according to the invention may also be beer
35 prepared from barley wort. Such beer is also referred to as "barley beer".

In general terms, alcoholic beverages – such as beer – may be manufactured from malted and/or unmalted barley grains. Malt, in addition to hops and yeast, contributes to flavour and colour of the beer. Furthermore, malt functions as a source of fermentable sugar and enzymes. A schematic representation of a general process of beer production is shown in **FIG. 9**, while detailed descriptions of examples of suitable methods for malting and brewing can be found, for example, in publications by Briggs et al. (1981) and Hough et al. (1982). Numerous, regularly updated methods for analyses of barley, malt and beer products are available, for example, but not limited to, American Association of Cereal Chemists (1995), American Society of Brewing Chemists (1992), European Brewery Convention (1998), and Institute of Brewing (1997). It is recognized that many specific procedures are employed for a given brewery, with the most significant variations relating to local consumer preferences. Any such method of producing beer may be used with the present invention.

The first step of producing beer from wort preferably involves heating said wort as described herein above, followed by a subsequent phase of wort cooling and optionally whirlpool rest. After being cooled, the wort is transferred to fermentation tanks containing yeast. Preferably, said yeast is brewer's yeast, *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*. The wort will be fermented for any suitable time period, in general in the range of 1 to 100 days. During the several-day-long fermentation process, sugar is converted to alcohol and CO₂ concomitantly with the development of some flavour substances.

Subsequently, the beer may be further processed, for example chilled. It may also be filtered and/or lagered – a process that develops a pleasant aroma and a less yeasty flavour. Also additives may be added. Furthermore, CO₂ may be added. Finally, the beer may be pasteurized and/or filtered, before it is packaged (e.g. bottled or canned). In a preferred embodiment, the beverage according to the invention comprises less than 70%, preferably less than 60%, more preferably less than 50% T2N potential compared to the T2N potential of a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina. It is also preferred that the beverages according to the invention comprise at the most 2 ppb, more preferably at the most 1.5 ppb T2N potential if the °P in the original extract upon

which the beverage is based is adjusted to in the range of 10 to 12°P, more preferably to 11°P.

5 In a preferred embodiment, the beverage according to the invention comprises less than 70%, preferably less than 60%, more preferably less than 50% T2N precursors compared to the T2N precursors of a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina. It is also preferred that the beverages according to the invention comprise at the most 2 ppb, more preferably at the most 1.5 ppb T2N precursor if the °P in the original extract upon
10 which the beverage is based is adjusted to in the range of 10 to 12°P, more preferably to 11°P.

Said beverage – preferably beer – also preferably comprises at the most 60 ppb, more preferably less than 50 ppb, even more preferably less than 40 ppb, yet more
15 preferably less than 30 ppb, even more preferably less than 20 ppb, yet more preferably less than 10 ppb DMS.

In one specific embodiment of the invention, the beverage is barley beer, which comprises less than 60%, preferably less than 50% T2N potential compared to the T2N
20 potential of a barley beer prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or Quench.

In another specific embodiment of the invention, the beverage – preferably beer – is prepared from heated wort, which has only been heat treated for a short time, such as
25 at a temperature in the range of 95 to 99.8°C or in the range of 95 to 99°C for in the range of 10 to 30 min. Preferably, said heated wort has been heated as described herein above in the section "Heating wort". In embodiments of the invention wherein the beverage - preferably beer - is prepared from such heated wort, then said beverage – preferably beer – comprises less than 60%, preferably less than 50%, more
30 preferably less than 45% T2N potential compared to the T2N potential of a beer prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina. In this embodiment, it is also preferred that said beverage – preferably beer – comprises less than 60%, preferably less than 50%, more preferably less than 45% T2N precursor compared to the T2N precursors of a beverage –
35 preferably beer prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv.

Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina. In this embodiment, it is also preferred that the beer according to the invention comprises at the most 2 ppb, more preferably at the most 1.5 ppb T2N potential. In this embodiment, it is furthermore preferred that the beer according to the invention comprises at the most 2 ppb, more preferably at the most 1.5 ppb T2N precursor if the °P in the original extract upon which the beverage is based is adjusted to in the range of 10 to 12°P, more preferably to 11°P. Said beverage – preferably beer – also preferably comprises at the most 60 ppb, more preferably less than 50 ppb, even more preferably less than 40 ppb, yet more preferably less than 30 ppb, even more preferably less than 20 ppb, yet more preferably less than 10 ppb DMS.

"Organoleptic qualities" means qualities appealing to the human olfactory and taste senses. Said qualities are analyzed, for example, by a specialist beer taste panel. Preferably, said panel is trained in tasting and describing beer flavours, with special focus on aldehydes, papery taste, old taste, esters, higher alcohols, fatty acids and sulphury components.

In general, the taste panel will consist of in the range of 3 to 30 members, for example in the range of 5 to 15 members, preferably in the range of 8 to 12 members. The taste panel may evaluate the presence of various flavours, such as papery, oxidized, aged, and bready off-flavours as well as flavours of esters, higher alcohols, sulfur components and body of beer. In relation to the present invention, it is preferred that papery and/or aged off-flavours are in particular reduced, whereas flavours such as aromatic, estery, alcoholic/solvent, floral, and/or hoppy may preferably be increased as compared to a beverage prepared from wild type barley using an identical method. A method of determining the "organoleptic qualities" of a beverage is described in Example 6 in international patent application WO 2005/087934. Another method of determining "organoleptic qualities" of a beverage is described in Examples 8 and 9 in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355. Yet another example is described herein below in Example 9. In preferred embodiments, the stable organoleptic qualities are, at least partly, a result of low levels of T2N or T2N potential. Aromatic, estery, alcoholic/solvent, floral, and/or hoppy taste may preferably be determined as described in Example 7 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315. In one preferred embodiment the beverages of the invention have scores for aromatic, estery, alcoholic/solvent, floral, and/or hoppy taste as

described in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 on p. 41, l. 15 to p. 44, l. 9.

5 It is preferred that the beverages according to the present invention are characterized by having a less papery taste compared to a similar beverage prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley plant (preferably cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina) after storage for at least 1 week at in the range of 30 to 40°C, such as around 37°C. Preferably, said papery taste is less than 90%, more preferably less than 80%, such as less than 70% as evaluated by a trained taste panel.

10

It is also preferred that the beverages according to the present invention have reduced papery taste as compared to similar beverages prepared from wild-type barley after storage at elevated temperatures. When the property "papery taste" is determined by a trained, specialized taste panel (as described above), and scored on a scale from 15 0 to 5 – in which 0 is absent and 5 is extreme – it is preferred that the beverages of the invention have one, or preferably both, of the following scores for papery taste:

- 20 (i) a score for papery taste of at least 0.5, preferably at least 0.7 lower than the score for papery taste of a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina after incubation at 37°C for one week;
- (ii) a score for papery taste at least 0.5, preferably at least 0.7, more preferably at least 0.8, at least 1 lower than the score for papery taste of a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. 25 Power or cv. Rosalina after incubation at 37°C for two weeks.

Interestingly, the present invention discloses that the overall flavour score of a beverage manufactured according to the present invention is improved compared to beverages prepared from wild-type barley. This may partly be attributed to the finding 30 that DMS may mask certain desirable tastes.

Accordingly, it is preferred that the beverages of the present invention have an overall flavour score which is at least 1, preferably at least 1.5, more preferably at least 2 higher than the flavour score of a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina, when said beverage has been 35

prepared without boiling the corresponding wort, preferably using a pressurized heating. Said flavour score should be scored on a scale from 1 to 9, where 9 represents the best score given by a specialist beer taste panel.

- 5 A beverage is said to have "stable organoleptic qualities", when said beverage comprises very low levels of free T2N, even after storage. Accordingly, it is an objective of the present invention to provide beverages (such as beer with stable organoleptic qualities), manufactured using a double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant.
- 10 Accordingly, it is preferred that the beverages of the present invention comprises less than 80%, preferably less than 70%, more preferably less than 65%, even more preferably less than 60% even more preferably less than 55% free T2N compared to a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina – after storage for at least 1 week, preferably at least 2 weeks,
15 more preferably at least 3 weeks, even more preferably for at least 4 weeks at a temperature in the range of 30 to 40°C, preferably at 37°C. It is also preferred that the beverages of the invention comprises less than 0.025 ppb free T2N after storage for 2 weeks at 37°C.
- 20 In another specific embodiment of the invention, the beverage – preferably beer – is prepared from heated wort, which has only been heat treated for a short time, such as at a temperature in the range of 95 to 99°C for in the range of 10 to 30 min. Preferably said heated wort has been heated as described herein above in the section "Heating wort". In embodiments of the invention wherein the beverage – preferably beer – is
25 prepared from such heated wort, then said beverage – preferably beer – comprises less than 80%, preferably less than 70%, more preferably less than 65% free T2N compared to a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina – after storage for at least 1 week, preferably at least 2 weeks, more preferably at least 3 weeks, even more preferably for
30 at least 4 weeks at a temperature in the range of 30 to 40°C, preferably at 37°C.

In particular, it is preferred that such beverages – preferably beer – prepared from said heated wort comprise very low levels of T2N, preferably less than 80%, preferably less than 70%, more preferably less than 65% free T2N compared to a beverage prepared
35 in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina

– after storage for 2 weeks at a temperature in the range of 30 to 40°C, preferably at 37°C in the presence of a level of sulphite not exceeding 10 ppm, preferably a level of sulphite in the range of 1 to 10 ppm, more preferably in the range of 1 to 8 ppm, more preferably in the range of 2 to 6 ppm, yet more preferably in the range of 3 to 6 ppm sulphite.

It is also particularly preferred that the beverages according to the invention – such as beer, for example barley beer – comprise very low levels of T2N, preferably less than 80%, preferably less than 70%, more preferably less than 60%, even more preferably less than 5% free T2N compared to a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina – after storage for 8 weeks at 37°C.

In one embodiment, the invention relates to beverages, such as beer, with low levels of certain trihydroxy octadecenoic acids (also denoted THAs), in particular to beverages with low levels of 9,12,13-THA and 9,10,13-THA. THAs are characterized by a bitter taste (Baur and Grosch, 1977; Baur et al., 1977), making said compounds undesirable in beverages.

It is thus desirable that the level of 9,12,13-THA and 9,10,13-THA is as low as possible, for example lower than 1.3 ppm, such as lower than 1 ppm. Accordingly, it is preferred that the level of 9,12,13-THA is as low as possible, for example lower than 1.3 ppm, such as lower than 1 ppm. It is also preferred that the level 9,10,13-THA is as low as possible, for example lower than 1.3 ppm, such as lower than 1 ppm. However, the overall concentration of 9,12,13-THA and 9,10,13-THA in a malt-derived beverage – such as beer – is also dependent on the amount of malt used for preparation of said specific beverage. Thus, in general, a strong beer will comprise more 9,12,13-THA and 9,10,13-THA than a lighter beer, making a higher over-all level of 9,12,13-THA and 9,10,13-THA acceptable in a stronger beer. Accordingly, it is preferred that the beverage according to the invention comprises a lower level of 9,12,13-THA and 9,10,13-THA than a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Power or from cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina. In particular, a beverage according to the invention preferably has a level of 9,12,13 THA, which is at the most 50%, preferably at the most 40%, more preferably at the most 30% compared to the level in a beverage prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably

from cv. Power or cv. Rosalina. It is furthermore preferred that a beverage according to the invention has a level of 9,10,13-THA, which is at the most 70%, preferably at the most 60%, such as at the most 50%, for example at the most 40% compared to the level in a beverage prepared in the same manner from a wild-type barley, preferably
5 from cv. Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina. Such beverages may be prepared by using double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley.

In one embodiment of the invention, the beverages prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley have improved foam quality. This is in particular relevant when
10 the beverage is a beer. Accordingly, it is an objective of the invention to provide beverages, such as beer, with superior foam quality. Preferably, the beverages of the invention produce at least 1.5 times more, preferably at least 2 times more, yet more preferably at least 3 times more foam in 60 to 80 min, preferably in 80 min as compared to a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley,
15 preferably from cv. Quench. Said foam production is determined as described in Example 8 herein below.

Plant products

It is an objective of the present invention to provide plant products, preferably barley plant products characterized by low levels of one or more off-flavours. In particular, it is an objective of the invention to provide plant products, preferably barley plant products, with low levels of T2N, DMS and the corresponding precursors thereof. As described by the invention, such plant products may advantageously be prepared from double-
25 null-LOX-null-MMT barley. Said plant product may be malt, preferably any of the malts described herein above in the section "Malting". The product may be wort, preferably any of the worts described herein above in the section "Wort"; it may also be a beverage, preferably any of the beverages described herein above in the section "Beverage". However, the plant product may also be other plant products that are
30 characterized by low levels of T2N, T2N potential, DMS and DMSP prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants, or parts thereof.

The present invention thus relates to plant products, which may be compositions comprising the barley plants described herein below, or parts thereof, or compositions
35 prepared from said barley plants, or parts thereof, such as plant products prepared

from said barley plants, or parts thereof. Because said barley plants lack LOX-1, LOX-2 and MMT activities, the compositions in general comprise very low levels of off-flavours and their precursor molecules and in particular of T2N, T2N potential, DMS and DMSP. Examples of useful plant products comprising, or prepared from, barley plants having a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1, a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT are described herein.

It is preferred that said plant products comprise one or more of the following, preferably at least two of the following, even more preferably all of the following:

- (i) less than 60%, even more preferably less than 50%, yet more preferably less than 40%, such as less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10%, free T2N;
- (ii) less than 60%, even more preferably less than 50%, yet more preferably less than 40%, such as less than 30%, preferably less than 25% T2N potential;
- (iii) less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 15%, even more preferably less than 10% DMS;
- (iv) less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 15%, even more preferably less than 10%, such as less than 5%, for example less than 2% SMM;
- (v) less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 15%, even more preferably less than 10% of the DMSP;

as compared to a similar plant product prepared from wild-type barley plants, preferably from cv. Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina, in the same manner.

The present invention relates, in one aspect, to barley kernels having a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1, a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT. The present invention also relates to compositions comprising said kernels, and compositions prepared from said kernels, as well as to plant products prepared from said kernels.

In a further aspect, the present invention relates to plant products, which may be food compositions, feed compositions, and fragrance raw material compositions that comprise double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants, or parts thereof. Food compositions, for example, may be, but are not limited to, malted and unmalted barley kernels, milled barley, barley meals, bread, porridge, cereal mixes comprising barley, health products, such as beverages comprising barley, barley syrups, and flaked, milled, micronized or extruded barley compositions. Feed compositions, for example, include compositions comprising barley kernels, and/or meals. Feed compositions may for example be mash. Fragrance raw material compositions are described herein below.

The invention also relates to mixtures of various plant products of the invention. For example, the invention relates in one aspect to a composition prepared by a mixture of:

- (i) a composition comprising a barley plant, or a part thereof, comprising a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1, a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT; and
- (ii) a malt composition prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT kernels.

Various methods are available to determine whether a barley plant, or a plant product, is prepared from a barley plant carrying mutations in the genes for LOX-1, LOX-2 and MMT, causing a total loss of functional LOX-1, a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a total loss of functional MMT, respectively. Plant products will, in general, comprise at least some genomic DNA from the plant utilized for its production. Thus, malt will contain large amounts of genomic DNA, but even barley or malt extracts, such as wort, may comprise genomic DNA or fragments thereof from said barley or malt. Also barley-based beverages, such as beer, may comprise genomic DNA or fragments thereof from said plant. By analysis of DNA in a plant product, it may be established whether the plant, from which the plant product is prepared, carries mutations in the LOX-1, LOX-2 and MMT genes, causing a total loss of functional LOX-1, a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a total loss of functional MMT. Said mutations could, for example, be any of the mutations in the LOX-1 and LOX-2 genes described hereinbelow in the section "Loss of functional LOX". Said mutation in the MMT gene could, for example, be any of the mutations in the MMT gene described hereinabove in the section "Loss of

functional MMT". The genomic DNA may be analyzed by any useful method, such as sequencing or by amplification-based methods, including PCR-based methods. If particular mutations in the LOX-1 gene and/or the LOX-2 gene and/or the MMT gene are assumed, then polymorphism analysis may be employed, for example SNP analysis. In relation to determination of a mutation in the LOX-1 gene and/or the LOX-2 gene a non-limiting example of a useful SNP analysis is described in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355 in Example 10. In relation to determination of a mutation in the MMT gene a non-limiting example of a useful SNP analysis is described in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 in Examples 13 and 17. The skilled person will be able to adapt the specific SNP analysis described in these examples for use with other mutations or other starting material.

If the above-mentioned plant products are prepared only from barley plants, which are double-null-LOX-null-MMT, then the presence vs. the absence of barley LOX-1 mRNA, LOX-2 mRNA and MMT mRNA and/or barley LOX-1 protein, LOX-2 protein and MMT protein may also be indicative of whether said plant product is prepared from a double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant. Examination of the plant product may also be accomplished by western blot analysis, or other protein analyses, or by RT-PCR, or by Northern blot analysis, or by other mRNA analyses. Such analyses are particularly useful when the plant product is malt.

Barley plant

The invention relates to cereal based beverages. Cereals may for example be selected from the group consisting of barley, wheat, rye, oat, maize, rice, sorghum, millet, triticale, buckwheat, fonio and quinona. More preferably, the cereal is selected from the groups consisting of barley, wheat, rye, oat, maize and rice, more preferably the cereal is barley.

Thus, preferably the invention relates to barley based beverages and barley plants useful for preparing the beverages of the invention.

