

Creation of a database of fermented product volatilomics

Analysis of VOCs by dynamic headspace
combined with extraction by magnetic bar sorption (Twister SBSE)

03 February 2026

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Summary

- About Sayfood unit & « Ferments du Futur » program
- MetaVolFood platform
- Project Overview: Study of Commercial Fermented Products
 - Water Kefir : Method comparison
 - Water Kefir : Product comparison
 - Perspectives



About SayFood unit

SayFood Joint Research Unit – INRAE / AgroParisTech / Université Paris-Saclay

A leading research unit dedicated to food engineering and bioproducts.

- **Location:** Based at the Paris-Saclay campus (Palaiseau, France).
- **Mission:** To design sustainable food systems and innovative transformation processes.
 - Interdisciplinary approach: food science, microbiology, analytical chemistry...



Ferments du Futur program



A public-private partnership supported by
INRAE *National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment*
ANIA *National Food Industries Association*

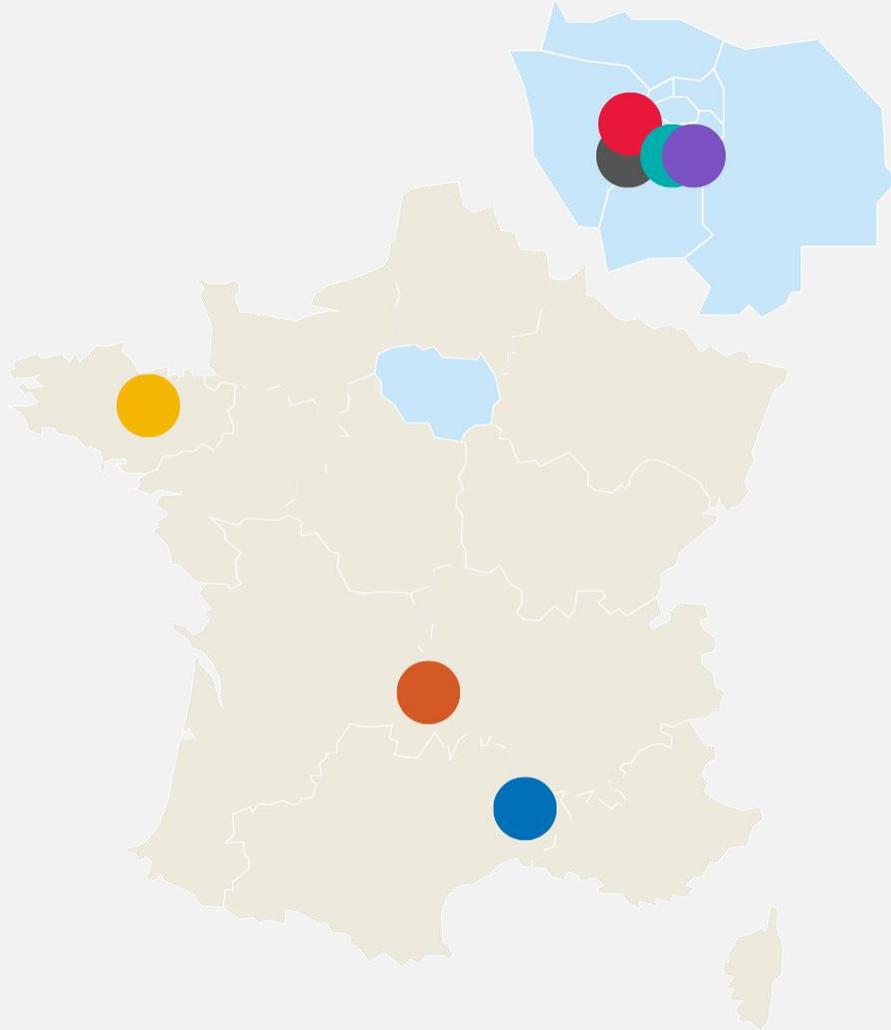
Accelerate research and innovation in the field of ferments and fermented foods

Ambition:

- Enhance food safety and shelf-life.
- Improve nutritional and organoleptic qualities.
- Develop new plant-based fermented products.



Ferments du Futur program : the distributed platform



SPO: Sciences pour l'Œnologie

@Montpellier; INRAE, Univ. Montpellier, Institut Agro; 28 scientists

STLO : Science et Technologie du Lait et de l'Œuf

@Rennes; INRAE, Institut Agro; 35 scientists

UMRF: Unité Mixte de Recherche sur le Fromage

@Aurillac; INRAE, Univ. Clermont-Auvergne, VetAgro Sup; 5 scientists

MICALIS: MICrobiologie de l'Alimentation au service, de la Santé

@Jouy en Josas; INRAE, AgroParisTech, Univ. Paris-Saclay; 109 scientists

SAYFOOD: Ingénierie des aliments et bioproduits

@Palaiseau; INRAE, AgroParisTech, Univ. Paris-Saclay; 25 scientists

MGP: MetaGenoPolis, DPI analyse du microbiote

@Jouy en Josas; INRAE; 9 scientists

MAIAGE: Mathématiques et Informatique Appliquées du Génome à l'Environnement

@Jouy en Josas; INRAE; 37 scientists



About MetaVolFood platform



- Platform dedicated to the analyses of metabolites originating from fermented food matrices.

[What is the metabolomics ?](#)

Analyzing the complete set of metabolites in a system to characterize biochemical transformations driven by microbial fermentation.

- Part of **Ferments du Futur** program.
- Hosted at SayFood unit – CoMiAl team (Food Microbial Communities).
- Closed collaboration with academic research and industrial partners.



About MetaVolFood platform

Metabolomics



Untargeted metabolomics
and volatilomics

Targeted qualitative and
quantitative analyses

Elucidation of metabolic
pathways

UHPL-HRMS Orbitrap 240
(ThermoFisher)

Volatilomics



GC 8890-MS/MS 7010C (Agilent)
MultiPurpose Sampler (Gerstel)



Project Overview: Study of Commercial Fermented Products

Establish a metabolomics and volatiliomics database on a wide range of commercial fermented products

Kefir



Cheese



Kimchi



Natto



Project Overview: Study of Commercial Fermented Products

1st Step : Define analytical parameters in GC-MS

2nd Step : VOC analysis

3rd Step : Determine correlations between LC and GC results

Kefir



Cheese



Kimchi



Natto

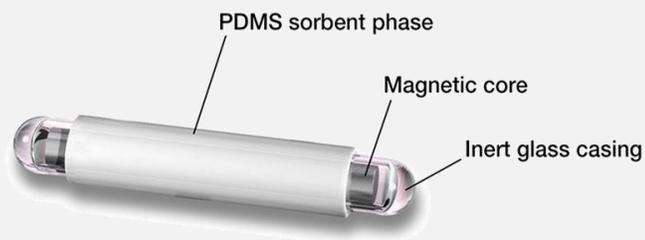


Project Overview: Study of Commercial Fermented Products

Untargeted analysis
Flavour Profiles (Qualitative)

