

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Yeast-based attract-and-kill strategies for *Drosophila suzukii* management without disrupting honey bee activity

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Abstract

Attract-and-kill strategies are effective, sustainable pest control methods. Formulations combining the insecticide spinosad, at a lower dose than conventional methods, with the Drosophila-associated yeast Hanseniaspora uvarum have shown promising results. Recently, Saccharomycopsis vini was identified as the most attractive yeast for ovipositing females. In this study, the potential of S. vini for use in attract-and-kill formulations against D. suzukii was evaluated alongside H. uvarum. Behavioural assays demonstrated that D. suzukii preferred S. vini when both yeasts are simultaneously present in a close range setting but was attracted to both in long range attraction assays. In efficacy assays, S. vini and H. uvarum were equally efficient at reducing oviposition and increasing mortality in formulation with spinosad. Offering yeast formulations at the foraging sites of trained honey bees did not stimulate more feeding when compared to sugar syrup. The characterisation of the organic volatile compounds released from the cultures demonstrated that S. vini and H. uvarum were composed of overlapping as well as distinct chemicals. The antennally active compounds ethyl acetate and ethyl propanoate were abundant in the more attractive S. vini and H. uvarum, while the compounds 3-methyl-1-butanol and 2-methylthiolan-3-one were more abundant in the less attractive S. cerevisiae. These chemicals may be further studied as possible attractants or repellents for D. suzukii. We propose S. vini as a new yeast with potential for use in integrated pest management, with a distinctive volatile profile while maintaining a similar efficacy compared to H. uvarum against D. suzukii. Neither H. uvarum nor S. vini stimulated honey bee foraging behaviour, suggesting that both yeast-based attract-and-kill formulations pose a low non-target risk to honey bees.



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Introduction

The spotted wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii* Matsumura (Diptera: Drosophilidae) is an invasive insect pest that lays eggs and develops in the ripening fruits of more than 50 different plant species [1,2]. Females puncture the skin of the fruit to lay eggs in the flesh, where larvae begin feeding. In infested fruits, *D. suzukii* interacts with microbial communities, including yeast species that act as feeding and oviposition stimulants [3,4] and play a crucial role in the biology of this insect [5]. Flies rely on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released from host fruits and associated microbes to detect suitable habitats using a highly specialised olfactory system [6–8].

Due to its ability to attack soft-skinned fruits, *D. suzukii* causes significant economic losses, rendering fruits unmarketable [9,10]. Organic and integrated agriculture practices are being developed to complement or replace synthetic insecticides. The bacterial-derived spinosad has demonstrated high efficacy against *D. suzukii* on several crops and is approved for use in organic agriculture [2,11]. However, applying spinosad during the late ripening stage raises concerns about undesirable pesticide residues on commercialised fruits [12]. It has already led to increased resistance in *D. suzukii* due to its intensive use [13], and its potential harm to non-target species [14,15].

To mitigate these issues while maintaining high efficacy, attract-and-kill strategies are being developed. These strategies combine lower amounts of applied insecticides with alternative methods, such as the addition of natural VOCs that trigger attractive behaviours, and lure insects with high specificity into localised lethal traps [16–19]. Such strategies have shown positive results, using fruit- and *Drosophila*-associated yeasts as attractive sources. These yeasts not only attract flies but also stimulate oviposition, as noted with the yeasts *Hanseniaspora uvarum* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* [20–22] making them effective in luring target species to a lethal source.

The yeast *H. uvarum*, used in synergy with spinosad in vineyards, has proved to attract and kill more flies while using a lower dose of insecticide compared to conventional methods. It has also been more efficient than any other yeast tested to date [23–27]. Another promising yeast species is *Saccharomycopsis vini*, isolated from *D. suzukii*-infested fruits [20]. This yeast has been shown to stimulate feeding and fecundity in *D. suzukii* females [28], and when compared with *H. uvarum* and other yeasts, it was found to be the most attractive in laboratory assays [29].

In this study, we assessed the potential of *S. vini* to be used in attract-and-kill formulations against *D. suzukii*. We conducted a comparative study to evaluate the attractiveness of both yeast cultures and their efficacy when formulated with spinosad. In addition, the attractiveness of both yeasts to honey bees was tested for the first time. A comparative analysis of headspace volatiles of *H. uvarum, S. vini* and the less attractive yeast, *S. cerevisiae,* was performed to understand how flies discriminate between yeast cultures and to identify which headspace compounds are detected by *D. suzukii*. The results could contribute to the development of novel tools to diversify or improve pest management programmes.



Materials and methods

Drosophila suzukii rearing

Drosophila suzukii were reared in insect cages (W47.5×D47.5×H93.0 cm, BugDorm – 4 M4590, MegaView Science Co., Ltd., Taichung, Taiwan) on a cornmeal diet (DSCD(a) containing dry deactivated yeast), supplemented with dry baker's yeast (RUF Lebensmittelwerk KG, Quakenbrück) and an additional 5% sugar solution provided on cotton, under a 16:8h L:D photoperiod [20]. For all experiments, 4–8-day-old adults were used. The *D. suzukii* colony was established from field-infested cherries, blueberries, and grapes collected in South Tyrol, Italy, and was refreshed annually with field-collected individuals.

Apis mellifera rearing

Apis mellifera subsp. *carnica* (Pollmann) were kept in the experimental apiary of the Free University of Bolzano, located in Altenburg (46°23'12.6"N 11°13'57.5"E, South Tyrol, Italy). Five colonies of similar strength were created by shook-swarm in June. The 1.5 kg swarms of honey bees were placed in regular 10-frame Dadant hives for nomadic beekeeping, with six frames of organic wax foundation (II Pungiglione Soc. Coop.). The swarms were provided with newly introduced sister queens and sugar syrup (Apiinvert[®], Südzucker). The hives were arranged in a single row. After seven days, the new colonies were treated with 50 mL of 3.5% (w/v) oxalic acid dihydrate sucrose solution, trickled in between the frames to control the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor* [30].