Barley is a family of plants. "Wild barley", *Hordeum vulgare* ssp. *spontaneum*, is considered the progenitor of today's cultivated forms of barley. The transition of barley from a wild to a cultivated state is thought to have coincided with a radical change of allele frequencies at numerous loci. Rare alleles and new mutational events were

positively selected for by the farmers who quickly established the new traits in the domesticated plant populations, denoted "barley landraces". These are genetically more closely related to modern cultivars than wild barley. Until the late 19th century, barley landraces existed as highly heterogeneous mixtures of inbred lines and hybrid segregates, including few plants derived from random crossings in earlier generations. Most of the landraces have been displaced in advanced agricultures by pure line cultivars. Intermediate or high levels of genetic diversity characterize the remaining landraces. Initially, "modern barley" cultivars represented selections from landraces. These were later derived from successive cycles of crosses between established pure lines, such as those of diverse geographical origins. Eventually, the result was a marked narrowing of the genetic base in many, probably all, advanced agricultures. Compared with landraces, modern barley cultivars have numerous improved properties (Nevo, 1992; von Bothmer et al., 1992), for example one or more, but not limited to the following: (i) covered and naked kernels; (ii) seed dormancy; (iii) disease resistance; (iv) environmental tolerance (for example to drought or soil pH); (v) quantities of lysine and other amino acids; (vi) protein content; (vii) nitrogen content; (viii) carbohydrate composition; (ix) hordein content and composition; (x) (1-3,1-4)- β -glucan and arabinoxylan content; (xi) yield; (xii) straw stiffness; and (xiii) plant height.

Within the present invention, the term "barley plant" comprises any barley plant, such as barley landraces or modern barley cultivars. Thus, the invention relates to any barley plant comprising a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1, and a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT. An example of such a barley plant is described in the Examples herein below and denoted "Triple-Null" or "Triple-Null barley".

However, preferred barley plants for use with the present invention are modern barley cultivars or pure lines. The barley cultivar to be used with the present invention may, for example, be selected from the group consisting of Sebastian, Quench, Celeste, Lux, Prestige, Saloon, Neruda, Harrington, Klages, Manley, Schooner, Stirling, Clipper, Franklin, Alexis, Blenheim, Ariel, Lenka, Maresi, Steffi, Gimpel, Cheri, Krona, Camargue, Chariot, Derkado, Prisma, Union, Beka, Kym, Asahi 5, KOU A, Swan Hals, Kanto Nakate Gold, Hakata No. 2, Kirin – choku No. 1, Kanto late Variety Gold, Fuji Nijo, New Golden, Satukio Nijo, Seijo No. 17, Akagi Nijo, Azuma Golden, Amagi Nijpo,

Nishino Gold, Misato golden, Haruna Nijo, Scarlett, Rosalina and Jersey preferably from the group consisting of Haruna Nijo, Sebastian, Quench, Celeste, Lux, Prestige, Saloon, Neruda and Power, preferably from the group consisting of Harrington, Klages, Manley, Schooner, Stirling, Clipper, Franklin, Alexis, Blenheim, Ariel, Lenka, Maresi, Steffi, Gimpel, Cheri, Krona, Camargue, Chariot, Derkado, Prisma, Union, Beka, Kym, Asahi 5, KOU A, Swan Hals, Kanto Nakate Gold, Hakata No. 2, Kirin – choku No. 1, Kanto late Variety Gold, Fuji Nijo, New Golden, Satukio Nijo, Seijo No. 17, Akagi Nijo, Azuma Golden, Amagi Nijpo, Nishino Gold, Misato golden, Haruna Nijo, Scarlett and Jersey preferably from the group consisting of Haruna Nijo, Sebastian, Tangent, Lux, Prestige, Saloon, Neruda, Power, Quench, NFC Tipple, Barke, Class and Vintage.

In one embodiment of the invention, the barley plant is accordingly a modern barley cultivar (preferably a cultivar selected from the group of barley cultivars listed herein above) comprising a first mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-1 and a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 activity, and a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional MMT. In this embodiment, it is thus preferred that the barley plant is not a barley landrace.

The barley plant may be in any suitable form. For example, the barley plant according to the invention may be a viable barley plant, a dried plant, a homogenized plant, or a milled barley kernel. The plant may be a mature plant, an embryo, a germinated kernel, a malted kernel, a milled malted kernel, a milled kernel or the like.

Parts of barley plants may be any suitable part of the plant, such as kernels, embryos, leaves, stems, roots, flowers, or fractions thereof. A fraction may, for example, be a section of a kernel, embryo, leaf, stem, root, or flower. Parts of barley plants may also be a fraction of a homogenate or a fraction of a milled barley plant or kernel.

In one embodiment of the invention, parts of barley plants may be cells of said barley plant, such as viable cells that may be propagated in vitro in tissue cultures. In other embodiments, however, the parts of barley plants may be viable cells that are not capable of maturing into an entire barley plant, i.e. cells that are not a reproductive material.

Loss of functional LOX

The present invention relates to barley plants – or part thereof, or plant products thereof – having a first, a second mutation and a third mutation, wherein the first mutation leads to a total loss of functional LOX-1, and the second mutation leads to a total loss of functional of LOX-2. The third mutation leads to a total loss of functional MMT as is described in more detail in the section "Loss of function MMT" herein below.

The total loss of functional LOX-1 and the total loss of functional LOX-2 may independently be based on different mechanisms. For example, the total loss of function of one or both of LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities may be caused by malfunctioning proteins in the barley plant, i.e. a malfunctioning LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 protein, such as a mutated LOX-1 protein with no detectable 9-HPODE-forming activity (wherein 9-HPODE preferably may be determined as described in Example 4 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355), and/or a mutated LOX-2 protein with no detectable 13-HPODE forming activity (wherein 13-HPODE preferably may be determined as described in Example 4 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355).

The total loss of functional LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 may be caused by the lack of LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 protein. It is apparent that lack of LOX-1 protein will lead to loss of functional LOX-1, and that lack of LOX-2 protein will lead to total loss of functional LOX-2. Thus, the barley plant may preferably comprise no – or only very little, more preferably no detectable – LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 protein. The LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 protein(s) may be detected by any suitable means known to the person skilled in the art. Preferably, however, the protein(s) is detected by techniques wherein LOX-1 protein is detected by specific LOX-1 and LOX-2 antibodies, such as polyclonal antibodies to LOX-1 and LOX-2. Said techniques may, for example, be Western blotting or ELISA. Said antibodies may be monoclonal or polyclonal. Preferably, however, said antibodies are of a polyclonal nature, recognizing several different epitopes within the LOX-1 and LOX-2 protein, respectively. LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 protein may also be detected indirectly, for example, by methods determining LOX-1 activity, or by methods determining LOX-2 activity. In one preferred embodiment of the invention, LOX-1 protein is detected using the methods outlined in Example 4 of the international patent application WO 2005/087934. LOX-2 protein may be detected in a similar manner, using antibodies binding to barley LOX-2.

The total loss of function of one or both of LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities may also be a result of no, or very little, preferably no expression of a LOX-1 transcript and/or a LOX-2 transcript. The skilled person will acknowledge that the absence of a LOX-1 and/or a
5 LOX-2 transcript also will result in the absence of translated LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 protein, respectively. Alternatively, the total loss of functional LOX-1 and functional LOX-2 may also be a result expression of an aberrant LOX-1 transcript and/or an aberrant LOX-2 transcript. An aberrant LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 transcript may be caused by aberrant splicing of the transcript, for example, due to a mutation in a splice site.
10 Thus, the barley plants of the invention may carry a mutation in a splice site, such as a 5' splice site or a 3' splice site, for example in one or the two most 5' nucleotides of an intron, or in one of the most 3' nucleotides of an intron. An example of a mutant with aberrant splicing of the LOX-1 transcript is described as mutant A618 in WO 2005/087934. Expression of transcripts encoding LOX-1 or LOX-2 may, for
15 example, be detected by Northern blotting or RT-PCR experiments.

Mutations have caused the total loss of functional LOX-1 and LOX-2 enzymes of the barley plants of the present invention. Thus, the barley plants of the present invention in general carry a mutation in the LOX-1 gene. Said mutation may be in the regulatory
20 regions, for example within the promoter or introns, or said mutation may be in the coding region. The mutation may also be deletion of the LOX-1 gene or part thereof, such as deletion of the entire coding region. Similarly, the barley plants of the present invention in general carry a mutation in the LOX-2 gene. Said mutation may be in the regulatory regions, for example within the promoter or introns, or said mutation may be
25 in the coding region. The mutation may also be deletion of the LOX-2 gene or part thereof, such as deletion of the entire coding region. Thus, the cause of the total loss of functional LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 enzymes may also be detected by the identification of mutations in the gene encoding LOX-1, or in the gene encoding LOX-2. Mutations in the genes encoding LOX-1 and LOX-2 may, for example, be detected by sequencing
30 said genes. Preferably, after identifying a mutation, the total loss of function is confirmed by testing for LOX-1 and/or LOX-2 activities.

The term "LOX-1 protein" is meant to cover the full-length LOX-1 protein of barley as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3 of WO 2005/087934), or in
35 SEQ ID NO:7 of WO 2005/087934, or a functional homolog thereof. The active site of

LOX-1 is situated in the C-terminal part of the enzyme. In particular, it is anticipated that the region spanning amino acid residues 520-862, or parts thereof, (preferably the entire region of amino acids nos. 520-862) are relevant for LOX-1 activity. Accordingly, in one embodiment, null-LOX-1 barley preferably comprises a gene that encodes a mutated form of LOX-1 that lacks some or all of amino acids 520-862 of LOX-1. Said mutated LOX-1 may also lack other amino acid residues, which are present in wild-type LOX-1.

Accordingly, double-null-LOX barley of the invention may comprise a truncated form of LOX-1, which is not functional – such as an N- or a C-terminal truncated form.

Preferably, said truncated form comprises no more than 800, more preferably no more than 750, even more preferably no more than 700, yet more preferably no more than 690, even more preferably no more than 680, yet more preferably no more than 670 consecutive amino acids of LOX-1, such as no more than 665, for example no more than 650, such as no more than 600, for example no more than 550, such as no more than 500, for example no more than 450, such as no more than 425, for example no more than 399 consecutive amino acids of LOX-1 of SEQ ID NO:3 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3 of WO 2005/087934). Preferably, said truncated form comprises only an N-terminal fragment of LOX-1, preferably at the most the 800, more preferably at the most the 750, even more preferably at the most the 700, yet more preferably at the most the 690, even more preferably at the most the 680, yet more preferably at the most the 670, even more preferably at the most the 665 N-terminal amino acids of SEQ ID NO:3 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3 of WO 2005/087934), such as no more than 665, for example no more than 650, such as no more than 600, for example at the most the 550, such as at the most the 500, for example at the most the 450, such as at the most the 425, for example at the most the 399 N-terminal amino acids of SEQ ID NO:3 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3 of WO 2005/087934). In addition to the fragment of LOX-1, said truncated form may optionally comprise additional C-terminal sequences not present in wild-type LOX-1. This may in particular be the case if the truncated form has arisen from aberrant splicing. Preferably, said additional C-terminal sequences consist of at the most 50, more preferably at the most 30, even more preferably at the most 10, yet more preferably of at the most 4, or at the most 1 amino acid.

In one very preferred embodiment, the truncated form may consist of amino acids 1–665 of SEQ ID NO:3 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3 of WO 2005/087934).

5 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the barley plant comprises a LOX-1–encoding gene that is transcribed into mRNA, which comprises a nonsense codon or a stop codon upstream of the stop codon of wild-type LOX-1 mRNA. Such a nonsense codon is herein denoted a premature nonsense codon. Preferably, all LOX-1–encoding genes transcribed into mRNA of said plant comprise a premature nonsense codon or a stop codon. The nonsense codon or stop codon is preferably situated at the most 800,
10 more preferably at the most the 750, even more preferably at the most the 700, yet more preferably at the most the 690, even more preferably at the most the 680, yet more preferably at the most the 670, even more preferably at the most the 665 codons downstream of the start codon. The sequence of wild-type genomic DNA encoding LOX-1 is given in SEQ ID NO:1 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1 of WO 2005/087934)
15 or SEQ ID NO:5 of WO 2005/087934.

In one preferred embodiment, the barley plant of the invention comprises a gene encoding LOX-1, wherein the corresponding pre-mRNA transcribed from said gene comprises the sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:2 of WO 2005/087934.

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In a very preferred embodiment of the invention, the gene encoding mutant LOX-1 of the double null-LOX barley plant according to the invention comprises a nonsense mutation, said mutation corresponding to a G→A substitution at position 3574 of SEQ ID NO:1 of WO 2005/087934.

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The term "LOX-2 protein" is meant to cover the full-length LOX-2 protein of barley as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:5 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355), or a functional homolog thereof. The active site of LOX-2 is situated in the C-terminal part of LOX-2. In particular, it is anticipated that the
30 region spanning amino acid residues 515–717, or parts thereof, are relevant for LOX-2 activity. Based on an examination of the soybean LOX-1 crystal structure, anticipated sequence stretches of the active site cleft of the LOX-2 enzyme of barley are represented by amino acid residues 515–525 and 707–717. A translated, mutated LOX-2 protein, i.e. a C-terminally truncated form of LOX-2 of barley double null-LOX mutant
35 A689 contains max. 684 residues, and will therefore lack the second sequence stretch

of the active site cleft – making it inactive. According to one embodiment of the invention, double-null-LOX barley of the invention preferably comprises a gene encoding a mutant form of LOX-2 that lacks some, or all, of amino acids 515-717 of LOX-2, preferably lacking some or all of amino acids 707 to 717, even more preferably lacking all of amino acids 707-717. Said mutant LOX-2 may also lack other amino acid residues, which are present in wild-type LOX-2.

Accordingly, double-null-LOX barley may comprise a truncated form of LOX-2, which is not functional, such as an N-terminal or a C-terminal truncated form. Preferably, said truncated form comprises no more than 800, more preferably no more than 750, even more preferably no more than 725, yet more preferably no more than 700, even more preferably no more than 690, yet more preferably no more than 684 consecutive amino acids of LOX-2 of SEQ ID NO:7 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:5 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355). Preferably, said truncated form comprises only an N-terminal fragment of LOX-2. Hence, preferably said truncated form comprises at the most the 800, more preferably at the most the 750, even more preferably at the most the 725, yet more preferably at the most the 700, even more preferably at the most the 690, yet more preferably at the most the 684 N-terminal amino acids of SEQ ID NO:7 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:5 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355). In addition to the fragment of LOX-12, said truncated form may optionally comprise additional C-terminal sequences not present in wild-type LOX-2. This may in particular be the case if the truncated form has arisen from aberrant splicing. Preferably, said additional C-terminal sequences consist of at the most 50, more preferably at the most 30, even more preferably at the most 10, yet more preferably of at the most 4, or at the most 1 amino acid.

In one very preferred embodiment, the truncated form may consist of amino acids 1–684 of SEQ ID NO: 7 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:5 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355).

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the barley plant comprises a gene transcribed into mRNA for LOX-2, wherein said mRNA comprises a nonsense codon or a stop codon upstream of the stop codon of wild-type LOX-2 mRNA. Such a nonsense codon is herein designated a premature nonsense codon. Preferably all genes transcribed into mRNA encoding LOX-2 of said plant comprise a premature nonsense

codon or a stop codon. The nonsense codon or stop codon is preferably situated at the most 800, more preferably at the most the 750, even more preferably at the most the 725, yet more preferably at the most the 700, even more preferably at the most the 690, yet more preferably at the most the 684 codons downstream of the start codon.

5 The sequence of wild-type genomic DNA encoding LOX-2 is given in SEQ ID NO: 5 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355).

10 In a very preferred embodiment of the invention, the gene encoding mutated LOX-2 of the double null-LOX barley plant comprises a nonsense mutation, said mutation corresponding to a G→A substitution at position 2689 of SEQ ID NO: 5 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355).

15 The barley plant according to the invention may be prepared by any suitable method known to the person skilled in the art, preferably by one of the methods outlined herein below in the section "Preparing double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley".

Loss of functional MMT

20 The present invention relates to barley plants – or part thereof, or plant products thereof – having a first, a second mutation and a third mutation, wherein the first mutation leads to a total loss of functional LOX-1, and the second mutation leads to a total loss of functional of LOX-2 – both described herein above in more detail in the section "Loss of functional LOX". The third mutation leads to a total loss of functional
25 MMT.

The total loss of a functional MMT may be based on different mechanisms. For example, the total loss of functional MMT may result from a malfunctioning protein in said plant, i.e. a malfunctioning MMT enzyme, such as a mutant MMT protein with no
30 detectable activity. For instance, the MMT protein of the mutant may be a truncated protein. The loss of MMT activity may similarly be based on different mechanisms, for example caused by a malfunctioning MMT protein.

35 Preferably, the activity of a mutated MMT protein is determined by its capacity to catalyze transfer of a methyl group from SAM to Met, thereby forming SMM. This may,

for example, be undertaken as described in Example 4 in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315. Preferably, the amino acid sequence of a mutated MMT is obtained by determining the translated sequence of the corresponding, isolated barley cDNA. This may be done essentially as described in Example 8 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315. Alternatively, the mutated MMT of a barley plant of the invention is obtained by heterologous expression in a bacterial cell culture as described in Example 11 and Example 12 in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315, followed by verifying that the recombinant protein is inactive as an MMT enzyme.

The total loss of functional MMT may be realized by the lack of MMT protein. Lack of MMT protein will lead to loss of MMT function. Thus, the barley plant may comprise no, or only very little, preferably no detectable MMT protein. The presence or absence of MMT protein may be detected by any suitable means known to the person skilled in the art. However, the protein(s) is preferably analyzed by techniques wherein MMT protein is detected by specific antibodies that recognize MMT. Said techniques may, for example, be western blotting or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, and said specific antibodies may be monoclonal or polyclonal. Preferably, however, said antibodies are polyclonals that recognize several different epitopes within the MMT protein. This may also be detected indirectly, for example, by methods for MMT activity determination. Thus, in one preferred embodiment of the invention, a barley plant is said to carry a mutation in the gene encoding MMT, thus causing a total loss of MMT activity, when no MMT protein is detectable in said plant. In particular, this is the case when no MMT protein with an approximate mass of 120 kDa, $\pm 10\%$, is detectable in said barley plant – preferably in kernels of said barley plant, as analyzed by western blotting.

