

1     **PEF treatments of high specific energy permit the reduction of maceration time**  
2                     **during vinification of *Caladoc* and *Grenache* grapes**

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25     **Abstract**

26     Phenolic compounds extracted from the solid parts of the grapes during maceration-  
27     fermentation stage define many of the sensory attributes of red wine such as colour,  
28     bitterness or astringency.

29     The effect of moderate a PEF treatment (M-PEF) ( $5 \text{ kV.cm}^{-1}$ ,  $8.8 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}$ ) and an intense  
30     PEF treatment (I-PEF) ( $5 \text{ kV.cm}^{-1}$ ,  $52.9 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}$ ) on the reduction of maceration time  
31     during vinification of *Caladoc* and *Grenache* grapes was investigated.

32     In both grape varieties, M-PEF treatment combined with 4 days of maceration was the  
33     most effective treatment in achieving high anthocyanin content, color intensity and total  
34     phenol index at the end of fermentation. The I-PEF treatment promoted a rapid release  
35     of anthocyanins and phenolic compounds, along with a fast increment in the color  
36     intensity of the must after 24 h of maceration. Although color intensity and anthocyanin  
37     content decreased significantly throughout fermentation when grape pomace was  
38     removed after 24 h, these parameters were similar, after 3 months of bottling, in the case  
39     of *Caladoc* and slightly lower in *Grenache* than the control wine, for which maceration  
40     was extended for 10 days.

41     Therefore, results obtained in this investigation are the first to demonstrate the potential  
42     of I-PEF for the reduction of maceration time to 24 hours in red winemaking.

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44     **Keywords:** Red wine; polyphenol compound; high intensity PEF; maceration

45 **1. Introduction**

46 Over the last decades, considerable research efforts have been devoted to the  
47 development of non-thermal processing technologies (Zhang, Barbosa-Cánovas, &  
48 Balasubramaniam, 2011).

49 These technologies permit improving different unit operations in the food industry such  
50 as extraction providing more sustainable and eco-friendly processes.

51 (Chemat et al. 2017).

52 PEF technology is regarded as a promising alternative to thermal processing with the  
53 purpose of improving microbial inactivation (Wang et al. 2018), mass transfer  
54 (Puértolas, Luengo, Álvarez, & Raso, 2012), and structure modification (Oey, Faridnia,  
55 Leong, Burritt, & Liu, 2017). The treatment generates a high intensity electric field  
56 between two electrodes by applying pulses of high voltage and short duration. The  
57 effects of PEF on foods are attributed to a presumed structural rearrangement of the cell  
58 membranes called electroporation, which consists in the formation of local defects or  
59 pores (Kotnik, Rems, Tarek, & Miklavčič, 2019). The electroporation of grape skin  
60 cells with the purpose of improving the extraction of phenolic compounds during the  
61 maceration-fermentation step in red winemaking is one of the most widely investigated  
62 applications of PEF in recent years (Ricci, Parpinello, & Versari, 2018). Maceration is  
63 one of the most critical stages in red winemaking.. During maceration, phenolic  
64 compounds that define many of the sensory attributes of red wine such as colour,  
65 bitterness or astringency are transferred from the skins and seeds into the must  
66 (Bautista-Ortín, Busse-Valverde, López-Roca, Gil-Muñoz, & Gómez-Plaza, 2014;  
67 Busse-Valverde et al., 2010). Obtaining a wine with enough polyphenol content  
68 required that the solid parts of the grapes remain in contact with the fermenting must

69 between 7-10 days. In order to increase its production capacity, wineries are interested  
70 in shortening the maceration time without affecting wine quality.

71 Different studies conducted in the laboratory, but also at pilot plant and semi-industrial  
72 scale, have demonstrated that PEF treatments can allow winemakers to reduce  
73 maceration time and/or obtain a wine with a greater amount of phenolic compounds  
74 (Puértolas, López, Condón, Álvarez, & Raso, 20). In view of such effects, PEF could  
75 become an alternative to techniques such as thermovinification or flash release,  
76 currently used in wineries to improve polyphenol extraction based on the heating of  
77 grapes. Whereas thermovinification consists in heating grapes at temperatures between  
78 70 and 75° C for a period ranging from 30 min to 24 hours (Sacchi, Bisson, & Adams,  
79 2005), the process known as “flash release” consists in a rapid heating of grapes (85-  
80 95° C) with direct steam injection, after which grapes are exposed to a vacuum that  
81 induces instant vaporization of the water they contain, thereby cooling them and  
82 weakening their skin cell envelopes (Moutounet and Escudier 2000). After application  
83 of these techniques, solid parts of the grapes are removed after few hours of maceration  
84 and fermentation is conducted in liquid phase. The benefits of fermenting in liquid  
85 phase include a better use of the effective volume of the tanks, an improved control of  
86 fermentation temperature, and savings in labor as well as in the energy consumption  
87 required to periodically pump the wine over the skin mass that rises to the top of the  
88 fermentation tanks.

89 Although it has been demonstrated that electroporation of grape skins by PEF  
90 significantly improves the extraction of polyphenols such as anthocyanins and tannins, a  
91 certain maceration time is required to obtain wines with a sufficient amount of these  
92 compounds (López et al. 2009). Typical maceration times reported by different authors

93 for wines obtained with grapes treated by PEF range from 3 to 6 days (Maza et al.  
94 2019).

95 In the present study, intense PEF treatments in terms of specific energy were applied to  
96 electroporate grape skins of two grape varieties (Caladoc and Grenache) in order to  
97 evaluate whether the maceration step could thereby be reduced to just a few hours.

## 98 **2. Material and methods**

### 99 ***2.1. Grape samples***

100 Seven hundred kilograms of *Caladoc* (21.1°Brix, titratable acidity: 6.1 g.L<sup>-1</sup> tartaric  
101 acid) and *Grenache* (26.9° Brix, titratable acidity: 4.8 g.L<sup>-1</sup> tartaric acid) red grapes  
102 (Fuendejalón, Spain) were manually harvested in 2018. Harvesting was carried out in  
103 the first week of September for *Caladoc* grapes and in the first week of October for  
104 *Grenache* grapes. Prior to the PEF treatments, electrical conductivity was measured  
105 with a FYA641LFP1 conductivity probe (Ahlborn, Holzkirchen, Germany) connected  
106 to an Almemo 2590 data logger (Ahlborn, Holzkirchen, Germany).

