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1 Selection footprints in barley breeding lines detected by  
2 combining genotyping-by-sequencing with reference genome  
3 information

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29 **Abstract:** This study is a retrospective analysis of an elite cross from the Spanish National  
30 Barley Breeding Program. This was the most successful cross produced in the breeding  
31 program in the past 20 years. The progeny from this cross has been investigated at two points  
32 in the program, before and after selection, through the analysis of allelic frequencies at a  
33 number of genetic loci with molecular markers. Shifts in allelic frequencies after selection  
34 allowed the identification of genomic regions with selection footprints likely due to the  
35 breeding process. The cross was replicated in three different years and, therefore, the three  
36 progenies represent different selection histories but, in all cases, were preferentially selected  
37 compared to the lines from other crosses used in the program. The progenies were sampled at  
38 two generations, before conscious selection (F2) and after 6 generations of selection (F8). The  
39 F2 plants were genotyped with microsatellites, whereas 31 F8 lines were surveyed for SNP and  
40 presence/absence variation polymorphisms using a genotyping-by-sequencing system  
41 (DARTseq). The DARTseq markers were aligned to the barley physical map and, after curation,  
42 over 3000 were still available for the analysis. Overall, 15 genomic regions in the F8 lines had  
43 allele frequencies beyond chosen thresholds, indicating selection, 8 towards parent Orria and 7  
44 towards Plaisant. These selection footprints partially validated QTLs detected through classical  
45 linkage mapping in a RIL population of the same cross. These validated selection footprints  
46 convey useful information for barley breeding, either through marker assisted selection or  
47 genomic selection.

48 **Keywords:** Barley, breeding, selection footprint, genotyping-by-sequencing

49

50 **Abbreviations:** GBS, genotyping-by-sequencing; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; PAV,  
51 presence-absence variation; QTL, quantitative trait locus

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55 The use of molecular markers has become an important tool for genetic analysis and crop  
56 improvement (Rae et al. 2007; Varshney et al. 2007b). They are most commonly used for the  
57 exploration of genetic diversity, for the identification of genomic regions influencing traits of  
58 interest and for the selection of desirable phenotypes through the use of populations designed  
59 specifically for that purpose (Stuber et al. 1992; Mather 2002). But molecular markers can also  
60 be used to analyze existing populations and derive conclusions about the selective forces that  
61 shaped their genomes. This approach has been used extensively to analyze natural populations  
62 (Linhart and Grant 1996), but can also be attempted to analyze the outcome of breeding  
63 programs. Selection over generations, either natural or artificial, increases the frequencies of  
64 favourable alleles for the fitness of the organisms and, at the same time, decreases the  
65 frequencies of less favourable alleles, therefore resulting in shifts in allele frequencies at the  
66 population level (Allard 1996; Falconer and Mackay 1996; Danquah and Barrett 2002; Wisser  
67 et al. 2011).

68 Monitoring the evolution of molecular markers' allele frequencies during the selection  
69 process has been proposed as a tool to identify specific regions of the genome related to  
70 trait(s) under selection (Wisser et al. 2008). The increase in frequency of favorable alleles due  
71 to selection is detected as shifts of allelic frequencies from their expected values under a  
72 random or neutral scenario. This approach has been named "selection mapping". Historically,  
73 a number of studies have proven the principle that phenotypic change can be explained by  
74 significant changes in allele frequencies between generations, at loci governing important  
75 characters due to selection. Classical studies of this kind in barley were carried out by Allard  
76 and collaborators (Jain and Allard 1960; Allard and Jain 1962; Allard et al. 1972; Clegg et al.  
77 1972, 1978; Kahler et al. 1975; Allard 1988), but also by Hockett et al. (1983) and Charlesworth  
78 and Charlesworth (1998). In other cereal species, selection mapping has been used as a tool to  
79 monitor recurrent selection, as in oat (De Koeper et al. 2001), and maize (Stuber and Moll  
80 1972; Labate et al. 1999; Coque and Gallais 2006).

81           This study is a retrospective analysis of an elite cross from the Spanish National Barley  
82 Breeding Program. The cross was the most successful cross produced in the breeding program  
83 in the past 20 years. Many progeny were selected in the early generations, resulting in a large  
84 number of advanced lines, some of which were released as cultivars in recent years in Spain. It  
85 is, therefore, a very relevant resource for 6-row barley breeding in Mediterranean  
86 environments. The progeny from this cross was investigated at two points in the program,  
87 before and after conscious selection, through the analysis of allelic frequencies at a number of  
88 genetic loci with molecular markers. The objective of this study is to identify genomic regions  
89 that may represent selection footprints as a consequence of the breeding process, indicating  
90 possible targets for marker assisted selection in this and other crosses where such regions are  
91 segregating. This approach has some similarities with genomic selection (Heffner et al. 2009)  
92 but, rather than building on new phenotyping of a training population, it relies on extensive  
93 past records and materials of a breeding program to derive conclusions about the breeding  
94 value of specific genomic regions. Pozniak et al. (2012) already encouraged the use of breeding  
95 records for this purpose in crop plants.