The total loss of functional MMT may also be a result of no, or very little, preferably no, transcription of an MMT mRNA. The skilled person will acknowledge that the absence of an MMT transcript also will result in the absence of MMT protein.

Preferably, however, the total loss of functional MMT is a result of expression of an aberrant MMT transcript. Said transcript may preferably be caused by an aberrant splicing event of the primary transcript, for example, due to a mutation in a splice site. Expression of transcripts encoding MMT may, for instance, be detected by Northern blotting, or by RT-PCR methods.

The total loss of functional MMT in the barley plants of the present invention is caused by one or more mutations. Thus, the barley plants of the present invention, in general, carry at least one mutation in the MMT gene. Said mutation(s) may be in regulatory regions, for instance within the promoter, or introns, or said mutation(s) may be in the protein coding region. The mutation may also be deletion of the MMT gene or part thereof, for example deletion of the coding region of the MMT gene. Thus, the loss of functional MMT may also be detected by analyzing for mutations in the gene encoding MMT. Mutations in the MMT-encoding gene may, for example, be detected by sequencing said gene, followed by comparing it to the wild-type sequence, preferably the wild-type sequence of cv. Prestige given in SEQ ID NO:9 (corresponding to the sequence given in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 as SEQ ID NO:3), or that of cv. Sebastian (SEQ ID NO:11 corresponding to SEQ ID NO:16 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315). Preferably, after identifying a mutation, the loss of function is confirmed by testing for MMT activity, for instance as described in Example 2 or Example 4 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315.

The term MMT protein is meant to cover the full length MMT protein of barley as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:6 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315), or a functional homolog thereof. In this context, a functional homolog is an MMT protein with the same level of MMT activity, $\pm 25\%$, as that of the MMT protein of barley as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13, wherein the MMT activity is determined as described in Example 2 or Example 4 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315.

The barley plant carrying a third mutation causing a total loss of MMT activity may comprise a non-functional, truncated form of MMT, such as an N-terminal or a C-terminal truncated form. A barley plant may comprise more than one truncated form of MMT, such as 2, or for example 3, or such as more than 3 different truncated forms of MMT, which may result from aberrantly spliced transcripts. Said truncated forms comprise only an N-terminal fragment of MMT. In addition to the N-terminal fragment of wild-type MMT, said truncated forms of MMT may comprise additional C-terminal sequences not found in wild-type MMT. Said additional C-terminal sequences may, for instance, be translated intron sequences, such as those comprised in the mutant

mRNA due to aberrant splicing. Preferably, said truncated MMT forms comprise at the most the 500, more preferably at the most the 450, even more preferably at the most the 400, yet more preferably at the most the 350, even more preferably at the most the 320, yet more preferably at the most 311, or at the most 288 N-terminal amino acid
5 residues of SEQ ID NO:13 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:6 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315). This is in particular the case when said barley plant has a total loss of MMT activity. However, the MMT may also comprise less, such as no more than 300, for example no more than 250, such as no more than 200, for example at the most the 150, for example no more than 147, or no more than 133 N-
10 terminal amino acids of SEQ ID NO:13 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:6 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315).

In one very preferred embodiment, the truncated MMT form may consist of amino acids 1–311 or amino acids 1–288 of SEQ ID NO:13 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:6 of
15 international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315) and optionally additional C-terminal sequences not present in wild-type MMT. Preferably, said additional C-terminal sequences consist of at the most 50, more preferably at the most 30, even more preferably at the most 10, yet more preferably of at the most 4, or at the most 1 amino acid. In a very preferred embodiment, the truncated form of MMT may be the
20 protein according to SEQ ID NO:11 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315, or SEQ ID NO:13 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315, or SEQ ID NO:15 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315. None of the proteins of SEQ ID NO:11, or SEQ ID NO:13, or SEQ ID NO:15 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 represent
25 functional MMT enzymes.

In another very preferred embodiment, the truncated MMT form may consist of amino acids 1–147, or of amino acids 1–133, of SEQ ID NO: 14 (corresponding to SEQ ID
30 NO:18 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315), and optionally additional C-terminal sequences not present in wild-type MMT. Preferably, said additional C-terminal sequences consist of at the most 50, more preferably at the most 40, even more preferably at the most 39, or at the most 33, or at the most 30 amino acids. In a very preferred embodiment, the truncated form of MMT may be the protein according to SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16 or SEQ ID NO:17 (corresponding to SEQ
35 ID NO:22, or SEQ ID NO:24, or SEQ ID NO:26 of international patent application

PCT/DK2009/050315, respectively). None of the proteins of SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16 or SEQ ID NO:17 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:22, or SEQ ID NO:24, or SEQ ID NO:26 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315, respectively) are functional MMT enzymes.

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The above-mentioned truncated forms of MMT may, for example be present in barley plants carrying a mutation in the MMT gene, wherein said mutation introduces a premature stop codon resulting in a gene encoding above-mentioned truncated forms of MMT.

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In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the barley plant comprises an MMT gene that is transcribed into mRNA, which comprises some, but not all, of the wild-type MMT gene spliced together without intervention (the intron–exon structure of the wild-type MMT gene of barley is shown in FIG. 9 of international patent application

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PCT/DK2009/050315). In one embodiment of the present invention it is accordingly preferred that the MMT mRNA of the barley plant according to the invention comprises at the most exons 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 spliced together without intervention, or for example at the most exons 1 and 2 spliced together without intervention. In addition to said spliced-together exons, the MMT mRNAs of the barley plant according to the invention may comprise additional 3' terminal sequences derived from wild-type introns and/or exons, wherein introns separate exons sequences. Preferred examples of aberrant MMT mRNAs of barley plants according to the invention – as determined by RT-PCR and accordingly with fragment lengths in bp – are illustrated in FIG. 12 and FIG. 16 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315. More preferably, the aberrant mRNAs of barley plants according to the invention are those illustrated in FIG. 12 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315, further comprising exons 1 and 2 at the 5' end, or the mRNAs illustrated in FIG. 16 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315, further comprising exon 1 at the 5' end.

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In a very preferred embodiment of the present invention, the barley plant carrying a third mutation in the gene for MMT causing a total loss of functional MMT comprises a mutation in a splice site within the MMT gene, which results in aberrantly spliced mRNA. More preferably, said mutation is positioned in an intron of the MMT gene, even more preferably in the 5' splice site of an intron, such as in the 5' splice site on intron 1 (the intron separating exons 1 and 2), such as in the 5' splice site on intron 2 (the intron

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separating exons 2 and 3), such as in the 5' splice site on intron 3 (the intron separating exons 3 and 4), such as in the 5' splice site on intron 4 (the intron separating exons 4 and 5), such as in the 5' splice site on intron 5 (the intron separating exons 5 and 6), such as in the 5' splice site on intron 6 (the intron separating exons 6 and 7), most preferably in the 5' splice site on intron 2 or intron 5.

It is preferred that said mutation is a G→A mutation of the terminal 5' base of the aforementioned introns. Thus, a very preferred mutation is a G→A mutation of the terminal 5' base of intron 2, or a G→A mutation of the most 5' base of intron 5.

The barley plant according to the invention may be prepared by any suitable method known to the person skilled in the art, preferably by the method outlined herein below in the section "Preparing double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley".

Preparing double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley

The barley plant according to the invention may be prepared by any suitable method known to the person skilled in the art. Preferably, the barley plant of the invention is prepared by a method comprising the steps of mutagenizing barley plants or parts thereof, for example barley kernels, followed by screening and selecting barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional LOX-1, total loss of functional LOX-2 and/or total loss of functional MMT.

The barley plants according to the invention comprise at least 3 mutations. Accordingly, the plants may be prepared by preparing separate barley plants that comprise only one of the mutations and thereafter crossing said barley plants to obtain a barley plant with all of the 3 mutations – or by successively introducing the mutations into a barley plant or by a combination of these methods.

Thus, the barley plant according to the invention may be prepared by mutagenizing a barley plant or parts thereof, for example barley kernels, followed by screening and selecting barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional LOX-1, and mutagenizing another barley plant or parts thereof, for example barley kernels, followed by screening and selecting barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional LOX-2 and mutagenizing yet another barley plant or parts thereof, for example barley

kernels, followed by screening and selecting barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional MMT. The selected barley plants may eventually be crossed in several rounds to obtain barley plants carrying all of the three mutations.

5 Alternatively, the barley plant of the present invention may be prepared by mutagenizing barley plants or parts thereof, for example barley kernels, followed by screening and selecting barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional XX. Said selected barley plants may optionally be propagated and then these barley plants – or parts thereof, for example barley kernels – may be mutagenised, followed by
10 screening and selecting barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional YY. Said selected barley plants, or parts thereof, may optionally be propagated and then either:

- 15 (i) these barley plants – or parts thereof, for example barley kernels – may be mutagenised, followed by screening and selecting barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional ZZ; or
- (ii) these barley plants may be crossed with a barley plant characterized by total loss of functional ZZ.

20 In the above-mentioned crossings, XX, YY and ZZ each denotes either LOX-1, LOX-2 or MMT, wherein XX is different to YY, which is different to ZZ.

In one preferred embodiment, the barley plant may be prepared by a method involving mutagenizing barley plants, or parts thereof, for example barley kernels, wherein said
25 barley plants already carry a mutation causing a total loss of functional LOX-1 enzyme followed by screening and selecting barley plants further carrying a mutation that causes a total loss of functional LOX-2 (i.e. null-LOX-1-null-LOX-2, or double-null-LOX plants). This method furthermore involves mutagenizing other barley plants, or parts thereof and screening and selecting barley plants with total loss of functional MMT and
30 eventually crossing these barley plants with the null-LOX-1-null-LOX-2 barley plants.

Suitable null-LOX-1 barley plants are, for example, described in international patent application WO 2005/087934.

It is preferred that the screening method utilises germinated embryos as starting material for the identification of barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional LOX-2. Interestingly, the present inventors have found that the use of mature embryos as starting material for a screening for LOX-2 activity is less preferable, based on the screening of as many as 21,000 mature embryos, which did not reveal a single null-LOX-2 barley mutant.

It is an objective of the present invention to provide methods of preparing a double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant comprising the steps of: (i) preparing a double-null-LOX barley plant; and (ii) preparing a null-MMT barley plant; (iii) crossing said double-null-LOX barley plant and said null-MMT barley plant; (iv) selecting double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants.

Preparing said double-null-LOX barley plants may preferably be done by a method comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing a barley plant, or parts thereof, with a total loss of function of LOX-1 activity, such as total loss of functional LOX-1 enzyme; and
- (ii) mutagenizing said barley plant, and/or barley cells, and/or barley tissue, and/or barley kernels, and/or barley embryos from said barley plant, thereby obtaining generation M0 barley; and
- (iii) breeding said mutagenized barley plants, kernels, and/or embryos for at least 2 generations, thereby obtaining generation Mx barley plants, wherein x is an integer ≥ 2 ; and
- (iv) obtaining embryos from said Mx barley plants; and
- (v) germinating said embryos; and
- (vi) determining the LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities in said germinated embryos, or parts thereof; and
- (vii) selecting plants with a total loss of LOX-1 activity and LOX-2 activity in the germinated embryos; and
- (viii) analyzing for a mutation in the LOX-1 gene and in the LOX-2 gene; and
- (ix) Selecting plants carrying a mutation in the LOX-1 gene and the LOX-2 gene, i.e. double-null-LOX plants;

thereby obtaining a barley plant carrying mutations in the genes for LOX-1 and LOX-2, causing a total loss of functional LOX-1 and functional LOX-2.

Preparing said null-MMT barley plants may preferably be done using a method comprising the steps of:

- (i) mutagenizing barley plants, and/or barley cells, and/or barley tissue, and/or barley kernels, and/or barley embryos, thereby obtaining generation M0 barley; and
- (ii) propagating, e.g. by breeding, said mutagenized barley plants, kernels, and/or embryos for ≥ 2 generations, thereby obtaining barley plants of generation Mx, wherein x is an integer ≥ 2 ; and
- (iii) obtaining a sample of said Mx barley plants; and
- (iv) determining the level of SMM in said sample; and
- (v) selecting plants wherein the sample comprises less than 10 ppb SMM, preferably less than 5 ppb SMM, more preferably no detectable SMM; and
- (vi) sequencing at least part of the MMT gene; and
- (vii) selecting plants carrying a mutation in the MMT gene.

The aforementioned barley plant with a total loss of LOX-1 activity may, for example, be any of the barley plants with a total loss of LOX-1 activity described in WO 2005/087934, preferably mutant D112, or progeny plants thereof.

The mutagenizing steps in the aforementioned methods may involve mutagenizing living material selected from the group consisting of barley plants, barley cells, barley tissue, barley kernels, and barley embryos – preferably selected from the group consisting of barley plants, barley kernels, and barley embryos, more preferably barley kernels.

Mutagenesis may be performed by any suitable method. In one embodiment, mutagenesis is performed by incubating a barley plant, or a part thereof – for example barley kernels or individual cells from barley – with a mutagenizing agent. Said agent is known to the person skilled in the art, including, for example, but not limited to, sodium azide (NaN_3), ethyl methanesulfonate (EMS), azidoglycerol (AG, 3-azido-1,2-propanediol), methyl nitrosourea (MNU), and maleic hydrazide (MH).

In another embodiment, mutagenesis is performed by irradiation, for example by UV, a barley plant or a part thereof, such as the kernel. In preferred embodiments of the invention, the mutagenesis is performed according to any of the methods outlined
5 herein below in the section "Chemical mutagenesis". A non-limiting example of a suitable mutagenesis protocol is given in Example 2 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355.

It is preferred that the mutagenesis is performed in a manner such that the expected
10 frequency of desired mutants is at least 0.5, such as in the range of 0.5 to 5, for example in the range of 0.9 to 2.3 per 10,000 grains, when screening barley of generation M3. In a preferred embodiment, mutagenesis is performed on barley kernels. The kernels applied to the mutagen are designated as generation M0 (see also **FIG. 8**).

15 The LOX activity may be determined in a sample consisting of germinating barley embryo, preferably in a liquid extract of a germinating barley embryo. Said sample, such as said extract may be prepared from any suitable part of said germinating embryo. In general, the barley sample must be homogenized using any suitable
20 method prior to preparation of an extract of said sample and determination of LOX-2 activity. In particular, it is preferred that a protein extract is prepared from the germinating embryo, or part thereof, and that the LOX activity is determined using said extract. Homogenization may, for example, be performed using mechanical forces, for example by shaking or stirring, such as by shaking in the presence of a bead, such as
25 a glass or a sand bead.

In a preferred embodiment, the germinating embryo is of generation Mx, wherein x is an integer ≥ 2 ; preferably x is an integer in the range of 2 to 10, more preferably in the range of 3 to 8. In a very preferred embodiment, LOX activity is determined in
30 germinating embryos of generation M3, or a sample derived from such embryos. In that embodiment, it is preferred that mutagenized barley kernels of generation M0 are grown to obtain barley plants, which are crossed to obtain kernels of generation M1. The procedure is repeated until kernels of generation M3 are available (see also **FIG. 8**).

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Determination of LOX activity may be carried out using any suitable assay, preferably by one of the methods outlined hereinafter. In particular, it is preferred that the assay provides data on the dioxygenation of linoleic acid to 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE by LOX-1 and LOX-2. In general, assaying will therefore involve the steps of:

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- (i) providing a protein extract prepared from a germinated barley embryo or part thereof; and
- (ii) providing linoleic acid; and
- (iii) incubating said protein extract with said linoleic acid; and
- 10 (iv) detecting dioxygenation of linoleic acid to 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE.

Step (iv) of the method preferably comprises determining the level of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE in said germinating embryos, preferably in a protein extract prepared from said germinating embryos. The step may comprise a direct or an indirect determination
15 of the levels of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE. The total level of all HPODEs may be determined, in which case it is preferred that specific measurements of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE are performed for confirmation. One method could, for example, be a method wherein protein extracts from germinating embryos are incubated with linoleic acid as substrate for formation of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE. Said HPODEs can then
20 be detected by various methods. One method may involve generation of a detectable compound, such as a dye. For example the method may be the oxidative coupling of 3-dimethylaminobenzoic acid and 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone in the presence of hemoglobin, catalyzed by the formed HPODEs to form the indamine dye, which can be measured at A_{595} using a spectrophotometer. An example of such a
25 method is described in Examples 1 and 2 in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355. Using this assay, an absorption reading of less than 0.2 A_{595} unit is considered as indicative of the absence of LOX-1 and the absence of LOX-2 activities. However, a more precise method for determining LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities is to incubate a protein extract from germinating embryos with linoleic acid, followed by
30 determination of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE contents. 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE contents may, for example, be determined using HPLC-based analysis.

Dioxygenation of linoleic acid to 9-HPODE and 13-HPODEs may be measured directly or indirectly. Any suitable detection method may be used with the present invention. In
35 one embodiment of the invention, linoleic acid hydroperoxides are detected. 9-HPODE

and 13-HPODE may be detected directly, for example, by chromatographic methods, such as HPLC as described in Example 4 in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355.