### 107 ***2.2. PEF equipment and processing***

108 An EPULSUS<sup>®</sup> PM1-10 PEF-generator (Energy Pulse Systems LDA, Lisbon, Portugal)  
109 was used. This apparatus, with an output voltage and current of 10 kV and 200 A,  
110 respectively, generates monopolar square waveform pulses of 2 to 200 µs with a  
111 frequency up to 200 Hz. The applied voltage was measured with a high voltage probe  
112 (Tektronix, P6015A, Wilsonville, Oregon, USA) connected to an oscilloscope  
113 (Tektronix, TBS 1102B-EDU, Wilsonville, Oregon, USA).

114 The treatment chamber consisted of three stainless steel cylindrical electrodes, separated  
115 by two methacrylate insulators based on a previous design by Toepfl et al. (2007).

116 Whereas the central electrode is connected to the high voltage, the electrodes of the two

117 extremes are grounded. Two cylindrical treatment zones of 2.0 cm between the  
118 electrodes and an inner diameter of 2.0 cm were defined as a colinear configuration. The  
119 electric field strength used to characterize the PEF treatments corresponds to the field  
120 strength in the middle position of the treatment zone's central axis, which is almost  
121 equivalent to the field strength calculated by dividing the applied voltage and the gap  
122 between the electrodes (Toepfl et al. 2007). Mass flow was 140 kg.h<sup>-1</sup>, providing a  
123 residence time of the medium in the treatment zone of 0.32 s. Temperature was  
124 measured before and after the PEF treatments by means of a type K thermocouple  
125 (Ahlborn, Holzkirchen, Germany) connected to an Almemo 2590 data logger (Ahlborn,  
126 Holzkirchen, Germany). The characteristics of the applied PEF treatments and the outlet  
127 temperature of the grape pomace are shown in Table 1.

128 Total specific energy ( $W_{spec}$ ) was calculated according to equations (1) and (2) using the  
129 pulse number ( $n$ ), the mass flow rate ( $m$ ) and the energy delivered per pulse ( $W_{pulse}$ ) that  
130 was calculated from the applied voltage ( $V$ ), the current ( $I$ ) and pulse width ( $\tau$ ).

$$131 \quad W_{spec} = \frac{n W_{pulse}}{m} \quad (1)$$

$$132 \quad W_{pulse} = V I \tau \quad (2)$$

### 133 **2.3. Winemaking**

134 The red grapes were weighed, crushed and destemmed with a Master E-10 destemmer  
135 (Enomundi, Zaragoza, Spain). Then the crushed grapes were pumped by a progressive  
136 cavity pump (Rotor-MT, Bominox, Gerona, Spain) to the colinear treatment chamber.  
137 After PEF treatment, the crushed grapes was distributed into fourteen stainless steel  
138 tanks (eight for *Caladoc* and six for *Grenache* grapes). Two additional batches of  
139 untreated grapes were used as control for each variety. In each tank, K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (10 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>)  
140 and 15 g.hl<sup>-1</sup> of a commercial suspension of the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

141 (OenoFrance La Marquise E491, Epernay, France) were added. All treatments were  
142 fermented in duplicate at  $22\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ . Maceration times depending on the intensity of the  
143 applied PEF treatment were: 4 hours for *Caladoc* grapes treated with the intense PEF  
144 treatment (I-PEF), 24 hours for *Caladoc* and *Grenache* grapes treated with the I-PEF  
145 treatment, 4 days for *Caladoc* and *Grenache* grapes treated with moderate PEF  
146 treatment (M-PEF), and 10 days for untreated *Caladoc* and *Grenache* grapes. During  
147 the maceration- fermentation process, enological parameters, temperature and must  
148 density were monitored daily. Solid parts of the grapes were punched down once a day  
149 to maintain them in contact with the fermenting must. The concentration of residual  
150 sugars at the end of fermentation (13 days) was always lower than  $3\text{ g.L}^{-1}$ . After  
151 fermentation, the wines were racked and stabilized for a period of one month at  $2^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
152 and finally racked again, bottled, and stored in a conditioned room kept at  $18 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$   
153 until analyzed.

#### 154 **2.4. General wine analysis**

155 During fermentation, all wines were analyzed according to the methods prescribed by  
156 the OIV (Organization Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin, 2009). At the end of  
157 fermentation, alcohol content, total acidity, and pH were measured. The pH was  
158 determined with a Crison Basic20 pH-meter (Crison Instruments, SA, Barcelona).

##### 159 **2.4.1. Colorimetric index measurements**

160 All samples were centrifuged in an Eppendorf AG centrifuge for 15 min at 3000 rpm  
161 (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany). The absorbance of the musts was measured at 420,  
162 520, and 620 nm by a Biochrom LibraS12 spectrophotometer (Biochrom Limited, UK)  
163 with Hellma<sup>®</sup> Analytics QS Quartz SUPRASIL<sup>®</sup> 300 Precision cells (light path 1 mm)  
164 (Hellma Analytics, Müllheim, Germany). Color intensity (CI) was calculated as the sum  
165 of 420, 520, and 620 nm absorbance, and Hue was calculated as the proportion of the

166 absorbance measured at 420 nm and 520 nm according to Glories (1984). Total  
167 polyphenol index (TPI) was determined by a direct reading of the absorbance at 280 nm  
168 of diluted wine 1/100 (v.v<sup>-1</sup>) with a Hellma<sup>®</sup> QS quartz SUPRASIL<sup>®</sup> 300 cuvette (light  
169 path 10 mm) (Hellma Analytics, Müllheim, Germany). TPI was calculated by  
170 multiplying the absorbance measured at 280 nm by 100. Total anthocyanins (AC)  
171 expressed in milligrams per liter of malvidin-3-glucoside were analyzed by determining  
172 the absorbance at 520 nm of diluted wine 1/100 (v.v<sup>-1</sup>) with 1 % (v.v<sup>-1</sup>) HCl (Ruiz-  
173 Hernández 2004).