SBSE

Stir bar sorptive extraction

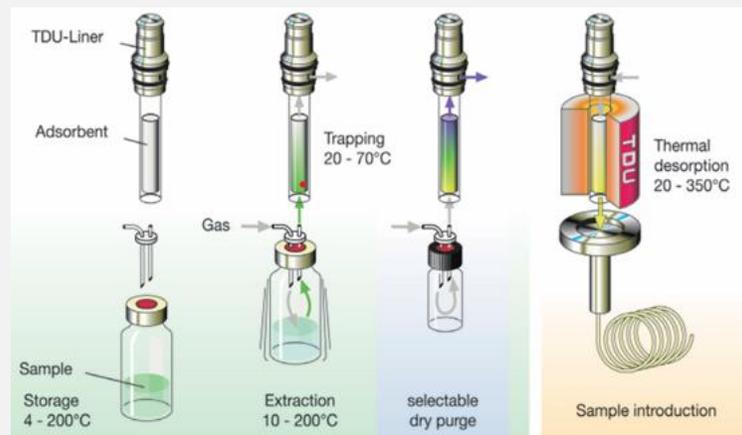


Reference : Gerstel

Extract volatile & semi-volatile retained in the matrix

DHS

Dynamic HeadSpace

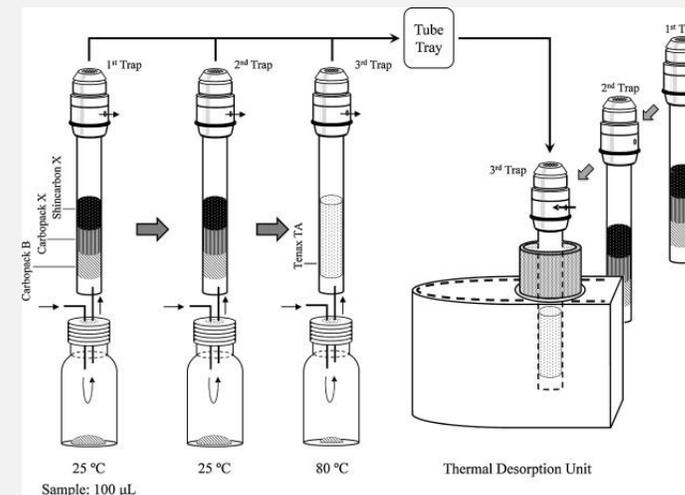


Reference : Gerstel

Aroma profiling and highly volatile fermentation products

MVM

Multi-Volatile Method



Reference : N. Ochiai et al. / J. Chromatogr. A 1371 (2014) 65-73

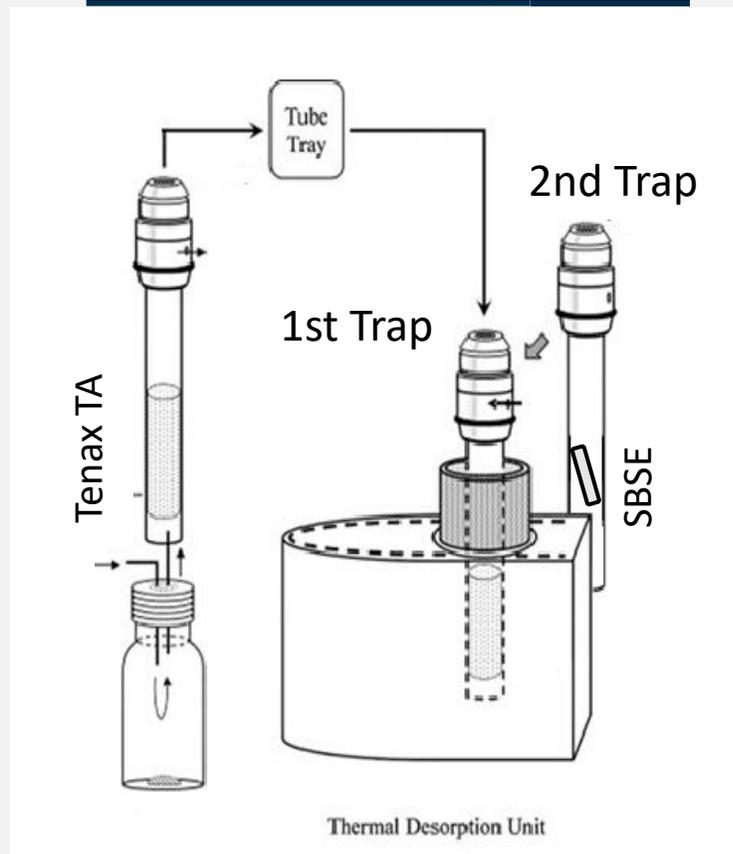


Project Overview: Study of Commercial Fermented Products

DHS x SBSE by MVM