5 The present invention discloses that certain aspects of the procedure for extraction of protein from the germinating embryo for determination of LOX activity is of great importance. Thus, it is preferred that the protein is extracted using an acidic buffer, preferably a buffer with a pH in the range of 2 to 6, more preferably in the range of 3 to 5, even more preferably in the range of 3.5 to 5, yet more preferably in the range of 4 to 10 5, even more preferably a pH of 4.5. The buffer used for extraction is preferably based on an organic acid, more preferably a lactic acid buffer. Most preferably, the protein extract is prepared using a 100-mM lactic acid buffer, pH 4.5.

Certain embodiments of the present invention disclose methods for detection of null- 15 LOX-1 and null-LOX-2 plants that involve reaction of 9-HPODE and 13-HPODE with a dye, e.g. 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone. Preferably, said dye, e.g. 3-methyl-2-benzothiazolinone hydrazone, is added to the protein extract after addition of linoleic acid. Preferably, the dye is added at least 1 min, more preferably at least 5 min, even more preferably at least 10 min, such as in the range of 1 to 60 min, for example in the 20 range of 5 to 30 min, such as in the range of 10 to 20 min after contacting the protein extract with the linoleic acid.

Preferred methods for selecting barley plants according to the invention are detailed in Example 2 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355.

25 The selection procedure may be adjusted for microtitre plate-based assay procedures, or other known repetitive, high-throughput assay formats to allow rapid screening of many samples. It is preferred that at least 5000, such as at least 7500, for example at least 10,000, such as at least 15,000, for example at least 20,000, such as at least 30 25,000 mutagenized barley plants are analyzed for LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities.

Determination of a mutation in the gene encoding LOX-1 may be performed by several different methods. For example, the LOX-1 gene may be sequenced completely or partly, and the sequence compared to SEQ ID NO:1 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1 of 35 WO 2005/087934) or SEQ ID NO:5 of WO 2005/087934. If searching for a specific

mutation, SNP analysis may be applied. The skilled person will be able to design useful primers for detection of a given specific mutation, such as one leading to a premature stop codon in the coding sequence for LOX-1 (e.g. any of the premature stop codons described hereinabove). One example of how to perform a SNP analysis is described in Example 10 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355, with primers that are useful for detecting a G→A mutation at nucleotide position 3474 of the LOX-1 gene.

Determination of a mutation in the gene encoding LOX-2 may be performed by several different methods. For example, the LOX-2 gene may be sequenced completely or partly, and the sequence compared to SEQ ID NO:5 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355. If searching for a specific mutation, SNP analysis may be used. The skilled person will be able to design useful primers for detection of a given specific mutation, such as one leading to a premature stop codon in the LOX-2 coding sequence (e.g. any of the premature stop codons described hereinabove). An example of how to perform a SNP analysis is described in Example 10 in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355, as are primers useful for detecting a G→A mutation at nucleotide position 2689 of the gene for LOX-2.

It is also comprised within the present invention that steps (viii) and (ix) of the method of preparing a double null-LOX barley plant, as detailed in this section hereinabove, may be performed prior to steps (vi) and (vii), in which case the method will comprise the steps (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (viii), (ix), (vi), and (vii) in that order. In particular, this could be the case when searching for a specific mutation, for example in progeny plants of already identified double null-LOX barley plants.

Preferably, selection of barley plants with total loss of functional MMT comprises obtaining a sample from a mutagenized barley plant, preferably from a germinating mutagenized barley plant, even more preferably from a mutagenized barley plant, which has germinated for 4 d. It is preferred that the sample is from a coleoptile and/or a primary leaf, preferably from a leaf. Thus, the sample may, for example, be in the range of 1 cm to 3 cm leaf tissue.

The sample may be extracted and analyzed following a newly developed multistep protocol, as described herein, involving the successive use of different solvents and

binding materials. In general, the sample may be extracted, for example with a solvent or a mixture of solvents, preferably water and/or organic solvents. The organic solvent may, for example, be an alcohol, preferably methanol – or the organic solvent may for example be an alkyl-halide, preferably chloroform. In one preferred embodiment, the solvent is a mixture of water, methanol, and chloroform. Said extraction may advantageously be performed while mixing, for example, using a shaker or a mixer. A solid support may be added to the solvent/sample mixture – for instance a bead, such as a glass bead.

In a preferred embodiment, the aforementioned leaf sample for determination of MMT activity is taken from generation M_x kernels, wherein x is an integer ≥ 2 , preferably in the range of 2 to 10, more preferably in the range of 3 to 8. In a very preferred embodiment, the level of SMM is determined in M₃-germinated plants, or in samples thereof (such as leaves). In said embodiment, it is preferred that mutagenized barley kernels of generation M₀ are grown to obtain barley plants, which subsequently are crossed to obtain kernels of generation M₁. The procedure is repeated until kernels of generation M₃ are available (cf. **FIG. 8**).

Determination of the SMM level is preferably based on the novel procedure described below. Interestingly, this method allows for high-throughput screenings, rendering it feasible to identify barley plants characterized by a total loss of functional MMT.

In general terms, the method preferably involves reacting the sample, or preferably an extract of said sample, prepared as described above, with a compound capable of binding SMM. It was found that the OPA reagent (Sigma, cat.no. P7914; cf. FIG. 2 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315), hereinafter just referred to as OPA, is particularly useful for determining SMM levels. OPA reacts, amongst others, with SMM to form the molecule referred to as SMM-OPA (cf. FIG. 2 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315). The reaction preferably involves incubating OPA with an extract of the sample prepared as described above. In addition, it is preferred that 3-mercaptopropionic acid is added to the reaction mixture. The mixture is preferably kept at alkaline pH, preferably in the range pH 8 to pH 11, more preferably in the range pH 9 to pH 11, even more preferably in the range pH 9.5 to pH 10.5, such as at pH 10. Incubation is preferably performed at a temperature in the range of 0°C to 10°C, preferably in the range of 1°C to 8°C, even more preferably in the range of 2°C

to 6°C, yet more preferably in the range of 3°C to 5°C, such as at 4°C. Incubation time is preferably ≥ 10 min.

Based on the observation that SMM-OPA absorbs and emits light of 340 nm and 450 nm, respectively, its detection was possible by using fluorescence spectroscopy. The initial process of detection preferably involves extract separation over a column, preferably on a 30×2 mm Gemini 3 μ C18 column (Phenomenex, cat.no. 00A-4439-80; Phenomenex, 2006), followed by fluorescence detection using a high-throughput liquid chromatography system, preferably an Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC system, Waters), designed to identify and measure the fluorescent level of molecules having excitation at 340 nm and emission at 450 nm. When using this method, "no detectable SMM" means the absence of detectable compounds that co-elute with SMM. In this context, a small "shoulder" on a chromatogram peak is considered an artifact peak. A small shoulder on the right hand side of the Asn/Ser peak, cf. **FIG. 2**, is accordingly not considered to represent a SMM peak. Thus, by way of example, the upper two chromatograms as shown in **FIG. 2B** are considered to depict "no detectable SMM", whereas the lower chromatogram in said figure represents the separation of a sample comprising SMM.

Detection of SMM may preferably be done as described in Example 2 or Example 4. A preferred method for selecting barley plants according to the invention is described hereinafter in Example 2. Tissue for analysis is preferably sampled from a germinating barley plant, even more preferably from a barley plant, which has germinated for 4 days. It is notable that the above-mentioned screening method is particularly useful. First of all the analytical method is novel. Furthermore, it is a significant advantage of the above method that it is established for determination of SMM levels in germinating barley plants, such as leaves of germinating barley plants. The timing of sampling from the germinating barley makes an unexpectedly clean preparation for UPLC-based detection of SMM. Other samples, for example wort samples of similar grains as described above are too complex in composition, and can generally not be utilized in the mentioned chromatography method for determination of SMM levels.

Subsequent to the identification of a barley plant having less than 10 ppb SMM, preferably no detectable SMM, the corresponding MMT gene, or part thereof, is typically sequenced to determine whether the barley plant in question can be classified

as having a mutation in the MMT gene. Barley plants characterized by having no detectable SMM, and wherein one or more bases of the MMT-encoding gene are different as compared with the wild-type sequence, are then selected. In this context, the wild-type sequence is preferably the sequence found in the corresponding wild-type barley cultivar, preferably the sequence given as SEQ ID NO:9 (corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3 in international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315). Preferred mutations are described hereinabove.

Selected barley mutants may be further propagated, and plants of subsequent generations re-screened for SMM content. After selection of useful barley plants, these may be included in breeding programs utilizing those conventional methods that are described herein below in the section "Plant breeding".

Once a double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant has been identified, which contains a particular mutation in the LOX-1 gene and a particular mutation in the LOX-2 gene and a particular mutation in the MMT gene (such as any of the above-mentioned mutations), additional barley plants with the identical mutations may be generated by conventional breeding methods, such as those well known to the skilled person. For example, said double-null-LOX barley plant may be backcrossed with another barley cultivar.

Subsequent to the selection of useful barley plants with total loss of functional LOX-1, LOX-2 and MMT, one or more additional screenings may optionally be performed. For example, selected mutants may be further propagated, and plants of new generations may be tested for the total loss of functional LOX-1, LOX-2 and MMT.

In one embodiment of the invention, it is preferred that the double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant according to the present invention has plant growth physiology and grain development similar to that of wild-type barley. It is hence preferred that the double-null-LOX-1-null-MMT barley plant is similar to wild-type barley (preferably to cv. Power or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina) with respect to plant height, number of tillers per plant, onset of flowering, and/or number of grains per spike.

Also, it is preferred that the double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plant according to the present invention is similar to wild-type barley, in particular similar to cv. Power or cv.

Quench with respect to plant height, heading date, disease resistance, lodging, ear-breakage, maturation time, and yield. In the present context, "similar" is to be understood as the same $\pm 10\%$ in case of numbers. These parameters may be determined as described hereinafter in Example 5.

5

In a very preferred embodiment of the invention, the barley plant is prepared by crossing the barley Line A689 (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation: PTA-9640), with the barley Line 8063 (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation: PTA-9543) and optionally followed by further breeding.

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Seeds of barley line A689 have been deposited 4 December 2008 under the name "Barley, *Hordeum vulgare* L.; Line A689" with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Patent Depository, 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110, United States (deposit number PTA-9640).

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Seeds of barley line 8063 have been deposited on 13 October 2008 with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Patent Depository, 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110, United States and referred to as "Barley, *Hordeum vulgare*; Line 8063" (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation: PTA-9543).

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Chemical mutagenesis

In order to generate double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants according to the present invention, a very large number of barley mutants are prepared - typically in multiple rounds - by any suitable mutagenesis method, for example by the use of chemical mutagenesis of barley kernels. This method is known to introduce mutations at random. Mutagenesis of barley may be performed using any mutagenizing chemical. However, it is preferably performed by treating kernels with NaN_3 , letting the surviving kernels germinate, followed by analysis of off-spring plants. The plant generation growing from the mutagenized kernels, referred to as M0, contains heterozygote chimeras for any given mutation. Progeny plants collected after self-pollination are referred to as the M1 generation, in which a given mutation segregates into the corresponding heterozygotes and homozygotes (cf. **FIG. 8**).

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Treating kernels with NaN_3 is not equivalent to treating a single cell, because the kernels after the treatment will contain some non-mutant cells and a variety of cells having DNA mutations. Since mutations in cell lineages that do not lead to the germ line will be lost, the goal is to target the mutagen to the few cells that develop into reproductive tissues which contribute to development of the M1 generation.

To assess the overall mutation efficiency, albino chimeras and albino plants may be counted in the generations M0 and M1. Scoring mutant number as a function of surviving plants gives an estimate for the mutation efficiency, while scoring mutant number as a function of treated seeds measures the combination of both mutation efficiency and kernel kill.

It is notable that cells have quality assurance mechanisms at virtually every step of gene expression, possibly to moderate the effects of damaging mutations. One well-studied example in eukaryotes is nonsense-mediated mRNA decay, denoted NMD, which prevents the synthesis of potentially deleterious, prematurely truncated proteins (Maquat and Carmichael, 2001; Wu et al., 2007). In NMD, a termination codon is identified as premature by its position relative to downstream destabilizing elements. Mutations that generate premature termination (nonsense) codons (PTCs) sometimes increase the levels of alternatively spliced transcripts that skip the offending mutations, thereby potentially saving protein function (Mendell and Dietz, 2001).

Plant breeding

In one embodiment of the invention, the objective is to provide agronomical useful barley plants comprising the double-null-LOX-null-MMT trait. Crop development is often a lengthy and difficult process that begins with the introduction of the new trait. From the perspective of a plant breeder, however, this step almost always results in a plant that has a less desirable overall profile of agronomic traits than do current commercial varieties.

In addition to the double-null-LOX-null-MMT trait, there are additional factors which also may be considered in the art of generating a commercial barley variety useful for malting and/or brewing and/or as base for beverages, for example kernel yield and size, and other parameters that relate to malting performance or brewing performance.

Since many – if not all – relevant traits have been shown to be under genetic control, the present invention also provides modern, homozygous, high-yielding malting cultivars, which may be prepared from crosses with the double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley plants that are disclosed in the present publication. The skilled barley breeder
5 will be able to select and develop barley plants, which – following crossings with double-null-LOX barley–null-MMT barley – will result in superior cultivars. Alternatively, the barley breeder may utilize plants of the present invention for further mutagenesis to generate new cultivars derived from double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley.

- 10 One method to ensure that the double-null-LOX–null-MMT trait is maintained in progeny lines concerns SNP analysis of the LOX-1 gene, the LOX-2 gene and the MMT gene. Preferably, LOX-1, LOX-2 and MMT activities are also determined.

15 The barley plants according to the present invention may be introduced into any suitable breeding scheme.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide agronomical elite barley plants comprising the double-null-LOX–null-MMT trait. Accordingly, this invention also is directed to methods for producing a new double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley plant by
20 crossing a first parental barley plant with a second parental barley plant, wherein the first or second plant is a double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley. Additionally, both first and second parental barley plants can come from a double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley variety. Thus, any such methods using the double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley variety are part of this invention: selfing, backcrossing, crossing to populations, and the like. All
25 plants produced using a double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley variety as a parent are within the scope of this invention, including those plants developed from varieties derived from a double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley variety. The double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley can also be used for genetic transformation in such cases where exogenous DNA is introduced and expressed in the double-null-LOX–null-MMT plant or
30 plant tissue.

Backcrossing methods can be used with the present invention to introduce into another cultivar the double-null-LOX–null-MMT trait of a mutated barley plant, for example cv. Scarlett or cv. Jersey or cv. Quench or cv. Rosalina, which are contemporary, high-
35 yielding malting barley cultivars. In a standard backcross protocol, the original variety of

- interest, i.e. the recurrent parental plant, is crossed to a second variety (non-recurrent parental plant), carrying the mutant LOX genes of interest to be transferred. The resulting double null-LOX progeny plants from this cross are subsequently crossed to the recurrent parental plant, with the process being repeated until a barley plant is
- 5 obtained wherein essentially all of the characteristics specified by the recurrent parent are recovered in the generated plant – in addition to the double-null-LOX–null-MMT trait of the nonrecurrent parental plant. Eventually, the last-generated, backcrossed plant is selfed to yield a pure double-null-LOX–null-MMT breeding progeny plant.
- 10 A way to accelerate the process of plant breeding comprises the initial multiplication of generated mutants by application of tissue culture and regeneration techniques. Thus, another aspect of the present invention is to provide cells, which upon growth and differentiation produce barley plants having the double-null-LOX–null-MMT trait. For example, breeding may involve traditional crossings, preparing fertile anther-derived
- 15 plants or using microspore culture.

LOX pathway products

- In various embodiments, the present invention relates to barley plants, and products thereof, comprising low levels of T2N and T2N potential. LOX enzymes catalyze dioxxygenation of polyunsaturated fatty acids with a cis-1,cis-4 pentadiene system. In barley, the C₁₈ polyunsaturated fatty acids linoleic acid (18:2^{Δ9,12}) and α-linolenic acid (18:3^{Δ9,12,15}) are major LOX substrates. The lipoxygenase pathway of fatty acid metabolism is initiated by the addition of molecular oxygen at the C-9 position (mostly catalyzed by LOX-1) or C-13 position (mostly catalyzed by LOX-2) of the acyl chain,
- 25 yielding the corresponding 9- and 13-HPODEs [9- and 13-hydroperoxy octadecatrienoic acids (HPOTEs) are products when the substrate is α-linolenic acid, but HPOTEs do not function as precursors for T2N]. In the hydroperoxide lyase branch of the LOX pathway, both 9- and 13-HPODEs may be cleaved to short-chain oxoacids and aldehydes (cf. **FIG. 1A**). In particular, 9-HPODE may be cleaved to form cis-nonenal that is converted to T2N, whereas 13-HPODE is the precursor of 2-E-hexenal. Thus, 13-HPODE, the major product of LOX-2–catalyzed dioxxygenation of linoleic acid was not anticipated to be an upstream component in the pathway leading to formation of the stale flavour T2N.
- 30

It is recognized that the present invention encompasses influencing production of downstream metabolites of LOX-1 and LOX-2 catalysis, which are not produced as a direct product of a LOX-1 or LOX-2-catalyzed reaction, but as a result of a subsequent series of reactions. These include spontaneous, factor-induced, or enzyme-catalyzed isomerizations and conversions. Thus, the production of these downstream metabolites could be influenced by modulating the expression of other components of the pathway, for example hydroperoxide lyase (HPL).

T2N and DMS and precursors thereof

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The present invention relates to methods for preparing beverages with low levels of one or more off-flavours and precursors thereof. Preferably said off-flavours are T2N and DMS and said precursors thereof are T2N potential and DMSP, respectively.

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One objective of the present invention is thus to reduce or eliminate the T2N potential. Thus, it is an objective of the present invention to reduce the formation of T2N precursors and aldehyde adducts. Although several chemical reactions related to beer staling remain elusive, generation of free T2N from T2N potential is recognized as a major cause of the development of stale flavour in beer products (Kuroda et al., supra). Therefore, it is an objective of the present invention to provide beverages with low level of T2N potential as well as beverages with low level of T2N precursors.