Yeast materials and cultivation

Three yeasts were isolated at the Laimburg Research Centre in South Tyrol, Italy, from *D. suzukii*-infested grapes in South Tyrol, Italy, during a preceding study by Bellutti et al. (2018) [20]: *Saccharomycopsis vini* strain LB-NB-1.33 (accession number: KP298011, abbreviation: Sv 1.33) and *Hanseniaspora uvarum* strain LB-NB-1.21 (accession number: KP298009, abbreviation: Hu 1.21), strain LB-NB-2.2 (accession number: MK567898, abbreviation: Hu 2.2), and strain LB-NB-3.4 (accession number: MK567905, abbreviation: Hu 3.4). *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (strain S288c, abbreviation: Sc S288c) is a conventional laboratory strain. For long-term storage, purified isolates were cultivated in chloramphenicol yeast glucose broth (5g/L yeast extract, 20g/L glucose, and 0.1g/L chloramphenicol) and stored in 20% glycerol at -80°C. Yeasts were cultured in 220 mL of potato dextrose broth (PDB) (24g/L Difco[™] Potato Dextrose Broth) at 25°C, 120 rpm for 30 h in a 300-mL Erlenmeyer flask closed with cotton and aluminum foil [28].

Plant materials and cultivation

Leaves from strawberry plants (*Fragaria x ananassa*, cultivar Elsanta) and grape vines (*Vitis vinifera*, cultivar Vernatsch -also known as Trollinger or Schiava, clone: Edelvernatsch Lb 43, Rootstock: SO4) were used in behavioural experiments. Plants were grown between May and July in the greenhouse under controlled conditions (22±2°C, 75±5% relative humidity, without artificial light) and treated once a week for 20 min with vaporised sulphur against powdery mildew using a sulphur burner (Nivola B.V. 220V, Holland). No sulphur treatments were performed during the assays. Leaves were selected to be similar in size and colouration for both treatment and control samples. Purchased blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) from organic production and various seasonal cultivars were used as substrates for oviposition experiments.

Four-choice arena assay

To evaluate the preference of *D. suzukii* when multiple yeasts are available, the yeasts *S. vini,* strain 1.33 and *H. uvarum,* strains 1.21, 2.2 and 3.4 were presented in a competitive arrangement in a four-choice set-up (S1A Fig) [31]. For this purpose, five round glass dishes (diameter: 115 mm, height: 64 mm) were closed with a thin mesh. Each dish contained four traps, made of 4-mL glass vials that were closed with cut pipette tips that allowed the flies to get into the vials but



prevented them from leaving. Each vial contained 1 mL of one of the four liquid yeast cultures. Groups of 20 females were placed into each dish and the number of females trapped was scored after 24 h.

The *H. uvarum* strain 2.2 was selected among the three *H. uvarum* strains for the rest of the study as there was no preference among them. Additionally, *H. uvarum* strain 2.2 was previously shown to be highly attractive to and to elicit electrophysiological response in *D. suzukii* [29].

Flight attraction in wind tunnel

To evaluate odour-mediated attraction of *D. suzukii* in response to yeast headspace volatiles, wind tunnel experiments were conducted using a slightly modified protocol from Reherman et al. (2022) (S1B Fig) [26]. For each yeast tested, 25 mL of a yeast culture grown in PDB for 24 h was poured into a wash bottle. The stimulus was delivered in charcoal-filtered air (0.3 L/min) that was blown through the wash bottle containing the odour source. The scented airstream was vertically injected at the upwind end into the wind tunnel onto an 18 cm high, 38 mm diameter horizontal platform of aluminium, from which it diffused downwind as an odour plume. Four-to-six days old adult females were starved for 24 h prior to testing. They were transferred individually to a 30-mL glass tube and released at the down-wind end of the tunnel and exposed for 3 min to the main air stream (0.3 m/s) carrying a plume of yeast odours. Mated individual females were tested to see if they responded to the volatiles released by *H. uvarum* (n=32), *S. vini* (n=32), *S. cerevisiae* (n=42), or PDB as a control (n=48). The number of flies performing an upwind flight towards the scented air was counted.

Field trapping

Trapping trials were performed in July 2020 at a forest edge in Laimburg (46°22'43.2"N 11°17'06.1"E, South Tyrol, Italy). The forest was a deciduous forest containing cherry and elderberry as host plants. The neighbouring crops included cherries, which were harvested shortly before the experiment. The traps consisted of 4-mL transparent glass vials filled with 2mL PDB or culture of *S. vini, H. uvarum* or *S. cerevisiae*, respectively. To reduce the surface tension, 2 µL of Tween 20 per mL were added. The traps were fixed with a wire at a height of 1.5 m on branches, placed 3 m from each other and randomised. After 24 h, the traps were replaced to avoid non-experimental and undesired growth of microorganisms, then newly randomised. The number of trapped *D. suzukii* was counted. Each treatment was replicated 24 times.

Mortality and oviposition assays

Spinosad (Laser, Corteva AgriscienceTM, Milan, Italy) was selected as a suitable insecticide [26]. Four treatments were created as follow: (1) water, (2) water with spinosad, (3) *S. vini*+spinosad and, (4) *H. uvarum*+spinosad. For the samples containing Spinosad, 5.43 mg spinosad per L liquid was added. In each trial, single grape or strawberry plants were considered as replicates. Ten leaves per plant were treated with 10 drops of 10 mL using a multichannel pipette in the greenhouse. Two experiments were performed: one on the first day, and one 7 days following the treatment. Five leaves belonging to one plant were removed and placed in an insect cage with their stems inserted into an Erlenmeyer flask filled with water. The opening around the stems was closed with cotton. A 5% (w/v) sugar solution supplied on cotton in a small Petri dish (diameter 6 cm) served as a water and energy source for the flies. Each cage also contained a Petri dish with water agar (diameter 9 cm, 15g/L agar) on which four well washed blueberries were placed. Groups of 20 males and 20 females *D. suzukii* were then inserted. The blueberries and the agar substrates were removed and replaced by a new set 24 h after the start of the experiment. After 48 h, egg-laying was quantified from the number of eggs laid on the agar and berries and adult mortality was assessed. Five replicates were performed for each treatment.

