

1 **Microbiological, chemical and sensory spoilage analysis of raw Atlantic cod (*Gadus***
2 ***morhua*) stored under modified atmospheres**

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23 **Abstract**

24 During fish spoilage, microbial metabolism leads to the production of volatile organic
25 compounds (VOCs), characteristic off-odors and eventual consumer rejection. The aim of the
26 present study was to contribute to the development of intelligent packaging technologies by
27 identifying and quantifying VOCs that indicate spoilage of raw Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*)
28 under atmospheres (% v/v CO₂/O₂/N₂) 60/40/0, 60/5/35 and air. Spoilage was examined by
29 microbiological, chemical and sensory analyses over storage time at 4 or 8 °C. Selected-ion
30 flow-tube mass spectrometry (SIFT-MS) was used for quantifying selected VOCs and amplicon
31 sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene was used for the characterization of the cod microbiota. OTUs
32 classified within the *Photobacterium* genus increased in relative abundance over time under all
33 storage conditions, suggesting that *Photobacterium* contributed to spoilage and VOC production.
34 The onset of exponential VOC concentration increase and sensory rejection occurred at high
35 total plate counts (7-7.5 log). Monitoring of early spoilage thus calls for sensitivity for low VOC
36 concentrations.

37 **Keywords**

38 Amplicon sequencing; *Photobacterium*; SIFT-MS; sensor; volatile organic compound

39 **1. Introduction**

40 Raw fish is highly perishable due to the intrinsic properties of the product and inevitable
41 microbial activity. Spoilage of fish is primarily caused by microbial growth and metabolism and
42 is characterized by changes in the sensory properties that lead to unacceptable product quality
43 (Gram & Huss, 1996; Gram & Dalgaard, 2002; Gram et al., 2002). Shelf life of fish is affected
44 by several factors, including storage temperature, fish species, initial microbial contamination
45 and packaging conditions (Sivertsvik, Jeksrud, & Rosnes, 2002). Even though 10^7 CFU/g has
46 generally been considered as a maximum acceptable microbial load for fish (Stannard, 1997),
47 sensory rejection has typically been found at microbial levels between 10^6 - 10^9 CFU/g (Dalgaard,
48 Mejlholm, Christiansen, & Huss, 1997; Mikš-Krajnik, Yoon, Ukuku, & Yuk, 2016; Nuin et al.,
49 2008; Parlapani, Mallouchos, Haroutounian, & Bozaris, 2014; Parlapani, Verdos, Haroutounian,
50 & Bozaris, 2015).

51 Specific spoilage organisms (SSOs) typically constitute a fraction of the initial microbiota and
52 their outgrowth eventually leads to unacceptable changes in the product quality (Gram &
53 Dalgaard, 2002). The microbiota of fresh marine fish generally consists of psychrotrophic Gram-
54 negative rod-shaped bacteria along with Gram-positive microbes (Gram & Huss, 1996). In
55 marine fish stored under refrigerated aerobic conditions, *Pseudomonas* and *Shewanella* spp. have
56 been observed to be dominating (Gram, Trolle, & Huss, 1987; Gram & Huss, 1996; Gram &
57 Dalgaard, 2002; Vogel, Venkateswaran, Satomi, & Gram, 2005), whereas *Photobacterium*
58 *phosphoreum* has been identified as an SSO of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) under different
59 modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) conditions (Dalgaard et al., 1997; Dalgaard, 1995;
60 Debevere & Boskou, 1996).

61 Odor is one of the most important quality determinants for fish freshness (Olafsdottir, Jonsdottir,
62 Lauzon, Luten, & Kristbergsson, 2005). As a result of microbial metabolism, volatile organic
63 compounds (VOCs) are often produced, which leads to the production of characteristic off-odors
64 and off-flavors. Typical compounds associated with fish spoilage include acids, alcohols,
65 aldehydes, amines, ketones and sulfides (Gram & Dalgaard, 2002). The spoilage potential of
66 SSOs is characterized by their qualitative ability to produce off-odors, whereas spoilage activity
67 refers to the quantitative ability to produce spoilage metabolites (Gram & Dalgaard, 2002; Gram
68 et al., 2002). Thus, evolution of spoilage-related VOCs could be used for fish quality evaluation
69 during storage. Different approaches for characterizing the VOC profile have been applied to
70 marine fish species such as cod (Fernández-Segovia, Escriche, Gómez-Sintes, Fuentes, & Serra,
71 2006; Nosedá et al., 2010), salmon (Jónsdóttir, Ólafsdóttir, Chanie, & Haugen, 2008; Jørgensen,
72 Huss, & Dalgaard, 2001; Macé et al., 2013; Mikš-Krajnik et al., 2016), sea bream (Parlapani et
73 al., 2014; Parlapani et al., 2015; Soncin, Chiesa, Panseri, Biondi, & Cantoni, 2009), sea bass
74 (Parlapani, Haroutounian, Nychas, & Boziaris, 2015), hake (Baixas-Nogueras, Bover-Cid, Vidal-
75 Carou, Veciana-Nogués, & Mariné-Font, 2001), mackerel (Alfaro, Hernández, Baliño-Zuazo, &
76 Barranco, 2013) and turbot (Xu et al., 2014).

77 Intelligent packaging technologies aim at improving the quality and safety of the packaged
78 product and/or informing about its status by detecting, sensing, communicating, recording or
79 applying another intelligent function (Yam, Takhistov, & Miltz, 2005). Among these
80 technologies, sensors that convert physical or chemical information into an informative signal
81 have been considered to have high potential for future applications (Ghaani, Cozzolino, Castelli,
82 & Farris, 2016; Kerry, O'Grady, & Hogan, 2006; Vanderroost, Ragaert, Devlieghere, & De
83 Meulenaer, 2014). The use of sensor technologies for monitoring VOCs indicating fish spoilage

84 could enhance the detection of spoilage in individual packages, thus improving quality
85 evaluation and reducing food and packaging material waste throughout the supply chain. Even
86 though different applications for sensor-based quality monitoring of fish have been examined
87 (Bhadra, Narvaez, Thomson, & Bridges, 2015; Chung, Le, Tran, & Nguyen, 2017; Efremenko &
88 Mirsky, 2017; García et al., 2017; Morsy et al., 2016; Pacquit et al., 2006; Pacquit et al., 2007;
89 Perera, Pardo, Barrettino, Hierlermann, & Marco, 2010), there is still a limited number of studies
90 focusing on direct and real-time quantification of the VOC profile produced in the package
91 headspace during storage time, aiming at the development of intelligent packaging technologies.
92 Efficient quality monitoring of fish spoilage calls for fast, non-destructive and sensitive methods.
93 However, conventional quality analyses of fish packaged under modified atmospheres (MAs) are
94 commonly destructive and time consuming, such as the determination of total volatile basic
95 nitrogen (TVB-N) by steam distillation (Pacquit et al., 2006) or plate counts. Several
96 technologies have been used for rapid and accurate characterization of VOCs, including gas
97 chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) (Béné, Hayman, Reynard, Luisier, & Villettaz,
98 2001; G. Duflos et al., 2010; Edirisinghe, Graffham, & Taylor, 2007; Fernández-Segovia et al.,
99 2006; Grimm, Lloyd, Batista, & Zimba, 2000; Jaffrès et al., 2011; Leduc et al., 2012; Mikš-
100 Krajnik et al., 2016; Z. Zhang, Li, Luo, & Chen, 2010) and electronic noses (Natale et al., 2001;
101 Olafsdottir et al., 2005; Zaragoza et al., 2014). On the other hand, selective-ion flow-tube mass
102 spectrometry (SIFT-MS) can be used for non-destructive and sensitive real-time quantification of
103 VOCs from the package headspace. The technology is based on reactions between precursor ions
104 (H_3O^+ , NO^+ , O^+) and target compounds, followed by the quantification of the resulting product
105 ions on the basis of their mass to charge (m/z) ratio. SIFT-MS has previously been validated for
106 fish metabolite research (Nosedá et al., 2010) and used for VOC analysis of different food

107 products, including seafood (Nosedá et al., 2012), meat (Carrapiso et al., 2015; Olivares,
108 Dryahina, Španěl, & Flores, 2012), fruit (Zhang et al., 2013; Zhang, Samapundo, Pothakos,
109 Sürengil, & Devlieghere, 2013; Zhang et al., 2014) and cheese (Castada, Wick, Taylor, &
110 Harper, 2014; Castada, Wick, Harper, & Barringer, 2015; Langford et al., 2012).

111 Identification and quantification of VOCs related to spoilage is of high importance for the
112 development of food quality monitoring. Establishing a relation between VOC production,
113 microbial growth (both in total amount and in specific microorganisms) and sensorial quality is
114 needed as the basis for the development of intelligent packaging solutions. In the present study,
115 spoilage of Atlantic cod packaged under modified atmospheres was analyzed by following
116 microbial growth, VOC concentrations and sensory quality during refrigerated storage. SIFT-MS
117 was used for the real-time quantification of VOCs from the package headspace and amplicon
118 (NGS) sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene was used for the characterization of the cod microbiota
119 at different stages of storage. The results of the present study contribute to the development of
120 intelligent packaging technologies within the CheckPack project (VLAIO grant number 130036).

121 **2. Materials and methods**

122 ***2.1. Raw material***

123 For each individual storage experiment, Atlantic cod (minimum body weight ca. 4.5 kg) was
124 caught in the North Atlantic Ocean (FAO zone 27), gutted, filleted and stored under ice. The fish
125 was transported to Belgium by air and delivered to the Laboratory of Food Microbiology and
126 Food Preservation (LFMFP) in polystyrene boxes under ice.

