

1 **Black truffle aroma transfer kinetics to food matrices**

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11 **Keywords:** *Tuber melanosporum*, aromatization, aromatic compounds, olfactometry.

12

13 **Abbreviations:** GC-O, chromatography-olfactometry, SPME-GC-MS, solid phase  
14 microextraction gas chromatography mass spectrometry

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20 **Abstract**

21 Nowadays black truffles are so highly valued that truffled products are available in  
22 supermarkets whereas fresh truffle is mainly used in the restaurants. It is known that  
23 truffle aroma can change because heat treatments, but there is no scientific evidence about  
24 what molecules are transferred, in which concentration, and how much time is needed to  
25 aromatize products with truffle. In this study, four different fat-based food products (milk,  
26 sunflower oil, grapeseed oil and egg's yolk), were used to study black truffle (*Tuber*  
27 *melanosporum*) aroma transference for 14 days. Gas chromatography and olfactometry  
28 results showed different volatile organic compounds profile depending on the matrix  
29 used. After 24 hours, some key truffle aromatic compounds were detected in all the food  
30 matrices. Among them, grape seed oil was the most aromatized product probably because  
31 of its odorless properties. According to our results, dimethyl disulphide, 3-methyl-1-  
32 butanol and 1-octen-3-one odorants showed the highest aromatization power.

## 33 1. Introduction

34 Truffles have a worldwide interest mainly due to their aromatic properties. The number  
35 of products with truffle added has recently increased in supermarkets and restaurants.  
36 Traditionally, it is believed that truffle key aromatic compounds can be retained by fatty  
37 products, such as butter or oil. In fact, some of the truffle aroma compounds show  
38 lipophilic character (Tejedor-Calvo et al., 2021; Tejedor-calvo et al., 2023b; Wernig et  
39 al., 2018). In this regard, the greatest challenge of the food industry is to obtain truffle-  
40 flavored products with real truffles; food preservation technologies dramatically modify  
41 some of the key truffle aromatic compounds (Tejedor-calvo et al., 2023a). To counter the  
42 loss, the food industry usually adds synthetic or natural, but not extracted from truffles,  
43 food flavorings. Hence, 2,4-dithiapentane, or bis(methylthio)methane, is commonly used  
44 as truffle aroma substitute (Campo et al., 2018; Torregiani et al., 2017), but this compound  
45 is only characteristic of white truffle (*Tuber magnatum*). A mix of DMS (dimethyl  
46 sulphide) and 2-methylbutanal tries to mimic the aroma of *T. melanosporum* (Talou,  
47 Delmas, & Gaset, 2011). These chemical additives used as “truffle flavoring” in some  
48 restaurants and truffled products decrease truffles’ prestige and confuse the consumer  
49 (Tejedor-Calvo, et al 2022).

50 More than 200 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been reported from truffles  
51 (Campo et al., 2017; Splivallo, Ottonello, Mello, & Karlovsky, 2011; Tejedor-Calvo et  
52 al., 2021). Nevertheless, the aroma of black truffles is only composed of about 10-20 main  
53 odorants (Culleré, Ferreira, Venturini, Marco, & Blanco, 2013). Dimethyl disulphide  
54 (DMDS), DMS, 2,3-butanodione, ethyl 2-methylbutyrate, ethyl 3-methylbutyrate, 1-  
55 octen-3-one, 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline, acetic acid, methional, (*E, Z*)-2,6-nonadienal, (*E, Z*-  
56 2,4-nonadienal, and 3-ethylphenol are the most relevant (Campo et al., 2017). Because of  
57 these compounds, black truffle aroma can range from mild to intense, and can vary from

58 cheese-like, earthy, garlicky, pungent, vanilla-like, creamy, leathery, dusty, to gasoline  
59 like, among others (Campo et al., 2017; Culleré et al., 2010; Tejedor-Calvo et al., 2021).  
60 The research related with truffle aroma has been mainly focused in quality improvement,  
61 preservation techniques and, more recently, in the factors involved in aroma development  
62 (Choo et al., 2021; Niimi, Deveau, & Splivallo, 2021; Splivallo et al., 2011). Only few  
63 articles describe home-made truffled products, in which the products were made adding  
64 truffles (Beara et al., 2021; Wernig et al., 2018; Tejedor-calvo et al., 2023a). A common  
65 technique used in cuisine is aromatization, usually applied with contact and other  
66 techniques such as ultrasounds (Karoui, Wannas, & Marzouk, 2010), but products also  
67 can be aromatized without contact. No information about truffle aroma transfer without  
68 contact to other products is described in the literature. With this study, authors pretend to  
69 understand the truffle aroma transfer to food matrices using a home-made aromatization  
70 method available to scientist aside from cooking field.  
71 Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the black truffle aroma changes during  
72 storage time along with, for the first time, study the aroma transfer to different fat-based  
73 matrices (milk, sunflower oil, grapeseed oil and egg's yolk), in an attempt to identify the  
74 molecules with most aromatizing power as well as select the optimal time to aromatize a  
75 product. For this, two semi- instrumental techniques: solid phase microextraction gas  
76 chromatography mass spectrometry (SPME-GC-MS) and gas chromatography-  
77 olfactometry (GC-O) analysis approach were employed.

78

## 79 **2. Materials and methods**

### 80 *2.1 Truffles and food matrices selection*

81 *Tuber melanosporum* ascocarps were collected at Anento (Zaragoza province, eastern  
82 Spain). The following day, truffles were taxonomically identified by morphological  
83 features (Montecchi & Sarasini, 2000; Rioussset, 2001), selected to avoid those damaged

84 by abiotic or biotic factors and conserved under refrigeration (Rivera et al., 2011b).  
85 Moreover, ripeness of the truffles was individually assessed following Zeppa et al.  
86 (2002).

87 The selected matrices were chosen regarding their fat content since many truffled  
88 products are fat-based products (Tejedor-Calvo, et al 2022). Cow milk, sunflower oil  
89 (SO) and eggs were purchased from local supermarket (EROSKI brand, Zaragoza, Spain).  
90 Grapeseed oil (GO) was purchased from Dietisa company (Barcelona, Spain). According  
91 to labelling, fat content of the selected matrices was 3.6% in milk, 9.5% in eggs, 91% in  
92 sunflower oil and 100% in grapeseed oil.

93

## 94 *2.2 Experimental design*

95 To characterize the transfer kinetics, an experimental approach was adopted using the  
96 matrices (milk, SO, GO and egg yolk), that were tested and compared to truffle. Measures  
97 were taken at nine different time points: day 0 (before the beginning of the experiment)  
98 and days 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 14.

99 Portions of mature truffles were placed in trays up to 100 g per tray along with the fat-  
100 based matrices (200 g of each matrix in a glass box per tray) (Figure S1) and kept  
101 hermetically closed at 4 °C during the experiment. The glass box was previously treated  
102 by sterilization process to avoid microorganism contamination and possible remaining  
103 aromas. In case of the egg yolk experiment, ten fresh eggs were included in the tray in  
104 order to use one egg, as sample, for each day. Also, an absorbing paper sheet was included  
105 and changed every 24 h, to retain humidity and avoid microbiological proliferation on  
106 truffles.

