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Cloning, expression and functional analysis of HMW glutenin subunit 1By8 gene from Italy pasta wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L. ssp. durum)

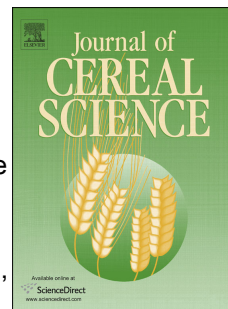
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2 **Cloning, expression and functional analysis of HMW glutenin subunit *1By8* gene**
3 **from Italy pasta wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L. ssp. *durum*)**

4
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22

23 **ABSTRACT**

24

25 Cloning and functional analysis of high molecular weight wheat glutenin subunit
26 (HMW-GS) *IBy8* from Italy durum cultivar Simeto was carried out in this study. All
27 HMW-GS from Simeto were separated and characterized by appropriate electrophoresis
28 methods, reversed-phased high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) and
29 mass spectrometry (MS). The complete gene encoding *IBy8* subunit was amplified by
30 allele-specific PCR primers, including an upstream sequence of 857 bp and an open
31 reading frame (ORF) of 2166 bp encoding a mature protein of 720 amino acid residues.
32 The promoter sequence, containing -300 element and enhancer was highly conserved
33 among HMW-GS genes. Comparison with the sequence of subunit *IBy9* from bread
34 wheat demonstrated 99% identity with the main difference being that the *IBy8* subunit
35 possesses an additional insertion of 15 amino acid residues (QYPASQQQPA QGQQG)
36 at position 342 and two residue substitutions at position 78 (leucine/proline) and 442
37 (arginine/glutamine). The molecular weight differences between MALDI-TOF-MS and
38 deduced amino acid sequence of the coding gene revealed the possibility of some kinds
39 of post-translational modifications present in *IBy8* subunit. The protein subunit
40 expressed in *E. coli* showed a very similar mobility to the endogenous *IBy8* of Simeto
41 on SDS-PAGE. The function of the isolated protein on wheat processing quality was
42 determined by 10g Mixgraph analysis. Results demonstrated that addition of y-type
43 HMW glutenin subunits into the base flour had significant positive effects on main
44 mixing parameters and significant difference in effects were observed among different
45 y-type subunits.

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55 1. Introduction

56 Wheat glutenins, including high molecular weight glutenin subunits (HMW-GS)
57 and lower molecular weight glutenin subunits (LMW-GS) are the major storage
58 proteins that account for about 45% of the total protein in the seed endosperm. They
59 link together and form heterogeneous mixtures of polymers by disulfide bonded
60 linkages of polypeptides. The glutenin proteins, therefore, are among the largest protein
61 molecules in nature with molecular weights up into tens of millions (Wrigley 1996).
62 HMW-GS are the major determinants of gluten elasticity due to the formation of larger
63 glutenin polymers that play an important role in bread-making quality (Gianibelli et al.
64 2001, Payne et al. 1984, Payne et al. 1987).

65 The HMW-GS are encoded by genes at the complex *Glu-1* loci located on the long
66 arms of chromosomes 1A, 1B and 1D, namely *Glu-A1*, *Glu-B1* and *Glu-D1* locus,
67 respectively (Payne, 1987). Each locus consists of two genes tightly linked together
68 encoding a larger x-type subunit (80-88 kDa) and a smaller y-type subunit (67-73 kDa).
69 The allelic variations at *Glu-1* loci have significant effects on wheat quality properties.
70 Early work reported 11 alleles (14 different subunits) at *Glu-B1*, 6 alleles (8 different
71 subunits) at *Glu-D1* and one or no allele (2 different subunits) at *Glu-A1* in about 300
72 bread wheat cultivars (Payne and Lawrence, 1983). In particular, the allelic pair
73 *1Dx5+1Dy10* have been shown to be the best quality subunits with the highest score 4
74 while the *1Bx7+1By8* and *1Bx17+1By18* subunits are slightly lower with a quality score
75 of 3 (Weegels et al. 1996; Gianibelli et al., 2001). The other subunits, such as
76 *1Dx2+1Dy12*, *1Bx7+1By9* etc generally have lower quality scores and relate to poor
77 quality performance (Shewry et al., 1992). A mathematical modeling approach to
78 estimate the overall quality of a wheat line from its glutenin composition has been
79 recently developed, taking into account not only the contributions of individual
80 HMW-GS or LMW-GS but also their interactions (Bekes et al., 2006, Ma et al., 2005).
81 The molecular mechanism behind these numeric models is related to the chemical
82 structure of glutenin subunits.