127 ***2.2. Packaging and storage***

128 Cod fillet portions (217 ± 5 g) were packaged under different atmospheres with a gas-product
129 ratio 2:1 using a tray sealer MECA 900 (DecaTechnic, Herentals, Belgium), multilayer
130 packaging trays (PP/EVOH/PP, oxygen transmission rate $0.03 \text{ cm}^3/\text{tray} \cdot 24\text{h}$ at $23 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and 50 %
131 R.H.) and top film (PA/EVOH/PA/PP, oxygen transmission rate $6.57 \text{ cm}^3/\text{m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h} \cdot \text{atm}$ at $23 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$,
132 50 % R.H. and 1 atm). Three different atmospheres and two storage temperatures were applied
133 (Table 1): independent batches of fish were used for each of the five storage experiments. In the
134 present study, the storage experiments are referred to as H4, H8, L4, L8 and Air, where the
135 notation of the MA conditions indicates high (H) or low (L) oxygen content and temperature in
136 Celsius degrees (4 or 8). For the determination of background concentrations possibly
137 originating from the packaging materials and/or heat sealing, sample-free packages (blanks) with
138 similar gas atmospheres were prepared. The packages were stored at (4.0 ± 0.7) or $(8.0 \pm 0.4) \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
139 until the day of analysis. On a regular basis, three randomly selected packages were analyzed.
140 After sampling, the remaining fish portion was packaged under vacuum using high barrier film
141 bags (oxygen transmission rate $< 2.7 \text{ cm}^3/\text{m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h} \cdot \text{bar}$ at $23 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and 0 % R.H.) and stored at -32
142 $^\circ\text{C}$ for no longer than 120 days (sensory evaluation) or one year (amplicon sequencing).

143 ***2.3. Microbiological analysis***

144 For microbiological analysis, 30 ± 0.1 g of individual fillet was aseptically weighed into a sterile
145 stomacher bag and diluted ten times in physiological saline peptone solution (PPS; 0.85 % m/v
146 NaCl, 0.1 % m/v peptone). The samples were homogenized in Stomacher Lab Blender (LED
147 Techno, Heusden-Zolder, Belgium) for one minute and appropriate decimal dilutions were
148 prepared in PPS. The total psychrotrophic count (TPC) was determined on Marine Agar (MA;
149 Difco Le Pont de Claix, France) by spread plating, lactic acid bacteria (LAB) on Man Rogosa
150 Sharpe Agar (MRS; Oxoid, Hampshire, UK) or modified MRS (mMRS; yeast extract 4.0 g/L,

151 Lab-Lemco powder 8.0 g/L, peptone 10.0 g/L, sorbitan mono-oleate (Tween 80) 1 ml/L,
152 dipotassium hydrogen phosphate 2 g/L, sodium acetate 5 g/L, triammonium citrate 2 g/L,
153 magnesium sulphate 0.2 g/L, manganese sulphate 0.05 g/L; pH 8.6 at 25 °C; 20 % glucose
154 solution 100 mL/L after autoclaving) by pour plating, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) producers on Iron
155 Agar Lyngby (IAL; Oxoid) supplemented with L-cysteine (Fluka, Steinheim, Germany) by pour
156 plating, Pseudomonads on *Pseudomonas* Agar (PA; Oxoid) supplemented with *Pseudomonas*
157 CFC supplement SR 103E (Oxoid) by spread plating and *Brochothrix thermosphacta* on
158 Streptomycin Sulfate Thallous Acetate Actidione Agar (STAA; Oxoid) supplemented with
159 selective supplement SR 151E (Oxoid) by spread plating. Plates were incubated at 22 °C for 2
160 (PA and STAA), 3 (MRS and IAL) or 5 days (MA).

161 **2.4. Quantification of spoilage related VOCs by SIFT-MS**

162 A selected-ion flow-tube mass spectrometer (Voice 200, Syft Technologies™, Christchurch,
163 New Zealand) was used for quantifying a predefined set of VOCs in the package headspace.
164 Principles of the instrument have been described elsewhere (Noseda et al., 2010). The
165 compounds (Table 2) were selected on the basis of previous research and literature survey. The
166 package headspace was sampled with a flow rate of 32 ml/min during 60 seconds (preparation
167 10s, sample 50s) through a septum inserted on the package lid and the VOC concentrations were
168 averaged over eleven data points. Two consecutive gas samples per package were analyzed.
169 During sampling, the headspace was connected to atmospheric air with a needle inlet in order to
170 avoid package collapse and subsequent change in the internal conditions of the package.
171 Respectively, empty packages (blanks, n=9-14) from each headspace-temperature combination
172 were randomly analyzed throughout the storage time and used for determining the limit of

173 quantification (LOQ) of each compound and for background subtraction. Concentrations of the
174 VOCs were determined with the LabSyft software (Syft Technologies™).

175 The relative standard deviation (SD%) of each VOC concentration during a SIFT-MS measurement
176 was calculated as

$$177 \quad SD\% = SD_m/x_m * 100 \% \quad (1)$$

178 where x_m is the average and SD_m the standard deviation of a single SIFT-MS measurement (n=11).
179 VOCs with concentrations exceeding 25 % average relative standard deviation during the entire
180 storage time within a certain packaging condition were excluded from further analysis.

181 The Limit of Quantification (LOQ) was calculated with the International Union of Pure and
182 Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) equation (Mocak, Bond, Mitchell, & Scollary, 1997):

$$183 \quad LOQ = x_{bl} + 6*SD_{bl} \quad (2)$$

184 where x_{bl} is the total average and SD_{bl} the standard deviation of the blanks. Background was
185 subtracted from the measured concentrations that exceeded the LOQ: the reported results are
186 measured concentrations minus x_{bl} .

187 **2.5. Headspace composition (% CO₂/O₂), pH and color measurements**

188 The headspace gas composition (% v/v CO₂/O₂) was analyzed with a gas analyzer (CheckMate®
189 9900 CO₂/O₂, Dansensor A/S, Ringsted, Denmark). pH was determined as an average of three
190 consecutive measurements from randomly selected spots in individual fillets within 30 minutes
191 after opening the package using a pH electrode (Lab® 427, Mettler Toledo GmbH, Schwerzenbach,
192 Switzerland) connected to a pH meter (SevenEasy, Mettler Toledo GmbH). The product color was
193 determined as an average of ten measurements from randomly selected fillet spots by a

194 spectrophotometer (CM 2500d, Konica Minolta Sensing Inc., New Jersey, USA) and related
195 SpectraMagic™ NX color data software. Color was measured through a small Petri dish (diameter
196 230 mm) using the CIE L* a* b* color space with a standard 10° observer and Illuminant D65.

197 ***2.6. Sensory evaluation***

198 Sensory evaluation was based on olfactory evaluation and performed in individual booths under
199 red light (UGent Sensolab). A panel of 8-12 persons having experience in sensory evaluation of
200 fish was formed from the laboratory staff at LFMFP. One out of three daily replicates (A-C) was
201 randomly selected and used per testing session. The samples were thawed at 2 °C overnight, cut
202 to 5.0 ± 0.1 g portions and presented to the panelists at 4 °C in odor-free, transparent plastic cups
203 (diameter 67 mm; AVA, Temse, Belgium), closed with lids (AVA) and labelled with three-digit
204 random codes generated with Excel 2013 (Windows).

205 Ranking tests (ISO, 2006) were used to determine if significant differences occurred between
206 different stages of storage within a certain packaging condition. Four samples were presented to
207 the panelists to be ranked from least fresh (1) to most fresh (4). For conditions H4, H8, and L4, a
208 second ranking test was performed for the critical days identified by the first test. The collected
209 data was subjected to a Friedman test followed by a Least Significant Difference test (Excel 2013
210 for Windows) in order to determine whether significant differences occurred between samples
211 from different days of storage.

212 Acceptance tests were used to determine the quality of cod samples from different stages of storage
213 within a certain packaging condition. Four samples were presented to the panelists along with a
214 fresh reference (day 0) from the same lot. A five-point scale (very good, good, satisfactory,
215 marginal, spoiled) was used for the evaluation.

216 **2.7. Amplicon sequencing**

217 16s rRNA gene amplicon sequencing analysis was used for the characterization of the cod
218 microbiota over storage time. Three samples stored at -32 °C were selected to represent early,
219 intermediate and late stages of storage (Table 1). One randomly selected sample out of three daily
220 replicates (A-C) was used for the analysis.

221 A phenol/chloroform extraction procedure with mechanical disruption using a FastPrep device
222 (Vilchez-Vargas et al., 2013) was used for the extraction of DNA. Bacterial cells were aseptically
223 collected from the frozen sample surface by swabbing. An individual swab was placed in an
224 Eppendorf tube with 200 mg glass beads and 1000 µl of lysis buffer (100 mM Tris; 100 mM
225 EDTA; 100 mM NaCl; 1 wt/vol % polyvinylpyrrolidone; 2 wt/vol % sodium dodecyl sulphate; 50
226 ml water; pH 8). The tube was transferred to the FastPrep-24 instrument (MP Biomedicals, Santa
227 Ana, California, USA) and disrupted twice at 1400 rpm for 60 s. After centrifuging at maximum
228 speed for 5 min, phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (500 µl; pH 7) was added to the supernatant
229 and the solution was thoroughly vortexed and centrifuged at maximum speed for 60 s. Chloroform
230 (700 µl) was added to the supernatant, mixed by vortexing and centrifuged at maximum speed for
231 one minute. The resulting upper phase was divided into two Eppendorf tubes (450 µl per tube)
232 where sodium acetate (3M; 45 µl) was added, followed by mixing and addition of isopropyl
233 alcohol (-20 °C; 500 µl). The solution was mixed by inverting, stored for one hour at -20 °C and
234 centrifuged at maximum speed for one minute at 4 °C. The resulting pellet was dried and dissolved
235 into T10E1 (100 µl).