20

Most of the T2N potential is transferred from wort to the finished beer, in which free T2N may be liberated (Liégeois et al., 2002), with the conditions of acidity and temperature being important factors in this process. With reference to the present invention, T2N potential is defined as described hereinabove in the definitions. Other methods for determining the level of T2N potential are also available. In order to avoid confusion, the meaning of "T2N potential" in the present context is as described herein above in the definitions. The chemical substances which have the capacity to release T2N or be converted into T2N are denoted "T2N precursors" herein, and T2N precursors determined or measured by alternative methods other than the method for determining T2N potential are referred to as "T2N precursors". T2N precursors may in particular be determined by first treating a sample such that essentially all (preferably all) of its chemical substances, which have the capacity to release T2N or be converted

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into T2N actually do release T2N and/or convert to T2N, respectively. Thereafter, the level of T2N is determined.

5 Barley kernels of the instant invention comprise no LOX-1 and LOX-2 activities in addition to no MMT activity. Interestingly, such barley kernels contain very little T2N potential.

10 Beers produced using double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley kernels will therefore not only possess a very low level of T2N, but also a very low level of T2N potential. Within the scope of the present invention are double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley kernels, which yield beer products that contain very low levels of T2N potential, preferably less than 60%, more preferably less than 50% of the level of T2N potential of a similar beer product produced in the same manner from wild-type barley (preferably cv. Power).

15 Also, it is preferred that plant products derived from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley kernels possess a very low level of T2N precursors. Within the scope of the present invention are plant products prepared from double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley kernels, said plant products containing less than 60%, more preferably less than 50% T2N precursors of a similar plant product produced in the same manner from wild-type
20 barley (preferably cv. Power).

It is notable that measured T2N values often are higher in samples of, and in products from, a micro-malted raw material than that from a raw material produced in larger scale, for example from a 30-kg-large pilot-malted sample. However, the relative,
25 experimental values of T2N between large- and small-scale experiments are in general similar.

Similarly, it is notable that measured T2N potentials and T2N precursors often are higher in samples of, and in products from, a micro-malted raw material than that from
30 a raw material produced in larger scale, for example from a 30-kg-large pilot-malted sample. However, the relative, experimental values of T2N potentials between large- and small-scale experiments are in general similar.

It is also an objective of the present invention to reduce or eliminate DMS and DMSP,
35 wherein DMSP preferably is SMM.

The amount of SMM and DMS in a plant product may be determined by any suitable method. SMM may be determined essentially as described hereinabove in the section "Preparing double-null-LOX-null-MMT barley plants", wherein is described

5 determination of SMM levels in a barley sample. Thus, SMM may be determined by coupling it to a compound, such as OPA, and determining fluorescence, for example, by using a UPLC system. For a quantitative measurement, the chromatogram area corresponding to a SMM peak may be determined.

10 For a more precise measure, the amounts of both DMS and DMSP (such as SMM), the latter compound measured as DMS after activation, are preferably determined using high resolution capillary gas chromatography. Total DMS in samples of wort or beer are defined herein as the quantitative sum of free DMS and its precursor forms, denoted DMSP. Using this definition, the quantity of DMSP in a wort or beer sample can be
15 determined as the difference between total DMS (measured in the boiled sample, preferably in a sample boiled at alkaline conditions for 1 h), and free DMS (measured in the non-boiled sample). Example 4 details preferable ways to measure levels of total and free DMS.

20 The amount of DMSP and also of SMM herein is given as the concentration of DMS which may be liberated from said DMSP or said SMM by boiling in alkaline conditions for 1 h.

EXAMPLES

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The examples herein illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention and should not be considered as limiting for the invention.

Unless otherwise indicated, basic molecular biological techniques were performed for
30 manipulating nucleic acids and bacteria as described in Sambrook and Russel (2001).

Example 1

Screening for low LOX-2 activity in germinating barley embryos

Improved screening material. Kernels collected from barley plants of null-LOX-1 line Ca211901 – generated by the crosses (null-LOX-1 mutant D112 × Jersey) × Sebastian – were incubated with the mutagen NaN₃ according to the details provided by Kleinhofs et al. (1978). Barley null-LOX-1 mutant D112 is described in WO 2005/087934 and deposited with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Va. 20110, USA on September 11, 2003, under the number PTA-5487.

This procedure was chosen since it is known to induce point mutations in the genomic DNA of barley, eventually conferring amino acid residue substitutions or truncations in proteins encoded by the mutagenized DNA. In the mutagenesis experiments of the instant publication, it was chosen to propagate mutated grains of generation M1 in field plots through two subsequent generations, eventually yielding a high proportion of homozygous plants for screening purposes (cf. **FIG. 8**). While grains of generation M2 were not screened, primarily because these were expected to contain a relatively high proportion of heterozygous point mutations, mutant grains of generation M3 were used as screening material, expecting 0.9–2.3 mutations per 10,000 grains (Kleinhofs et al., supra).

Surprisingly, the instant inventors found that analysis of germinating embryos provided much-improved assay results as compared to analysis of extracts of mature embryos (as described in Example 1 of international application PCT/DK2009/050355). A high-throughput screening procedure was therefore established to measure LOX-2 activity in the germinating embryo, including its scutellum tissue.

Two embryos were isolated from mature grains of 35,125 barley ears (20,977 lines of generation M4 of null-LOX-1 mutant D112, and 14,148 lines of generation M3 of null-LOX-1 line Ca211901 lines), and transferred to 96-well storage plates (ABgene).

Embryo germination was initiated following addition of 20 µL water to each well, which was covered with a wet Kimnett tissue and a plastic lid. The plates were incubated in plastic bags at 20°C for 48 h. After incubation, LOX-2 enzyme was extracted; to each well was first added a 5-mm glass bead and 200 µL of extraction buffer (100 mM lactic acid solution, pH 4.5), followed by milling for 35 sec at a frequency of 27 sec⁻¹ in an MM 300 laboratory mill (Retsch). Subsequently, the plate was centrifuged at 4,000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C in an Allegra 6R centrifuge (Beckman-Coulter), to precipitate insoluble

material. LOX-2 activity was determined basically as described for analysis of LOX-2 activity of mature embryo extracts (cf. Example 1 in international application PCT/DK2009/050355), only differing in the usage of only 30 μ L extract per assay instead of 40 μ L.

5

Identification of potential mutants. As described above, two grains each of the above-mentioned 35,125 barley lines were analyzed for LOX-2 activity, with the aim to identify grains highly reduced in said activity when compared with null-LOX-1 and wild-type grains. A total of 7 potential raw mutants were identified in the M3 generation of line Ca211901. These were further propagated in the greenhouse, harvested, and then re-screened for the trait related to very low LOX activity. Eventually, only one mutant of line Ca211901, denoted mutant A689, was shown to exhibit essentially no LOX-2 activity. Detailed measurements of total LOX activity were performed with extracts of germinated embryos in which the LOX activity was conferred almost exclusively by LOX-2 (Schmitt and van Mechelen, 1997). For germinated embryos of M3 grains of mutant A689, the total LOX activity – as determined by the colourimetric LOX assay – was $0.163 \pm 5.5\% A_{595}$ U/germinated embryo, while that for the null-LOX-1 mother variety Ca211901 was $1.224 \pm 3.8\% A_{595}$ U/germinated embryo (the corresponding value for null-LOX-1 raw mutant D112 was $1.215 \pm 6.0\% A_{595}$ U/germinated embryo). Seeds of barley line A689 have been deposited 4 December 2008 under the name "Barley, Hordeum vulgare L.; Line A689" with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Patent Depository, 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110, United States (deposit number PTA-9640).

25 An analysis for HPODE in mutant A689 is described in Example 4 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355.

Properties of mutant A689 are described in Example 5 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355.

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Sequencing of the gene for LOX-2 in barley mutant A689 is described in Example 10 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355 and Table 7 therein summarizes the mutations in the LOX-1 and LOX-2 genes of mutant A689.

A method for detecting the double-null-LOX mutant A689 is described in Example 11 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355. The method is a SNP based method for detecting the mutation in LOX-1 and the mutation in LOX-2.

5 **Example 2**

Screening for null-MMT barley mutants

10 Kernels collected from barley plants of cv. Prestige and cv. Sebastian were incubated separately with the mutagen NaN_3 , following the experimental details provided by Kleinhofs et al. (1978). This procedure was chosen because of its known potential for inducing point mutations in the barley genomic DNA.

15 In the experiments, mutated grains of generation M1 were propagated in field plots through two subsequent generations, eventually yielding a high proportion of homozygous plants of generation M3 for screening purposes. Mutated grains of generation M3 were expected to contain gene mutations at a frequency of 0.9–2.3 per 10,000 grains (Kleinhofs et al., supra). It is notable that M2 grains were not screened.

20 Interestingly, the present invention describes a rapid high-throughput screening procedure for detection of M3 mutant barley grains lacking MMT activity, providing lack of detectable SMM synthesis during malting. Thus, the inventors found that SMM mainly accumulated in the coleoptile and primary leaf of germinating barley, and that detection of SMM can be performed by extracting amino acids from crushed leaf tissue
25 of 4-d-old germinated grains, followed by reacting the extracted amino acids with OPA to form highly fluorescent products (cf. **FIG. 2**).

In practical terms, each assay was performed by germinating – in a closed plastic box with one piece of Whatman #1 filter paper (296×20.9 mm) – two grains from each of 94
30 potential mutants and two wild-type plants. The assay was repeated for multiple, potential mutant grains (see below). At the beginning of germination, 25 mL of tap water was added to said plastic box, followed by additional 15 mL of tap water at 2 d of germination. After 4 d of germination, 1–3 cm of leaf tissues were transferred to storage plates (ABgene), in which each of the 96 1.2-mL wells contained a 5-mm-
35 diameter glass bead and 500 μL of a 12:5:6 (v/v/v) mixture of water:methanol:chloro-

form. The plate was then shaken for 45 sec at a frequency of 30 Hz in an MM 300 laboratory mill (Retsch). Subsequently, the plate was transferred to a centrifuge (Rotanta 460R, Hettich), and spun at 4,000 rpm for 15 min at room temperature to precipitate insoluble material. 10 μ L of the supernatant was transferred to a 96-well storage plate (Waters, cat no. 186002481), and mixed with 200 μ L H₂O and 60 μ L of a reaction solution containing a 15,000:45 (v/v) mixture of OPA reagent (Sigma, cat.no. P7914):3-mercaptopropionic acid (Aldrich, cat.no. M5801). The mixture was incubated at 4°C for at least 10 min to obtain a quantitative derivatization of sample amino acids with OPA. Using a Waters-based UPLC system equipped with a fluorescence detector, 2 μ L of the derivatized mixture was separated on a 2.1 $\times$ 30-mm C18 Gemini column of 3- μ m particles (Phenomenex, cat.no. 00A-4439-80), using gradient elution by mixing mobile phase A (a 40-mM NaH₂PO₄ buffer, adjusted to pH 7.8) and mobile phase B [a 45:45:10 (v:v:v) solution of acetonitrile:methanol:water as described (Phenomenex, 2006)]. Excitation of eluted OPA derivatives was at 340 nm, while light emission was measured at 450 nm. An example of a chromatogram is shown in **FIG. 2** to illustrate the elution profile of aspartic acid (Asp), glutamic acid (Glu), asparagine (Asn), serine (Ser) and SMM. The latter compound was included, as the overall project aim was to identify a barley plant that lacked the capacity to synthesize SMM, i.e. a plant for which the corresponding chromatogram peak was very small or preferably absent.

A total of 10,248 and 3,858 NaN₃-mutated kernels of barley cv. Prestige and cv. Sebastian, respectively, were screened for SMM content, with the aim to identify those highly reduced in said content when compared with wild-type grains. Only 2 potential mutants of the M3 generation were identified, namely grains of sample no. 8,063 (derived from cv. Prestige, and hereinafter denoted Mutant 8063, a designation also used for grains of subsequent generations), and grains of sample no. 14,018 (derived from cv. Sebastian, and hereinafter denoted Mutant 14018, a designation also used for grains of subsequent generations). Grains of each mutant were propagated to the M4 generation, then harvested, and eventually re-analyzed. The result verified that grains of Mutant 8063 and Mutant 14018 had extremely low SMM contents, possibly totally lacking SMM.

Western blot analysis has verified that Mutant 8063 and Mutant 14018 lacked MMT enzyme (see Example 3 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315).

Also MMT activity measurements has verified that Mutant 8063 lacks MMT activity (see Example 4 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315).

5 Sequencing of the gene for MMT in barley mutant 8063 as described in Example 9 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 revealed a G→A base transition at the first base of intron 5 (nucleotide no. 3076 of SEQ ID NO:10 – corresponding to SEQ ID NO:8 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315). Sequencing of the gene for MMT in barley mutant 14018 as described in Example 14 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 revealed a G→A base transition in a splice
10 donor site immediately downstream of exon 2 at the first base of intron 2, more specifically at nucleotide no. 1462.

It has furthermore been confirmed that MMT mRNA is truncated in mutant 8063 (see Example 11 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315) and that the
15 mutant MMT protein encoded by said truncated mRNA has no MMT activity (see Example 12 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315). It has also been confirmed that MMT mRNA is truncated in mutant 14018 (see Example 15 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315) and that the mutant MMT protein encoded by said truncated mRNA has no MMT activity (see Example 16 of
20 international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315).

A method for detecting the presence of the mutation in the MMT gene of mutant 8063 is described in Example 11 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315, and a method for detecting the presence of the mutation in the MMT gene of mutant
25 14018 is described in Example 17 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315.

Example 3

30 Barley crossings

FIG. 3 summarizes how the double-null-LOX–null-MMT barley line of the instant invention was developed by first crossing barley line A689 [double null-LOX cf. PCT patent application no PCT/DK2009/050355] with line 8063 [null-MMT cf. PCT Patent
35 Application No. PCT/DK2009/050315]. Using standard breeding techniques, doubled

haploid lines were developed, and propagated in the greenhouse. Of these, the best-performing lines with regard to agronomic performance – as well as an absence of LOX-1 activity (cf. Example 2 in U.S. Patent No. 7,420,105 to Breddam, K. et al.), an absence of LOX-2 activity (cf. Example 2 in PCT Application No. PCT/DK2009/050355, and Example 1 herein), as well as an absence of SMM and MMT activity (Examples 2 and 4 in PCT Application No. PCT/DK2009/050315, and Example 2 herein) – were selected for further propagation and analysis. These lines are denoted “Triple-Null” herein. In general for LOX activity determinations, seeds of double haploid lines were harvested and followed by analysis of 12 grains of each line and control varieties, giving a <5% standard deviation for the measurements (**FIG. 4**).

Example 4

Determination of SMM levels

Measurement of SMM was performed essentially as described in PCT Application PCT/DK2009/050315. First, SMM was extracted from 1-3-cm-long sections of barley leaves that were placed in 1.2-mL wells of microtitre plates, in which each well contained a 5-mm-diameter glass bead and 500 μ L of a 12:5:6 (v/v/v) mixture of water:methanol:chloroform. The plate was then incubated for 45 sec in an MM 300 laboratory mill (Retsch), electronically adjusted to shake at a frequency of 30 Hz. After centrifugation, 10 μ L of the supernatant was transferred to a 96-well storage plate (Waters, cat no. 186002481), and mixed with 200 μ L of water and 60 μ L of a reaction solution containing a 15,000:45 (v/v) mixture of OPA reagent (Sigma, cat. No. P7914) : 3-mercaptopropionic acid (Aldrich, cat. No. M5801). The mixture was incubated at 4°C for at least 10 min to quantitatively derivatize amino acids of the sample with OPA. Using an UPLC system (Waters) equipped with a fluorimeter, 2 μ L of the derivatized mixture was separated on a 2.1 $\times$ 30-mm C18 Gemini column of 3- μ m particles (Phenomenex, cat. No. 00A-4439-80), using a 40-mM Na-phosphate buffer, adjusted to pH 7.8, and containing a 45:45:10 (v:v:v) solution of acetonitrile:methanol:water as the mobile phase (Phenomenex 2006). Excitation of OPA-derivatives were at 340 nm, while light emission was measured at 450 nm. An example of a chromatogram is shown in **FIG. 5** to illustrate the elution profile of aspartic acid (Asp), glutamic acid (Glu), asparagine (Asn), serine (Ser) and SMM from wild-type and the Triple-Null

mutant. A notable lack of capacity to synthesize SMM was observed for the Triple-Null mutant.

Example 5

5

Agronomic performance

The commercial barley cvs. Quench and Power, as well as null-LOX-1, null-MMT, null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2 (double-null-LOX), null-LOX-1–null-MMT and Triple-Null plants were tested in field trials to compare their agronomic performances. Data were regularly obtained for plant height, heading date, disease resistance, lodging, maturation time and yield (see **Table 1**).

The trials were performed according to standard procedures for field trials. Accordingly, equal amounts of kernels of the commercial varieties and the mutant lines were sown in 7.88-m² plots in 2 locations, each comprising 3 replications. No major differences with respect to agronomic traits were observed between mutants and the commercial varieties. The barley quality analysis of the different mutant lines and varieties demonstrated that all of the harvested grains possessed good and acceptable properties with regard to malting and brewing.

Example 6

Micro-maltings and micro-mashings

25

Experimental set-up

Micro-malting and -mashing experiments were performed with the following six different barley lines and cultivars (**FIG. 6A**), which also illustrates the experimental workflow described herein below): (1) Triple-Null; (2) null-LOX-1–null-MMT; (3) null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2 (barley line A689); (4) null-MMT (barley line 8063); (5) null-LOX-1 (barley line D112); (6) cv. Power.