107

## 108 *2.3 Volatile compounds analysis*

### 109 2.3.1 Extraction by SPME

110 The aromatic compounds were extracted by SPME technology (Gómez, Lavega-  
111 gonzález, Tejedor-calvo, Pérez-Clavijo, & Carrasco, 2022). Briefly, a fused silica fiber  
112 coated with a 50/30 mm layer of divinylbenzene/carboxen/polydimethylsiloxane from  
113 Supelco (Barcelona, Spain) was chosen. For sampling, the tray was open, and 2 grams of  
114 truffle material and matrix (from every tray) were placed into a 20 mL glass vial  
115 hermetically closed with a septum. Six replicates of each sample were used to the  
116 following analysis: three for GC-MS and three for GC-O. In the case of egg yolk, egg  
117 white and shell were removed, so the sample for GC-O analysis was taken from yolk part.  
118 In all cases GC-O analyses were carried out immediately after sampling. After the vial  
119 was conditioned at 50 °C for 5 min, the fiber was then exposed to the vial headspace for  
120 30 min.

### 121 2.3.2 GC-MS analysis

122 Two SPME extracts were prepared per sample. The VOCs profile of different truffles  
123 species was analyzed by static GC-MS using a gas chromatograph Agilent 6890N  
124 (Termost, Milan, Italy) coupled with a mass spectrometer detector. This instrument  
125 was equipped with a capillary column HP-5MS (Agilent Technologies, California, USA)  
126 of 30 m, 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25 µm film thickness and a flow of 1 mL/min with helium as a  
127 carrier gas. The oven temperature was 45 °C held for 2 min, then raised at 4 °C/min to  
128 200 °C, and finally to 225 °C at 10 °C/min, and held for 5 min. The MS used the electron  
129 impact mode with an ionization potential of 70 eV and an ion source temperature of 200  
130 °C. The interface temperature was 220 °C. The MS scanning was recorded in full scan  
131 mode (35–250 m/z). A TurboMass software was used for controlling the GC-MS system.  
132 Peak identification of the VOCs was achieved by comparison of the mass spectra with  
133 the NIST MS Search Program 2.0 library mass spectral data, and by comparison of

134 previously reported Retention Index (RI) with those calculated using an n-alkane series  
135 (C6–C20) under the same analysis conditions. The n-alkanes series and standards for MS  
136 identification (all standards of purity higher than 95%) were purchased from Sigma-  
137 Aldrich (Madrid, Spain). The semiquantification was done by integrating the area of one  
138 ion characteristic of each compound and normalization by calculating the relative  
139 percentage. This allowed the comparison of each eluted compound between samples.

### 140 2.3.3 GC-O analysis

141 A total of three SPME extracts were prepared per sample, one per GC-O judge. The  
142 judges who performed the sniffing analysis (three women from 26 to 31 years of age)  
143 have long experience in olfactometry. Previously, standard compounds from truffles,  
144 marked as <sup>a</sup> in Table 1, were used for the judges training.

145 The GC-O analysis was carried out in a gas chromatograph HP 4890 (Termostet, Milan,  
146 Italy) with a flame ionization detector (FID) and an olfactometric port ODO-I supplied  
147 by SGE (Ringwood, Australia). This instrument was equipped with a capillary column  
148 DB-WAX (polyethylene glycol) supplied by J&W Scientific (Folsom, CA) of 30 m, 0.32  
149 mm i.d., 0.5 µm film thickness, and a precolumn (3 m; 0.32 mm i.d.) from Supelco  
150 (Bellefonte, PA). The chromatographic conditions were nitrogen as gas carrier (3.5  
151 mL/min); splitless injection (splitless time: 60 s); injector and detector (temperature: 220  
152 °C). The oven temperature program was: 40 °C for 5 min, then raised at 6 °C/min to 220  
153 °C, maintained during 15 min for cleaning purposes.

154 The data obtained was a mixture of the intensity and the frequency of the odorants  
155 detected/identified (Campo et al., 2017). This parameter is known as “modified  
156 frequency” (MF) and is calculated by the following formula  $MF (\%) = [F (\%) * I (\%)]^{1/2}$ ,  
157 where F (%) is the detection frequency of an aromatic odorant expressed as the percentage  
158 of the total number of judges, and I (%) is the average intensity expressed as the

159 percentage of the maximum intensity. The odorants were identified by comparison of  
160 their odors and chromatographic retention index in a DB-WAX column with those of pure  
161 reference compounds, when available. Additionally, the identity of compounds was  
162 checked by comparing the sequence of LRI with that of other published databases. The  
163 n-alkanes series and standards for MS identification (all standards of purity higher than  
164 95%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Madrid, Spain).

#### 165 *2.4. Statistical analysis*

166 The MF values for the odorants in the samples were analyzed with principal component  
167 analysis (PCA) performed using R version 3.6.1 (RStudio Team, 2019) and the factoextra  
168 package (Kassambara & Mundt, 2017). One PCA was built to analyze all the samples  
169 together and then other PCAs for each of the matrices to gain insight in their specific time  
170 patterns. PERMANOVA and PERMDISP analysis were also used to analyze all the  
171 samples together and assess the differences of position and dispersion in the PCA among  
172 the various matrices, using the R package vegan (Oksanen et al., 2020).

173

### 174 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 175 *3.1 Aromatic profile of truffle and matrices by SPME-GC-MS*

176 A total of eighty-eight compounds were identified with SPME-GC-MS throughout the  
177 study (Table 1 and Figure 1). All of them were found alternately in truffles and the food  
178 matrices, except hexane that was exclusive from the matrices. At day 0, before the  
179 aromatization process, the food matrices did not contain as many VOCs numbers as  
180 truffle: 65 compounds in truffles, 35 in each oils, 20 in milk and 10 in egg yolk. In truffle  
181 samples, three alcohols (2-methyl-1-propanol, methyl-1-butanol and 2-methyl-1-butanol)  
182 and two aldehydes (3-methyl-butanal and 2-methyl-butanal) were reported in truffles (day  
183 0) as highest relative percentage. Those and other aromatic compounds (dimethyl



184 sulphide, 2-butanone) are known as key truffle compounds (Campo et al., 2017; Culleré  
185 et al., 2013; Tejedor-Calvo et al., 2021). Methylene chloride was common in all the food  
186 matrices, but some acids were only found in grapeseed oil (acetic acid) and sunflower oil  
187 (hexanoic acid and butyric acid) whereas others (tetradecanoic, pentadecanoic,  
188 hexadecenoic and octadecanoic acids) had higher levels in milk and yolk samples in  
189 comparison with the two oils studied.