236 Library preparation and sequencing was carried out at LGC Genomics (Germany) according to
237 the procedure presented by De Vrieze et al. (2016). The PCR mix contained 1 ng of DNA extract
238 and PCRs showing low yields were further amplified for 5 additional cycles if needed.

239 Sequencing was done on an Illumina MiSeq platform using v3 Chemistry (Illumina, San Diego,
240 California, USA) along with a mock community that was included in triplicate in the sequencing
241 run to assess the sequencing quality. The mock community consisted of the genomic DNA of 12
242 species from 10 different phyla and was pooled to an equimolar concentration of 16S rRNA gene
243 copies based on Q-PCR with the Illumina primers.

244 The mothur software package v. 1.38.0 (Schloss et al., 2009) and guidelines developed by P.
245 Schloss (Miseq sop.12th October 2016; Kozich, Westcott, Baxter, Highlander, & Schloss, 2013)
246 were used for processing the amplicon sequencing data. From the total number of forward and
247 reverse reads, contigs with lengths outside of the 2.5 - 97.5 % quantiles or sequences with
248 ambiguous base calls were removed. Remaining unique sequences were aligned to the mother-
249 reconstructed SILVA Seed alignment v. 123 (Pruesse et al., 2007). Unique sequences were pre-
250 clustered within a distance of 1/100 nucleotides and chimeras were screened with UCHIME
251 (Edgar, Haas, Clemente, Quince, & Knight, 2011). Next, sequences were classified using RDP v.
252 14 (Cole et al., 2009) and Wang's algorithm.

253 Non-bacterial or unidentified sequences were removed and the remaining OTUs were clustered
254 using average linkage and 97 % sequence identity. Single-read OTUs were considered as likely
255 errors and discarded from further analyses. The alpha diversity was examined by rarefaction
256 curves and community richness estimators Chao1984 (Chao, 1984), ChaoBunge2002 (Chao &
257 Bunge, 2002) and ACE-1 (Chao & Lee, 1992), diversity estimators Shannon (Shannon &
258 Weaver, 1949), Simpson (Simpson, 1949) and inverse Simpson, and evenness estimator Pielou
259 (Pielou, 1966).

260 **3. Results**

261 **3.1. Headspace composition (% CO₂/O₂)**

262 The development of headspace gas concentrations (CO₂/O₂) is presented in Table 3. Under high
263 O₂ concentrations (H4 and H8), simultaneously, an initial increase in oxygen levels and a
264 decrease in carbon dioxide levels were observed, the latter likely due to the dissolution of carbon
265 dioxide into the food product. Under all tested conditions, oxygen content decreased and carbon
266 dioxide content subsequently increased after several days of storage at the time of progressing
267 microbial growth (see 3.3.).

268 **3.2. pH and color**

269 The evolution of pH and color variables L*, a* and b* is presented in Table 3. Throughout
270 storage time, pH was 6.33 ± 0.12 , 6.57 ± 0.16 , 6.53 ± 0.17 , 6.68 ± 0.15 and 6.70 ± 0.05 under the
271 conditions H4, H8, L4, L8 and Air, respectively. In addition to some increase in yellowness (b*)
272 as a function of time under MAP conditions, differences in color values were mostly not detected
273 over time or between different storage conditions.

274 **3.3. Microbiological analysis**

275 Results of the microbiological analysis are presented in Fig. 1. Generally, more rapid growth was
276 observed on all tested media under air when compared to the MAP conditions at the respective
277 storage temperature (4 °C). Initially (day 0), high TPC (Fig. 1A) were typically enumerated on
278 MA. The limit of 7.0 log CFU/g was exceeded after 2 days under air storage at 4 °C, whereas at
279 both MAP conditions this limit was reached within 2 days at 8 °C and 4 days at 4 °C. Under low
280 O₂ concentrations (L4 and L8), stationary phase was reached after 4 days at 8 °C and 8 days at 4
281 °C, which closely coincides with the total depletion of oxygen from the package headspace
282 (Table 3). TPC of cod packaged under MAP was typically 0.5-1 log higher on MA than on IAL
283 (Fig. 1A-B).

284 LAB enumerated on MRS (Fig. 1C) were able to grow especially well at 8 °C. Oxygen
285 concentration had little effect on LAB growth under MAs until complete depletion from the
286 headspace. Respective enumerations were obtained on modified MRS (results not shown). On
287 the other hand, growth of H₂S producers (Fig. 1D) was promoted by low oxygen concentrations.
288 Their growth was highly similar to LAB under low oxygen concentrations (L4 and L8), whereas
289 stationary growth was observed after 4 days under H8 and six days under H4. Under Air, H₂S
290 producers reached higher levels than LAB.

291 *Pseudomonas* spp. growth (Fig. 1E) was favored by storage under air and effectively inhibited by
292 elevated carbon dioxide concentrations (60 %). The initial level of *B. thermosphacta* (Fig 1F)
293 was between 2.5 - 4 log CFU/g and increased by at least 2.5 log CFU/g during storage under all
294 tested conditions.

295 **3.4. Quantification of VOCs**

296 The VOC concentrations determined by SIFT-MS exceeding the LOQ and having relative
297 standard deviation below 25 % (Supplementary table 1) are presented in Figures 2-4 as a
298 function of TPC enumerated on MA. In addition to these compounds, acetone exceeded the LOQ
299 under L8 (104 µg/m³ on day 7) and ammonia under L4 (9.0 µg/m³ on day 13). When the LOQ
300 was not exceeded, concentration was marked as 0 in Figs 2-4.

301 The differences between the blank averages and the LOQ (Supplementary table 1) could be
302 attributed to the deviation between blanks. In most cases, concentration of a certain VOC was
303 constant or slightly increasing throughout storage in the blanks. However, ethanol concentration
304 increased in the MAP blanks by a factor of 1000 or more by the end of storage.

305 **3.4.1. Alcohols**

306 Levels of alcohols in the package headspace are presented in Fig. 2. Ethanol, 3-methyl-1-
307 butanol, isobutyl alcohol and 2,3-butanediol eventually exceeded the LOQ under most of the
308 tested conditions. Ethanol yielded higher concentrations than the other studied compounds.
309 However, a high initial ethanol concentration and increasing trend as a function of storage time
310 were typically also detected in the blanks, leading to high LOQs that were only exceeded under
311 high O₂ conditions. Concentrations of 3-methyl-1-butanol and 2,3-butanediol started to increase
312 as 7.0 log CFU g⁻¹ TPC was exceeded and reached up to 500 µg m⁻³. Evolution of these
313 compounds was similar under all tested MAP conditions, whereas lower quantities were
314 produced under air. On the other hand, isobutyl alcohol was produced in low quantities and
315 primarily under L4.

316 3.4.2. *Ketones, esters and acids*

317 During refrigerated storage, two ketones (2-pentanone and acetoin), two esters (ethyl acetate and
318 ethyl propanoate) and one acid (acetic acid) were analyzed. Due to high relative standard
319 deviations and/or LOQs, only ethyl acetate, acetic acid and 2-pentanone were quantified (Fig. 3).
320 Increase of ethyl acetate concentration followed a similar trend under every tested condition,
321 whereas other compounds did not exceed the LOQ under all conditions and remained below 200
322 µg m⁻³ throughout storage. Under air storage, only ethyl acetate exceeded the LOQ, whereas
323 acetic acid was primarily quantified under low O₂ concentrations.

324 3.4.3. *Amine compounds*

325 Of all tested amine compounds, only trimethylamine (TMA) concentrations increased above the
326 LOQ during storage (Fig. 4). At a certain level of microbial growth, higher concentrations of
327 TMA were produced under low O₂ concentrations than under high O₂ or air. Under low O₂

328 concentrations at 4 °C (L4), some high concentrations were quantified at relatively low microbial
329 levels. This happened during the late days of storage when TPC was decreasing.

330 *3.4.4. Sulfur compounds*

331 The time evolution of the sulfur compounds is presented in Fig. 4. Dimethyl disulfide and
332 hydrogen sulfide had a relative standard deviation over 25 %. Relative standard deviation of
333 methyl mercaptan was below 25 % only under condition L8. Dimethyl sulfide (DMS) was
334 typically quantified at low microbial levels ($TPC < 7 \log \text{CFU g}^{-1}$) and was the only sulfuric
335 compound to exceed LOQ under air. Concentrations of DMS did often remain relatively stable
336 throughout storage. Under air or low O₂ MAP, higher concentrations were detected than under
337 high O₂ MAP at a respective level of microbial growth.

338 *3.6. Sensory evaluation*

339 Figures 2-4 present the individual VOC concentrations as a function of sensory rejection (%). A
340 sample was considered rejected if labelled as marginal or spoiled. The onset of VOC
341 concentration increase typically coincided with approximately 25 % rejection, irrespective of the
342 identity of the VOC. At ≥ 50 % rejection, TPC enumerated on MA was generally over 7.5 log.

343 Friedman and LSD tests were used for analyzing significant differences among the ranking data.
344 The Friedman test indicated no significant differences ($\alpha = 0.05$) between samples from different
345 days of storage under Air or in the second test of L4, which is why subsequent LSD tests were
346 not carried out. On the basis of LSD tests (Fig. 5), significant differences ($\alpha = 0.05$) between
347 samples indicated perceivable change in product quality. Under conditions H4, H8, L4 and L8, a
348 change in olfactory quality was observed approximately between days 6-8, 3-5, 4-8 and 3-5,
349 respectively. These changes closely coincide with 50 % rejection (Fig. 2-4).