30

A micro-malting experiment was done with three 225-g barley samples from each of the aforementioned lines or cultivar. Steeping and germination were performed as follows:

- 5 (i) steeping at 16°C: 3 h wet; 21 h dry; 3 h wet; 21 h dry; 3 h wet; 21 h dry; final water content 45%;
- (ii) germination: 48-72 h at 16°C until modification >95%.

After germination, the three samples were subjected to different drying regimes (denoted kiln drying in **FIG. 6A**):

10

- (i) 85°C – Drying: 12.5 h starting at 30°C and ramping to 55°C followed by 7.5 h ramping to at 85°C; 1.5 h at 85°C;
- (ii) 75°C – Drying: 12.5 h starting at 30°C and ramping to 55°C followed by 7.5 h ramping to at 75°C; 1.5 h at 75°C;
- 15 (iii) 40°C – Drying: 48 h at 40 °C.

The samples dried at 85°C and at 40°C were processed immediately after germination while the remaining samples were frozen for 2 d, thawed and subsequently dried at 75°C as outlined above.

20

Micro-mashing was performed by mixing 90-g samples of a milled malt with 270 mL of tap water, followed by incubation in 500-mL bottles at 40°C for 20 min. The temperature was ramped to 65°C in 25 min, followed by a 60-min-long saccharification pause at 65°C. Thereafter, the temperature was ramped to 78°C in 13 min in advance of a 10-min-long mashing-off phase at 78°C. The resulting wort was then cooled on ice, diluted with 700 mL of ice-cold tap water and filtered through a folded MN-616¼ filter (Macherey-Nagel). 400 mL of wort was transferred to a 500-mL bottle, tightly capped and heated for 60 min in a boiling water bath. The bottles were left in the water bath without further heating for an additional time period of 60 min.

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Data on DMSP levels

To examine how various kiln drying temperatures affect the content of DMSP in wild-type and mutant malts of the instant application, grains were first micro-malted and

35

subsequently separated in aliquots before kilning at three different temperatures, 40°C, 75°C and 85°C.

5 Grains of barley lines containing the wild-type MMT gene were characterized by high levels of DMSP in the final malt. However, reduced levels were measured following kilning at higher temperatures (**Table 2**). In contrast, notably low levels of DMSP were measured in all of the malts of the null-MMT genotypes.

10 DMSP levels were also measured in the worts produced from the above-mentioned malts, giving DMSP levels in correspondence with those measured in the malts. This finding is in line with previous results of Dickenson and Anderson (1981), describing a tight correlation between the DMSP content of the malt and wort. For all of the null-MMT genotypes, notably low DMSP levels were measured in the corresponding worts, irrespective of the kiln drying temperature with which the malt was made.

15

Data on levels of T2N precursors and free T2N

To examine how various kiln drying temperatures affect the levels of free T2N and T2N precursors, concentrations of said compounds were determined in sweet wort and cooled wort produced by micro-maltings and –mashings as described herein above. The results are shown in **Table 3**.

20

For wort of wild-type malt, the kiln drying temperature had a notable effect on the concentration of T2N and T2N precursors. A high kilning temperature was absolutely necessary to avoid high production of T2N precursors when using wild-type malt.

25

The kilning temperature had less effect on generation of T2N and its adduct of null-LOX-1–null-MMT malt.

30 It is also notable that for the worts of Triple-Null malt, the concentrations of free T2N and its precursors were low in all of the samples, irrespective of the kiln drying temperature.

Example 7

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Micro-mashings with unmalted barley

Micro-mashings of unmalted barley of cv. Power and Triple-Null were achieved by mixing 90-g samples of milled barley with 270 mL of tap water as well as 0.12 g the barley brewing enzyme mixture Onda Pro (Novozymes), followed by incubation in 500-mL bottles at 54°C for 30 min. The temperature was ramped to 64°C in 10 min, followed by a 45-min-long saccharification pause at 64°C. This was followed by a 14-min ramp to 78°C before a 10-min-long mashing-off phase at said temperature. Subsequent cooling, dilution, filtration and heating procedures were performed as described for the micro-malt mashings (see Example 4).

DMSP levels were measured in worts produced from barley flours of cv. Power and Triple-Null (**Table 4**). It was evident that the DMSP contents in wort produced of Triple-Null barley were remarkably lower than those of wild-type, cv. Power. This was a surprising finding since barley is not considered to contain DMSP (Yang, B. et al.: Factors involved in the formation of two precursors of dimethylsulphide during malting, J. Am. Soc. Brew. Chem. 56:85-92, 1998).

As shown in PCT Patent Application No. PCT/DK2009/050355 (cf. FIG. 12 and Example 9 in said application), the levels of T2N precursors of boiled, barley-brewed and normal worts were markedly low in the samples from double-null-LOX. Accordingly, it is expected that a similar property characterizes worts of Triple-Null barley, making Triple-Null barley a premium raw material for barley-brewed beverages low in, or completely lacking, the T2N and DMS off-flavours.

Example 8

Malting and brewing in pilot scale

Experimental set-up

Malting and brewing analyses with malt of Triple-Null and cv. Quench (reference malt) involved the following steps: (i) malting; (ii) wort preparation; (iii) wort separation; (iv) wort boiling; (v) fermentation of wort with the yeast *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*; (vi) lagering of beer; (vii) bright beer filtration; and (viii) bottling of beer (cf. **FIG. 6B,C**).

Malting experiments were carried out with kernels of Triple-Null and cv. Quench in 20-kg-large scales, performed in a malt house as follows:

- 5 (i) steeping at 16°C: 1 h wet; 1 h dry; 1 h wet; 1 h dry; 1 h wet; final water content 45%;
- (ii) germination for 120 h, starting at 16°C and ramping to 14°C;
- (iii) drying for 14 h, starting at 65°C and ramping to 85°C; 3 h at 85°C.

10 For mashings of both Triple-Null and cv. Quench (the latter used as reference), samples of 25 kg malt were used. Following milling of the individual malt samples, tap water was added to give 146-L volumes. Mashing-in was performed at 40°C for 20 min, followed by a 25 min ramp from 40°C to 65°C. The saccharification pause at 65°C was for 60 min, followed by a 13-min heat-up phase to 78°C, and 10 min of mashing-off at
15 78°C.

One wort sample of wild-type cv. Quench and one of Triple-Null were separately boiled for 60 min at 101°C (resulting in 6.7% evaporation), while the remaining two wort samples were heated at 98°C for 60 min (resulting in 3.9% evaporation). The remaining
20 brewing steps as referred to hereinabove – i.e. filtration, whirlpool separation, fermentation, lagering, and packaging in green glass bottles – were according to specifications for standard brewing practice.

DMSP and DMS levels were measured essentially as described by Hysert et al. (1980),
25 with sulphur-specific detection using static headspace gas chromatography on a 350B sulfur chemiluminescence detector (Sievers). Headspace sampling was performed using a HS-40 automated equipment (Perkin Elmer).

Total levels of DMS, i.e. the sum of free DMS and DMSP, in wort and extracts of green
30 and kilned malt, were obtained by boiling the respective samples under alkaline conditions for 1 h. Boiled and un-boiled samples were then subjected to headspace analysis for determination of DMS levels. The difference between total DMS (measured in the boiled samples) and free DMS (measured in the un-boiled samples) was defined to equal the amount of DMSP present in the samples. The quantity of free DMS in beer
35 was determined essentially as that in wort (Hysert et al., supra).

Data on levels of DMSP / DMS and T2N precursor/free T2N in wort samples

Using modern brewing equipment, evaporation of 6–10% wort is normally required in order to achieve satisfactory DMS levels in the corresponding, finished beer – i.e. [DMS]<50 ppb, which is the human taste threshold level of the off-flavour. Based on these facts, pilot brewing trials were designed as described above. The aim was to test the effect of reduced energy input, such as no boiling through a pressurized incubation, on DMS levels in the worts and the final beer. Accordingly, the experimental set-up included a comparison with wort boiling according to standard conditions.

High levels of DMSP and free DMS were measured during heating of worts of cv. Quench, with an increase in free DMS levels observed over time in the pressurized wort. In contrast, the boiled, evaporated wort accumulated less DMS until the end of boiling, after which free DMS accumulated again. In parallel with the results following micro-mashings as described hereinabove, worts of pilot-scale Triple-Null malt were characterized by extremely low levels of DMSP and free DMS as compared to similar samples derived from cv. Quench (cf. **Table 5**). It is noteworthy that even in the wort, said DMS levels of Triple-Null malt were well below the 50-ppb taste-threshold level.

The concentrations of T2N precursors and free T2N in wort and beer from wild-type malt cv. Quench and Triple-Null malt were determined by GC-MS following derivatization of carbonyls with O-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzyl)-hydroxylamine, essentially as described by Gronqvist et al. (1993).

High concentrations of T2N precursors were measured during the heating of wort of cv. Quench, with a maximum found at the beginning of the boiling/heat treatment (**Table 6**). For wort made from the Triple-Null malt notably lower levels of T2N precursors (approximately 40% of those when using a wild-type raw material) were found - also with a maximum at the start of boiling/heat treatment. A low energy heating regime (i.e. applying a pressurized heat treatment) had only minor effect on the levels of T2N precursors for both malt types. In all the wort samples, low levels of free T2N were determined.

It is notable that the beneficial effect of the null- LOX1 and null-LOX-2 mutations is clearly visible, even when a reduced input of energy is applied during wort heating.

Data on levels of DMS and T2N precursors/free T2N in beer samples

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The concentration of DMS were measured in the fresh beer made from Triple-Null malt as well as from wild-type malt cv. Quench using the two different boiling/heating regimes as described herein above. The results are summarized in **Table 7**.

10

Beer produced from wild-type malt of cv. Quench using a standard boiling regime contains 65 ppb DMS, i.e. slightly above the 50-ppb taste threshold. Using an energy-saving procedure such as "no boiling through a pressurized incubation" as described herein above with the wild-type malt resulted in a very high concentration of DMS (151 ppb) in the final beer.

15

In contrast, beer produced from the Triple-Null malt contained very low levels of DMS, regardless of the heating procedure.

20

Regardless of the wort preparation method applied, beer produced from Triple-Null malt contained much fewer T2N precursors, (amounting to a 56 to 58% reduction) than beer produced from wild-type malt cv. Quench regardless of boiling method (**Table 7**).

25

The levels of free T2N in fresh beer were low in all four fresh beers tested (i.e. using malt of cv. Quench or Triple-Null combined with evaporation-allowed or pressurized wort preparation), but after forced ageing for 2 weeks at 37°C, a marked difference was seen. While both beers made from wild-type malt produced with standard boiling or pressurized heating contained 0.041 ppb and 0.061 ppb T2N, respectively, the corresponding values for beers produced from Triple-Null malt were lower, i.e. reduced to 95% and 64%, respectively. (Table 7).

30

Data on beer foam

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Pilot-brewed beer, produced with either evaporation or pressurization at wort heating, of cv. Quench (cf. **FIG. 6B**) and Triple-Null (cf. **FIG. 6C**) malts were compared. Beers were taken at sampling point 9 (cf. **FIG. 6B,C**), degassed for 20 min in an ultrasonic

bath before 50 mL H₂O was added to 150 mL beer. The mixture was slowly poured into a foam tower, consisting of a 16-cm-long, 7-cm-wide glass tube (with a glass filter and connector at the bottom and top, respectively). N₂ gas, at a flow rate of 400 mL/min, was bubbled through the mixture from the bottom to generate beer foam. This was led
5 through a tube, and collected in a graded sedimentation cone positioned on a weight.

The total foam weight of each of the four beers was recorded at 5-min intervals until foam development ceased (**FIG. 7**). Foam levels were similar, irrespective of evaporation or pressurization procedures. However, foam development was notably
10 improved in those beers where Triple-Null malt was used as raw material.

Beer tastings

An expert taste panel evaluated the four beers produced (i.e. using malt of cv. Quench
15 or Triple-Null combined with evaporation-allowed or pressurized wort preparation), both the freshly produced beer and after forced ageing for 1 and 2 weeks at 37°C (**Table 8**).

The fresh beer produced from Triple-Null malt obtained the highest Total Flavour Score, regardless of boiling method. In contrast, a slightly lower Total Flavour Score
20 was obtained for the beer produced from wild-type malt and using the standard boiling regime; it was deemed "slightly DMS". Application of the pressurized heating technique resulted in a beer with a very low Total Flavour Score, and deemed "Strongly DMS"

After forced ageing for 1 or 2 weeks at 37°C the beers produced from Triple-Null malt
25 got markedly lower total ageing scores than beers produced from wild-type malt, especially due to a reduced score for the "Papery" attribute, originating from lower concentrations of the ageing component T2N.

Example 9

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Malting and brewing in pilot scale

Experimental set-up

Malting and brewing analyses with malt of Triple-Null (double-null-LOX–null-MMT), and cv. Rosalina (wild-type reference), involved the following steps: (i) malting; (ii) wort preparation; (iii) wort separation; (iv) wort boiling; (v) fermentation of wort with the yeast *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*; (vi) lagering of beer; (vii) bright beer filtration; and (viii) bottling of beer.

Malting experiments were carried out with kernels of Triple-Null and cv. Rosalina in 21-kg-large scales, performed in a malt house as follows:

- (i) steeping at 16°C: 1 h wet; 1 h dry; 1 h wet; 1 h dry; 1 h wet; dripping of water over 36 h to a final water content 45%;
- (ii) germination for 120 h, starting at 16°C and ramping to 14°C;
- (iii) drying/kilning of the germinated kernels were with either a normal temperature programme or a low temperature programme in a pilot kiln;
- (iv) normal drying/kilning programme, starting at 45°C with ramp-up to 85°C over 14 h, followed by incubation for 2 h at 85°C;
- (v) low temperature drying/kilning programme, beginning at 45°C and with ramp-up to 75°C over 12 h, followed by incubation for 2 h at 75°C.

For mashings of both Triple-Null and cv. Rosalina, samples of 34 kg malt were used. Following milling of the individual malt samples, tap water was added to give 180-L volumes. Mashing-in was performed at 60°C for 20 min, followed by a 5-min ramp from 60°C to 65°C. The saccharification pause at 65°C was for 60 min, followed by a 13-min heat-up phase to 78°C, and 10 min of mashing-off at 78°C.

Wort sample of wild-type cv. Rosalina and of Triple-Null were separately boiled either for 60 min at 100°C in an open vessel (resulting in 4.5% evaporation), or heated to 99.5°C and kept at 99.5°C for 60 min in a closed vessel (resulting in 0% evaporation).

Six different worts were made with different combinations of cultivar, kilning conditions and boiling conditions (see **Table 9**).

The remaining brewing steps as referred to hereinabove – i.e. whirlpool separation, fermentation, lagering, filtration and packaging in green glass bottles – were according to specifications for standard brewing practice.

DMSP and DMS levels were measured as described herein above in Example 8.

Data on levels of DMSP / DMS in malt samples

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In a modern malting plant, drying of kernels with a curing temperature at 85°C for at least 2 h is normally required in order to reduce DMSP in malt to a low level – i.e. less than 4.5 mg/kg malt – in order to obtain a malt from which a wort can be obtained with satisfactory DMS level (see below).

10

Based on these facts, pilot malting trials were designed as described above. The aim was to test the effect of reduced energy input, such as low temperature drying, on DMS and DMSP levels in the malts, worts and the final beer. Accordingly, the experimental set-up included a comparison with kernel drying according to standard conditions.

15

In the malt made with cv. Rosalina using standard drying at 85°C, DMSP was measured to 4.7 mg/kg malt. In the malt of cv. Rosalina made with drying at 75°C DMSP was measured to 16.2 mg/kg (**Table 10**). In malt made with grains of Triple-Null, extremely low DMSP levels, actually below the detection limit, were obtained regardless of the drying temperature.

20

Data on levels of DMSP / DMS in wort samples

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Using modern brewing technology, at least one hour boiling with an evaporation of 4.5–10% wort is normally required in order to achieve satisfactory DMS levels in the corresponding, finished beer – preferably [DMS]<50 ppb. Based on these facts brewing trials were designed as described above. The aim was to test the effect of reduced energy input, such as low temperature kernel drying or heat treatment without evaporation in a closed vessel, on DMS levels in the worts and the final beer.

30

Accordingly, the experimental set-up included a comparison with kernel drying and wort boiling according to standard conditions.

High levels of DMSP and free DMS were measured during heating of worts of cv. Rosalina made with normal drying. An increase in free DMS levels was observed over

time in the closed vessel. In contrast, the boiled, evaporated wort accumulated less DMS until the end of boiling, after which free DMS accumulated again. (**Table 11**) Using a low temperature drying with cv. Rosalina the DMSP and DMS levels were much higher than with normal drying. In all three worts made with cv. Rosalina the final
5 wort had a DMS level higher than 50-ppb.

In parallel with other results described herein above, wort of Triple-Null malt were characterized by extremely low levels of DMSP and free DMS as compared to similar samples derived from cv. Rosalina. It is noteworthy that even in the wort, said DMS
10 levels of Triple-Null malt were well below 50-ppb regardless of kilning and boiling regimes.

Data on levels of T2N precursor/free T2N in wort samples

15 The concentrations of T2N precursors and free T2N in wort and beer from wild-type malt cv. Rosalina and Triple-Null malt were determined by GC-MS following derivatization of carbonyls with O-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzyl)-hydroxylamine, essentially as described by Groenqvist et al. (1993).

20 High concentrations of T2N precursors were measured in wort of cv. Rosalina (**Table 12**). For wort made from the Triple-Null malt, particularly lower levels of T2N precursors, ~40% of those when using a wild-type raw material, were found. Low energy heating regime, i.e. low kilning temperature or heat treatment of wort without evaporation in a closed vessel, had only little effect on the levels of T2N precursors for
25 both malt types. In all of the wort samples, low levels of free T2N were determined.