Attraction assay with Apis mellifera

The attractiveness of yeast cultures was assessed on honey bee workers. Experiments were performed near the hives, in September, a season with no major flower blossoming [32]. At least 30 min before each experiment, bees were trained



on a plastic board placed 2 meters in front of the hives by providing sugar syrup and honey. A 5% (w/v) sugar water syrup was made fresh and added to the cultures of *S. vini*, *H. uvarum* and PDB. Three experimental designs were created: (i) the syrup and yeasts were presented on the same plate, (ii) the syrup and yeasts were presented on separate plates, (iii) the syrup and yeasts were presented in separate plates and dried at 35°C prior to the presentation. The dried conditions represented the yeast cultures after application on leaves. The PDB and sugar water syrup were tested with a similar sugar content to the yeast cultures [28]. The plates were randomly rotated every 5min. The number of bees reaching each plate over a period of 5min was assessed. Experiments lasted 80min and were video recorded using an HD Camera (COAU Action, 4k 20mp) and VLC Media Player 3.0.11 (VideoLAN software).

Yeast headspace characterisation by SPME-GC-TOF-MS

Solid phase microextraction followed by gas chromatograph-time of flight-mass spectrometry (SPME-GC-TOF-MS, QP2010 SE Shimadzu) was used to characterise volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from yeast headspaces, following the methodology of Alves *et al.* [33]. For each sample (yeast cultures and PDB, six replicates per sample), 5mL were transferred to a 20-mL vial and 1g of NaCl (99.0%) was added. The vial was capped with a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) septum and an aluminium screw cap, and the metabolic quenching was achieved by freezing the samples at -80°C. Strict control of the quenching procedure, which arrests the cellular metabolism and enzymatic reactions of yeast, was applied to reduce data variability.

Sample analysis was randomised, and pooled and blank samples were injected after every ten samples for quality control and normalisation. The thawed samples were held in the autosampler at 15°C, incubated at 40°C for 15 min, and extracted with a divinylbenzene-carboxen-polydimethylsiloxane (CAR/DVB/PDMS) fiber 50/30 µm for 45 min. Desorption was performed at 250°C for 2 min. The GC instrument was operated in spitless mode using helium as the carrier gas with 1 mL/min, and the separation was achieved on a ZB-WAX column (30 m x 0.25 mm ID, 0.25 µm thickness, Phenomenex). A gradient temperature programme was used: 35°C for 5 min, then increased linearly from 35°C to 250°C at a rate of 3°C/ min, then held at 250°C for 5 min. The transfer line and ion source temperatures were set at 250°C, with the ion source voltage at 70 eV. Mass spectrometric data were acquired in full scan mode over an *m*/*z* range of 40–510.

MS-DIAL was used for deconvolution, peak picking and alignment [34]. A total of 564 features were extracted based on peak height. After blank subtraction and combination of fragments of the same peak, 217 compounds were identified. To characterise each compound, the mass spectra were compared with mass spectral libraries, including an in-house library of standards, the NIST 2017 database and retention indices. The experimental linear retention index (LRI) of each compound was calculated using a series of *n*-alkanes (C8-C20) under the same experimental conditions. In total, 156 compounds were annotated, each presenting similarity matches > 800 with the libraries and LRI-matches.

Yeast headspace volatile detection in EAG

Electroantennography (EAG) experiments were conducted to identify which chemicals are detected by adult *D. suzukii*. In each experiment, a fly was immobilised in a truncated plastic pipette tip, with half of its head protruding from the narrow end. Antennal activity was measured by placing a recording electrode over the tip of the antenna and an indifferent electrode near the base of the antenna (through the eye). Ag–AgCl glass electrodes were filled with Beadle–Ephrussi Ringer solution [35].

Signals were passed through a high-input impedance amplifier (2-channel USB acquisition controller, IDAC-2; Syntech) and recorded using GC-EAD 2014 software (v1.2-5, Syntech). An air pulse (stimulus) lasting 3s was delivered through a cartridge into a carbon-filtered and humidified air stream directed at the fly preparation.

The cartridges consisted of a glass Pasteur pipette (ThermoFisher Scientific) with a filter paper (15 mm diameter, Whatman grade 1) placed within the larger end and closed with a 1-mL pipette tip. A 30 μ L aliquot of a 1000-fold diluted chemical in paraffin oil (10⁻³ v/v) was deposited onto the filter paper just before the experiment. A cartridge containing only



paraffin oil served as a solvent control. A positive control, using 2-heptanone, was used to correct for eventual antennal fatigue and to standardise the responses across replicates. This compound is known to elicit antennal responses in *D. suzukii* [36]. Each cartridge was used for a maximum of three stimulations to prevent significant changes in chemical concentration. All chemicals used in the experiments were purchased with the highest purity available (S2 Appendix).

Yeast headspace volatile detection in GC-EAD

Coupled gas chromatography-electroantennography detection (GC-EAD) was used to elute each pure chemical onto the antenna and identify any antennally active contaminants present in the standard solutions tested. In this setup, the electroantennography detector (described above) was coupled with a GC (7820A, Agilent Technologies) equipped with a flame ionisation detector (FID). The fly was prepared as described above.

Standards were diluted in dichloromethane and organised into four mixtures, each containing several compounds at a 10⁻³ v/v dilution. A 3 µL aliquot of each mixture was injected into the GC column (HP-5MS Agilent 19,091 J-413 column, 0.25 µm coating 30 m length and 0.32 mm diameter) through a cool-on-column (COC) injector. Helium, at a flow rate of 2.5 mL/min, was used as the carrier gas. The oven method was programmed as follows: inject at 50°C and hold for 1.8 min, then 7.3°C/min to 250°C and hold for 3 min. The injector temperature was set at 250°C and the detector temperature was set at 350°C. The column effluent was mixed with a nitrogen make-up and split at a 1:1 ratio. One portion flowed to the FID, while the other portion was directed through a transfer line at 170°C into a charcoal- filtered and humidified air-stream over the mounted fly. Signals were amplified via an EAG amplifier (as described above). GC-FID and EAD signals were simultaneously recorded using GC-EAD 2014 software (v 1.2-5, Syntech).