350 3.7. 16S rRNA gene sequencing

351 Rarefaction curves of samples from intermediate to late days of storage commonly showed
352 trends to level off (Supplementary fig. 1), indicating appropriate sampling depth for most of
353 these samples. Even though relatively high species diversity was estimated in samples from early
354 stages of storage (Supplementary table 2), the low read counts were likely insufficient for
355 appropriate sampling of diversity. Alpha diversity analysis indicated that ACE-1 (Chao & Lee,
356 1992) was the only stable richness estimator for the studied dataset (Supplementary table 3).
357 Under modified atmospheres, the ACE-1 index suggested that community richness increased
358 during the early days of storage and decreased during the late days, respectively. However,
359 within 95 % confidence intervals, this was only observed under condition H8. On the other hand,
360 diversity indices showed that community diversity was highest in the beginning of storage (day
361 0) under all tested conditions (Supplementary table 4). Diversity was lowest during intermediate
362 storage under MA conditions and in the end of storage under air.

363 After data processing, 503 OTUs were retained at the 97 % sequence identity threshold and a
364 high variation in the number of reads was observed between samples (Supplementary table 2).
365 The relative distribution of the eight most abundant genera is presented in Fig. 6. Initial
366 microbiota (day 0) were generally diverse under all tested conditions. Even though
367 *Acinetobacter*, *Flavobacterium*, *Photobacterium*, *Pseudomonas* and *Psychrobacter* were the
368 most abundant genera on day 0, their proportion of the total microbiota was relatively small.
369 However, under condition L8, *Psychrobacter* and *Flavobacterium* were dominating and a
370 relatively high proportion of *Photobacterium* was detected under H8.

371 The *Photobacterium* genus became dominant in relative abundance over storage time under all
372 tested conditions. Initially, *Photobacterium* formed ca. 30 % of the total microbiota under H8

373 and less than 15 % of under H4, L4, L8 and Air. On the later days of storage, over 88 % was
374 detected under both MAP conditions at 4 °C. Under MA conditions, the relative abundance of
375 *Photobacterium* was highest during intermediate storage and decreased to some extent by the
376 end of storage, thus increasing community diversity (Supplementary table 4). At higher storage
377 temperature (8 °C), *Photobacterium* decreased from 78 to 60 % under H8 and 65 to 46 % under
378 L8: under these conditions, *Acinetobacter*, *Brochothrix* and *Carnobacterium* were also able to
379 grow. However, a lower number of reads was also obtained from day 7 samples when compared
380 to day 4 samples under these conditions. Under air, 70 and 86 % of *Photobacterium* was detected
381 on days 2 and 3 of storage.

382 **4. Discussion**

383 Growth of SSOs is dependent on the packaging and storage conditions. *Photobacterium*
384 *phosphoreum* has been identified as an SSO of marine fish under elevated CO₂ concentrations
385 (Dalgaard et al., 1997; Dalgaard, Mejlholm, & Huss, 1997; Gram & Dalgaard, 2002; Leroi,
386 2010). In the present study, the *Photobacterium* genus became indeed dominating under all
387 tested MAP conditions. Since *P. phosphoreum* and *P. iliopiscicarium* are able to grow on MA
388 (Broekaert, Heyndrickx, Herman, Devlieghere, & Vlaemynck, 2011), the results suggest that
389 TPC enumerated on MA reflects the growth of this genus. Furthermore, it was observed that ca.
390 7 log CFU/g is needed for the onset of exponential VOC increase and ca. 7.5 log CFU/g for 50 %
391 rejection. The results are in line with Dalgaard et al. (1997) for cod fillets stored under 60/40/0
392 and 60/0/40 (CO₂/O₂/N₂) at 0 °C. The results thus suggest that representatives of the
393 *Photobacterium* genus contribute to the increase in VOC concentrations and sensory rejection
394 and that the onset of exponential VOC increase can be observed at relatively high microbial
395 levels.

396 When stored under air, *Pseudomonas* and *Shewanella* spp. have commonly been considered as
397 SSOs of refrigerated or iced marine fish (Gram & Huss, 1996; Gram & Dalgaard, 2002).
398 Parlapani et al. (2015) observed *Pseudomonas* and H₂S producers to be dominating in sea bass
399 stored both under air and MAP (60/10/30 % CO₂/O₂/N₂); under MAP, LAB and *B.*
400 *thermosphacta* were observed to be co-dominating. Respectively, both enumeration (Fig. 1) and
401 sequencing (Fig. 6) results of the present study indicate *Pseudomonas* growth under air and
402 inhibition under MAP. Under MA conditions, high carbon dioxide concentrations are known to
403 inhibit pseudomonads (Gram & Huss, 1996).

404 Enumeration of *Photobacterium* can be affected by the properties of the growth media. Broekaert
405 et al. (2011) identified MA to be more suitable for the enumeration of marine bacteria than IAL.
406 In the present study, the difference typically observed between TPC enumerated on MA and IAL
407 likely reflects the dominance of the *Photobacterium* genus. In the beginning of storage (day 0),
408 highly similar results are obtained on both media, whereas higher counts are generally
409 enumerated on MA on later days of storage (Fig. 1). According to the oligotyping results (Fig.
410 6), respectively, the *Photobacterium* genus typically forms a small fraction of the initial
411 microbiota and majority at later stages of storage. Since *P. phosphoreum* is sensitive to heat,
412 pour plating temperatures (< 50 °C) have been suggested to lead into underestimation of its
413 growth (Dalgaard et al., 1997). Incubation temperature of 23-25 °C or higher has also been
414 suggested to inhibit *P. phosphoreum* growth (Dalgaard et al., 1997); however, similar
415 enumeration results were obtained in the present study on MA incubated at 22 or 15 °C (results
416 not shown).

417 Elevated CO₂ concentrations have been reported to favor the growth of CO₂ tolerant LAB (Gram
418 & Dalgaard, 2002; Leroi, 2010). Analogously, the present enumeration results on MRS suggests

419 that facultative anaerobic LAB were able to grow under both MAP conditions. Even though
420 acetate-containing MRS has been reported to inhibit certain LAB such as carnobacteria (Leroi,
421 2010), comparative enumeration on MRS and mMRS resulted in highly similar CFU levels
422 (results not shown). According to the sequencing results (Fig. 6), the relative abundance of
423 carnobacteria was higher under MA conditions when compared to storage under air. High CO₂
424 concentration also had an inhibitive effect on H₂S producers under MAP when compared to air
425 storage, especially under high O₂ conditions. An additional inhibitive effect of O₂ was also
426 observed by López-Caballero et al. (2001), which was suggested to be due to synergistic effect
427 between the gases.

428 An increase in concentrations of several alcohols was detected in the present study. Respectively,
429 ethanol, 3-methyl-1-butanol and 2,3-butanediol have frequently been identified as potential
430 spoilage indicators of marine fish under air and/or MAP in several studies (Duflos, Coin, Cornu,
431 Antinelli, & Malle, 2006; Mikš-Krajnik et al., 2016; Olafsdottir et al., 2005; Parlapani et al.,
432 2014; Parlapani et al., 2015; Parlapani et al., 2015). Olafsdottir et al. (2005) observed increasing
433 concentrations of ethanol, 2-methyl-1-propanol, 3-methyl-1-butanol and 2,3-butanediol for
434 aerobically stored cod fillets at 0.5 °C. Ethanol and 2-methyl-1-propanol were suggested to have
435 importance in early detection of spoilage despite non-continuous increase. Duflos et al. (2006)
436 found several alcohols including ethanol, 3-methyl-1-butanol and 2,3-butanediol to increase in
437 cod, mackerel and whiting stored under vacuum at 4 °C for ten days. Production of different
438 alcohols has been associated with several microbial species among LAB, *Shewanella*,
439 *Pseudomonas*, *P. phosphoreum* and *B. thermosphacta* (Casaburi, Piombino, Nychas, Villani, &
440 Ercolini, 2015; Hernández-Macedo et al., 2012; Nosedá et al., 2012). In the present study, the

441 dominance of *Photobacterium* suggests that the production of alcohols could be largely
442 attributed to this genus.

443 The H₂S concentrations remained low under all tested conditions. Low H₂S production by *P.*
444 *phosphoreum* has been observed in other studies (Dalgaard, Gram, & Huss, 1993). In Danish
445 marine fish, *Shewanella baltica* has been identified as the main H₂S producer (Vogel et al.,
446 2005). Even though *S. putrefaciens* has high spoilage potential due to the production of intensive
447 off-odors, high levels (8 log CFU/g) are needed for off-odor production (Dalgaard, 1995). The
448 present results thus support the conclusion that significant VOC production can only be observed
449 at relatively high microbial levels.

450 TMA is produced by bacteria that utilize trimethylamine oxide (TMAO) for anaerobic respiration
451 and results in ammonia-like or “fishy” odors characteristic for spoiled marine fish (Gram &
452 Dalgaard, 2002). Oxygen has been observed to inhibit the reduction of TMAO into TMA as well
453 as to reduce the growth of TMA-producing *P. phosphoreum* (Boskou & Debevere, 1997;
454 Dalgaard et al., 1997). This is in line with the results of the present study. Since TMA
455 concentration was notably higher at 50 % rejection than its human olfactory threshold (OT) 6 µg
456 m³ (Devos, Patte, Rouault, Laffort, & Van Gemert, 1990), TMA was likely to contribute to the
457 rejection of the samples.

458 Even though VOCs are often produced in low quantities, their effect on the perceived quality of
459 the fish can be significant if they have low OTs. Alcohols have generally high OTs, whereas
460 sulfur and amine compounds often become detectable at very low quantities (Devos et al., 1990).
461 However, OTs are commonly determined for single compounds from a continuous airflow.
462 Furthermore, OT values indicate the lowest quantity of a VOC that can be perceived by the

463 panelists, instead of indicating whether it is considered acceptable. Acceptance of an odor may
464 depend on cultural, social and economic aspects, as well as the characteristics of the food
465 product. Since olfactory evaluation of fish freshness is based on the overall smell, OTs and
466 acceptability of VOCs are likely dependent on the composition of the whole VOC profile.
467 Instead of using single compounds for quality and spoilage evaluation of fish, multiple-
468 compound quality indices have shown promising potential (Jørgensen et al., 2001).