96

## 97 **Materials and methods**

98 The Spanish breeding program follows a pedigree scheme, in which F1 plants from biparental  
99 crosses are selfed over 9 generations. Samples of the F2 generation from each cross are  
100 distributed across 4 breeding centres (Albacete, Lleida, Valladolid and Zaragoza) and are  
101 selected at each site for 4 generations before selections from each site are amalgamated into a  
102 joint selection scheme from the F6 onwards. At each generation, the progenies are evaluated  
103 for phenotypic traits, and the best are selected and promoted to the next generation, up to  
104 the F10. The cross between cultivars Orria and Plaisant was made three times in the breeding  
105 program, each at a different year, with different direction of crossing: 93Z074 (made in  
106 Zaragoza in 1993, as Plaisant × Orria), 96V738 (made in Valladolid in 1996, as Orria × Plaisant)

107 and 97L058 (made in Lleida in 1997, as Orria × Plaisant). Therefore there is a certain replication  
108 of the selection process, which ensures that line selection is not the result of chance events  
109 occurred at a single year or location. Orria is a six-row winter-sown cultivar with a mild  
110 vernalization requirement; it needs approximately two weeks of cold temperatures for full  
111 induction of heading (Fig. S1) and is very productive across most regions of Spain. Plaisant is  
112 also a six-row cultivar, but it is a typical winter type that needs a considerable vernalization  
113 time to achieve timely induction of flowering (Fig. S1), and it is less productive than Orria.

114 The crosses were sampled at two generations, before conscious selection (F2) and  
115 after 6 cycles of breeders' selection (F8). It is not possible to retain all material from a breeding  
116 program for an indefinite period and thus only two of the original F2 populations (93Z074 and  
117 96V738) could be utilized. Forty-one of the 45 advanced lines that reached the F8 generation  
118 in the breeding program (total number for the three crosses) were also available for analysis.

119 Genomic DNA was extracted, from leaf tissue, using the NucleoSpin Plant II kit  
120 (Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany). SSR genotyping was carried out in denaturing  
121 polyacrylamide gels after silver staining, following the protocol of Bassam et al. (1991). Gene-  
122 specific markers were evaluated in agarose gels, stained with SYBR Safe (Invitrogen, Carlsbad,  
123 USA). A total of 102 plants from the 93Z074 F2 population were harvested for DNA extraction  
124 and marker analysis. Twenty eight polymorphic microsatellite markers (simple sequence  
125 repeats, SSRs), distributed throughout the genome and two markers of flowering time genes,  
126 *VrnH1* and *PpdH1* were chosen to genotype this F2 population. In a second step, 130 plants  
127 from the 96V738 F2 population were analyzed with 11 microsatellite markers and a marker for  
128 the *VrnH1* gene. Previous genotyping had established that Orria and Plaisant both carried the  
129 same winter allele at *VrnH2* (Loscos et al. 2014) and thus full winter habit in this population  
130 was governed by segregation of the parental alleles at just *VrnH1* (details on the control of the  
131 vernalization process by these genes is given in Distelfeld et al. 2009). The F8 lines were  
132 genotyped using different sets of markers: SSRs, SNPs and flowering genes (Table S1). Not all

133 F8 lines could be genotyped with the whole set of markers. There were some gaps due to  
134 different causes. Indeed, 39 lines had been routinely genotyped with 48 random SSR markers  
135 in the framework of the breeding program, 28 of them polymorphic in this cross, and the data  
136 were incorporated to this study. The rest of the markers could only be assayed on lines for  
137 which either DNA or seed was still available in 2012. In addition, markers for 2 flowering genes  
138 relevant for adaptation of barley to Mediterranean regions were genotyped: *VrnH1*  
139 (polymorphism as in Casao et al. 2011), and *PpdH1* (polymorphism as in Turner et al. 2005).

140 In summary, the data for the F8 lines consists of SSRs and flowering time genes  
141 analyzed in the framework of the breeding program, not yet published, and new marker  
142 information generated via a genotyping-by-sequencing approach (GBS, Poland and Rife 2012).  
143 For this purpose, DNA from the set of 31 F8 lines for which residual seed was available was  
144 analyzed with the DArTseq system, provided by the company Diversity Arrays Technology  
145 (Kilian et al. 2012). This system combines complexity reduction methods with Next Generation  
146 Sequencing platforms, targeting primarily genic regions (Carling et al. 2015). It produces two  
147 types of markers, classical SNP and presence/absence variation, also named SilicoDArTs  
148 (<http://www.diversityarrays.com/dart-application-dartseq-data-types>).

149 The distribution of allelic frequencies of single markers at the F2 and the F8 was  
150 examined by testing deviations from Mendelian expectations for a scenario without selection,  
151 using a Chi-squared test, as recommended by Zhan and Xu (2011). The expected frequencies  
152 for this test were calculated using two different approaches: one assumed that the expected  
153 frequencies that would result from unselected F2 plants would follow a 1:1 ratio (i.e., 50% of  
154 alleles from each parent); another took into account that we actually have a measure of actual  
155 allelic frequencies in the F2 plants, which showed some shifts from the 1:1 ratio. So we  
156 decided to take a very conservative stand, and used the most extreme allelic frequency found

157 in the F2s (68:32) as the expected frequency<sup>1</sup> (an approach we will refer to as the worst-case  
158 scenario). For the GBS data, given the high number of markers analyzed, control of the level of  
159 false positives due to multiple testing was achieved by dividing the threshold P-value (0.05) by  
160 the number of effective tests. This number was calculated with the software Keffective  
161 (Moskvina and Schmidt 2008), and resulted in 414 effective tests along the seven  
162 chromosomes.

163 For the SSR and flowering time genes data, multiple testing control was done using a  
164 Bonferroni correction, dividing in each case the threshold P-value of 0.05 by the number of  
165 markers (30 for the F2 cross 93Z074 and the F8 lines, 12 for the F2 cross 96V738).