#### 174 **2.4.2. Determination of condensed tannins**

175 Condensed Tannins (TC) were determined according to Sarneckis et al. (2006). The  
176 determination was carried out by precipitation with methylcellulose. All values are  
177 reported in mg.L<sup>-1</sup> of epicatechin equivalents according to a calibration curve obtained  
178 from aqueous solutions of (-)-epicatechin (10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, and 200 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> of  
179 epicatechin).

#### 180 **2.4.3. High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)**

181 Anthocyanins were analyzed under the chromatographic conditions described by  
182 Puértolas, Saldaña, et al. (2010). An HPLC Varian ProStar high-performance liquid  
183 chromatograph (Varian Inc., Walnut Creek, CA) equipped with a ProStar 240 ternary  
184 pump, a ProStar 410 autosampler, and a ProStar 335 photodiode array detector were  
185 used. Separation was achieved on a reverse-phase column (LC Luna<sup>®</sup> 100 Å C18 250 x  
186 4.6 mm; 5 µm particle size, Phenomenex) with a pre-column of the same material (LC  
187 Luna<sup>®</sup> 50 x 4.6 mm; 5 µm particle size, Phenomenex). Chromatograms at 520 nm were  
188 recorded. The analyzed phenolic compounds were identified according to the retention  
189 time and the UV-vis spectra of pure standards, and according to the UV-vis spectral

190 characteristics published in the literature (Puértolas et al. 2011). The concentrations of  
191 all studied compounds were expressed in mg.L<sup>-1</sup>.

## 192 **2.5. Statistical analysis**

193 The data presented in tables and figures represent mean values ± 95% confidence level.  
194 Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was carried out using InfoStat statistical software in the  
195 2018 version. The graphics were carried out using GraphPad PRISM (GraphPad  
196 Software, Inc., San Diego, CA).

## 197 **3. Results**

### 198 **3.1. Effect of PEF treatments of different intensities on the extraction kinetics of** 199 **color intensity, anthocyanins, and total phenolic compounds after different** 200 **maceration times**

201 The evolution of color intensity, anthocyanin content, and total phenolic compounds  
202 during the maceration-fermentation stage of *Caladoc* grapes treated by I-PEF after 4  
203 and 24 hours of maceration are shown in Figure 1. The evolution of the same  
204 oenological indexes during maceration-fermentation of untreated and M-PEF treated  
205 *Caladoc* grapes after 10 and 4 days of maceration, respectively, is also shown in Figure  
206 1 for comparison. Considerable differences were observed between vinifications  
207 conducted with PEF-electroporated grapes and with untreated grapes from the earliest  
208 moments of the maceration-fermentation stage onward. The I-PEF treatment led to a  
209 rapid release of anthocyanins and phenolic compounds, along with a rapid increment in  
210 the color intensity of the must from the onset of the maceration-fermentation step. After  
211 4 hours of maceration, the color intensity, anthocyanin content, and total phenolic index  
212 of the must containing grapes treated with I-PEF were much higher than those of the  
213 fermenting must containing M-PEF-treated *Caladoc* grapes and control grapes, and the  
214 same difference could still be observed even after 24 hours of maceration. However, a

215 pronounced decrease in anthocyanin content and color intensity was observed when the  
216 grape skins were removed after 4 hours of maceration. At the end of fermentation, as a  
217 consequence of that tendency, wines obtained with grapes treated by I-PEF with a  
218 maceration of only 4 hours had the lowest value for the three indexes analyzed. Figure 1  
219 also shows that color intensity, anthocyanins, and total phenolic index increased when  
220 maceration time for the grapes treated by I-PEF was extended to 24 h. Although these  
221 two indexes also declined after removing the grape pomace, the wine obtained at the  
222 end of fermentation had higher anthocyanin content and a similar color intensity and  
223 total phenol index to that of the control wine in which grape pomace remained in  
224 contact with fermenting must for 10 days.

225 Wine obtained with M-PEF-treated grapes after 4 days of maceration was the one with  
226 the highest anthocyanin content, color intensity, and total phenolic index at the end of  
227 fermentation. Although the values of anthocyanin content and color intensity of the  
228 fermenting must containing the grapes treated by M-PEF after 4 days of maceration  
229 were similar to those of the fermenting must containing *Caladoc* grapes treated by I-  
230 PEF after 24 hours of maceration, the decline in anthocyanin content and color intensity  
231 after the removal of grape pomace was less pronounced. The stabilization of these two  
232 indexes was probably related to the presence of a higher concentration of tannins in the  
233 wine after 4 days of maceration. It is well known that tannins are required to stabilize  
234 unstable anthocyanin, and that the presence of ethanol is necessary for the extraction of  
235 tannins in the seeds (Busse-Valverde et al. 2010; Hernández-Jiménez, Kennedy,  
236 Bautista-Ortín, & Gómez-Plaza, 2012). Since ethanol content in the first 24 hours of  
237 maceration-fermentation is too low, no presence of tannins in the seeds of wines  
238 obtained from such short maceration is expected.

239 The evolution of CI, AC and TPI during the maceration-fermentation stage of *Grenache*  
240 grapes treated by I-PEF after 24 hours of maceration is compared with the evolution of  
241 the same oenological indexes during maceration-fermentation of untreated and M-  
242 PEF-treated *Grenache* grapes after 10 and 4 days of maceration in Figure 2,  
243 respectively. Since a considerably pronounced decline in color intensity and  
244 anthocyanin content in *Caladoc* was observed when the maceration time of the grapes  
245 treated by I-PEF was reduced to 4 hours, this combination was not evaluated when the  
246 study was conducted on *Grenache* grapes. Similarly to the case of *Caladoc* grapes, the  
247 application of an I-PEF treatment prior to vinification caused a rapid increment of the  
248 three indexes in the first 24 hours of maceration-fermentation. Anthocyanin content and  
249 color intensity obtained after only 24 hours of maceration were similar to the indexes  
250 obtained in control wine after 10 days of maceration. However, as in the case of  
251 *Caladoc*, the significant decrease observed in AC and CI after the removal of grape  
252 skins entailed that those indexes were lower at the end of fermentation than those of  
253 control wine. Although the TPI did not decrease significantly in the wine obtained with  
254 grapes treated with I-PEF after 24 hours of maceration, the value of that index in the  
255 wine after fermentation was lower than in control wine, due to the fact that polyphenol  
256 extraction was more elevated when maceration time was extended. In the case of  
257 *Grenache*, the low concentration of ethanol could also have been the reason for the  
258 lower total polyphenol index and the observed decrease in CI and AC when grape  
259 pomace was removed after 24 hours of maceration.