190 Truffle aroma is in constantly change since many factors are involved, e.g. respiratory  
191 rate, preservation technique, storage time, microbiological composition (Choo et al.,  
192 2021; Niimi et al., 2021; Savini et al., 2020; Vahdatzadeh, Deveau, & Splivallo, 2019),  
193 so is difficult the establish the maximum days of use. In this study, some changes were  
194 observed in truffle aroma during storage time (Table 2): an increasing of several  
195 compounds such as 2-methyl-1-propanol, hexanal, ethyl-2-methylbutanoate, anisole, 3-  
196 methyl-acid butanoic, and 2-methyl-butanoic acid; and a decreasing of 3-methyl-1-  
197 butanol and 2-methyl-1-butanol. However, butanal-3-methyl and butanal-3-methyl  
198 maintained their similar values during storage time. These results indicate clear  
199 compounds levels changes that could potentially have a large impact on the overall  
200 perceived aroma character of the truffles. In agreement with that, Niimi et al. (2021)  
201 indicated that some molecules did not change in their amounts as a function of storage  
202 time. They explained that could be done because the compounds were not metabolised  
203 by any of the bacterial species detected or due to a continuous production over time.  
204 Freshness volatile markers were identified in *T. aestivum* samples (days 3, 6, and 9),  
205 including DMS, 2-butanone, ethyl acetate and 2,3-pentadione. By contrast, spoilage  
206 markers comprised for instance 2-phenylacetaldehyde, 2 and 3-methyl-1-butanol along  
207 with butanoic acid and ethyl butanoate (Vahdatzadeh et al., 2019). Our results obtained

208 agreed with some of them (DMS, 2-butanone), but others such as 2- and 3-methyl-1-  
209 butanol did not probably because those results were obtained from summer truffle.

210 After the aromatization process, many key truffle VOCs were retained into the food  
211 matrices (Figure 1). Some of their values increased (*e.g.* 2-methyl-1-butanol) by days  
212 while others decreased (*e.g.* dimethyl sulphide, 2-butanone). Certain molecules, as 3-  
213 methyl-1-butanol, showed different behaviours during aromatization process depending  
214 on the food matrix. Indeed after 24 hours, key truffle compounds showed higher levels in  
215 milk, followed by both oils and yolk. According to several reports, oil, protein and  
216 polysaccharides as well as their combinations in emulsions can retain different type of  
217 molecules (E. Guichard, 2002; Elisabeth Guichard, 2006; Mao, Roos, Biliaderis, & Miao,  
218 2017). In this study, milk and yolk are a more complex mix of proteins, lipids and  
219 carbohydrates than the two oils. Regarding our results, same VOCs pattern was observed  
220 in both vegetable oils probably since they have similar composition (fatty acids profile  
221 and sterols composition). Wernig et al. (2018) prepared home-made truffle-flavored oils  
222 (50,100 and 200 mg/mL of *T. magnatum*) and it was observed higher levels of some  
223 aldehydes (3-methylbutanal, 2-methylbutanal, 2-pentenal), ketones (2-butanone and 3-  
224 pentanone), and sulfur compounds (DMS and 2,4-dithiapentane), similar compounds as  
225 in our results.

226 Some of the identified key black truffle VOCs (2-methyl-propanal, hexanal, ethyl 2-  
227 methylbutanoate, ethyl 3-methylbutanoate, heptanal) revealed low levels or absence in  
228 the matrices for the first days. The reason might be due to molecules mass, volatile  
229 capacity, hydrophobicity, or lipophilic characteristics, among other reasons (E. Guichard,  
230 2002; Elisabeth Guichard, 2006; Mao et al., 2017). So, depending on the target molecules,  
231 aromatization process could improve by modifying some parameters (*i.e.* temperature,  
232 forced air, close system) in order to trap other molecules.

233 Although truffle is an aromatic product containing more than 200 VOCs, only some of  
234 them have odoriferous properties. To detect them is needed a complementary technique,  
235 as olfactometry. SPME-GC-MS and -GC-O are complementary techniques very useful to  
236 identify the aroma profile. The first is an instrumental technique that reports objectively  
237 the VOCs compounds or aromatic profile, whereas the second, a semi-instrumental  
238 technique, determined those volatile compounds that humans can detect or hedonic  
239 profile.

240

### 241 *3.2 Hedonic profile of truffles and changes during storage time by SPME-GC-O*

242 In order to determine the matrix with more trapping power, a deeply investigation and  
243 analysis through aromatic compounds have been carried out using SPME-GC-O. Thirty-  
244 six odor compounds were detected and identified in the GC-O study; those with MF  
245 values lower than 20 were directly discarded from the analysis (Table 2, Table S1). Fresh  
246 truffle was composed by 28 odor compounds (day 0). Among them, DMS (truffle), 3-  
247 methyl-butanal (rancid), ethyl 2-methylbutanoate (strawberry) and 3-methyl-1-butanol  
248 (malty) ranged above 80% MF. Other key compounds, such as 2,3-butanodione (buttery),  
249 1-hexen-3-one (metallic), 1-octen-3-one (mushroom-like), 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline (toasted  
250 almond) and methional (baked potato) (Campo et al., 2018; Campo et al., 2017; Culleré  
251 et al., 2013) were detected with high MF values, but lower than 80%.

252 Some of these aromatic compounds maintained their initial high MF values during the  
253 storage time (*e.g.* DMS, 3-methyl-butanal and 3-methyl-1-butanol) whereas others, with  
254 lower initial MF value, increased their values above 90 % (*e.g.* methyl 2-methylbutanoate,  
255 1-octen-3-one, acetic acid and non-identified compound 8 - sweaty). Three compounds  
256 with pungent/almond-like (pentanal), yeast-like (non-identified 3) and citric (non-  
257 identified 4) attributes disappeared the third storage day. These aromatic changes during

258 storage time might be due to various reasons. One of them is associated with senescence,  
259 due to a development of mycelial growth on the surface, followed by a superficial  
260 degradation and therefore a firmness loss (Benucci & Bonito, 2016; Culleré, Ferreira,  
261 Venturini, Marco, & Blanco, 2012). Ketones and methional are the odorant markers of  
262 the freezing process in black truffles (Culleré et al., 2010), but also a reduction of 2,3-  
263 butanedione and ethyl esters compounds and encouraged a powerful geranium odor (Z-  
264 1,5-octadien-3-one) (Campo et al., 2017).

265 Our results indicate that freezing process was not applied since Z-1,5-octadien-3-one was  
266 not detected, however low temperatures (4°C) might have affected truffle aroma to a  
267 lesser extent.

268

### 269 *3.3 Hedonic profile of food matrices and changes during storage time by SPME-GC-O*

270 In comparison with truffle, the selected matrices contained less compounds compared  
271 with GC-MS, only 1 to 5 odor compounds (day 0) (Table S1). Before the aromatization  
272 process, milk was characterized by truffle (DMS), metallic (1-hexen-3-one), green (1-  
273 butanol), sweaty (non-identified compound 8) and caramel-like (furanol) odors, but all  
274 of them with values less than 51% MF. SO matrix was characterized by yeast-like (non-  
275 identified compound 3), metallic (1-hexen-3one), baked potato (methional) and cheese  
276 (3-methylbutanoic acid) aromatic attributes, but their MF levels were lower than in the  
277 truffle sample. However, in GO sample only mushroom-like odor (1-octen-3-one) was  
278 detected (20% MF), indicating that was the odorless matrix. Egg yolk revealed malty (3-  
279 methyl-1-butanol) and toasted almond (2-acetyl tetrahydropyridine) attributes with low  
280 MF levels compared to the truffle sample.