166 DArTseq generates two types of data: presence/absence markers (PAVs) and SNPs  
167 present in the sequenced fragments. The DArTseq sequences (69 bp each) corresponding to  
168 the PAV/SNP markers were assigned a location in the barley physical map (IBSC 2012), by using  
169 the *Barleymap* pipeline (Cantalapiedra et al. in press, accessible online at  
170 <http://floresta.eead.csic.es/barleymap>), which relies on BLASTN (Altschul et al. 1990) and  
171 GMAP (Wu and Watanabe, 2005) to perform the alignments. Thresholds of 95% query  
172 coverage and 98% alignment identity were imposed to declare positive matches against the  
173 available datasets of the physical map ([ftp://ftpmips.helmholtz-](ftp://ftpmips.helmholtz-muenchen.de/plants/barley/public_data/)  
174 [muenchen.de/plants/barley/public\\_data/](ftp://ftpmips.helmholtz-muenchen.de/plants/barley/public_data/), updated 21-11-2012).

175

## 176 **Results**

177

### 178 Selection history

179 The proportion of lines derived from the three Orria × Plaisant crosses increased  
180 progressively in the breeding program as generations advanced, especially after F6, which

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<sup>1</sup> Actually, we used this frequency and its reciprocal, 32:68 to run two different Chi-squared tests, to allow for drift or selection in both directions. We took the test with the highest P-value of the two to build the final Chi-squared test result for this “worst-case” scenario.



181 corresponds to the stage at which selection began to be concentrated mainly on grain yield. In  
182 the first part of the program, up to F6, the relative frequencies of the lines from crosses  
183 between Orria and Plaisant tripled but, in the second part, they increased almost fivefold  
184 (Table 1). The proportion of lines kept at F8 from each single cross was variable but, in all three  
185 cases, the frequencies of the selections from this cross compared to whole generation size  
186 increased remarkably (Table 1). Out of each cross there was seed available to carry out GBS  
187 analysis of 12, 16 and 3 F8 lines, of crosses 93Z074, 96V738 and 97L058, respectively.

188 Average grain yield expressed as percentage of the common check cultivars present at  
189 each trial, was higher for the selections derived from the Orria x Plaisant crosses than the  
190 average of selections derived from all other crosses (Table S2). The data for the F8 trials of the  
191 last cross (97L058) is not given, as a replacement of two of the checks used in that year  
192 prevented comparison with previous data.

#### 193 Genotypic frequencies in the F2 and F8

194 The expected allelic ratio at any generation should be 1:1 in the absence of selection or  
195 drift and the expected genotypic ratio in the F2 should be 1:2:1. The observed genetic and  
196 genotypic ratios were tested for deviation from their expected values with a chi-squared  
197 goodness-of-fit test ( $P < 0.05$ , Bonferroni correction) for each marker (Table 2). The allelic  
198 frequencies in the F2 derived from the 93Z074 cross did not depart from expected Mendelian  
199 allelic frequencies for 29 markers. Only Bmag0211, on 1H, departed significantly from the  
200 expected frequencies, showing an excess of Plaisant alleles. None of the 12 markers analyzed  
201 in the 96V738 F2 population presented frequencies departing the 1:1 expected ratio.

202 The F8 genotypes showed a higher proportion of loci with frequencies departing from  
203 the 1:1 allelic ratio expected under no selection. Out of the 30 markers, 3 (10%) showed  
204 distorted allelic frequencies, and another six showed P-values very close to the threshold. The  
205 three significant markers showed allelic frequencies skewed towards Orria (Table 2).

206

207 Genotyping-by sequencing of the F8 lines

208 The subset of 31 F8 lines was genotyped with the DArTseq method of GBS as a part of  
209 a larger set of over 300 genotypes. In the whole set, a total of 8535 tag sequences presented  
210 SNP polymorphisms, and 15526 tag sequences were scored as PAVs. Of these, 6876 and 7498  
211 tags (for SNP and PAV, respectively) were aligned successfully to the reference sequence using  
212 the tool *Barleymap* (Cantalapiedra et al. in press), most to single positions. A large proportion,  
213 5941 SNP and 6344 PAV, also had a genetic location assigned. From those, 2122 SNPs and 2242  
214 PAVs were polymorphic between the parents, Orria and Plaisant. Seven SNPs which presented  
215 multiple genetic positions were removed. Moreover, SNPs with over 10% missing data or  
216 heterozygous alleles were also deleted, leaving 1373 valid SNPs for the analysis. Regarding  
217 PAVs, removal of markers with over 10% missing data left 2147 suitable for the analysis.  
218 Therefore, further analyses were conducted with curated 3520 markers.

219

220 Overall, polymorphic SNPs revealed the presence of 59% of alleles from parent Orria  
221 and only 41% from Plaisant. The observed frequencies of the SNPs in the 31 lines were  
222 compared to expectations under no selection.

223 There was good coverage of all chromosomes, from a minimum of 339 markers on 4H  
224 to a maximum of 795 on 7H (Table 3). The largest gap detected was 10.5 cM wide on 5H  
225 (between cM 31.4 and 41.9), probably due to lack of polymorphism between the parents at  
226 that region. The plot of the allelic frequencies of 31 F8 lines against genetic (Fig. 1) and  
227 physical distance (Fig. S2) revealed a profile that clearly indicated the action of selection. There  
228 were 655 markers with higher than expected Orria allele frequencies, and 117 for the Plaisant  
229 allele, considering the 1:1 expected frequencies ratio. Using the worst-case scenario expected  
230 frequencies, these figures change to 252 and 27, respectively.