83 The contribution of different protein types in the flour in determining the
84 rheological properties of the wheat flour dough is caused by the different structural

85 features of the polypeptides (such as their size and the number and position of cysteine
86 groups) and their role in the formation of the polymeric glutenin. The x-type subunits
87 possess four conserved cysteine residues (3 in the N-terminal domain, 1 in the
88 C-terminal domain), and the y-type subunits usually contain seven conserved cysteine
89 residues (5 in the N-terminal domain, 1 in the repetitive domain and 1 in the C-terminal
90 domain. Shewry et al. 1995).

91 Among the tetraploid species, durum wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L. ssp. *durum* Desf.,
92 $2n=4x=28$, AABB) is the most cultivated, as an economically important cereal, mainly
93 in the Mediterranean area and accounts for about 6-8% of the total wheat production in
94 the world (Troccoli et al., 2000). The major use of durum wheat is for making pasta and
95 semolina, particularly in European and North American countries. In some areas, it is
96 also used for various types of bread-making. The pasta quality of durum wheat depends
97 mainly on glutenin composition. Different HMW-GS and LMW-GS as well as their
98 combinations may result in variations of gluten elasticity and strength. In bread wheat,
99 the *1Bx7+1By8* subunits encoded by the *Glu-B1* locus (*Glu-B1b* allele) have also been
100 shown to associate with high elastic recovery and gluten firmness (Pogna et al., 1990).
101 This allele is widely distributed in durum, cultivated emmer, European spelt and bread
102 wheat with the frequencies of 25.9%, 17.07%, 14.44% and 32%, respectively (Branlard
103 et al., 1989; An et al., 2005; Li et al., 2006).

104 Until now, most studies have been focused on the x-type glutenin protein variations to
105 explain functional difference of different alleles on quality. Little attention has been
106 paid to the effects of y-type subunits. For example, the positive influence of *Dx5+Dy10*
107 on quality was believed due to *Dx5*'s extra cysteine residue to form stronger gluten
108 matrix (Gianibelli et al., 2001; Shewry et al., 1995; Lindsay et al., 2000); recently, a
109 *Bx7* over expressed allele, *Bx7+By8**, has been found to be associated with high dough
110 strength, which was believed to be caused by *Bx7* over expression even though the *By8*
111 protein in this allele differs from the usual *By8* subunit. Additionally, there is only one
112 *1By* gene, *1By9*, which has been cloned and characterized thoroughly (Halford et al
113 1987). This is perhaps due to two main reasons. Firstly, the x-type and y-type
114 HMW-GS genes are tightly linked and it is difficult to dissect their genetic effects by

115 traditional approaches; secondly, single gene effect confirmation is still technically
116 difficult in wheat due to its hexaploidy nature.

117 The development of genetic transformation systems provides the possibility for
118 manipulating glutenin compositions and hence improving the technological properties
119 of wheat grain (Shewry et al. 1995; Altpeter et al. 1996; Blechl and Anderson 1996;
120 Popineau et al. 2001). Most of the work has focused on the transformation of HMW-GS
121 *IDx5+IDy10* and *IAx1* genes and has indicated that these genes can improve functional
122 properties of bread wheat. Particularly, He et al. (1999) demonstrated that expression of
123 the additional genes encoding HMW subunits in durum wheat resulted in increased
124 dough strength and stability. The genetic transformation technology, therefore, can be
125 used as a powerful tool for improving wheat quality. For rapid quality improvement,
126 reserve genetics approach, ie, isolation, expression and functional studies of novel
127 glutenin genes for good quality properties are highly important. Although more than ten
128 major HMW glutenin subunit genes in bread wheat and related species have been
129 cloned and sequenced (Shewry et al. 2003; Yan et al. 2004a; Li et al. 2004), genes for
130 practical use are still limited. In this study, we used an integrated approach, ie, from
131 gene to effects, to study the molecular structure, expression and functional properties of
132 *IBy8* subunit gene isolated from an Italian durum wheat cultivar Simeto.