1st Desorption - Dynamic Head Space (DHS) : Tenax TA

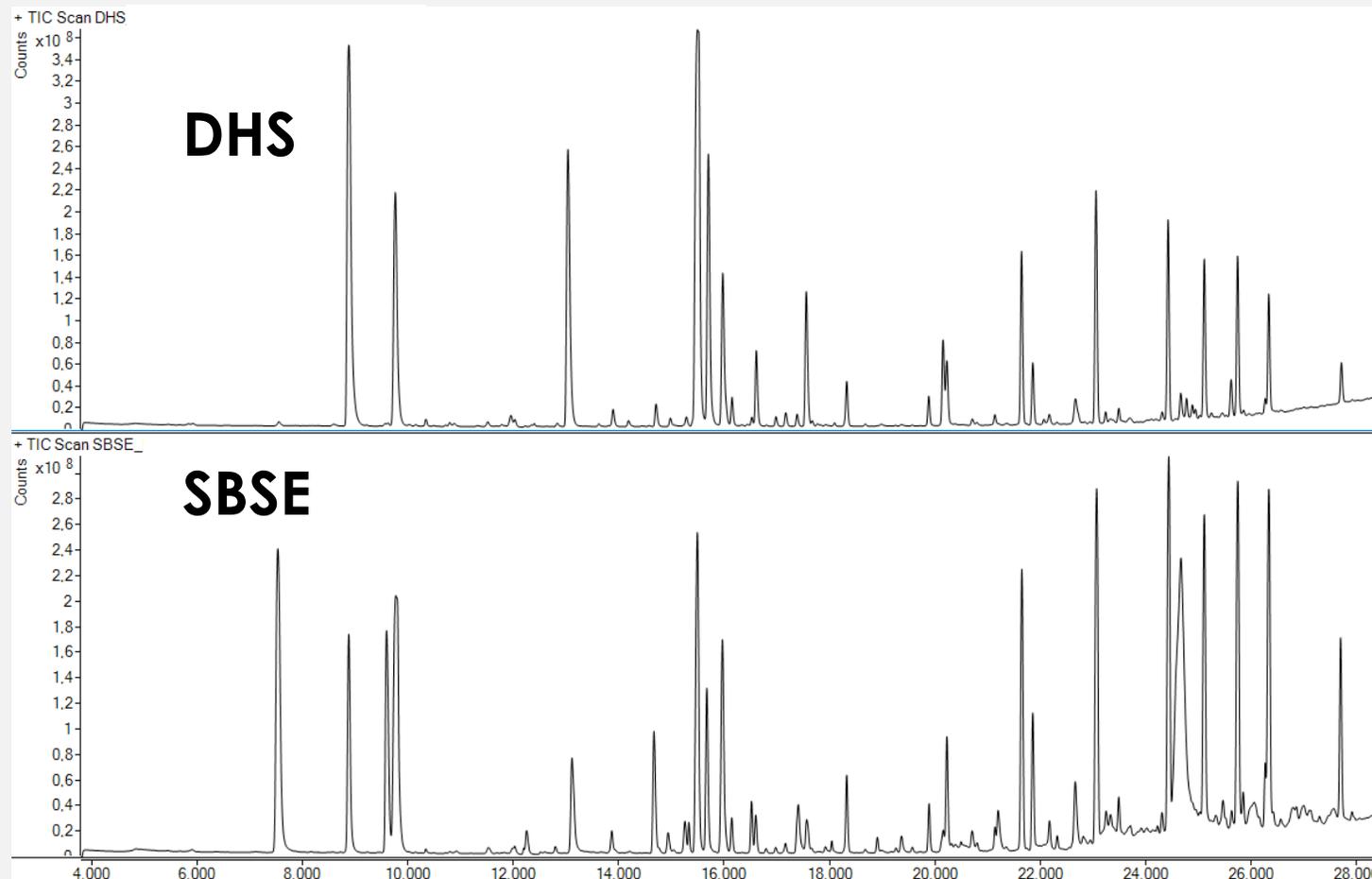
2nd Desorption - Stir bar sorptive extraction (SBSE) : Twister® PDMS 1cm - film 10mm



Project Overview: Study of Commercial Fermented Products

MassHunter Unknown :
Deconvolution & Blank
Subtraction

R Studio : Statistics &
Graphical Representation



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Water Kefir : Method comparison (n=3)

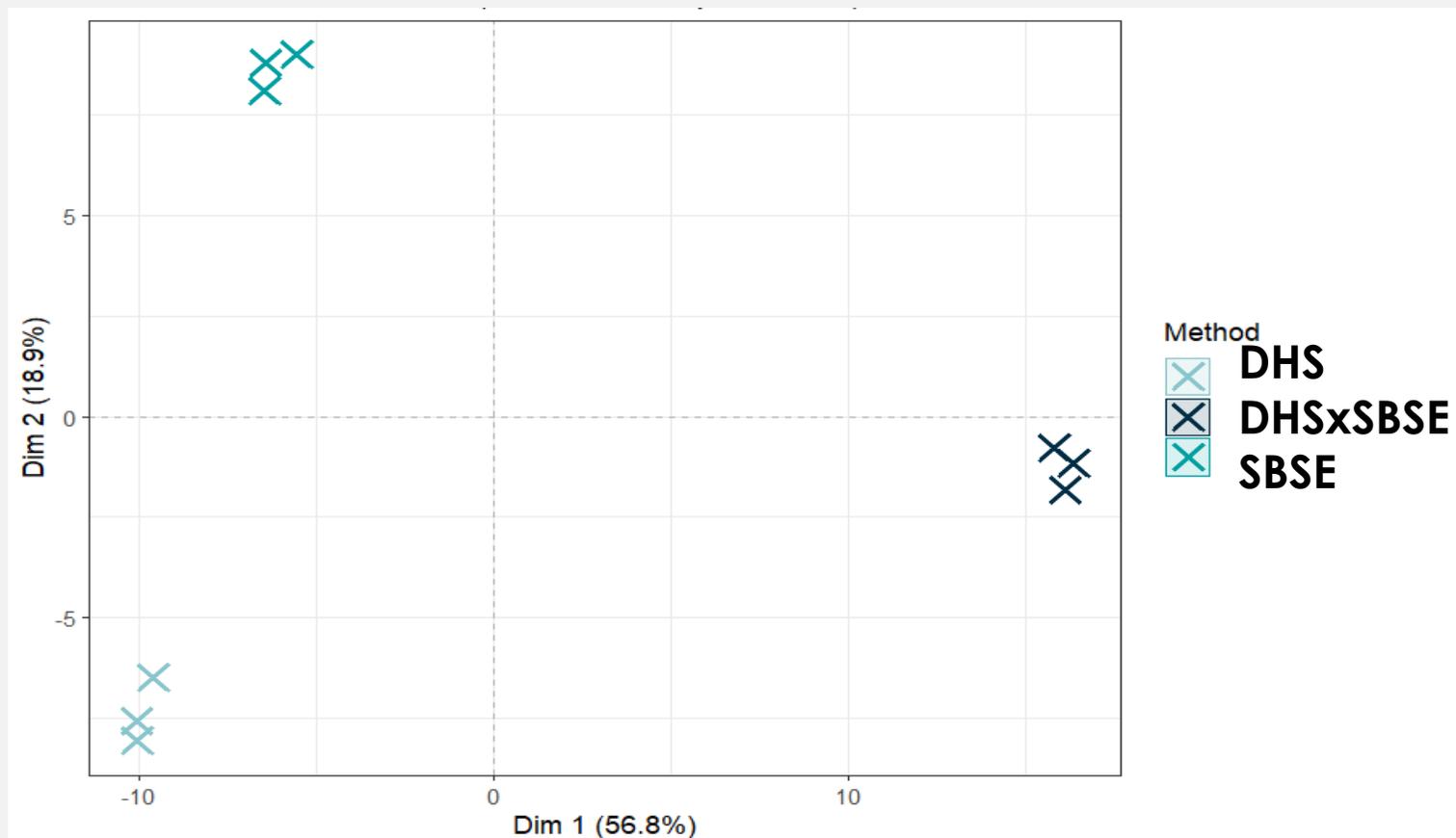
1st Step : Define analytical parameters GC-MS