469 In the present study, the concentration of several VOCs increased as a function of microbial
470 growth. Under most of the tested conditions, increase in 2,3-butanediol, ethanol, ethyl acetate, 3-
471 methyl-1-butanol and trimethylamine were observed. All these compounds have been recognized
472 as fish spoilage metabolites (Duflos et al., 2006; Olafsdóttir et al., 1997). For example, ethanol,
473 ethyl acetate and/or 3-methyl-1-butanol have also been associated with the spoilage of several
474 non-seafood products packaged under modified atmospheres (Casaburi et al., 2015; Nieminen,
475 Dalgaard, & Björkroth, 2016; Zhang et al., 2013; Zhang, Samapundo, Pothakos, Sürengil et al.,
476 2013): monitoring of such compounds could enhance the applicability of an intelligent packaging
477 solution into a wider range of food products. Since the *Photobacterium* genus was highly
478 abundant under all storage conditions, differences in its metabolism could contribute to the
479 observed differences in the VOC profiles between the tested storage conditions. Onset of
480 exponential concentration increase was typically observed between TPC 7 - 7.5 log CFU/g and
481 25 - 50 % rejection. Respectively, late increase of VOC concentrations in relation to microbial
482 growth has also been detected in other studies (Olafsdottir et al., 2005). Detection of early
483 spoilage thus requires that low concentrations of relevant VOCs can be detected.

484 **5. Conclusions**

485 Different packaging and storage conditions affect the evolution of fish microbiota and the
486 generated VOCs in the package headspace. In the present study, the SIFT-MS technology
487 allowed the real-time quantification of VOCs directly from the package headspace. This
488 approach eliminated the need of sample preparation procedures, while allowing fast and sensitive
489 analysis of the VOC profile over storage time. The obtained results directly represent the quality
490 deterioration of fish and thus the reality that a sensor needs to be able to respond to during
491 storage.

492 Packaging and storage conditions affect the evolution of the VOC profile and should be
493 considered in the selection of spoilage indicators. In the present study, increase in 2,3-butanediol,
494 ethanol, ethyl acetate, 3-methyl-1-butanol and trimethylamine concentrations during storage
495 suggests that these compounds could be used in detecting spoilage of raw Atlantic cod. However,
496 since VOC concentrations typically remain at low quantities even at the late stage of storage,
497 detection of early spoilage calls for sensitivity for low concentration ranges.

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788 **Figure captions**

789 **Fig. 1.** Counts of total viable psychrotrophic bacteria (A-B), lactic acid bacteria (C), H₂S
790 producers (D), pseudomonads (E) and *Brochothrix thermosphacta* (F) in Atlantic cod fillet
791 portions stored under conditions H4 (60 % CO₂ /40 & O₂/0 % N₂ at 4 °C), H8 (60/40/0 8 °C), L4
792 (60/5/35 4 °C), L8 (60/5/35 8 °C) and air (4 °C).

793 **Fig. 2.** Concentrations (µg m⁻³) of alcohols quantified by SIFT-MS as a function of total viable
794 psychrotrophic counts (TPC) or sensory rejection % in Atlantic cod fillet portions stored under
795 conditions H4 (60 % CO₂ /40 & O₂/0 % N₂ at 4 °C), H8 (60/40/0 8 °C), L4 (60/5/35 4 °C), L8
796 (60/5/35 8 °C) and air (4 °C).

797 **Fig. 3.** Concentrations (µg m⁻³) of ketones, esters and acids quantified by SIFT-MS as a function
798 of total viable psychrotrophic counts (TPC) or sensory rejection % in Atlantic cod fillet portions
799 stored under conditions H4 (60 % CO₂ /40 & O₂/0 % N₂ at 4 °C), H8 (60/40/0 8 °C), L4 (60/5/35
800 4 °C), L8 (60/5/35 8 °C) and air (4 °C).

801 **Fig. 4.** Concentrations (µg m⁻³) of amines and sulfur compounds quantified by SIFT-MS as a
802 function of total viable psychrotrophic counts (TPC) or sensory rejection % in Atlantic cod fillet
803 portions stored under conditions H4 (60 % CO₂ /40 & O₂/0 % N₂ at 4 °C), H8 (60/40/0 8 °C), L4
804 (60/5/35 4 °C), L8 (60/5/35 8 °C) and air (4 °C).

805 **Fig. 5.** Ranks (1=least fresh, 4=most fresh) assigned to cod fillet samples from four different
806 days of storage under conditions H4 (60 % CO₂ /40 & O₂/0 % N₂ at 4 °C), H8 (60/40/0 8 °C), L4
807 (60/5/35 4 °C) and L8 (60/5/35 8 °C). Storage days with different postscripts (a-c) within a
808 condition are significantly different (p<0.05).

809 **Fig. 6.** Composition of microbiota in Atlantic cod fillet portions stored under conditions H4 (60
810 % CO₂ /40 & O₂/0 % N₂ at 4 °C), H8 (60/40/0 8 °C), L4 (60/5/35 4 °C), L8 (60/5/35 8 °C) and
811 air (4 °C), determined by amplicon (NGS) sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene.

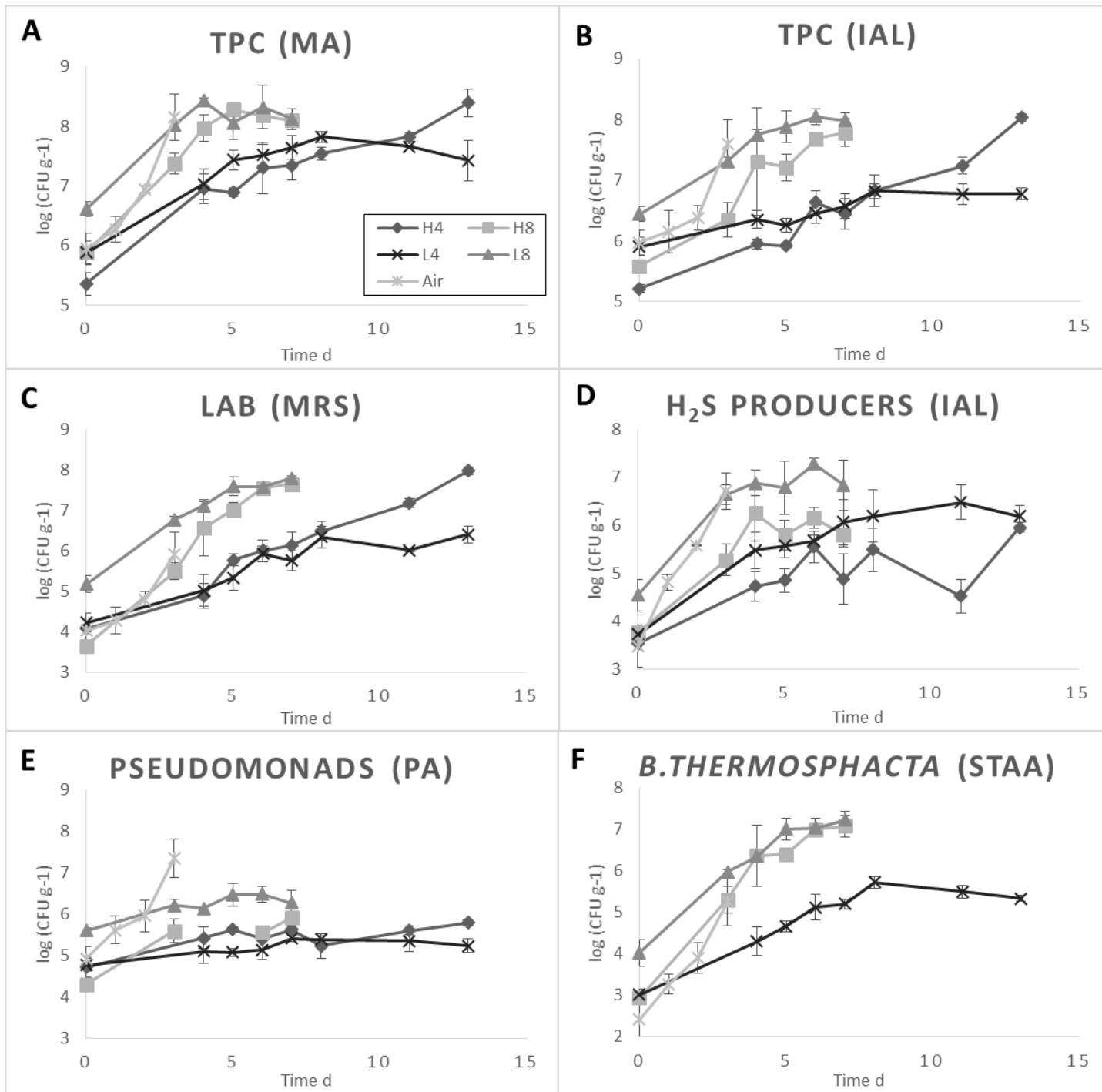


Fig. 1.