231 Even after curation of the results, the scans were not completely clean because the  
232 localization of the DArTseq markers on the physical map carries some uncertainty. These

233 inconsistencies could be a consequence of the methods used to estimate physical positions  
234 and anchoring of sequences (IBSC 2012) and will be curated as more data become available for  
235 analysis. In order to remove obviously misplaced markers, genotypes of the 31 lines were  
236 ordered according to *Barleymap* results. Genetic linkage information was factored in by  
237 searching and removing double recombinants in 5 marker windows. This process was done  
238 iteratively per chromosome until a cleaner profile was obtained (approximately 15 iterations  
239 per chromosome). A total of 2372 markers were retained after this process. Some markers  
240 with minor local shifts were also removed in the process, but the abundance of markers still  
241 allowed a dense and clean allelic frequency scan (Fig. 1b).

242           SNPs departing significantly from expected segregations indicated the presence of  
243 selection footprints at each chromosome. We chose to declare a selection footprint when at  
244 least one marker exceeded the threshold, and the profile of the scan of surrounding regions  
245 clearly hinted at the presence of a peak. A total of 15 regions were identified following this  
246 criterion (labeled as S1-S15 in Fig 1), for the lower threshold (1:1 expected frequencies). With  
247 the worst-case scenario criterion, 7 of these regions were still significant (S4 to S10, Fig. 1).  
248 Eleven of the regions (6 towards Orria, 5 towards Plaisant) were the result of apparent  
249 selection at the two main crosses, 93Z074 and 96V738 (Fig. 1), and 4 QTL were due to selection  
250 in one cross (2 towards Orria, 2 towards Plaisant). The results for cross 97L058 were based on  
251 just three lines, a number too low to derive conclusions from allelic frequencies (data not  
252 shown). Most of these peaks were rather narrow, either considering physical (Fig.2S) or  
253 recombination distances. There was a remarkable exception at the footprint on 3H, possibly at  
254 a centromeric position, which spanned more than half of the physical chromosome. To relate  
255 the profiles identified in the F8 lines with the results of allelic distribution and QTL analysis of a  
256 RIL population originated from one of the crosses analyzed here (Mansour et al. 2014),  
257 markers from the RIL population were positioned *in silico* on the barley physical map (Table 4).  
258 SNP markers and flowering time genes associated to QTL for traits used as selection criteria in

259 the breeding program (grain yield, plant height, thousand kernel weight), or matching regions  
260 of skewed allelic frequencies in the cited work, were plotted with the DArTseq markers in the  
261 F8 lines (Fig. 1). The three regions that presented high distortion of allelic frequencies in  
262 Mansour et al. (2014) also showed the same kind of frequency shift in the F8 lines, and in the  
263 same direction (tags 2-7, 14-15 and 17, S1, S8 and S9 in Fig. 1): the position of *VrnH1* on 5H  
264 matched a region showing an excess of Orria alleles at DArTseq markers, coincident with a  
265 clear deviation in the F8 lines for this allele and also with a QTL identified in the RIL population  
266 for yield and heading date. BOPA1 SNP markers on 1H (11\_10275) and in the long arm of 4H  
267 (11\_10379), pointed to regions showing distorted segregation that were previously identified  
268 in the QTL analysis of the RIL population. In the region of S3, selection was evident for only one  
269 of the two main crosses (96V738), and this was also the region of a grain yield QTL with QTL by  
270 environment effect in the RIL study (tags 10-12).

271 The region of S9 also had the strongest grain yield QTL in the RIL study. On the other  
272 hand, the positions of the QTLs found in the RIL population matched selection footprints only  
273 in some cases. QTLs and selection footprints S2, S3 (2H), S9 (5H) and S11 (6H) were in good  
274 agreement. Forty percent of the selection footprints did not have any counterpart in the RIL  
275 study (S5, S6, S7, S11, S12, and S14). The chromosome with most selection footprints was 7H  
276 (four), but only one of them (S15) may reflect selection for QTLs (plant height) detected in the  
277 RIL study (tags 23-24).

278 We further inspected the genomic regions around each of the selection footprints  
279 identified (at the exact genetic position of the peak, and in a 2cM wide interval around them,  
280 Table S3) to determine their gene content, using the *Barleymap* web tool (Cantalapiedra et al.  
281 in press). The total number of gene models sharing the exact genetic positions of the peaks  
282 was 1276 for the IBSC map (2012) and 4295 for the POPSEQ map (Mascher et al. 2013). The  
283 median and maximum number of gene models for the 15 selection footprints were 34 and 631  
284 using the IBSC reference map. These numbers increased to 50 and 2150 in the case of POPSEQ

285 (Table S3). Although those numbers are high for most of the footprints, making it difficult to  
286 identify candidate genes associated with them, some results are worth mentioning. Among the  
287 50 gene models identified in POPSEQ for S1 (chromosome 1H, 54.53 cM), a High Confidence  
288 gene model (MLOC\_19482) is annotated as a late embryogenesis abundant protein, LEA-3.  
289 Similarly, the MADS-box transcription factor *VRNH1* (AK360697) lies within the S9 region  
290 (chromosome 5H, 125.76) for both IBSC and POPSEQ maps, even though the number of gene  
291 models at this peak is high.

292

### 293 **Discussion**

294 Selection in breeding programs is carried out by phenotypic evaluation over years, culling the  
295 worst progenies according to several traits, and promoting the best to form the next  
296 generation. Thus, the plant material finally produced by a breeding program carry an  
297 associated history of the selection that acted on their genomes. The expected outcome of this  
298 process is an increased proportion of favourable alleles at loci relevant for adaptation to  
299 prevailing environmental conditions and stresses, as generations advance.