PCA comparison between DHS, SBSE and DHSxSBSE

Log + Pareto scaling

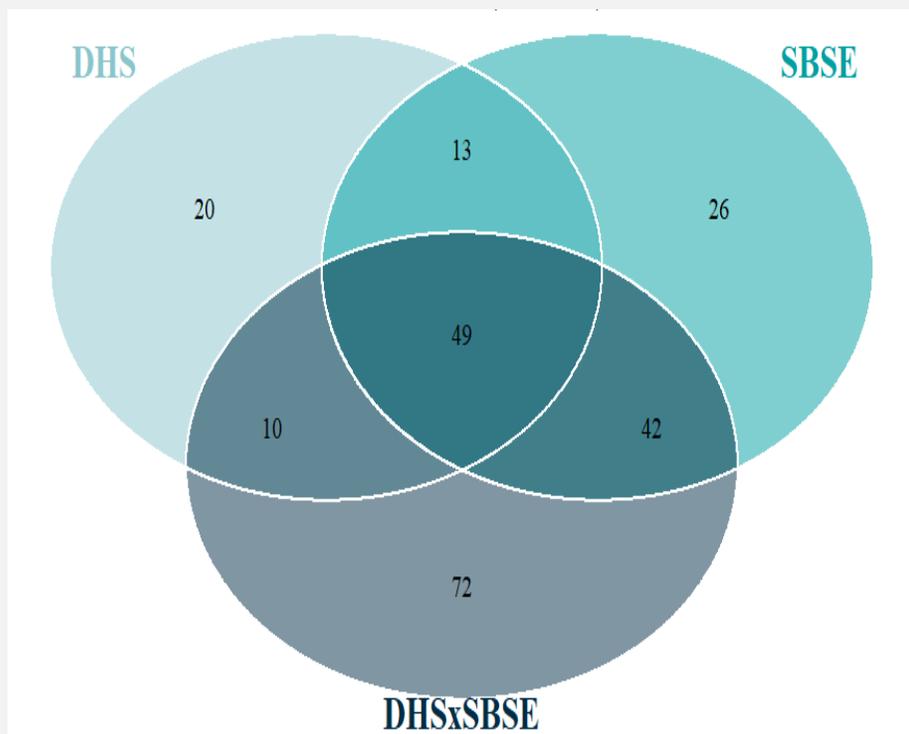
Dimension 1 : 56,8%

Dimension 2 : 18,9%

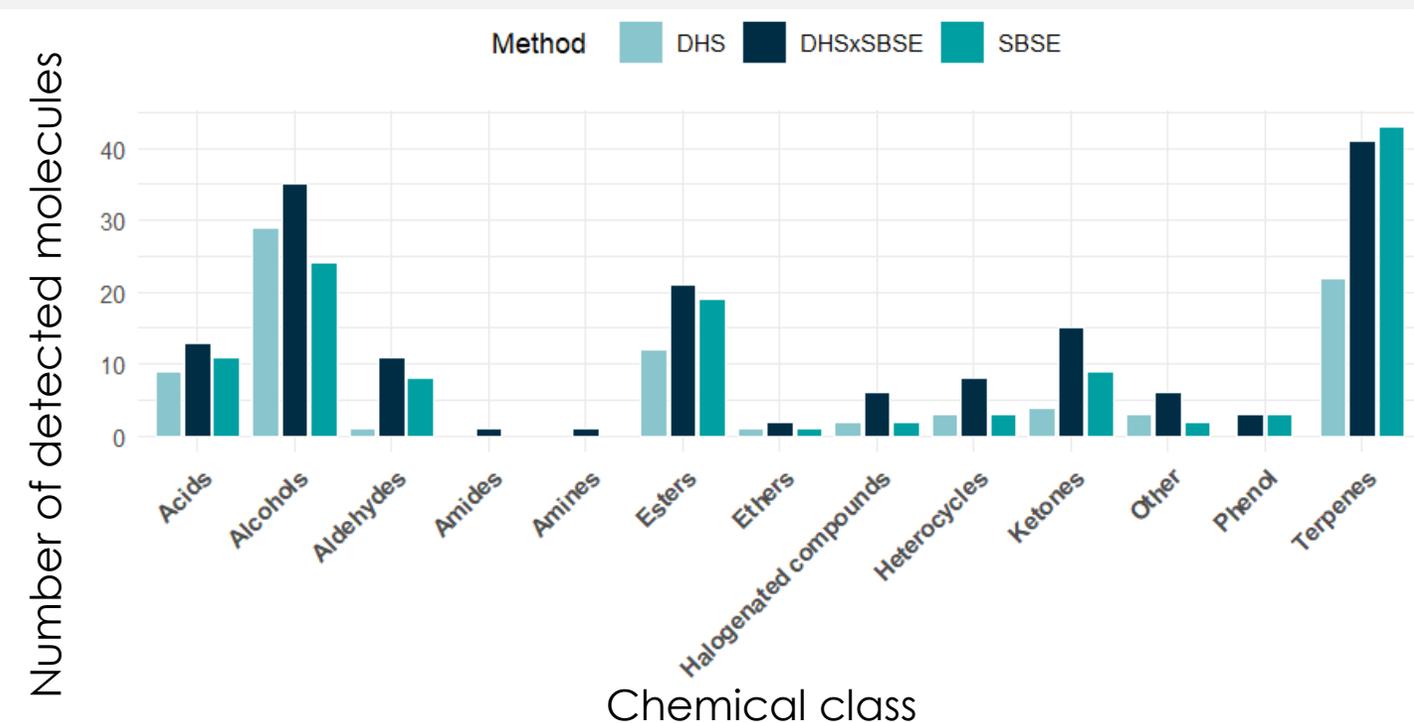


Water Kefir : Method comparison (n=3)