260 As in the case of *Caladoc*, the moderate PEF treatment combined with 4 days of contact  
261 of grape skins with the fermenting must was the most effective treatment in terms of  
262 AC, CI, and TPI at the end of fermentation.

263 **3.2. Effect of PEF treatments of different intensities on oenological parameters of**  
264 **wine.**

265 Table 2 compares the oenological parameters of the four *Caladoc* wines and the three  
266 *Grenache* wines after 3 months of bottling. As previously reported by other authors, pH,  
267 alcoholic content, and total acidity of the wines obtained with grapes treated by PEF did  
268 not significantly differ from control wines even in those obtained with the most intense  
269 PEF treatments (Garde-Cerdán et al. 2013). The combination most effective in  
270 obtaining *Caladoc* wine with the highest CI, AC, and TPI consisted in the application of  
271 a moderate electric field prior to vinification with 4 days of maceration. The wine  
272 obtained with this approach displayed AC, CI, and TPI values that were 25, 81, and 26  
273 % higher, respectively, than control wine with 10 days of maceration. Similar results  
274 have been reported in studies conducted with other grape varieties, which have  
275 demonstrated the benefit of the application of a PEF treatment for increasing  
276 polyphenol content or reducing maceration time (López et al. 2008; Maza et al. 2019;  
277 Puértolas, Saldaña, et al. 2010). The lower TPI and AC values obtained in the wines  
278 with only 4 hours of maceration significantly increased when maceration was extended  
279 to 24 hours. After prolonging the maceration time of the grapes treated by I-PEF for 24  
280 hours, the obtained wine was not significantly different from control wine in terms of  
281 AC, TPI, and TC, whereby CI was slightly higher. As ethanol concentration after 24  
282 hours of maceration is very low, tannins of the wine obtained after that short maceration  
283 period should proceed from the grape skins rather from seeds (Zamora 2003).

284 Similarly to *Caladoc*, the wine obtained with *Grenache* grapes treated with M-PEF after  
285 4 days of maceration displayed the highest index values depending on polyphenol  
286 extraction. TPI, TC, and CI values of this wine were significantly higher compared to  
287 those of the other two wines. The wine obtained with I-PEF-treated grapes and short

288 maceration (24 h) contained values that were lower than control for the 4 indexes  
289 associated with polyphenol extraction. However, the wine obtained with PEF-treated  
290 grapes displayed TPI and AC indexes similar to control (less than 10% lower).

291 The application of M-PEF treatments of different intensity to *Caladoc* and *Grenache*  
292 grapes prior to vinification did not significantly affect the %Ye, %Rd, and %Bl of the  
293 obtained wines. No statistically significant differences were found in these values for  
294 wines after three months of aging. Therefore, although the PEF treatments improved the  
295 extraction of those components of grapes responsible for the color of wine, the  
296 proportion in which these compounds were extracted was similar to that of the untreated  
297 grapes. In all cases, the values obtained in this study for the %Ye, %Rd, and %Bl were  
298 within a range considered as optimal (Glories 1984).

### 299 ***3.3. Effect of PEF treatments of different intensities on anthocyanin composition***

300 Individual anthocyanins of the obtained wines were identified and quantified. It is well  
301 known that anthocyanins extracted from the skins of red grapes are the principal  
302 components responsible for the red wine color in young wines.

303 Table 3 compares the anthocyanin content of *Caladoc* and *Grenache* wines obtained  
304 from I-PEF treated grapes and short maceration time (4 and 24 hours) with the wines  
305 obtained from M-PEF treated grapes and longer maceration time (4 days), as well as  
306 with untreated grapes (10 days maceration). On general terms, similar anthocyanin  
307 profiles were observed for all wines obtained with each grape variety. Therefore, even  
308 when maceration time was reduced to 24 hours or even less, an M-PEF treatment did  
309 not produce a selective effect on any anthocyanin compound.

310 Table 3 shows that monoglucoside derivatives of anthocyanins (Unacylated)  
311 predominated in all cases. Unacylated anthocyanins represented 70-80% and 85-95% of

312 total anthocyanins for *Caladoc* and *Grenache* wines, respectively. These differences in  
313 the proportion of unacylated anthocyanins may be attributed to the grape variety, as has  
314 been ascertained by other authors (Puértolas, et al. 2011). In the wines from two  
315 varieties obtained with different procedures, malvidin-3-glucoside was the most  
316 dominant monomeric anthocyanin; nevertheless, significant amounts of petudin-3-  
317 glucoside and delphinidin-3-glucoside were likewise found. Similar results have also  
318 been reported for wines obtained from other grape varieties. Regarding acylated and  
319 coumarylated compounds, conjugates of malvidin were the ones most detected in all the  
320 wines. These results agree with those reported by other authors concerning the  
321 composition of anthocyanin derivatives in red wine (Cacho, Fernández, Ferreira, &  
322 Castells, 1992; Puértolas et al. 2011)

#### 323 **4. Discussion**

324 Polyphenol extraction during the maceration-fermentation step is a diffusion process in  
325 which the diffusion rate and extraction yield are both highly dependent on the integrity  
326 of grape skins' cytoplasmic membrane (Cerpa-Calderón and Kennedy 2008; Pinelo et  
327 al. 2006). Several investigations have demonstrated that the application of PEF  
328 treatments of very low energy ( $<10 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}$ ) to grapes prior to the maceration-  
329 fermentation step can accelerate the extraction of polyphenols (Delsart et al. 2014;  
330 López et al. 2008; López-Giral et al. 2015). However, several days of maceration are  
331 required to obtain a sufficient amount of phenolic compounds in the final wine (Luengo  
332 et al. 2012; Puértolas et al. 2010).