It is notable that the beneficial effect of the null-LOX-1 and null-LOX-2 mutations is clearly visible, even when a reduced input of energy is applied.

30 Data on levels of DMS and T2N precursors/free T2N in beer samples

DMS concentrations were measured in the fresh beer made from Triple-Null malt, as well as from wild-type malt of cv. Rosalina using the two different kernel drying and boiling/heating regimes as described herein above. The results are summarized in
35 **Table 13**.

Beer produced using a standard boiling regime from wild-type malt of cv. Rosalina, produced using standard drying condition, contained 117 ppb DMS, i.e. above 50-ppb. Using an energy saving procedure, such as "no evaporation in a closed vessel" as described hereinabove, with the wild-type malt resulted in 174 ppb DMS, i.e. a very high concentration of the off-flavour in the final beer,

In contrast, beer produced from the Triple-Null malt contained very low levels of DMS, regardless of the boiling and kilning procedures.

The levels of free T2N in fresh beer were low in all beers tested (i.e. using malt of cv. Rosalina or Triple-Null combined with evaporation-allowed boiling or heat treatment without evaporation in a closed vessel), but a marked difference was seen after forced ageing for 2 weeks at 37°C. While beer made from wild-type malt produced with standard boiling and heat treatment without evaporation in a closed vessel contained 0.055 ppb and 0.035 ppb T2N, respectively, the corresponding values for beers produced from Triple-Null malt were markedly lower, i.e. reduced by 67% and 51%, respectively (cf. **Table 13**).

Beer tastings

An expert taste panel evaluated the 6 beers produced (i.e. using malt of cv. Rosalina or Triple-Null combined with evaporation-allowed boiling or heat treatment without evaporation in a closed vessel or standard or low temperature drying), both the freshly produced beer and after forced-ageing for 2 weeks at 37°C (**Table 14**).

The fresh beer produced from Triple-Null malt obtained the highest total flavour score, regardless of kilning and boiling methods. In contrast, much lower total flavour scores were obtained for the beer produced from wild-type malt kilned at 85°C and using the standard boiling regime; it was deemed "markedly DMS". Application of heat treatment without evaporation in a closed vessel in wort preparation resulted in a beer with an even lower total flavour score, which was deemed "strongly DMS".

After forced-ageing for 2 weeks at 37°C, the beer produced with normal boiling from Triple-Null malt kilned at 85°C got markedly lower total ageing scores than the

corresponding beer produced from wild-type malt, especially due to a reduced score for the "papery" attribute, originating from lower concentrations of the ageing component T2N.

- 5 For beer produced from wild-type malt, evaluation of the staling characteristic was not really possible, primarily due to the markedly-to-strong DMS off-flavour.

Example 10

10 Comparisons of barley-brewed and normal beer - THAs.

Beer-specific THAs derived from linoleic acid were already described several decades back in time (Drost et al., 1974). Since then, various reports have verified that the total content of THAs in beer ranges from ~5-12 ppm (Hamberg, 1991; and references
15 therein). While 9,12,13-THA normally constitutes 75-85% of the THAs in beer, that of 9,10,13-THA amounts to 15- 25%; other isomers are found in trace amounts.

In beer produced from wort prepared from malt of barley Triple-Null (cf. Example 9), the concentration of 9,12,13-THA was reduced by 80-87% compared to the control
20 beer made from malt of cv. Rosalina (**Table 15**). For the 9,10,13-THA isomer 65-72% reduction was observed. These measurements were carried out using standard HPLC-mass spectrometry analyses (Hamberg, supra).

Example 11

25

Amplification of raw material-derived DNA in beer

Where the PCR methodology can be used to establish the presence or absence of species-specific DNA sequences in malt flour mixes, authentication of beer samples
30 have been more challenging. In beer production, the combined effects of raw material-derived nucleases, elevated temperatures and filtrations provide beer products that contain only low levels of intact DNA for amplification of plant gene fragments. Here, an effective novel method for combined DNA extraction and amplification is described that generates DNA in sufficient quantity for visualization.

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A novel, four-step protocol was developed for raw material authentication of beer samples. It utilized in a consecutive manner the reagents and protocols of three biomolecular kits, eventually causing amplification of DNA fragments for visualization:

- 5 (i) extraction of DNA from beer through binding to magnetic beads [following the recommendations in the instructions for liquid samples of the DNA Extraction Kit, Speciation (Tepnel Biosystems Ltd., Cat. No. 901040N)];
 - (ii) amplification of DNA by isothermal strand displacement (Illustra GenomiPhi V2 DNA Amplification Kit, GE Healthcare, Cat. No. 25-6600-30);
 - 10 (iii) PCR with primers for detection of specific DNA mutations, using the REDExtract-N-Amp PCR ReadyMix (Sigma, Cat. No. XNAP-1KT);
 - (iv) agarose gel electrophoresis to separate amplification products, followed by staining with ethidium bromide to visualize these.
- 15 Step (i) above concerned purification of DNA from 400- μ L aliquots of the following samples:
- (a) Tuborg Grøn Pilsner, produced using flour of a 75%:25% mixture of wild-type malt:barley (Carlsberg Breweries A/S; label inscription 26.11.11 704);
 - 20 (b) beer produced in pilot-scale using a mixture comprising 50% null-LOX-1 malt (Carlsberg trial identifier 2C10084);
 - (c) non-boiled wort of a pilot-scale brew using malt produced from Triple-Null barley (Carlsberg trial identifier 2C11001);
 - (d) boiled wort of a pilot-scale brew using Triple-Null malt (Carlsberg trial
 - 25 identifier 2C11001), i.e. wort processed from that described in (c) above.

DNA purified from each of the above-mentioned samples (a), (b), (c) and (d) was finally resuspended in 50 μ L of a 10-mM Tris-EDTA buffer, pH 7.4.

- 30 In step (ii) above, 1- μ L sample aliquots of wort or beer-derived DNA – purified as detailed in (i) – was subjected to amplification. DNA was briefly heat-denatured and then cooled in sample buffer containing random hexamers that non-specifically bind to the DNA. A master-mix containing DNA polymerase, random hexamers, nucleotides, salts and buffers was added and isothermal amplification carried out at 30°C for 2.0 h,

employing a final reaction volume of 20 μ L. Subsequently, the polymerase was heat inactivated during a 10-min incubation at 65°C.

Regarding step (iii) above, parameters of 14- μ L PCR amplifications – including either 1.0 or 4.2- μ L template aliquots of samples prepared as described in (ii) above, and 7 pmol each of primer FL820 (SEQ ID NO: 10 of WO 2010/075860) and FL823 (SEQ ID NO:11 of WO 2010/075860) to detect the null-LOX-1 mutation; cf. FIG. 18B in WO 2010/075860 to Skadhauge, B. et al. – were as follows:

- 10 (i) 1 cyclus with denaturation at 96°C for 2 min;
- (ii) 30 cycles with:
 - (a) denaturation at 95°C for 1 min;
 - (b) annealing at 68°C for 1 min;
 - (c) extension at 72°C for 1 min
- 15 (iii) final extension at 72°C for 10 min
- (iv) hold

Step (iv) above consisted of an electrophoretic separation of the entire PCR mixture in a 2% (w/v) agarose gel wherein ethidium bromide was incorporated. Following electrophoresis, the gel was irradiated with UV light and a photo taken (**FIG. 10**).

Analysis of the DNA banding pattern shown in **FIG. 10** revealed no amplification product from an aliquot of Tuborg beer, an expected result as the raw material was of wild-type origin, i.e. not derived from null-LOX-1 barley. However, amplification products of the expected length could be detected samples from beer brewed on a mixture comprising 50% null-LOX-1 malt. Similarly, but more pronounced, staining was obtained in the non-boiled wort prepared from Triple-Null malt. Possibly due to heat damage and following precipitation, less PCR product was amplified in the sample of boiled wort of Triple-Null raw material.

Utilizing the amplified products described above in (ii) with primer pair FL1034–FL1039 (SEQ ID NO:9 and SEQ ID NO:8 of WO 2010/075860, respectively; see also FIG. 18 in WO 2010/075860 to Skadhauge et al.), primer set 20 (SEQ ID NO:77 and SEQ ID NO:81 of WO 2010/063288), and primer set 21 (SEQ ID NO:78 and SEQ ID NO:82 of

WO 2010/063288; see also FIG. 15 in WO 2010/063288 A2 to Knudsen et al.) in separate PCRs, but at conditions similar to those detailed above in the instant Example, it is verified whether a wort or beer sample is produced by the use of a Triple-Null raw material.

Table 1. Comparison of agronomic data [field trials in 2009 (in Fyn, Denmark)]

	cv. Quench	cv. Power	null-LOX-1	null-MMT	null-LOX-1-null- LOX-2	null-LOX-1-0-MMT	Triple-Null
Date of sowing	4 April	4 April	4 April	4 April	4 April	4 April	4 April
Heading date	18 June	15 June	16 June	15 June	16 June	16 June	17 June
Straw length at maturity (cm)	81	84	87	80	87	85	81
Powdery mildew	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Spot blotch ¹	2	3	3	4	2	3	3
Leaf rust ¹	8	1	3	3	3	3	4
Lodging ¹	2	6	4	4	2	3	3
Date of maturity	3 August	31 July	1 August	31 July	1 August	1 August	2 August
Relative yield (%) ²	103	98	92	93	103	100	101
1000 kernel weight (g)	49	48	53	54	53	47	49
Protein (%) ³	10.5	10.2	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.5
Starch (%) ³	63.0	62.1	62.5	62.9	62.4	63.1	62.7
Grain size (%>2.5 mm)	95.7	92.4	96.8	94.6	99.2	99.1	95.3

¹ On a scale from 0 to 9, where 0 represents no infection or lodging and 9 represents extremely infection or lodging.

5 ² Relative average yield of three replication at two different locations, when compared to official Danish Spring barley variety mixture in 2009. The standard mixture yield was set to a relative yield of 100%.

³ Measured by near infrared transmittance (NIT) spectroscopy.

Table 2. Levels of DMSP in micro-maltings and -mashings

Barley type		Sampling descriptor (cf. FIG. 6A)			
		1	2	3	4
		Malt	Sweet wort	Boiled wort	Cooled wort
		$\mu\text{g/g}$	$\mu\text{g/L}$		
Kiln drying at 40°C	Triple-Null	0.2	8	6	—
	null-LOX-1–null-MMT	0.4	37	19	—
	null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2	21.3	—	—	—
	null-MMT	—	—	—	—
	null-LOX-1	17.3	—	—	—
	Wild-type cv. Power	21.3	2348	950	—
Kiln drying at 75°C	Triple-Null	0.2	9	7	—
	null-LOX-1–null-MMT	0.1	9	8	—
	null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2	11.9	—	—	—
	null-MMT	—	—	—	—
	null-LOX-1	8.8	—	—	—
	Wild-type cv. Power	7.7	1017	393	—
Kiln drying at 85°C	Triple-Null	0.1	4	5	—
	null-LOX-1–null-MMT	0.1	7	6	—
	null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2	5.7	656	247	—
	null-MMT	0.1	5	4	—
	null-LOX-1	6.5	684	212	—
	Wild-type cv. Power	7.1	880	286	—

Table 3. Levels of T2N and T2N precursors (T2N pre.) in micro-maltings and -mashings

Barley type		Sampling descriptor (cf. FIG. 6A)			
		1		4	
		Malt		Cooled wort	
		T2N	T2N pre.	T2N	T2N pre.
<i>ppb</i>					
Kiln drying at 40°C	Triple-Null	0.0	2.3	0.1	3.6
	null-LOX-1–null-MMT	0.0	4.3	0.1	7.5
	null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2	-	-	-	-
	null-MMT	-	-	-	-
	null-LOX-1	-	-	-	-
	Wild-type cv. Power	0.1	8.3	0.4	15.7
Kiln drying at 75°C	Triple-Null	0.1	2.3	0.2	3.3
	null-LOX-1–null-MMT	0.1	3.1	0.2	4.9
	null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2	-	-	-	-
	null-MMT	-	-	-	-
	null-LOX-1	-	-	-	-
	Wild-type cv. Power	0.2	5.2	0.3	8.2
Kiln drying at 85°C	Triple-Null	0.1	1.8	0.1	2.5
	null-LOX-1–null-MMT	0.1	2.1	0.1	3.1
	null-LOX-1–null-LOX-2	0.1	1.8	0.1	2.5
	null-MMT	0.4	4.2	0.4	6.4
	null-LOX-1	0.1	2.2	0.1	6.6
	Wild-type cv. Power	0.2	4.8	0.1	9.0

Table 4. Levels of DMSP in micro-mashings

Barley type	Sampling descriptor			
	2 Sweet wort	3 30-min boiled wort	3 60-min boiled Wort	4 Cooled wort
	$\mu\text{g/L}$			
Wild-type cv. Power	10.9	12.0	6.3	3.8
Triple-Null	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.3

Table 5. Levels of DMSP and DMS in two types of pilot-scale mashings

Barley type		Sampling descriptor (cf. FIG. 6B,C)							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Malt	Evaporation-allowed heating of sweet wort (min; °C)						
			0; 67	22; 99	37; 101	52; 101	67; 101	82; 101	142; 90
		$\mu\text{g/g}$	$\mu\text{g/L}$						
Wild-type cv. Quench	DMSP	4.7	725	682	516	369	288	219	101
	DMS	4.3	93	85	50	47	33	31	127
Triple-Null	DMSP	0.1	3	2	3	2	1	1	1
	DMS	0.1	14	13	11	12	11	12	12
		Pressurized heating of sweet wort (min; °C)							
			0; 69	22; 99	37; 98	52; 98	67; 98	82; 98	142; 80
Wild-type cv. Quench	DMSP	4.7	564	508	408	340	273	219	161
	DMS	4.8	51	51	60	64	76	80	164
Triple-Null	DMSP	0.0	15	5	3	3	3	2	2
	DMS	0.1	20	20	19	18	19	20	20

Table 6. Levels of T2N precursor (T2N pre.) and free T2N in two types of pilot-scale mashings

Barley type		Sampling descriptor (cf. FIG. 6B,C)							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Malt	Evaporation-allowed heating of sweet wort (min; °C)						
			0; 67	22; 99	37; 101	52; 101	67; 101	82; 101	142; 90
<i>ppb</i>									
Wild-type cv. Quench	T2N pre.	–	3.6	4.8	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.7
	T2N	–	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Triple-Null	T2N pre.	–	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4
	T2N	–	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Pressurized heating of sweet wort (min; °C)									
			0; 69	22; 99	37; 98	52; 98	67; 98	82; 98	142; 80
Wild-type cv. Quench	T2N pre.	–	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.3
	T2N	–	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Triple-Null	T2N pre.	–	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5
	T2N	–	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Table 7. DMS, T2N precursors and free T2N in fresh and aged beer

Barley type	Boiling type	Beer incubation conditions				
		Fresh				2 weeks at 37°C
		DMS (ppb)	T2N precursors (ppb)	Free T2N (ppb)	SO ₂ (ppm)	Free T2N (ppb)
Wild-type cv. Quench	Evaporation-allowed heating of sweet wort	65	3.0	0.025	5	0.041
Triple-Null		2	1.3	0.018	3	0.039
Wild-type cv. Quench	Pressurized heating of sweet wort	151	3.3	0.024	6	0.061
Triple-Null		3	1.4	0.020	4	0.039

Table 8. Sensory evaluation of fresh and aged beer produced from wild-type cv Quench and Triple-Null malt

Barley type	Boiling type	Beer incubation conditons					
		Fresh		1 week at 37°C		2 weeks at 37°C	
		Flavour score ¹	Comments	Ageing score ²	Papery score ²	Ageing score	Papery score
Wild-type cv. Quench	Evaporation-allowed heating of sweet wort	4.4	Noticeably sour Slightly oxidised Slightly DMS Slightly sulphidic Slightly estery	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.1
Triple-Null		4.8	Slightly sulphidic Slightly fatty acid Slightly grainy	2.1	1.6	1.9	1.3
Wild-type cv. Quench	Pressurized heating of sweet wort	2.8	Slightly estery Slightly aged Strongly DMS Slightly catty Slightly grainy	3.5	2.3	3.3	2.4
Triple-Null		4.8	Slightly grainy Slightly fruity Slightly sour Slightly stale	2.6	1.9	1.9	1.1

¹ On a scale from 1-9, where 9 is best² On a scale from 0-5, where 0 designates a fresh beer, and 5 a very aged beer³ On a scale from 0-5, where 5 designates an extremely papery beer

Table 9. Experimental overview

Brew no.	Cultivar	Drying/kilning		Boiling	
		Progamme	Curring temperature (°C)	Vessel	Evaporation (%)
1	Rosalina	Normal	85	Open	4.5
2	Triple -Null	Normal	85	Open	4.5
3	Rosalina	Normal	85	Closed	0
4	Triple -Null	Normal	85	Closed	0
5	Rosalina	Low temperature	75	Open	4.5
6	Triple -Null	Low temperature	75	Open	4.5

Table 10. DMS and DMSP in malt samples

Cultivar	Drying/kilning		DMS (mg/kg)	DMSP (mg/kg)
	Programme	Curing temperature (°C)		
Rosalina	Normal	85	4.1	4.7
Rosalina	Low temperature	75	2.8	16.2
Triple -Null	Normal	85	<DL*	<DL*
Triple -Null	Low temperature	75	<DL*	<DL*

* below detection limit

Table 11. Levels of DMSP and DMS in two types of pilot-scale boiling

Normal kernel drying at 85°C and evaporation-allowed heating of wort in open vessel.