Detected molecules



Extraction efficiency by chemical class

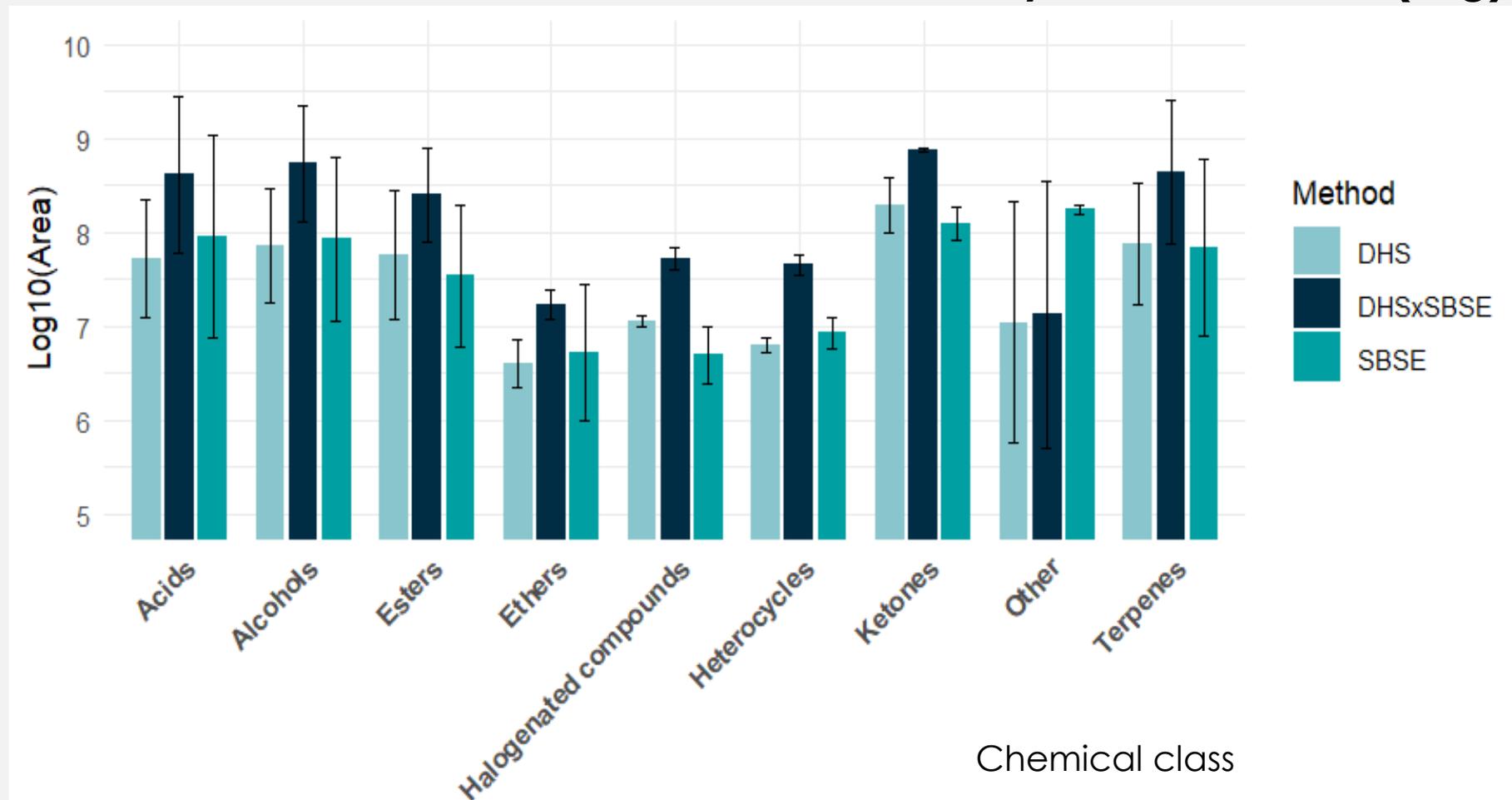


DHS = 92 molecules -> 78% found with DHSxSBSE
SBSE = 130 molecules -> 80% found with DHSxSBSE



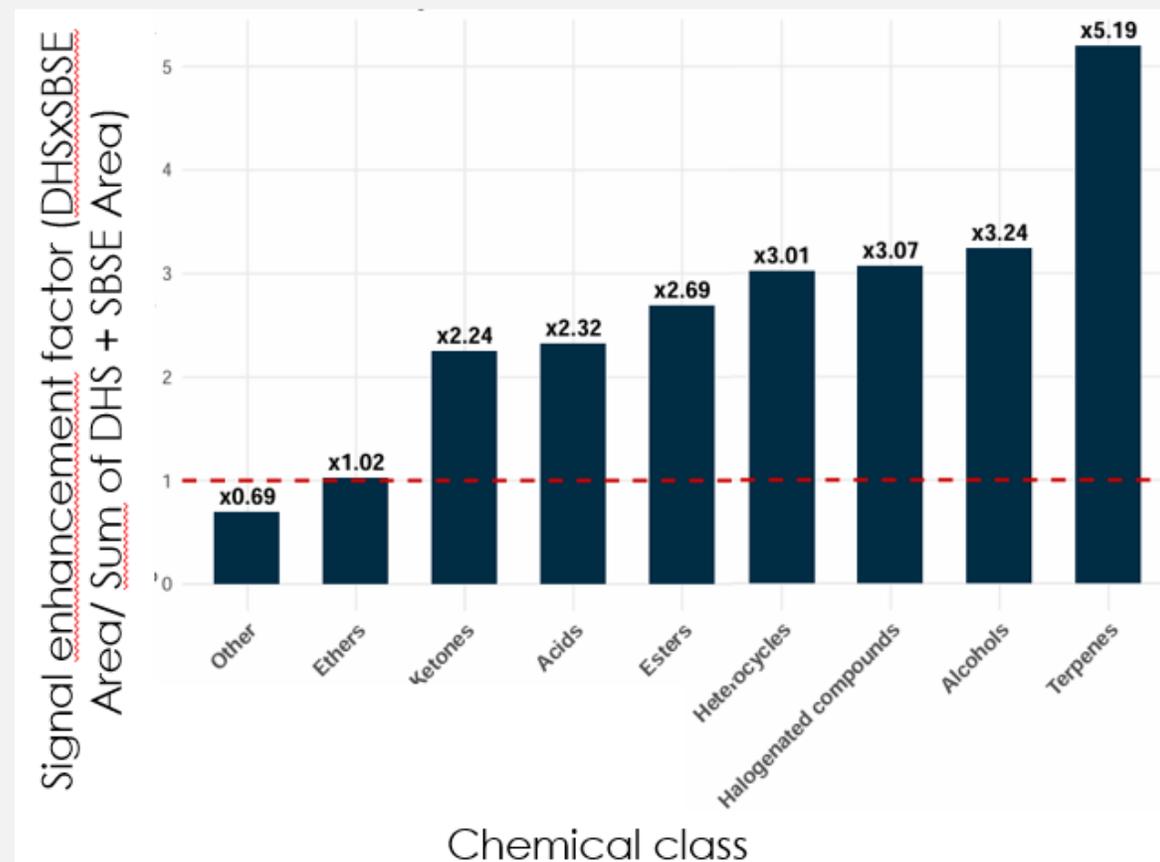
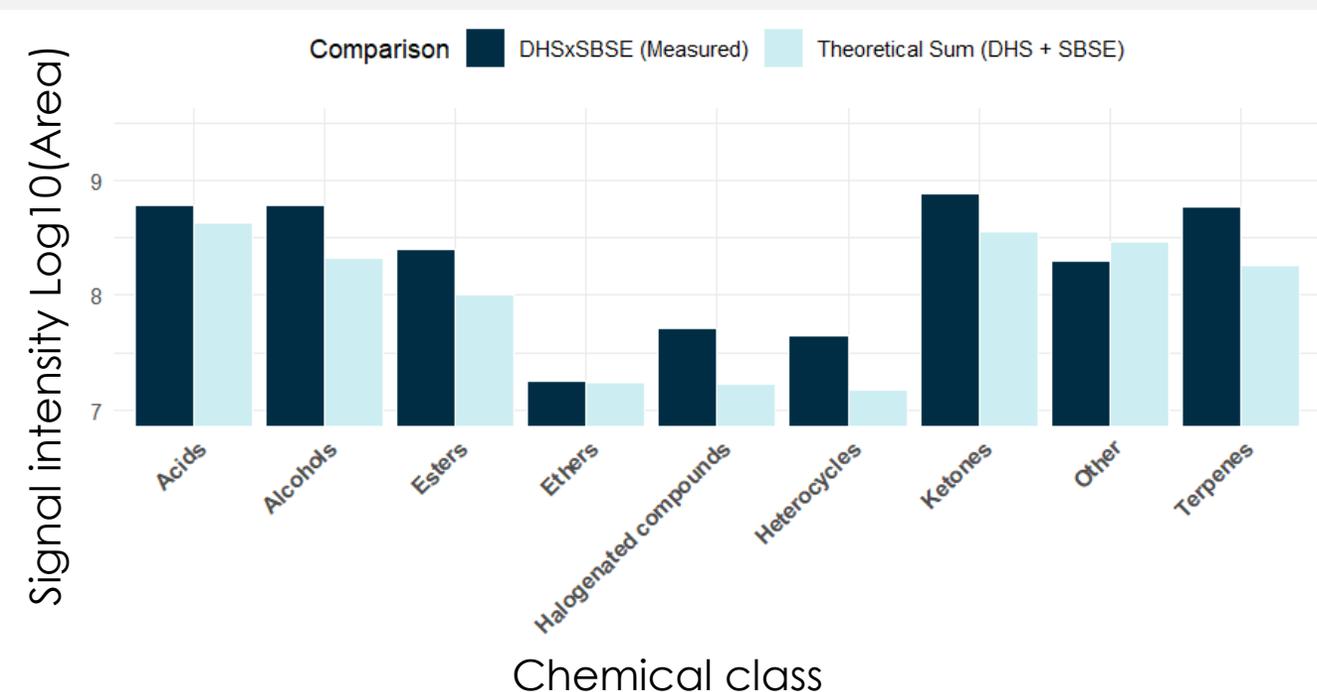
Water Kefir : Method comparison (n=3)