281 The milk matrix retained from the first day truffle (DMDS), buttery (2,3-pentanodione),  
282 malty (3-methyl-1-butanol) and mushroom-like (1-octen-3-one) attributes. All these

283 molecules/odorants maintained high MF values throughout the experiment. Other odors  
284 such as rancid (3-methyl-butanal), apple-like (methyl 2-methylbutanoate), strawberry  
285 (ethyl-2-methylbutanoate), fish (Z-4-heptenal), roasty (2-acetyl-1-pyrroline) and toasted  
286 almond (3-3-isobutyl-2-methoxypyrazine) were detectable from the third to the tenth day  
287 in milk samples. In total, milk was able to trap from 8 to 14 odor compounds, depending  
288 on the time exposure to truffle. Similarly, GO retained from 5 to 12 compounds. Among  
289 them, truffle (non-identified compound 2 and DMDS), rancid (3-methyl-1-butanal) and  
290 malty (3-methyl-1-butanol) aromas were trapped from the first day of exposure. From the  
291 third day, eight compounds were trapped in GO matrix. Conversely, SO and yolk showed  
292 low trapping power detecting only 9 and 6 compounds, respectively, throughout the  
293 experiment. Truffle (non-identified compound 2 and DMDS), butter (2,3-pentanedione),  
294 strawberry (ethyl 2-methylbutanoate) and malty (3-methyl-1-butanol) were detected  
295 before the third day in SO, whereas only yeast-like (non-identified compound 3) and  
296 vinegar (acetic acid) were noticed in yolk. In general, truffle, malty, buttery and  
297 mushroom like aromatic attributes corresponding to DMDS, 3-methyl-1-butanol, 2,3-  
298 pentanedione and 1-octen-3-one, respectively, showed the highest aromatization power in  
299 the food matrices tested.

300 During storage time, the matrices acted as a trap material and several volatiles were  
301 transferred to them. A selection of the four most representative key aromatic compounds  
302 is shown in Figure 2. A continuous increasing of MF values was observed in the non-  
303 identified compound with truffle aroma (Figure 2a) until the fourteen days, except for  
304 milk sample showing no holding capacity. Dimethyl sulfide (truffle) enhanced the highest  
305 MF different day depending on the matrix: day 1 – SO, day 4 – GO and milk, day 5 - yolk  
306 (Figure 2b). On the contrary, 3-methyl-1-butanol (malty) MF levels were similar within

307 the first three days in all matrices (Figure 2c). Only grapeseed oil and milk matrices  
308 displayed 1-octen-3-ol (mushroom) in the first four days.

309 During the aromatization process, volatile compounds can be trapped differently  
310 depending on the matrix composition. The aroma interactions with non-volatile  
311 macromolecules such as sugars, proteins and lipids have been thoroughly reviewed  
312 (Karoui et al., 2010; van Ruth, Frasnelli, & Carbonell, 2008). Many studies have been  
313 done on the protein–flavour interactions, showing hydrophobic binding of most volatile  
314 compounds tested (ketones, alcohols, aldehydes, terpenes) with proteins such as bovine  
315 serum albumin and  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin, for instance (Elisabeth Guichard, 2006). That means  
316 that milk could be a potential trap material due to its composition, which agrees with our  
317 results since milk trapped more molecules than the remaining matrices tested. The aroma  
318 trapping in the rest of the matrices, as they are mainly fat-based (oils and yolk), might be  
319 due to an interaction with other fat-based or hydrophilic compound since the protein  
320 content is low or null. According to that, Druaux et al., (1998) studied the transfer rate of  
321 volatiles at the liquid-water interface, reporting that it mainly depended on the  
322 hydrophobicity of the aromatic compounds.

323 It was expected to obtain similar results by both methodologies: GC-O and -MS. Some  
324 of the key truffle compounds (DMS, 3-methyl-1-butanol, 3-methyl-butanal) reported high  
325 levels in both techniques, indicating high levels as well as strong odor. However, others  
326 such as 1-octen-3-ol or ethyl 2-methylbutanoate despite their strong aroma (MF %)   
327 showed low ratio with GC-MS technique. This might be due to these molecules are easily  
328 detectable by human nose because its aromatic potential, even at low doses. Therefore,  
329 olfactometry is a powerful and necessary technique when aromatic compounds are the  
330 target compounds.

331 A PCA was used to explore the possible correlations of the truffle aroma detected by CG-  
332 O and the truffled matrices odor throughout storage (Figure 3). The PCA analysis  
333 explained 50.5 % of the data variability with the two first PCA components. The first  
334 component allowed to clearly separate the aroma profile of truffles from all the matrices,  
335 with the former being characterized by a higher contribution of many compounds to the  
336 olfactometric profile (e. g. DMS, 3-methyl-butanal, 2-methylbutanoate, 2-acetyl-  
337 pyroline, 3-isobutyl-2-methoxypyrazine), thus indicating a much more complex aroma  
338 (Figure 3). This shows that the aromatic compounds were far from being completely  
339 transferred to any of the matrices. It may be interesting to test other techniques such as  
340 heat or ultrasound to increase the odor transference.

341 The second PCA component clearly separated truffles of early days (days 0-4) from those  
342 of late days (days 5-14). Early days were associated to relatively higher MF values of  
343 ethyl 2-methylbutanoate (strawberry), 1-hexanol (green, flowery), methional (baked  
344 potato), 3-2-acetyl tetrahydropyridine (toasted almond), 2-methylbutanoic acid (cheese)  
345 and (*E, E*)- 2,4-nonadienal (rancid), whereas late days were associated to 3-methyl-  
346 butanal (rancid), methyl 2-methylbutanoate (apple-like), 3-methylbutyl acetate (banana-  
347 like), 3-methyl-1-butanol (malty), 2-acetyl-1-pyroline (toasted almond), 3-isobutyl-2-  
348 methoxypyrazine (bell pepper), acetic acid (vinegar), 1-octen-3-ol (mushroom) and non-  
349 identified compound 9 (rancid). The same pattern was also observed for the matrices,  
350 although much less markedly. Some of the rancid, toasted almond and mushroom  
351 attributes were associated with compounds found in truffle spoilage (Rivera et al., 2011a).