333 This research investigated the potential of increasing the total specific energy delivered  
334 by PEF to the grapes for obtaining red wine with few hours of maceration for the first  
335 time. The rapid increment observed in the indexes that depend on polyphenol extraction  
336 may be attributed to an increment in the number and/or size of the pores created in the

337 cytoplasmic membrane of the grape skin cells, or it could be associated with the  
338 increment in the number of electroporated cells in grape skin tissues (Weaver and  
339 Chizmadzhev 1996; Saulis. 2010). As compared with a parallel electrode treatment  
340 chamber configuration, the colinear configuration used in this investigation has lower  
341 energetic requirements, thanks to its greater load resistance. However, inhomogeneity in  
342 the distribution of the electric field in this configuration could entail that a proportion of  
343 cells of the grape skins may have been unaffected or insufficiently affected by the  
344 electric field when treatments of low specific energy were applied (Huang, Yu, Gai, &  
345 Wang, 2013; van de Bosh 2007). An increment in specific energy delivered to the  
346 treatment chamber by increasing the number of the applied pulses could increase the  
347 proportion of cells affected by the critical electric field required for electroporation.  
348 This effect would be reflected in an increment in the amount of polyphenols released to  
349 the must within a shorter time period.

350 The intense PEF treatment applied here was especially effective in increasing color  
351 intensity in the first moments of maceration as consequence of the fast releasing of  
352 anthocyanins that are responsible in the initial color of red wine (Setford, Jeffery, Grbin,  
353 & Muhlack, 2019). However, similarly to the data reported on evolution in wines  
354 obtained with thermovinification or flash expansion techniques with or without very  
355 short maceration periods wines obtained with grapes treated by PEF and short  
356 macerations exhibited a considerable decrease in anthocyanin concentration when grape  
357 pomace was removed from the fermenting must (Gao, Girard, Mazza, & Reynolds,  
358 1997).

359 Generally, a decrease in anthocyanin content during the first days of maceration is not  
360 observed. Then their concentration decreases when the rate of various reactions that

361 undergoing anthocyanins (oxidation, copigmentation, adsorption by yeast) exceeds the  
362 extraction rate.

363 (Hermosín-Gutiérrez, Sánchez-Palomo Lorenzo, & Espinosa Vicario, 2005; Morata et  
364 al., 2003; Setford, Jeffery, Grbin, & Muhlack, 2017; Shenoy, 1993; Wesche-Ebeling &  
365 Montgomery, 1990).

366 One of the drawbacks associated with oenological techniques aiming to eliminate or  
367 reduce maceration time is that the wines thereby obtained have poor color stability due  
368 to their low tannin content, since the extraction of tannins from the berry seed requires  
369 the presence of ethanol (Alcalde-Eon et al. 2014). These molecules not only contribute  
370 to astringency and mouthfeel, but they also participate in condensation reactions with  
371 anthocyanins that ensure a stabilization of wine color after bottling. It is remarkable to  
372 note that the I-PEF treatment applied in this investigation also encouraged the extraction  
373 of tannins, even when the maceration period was shortened to 24 hours. Those tannins,  
374 therefore, helped maintain the color intensity of *Caladoc* and *Grenache* wines after  
375 three months of aging in bottle, and helped ensure that the CI values remained within  
376 the range of those reported for other young wines obtained with longer maceration  
377 periods.

## 378 **5. Conclusions**

379 In this investigation, the potential of the application of PEF for obtaining red wine with  
380 a maceration time of only 24 hours has been demonstrated for the first time. Although  
381 color intensity and anthocyanin content decreased significantly throughout fermentation  
382 when grape pomace was removed, oenological parameters of the wines after 3 months  
383 of bottling were similar and slightly lower than control wine in the case of *Caladoc* and  
384 *Grenache* wines, respectively.

385 Therefore, PEF could become an alternative to current techniques used in wineries to  
386 improve polyphenolic extraction and, as a consequence, to eliminate or reduce  
387 maceration time associated with the heating of grapes. PEF could solve several  
388 problems associated with thermal methods such as the loss of varietal aromas through  
389 temperature increment, the consumption of high quantities of energy, and space  
390 requirements.

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396

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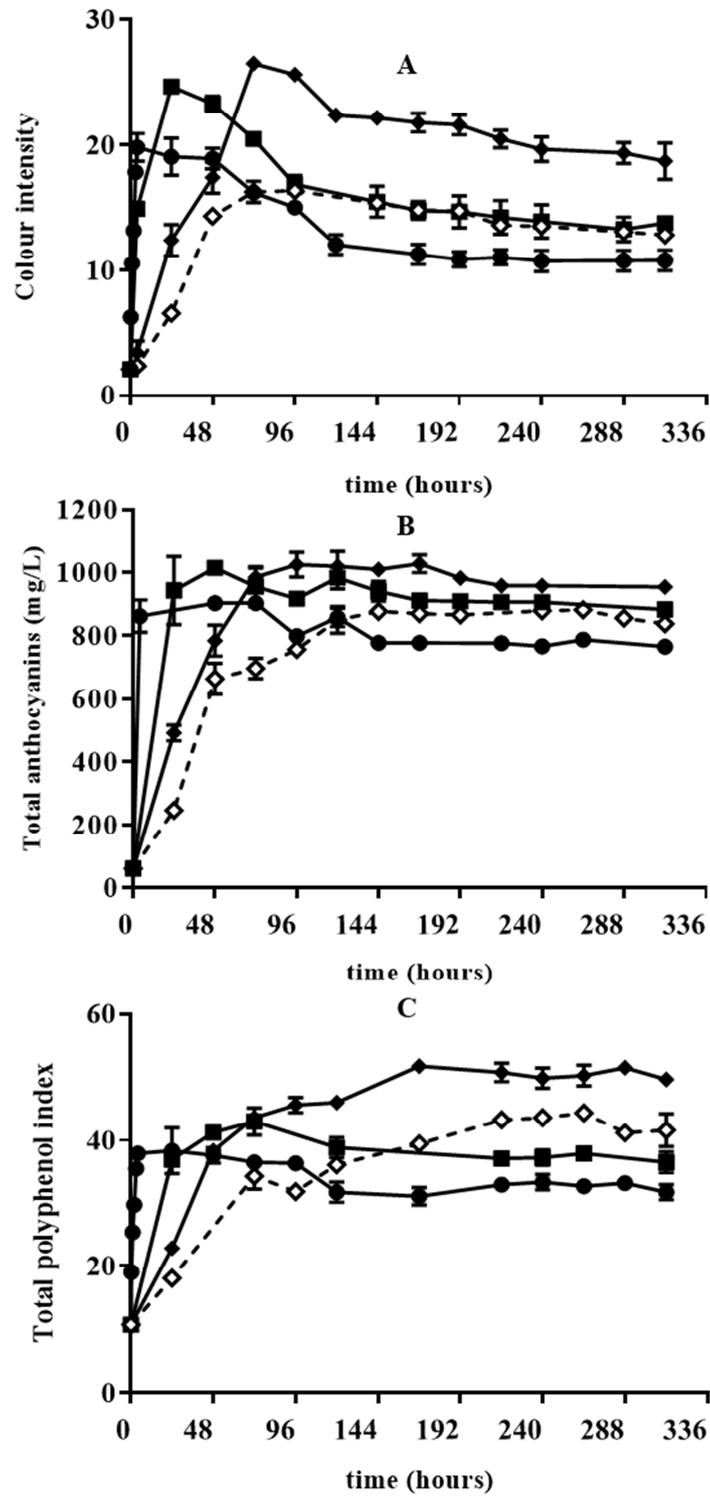
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554 **Figure 1:** Evolution of color intensity (A), total anthocyanin content (B), and total  
555 polyphenol index (C) along maceration-fermentation of *Caladoc* grapes: ( $\diamond$ ) untreated  
556 grapes after 240 hours of maceration, ( $\blacklozenge$ ) grapes treated by a moderate PEF treatment  
557 (M-PEF) ( $5 \text{ kV.cm}^{-1}$ ,  $8.8 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}$ ) after 96 hours of maceration and grapes treated by an  
558 intense PEF treatment (I-PEF) ( $5 \text{ kV.cm}^{-1}$ ,  $52.9 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}$ ) after ( $\blacksquare$ ) 24 hours of  
559 maceration and ( $\bullet$ ) 4 hours of maceration.