Extract intensities of common molecules by chemical class (Log)



Water Kefir : Method comparison (n=3)

Measured Area DHSxSBSE vs. Calculated Sum (DHS+SBSE)



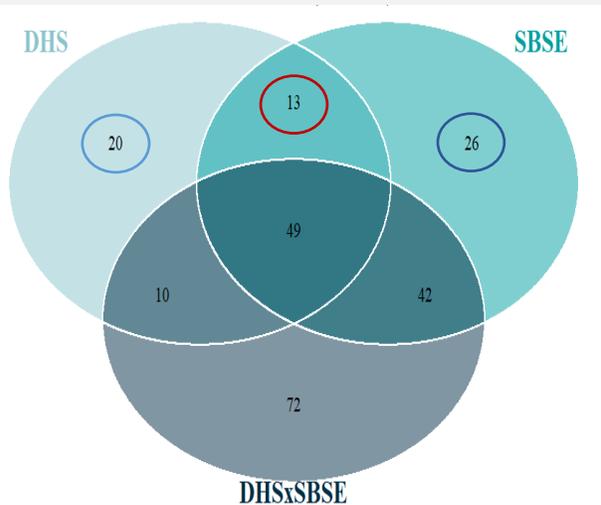
Relative extraction efficiency gain (DHSxSBSE vs. DHS+SBSE)

Values > 1 indicate a signal enhancement in the combined method

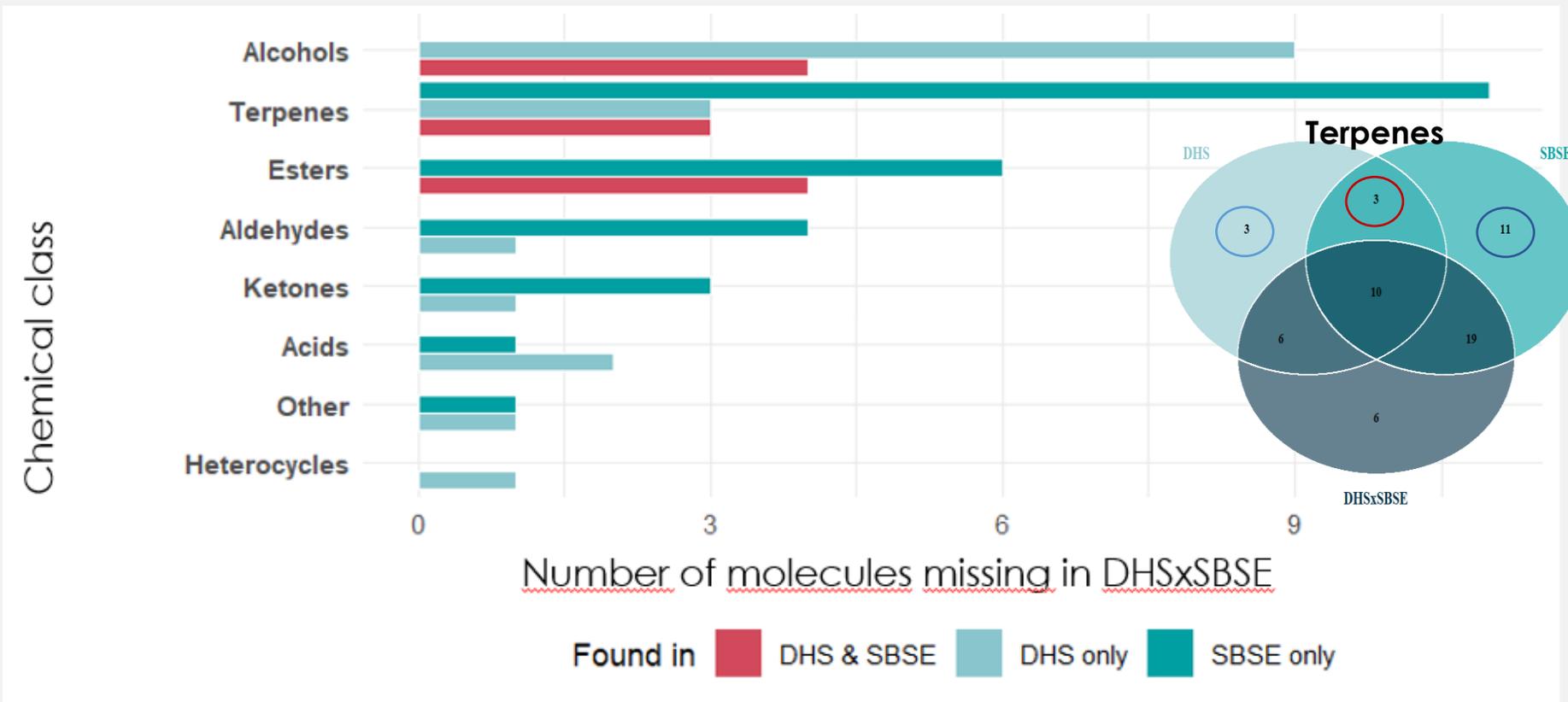


Water Kefir : Method comparison (n=3)

Detected molecules



59 Compounds missing in DHSxSBSE Method



Water Kefir : Product comparison

Study of 3 **water kefirs from the market** without added flavors.