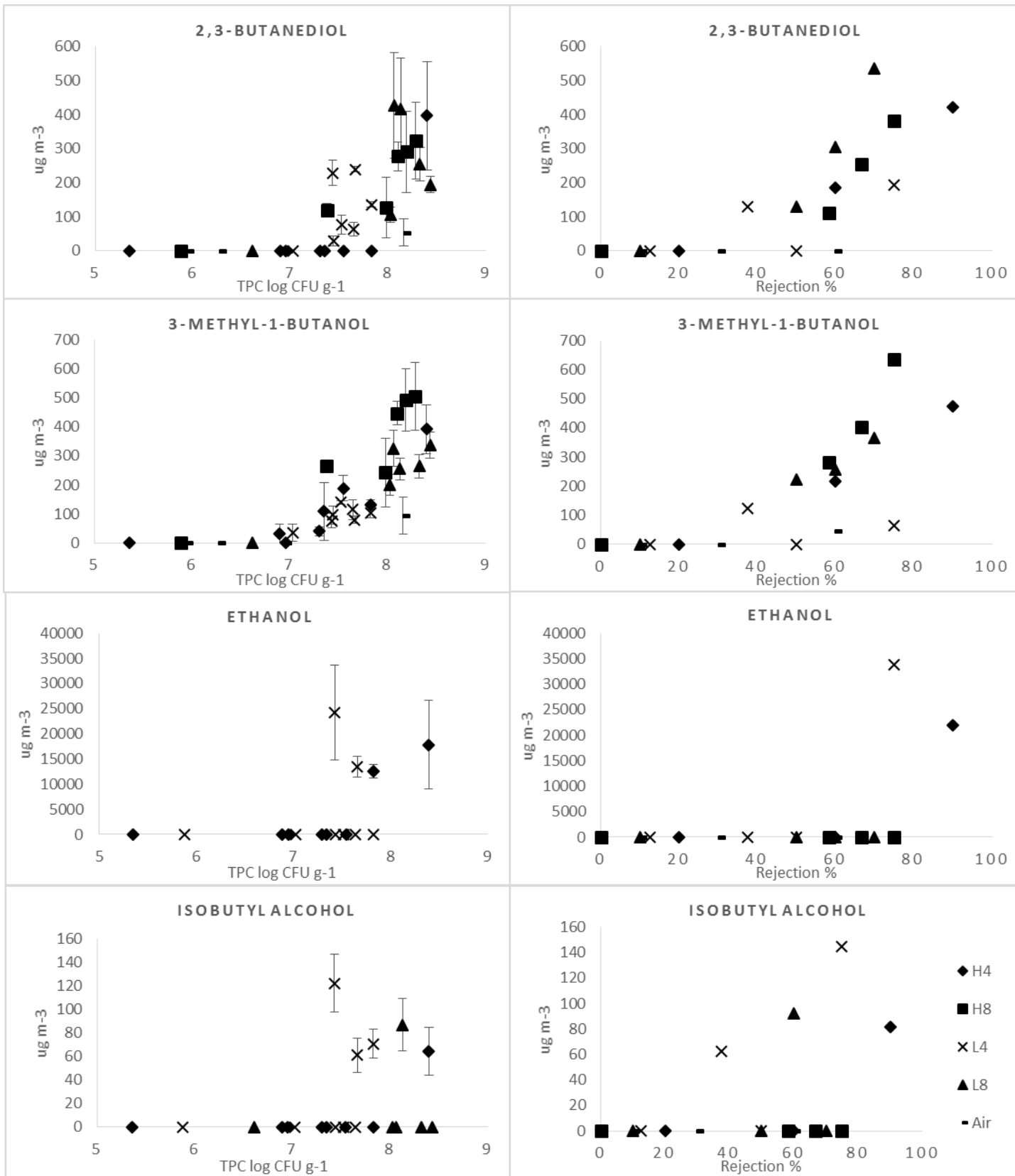


Fig. 2.

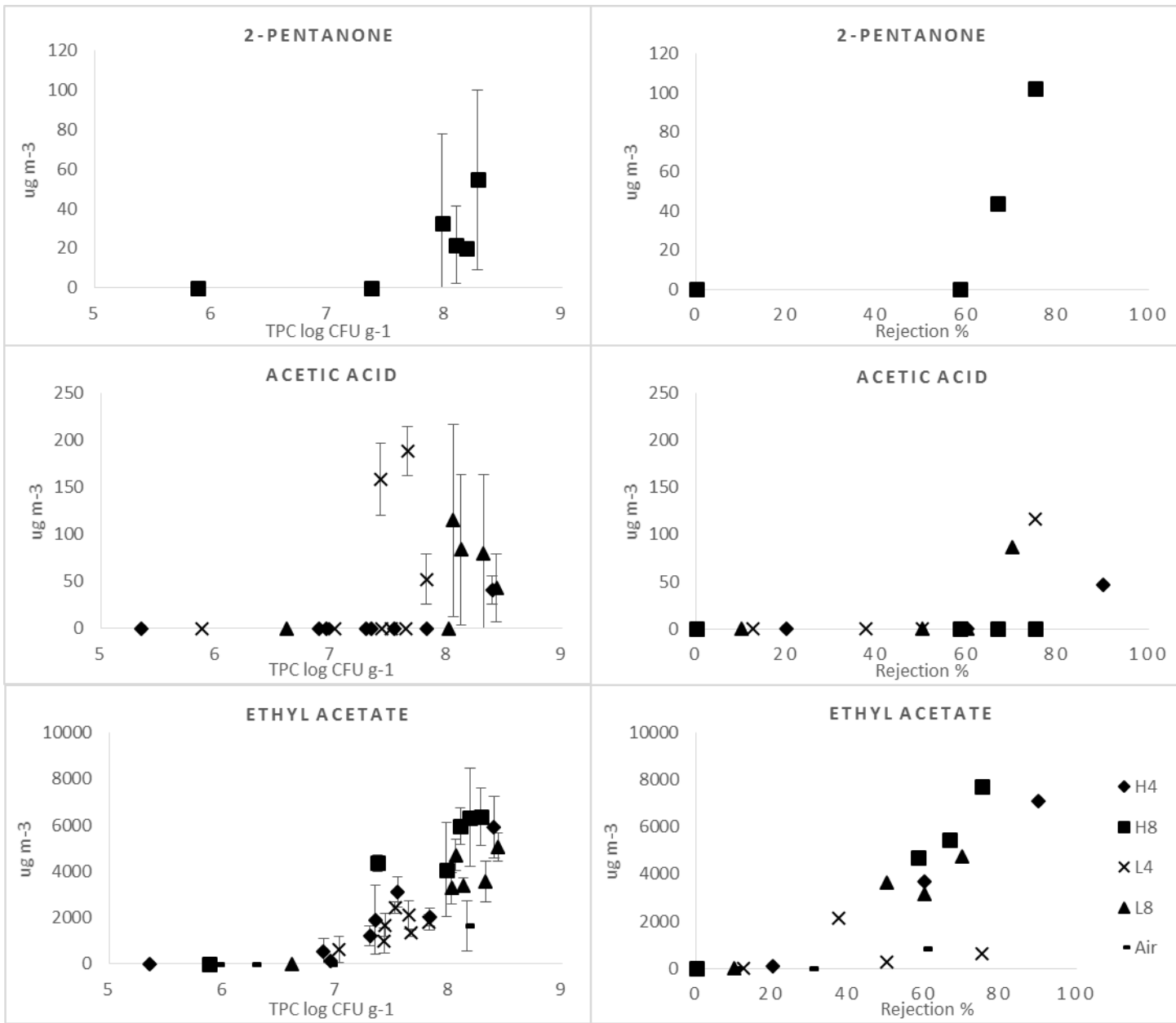


Fig. 3.

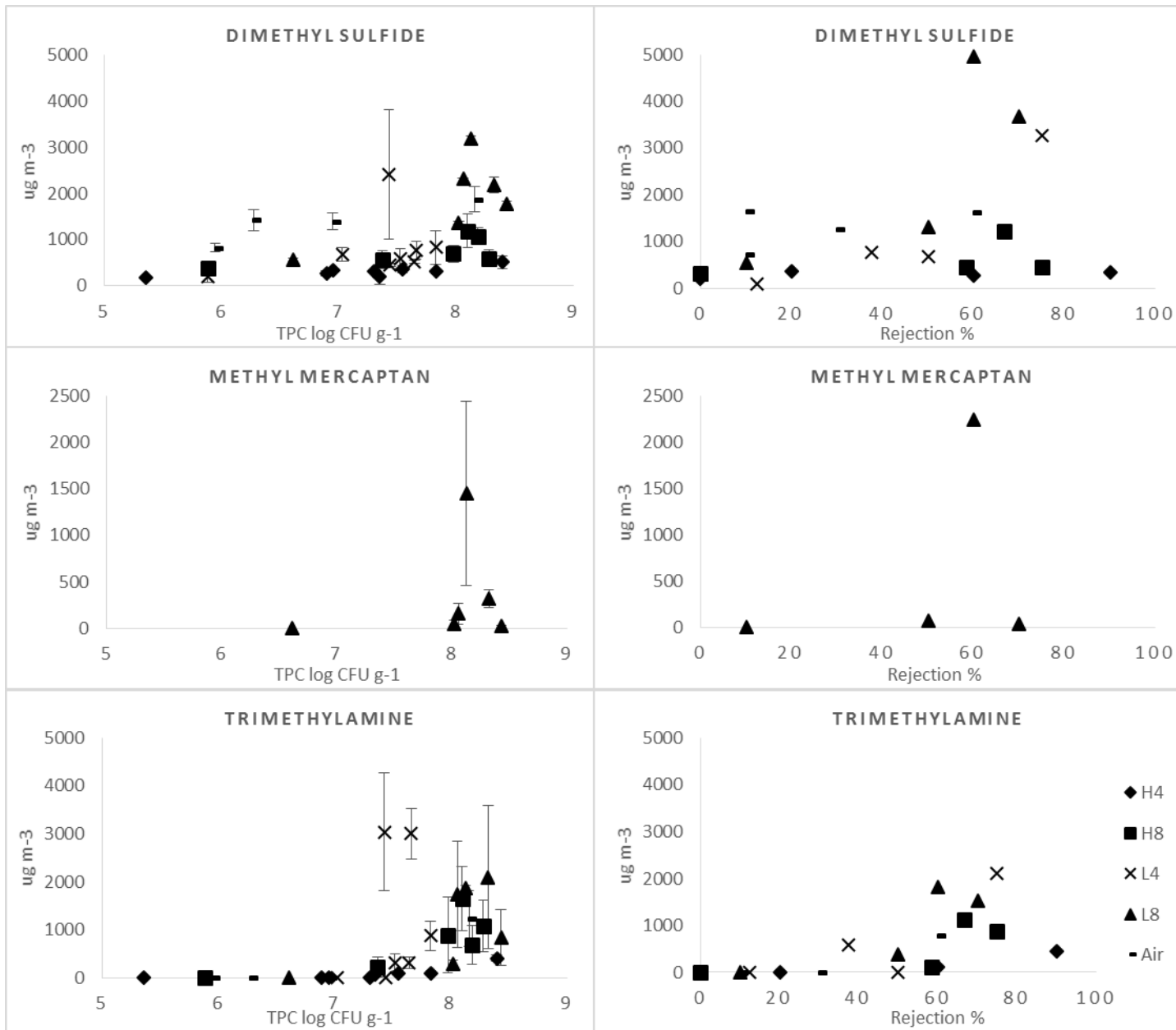


Fig. 4.