352 PERMANOVA analysis was performed on this data, showing a significant effect of  
353 matrix ( $F = 11.9$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.52$ ) and exposure time ( $F = 4.7$ ,  $P = 0.002$ ,  $R^2 = 0.05$ )  
354 on the olfactometric profile. These results confirm that the matrix is the factor which  
355 shows a higher correlation with the variability in the samples, and points that the matrices

356 show either significant differences in the position of their PCA centroids or significant  
357 differences in the dispersion of their corresponding samples (or both of them). The  
358 confidence ellipses for the centroids of each matrix confirm the first scenario, with truffle  
359 being clearly separated from all the matrices, whose centroid clustered relatively close to  
360 each other (Figure S2). To assess the second scenario, a PERMDISP analysis was carried  
361 out, showing a significant effect of the matrix ( $F = 16.1$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ), which indicates that  
362 there were significant differences among matrices regarding the dispersion of their  
363 corresponding samples. The dispersion of the truffle samples was significantly higher  
364 than those of the GO, milk and SO samples, and these showed significantly higher  
365 dispersion than the yolk samples (Figure S2). This dispersion is linked to the changes  
366 throughout storage, thus confirming the lower ability of yolk to trap the truffle volatile  
367 compounds. Normally, yolk is able to trap aromatic compounds and in cuisine truffle  
368 aroma is noticeable when yolk is warm up. For that, further experiments considering  
369 temperature as well as consumers should carry out.

370

### 371 *3.4 Time trends in the odor composition of matrices*

372 In order to evaluate the potential of the matrices to trap truffle aromatic compounds, an  
373 individualized analysis was carried out for each matrix. Thus, a PCA was applied to each  
374 matrix to gain insight into the process of aromatic compounds transfer from truffles  
375 detected by GC-O (Figure 4). With these results, authors pretend to select the best matrix  
376 to trap the truffle aroma.

377 The PCA analysis of the different matrices explained from 56.9 to 67.5% of the data  
378 variability with the two first components. In all cases, the first PCA component associated  
379 with the temporal trend of the transfer process (Figure 4, Table S1). In the milk, day 0  
380 was characterized by relatively higher MF values of 1-hexen-3-one; days 1-2 by DMS,



381 ethyl-3-methylbutanoate and furaneol; days 3-4 by 2,3-pentanodione and acetic acid; days  
382 5-7 by 3-methyl-1-butanol and 1-octen-3-one; day 10 by ethyl 2-methylbutanoate, Z-4-  
383 heptenal, and 3-isobutyl-2-methylpirazyne; and day 14 by 3-methylbutyl acetate and 1-  
384 octen-3-ol (Figure 4).

385 The SO showed similar patterns. Day 0 was characterized by 3-methyl-butanoic acid,  
386 whereas days 1-2 by 1-hexen-3-one. Ethyl-3-methyl butanoate and non-identified  
387 compound 3 characterized days 3-4. Day 5 was related with DMS, DMDS, 3-methylbutyl  
388 acetate and 1-octen-3-one (Figure 4). In the yolk, samples from days 0 to 4 were  
389 associated with higher MF values of methional and 3-isobutyl-2-methoxypyrazine,  
390 whereas days 7 and 10 were associated with non-identified compound 2 (truffle odor) and  
391 Z-4-heptenal (Figure 4). Finally, the pattern shown by the GO samples was similar. Odor  
392 intensity was low until day 5, with non-identified compound 1, DMDS and 2,3-  
393 pentanodione as the characteristic compounds. Then, days 7, 10 and 14 were clearly  
394 different and associated with relatively higher MF values of 2-methyl-butanoic acid, 1-  
395 hexanol and methyl 2-methylbutanoate (Figure 4). This matrix showed a high trap  
396 potential from the seventh day, which could be increased adding other techniques:  
397 ultrasounds, aromatization with contact or supercritical fluid extraction (Tejedor-Calvo  
398 et al., 2021), for instance. Also, this matrix is the more odorless among those studied,  
399 therefore the less likely to interfere with the truffle aroma.

400 Generally, until the fourth day similar aromatic compounds were detected, however since  
401 day 5 a profile change was detected mainly due to more trapping compounds. Indeed,  
402 except for grape seed oil days from 1-4 were placed in different position on PCA than 5  
403 onwards. Therefore, four days is recommended as maximum of aromatization process for  
404 milk and yolk because change their profile from fifth day ahead, whereas one more day  
405 can be applied to oils (five days of aromatization process).

406

#### 407 **4. Conclusions**

408 Black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*) aromatic compounds were able to be transferred  
409 passively through air into milk, sunflower oil, grapeseed oil and egg's yolk. Among the  
410 identified VOCs, only 36 of them had odorous properties. After 24 hours of aromatization  
411 process, DMDS, 2,3-pentanedione, 3-methyl-1-butanol and 1-octen-3-one were capture  
412 by all the food matrices. Despite some of the key truffle aromatic compounds were highly  
413 detected at the end of the study (day 14), no more than 4 days is recommended to made  
414 home-made products due to compounds with negative odor attributes are transferred.  
415 Further studies are needed to develop different products with genuine truffle aroma and  
416 avoid the truffle market frauds existing.

417

#### 418 **Acknowledgments**

419 This research was supported by Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza (DPZ) in Spain  
420 (project "Mejora de la Eficiencia de la Producción y la Innovación Agroalimentaria de la  
421 Trufa en la Provincia de Zaragoza") and Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural  
422 2014-2022 (FEADER) in Spain (project "Organización, valorización y promoción de la  
423 Trufa Negra de Aragón").

424

#### 425 **CRedit author statement**

426 **Eva Tejedor-Calvo:** Conceptualization, Data curation, Investigation, Methodology,  
427 Software, Writing - original draft. **Sergi García-Barreda:** Methodology, Software,  
428 Writing - review & editing. **María Ángeles Sanz:** Formal analysis, Methodology. **Ana**  
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431 administration, Writing - review & editing.  
432  
433 **Conclit of interest**  
434 None

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553



## 554 TABLES

555 **Table 1.** List of VOCs identified by SMPE-GC-MS in truffles samples and food matrices.