300         The phenotypic superiority of the selections from the three Orria-Plaisant crosses was  
301 evident by their increasing frequency (as a proportion of the total number of lines of each  
302 generation) throughout the program, and by their significantly superior grain yields. Orria was  
303 also a parent of some other crosses in the program but none of the selections were as  
304 productive as those from the crosses with Plaisant, so it appears that it is the particular  
305 complementarity of these two cultivars that has led to the superior selections. These parents  
306 therefore provide an elite genetic background for 6-row barley breeding under Mediterranean  
307 conditions. For the purpose of this study, our expectation is that this phenotypic superiority  
308 should be partially related to the shifts in allelic frequencies observed in the advanced  
309 materials (F8 lines).

310           Analysis of the two F2 populations showed little evidence of allelic frequencies  
311 significantly differing from the expected 1:1 ratio, but to a lesser extent than observed in the  
312 F8 lines. We have no reason to believe that the allelic frequencies in the F2 of the untested  
313 cross were different from the two analyzed. The considerable differences between allelic  
314 frequencies at the F2 and F8 of the same cross are, most likely, the result of artificial selection.  
315 Karakousis et al. (2003), using microsatellites, found that several SSRs assessed in F2 crosses  
316 showed distorted segregation, while others showed the expected 1:2:1 ratio. They explained  
317 this result as a consequence of preferential amplification of alleles, resulting in the inability to  
318 detect heterozygotes for some markers.

319           Selection in the Spanish National Barley Program is for healthy plants with short straw,  
320 large grain size and high grain yield and we expected to find direct responses to selection for  
321 genes controlling these traits. There was no conscious selection for the length of the growth  
322 cycle or growth habit and, therefore, any changes in genes underlying these traits (like *VrnH1*)  
323 should be due to, drift, indirect selection or natural selection. We had previous knowledge of  
324 the presence of several QTL for agronomic traits in a RIL population derived from one of the  
325 crosses under study, 97L058 (Mansour et al. 2014). A RIL population, by definition, should not  
326 have been subjected to artificial selection. Nevertheless, that study found three regions that  
327 had suffered a severe shift of allelic frequencies, in excess of 3:7 ratios. The most conspicuous  
328 region was on 5HL, surrounding *VrnH1*, favoring the Orria allele. Also, QTLs for grain yield, days  
329 to heading and maturity were detected at this same region. We hypothesized that this was due  
330 to the different vernalization requirement induced by the *VrnH1* alleles of these two parents,  
331 reacting against different winter temperatures at the multiplication fields. A warm winter may  
332 have caused a strong selection against progenies with the Plaisant allele at this locus. Some of  
333 these progenies may have failed to produce fertile tillers and, hence, may have been removed  
334 from the population. In the present study, we have found further evidence of the strong  
335 selection pressure affecting this gene under Spanish conditions, though it is not possible to

336 know if selection occurred at any particular year, or if it was due to directional selection over  
337 the years. In any case, the region containing *VrnH1* was clearly selected, once more against the  
338 Plaisant allele, during the breeding process. There were two other regions, one at 1H and  
339 another at 4H in which the RILs presented high frequencies of Plaisant alleles. These two  
340 regions were also found in the present study, with a selection footprint in the same direction  
341 as for the RILs but, although some QTLs for traits subjected to selection were found nearby,  
342 the overlap was sufficient to declare that the same genes were selected in the two studies. The  
343 region on 1H is, however, not far from *Fr-H3* (Fisk et al. 2013), a frost tolerance QTL coincident  
344 with a grain yield QTL in the RIL population (tag 1 in Fig. 1). Though the position is not the  
345 same, the location of *Fr-H3* is not absolutely certain, and we cannot discard that it is related to  
346 the selection footprint S1. Interestingly, we found a candidate gene for a late embryogenesis  
347 abundant protein, LEA3, within that region. LEA3 family members have been previously  
348 associated with tolerance to different abiotic stresses, including freezing (NDong et al. 2002;  
349 Kosova et al. 2014). Another member of this family, HVA1 (Straub et al. 1994), is located on the  
350 long arm of 1H, but it does not correspond to peak S1.

351         During the development of a RIL population by single seed descent (as was the case for  
352 97L058), lines are discarded only because they do not survive at some generation. Therefore,  
353 only those traits that have a strong effect on fitness can result in the selection observed in the  
354 RIL population. The occurrence of the same allelic shifts during the development of two  
355 completely independent sets of materials –RILs, F8 lines– with different selection history  
356 suggests that alleles at genes located in these regions were preferentially selected by the  
357 prevailing environments experienced in the studies. In the case of the F8 lines, the effects of  
358 the underlying genes on fitness must have affected agronomic value dramatically, and the  
359 effects of specific parental alleles were so important as to be selected consistently in the  
360 breeding program.

361           The strong selection footprint close to the centromere on 3H (S4) is intriguing. A very  
362 strong selection pressure during the breeding process almost led to fixation for the Orria allele  
363 of a large part of this chromosome. We can only speculate about possible reasons for  
364 occurrence of this selection footprint. Other authors have reported grain yield, lodging or plant  
365 height QTL in that region of 3H (Hayes et al. 1993; von Korff et al. 2008; Rollins et al. 2013), but  
366 no QTL was detected in this region in the QTL analysis of agronomic traits in the RIL population  
367 (Mansour et al. 2014). Since segregation distortion was not detected on chromosome 3H in the  
368 RIL population nor in the two F2 analyzed, it must be concluded that it is the result of artificial  
369 selection for traits not directly related to fitness in this population. Some traits with QTLs  
370 mapped to this region are spike morphology (Chen et al. 2012) and head shattering (Larson et  
371 al. 1996; Kandemir et al. 2000). We do know that head shattering is heavily selected against  
372 during the early generations of our breeding program. However, a possible presence of a QTL  
373 for this trait in the RIL population could not be confirmed, because the trait was not recorded  
374 and, in any case, it should have had a correlated response to selection on grain yield as well.  
375 Another possible reason underlying a strong response to selection is disease resistance. Some  
376 disease resistance QTLs have been identified in this region of 3H: net blotch (Cakir et al. 2011),  
377 spot blotch (Roy et al. 2010) and scald (Li and Zhou 2011; Hofmann et al 2013). Although we  
378 are not aware of the incidence of diseases during the breeding process, it is customary that  
379 breeders remove progenies which show symptoms of disease, even mild. We ignore if the  
380 parents diverge for response to scald, but this explanation would fit quite well the location of  
381 the S4 region, if it represented the same QTL as the one identified by Hofmann et al. (2013).  
382 The two markers flanking QTL Rrs1<sub>RH4</sub> in that work are located exactly at the peak of the  
383 selection footprint.