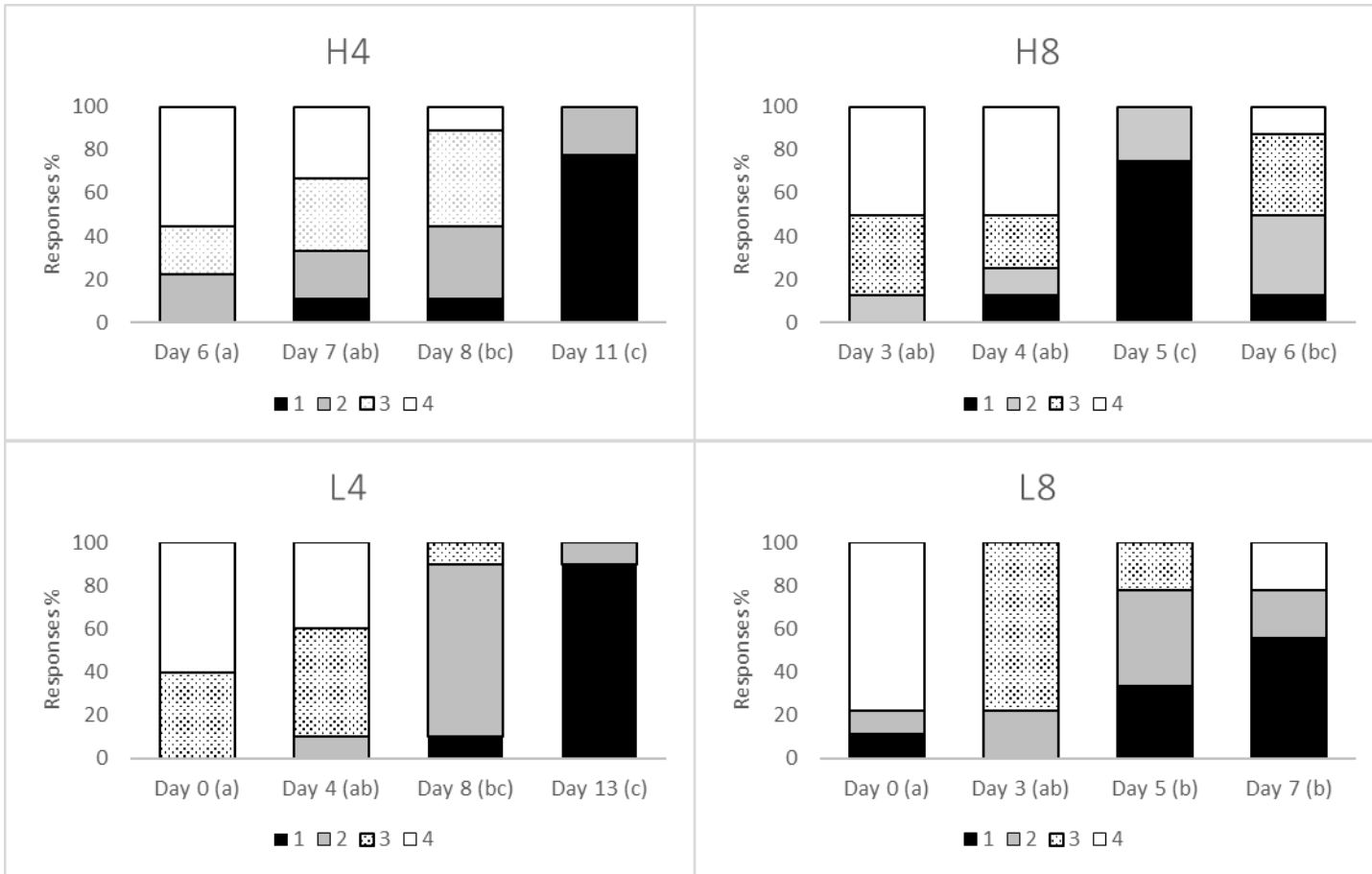


Fig. 5.

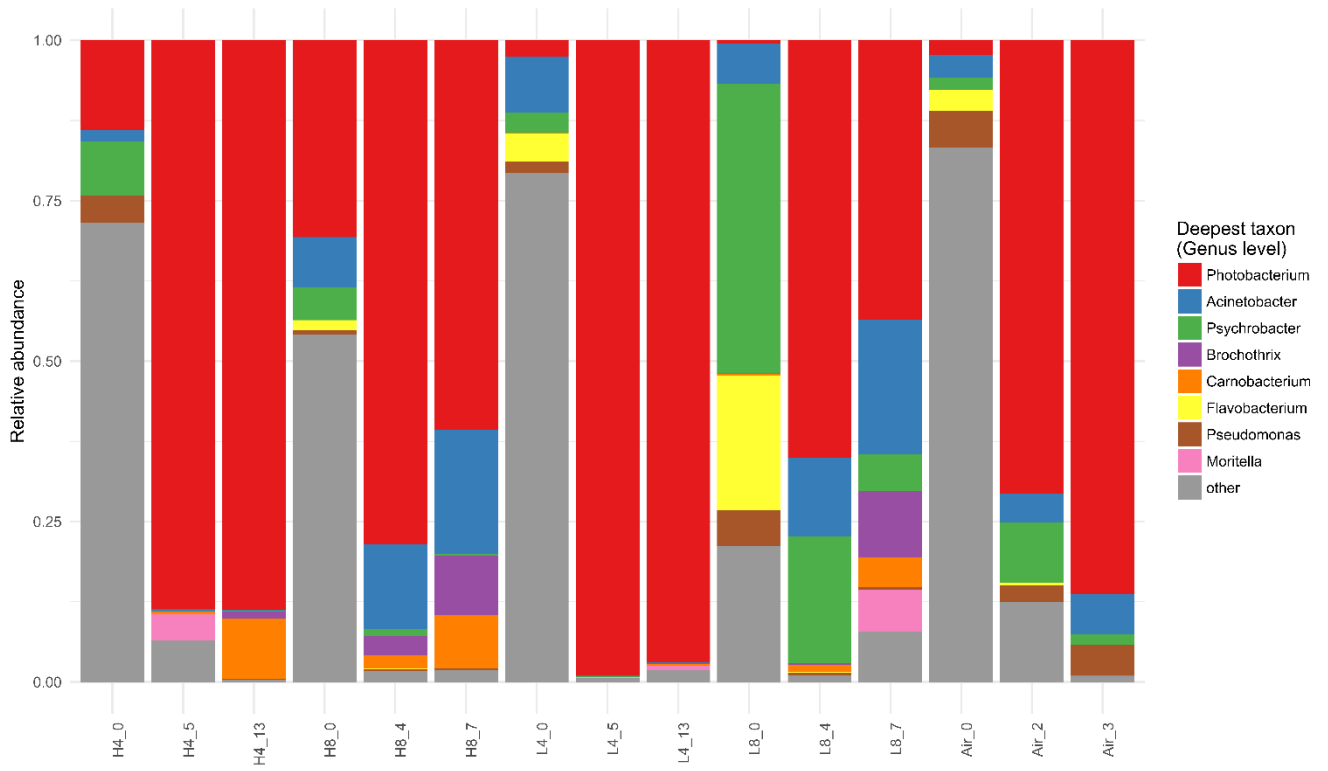


Fig. 6.

Table 1. Packaging and storage conditions used in the study. Samples from days denoted with (*) were studied by amplicon sequencing.

	H4	H8	L4	L8	Air
Headspace gases (% CO ₂ /O ₂ /N ₂)	60/40/0	60/40/0	60/5/35	60/5/35	air
Temperature (°C)	4	8	4	8	4
Days of analysis	0*,4,5*,6,7,8,11,13*	0*,3,4*,5,6,7*	0*,4,5*,6,7,11,13*	0*,3,4*,5,6,7*	0*,1,2*,3*

Table 2. Product ions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) quantified with SIFT-MS, respective mass to charge ratios (m/z), branching ratios (b) and reaction rate coefficients (k).