556 Values are given in relative percentage.

Number	RT (min)	Identity	CAS number	RI <sub>exp</sub>	RI <sub>lit</sub>	Mass ( <i>m/z</i> )		
1	1.33	Ethanol	64-17-5	<500	427	45	46	43
2	1.37	2-propanone	67-64-1	<500	500	43	58	42
3	1.47	Dimethyl sulphide	75-18-3	521	521	62	61	47
4	1.50	Methylene chloride	75-09-2	532	531	49	86	84
5	1.56	1-propanol	71-23-8	555	548	31	29	42
6	1.57	Propanal-2-methyl	78-84-2	558	560	43	72	41
7	1.62	2,3-butanedione	431-03-8	577	587	43	87	86
8	1.64	Isopropyl formate	625-55-8	582	-	45	73	42
9	1.67	Butanal	123-72-8	595	598	44	72	57
10	1.68	3-methyl-2-butanone	563-80-4	597	-	43	86	41
11	1.69	Acetic acid	64-19-7	600	602	43	60	45
12	1.71	2-butanone	78-93-3	603	602	43	72	57
13	1.72	Hexane	110-54-3	604	-	57	86	56
14	1.77	Ethyl acetate	141-78-6	609	607	43	80	70
15	1.87	2-methyl-1-propanol	78-83-1	622	626	43	42	41
16	1.90	Acetaldehyde	75-07-0	624	-	44	43	42
17	2.08	Butanal-3-methyl	590-86-3	645	646	44	71	58
18	2.10	Butanol	71-36-3	648	656	56	55	43
19	2.12	Butanal-2-methyl	96-17-3	653	653	57	86	58
20	2.22	2-propanone-1-hydroxy	116-09-6	662	-	43	74	42
21	2.23	1-penten-3ol	616-25-1	663	680	57	58	55
22	2.31	Metylpropylformate	589-40-2	672	-	45	73	59
23	2.37	2-pentanone	107-87-9	679	687	43	86	71
24	2.45	2,3-pentadione	600-14-6	689	696	43	100	57
25	2.47	Pentanal	110-62-3	691	704	44	58	57
26	2.48	2-pentanol	6032-29-7	692	700	45	73	55
27	2.61	2-butanone,3-hidroxy	513-86-0	704	707	45	88	55
28	2.96	3-methyl-1-butanol	123-51-3	723	737	55	70	57
29	3.04	2-methyl-1-butanol	137-32-6	728	743	57	70	56
30	3.10	Dimethyl disulphide	624-92-0	731	733	94	79	61
31	3.18	2-methyl-Pentanal	123-15-9	735	-	43	58	41
32	3.43	Propanoic-ac-2methyl-ester	97-62-1	775	760	43	29	71
33	3.74	Isobutylacetate	110-19-0	783	770	43	56	41
34	3.99	Propanoic-ac-2methyl	79-31-2	735	753	43	88	73
35	4.10	1,3-butanediol	107-88-0	787	785	43	28	57
36	4.34	Octane	111-65-9	800	800	43	85	71
37	4.38	Hexanal	66-25-1	802	801	44	57	56
38	4.44	Ethylbutanoate	105-54-4	803	803	71	43	29
39	5.39	Furfural	98-01-1	830	830	96	95	67
40	5.64	2-methylthio-ethanol	5271-38-5	873	-	61	92	47
41	6.09	Ethyl 2-methylbutanoate	7452-79-1	849	853	102	85	74
42	6.21	Ethyl 1-3-methylbutanoate	108-64-5	853	851	88	85	60
43	6.39	4-pentenal	2100-17-6	858	-	55	29	41
44	6.75	Hexanol	111-27-3	868	867	56	69	55
45	7.16	2-methyl-butyl-acetate	624-41-9	880	880	43	70	55
46	7.57	2-heptanone	110-43-0	890	889	43	71	59
47	7.94	Heptanal	111-71-7	902	894	70	57	55
48	8.11	Methional	3268-49-3	906	908	48	104	47

49	8.48	Anisol	100-66-3	916	918	108	93	78
50	8.55	Isobutyl isobutyrate	97-85-8	917	914	71	89	57
51	8.80	Dimethyl-sulfone	67-71-0	924	924	79	15	94
52	10.09	Isobutyl butyrate	539-90-2	957	961	71	56	43
53	10.10	Benzaldehyde	100-52-7	957	961	77	106	105
54	10.62	1-heptanol	111-70-6	971	967	70	69	56
55	10.97	1-octen-3-ol	3391-86-4	980	978	57	72	55
56	11.24	3-octanone	106-68-3	987	988	43	57	29
57	11.49	2-octen-4-ona	4643-27-0	993	-	69	41	84
58	11.56	3-octanol	589-98-0	995	994	59	101	83
59	11.76	Hexanoic acid, ethyl ester	123-66-0	1000	998	88	29	27
60	11.80	Butyric acid	2445-67-2	1002	1002	57	85	103
61	11.82	Octanal	124-13-0	1002	1003	43	84	56
62	12.02	3-methyl-acid butanoic	589-59-3	1003	1004	85	57	41
63	12.38	3-methylanisol	100-84-5	1018	1028	122	107	92
64	13.28	Benzeneacetaldehyde	122-78-1	1043	1047	91	120	92
65	13.80	E-2-octenal	2548-87-0	1058	1059	41	83	70
66	14.29	1-octanol	111-87-5	1071	1067	56	84	70
67	14.34	Linalool oxide cis	60047-17-8	1073	1074	59	94	93
68	14.50	3-methyl-phenol	108-39-4	1088	1083	118	107	79
69	14.89	Linalool oxide trans	34995-77-2	1088	1090	59	94	55
70	15.03	2-nonanone	821-55-6	1091	1090	43	58	41
71	15.33	Isoamyl-2methylbutyrate	27625-35-0	1101	1103	70	103	85
72	15.42	Nonanal	124-19-6	1103	1106	57	98	70
73	15.45	2-methyl-butanoic acid	2445-78-5	1104	1105	70	57	85
74	15.72	Benzeneethanol	60-12-8	1113	1113	91	122	65
75	16.88	Benzene, 1,2-dimethoxy-	91-16-7	1147	-	138	95	77
76	17.51	Benzene, 1,3-dimethoxy-	151-10-0	1167	-	138	109	95
77	18.52	Ethyl caprylate	106-32-1	1198	1196	88	101	57
78	18.99	2,4-nonadienal	5910-87-2	1213	1214	81	41	67
79	19.79	3,2dimethoxytoluene	4463-33-6	1240	-	57	41	29
80	20.11	2,5-dimethoxytoluene	24599-58-4	1250	-	137	152	109
81	21.41	2-undecanone	112-12-9	1293	1296	68	43	59
82	22.01	Benzene, 1,2,3-trimethoxy	634-36-6	1314	1315	168	153	110
83	28.57	Dodecanoic acid	143-07-7	1560	1557	73	60	41
84	33.26	Tetradecanoic acid	554-63-8	1754	1763	73	60	55
85	35.46	Pentadecanoic acid	1002-84-2	1859	1857	73	43	60
86	37.56	Hexadecanoic acid	57-10-3	1960	1960	43	73	60
87	41.46	Octadecanoic acid	57-11-4	2150	2159	43	73	129

557 RT= retention time

558 RI<sub>exp</sub> = Retention Index experimental.

559 RI<sub>lit</sub> = Retention Index Literature database NIST

560 **Table 2.** List of odor compounds obtained by GC-O analysis: retention time (RT),  
 561 chemical identity, CAS number, odor descriptor and linear retention index (LRI).