384           The lack of complete correspondence between QTLs selected in a previous study and  
385 the selection footprints found here is a common feature of all QTL validation studies (Bernardo



386 2008). Several kind of statistical biases and genotype-by-environment interactions are the  
387 most common causes underpinning this phenomenon.

388 Our results offer strong evidence for the action of selection on allelic frequencies and  
389 this is supported by results from other retrospective studies. Condón et al. (2008) used SSR  
390 markers to analyze changes in allelic diversity in a barley breeding program carried out  
391 between 1958 and 1998. They found evidence for a reduction in number of alleles at some  
392 marker loci. The authors hypothesized that it was the result of linkage of these markers to  
393 major loci for disease resistance or malting quality that were presumably under selection  
394 during the breeding process. Several authors have indicated changes in allelic frequencies,  
395 with a reduction in diversity for modern cultivars (Russell et al. 2000; Karakousis et al. 2003).  
396 Similarly, Fu and Somers (2009) using wheat microsatellites reported that allelic reduction  
397 occurred in every part of the wheat genome as a consequence of breeding. Various studies of  
398 highly variable barley populations have reported changes in genotypic and allelic frequencies  
399 between generations due to bulk selection, apparently reflecting shifts for local adaptation.  
400 Clegg et al. (1978), studying Composite Cross V (CCV) of barley after 30 generations, and  
401 Saghai-Marroof et al. (1994) studying barley Composite Cross II (CCII) after 53 generations,  
402 found substantial genetic changes over the different generations. Changes due to recurrent  
403 selection programs have also been reported in maize (Stuber et al. 1980; Romay et al. 2012)  
404 and oat (De Koeber et al. 2001).

405 The novelty of our approach, however, lies in the genome wide survey of the selected  
406 lines, the distinct signature of selection footprints, and in the direct applicability of the findings  
407 to continued cultivar development in breeding programs. This has been possible due to the  
408 combination of several features, some of which have become recently available for barley:  
409 high throughput genotyping platforms that provide enough density of marker coverage, a  
410 reference draft genome, and sufficient sample size after several generations of selection. We  
411 have been able to identify regions targeted by selection, without further phenotyping, and

412 based on a much reduced set of lines and, hence, at an affordable cost. The number of lines  
413 sampled in the F8 is both inappropriate (due to heavy allelic frequency distortions) and  
414 insufficient to construct a high confidence map by genetic mapping alone but, in combination  
415 with the reference genome, these results demonstrate that this sample is sufficient to derive  
416 meaningful conclusions about the position of selection targets. This information is directly  
417 applicable to breeding, through the identification of segments with favorable or unfavorable  
418 breeding values associated to particular alleles. Pozniak et al. (2012) already encouraged the  
419 use of phenotypic data routinely collected by breeding programs to identify marker–trait  
420 associations. Our approach actually does not require collection of phenotypic data, as it just  
421 relies on allelic frequencies, but could work in combination with phenotypic data as well.  
422 Similar approaches have been attempted in animal breeding. For instance, Wiener et al. (2011)  
423 aimed at discovering genomic regions controlling phenotypic traits that differentiated two  
424 cattle breeds, and found that they could pick up regions with genes that caused only large  
425 phenotypic effects. In our case, the close-knit family structure helps to identify selection  
426 footprints with higher power. Also, Martinez et al. (2012) were able to find markers associated  
427 with traits highly relevant for salmon breeding by just assessing population divergence with  
428 molecular markers, taking into account the selection history of their populations.

429         Recently, genomic selection (GS) is becoming one of the methods of choice for plant  
430 breeders (Heffner et al. 2009). Most often, genomic selection relies on phenotyping of newly  
431 created training populations to estimate the breeding values of chromosomal segments of  
432 relevant germplasm. The approach presented in this study can be complementary to genomic  
433 selection. Actually, its outcome can be combined with standard GS to optimize the estimation  
434 of genomic breeding values (GEBV) for genomes of selected parents. Breeding programs  
435 usually keep large amounts of data from selection trials. If a sufficient number of advanced  
436 lines is also kept in storage, the approach that we have followed in this study would also be

437 feasible, producing high value information, fast and cheap, provided there are sufficient  
438 genomic resources developed for the particular crop.

439

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446

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631 **Table 1.** Selection history of the lines derived from three crosses between parents Orria and Plaisant in the Spanish barley breeding program.

Generation	Cross 93Z074			Cross 96V738			Cross 97L058			Overall percentage of O×P lines
	Year	Generation size	Number of lines	Year	Generation size	Number of lines	Year	Generation size	Number of lines	
F3*	1996	20082	396	1999	13002	300	2000	4873	144	2.2
F4*	1997	1200	55	2000	286	12	2001	1201	75	5.3
F5*	1998	305	15	2001	149	12	2002	300	23	6.6
F6**	99-00	453	28	02-03	162	36	03-04	683	16	6.2
F7**	00-01	120	24	03-04	60	27	2004	120	9	20.0
F8**	01-02	53	15	2004	31	22	2005	64	8	30.4

632 \*generations including lines from only one site (Zaragoza)

633 \*\*joint program: from F6 on, lines selected independently up to F5 at all program sites (3 or 4) were tested jointly in field trials.