560 **Figure 2:** Evolution of color intensity (A), total anthocyanin content (B), and total  
561 polyphenol content (C), along maceration-fermentation of *Grenache* grapes: ( $\diamond$ )  
562 untreated grapes after 240 hours of maceration, ( $\blacklozenge$ ) grapes treated by a moderate PEF  
563 treatment (M-PEF) ( $5 \text{ kV.cm}^{-1}$ ,  $8.8 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}$ ) after ( $\blacksquare$ ) grapes treated by an intense PEF  
564 treatment (I-PEF) ( $5 \text{ kV.cm}^{-1}$ ,  $52.9 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}$ ) after 24 hours of maceration.

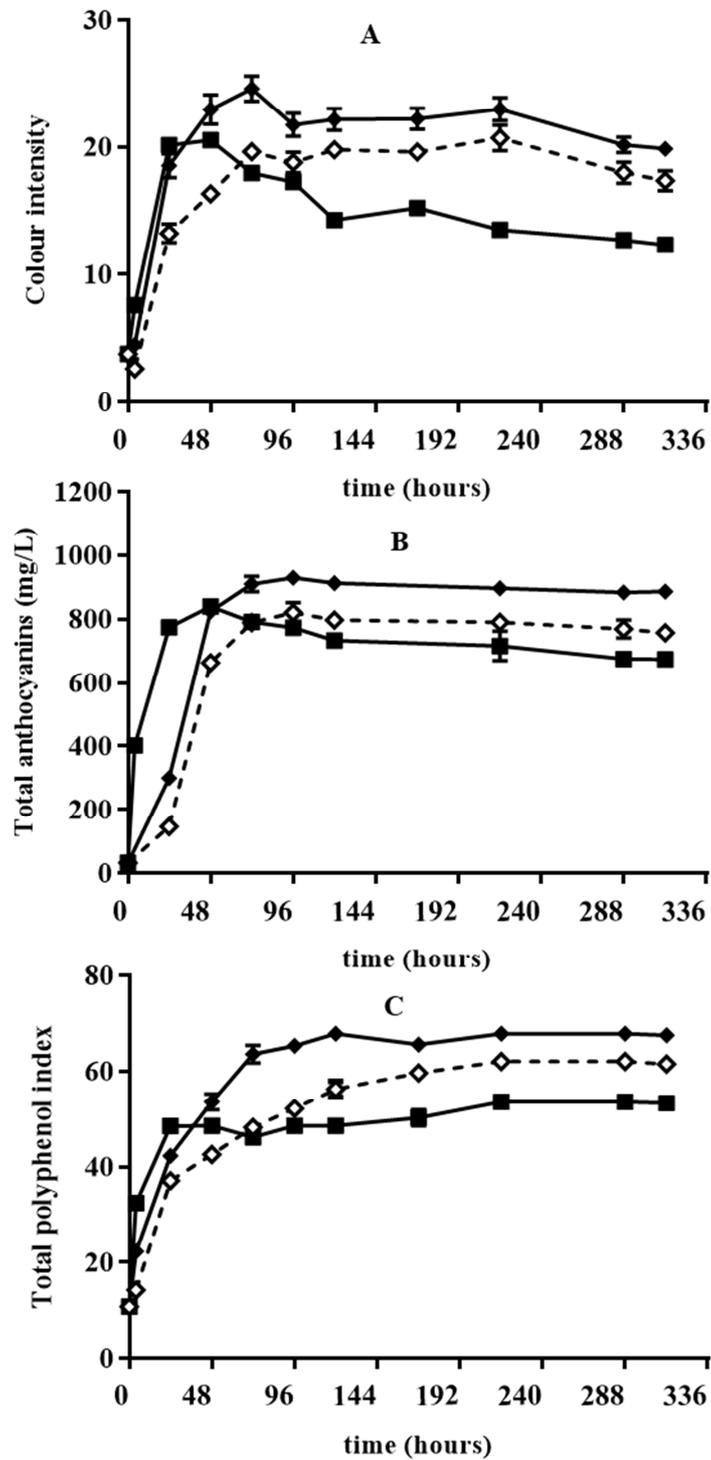
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574 Table 1: PEF treatments applied to the grape mash

| Treatment    | Voltage (kV) | Electric field (kV.cm <sup>-1</sup> ) | Temp after treatment °C | Number of pulses | Pulse width (µs) | Treatment time (µs) | Specific energy (kJ.kg <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>I-PEF</b> | 10.00        | <b>5.00</b>                           | 37.2±0.6                | 46.00            | 40.00            | 1840.00             | <b>52.90</b>                           |
| <b>M-PEF</b> | 10.00        | <b>5.00</b>                           | 22.1±0.5                | 8.00             | 40.00            | 320.00              | <b>8.80</b>                            |