Number	RT (min)	Identity	CAS number	Odor descriptor	LRI BD-WAX
1	2.83	ni- 1	-	Green	-
2	3.12	ni- 2	-	Truffle	-
3	3.53	Dimethyl sulphide-(DMS) <sup>a</sup>	78-18-3	Truffle	<900
4	5.59	Dimethyl disulphide <sup>a</sup>	624-92-0	Black olives, truffle	915
5	6.04	3-methyl-butanal <sup>a</sup>	96-17-3	Rancid	967
6	6.36	Pentanal <sup>b</sup>	110-62-3	Pungent, almond-like	972
7	8.16	2,3-pentanodione <sup>a</sup>	431-03-8	Buttery	990
8	9.26	Methyl 2-methylbutanoate <sup>b</sup>	868-57-5	Apple-like	1003
9	10.09	ni- 3	-	Yeast-like	-
10	10.38	Ethyl 2-methylbutanoate <sup>a</sup>	7452-79-1	Strawberry	1052
11	11.12	Ethyl 3-methylbutanoate <sup>a</sup>	108-64-5	Strawberry, pineapple	1066
12	11.46	1-hexen-3-one <sup>b</sup>	1629-60-3	Metallic	1085
13	12.51	3-methylbutyl acetate <sup>b</sup>	123-92-2	Banana-like	1117
14	13.48	1-butanol <sup>b</sup>	71-36-3	Green	1150
15	16.1	3-methyl-1-butanol <sup>b</sup>	123-51-3	Malty	1213
16	17.23	Z-4-heptenal <sup>a</sup>	6728-31-0	Fish	1255
17	19.04	ni- 4	-	Citric	-
18	19.29	1-octen-3-one <sup>a</sup>	4312-99-6	Mushroom-like, metallic	1315
19	20.04	1-hexanol <sup>b</sup>	111-27-3	Green, flowery	1334
20	20.45	2-acetyl-1-pyrroline <sup>a</sup>	99583-29-6	Toasted almond	1356
21	21.54	Z-1,5-octadien-3-one <sup>b</sup>	928-96-1	Geranium	1394
22	22.33	2-propanoyl-1-pyrroline <sup>b</sup>	133447-37-7	Roasty	1415
23	23.08	ni- 5	-	Dairy	-
24	23.32	3-Isobutyl-2-methoxypyrazine <sup>a</sup>	24683-00-9	Bell pepper	1439
25	23.40	ni- 6	-	Truffle	-
26	24.04	Acetic acid <sup>a</sup>	64-19-7	Vinegar	1463
27	24.27	Methional <sup>a</sup>	3268-49-3	Baked potato	1482
28	25.25	1-octen-3-ol <sup>a</sup>	3391-86-4	Mushroom	1516
29	26.42	2-Acetyl tetrahydropyridine <sup>b</sup>	27300-27-2	Toasted almond	1563
30	28.19	ni- 7	-	Earthy	-
31	29.38	ni- 8	-	Sweaty	-
32	30.37	2-methylbutanoic acid <sup>b</sup>	116-53-0	Cheese	1709
33	31.02	ni- 9	-	Rancid	-
34	31.57	3-methylbutanoic acid <sup>b</sup>	503-74-2	Cheese	1784
35	34.59	(E, E)- 2,4-nonadienal <sup>a</sup>	5910-87-2	Rancid	1895
36	42.58	furaneol <sup>a</sup>	3658-77-3	Caramel-like	2077

562 ni= not identified

563 <sup>a</sup> Identification based on coincidence of gas chromatographic retention with those of the  
 564 pure compounds available in the laboratory.

565 <sup>b</sup> Tentative identification based on comparison with LRI databases published in the  
 566 literature