Data analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using R 4.4.1. (R Core Team, 2024). A significance level of *P*=0.05 was used for all comparisons. A generalised linear mixed model (GLMM, package `Ime4') fitted with a Poisson error distribution was applied to evaluate the distribution of flies accross the four traps ine the arena, and the number of trapped *D. suzukii* flies per vial in field trapping experiments.

The upwind flight attraction of yeast odours in the wind tunnel was analysed using a GLMM fitted with a binomial error distribution. The mortality rate of *D. suzukii* and the number of eggs laid (oviposition) per cage were evaluated using a generalised linear model fitted with a gamma distribution. To handle zero values and to allow the use of a gamma distribution, datasets were transformed using x + 1. Model selection was based on Akaike information criterion (AIC) values, and residuals were examined to verify the distribution of the errors. Treatment and fly sex (where applicable) were included as fixed effects. Post hoc comparisons were performed using Tukey's contrast pairwise test (package 'multcomp '[37]).

The number of honey bees on feeding plates was analysed using linear mixed models (package `lme4' [38]). Bee counts were considered as the response variable, while the tested solution, the position on the board, and time were considered as predictors. The rounds (i.e., the intervals during which the tested solutions were rotated on the board) were accounted as random effects. Model fitting was evaluated through residuals analysis (package `DHARMa' [39]). Post-hoc comparisons between solutions were conducted using pairwise comparisons (`multcompview' package [40]). Type II ANOVA tables (Anova function, `car' package [41]) were generated to summarise the significance of fixed effects in the mixed-effects model.

The headspace composition was analysed as follows: peak height results were normalised based on the systematic error removal using the random forest (SERRF) method to remove systematic errors [42]. To identify significantly impacted lipid clusters among yeasts, a chemical similarity enrichment analysis (ChemRICH) was performed on the 156 annotated compounds identified, using the ChemRICH platform. This platform clusters significantly impacted metabolites based on chemical similarity and ontology mapping to highlight biologically relevant patterns. Next, a Kolmogorov– Smirnov test was used for subsequent statistical analysis [43].



The EAG and EAD signals were integrated using GC-EAD 2014 v1.2-5 (Syntech). Responses were measured as the maximum voltage deflection following the start of the stimulus. In EAG experiments, the antennal response to the solvent control was subtracted from the response to each standard, and the resulting values were normalised to the response elicited by the positive control (2-heptanone), which was set to 100%. The distribution of response amplitudes was assessed using a Shapiro-Wilk normality test. Subsequently, responses to the standards were compared to those elicited by the solvent control using two-sided paired t-tests (`stats' package [44]). Standards that elicited a response significantly greater than paraffin oil were considered antennally active. In GC-EAD experiments, a standard was considered antennally active if at least three flies displayed a non-zero voltage deflection. For both EAG and GC-EAD experiments, only flies that responded to the positive control were included in the analysis (n=6-10).

Results

Saccharomycopsis vini and *Hanseniaspora uvarum* are attractive in long and short-range behavioural experiments

In the first behavioural assay, *S. vini* and three strains of *H. uvarum* were simultaneously presented to *D. suzukii* for 24 h in a 4-choice arena to evaluate their preference (Fig 3A, S1 Fig). Baits containing *S. vini* were significantly more attractive than those containing *H. uvarum* 1.21 (GLMM Poisson distribution, MCM: X_3^2 =25.72, z=3.72, P=0.001), *H. uvarum* 2.2 (z=3.85, P<0.001) and *H. uvarum* 3.4 (z=3.20, P=0.008). The three *H. uvarum* strains were not different from each other (P>0.05). Notably, 2% of the flies tested did not choose any yeast bait.

The second behavioural assay, evaluated the flight attraction of *D. suzukii* females to yeast odours in a wind tunnel. During a 3-min test period, flies were exposed to each yeast, placed upwind (Fig 1B, S1 Fig). Flies displayed flight behaviour and were similarly attracted to *S. vini* and *H. uvarum* (GLM binomial distribution: X_3^2 =36.85, z=0.50, P=0.62). Both yeasts were significantly more attractive than *S. cerevisiae* (z=-2.30, P=0.02). The control (PDB) elicited significant less upwind flight than any of the three yeasts (P<0.05).

In a third experiment, traps containing small volumes (2 ml) of either *S. vini, H. uvarum* or *S. cerevisiae* cultures, were placed on a forest edge to evaluate their attractiveness to wild *D. suzukii* populations (Fig 3C). Traps baited with *H. uvarum* and *S. vini* captured significantly more flies than those baited with *S. cerevisiae* (GLM, Poisson distribution, $F_{2,141}$ = 193.24, *S. vini*: *z* = 4.959, *P*<0.001; *H. uvarum*: *z* = 5.106, *P*<0.001). There was no difference in the number of flies captured in the baits with *S. vini* and *H. uvarum* (*z*=0.293, *P*=0.952). No flies were found in traps containing PDB. Notably, traps baited with *H. uvarum* captured more males than females ($F_{1,140}$ =4.800, *P*=0.028) whereas no sex bias was observed in traps baited with *S. vini*.

Attract-and-kill formulations with S. vini and H. uvarum effectively reduced oviposition and increased mortality

On strawberry leaves, one day after treatment the mortality was significantly impacted ($F_{3,36}$ =53.653, P<0.001, Fig. 2A). Mortality in the water control was significantly lower compared to spinosad formulations with *H. uvarum* (*z*=4.763, P<0.001) and *S. vini* (*z*=4.714, P<0.001). Mortality was also significantly lower in spinosad with water compared to formulations containing *S. vini* (*z*=4.675, P<0.001) and *H. uvarum* (*z*=4.731, P<0.001). Oviposition was not significantly affected after exposure to the three formulations or water ($F_{3,16}$ =2.862, P=0.069, Fig.2E).

Seven days after the application, a significant effect on the mortality was observed ($F_{3,36}$ =8.507, P<0.001, Fig 2C). Mortality in the water control remained significantly lower compared to spinosad formulated with *H. uvarum* (z=3.077, P=0.009) and *S. vini* (z=3.412, P=0.003). Oviposition was also significantly affected ($F_{3,16}$ =8.390, P=0.001, Fig 2F) and was significantly higher in the water control compared to spinosad formulations with *S. vini* (z=2.880, P=0.017) and *H. uvarum* (z=3.079, P=0.009).