Barley type		Sample descriptor (cf. FIG. 6)					
		1	2	3	4	5	7
		Heating of sweet wort (min; °C)					
		0; 67	22; 99	37; 100	52; 100	82; 100	142; 90
		$\mu\text{g/L}$					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	DMSP	1245	1257	882	759	415	208
	DMS	212	190	102	56	31	178
Triple-Null	DMSP	trace	-	-	-	-	trace
	DMS	trace	-	-	-	-	trace

Table 11 (continued). Levels of DMSP and DMS in two types of pilot-scale boiling

Normal kernel drying at 85°C and heating of wort in closed vessel without evaporation.

Barley type		Sample descriptor (cf. FIG. 6)					
		1	2	3	4	5	7
		Heating of sweet wort (min; °C)					
		0; 67	22; 99	37; 100	52; 100	82; 100	142; 90
		$\mu\text{g/L}$					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	DMSP	1180	1061	732	576	398	274
	DMS	183	227	410	412	471	709
Triple-Null	DMSP	trace	-	-	-	-	trace
	DMS	trace	-	-	-	-	trace

Table 11 (continued). Levels of DMSP and DMS in two types of pilot-scale boiling

Low-temperature drying of kernels at 75°C and evaporation-allowed heating of wort in open vessel.

Barley type		Sample descriptor (cf. FIG. 6)					
		1	2	3	4	5	7
		Heating of sweet wort (min; °C)					
		0; 67	22; 99	37; 100	52; 100	82; 100	142; 90
		$\mu\text{g/L}$					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	DMSP	1825	1665	1262	1005	611	376
	DMS	155	178	74	32	27	154
Triple-Null	DMSP	11	-	-	-	-	2
	DMS	4	-	-	-	-	4

Table 12. Levels of T2N precursors (T2N pre) and free T2N in pilot scale worts produced using varying kilning and boiling regimes

Barley type	Boiling type *)	At start of heating		Heated wort	
		T2N	T2N pre	T2N	T2N pre
		(ppb)	(ppb)	(ppb)	(ppb)
<i>Normal drying at 85°C</i>					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	0.39	5.3	0.21	4.2
Triple-Null	Ves.op.; evap.	0.24	1.8	0.08	1.8
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.clo.; no evap.	0.40	5.3	0.36	4.1
Triple-Null	Ves.clo.; no evap.	0.28	2.2	0.11	1.8
<i>Low-temperature drying at 75°C</i>					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	0.21	4.4	0.27	4.7
Triple-Null	Ves.op.; evap.	0.31	1.9	0.18	1.8

5 *) Abbreviations: Vessel open (ves. op) or closed (ves. clo.); no evaporation (no. evap.) or evaporation-allowed (evap.)

Table 13. DMS and free T2N in fresh and aged beer

Barley type	Boiling type *)	DMS (ppb)	Free T2N **)	SO ₂ (ppm)	Free T2N ***)
		(ppb)	(ppb)		(ppb)
<i>Normal drying at 85°C</i>					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	117	0.011	5	0.055
Triple-Null	Ves.op.; evap.	1	0.011	5	0.018
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.clo.; no evap.	326	0.011	5	0.035
Triple-Null	Ves.clo.; no evap.	2	0.012	4	0.017
<i>Low temperature drying at 75°C</i>					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	174	-	10	-
Triple-Null	Ves.op.; evap	5	-	5	-

*) Abbreviations: Vessel open (ves. op) or closed (ves. clo.); no evaporation (no. evap.) or evaporation-allowed (evap.)

**) In fresh beer

***) In beer incubated for 2 weeks at 37°C

Table 14 Sensory evaluation of fresh and aged beer produced from wild-type cv. Rosalina and Triple-Null malt

		Beer incubation conditons			
Barley type	Boiling type *)	Fresh		2 weeks at 37°C	
		Flavour score ¹	Comments	Ageing score ²	Papery score ³
<i>Normal drying of kernels at 85°C</i>					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	3.4	Slightly sulphidic Markedly DMS		
Triple-Null	Ves.op.; evap.	5.7	Slightly after-bitter	2.4	1
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.clo.; no evap.	3.1	Strongly DMS		
Triple-Null	Ves.clo.; no evap.	5.0	Slightly sour Slightly hoppy Slightly sharp-bitter Slightly grainy	2.7	2.0
<i>Low-temperature drying of kernels at 75°C</i>					
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	4.8	Slightly fruity Markedly DMS		
Triple-Null	Ves.op.; evap.	5.2	Slightly bitter Slightly acidic	2.1	0.7

*) Abbreviations: Vessel open (ves.op) or closed (ves.clo.); no evaporation (no. evap.) or evaporation-allowed (evap.)

¹ On a scale from 1-9, where 9 is best

² On a scale from 0-5, where 0 designates a fresh beer, and 5 a very aged beer

³ On a scale from 0-5, where 5 designates an extremely papery beer

Table 15. THAs in beers produced from malt of cv Rosalina and Triple-Null mutant.

Barley type	Boiling type *)	9.12.13-Hodea (mg/l)	9.10.13-Hodea (mg/l)	9.12.13-Hodea/ 9.10.13-Hodea
<i>Normal drying at 85°C</i>				
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	3.68	0.84	4.4
Triple-Null	Ves.op.; evap.	0.75	0.29	2.5
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.clo.; no evap.	3.28	0.78	4.2
Triple-Null	Ves.clo.; no evap.	0.51	0.23	2.2
<i>Low- temperature drying at 75°C</i>				
Wild-type cv. Rosalina	Ves.op.; evap.	3.77	0.8	4.7
Triple-Null		0.49	0.22	2.2

*) Abbreviations: Vessel open (ves.op) or closed (ves.clo.); no evaporation (no. evap.) or evaporation-allowed (evap.)

Table 16 Sequence Listing

SEQ ID NO	Corresponds to	Description
SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:1 of international patent application WO2005/087934	Barley gDNA of cv. Barke spanning the start and stop codons of the gene encoding LOX-1
SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:2 of international patent application WO2005/087934	Barley gDNA of mutant D112 spanning the region between the start and stop codons of the corresponding gene encoding LOX-1 of cv. Barke
SEQ ID NO:3	SEQ ID NO:3 of international patent application WO2005/087934	Protein sequence of full-length LOX-1 protein of cv. Barke
SEQ ID NO:4	SEQ ID NO:4 of international patent application WO2005/087934	Protein sequence of inactive, truncated LOX-1 of mutant D112
SEQ ID NO:5	SEQ ID NO:1 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355 published as WO2010/075860	The sequence of wild-type genomic DNA encoding LOX-2 from cv. Barke.
SEQ ID NO:6	SEQ ID NO:2 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355 published as WO2010/075860	The sequence of mutant LOX-2 genomic DNA from barley mutant A689.
SEQ ID NO:7	SEQ ID NO:5 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355 published as WO2010/075860	The sequence of full length LOX-2 protein of wild type barley, cv. Barke.
SEQ ID NO:8	SEQ ID NO:6 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050355 published as WO2010/075860	The sequence of mutant LOX-2 protein lacking LOX-2 activity from barley mutant A689.
SEQ ID NO:9	SEQ ID NO:3 of international	Barley gDNA of cv. Prestige,

	patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	genomic sequence spanning the start and stop codons of the gene for MMT.
SEQ ID NO:10	SEQ ID NO:8 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Barley gDNA of Mutant 8063, Genomic sequence for MMT spanning the start and stop codons of the gene for MMT.
SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:16 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Barley gDNA of cv. Sebastian, Genomic sequence for MMT spanning the start and stop codons of the gene for MMT.
SEQ ID NO:12	SEQ ID NO:19 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Barley gDNA of Mutant 14018, Genomic sequence for MMT spanning the start and stop codons of the gene for MMT.
SEQ ID NO:13	SEQ ID NO:6 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Sequence for barley MMT of cv. Prestige.
SEQ ID NO:14	SEQ ID NO:18 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Sequence for barley MMT of cv. Sebastian.
SEQ ID NO:15	SEQ ID NO:22 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Entire translated sequence derived from mis-spliced RNA of Mutant 14018.
SEQ ID NO:16	SEQ ID NO:24 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Entire translated sequence derived from mis-spliced RNA of barley Mutant 14018.
SEQ ID NO:17	SEQ ID NO:26 of international patent application PCT/DK2009/050315 published as WO2010/063288	Entire translated sequence derived from mis-spliced RNA of barley Mutant 14018.

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CLAIMS

1. A method for preparing a cereal based beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and/or precursors thereof, wherein the method involves reduced energy input,
5 the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a cereal plant or part thereof, wherein said cereal plant comprises:

(a) a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional lipoxygenase (LOX)-1; and

10 (b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2; and

(c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional S-adenosylmethionine:methionine S-methyltransferase (MMT);

(ii) optionally malting at least part of said cereal, thereby obtaining malted cereal;(iii) mashing said cereal and/or malted cereal and optionally additional
15 adjuncts, thereby obtaining a wort;

(iv) heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s), wherein at the most 4% of the wort volume is evaporated, thereby obtained heated wort;

(v) processing said heated wort into a beverage;

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thereby preparing the cereal derived beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and/or precursors thereof.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the is a method for preparing a barley
25 based beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and/or precursors thereof, wherein the method involves reduced energy input, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a barley plant or part thereof, wherein said barley plant comprises:

30 (a) a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional lipoxygenase (LOX)-1; and

(b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2; and

(c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional S-adenosylmethionine:methionine S-methyltransferase (MMT);

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- (ii) optionally malting at least part of said cereal, thereby obtaining malted cereal;
(iii) mashing said cereal and/or malted cereal and optionally additional adjuncts, thereby obtaining a wort;
(iv) heating said wort optionally in the presence of additional ingredient(s),
5 wherein at the most 4% of the wort volume is evaporated, thereby obtained heated wort;
(v) processing said heated wort into a beverage;

thereby preparing the cereal derived beverage with low levels of one or more off-flavours and/or precursors thereof. The method according to claim 1, wherein the cereal
10 plant is a barley plant.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein step (i) comprises providing barley
15 kernels.

4. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said off-flavours
are dimethyl sulphide (DMS) and trans-2-nonenal (T2N).

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the low levels of DMS are levels of DMS
20 below 30 ppb, preferably less than 25 ppb, more preferably less than 20 ppb and levels of T2N below 0.025 ppb, such as below 0.024 ppb.

6. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said precursors of
off-flavours are S-methyl-methionine (SMM) and T2N potential.

25 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the low levels of SMM and T2N potential are levels of SMM less than 50 ppb, preferably less than 40 ppb, more preferably less than 30 ppb, even more preferably less than 20 ppb and levels of T2N potential is less than 2, preferably less than 1.5 ppb.

30 8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the low levels of SMM are levels of SMM less than 50 ppb, preferably less than 40 ppb, more preferably less than 30 ppb, even more preferably less than 20 ppb and the low levels of T2N potential are levels of T2N potential less than 60%, preferably less than 50% of the level of T2N potential in a

beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench.

5 9. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein all of said provided barley is malted.

10 10. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said barley is malted using a method comprising the steps of

- a) steeping said barley;
- 10 b) germinating said barley;
- c) kiln drying said barley

15 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein kiln drying of said barley is performed at a temperature of at the most 80°C, yet more preferably at a temperature of at the most 75°C, such as at temperature of at the most 70°C, for example at a temperature of at the most 65°C, such as at temperature of at the most 60°C, for example at a temperature of at the most 55°C, such as at a temperature of at the most 50°C, for example at a temperature of at the most 45°C, such as at a temperature of at the most 40°C.

20 12. The method according to any one of claims 10 to 11, wherein the kiln drying temperature does not rise above 80°C, preferably does not rise above 75°C at any time during kiln drying.

25 13. The method according to anyone of claims 2 to 7, wherein none of the provided barley is malted.

30 14. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said barley and/or said malted barley is milled prior to said mashing.

15. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the wort composition has been produced by a method involving a mashing step using a mashing in temperature not exceeding 69°C.

16. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the temperature during mashing at no time exceeds 80°C, preferably 78°C.

5 17. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein additional adjunct(s) are added in step (iii), and said additional adjuncts are selected from the group consisting of maize, rice and unmalted cereal other than barley.

10 18. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein additional ingredient(s) are added in step (iv) and said additional ingredient is hops or an extract thereof.

15 19. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said wort is heated to a temperature of at the most 99.8°C, such as at the most 99.5°C, for example at the most 99°C.

20 20. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein step (iv) concerning heating said wort is performed with the wort in an essentially closed container, preferably with the wort in a closed container.

25 21. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said wort is heated to a temperature above 80°C for at the most 30 min, preferably at the most 20 min.

30 22. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein at the most 3%, such as at the most 2%, for example at the most 1%, such as at the most 0.5%, for example at the most 0.1%, such as at the most 0.01% of the wort volume is evaporated.

35 23. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein step v) comprises cooling said heated wort.

24. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein step v) comprises fermentation of the wort.

25. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the method does not involve heating to a temperature of more than 99°C at any step.

5 26. The method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the method does not involve heating to a temperature above 80°C for more than 30 min, preferably for more than 20 min.

27. A barley plant, or a part thereof, wherein said barley plant comprises:
10 a) a first mutation that results in a total loss of functional LOX-1, and
b) a second mutation resulting in a total loss of functional LOX-2 and
c) a third mutation resulting in a total loss of functional
MMT.

15 28. The barley plant according to claim 27, wherein the gene encoding LOX-1 of said plant comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a frame shift mutation, a deletion, a non-sense mutation, an insertion and a splice site mutation.

20 29. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to claim 27, wherein the gene encoding LOX-1 of said plant comprises a premature stop codon.

30. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 29, wherein the gene encoding LOX-1 of said plant comprises a premature stop codon situated at the most 705, preferably at the most 665 codons downstream of the start codon.

25 31. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to claim 30, wherein the gene encoding LOX-1 of said plant comprises a nonsense codon, said codon corresponding to base nos. 3572–3574 of SEQ ID NO:2.

30 32. The barley plant according to any one of claims 27 to 31, wherein the gene encoding LOX-2 of said plant comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a frame shift mutation, a deletion, a non-sense mutation, an insertion and a splice site mutation.

33. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 32, wherein the gene encoding LOX-2 of said plant comprises a premature stop codon.

5 34. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 33, wherein the gene encoding LOX-2 of said plant comprises a premature stop codon situated at the most 707, preferably at the most 684 codons downstream of the start codon.

10 35. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to claim 34, wherein the gene encoding LOX-2 of said plant comprises a mutation at nucleotide position 2689 of SEQ ID NO:5, leading to formation of a stop codon.

15 36. The barley plant according to any one of claims 27 to 35, wherein the gene encoding MMT of said plant comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of a frame shift mutation, a deletion, a non-sense mutation, an insertion and a splice site mutation.

37. The barley plant, or part thereof, according to any one of claim 27 to 36, wherein the mutation in the gene encoding MMT is within a splice site.

20 38. The barley plant, or part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 37, wherein the mutation in the gene encoding MMT is within a splice site of an intron.

25 39. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 38, wherein the mutation in the gene encoding MMT is a mutation within a 5' splice site of an intron, such as a G→A mutation of the terminal 5' base of an intron.

30 40. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 39, wherein the mutation in the gene encoding MMT is a mutation within a 5' splice site of an intron selected from the group consisting of introns 2 and 5.

41. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to claim 40, wherein the mutation in the gene encoding MMT is a G→A mutation of base no. 3076 of SEQ ID NO:9.

35 42. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to claim 40, wherein the mutation, in the gene encoding MMT is a G→A mutation of base no. 1462 of SEQ ID NO:11.

43. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to anyone of claims 27 to 42, wherein the mutation results in a gene encoding a truncated form of MMT comprising an N-terminal fragment of wild-type MMT and optionally additional C-terminal sequences not found in wild-type MMT, wherein said N-terminal fragment comprises at the most the 500, more preferably at the most the 450, even more preferably at the most the 400, yet more preferably at the most the 350, even more preferably at the most the 320, yet more preferably at the most 311, or at the most 288 N-terminal amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:13.

44. The barley plant, or a part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 43, wherein said plant is progeny of the barley plant designated "Barley, Hordeum vulgare: Line 8063" deposited at ATCC 13 October 2008 with the designation PTA-9543 and the barley plant designated "Barley, Hordeum vulgare L.: Line A689", deposited with ATCC with the deposit number PTA-9640.

45. A malt composition comprising a processed barley plant, or a part thereof, wherein said barley plant is the barley plant according to any of claims 27 to 44.

46. The malt composition according to claim 45, wherein said part of said barley plant is kernel(s).

47. The malt composition according to anyone of claims 45 to 46, wherein the malt composition is selected from the group consisting of green malt and kiln dried malt.

48. The malt composition according to anyone of claims 45 to 47, wherein the malt composition is milled malt.

49. The malt composition according to any of claims 45 to 48, wherein the malt composition comprises at the most 2, preferably at the most 1, more preferably at the most 0.5 µg/g, even more preferably at the most 0.2 µg/g SMM.

50. A barley based beverage prepared from a barley plant, or a part thereof, according to any one of claims 27 to 44.

51. The beverage according to claim 50, wherein said beverage is prepared by the method according to anyone of claims 2 to 26.

5 52. The beverage according to anyone of claims 50 to 51, wherein the beverage is a malt beverage.

53. The beverage according to any one of claims 50 to 52, wherein the beverage is a fermented malt beverage.

10 54. The beverage according to any one of claims 50 to 53, wherein the beverage is beer.

15 55. The beverage according to any one of claims 50 to 51 and 54, wherein said beverage is barley beer.

56. The beverage according to any one of claims 50 to 55, wherein the beverage is a non-alcoholic malt beverage.

20 57. The beverages according to any one of claims 50 to 56, wherein said beverage produce at least 1.5 times more, preferably at least 2 times more, yet more preferably at least 3 times more foam in 60 to 80 min, compared to a beverage prepared in the same manner from wild-type barley, preferably from cv. Quench.

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