VOC	Precursor ion	m/z	b (%)	k	Product ion
Acids					
Acetic acid	H ₃ O ⁺	61	100	2.6 E -09	CH ₃ COOH ₂ ⁺
	NO ⁺	90	100	9.0 E -10	NO ⁺ .CH ₃ COOH
	O ₂ ⁺	60	50	2.3 E -09	CH ₃ COOH ⁺
Alcohols					
Ethanol	H ₃ O ⁺	47	100	2.7 E -09	C ₂ H ₇ O ⁺
	H ₃ O ⁺	65			C ₂ H ₇ O ⁺ .H ₂ O
	H ₃ O ⁺	83			C ₂ H ₇ O ⁺ .(H ₂ O) ₂
2,3-butanediol	NO ⁺	89	100	2.3 E -09	C ₄ H ₉ O ₂ ⁺
3-methyl-1-butanol	H ₃ O ⁺	71	100	2.8 E -09	C ₅ H ₁₁ ⁺
	NO ⁺	87	85	2.3 E -09	C ₅ H ₁₁ O ⁺
isobutyl alcohol	NO ⁺	73	95	2.4 E -09	C ₄ H ₉ O ⁺
	O ₂ ⁺	33	50	2.5 E -09	CH ₅ O ⁺
Aldehydes					
2-methylpropanal	O ₂ ⁺	72	70	3.0 E -09	C ₄ H ₈ O ⁺
3-methylbutanal	NO ⁺	85	100	2.4 E -09	C ₅ H ₉ O ⁺
Ketones					
Acetone	H ₃ O ⁺	59	100	3.9 E -09	C ₃ H ₇ O ⁺
	NO ⁺	88	100	1.2 E -09	NO ⁺ .C ₃ H ₆ O
Acetoin	O ₂ ⁺	88	20	2.5 E -09	C ₄ H ₈ O ₂ ⁺
2-pentanone	NO ⁺	116	100	3.1 E -09	NO ⁺ .C ₅ H ₁₀ O ⁺
Sulfur compounds					
Hydrogen sulfide	H ₃ O ⁺	35	100	1.6 E -09	H ₃ S ⁺
	O ₂ ⁺	34	100	1.4 E -09	H ₂ S ⁺
Methyl mercaptan	H ₃ O ⁺	49	100	1.8 E -09	CH ₄ S.H ⁺
Dimethyl sulfide	H ₃ O ⁺	63	100	2.5 E -09	(CH ₃) ₂ S.H ⁺
	NO ⁺	62	100	2.2 E -09	(CH ₃) ₂ S ⁺
Dimethyl disulfide	H ₃ O ⁺	95	100	2.6 E -09	(CH ₃) ₂ S ₂ .H ⁺
	NO ⁺	94	100	2.4 E -09	(CH ₃) ₂ S ₂ ⁺
	O ₂ ⁺	94	80	2.3 E -09	(CH ₃) ₂ S ₂ ⁺
Dimethyl trisulfide	H ₃ O ⁺	127	100	2.8 E -09	C ₂ H ₆ S ₃ H ⁺
	NO ⁺	126		1.9 E -09	C ₂ H ₆ S ₃ ⁺
Esters					
Ethyl acetate	NO ⁺	118	90	2.1 E -09	NO ⁺ .CH ₃ COOC ₂ H ₅
Ethyl propanoate	H ₃ O ⁺	103	95	2.9 E -09	C ₂ H ₅ COOC ₂ H ₅ .H ⁺
	NO ⁺	132	60	2.5 E -09	NO ⁺ .C ₂ H ₅ COOC ₂ H ₅
Amines					
Ammonia	H ₃ O ⁺	18	100	2.6 E -09	NH ₄ ⁺
	O ₂ ⁺	17	100	2.4 E -09	NH ₃ ⁺
Dimethylamine	H ₃ O ⁺	46	100	2.1 E -09	(CH ₃) ₂ N.H ⁺
Trimethylamine	H ₃ O ⁺	60	90	2.0 E -09	(CH ₃) ₃ N.H ⁺
	NO ⁺	59	100	1.6 E -09	(CH ₃) ₃ N ⁺

Table 3. Headspace gases (O_2 , CO_2), pH and color (L^* , a^* , b^*) as a function of time under conditions H4 (60 % CO_2 /40 & O_2 /0 % N_2 at 4 °C), H8 (60/40/0 8 °C), L4 (60/5/35 4 °C), L8 (60/5/35 8 °C) and Air (air 4 °C).

	Series	Time of storage (d)										
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	13
O₂	H4	41.17 ± 0.15				51.9 ± 1.6	51.77 ± 2.12	49.8 ± 1.9	49.33 ± 1.9	48.5 ± 1.48	43.97 ± 1.9	37.77 ± 2.98
	H8	42.47 ± 0.81			49.63 ± 1.27	39.57 ± 18.8	47.57 ± 0.58	46.17 ± 1.53	46.7 ± 0.78			
	L4	5.09 ± 0.12				4.26 ± 0.18	2.87 ± 0.44	2.41 ± 0.79	1.67 ± 0.52	0.25 ± 0.3	0.01 ± 0	0 ± 0
	L8	4.47 ± 0.51			4.36 ± 0.09	2.81 ± 0.87	0.73 ± 0.16	0.07 ± 0.11	0 ± 0.01			
	Air	20.73 ± 0.06	20.3 ± 0.1	19.67 ± 0.06	16.53 ± 1.4							
CO₂	H4	55.83 ± 0.25				44.07 ± 0.65	43.43 ± 1.97	43.47 ± 0.83	46.17 ± 1.57	47 ± 1.9	52.27 ± 1.45	53.7 ± 12.38
	H8	55.43 ± 2.12			47 ± 1.04	37.5 ± 13.6	49.33 ± 0.38	50.17 ± 1.86	49.77 ± 0.45			
	L4	56.27 ± 1.02				42.87 ± 0.51	41.1 ± 2.17	44.17 ± 2.27	41.07 ± 0.55	42.47 ± 2.08	40.53 ± 1.79	44.83 ± 4.47
	L8	56.47 ± 0.51			45.13 ± 1	43.77 ± 2.4	47.87 ± 4.11	45.53 ± 1.61	48.47 ± 2.93			
	Air	0.27 ± 0.06	1.37 ± 0.21	1.3 ± 0	4.77 ± 1.31							
pH	H4	6.34 ± 0.16				6.2 ± 0.11	6.36 ± 0.13	6.34 ± 0.15	6.33 ± 0.09	6.41 ± 0.08	6.23 ± 0.04	6.46 ± 0.08
	H8	6.42 ± 0.04			6.41 ± 0.13	6.66 ± 0.21	6.6 ± 0.01	6.54 ± 0.1	6.78 ± 0.04			
	L4	6.68 ± 0.24				6.3 ± 0.1	6.4 ± 0.08	6.38 ± 0.04	6.62 ± 0.14	6.59 ± 0.06	6.67 ± 0.09	6.57 ± 0.06
	L8	6.88 ± 0.07			6.56 ± 0.04	6.71 ± 0.02	6.48 ± 0.17	6.71 ± 0.1	6.75 ± 0.06			
	Air	6.68 ± 0.07	6.72 ± 0.02	6.68 ± 0.08	6.7 ± 0.05							
L*	H4	59.08 ± 1.77				62.36 ± 5.41	60.3 ± 1.59	58.01 ± 2.22	64.15 ± 2.09	61.2 ± 2.57	66.12 ± 2.06	61.03 ± 2.3
	H8	58.15 ± 2.29			58.37 ± 1.15	60.63 ± 1.32	60.49 ± 0.41	56.9 ± 2.06	58.63 ± 0.82			
	L4	56.33 ± 1.68				61.1 ± 1.81	59.94 ± 2.66	59.94 ± 1.25	59.32 ± 1.09	60.97 ± 1.16	60.63 ± 0.69	62.53 ± 1.3
	L8	61.8 ± 2.37			59.94 ± 2.47	59.97 ± 1.7	62.13 ± 1.64	62.84 ± 0.35	60.86 ± 0.62			
	Air	55.7 ± 1.06	58.71 ± 1.33	58.71 ± 1.54	56.71 ± 1.46							
a*	H4	-2.5 ± 0.18				-2.7 ± 0.07	-2.85 ± 0.31	-2.61 ± 0.09	-3 ± 0.05	-2.91 ± 0.28	-2.97 ± 0.16	-2.63 ± 0.3
	H8	-2.43 ± 0.11			-2.78 ± 0.28	-2.88 ± 0.05	-3.09 ± 0.21	-3.14 ± 0.2	-2.99 ± 0.28			
	L4	-2.6 ± 0.45				-3.11 ± 0.12	-2.64 ± 0.23	-2.95 ± 0.14	-3.05 ± 0.3	-3.23 ± 0.46	-3.06 ± 0.06	-3.41 ± 0.3
	L8	-3.07 ± 0.37			-3.21 ± 0.48	-3.07 ± 0.44	-3.59 ± 0.16	-3.35 ± 0.23	-3.55 ± 0.12			
	Air	-2.55 ± 0.33	-2.65 ± 0.16	-2.5 ± 0.17	-2.98 ± 0.07							
b*	H4	-1.64 ± 1.45				0.28 ± 1.05	-1.03 ± 0.16	-2.41 ± 1.11	-0.03 ± 0.96	0.49 ± 0.53	1.66 ± 2.9	2.68 ± 1.88
	H8	-1.09 ± 1.78			0.97 ± 1.72	-0.99 ± 1.14	0.61 ± 1.42	0.64 ± 0.16	-1.27 ± 1.52			
	L4	-1.15 ± 0.88				-0.06 ± 0.98	-0.14 ± 1.86	-1.21 ± 0.61	0.54 ± 2.32	0.05 ± 1.36	-0.06 ± 1.96	-0.42 ± 1.03
	L8	-2.97 ± 0.37			0.48 ± 1.13	0.13 ± 0.59	-0.32 ± 1.8	0.01 ± 0.65	-1 ± 0.88			
	Air	-2.97 ± 1.29	-1.73 ± 2.38	-3.2 ± 0.73	-2.06 ± 0.52							