Fig 1. Short- range and long range attraction assays. (A) Mean (± SD) number of female *Drosophila suzukii* trapped in four simultaneously presented baits within 24 h. Baits consisted of yeast culture of *Hanseniaspora uvarum* and *Saccharomycopsis vini* in potato dextrose broth (PDB). Three strains of *H. uvarum*: Hu 1.21, Hu 2.2 and Hu 3.4 were tested. Bars with different letters are significantly different (GLMM Poisson distribution and multiple comparison of means, *P*<0.05). B) Percentage of females flying upwind towards headspace volatiles of *H. uvarum* (Hu 2.2), *S. vini, Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and PDB in a wind tunnel. Bars with different letters are significantly different (GLM binomial distribution and multiple comparison of means, P<0.05). C) Mean (± SD) number of females (plain bars) and males (striped bars) caught in traps placed on trees at a forest edge. Traps were baited with 2 ml culture of *H. uvarum* (Hu 2.2), *S. vini, S. cerevisiae* or PDB. Bars with different letters are significantly different (GLMM, Poisson distribution, *P*<0.05).

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On grapevine leaves, one day after treatment and after 48 h exposure mortality was significantly affected ($F_{3,36}$ =27.209, P<0.001, Fig 2B). Mortality in the control was significantly lower compared to spinosad with *H. uvarum* (z=5.293, P<0.001) and *S. vini* (z=5,426, P<0.001). Furthermore, the mortality with spinosad in water was significantly lower compared to formulations containing *S. vini* (z=4.872, P<0.001) and *H. uvarum* (z=4.705, P<0.001). Oviposition was also significantly affected ($F_{3,16}$ =6.105, P=0.006, Fig 2G). Oviposition in the control was significantly higher compared to spinosad with *S. vini* (z=2.873, P=0.019) and *H. uvarum* (z=3.296, P=0.005).

Seven days after the application, the mortality was also significantly affected ($F_{3,36}$ =54.181, P<0.001, Fig 2D). Mortality in the control was significantly lower compared to the one following exposure to spinosad formulated with *H. uvarum* (z=6.008, P<0.001), *S. vini* (z=5.996, P<0.001) and water (z=3.824, P<0.001). Mortality following exposure to spinosad with water was also significantly lower compared to spinosad with *H. uvarum* (z=5.097, P<0.001) and *S. vini* (z=5.064, P<0.001), which were not significantly different from each other (z=0.099, P=1). Oviposition was also significantly affected ($F_{3,16}$ =12.018, P<0.001, Fig 2H). Oviposition after exposure to spinosad with *S. vini* was significantly lower compared to spinosad with water control (z=4.979, P<0.001) and *H. uvarum* (z=4.216, P<0.001).

Yeast cultures did not stimulate foraging of Apis mellifera

The attractiveness of yeast VOCs and sugar content was assessed using trained honey bees to determine whether the application of yeast cultures would interfere with their foraging behaviour (Fig 3). Across all three experimental conditions and throughout the 80-minute trial, a 5% sugar syrup consistently proved more attractive than yeast cultures or PDB: (1) when syrup was presented alongside yeast cultures (LMM, $\chi^2_{3,63}$ = 17.98, *P*<0.01), (2) when syrup and liquid yeast cultures were presented separately (LMM, $\chi^2_{3,63}$ = 149.17, *P*<0.001), and (3) when syrup and dried yeast cultures were presented separately (LMM, $\chi^2_{3,63}$ = 140.87, *P*<0.001). Time had a significant effect in two conditions: (1) when syrup was presented with the cultures (LMM, $\chi^2_{1,63}$ = 170.81, *P*<0.01), showing an overall increase of visitation (bee counts) and (3) when syrup and dried yeast cultures were presented separately (LMM, $\chi^2_{1,63}$ = 170.81, *P*<0.01), showing an overall increase of visitation (bee counts) and (3) when syrup and dried yeast cultures were presented separately (LMM, $\chi^2_{1,63}$ = 170.81, *P*<0.01), showing an overall increase of visitation (bee counts) and (3) when syrup and dried yeast cultures were presented separately (LMM, $\chi^2_{1,63}$ = 32.82, *P*<0.001), where visitation decreased over the course of the trial.







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Yeasts have distinct and overlapping headspace compositions in SPME

We characterised 156 VOCs by SPME-GC-TOF-MS and performed a ChemRICH analysis to statistically compare the presence and abundance of each compound between *S. vini*, *H. uvarum* and *S. cerevisiae* (S2 Table). From this analysis we extracted classes of chemicals that significantly differed between the yeasts (S3 Table). The headspace compositions of *S. vini* and *H. uvarum* were significantly different in alcohols and polyols, benzene and substituted derivatives, branched unsaturated hydrocarbons, carboxylic acid esters, fatty acid esters, fatty alcohols, ketones and monoterpenoids (FDR-adjusted Kolmogorov–Smirnov-test, P < 0.01). Comparing *H. uvarum* and *S. cerevisiae*, significant differences were found in alcohols and polyols, benzene and substituted derivatives, carboxylic acid esters, fatty acid esters, medium-chain fatty acids, monoterpenoids and sesquiterpenoids (FDR-adjusted Kolmogorov–Smirnov-test, P < 0.01). *Saccharomycopsis vini* and *S. cerevisiae* headspace compositions also differed significantly in alcohols and polyols, benzene and substituted derivatives, branched unsaturated hydrocarbons, carboxylic acid esters, fatty acid, monoterpenoids and sesquiterpenoids (FDR-adjusted Kolmogorov–Smirnov-test, P < 0.01).