634

635

636 **Table 2.** SSR and flowering time gene markers used to analyze the F2 populations and the F8 lines, number of genotypes at each marker locus, and Chi-  
637 squared probability calculated for the observed allelic frequencies (probability of being originated from random assortment of alleles in absence of  
638 selection).

Marker	Chr.	cM*	93Z074-F2			96V738-F2			F8 lines		
			Orria	Plaisant	P-value	Orria	Plaisant	P-value	Orria	Plaisant	P-value <sup>†</sup>
Bmac0399	1H	28.9	113	91	0.1235				37	39	0.8711
Bmag0211	1H	60.4	78	126	<b>0.0008</b>				42	32	0.4111
HvM20	1H	66.3	93	103	0.4751				36	40	0.7456
Bmac0032	1H	73.7	80	124	0.0021				33	43	0.4173
WMC1E8	1H	131.9	107	97	0.4838	141	119	0.1724	52	26	0.0037
HvM36	2H	31.0	102	102	1.0000				39	39	1.0000
<i>PpdH1</i>	2H	25.1	107	97	0.4838				36	34	0.8660
Bmac0132	2H	67.0	93	111	0.2076	125	133	0.6184	56	22	0.0065
Bmag0378	2H	76.1	99	105	0.6744	np <sup>‡</sup>	np		24	54	0.0163
HvM54	2H	122.4	102	102	1.0000				46	32	0.2623
Bmag0006	3H	50.1	97	105	0.5735	142	116	0.1055	70	8	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Bmag0136	3H	52.1	98	106	0.5754	140	120	0.2148	70	8	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Bmag0225	3H	75.5	93	111	0.2076				34	44	0.4233
Bmag0013	3H	113.7	109	87	0.1161	136	124	0.4568	52	26	0.0374
Hv13GEIII <sup>‡</sup>	3H	130.0	105	93	0.3938	126	134	0.6198	58	20	0.0023
HvM40	4H	22.4	100	104	0.7794				50	28	0.0782
Bmag0384	4H	57.5	99	101	0.8875	148	112	0.0256	52	26	0.0374
HvM03	4H	58.3	100	104	0.7794	144	114	0.0618	58	20	0.0023
Bmag0353	4H	65.0	99	105	0.6744	144	114	0.0618	53	25	0.0250
EBmac0701	4H	96.2	104	98	0.6729				48	28	0.1047
HvM67	4H	120.5	105	99	0.6744				41	35	0.6265
HvBAMY	4H	133.3	113	87	0.0660				40	36	0.7456

<i>VrnH1</i>	5H	131.1	108	92	0.2579	127	113	0.3662	66	4	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Bmag0173	6H	57.8	104	100	0.7794	152	108	0.0064	58	20	0.0023
Bmag0009	6H	62.2	90	110	0.1573				52	30	0.0858
EBmac0806	6H	75.5	119	85	0.0173	139	107	0.0413	56	20	0.0035
Bmag0206	7H	15.3	101	103	0.8886				38	40	0.8728
GBM1116	7H	50.6	95	107	0.3985				42	28	0.2367
Bmag0120	7H	97.0	95	107	0.3985				34	42	0.5164
Bmac0156	7H	136.4	105	99	0.6744				44	30	0.2498

639

640 \* Position in cM of the SSR markers according to Varshney et al. (2007a) and of flowering genes *PpdH1*, and *VRNH1* according to Muñoz-Amatriain et al. (2011).

641 † Chi-squared probability actually calculated for the allelic frequencies multiplied by 0.5, as the probability for one allele at a specific locus is almost completely conditioned  
642 by the other allele, in genotypes close to total homozygosity. A Bonferroni correction was applied to estimate the appropriate threshold for each set, considering that either  
643 30 or 12 markers were tested. Thus, the 0.05 threshold were actually 0.00167 for the F8 lines and for the cross 93Z074, and 0.0042 for cross 96V738. Significant markers are  
644 highlighted in bold type.

645 ‡ np, marker not polymorphic in this cross.

646 § Hv13GEIII was located approximately at 130 cM, 21 cM left of HvM70 in Silvar et al. (2010); HvM70 maps at 150.6 cM according to Varshney et al. (2007a).

647

648 **Table 3.** Number of GBS markers with genetic positions in the barley physical map. Total  
 649 number and number of markers left after removal of most conspicuous double recombinants  
 650 (rightmost column).  
 651

Chromosome	SNP	PAV	Total	Total after removing double recombinants
1H	195	281	476	307
2H	199	323	522	322
3H	233	359	592	415
4H	152	187	339	214
5H	161	246	407	266
6H	138	251	389	285
7H	295	500	795	563
Total	1373	2147	3520	2372

652

653 **Table 4.** Markers chosen to relate the selection footprints found in this work with QTLs and  
654 segregation distortion identified in the RIL population of the same cross (Mansour et al. 2014).  
655 Markers were positioned *in silico* in the barley physical map. The final column includes number  
656 tags for these markers in Fig. 1.  
657