575 Moderate PEF (M-PEF)

576 Intense PEF (I-PEF)

577

578

**Table 2:** Oenological parameters of *Caladoc* and *Grenache* wines after three months of bottling.

|  | <i>Caladoc</i>   |                    |                     |                   | <i>Grenache</i>    |                     |                   |
|--|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | Control          | I-PEF<br>(4 hours) | I-PEF<br>(24 hours) | M-PEF<br>(4 days) | Control            | I-PEF<br>(24 hours) | M-PEF<br>(4 days) |
| <b>pH</b>                                | 3.36 ± 0.02a     | 3.34 ± 0.01a       | 3.37 ± 0.04a        | 3.37 ± 0.05a      | 3.28 ± 0.02ab      | 3.26 ± 0.02a        | 3.29 ± 0.01b      |
| <b>Alcohol</b>                           | 12.00 ± 0.14a    | 12.05 ± 0.07a      | 12.05 ± 0.21a       | 11.95 ± 0.07a     | 16.75 ± 0.07a      | 16.65 ± 0.21a       | 16.6 ± 0.28a      |
| <b>Total acidity (g.L<sup>-1</sup>)*</b> | 5.91 ± 0.07a     | 5.82 ± 0.03a       | 5.84 ± 0.06a        | 5.80 ± 0.14a      | 4.37 ± 0.22a       | 4.32 ± 0.14a        | 4.21 ± 0.14a      |
| <b>IC (A.U.)</b>                         | 12.66 ± 0.44a    | 11.97 ± 0.66a      | 14.98 ± 0.71b       | 22.90 ± 0.47c     | 15.77 ± 0.52b      | 12.36 ± 0.85a       | 18.57 ± 0.74c     |
| <b>AC (mg.L<sup>-1</sup>)**</b>          | 766.26 ± 35.37a  | 746.61 ± 26.83a    | 799.26 ± 35.30a     | 954.38 ± 23.46b   | 837.25 ± 15.49b    | 749.00 ± 11.03a     | 883.74 ± 14.67c   |
| <b>Hue (420/520)</b>                     | 0.38 ± 0.02a     | 0.37 ± 0.01a       | 0.37 ± 0.01a        | 0.36 ± 0.01a      | 0.49 ± 0.01a       | 0.59 ± 0.05b        | 0.48 ± 0.01a      |
| <b>TPI (A.U.)</b>                        | 38.90 ± 0.28c    | 30.00 ± 0.85a      | 34.75 ± 1.77b       | 49.20 ± 1.13d     | 51.55 ± 1.34b      | 47.40 ± 1.41a       | 58.85 ± 0.49c     |
| <b>TC (mg.L<sup>-1</sup>***)</b>         | 1077.88 ± 27.53b | 545.14 ± 170.21a   | 831.86 ± 25.03b     | 1472.57 ± 80.09c  | 1649.56 ± 240.29ab | 1207.08 ± 100.12a   | 2015.93 ± 52.57b  |
| <b>(%Y) = (A<sub>420</sub>/CI x 100)</b> | 24.19 ± 1.29a    | 24.76 ± 0.46a      | 24.82 ± 0.56a       | 24.34 ± 0.32a     | 29.66 ± 0.12a      | 32.99 ± 1.43b       | 29.27 ± 0.13a     |
| <b>(%R) = (A<sub>520</sub>/CI x 100)</b> | 64.69 ± 0.45a    | 67.33 ± 1.20ab     | 67.46 ± 1.34ab      | 67.94 ± 0.91b     | 60.27 ± 0.08a      | 55.87 ± 2.64a       | 60.47 ± 0.12a     |
| <b>(%B) = (A<sub>620</sub>/CI x 100)</b> | 11.13 ± 0.84b    | 7.92 ± 0.74a       | 7.73 ± 0.79a        | 7.74 ± 0.59a      | 10.07 ± 0.20a      | 11.14 ± 1.21a       | 10.26 ± 0.01a     |

580 M-PEF (Moderate PEF): 5 kV.cm<sup>-1</sup>; 8.8 kJ.kg<sup>-1</sup>.

581 I-PEF (Intense-PEF): 5 kV.cm<sup>-1</sup>; 52.9 kJ.kg<sup>-1</sup>

582 Values represent means with their standard deviation (n=2)

583 Different letters within the same line and grape variety indicate significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

584 TPI: total polyphenol index; CI: color intensity; AC: total anthocyanin content; TC: tannins condensed; %Ye, %Rd, %Bl: percentages of yellow, red, and blue colors respectively; A.U: absorbance units.

586 <sup>a</sup> Expressed as tartaric acid

587 <sup>b</sup> Expressed as malvidin-3-glucoside.

588 <sup>c</sup> Expressed as epicatechin.