Within these classes, 40 compounds differed significantly between the yeasts (<u>Table 1</u>). Specifically, *S. vini* produced significantly higher amounts of 14 monoterpenoids and 4-methyl-1-pentanol. *H. uvarum* produced the largest amount of 2-phenethyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, 2-methylbutyl acetate, 2-nonanol, acetoin and (6*E*)-nerolidol. Both *H. uvarum* and *S. vini* produced significantly higher amounts of ethyl acetate, ethyl propanoate and 2-acetylthiazole compared to *S. cerevisiae*. Conversely, *S. cerevisiae* produced the largest amounts of 3-methyl-1-butanol, 2-phenylethanol, 2-methylthiolan-3-one, 1-heptanol, ethyl octanoate, hexanoic acid, octanoic acid, nonanoic acid and decanoic acid.

Yeast headspace volatiles detection in EAG and GC-EAD

In EAG experiments, we tested whether *D. suzukii* could detect the 40 compounds released in significantly different quantities by the three yeast species (Table 1, S4 Table). Significant antennal responses were observed for 14 compounds (paired t-test, P<0.05): 3-methyl-1-butanol, 4-methyl-1-pentanol, γ -terpinene, ethyl acetate, ethyl propanoate, isobutyl acetate, 2-methylbutyl acetate, ethyl butanoate, ethyl octanoate, acetoin, 2-methylthiolan-3-one, nonanoic acid, allocimene, and (*Z*)-geraniol.

Then, we also assessed whether these 40 compounds were antennally active in GC-EAD (Table 1, S5 Fig). Antennal responses (deflection < 0 mV) were observed in 100% of the tested flies for 11 compounds: 3-methyl-1-butanol, 4-methyl-1-pentanol, 3-methyl-1-pentanol, toluene, ethyl acetate, ethyl propanoate, isobutyl acetate, 2-methylbutyl acetate, ethyl butanoate, acetoin and 2-methylthiolan-3-one. In addition, responses were recorded in 4 out of 10 flies for linalool and β -myrcene.

Discussion

Attract-and-kill strategies are efficient in various crop systems against many pest insects [45,46]. In this study, we evaluated the potential of *S. vini* to be used in attract-and-kill strategies to manage *D. suzukii* as this was done with *H. uvarum*. We also assessed how the two yeasts would affect bee foraging. Lastly, we identified antennally active chemicals from their headspaces.

Adding *S. vini*, as an attractant to spinosad significantly enhanced the efficacy of spinosad, nearly doubling it one week after application. This approach increased mortality rates and reduced oviposition in two crops, grapevine and strawberry, and was most comparable to the formulation of spinosad with *H. uvarum*. It is important to note that interactions between the yeasts and plants may create a complex chemical environment for the flies, as noted by Bruce and Pickett [47]. Despite their distinct chemical headspace profiles and metabolomic properties, both *S. vini* and *H. uvarum* effectively attracted *D. suzukii* [23,29]. Each yeast species and strain has unique specificities that warrant further investigation across





Fig 3. Attraction assay with *Apis mellifera*. (A) Total number of *Apis mellifera* foragers feeding on four plates simultaneously presented, containing 5% sugar syrup, potato dextrose broth (PDB) growth medium, and yeast cultures of *Hanseniaspora uvarum* and *Saccharomycopsis vini* over a period of 80 minutes in three separate experiments where plates contained: 1) liquid yeast cultures + sugar syrup 5%; 2) liquid yeast cultures; 3) dry yeast cultures. The straight lines report the linear trend calculated as y=ax+b. Asterisks indicate statistical significance (** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001) of the time on the number of feeding bees. B) Mean (± SD) number of bees feeding from the four plates over 5 min. Different letters report a statistical difference between treatments (LMM, and pairwise multiple comparison, P < 0.05). Foragers from five colonies of similar strength were tested. Sixteen observations of 5 min each were performed 30 min after training with sugar syrup.

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different crop systems. For instance, using different *H. uvarum* strains, which are equally attractive, across diverse crop systems could provide valuable insights. This approach would be of significant value for the management of *D. suzukii*, especially considering that summer and winter phenotypes of *D. suzukii* display different levels of attraction to yeast baits [48,49]. Consequently, relying on a single strategy alone may not be effective throughout the year as *D. suzukii* is active for several seasons moving from host to host [2,50].



Compound ¹	Mean±SD peak height			Mean±SD amplitude ²	Responses (%) in GC-EAD⁴
	H. uvarum	S. vini	S. cerevisiae		
Alcohols and polyols					
3-Methyl-1-butanol	1140713±307794ª	1434013±225180b	2309561±836363b	-24.12±22.68*	100
(R,R)-2,3-Butanediol	171±56ª	1391±948 ^b	2132±1060 ^b	-29.67±30.66	0
4-Methyl-1-pentanol	359±36ª	2345±681 ^b	395±54ª	-29.67±22.85*	100
3-Methyl-1-pentanol	590±68ª	1077±184 ^b	1703±546°	-11.94±6.28	100
Benzene and substituted derivatives					
Toluene	565±419ª	1534±617 ^b	1420±383 ^b	-15.13±15.02	100
2-Phenylethanol	582979±130899ª	753122±170800ª	1170504 ± 142925°	-6.62±7.18	0
2-Phenylethyl acetate	89529±60121ª	5177±4161 ^b	30176±5580ª	-39.95±30.34	0
Branched unsaturated hyd	rocarbons				
y-Terpinene	85±21ª	2047 ± 1153 ^b	70±18ª	0.12±0.14*	0
Carboxylic acid esters					
Ethyl acetate	1747424 ± 265873ª	1217426±598476°	33251±2046°	-60.46±26.21*	100
Ethyl propanoate	3330±1689ª	12562±3900ª	1020±99°	-36.7±42.23*	100
Isobutyl acetate	15486±3650ª	947±234 ^b	2105±858°	-30.1±19.57*	100
2-Methylbutyl acetate	295741±101587ª	11027 ± 2266 ^b	60878±7239°	-27.26±15.6*	100
Fatty acid esters					
Ethyl butanoate	360±74ª	1528±597 ^b	1358±298 ^b	-50.14±16.66*	100
Ethyl octanoate	7205±2609ª	2678±969 ^b	245010±64693°	0.1±0.15*	0
Fatty alcohol					
1-Heptanol	11808±4873ª	2545±522 ^b	126349±32068°	-13.63±14.99	0
2-Nonanol	3160±263ª	634±178 ^b	406±109°	-8.61±11.68	0
Ketones					
Acetone	2936±541ª	4671 ± 1217 ^b	4760±517 ^b	-20.02±22.29	0
Acetoin	42568±12698ª	2059±2082 ^b	10715±3780°	-51.09±48.21*	100
2-Methylthiolan-3-one	896±78ª	221±84 ^b	1557 ± 251°	-13.83±13.29*	100
2-Acetylthiazole	1558±106ª	1591 ± 125ª	691±174°	-5.08±9.28	0
2-Undecanone	277±37ª	2470±534 ^b	591±136°	1.14±9.82	0
Medium-chain fatty acids					
Hexanoic acid	1919±343ª	2490±741ª	46736±14569°	-13.94±16.65	0
Octanoic acid	6973±1645ª	1383±1383 ^b	100883±32045°	-9.19±27.81	0
Nonanoic acid	1264±466ª	579±271 ^b	2795±1016°	3.95±6.12*	0
Decanoic acid	876±287ª	574±645ª	42893±12266°	-10.14±16.53	0
Monoterpenoids					
β-Myrcene	201±333ª	176450±83832 ^b	133±105ª	-0.48±0.87	30
Limonene	97±67ª	23163±11489 ^b	129±88ª	-7.76±14.31	0
p-Cymene	163±75ª	8290±4034 ^b	89±32ª	-17.33±30.6	0
(Z)-β-Ocimene⁺	115±94ª	76852±37254 ^b	81±26ª	-0.51±0.36	0
(<i>E</i>)-β-Ocimene⁺	150±135ª	114930±58883 ^b	85±49ª	-0.51±0.36	0
Linalool	1189±427ª	195699±86629b	590±323°	-1.63±1.32	40
(4Z,6Z)-Allocimene ⁺	94±17 ^a	20701±8883 ^b	86±14ª	-0.88±0.96*	0