Water Kefir recipe :

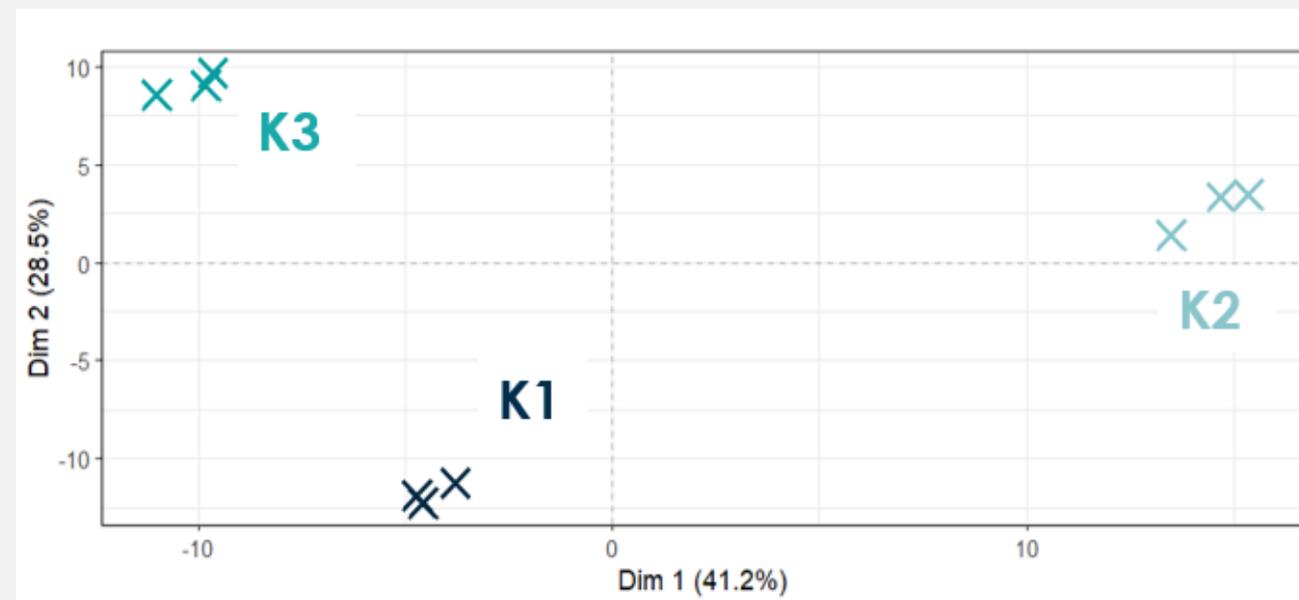
- Kefir grains (ferment)
 - Sugar
 - Water
 - Slice of lemon
 - Dried fruit
- Fermentation 24/36h at 20/25°C



Water Kefir : Product comparison (n=3)