589

**Table 3:** Individual anthocyanin content ( $\text{mg.L}^{-1}$ ) of *Caladoc* and *Grenache* wines after three months of bottling.

|  | <i>Caladoc</i>          |                        |                         |                        | <i>Grenache</i>       |                         |                        |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
|  | Control                 | I-PEF<br>(4 hours)     | I-PEF<br>(24 hours)     | M-PEF<br>(4 days)      | Control               | I-PEF<br>(24 hours)     | M-PEF<br>(4 days)      |
| <b>Delphinidin-3G</b>                  | 28.22 ± 1.41 ab         | 19.53 ± 1.73 a         | 34.28 ± 8.42 b          | 52.71 ± 3.93 c         | 37.76 ± 0.95 b        | 27.00 ± 4.29 a          | 48.00 ± 2.83 c         |
| <b>Cyanidin-3G</b>                     | 3.93 ± 5.25 a           | 1.45 ± 0.27 a          | 3.63 ± 2.63 a           | 6.31 ± 2.23 a          | 5.87 ± 4.91 a         | 1.45 ± 0.66 a           | 7.45 ± 0.70 a          |
| <b>Petunidin-3G</b>                    | 47.01 ± 16.57 ab        | 37.33 ± 60 ab          | 20.92 ± 15.25 a         | 57.83 ± 7.28 b         | 47.26 ± 7.86 ab       | 37.49 ± 5.78 a          | 60.00 ± 1.41 b         |
| <b>Peonidin-3G</b>                     | 10.84 ± 1.52 a          | 7.81 ± 0.21 a          | 11.22 ± 2.88 a          | 18.19 ± 1.13 b         | 41.16 ± 0.30 b        | 24.96 ± 0.70 a          | 49.11 ± 1.87 c         |
| <b>Malvidin-3G</b>                     | 501.19 ± 14.16 b        | 387.47 ± 8.65 a        | 489.00 ± 25.34 b        | 682.66 ± 7.30 c        | 547.36 ± 3.39 b       | 436.66 ± 32.85 a        | 603.09 ± 3.95 b        |
| <b>Delphinidin-3G-Ac</b>               | 3.94 ± 1.64 ab          | 2.59 ± 0.16 a          | 4.30 ± 0.59 ab          | 6.44 ± 0.38 b          | 5.50 ± 1.41 ab        | 4.00 ± 0.71 a           | 7.30 ± 0.71 b          |
| <b>Cyanidin-3G-Ac</b>                  | 4.25 ± 2.07 a           | 1.48 ± 1.33 a          | 4.45 ± 0.73 a           | 3.88 ± 0.65 a          | 1.75 ± 0.78 a         | 2.35 ± 0.71 a           | 2.60 ± 0.57 a          |
| <b>Petunidin-3G-Ac</b>                 | 7.28 ± 1.96 a           | 5.73 ± 0.95 a          | 6.11 ± 0.72 a           | 8.26 ± 0.29 a          | 4.95 ± 0.64 ab        | 0.87 ± 0.56 a           | 6.70 ± 2.40 b          |
| <b>Malvidin-3G-Ac + peonidin-3G-Ac</b> | 54.11 ± 5.98 a          | 54.20 ± 5.89 a         | 72.04 ± 3.17 b          | 74.04 ± 3.12 b         | 11.97 ± 1.19 b        | 1.71 ± 0.18 a           | 11.75 ± 2.47 b         |
| <b>Delphinidin-3G-Cm</b>               | 6.64 ± 7.15 a           | 1.86 ± 0.52 a          | 1.43 ± 0.44 a           | 2.71 ± 0.37 a          | 3.15 ± 0.07 a         | 1.83 ± 0.01 a           | 3.80 ± 0.99 a          |
| <b>Cyanidin-3G-Cm</b>                  | 1.99 ± 1.43 a           | 1.05 ± 0.21 a          | 1.96 ± 0.48 a           | 0.27 ± 0.13 a          | 0.41 ± 0.01 b         | nd                      | 1.75 ± 0.35 c          |
| <b>Petunidin-3G-Cm</b>                 | 11.83 ± 0.70 b          | 3.65 ± 0.04 a          | 5.22 ± 3.46 a           | 8.53 ± 0.67 ab         | 5.45 ± 1.34 b         | 0.32 ± 0.16 a           | 5.55 ± 0.07 b          |
| <b>Peonidin-3G-Cm</b>                  | 7.05 ± 0.65 bc          | 1.89 ± 0.37 a          | 4.89 ± 1.68 b           | 8.29 ± 1.12 c          | 6.36 ± 0.34 b         | 0.39 ± 0.09 a           | 7.95 ± 0.21 c          |
| <b>Malvidin-3G-Cm</b>                  | 24.13 ± 0.66 ab         | 16.22 ± 50 a           | 24.98 ± 0.66 b          | 33.75 ± 3.19 c         | 9.98 ± 1.36 a         | 7.80 ± 0.48 a           | 15.20 ± 1.16 b         |
| <b>Unacylated</b>                      | <b>591.17 ± 10.58 b</b> | <b>453.57 ± 4.31 a</b> | <b>559.03 ± 24.03 b</b> | <b>817.7 ± 2.82 c</b>  | <b>679.4 ± 8.12 b</b> | <b>527.55 ± 22.83 a</b> | <b>767.65 ± 5.62 c</b> |
| <b>Acetylated</b>                      | <b>69.57 ± 0.31 a</b>   | <b>63.99 ± 5.35 a</b>  | <b>86.9 ± 3.74 b</b>    | <b>92.62 ± 2.57 b</b>  | <b>24.17 ± 0.08 b</b> | <b>8.93 ± 0.74 a</b>    | <b>28.35 ± 4.74 b</b>  |
| <b>Coumarylated</b>                    | <b>51.63 ± 7.73 bc</b>  | <b>24.66 ± 4.37 a</b>  | <b>38.47 ± 1.07 ab</b>  | <b>53.53 ± 5.22 c</b>  | <b>25.35 ± 3.13 b</b> | <b>9.41 ± 1.85 a</b>    | <b>34.25 ± 0.33 c</b>  |
| <b>Total anthocyanins</b>              | <b>727.09 ± 25.25</b>   | <b>549.98 ± 2.33</b>   | <b>801.47 ± 22.89</b>   | <b>1109.26 ± 58.76</b> | <b>759.35 ± 14.31</b> | <b>549.3 ± 25.22</b>    | <b>897.93 ± 36.44</b>  |

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592 M-PEF(Moderate PEF): 5 kV.cm<sup>-1</sup>; 8.8 kJ.kg<sup>-1</sup>.593 I-PEF (Intense-PEF): 5 kV.cm<sup>-1</sup>; 52.9 kJ.kg<sup>-1</sup>

594 Values represent means with their standard deviation (n=2)

595 Different letters within the same line and grape variety indicate significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ )596 Anthocyanins: mean±SD, gr.L<sup>-1</sup> as malvidin-3-O-glucoside

597 nd: not detected. G: glucoside, Ac: acetylated, Cm: coumarylated

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