Table 1. Mean amounts of headspace compounds in *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomycopsis vini* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, antennal response amplitudes in EAG, and percentage of *Drosophila suzukii responding* in GC-EAD.

(Continued)



Compound ¹	Mean±SD peak height			Mean±SD amplitude ²	Responses (%) in GC-EAD⁴
a-Terpineol	237±55ª	12503±5776 ^b	407 ± 92°	-5.2±12.15	0
(Z)-Geraniol	922±429ª	126173±63976 ^b	2476±567°	-3.18±5.49*	0
Citronellol	1272±534ª	178389±80138 ^b	1110±299ª	-11.74±15.15	0
Nerol	7863±1791ª	1669510±511392 ^b	3669±870°	-10.23±12.48	0
Geranial	523±136ª	46115±18434 ^b	341±115°	-9.51±13.89	0
Sesquiterpenoids	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
(<i>E</i> , <i>Z</i>)-α-Farnesene⁺	817±107ª	691±701ª	435±212ª	-2.73±4.29	0
(6E)-Nerolidol	1809±794ª	836±168 ^₅	1512±883ªb	-7.15±13.55	0
(2Z,6 <i>E</i>)-Farnesol⁺	80±21ª	98±33ª	332±108 ^b	-5.26±3.85	0

Table 1. (Continued)

¹Compounds identified as significantly different between the three yeasts species by solid phase microextraction followed by gas chromatograph-time of flight-mass spectrometry (SPME-GC-TOF-MS) and chemical similarity enrichment analysis. Mean \pm SD peak height with different letters are significantly different (n=6). ⁺ The standard solution included several isomers. ² Mean \pm SD amplitude (mV) of antennal response in electroantennography (EAG) recordings. * P<0.05 (n=6–10). ³ Percentage of antennal responses (n=6–10) in gas chromatography antennography detection (GC-EAD). Standards were of dilution 10⁻³ v/v.

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It is crucial to evaluate the interactions between integrated and organic pest management tools and non-target species such as pollinators [51–53]. Our findings indicate that the yeast cultures used in our formulations, whether presented in wet or dry form, were not preferred by honey bees. Some feeding occurred which may be triggered by prior training of the bees to the feeding site. These results are in agreement with previous studies on the attractiveness of yeast-contaminated food sources to honey bees and bumblebees [54–57]. Therefore, these attract-and-kill formulations are unlikely to interfere with honey bee foraging behaviour, making them promising approaches for further development in larger field trials. In addition, these strategies involve applying the formulations on leaves at the beginning of fruit production, in order to target the early development of *D. suzukii* populations and there by reducing subsequent infestations [58] and minimising the contact between the formulation and non-target species.

Our results demonstrated that D. suzukii preferred S. vini over three strains of the highly attractive H. uvarum when presented simultaneously. This finding aligns with previous research, indicating that S. vini is more attractive than other fruit-associated yeasts, including H. uvarum [29]. Notably, no differences were observed between the three H. uvarum strains, with strain Hu 2.2 being as attractive as in other works [26-29] in long and short range attraction experiments. Our study revealed that females were able to discriminate between both yeasts yet were equally attracted to both yeasts in long-range assays, while displaying a greater attraction to S. vini in short-range attraction assays. These two behaviours are important for designing attract-and-kill strategies, where long-range attraction is necessary to lure insects to a target site, but then close-range attraction triggers landing and perhaps feeding and/or oviposition [47,59]. Furthermore, flies were exposed to both static and dynamic airflow environments with diverse odour compositions, which could influence their attraction to yeasts. While in the first setting, flies were expected to choose from the available choices [60], in the second setting, they had only one available option located upwind. This highlights how environmental conditions impact yeast acceptance levels. For example, while S. cerevisiae has previously been shown to attract D. suzukii [21], it is less attractive compared to S. vini and H. uvarum. Our findings underscore the importance of conducting diverse behavioural experiments to gain a more thorough understanding of behavioural responses, thereby optimising strategies to exploit yeast preferences in pest management approaches.