Chr.	Marker	QTL	Favorable allele*	cM <sup>ψ</sup>	no. on Fig. 1
1H	11_10275	Grain yield	O/P	42.77	1
1H	11_21000	Departure from 1:1 ratio <sup>¥</sup>	P	47.34	2
1H	11_21357	Departure from 1:1 ratio	P	48.37	3
1H	11_10833	Departure from 1:1 ratio	P	48.37	4
1H	11_21312	Departure from 1:1 ratio	P	48.37	5
1H	11_10324	Departure from 1:1 ratio	P	51.18	6
1H	11_20997	Departure from 1:1 ratio	P	54.23	7
2H	<i>PpdH1</i>	Plant height (heading date)	P	22.17	8
2H	11_11505	Plant height	O	49.50	9
2H	11_10265 <sup>†</sup>	Grain yield	O/P	62.68	10
2H	12_31020 <sup>†</sup>	Grain yield	O/P	64.87	11
2H	12_31021 <sup>†</sup>	Grain yield	O/P	66.11	12
4H	11_10379	Plant height, 1K grain weight	P, O	52.19	13
4H	11_20765	Departure from 1:1 ratio	P	83.46	14
4H	11_11398	Departure from 1:1 ratio	P	87.70	15
4H	11_21210 <sup>†</sup>	1K grain weight	O	112.33	16
5H	<i>VrnH1</i>	Grain yield (heading date)	O	126.13	17
6H	12_10910 <sup>†</sup>	Plant height	O	52.20	18
6H	11_21469 <sup>†</sup>	1K grain weight	O	66.78	19
7H	12_30065 <sup>†</sup>	Grain yield (heading date)	O	40.51	20
7H	11_20074	Grain yield (heading date)	O	48.94	21
7H	11_11014	Grain yield (heading date)	O	54.39	22
7H	11_11145	Plant height	O	70.96	23
7H	11_20460	Plant height	O	71.03	24

658 <sup>†</sup> Markers derived from Muñoz-Amatriain et al. (2011), unmapped but corresponding to QTL regions in  
659 Mansour et al. (2014)

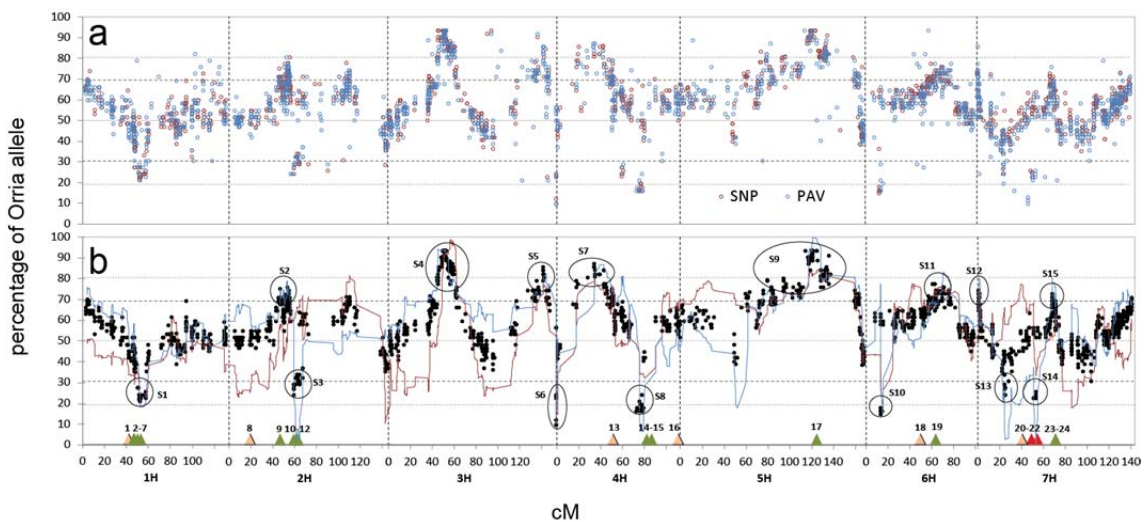
660 <sup>¥</sup> These SNP markers indicated a peak of distorted segregation in the RIL population (Fig 3S in Mansour  
661 et al. 2014).

662 \* O=Orria, P=Plaisant, according to the results of Mansour et al. (2014). O/P means that the QTL was  
663 related to genotype-by-environment interaction for that trait.

664 <sup>ψ</sup> position on the barley physical map (IBSC 2012).  
665

666 **Figure 1.** a) Scan of allelic frequencies corresponding to parent Orria in 31 F8 lines of the cross  
667 Orria × Plaisant, genotyped with DArTseq SNP (red circles) and PAV (blue circles) markers  
668 derived from a genotype-by-sequencing assay. All valid SNP and PAV are represented, with  
669 genetic positions extracted from the consensus map published by IBSC (2012). b) DArTseq  
670 markers (SNP or PAV) left after removal of conspicuous double recombinants. At the bottom of the graph,  
671 triangles indicate the position of other known markers in the physical map,  
672 numbered according to Table 4. Green triangles indicate coincidence of favorable alleles  
673 between the two studies, red ones indicate disagreement, and orange ones indicate an  
674 inconclusive comparison. Selection footprint regions are numbered S1 to S15 and encircled  
675 with a black line. The blue (96V738) and red (93Z074) lines represent the percentage of Orria  
676 alleles for the lines derived from each of the two main crosses (moving averages of 8 markers).  
677 Thresholds: horizontal lines at values 69.4 and 30.6 represent significance thresholds for Chi-  
678 squared tests corresponding to expected allelic frequencies of 1:1,  $P < 0.05$  with a correction for  
679 the number of effective tests (414). Horizontal lines at values 80.7 and 19.3 correspond to  
680 thresholds calculated in the same manner, for worst-case scenario expected frequencies (see  
681 text). In the X axis, breaks between chromosomes are indicated with vertical dashed lines.

682



683