2nd Step : VOC analysis by DHSxSBSE

PCA : Water Kefir Comparison

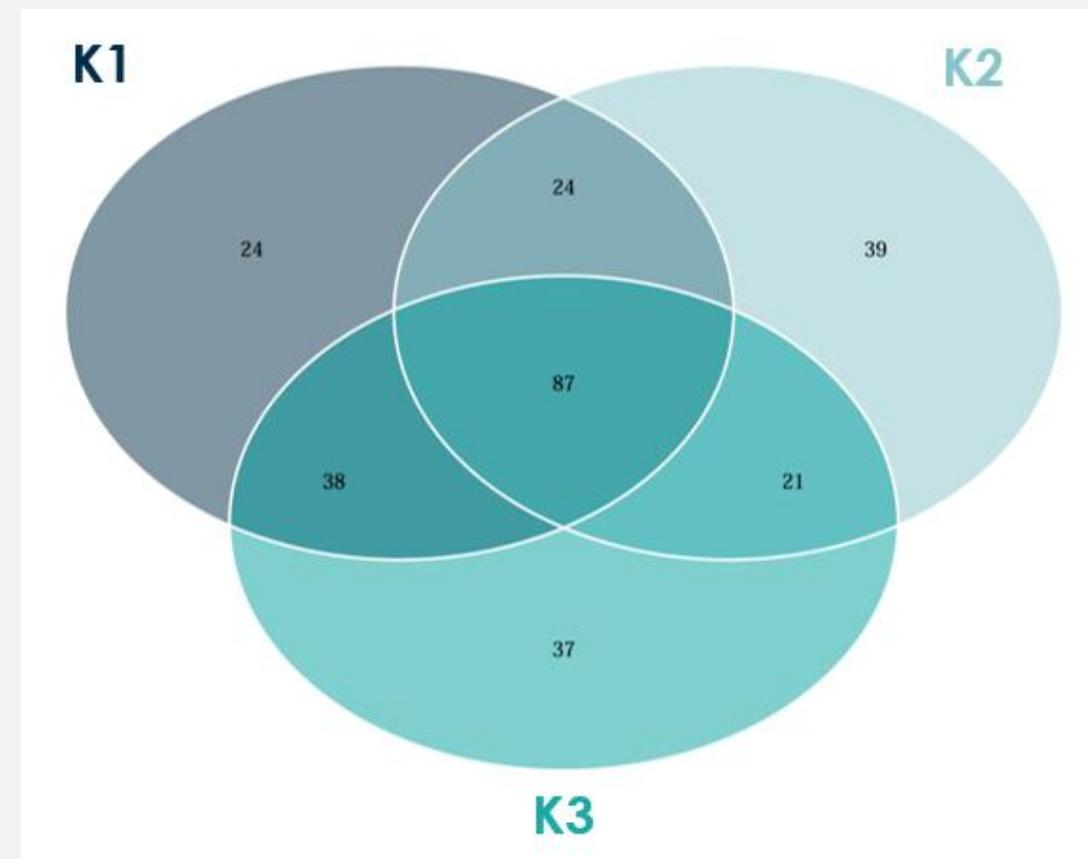


Log + Pareto scaling

Dimension 1 : 41,2%

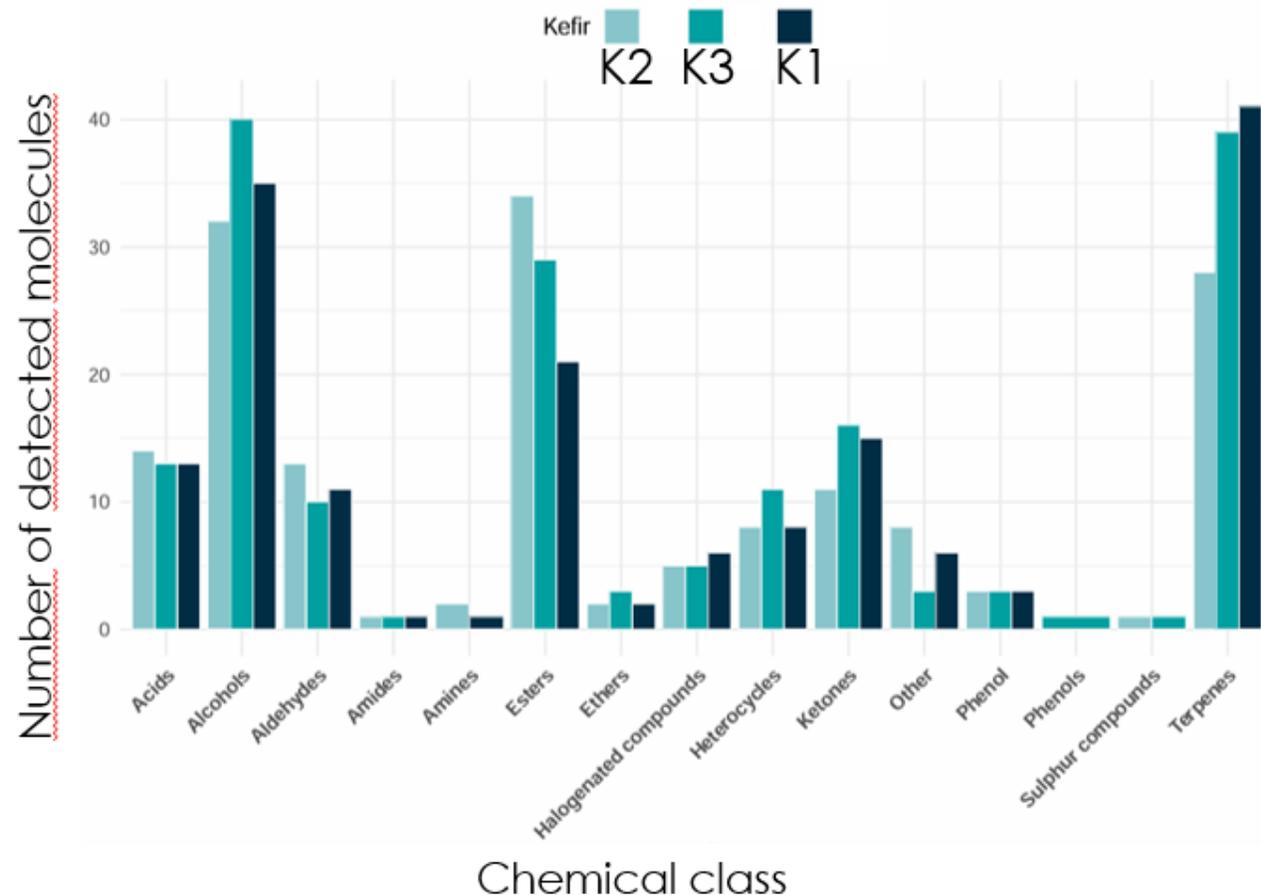
Dimension 2 : 28.5%

Detected molecules



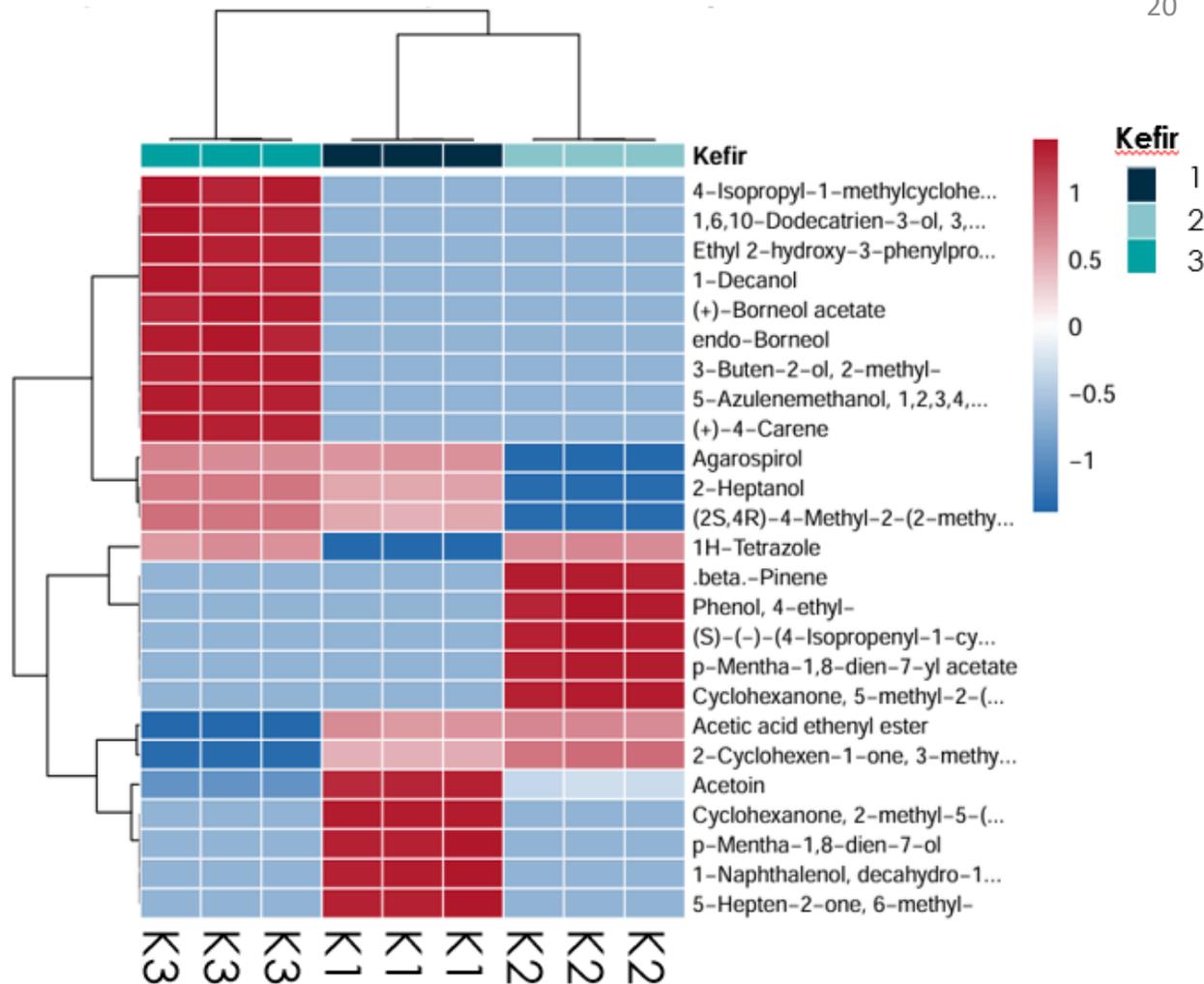
Water Kefir : Product comparison

Chemical diversity by Kefir type (n=3)



Top 25 Discriminant compounds (DHSxSBSE)

20



3rd Step : Determine correlations between LC and GC results

In progress ...

- Study of commercial and homemade milk kefir
- To complete this analytical chemistry approach: DNA analysis of kefir grains ?

Study of other fermented products:



Acknowledgements



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