To identify specific yeast volatiles that could be responsible for the discriminatory behaviour of *D. suzukii* towards *S. vini*, *H. uvarum* and *S. cerevisiae*, we characterised the headspace volatiles detected by *D. suzukii*. Saccharomycopsis vini and *H. uvarum* were distinguished by six yeast-specific compounds that elicited antennal responses: *H. uvarum* was characterised by isobutyl acetate, 2-methylbutyl acetate, and acetoin, while *S. vini* was characterised by 4-methyl-1-pentanol, Linalool and beta-myrcene. One or a mixture of these compounds could enable the fly to discriminate *S. vini* from *H. uvarum*. Furthermore, some compounds that did not differ in amount between yeasts were also reported as antennally active and associated with attraction in host-seeking *D. suzukii* [61–65]. The presence of these shared attractive compounds could explain why both yeasts exhibit similar levels of long-range attraction.

Saccharomycopsis vini had a unique headspace profile composed of 14 terpenes, compared to *H. uvarum*. Allocimene and (*Z*)-geraniol induced significant antennal responses in all flies in EAG experiments but were not detected in GC-EAD. Linalool and beta-myrcene were found to be antennally active, but only in a subset of the flies (0–40% instead of 100%). This result was also noted in Castellan et al. [29].

Many terpenes found in the headspaces of *S. vini*, such as linalool, nerol, beta-myrcene and limonene have been consistently reported to be antennally active in earlier studies [66] and specifically linalool was found to be detected [61,66–69] and attractive to *D. suzukii* [64,67,70,71]. Moreover, linalool and beta-myrcene are present in the headspace of ripening fruits like raspberries and blueberries, which are hosts for *D. suzukii* [61,72,73]. It is thus unclear why no responses to these chemicals were measured in GC-EAD in this study. Curiously, nerol and limonene were both found to be repellent to *D. suzukii* [66]. This appears contradictory with our results showing that *S. vini* is highly attractive while releasing high quantities of these compounds. Further behavioural study would clarify their relevance for *D. suzukii*.

In addition to yeast-specific attractive compounds, both *H. uvarum* and *S. vini*, produced the detected ethyl acetate and ethyl propanoate in significantly higher amounts compared to *S. cerevisiae*. These were found to be attractive to *D. suzukii* [64]. On the contrary, *S. cerevisiae* produced the largest amount of the antennally active 3-methyl-1-butanol. This yeast compound is attractive to *D. suzukii* [64,69,71,74] and therefore could be involved in the attractiveness of *S. cerevisiae* in the wind tunnel. 2-Methylthiolan-3-one was also higher in the least attractive yeast, *S. cerevisiae*, which corresponds with the findings of an earlier study [75]. We now found that this compound is being detected by *D. suzukii*, which warrants further investigation into its role.

We identified a greater number of headspace compounds compared to our previous work [29]. This increase can be attributed to modifications in the SPME method including an 10°C increase in incubation, and an additional 15 min of extraction time. Furthermore, the data were analysed using a metabolomic approach, which allowed for a comprehensive evaluation of compound profiles, rather than relying solely on pairwise comparisons based on average abundance [29,76,77]. These methodological changes underscore the need for multiple approaches to fully characterise yeast headspaces. Similarly, using both EAG and GC-EAD, we provided a more comprehensive analysis of chemical detection by D. suzukii [78-80]. With the GC-EAD method we obtained an antennal response to pure single chemicals of interest, thus eliminating impurities or a mixed effect in the case of geometric isomer mixtures. Although the EAG method carries a higher risk from unwanted chemical contaminations, it offered the advantage of a rapid quantification of the antennal response. We found differences between the two methods, where compounds were strongly antennally active in only one of the setups. Notably, the responses to 3-methyl-1-pentanol and toluene were visible in GC-EAD but not in EAG. Conversely, the responses to y-terpinene, ethyl octanoate, nonanoic acid, allocimene and (Z)-geraniol were significant in EAG but absent in GC-EAG. Drosophila suzukii has been shown to detect these compounds in earlier works [4,69,70,81]. 3-Methyl pentanol was noted as an attractive foraging clue for D. suzukii [61,64], it is thus still unclear why it failed to induce a response in EAG. Furthermore, It was released by the three yeasts but in the highest amount in S. cerevisiae, the least attractive. The detection of toluene by D. suzukii is reported for the first time. Its role remains unclear based on the current literature. Although toluene is not produced directly by yeasts, it can result from the decomposition of terpenes [82]. It would be valuable to assess whether it is attractive to D. suzukii.



Conclusion

We propose two effective yeast-based formulations for attract-and-kill strategies for *D. suzukii* that demonstrate no apparent impact on honeybee feeding behaviour. *Saccharomycopsis vini* is as effective as *H. uvarum* in enhancing the efficiency of an attract-and-kill strategy when combined with lower doses of spinosad compared to conventional methods, *S. vini* exhibits a different headspace profile compared to *H. uvarum* underscoring its potential as a new additional and different tool in integrated pest management. The reduced sugar syrup consumption by foraging bees further supports the compatibility of these strategies with honeybee safety. Additionally, the identification of 11 antennally active compounds provides a foundation for further research into the chemical cues driving yeast preference in *D. suzukii*. Future studies should explore the behavioural effects of these compounds on *D. suzukii* to optimise yeast-based pest management tools.

Supporting information

S1 Fig. Schematics of the arena trapping assay (A) and wind tunnel assay (B) to assess *Drosophila suzukii* behaviour.

(PDF)

S2 Table. Compounds identified in the headspaces of *Hanseniaspora uvarum, Saccharomycopsis vini* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* by solid phase microextraction followed by gas chromatograph-time of flight-mass spectrometry (SPME-GC-TOF-MS).

(PDF)

S3 Table. Summary of a chemical enrichment analysis (ChemRICH) for each class of the headspace compositions of (A) *Hanseniaspora uvarum* and *Saccharomycopsis vini*, (B) *H. uvarum* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and C) *S. vini* and *S. cerevisiae*.

(PDF)

S4 Table. Electroantennography responses (EAG) of *Drosophila suzukii* to 40 compounds identified from headspaces of *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomycopsis vini* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. (PDF)

S5 Fig. Gas chromatography-electroantennography (GC-EAD) traces from antennae of *Drosophila suzukii* to 40 compounds identified from headspaces of *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomycopsis vini* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

(PDF)

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