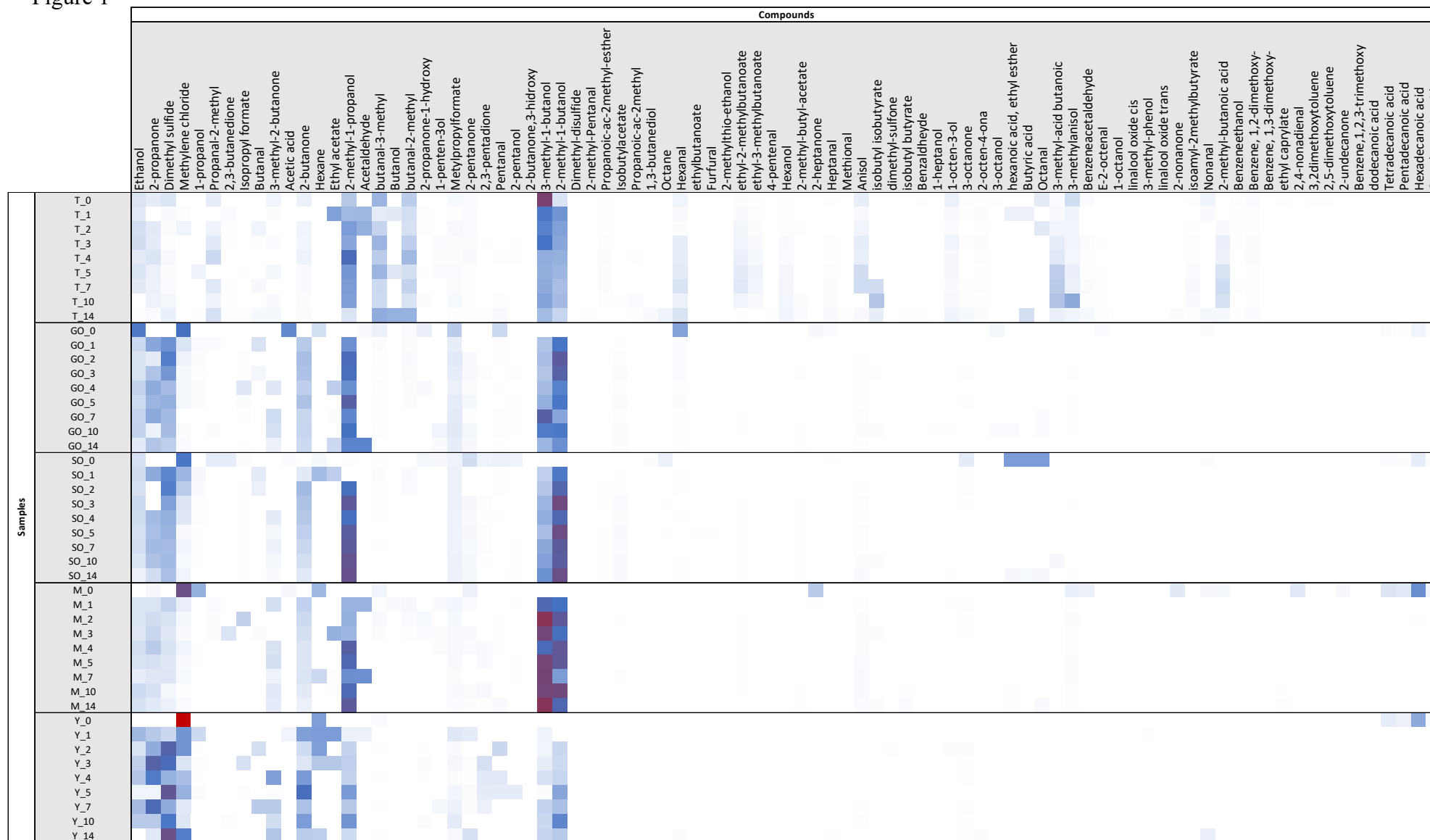
567 **Figures**

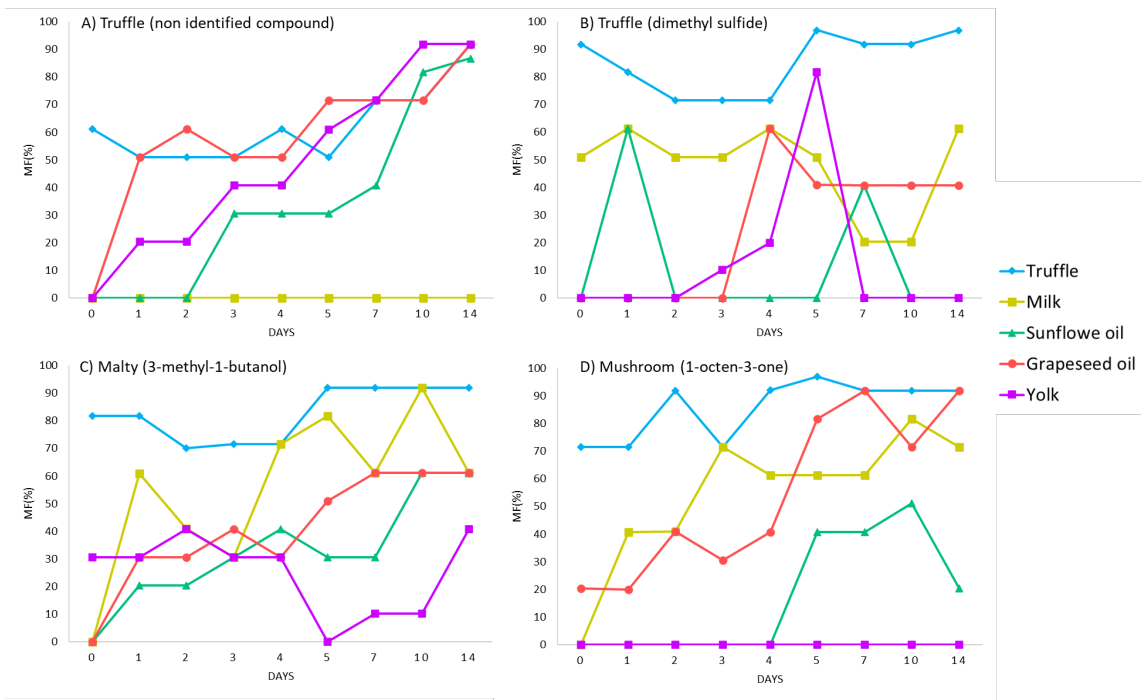
568 **Figure 1.** Heat map of VOCs detected by GC-O in truffle (T) and food matrices: milk  
569 (M), sunflower oil (SO), grapeseed oil (GO) and egg yolk (Y) during 14 days. Colors  
570 ranged from white (0%), blue (from 10%), red (up to 40%).

571 **Figure 2.** Evolution of four odorous compounds detected by SMPE-GC-O in truffle and  
572 food matrices during storage period (14 days). Compounds correspond to number 2(A),  
573 3(B), 15(C) and 18 (D) listed in Table 2. The rest of compound values are shown in Table  
574 S1 in supplementary material

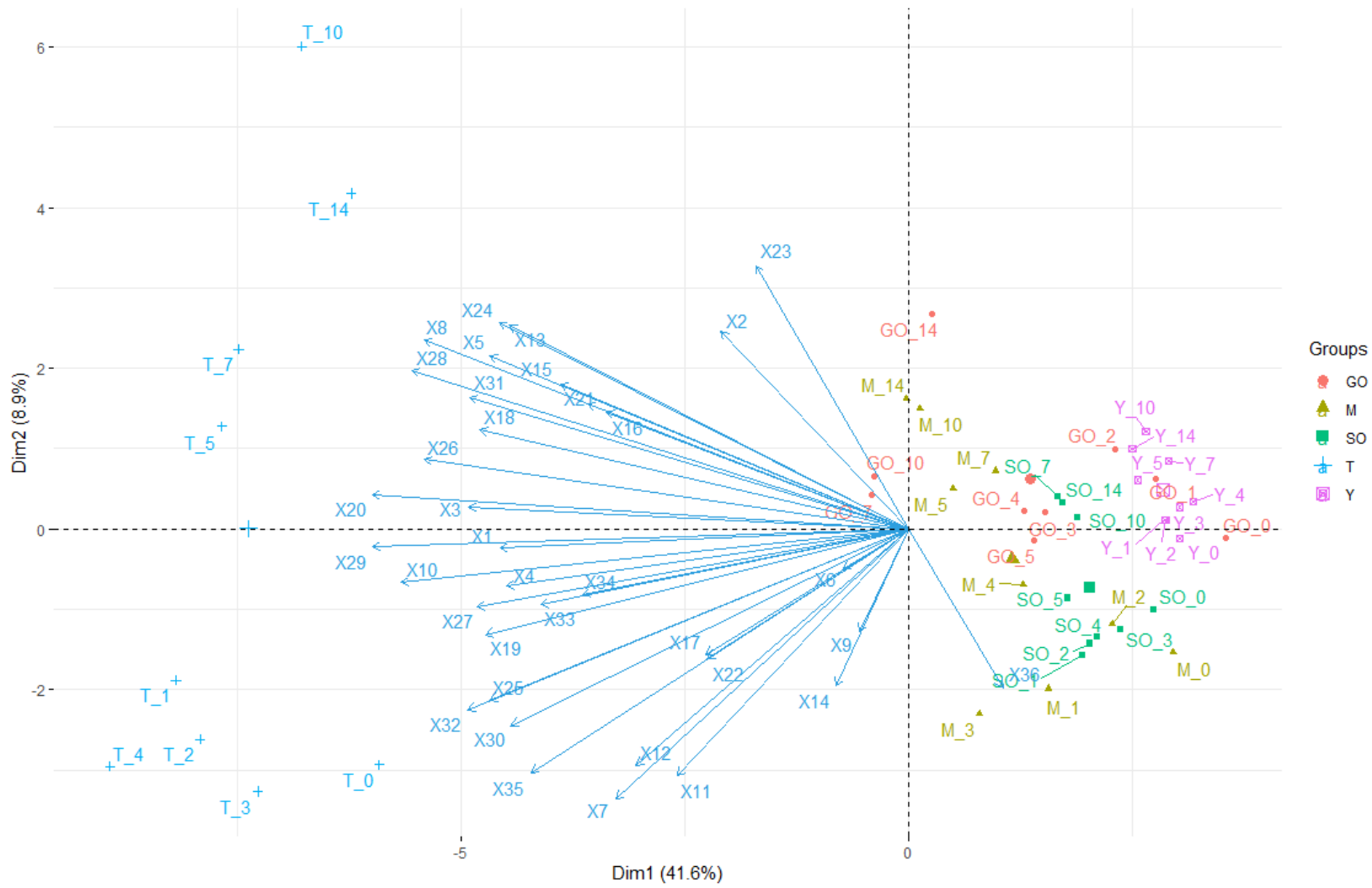
575 **Figure 3.** PCA plot corresponding to odorous attributes detected by CG-O. Odor  
576 descriptors were those listed in Table 2. Arrow color indicates the contribution of a  
577 compound to the PCA components (contrib) and sample color indicates the quality of  
578 representation for the sample (cos2).

579 **Figure 4.** PCA plot corresponding to odorous attributes detected by CG-O in different  
580 matrices. Odor descriptors were those listed in Table 2. Arrow color indicates the  
581 contribution of a compound to the PCA components (contrib) and sample color indicates  
582 the quality of representation for the sample (cos2).





586 Figure 3



587

Figure 4