133 **2. Materials and methods**

134 *2.1. Plant materials*

135 The Italian durum wheat cultivar Simeto, which was proved to have good
136 technological characteristics (Galterio et al. 2001), was kindly provided by Dr. R.
137 Acquistucci, Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca, per gli Alimenti e la nutrizione,. The bread
138 wheat cultivar Chinese Spring was used as standard for HMW-GS identification.

139

140 *2.2. One- and two-dimensional gel electrophoresis of HMW-GS*

141 An improved procedure for extraction and sample preparation of HMW glutenin
142 subunits, separation by one-dimensional sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS)-,
143 polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE), acid (A)-polyacrylamide gel

144 electrophoresis (PAGE) and two-dimensional A-PAGE x SDS-PAGE were based on the
145 protocols of Yan et al (1999, 2003a). Electrophoresis was performed with a Bio-Rad
146 Mini-PROTEAN 3 system.

147

148 *2.3. Acidic capillary electrophoresis (A-CE) and reversed-phase high performance liquid*
149 *chromatography (RP-HPLC)*

150 Sample preparation and A-CE analysis of the HMW-GS were carried out based on
151 the method of Yan et al. (2003b, c; 2004b) with BioFocus 3000 instrument. RP-HPLC
152 analysis was performed according to Burnouf and Bietz (1984).

153

154 *2.4. Matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization time of flight mass spectrometry*
155 *(MALDI-TOF-MS)*

156 HMW glutenin subunit extraction, sample preparation and MALDI-TOF-MS
157 analysis were carried out according to Zhang et al. (2006). The Shimadzu corporation A
158 XIMA-CFRM Plus MS apparatus was used and sinapinic acid (SA, 3, 5-Dimethoxy-
159 4-Hydroxycinnamic acid) is the matrix in this study. Spectra were acquired in a
160 linearity mode using a mass range of 10,000 to 100,000 Da and about 80 to 120 laser
161 shots. Standard sample Albumin-Aldrase was used to perform two-dot calibration.

162

163 *2.5. N-terminal amino acid microsequencing*

164 Preparative SDS-PAGE gels were electroblotted to polyvinylidene difluoride
165 (PVDF) membranes by using a mini Trans-Blot Electrophoretic Transfer cell (Bio-Rad).
166 Proteins transferred to PVDF membranes were stained using 0.1% coomassie Brilliant
167 Blue R-250 (CBB-R250) in 40% methanol for 40s, destained in 50% methanol until the
168 background was light blue and allowed to dry. HMW-GS obtained were sequenced
169 directly using conventional N-terminal Edman degradation microsequencing with
170 PROCISE[®] cLC 491 protein sequence system (Applied Biosystems, Foster, USA).

171

172 *2.6. DNA extraction and AS-PCR amplification*

173 Two pairs of the allele-specific (AS) PCR primers, F1/R1 and F2/R2 (Yan et al.,
174 2004a) were used to amplify the upstream and coding regions of *IBy8* subunit gene
175 respectively. They are:

176 F1(5' ACCACAGTTTGCTCATATTGTCTTG3') +
177 R1(5' ACGTCTACACTTCTGCAAACAATACC3')
178 F2(5' ATGGCTAAGCGGTTGGTCCT3') +
179 R2 (5' TCACTGGCTAGCCGACAATG3').

180 Total genomic DNA from dry seeds was isolated as described by Sun et al. (2004).
181 PCR was carried out using a Perkin-Elmer Cetus DNA Thermal Cycler (PE Applied
182 Biosystems, USA). Proofreading TAQ polymerase Takara LA Taq™ was used for all
183 PCRs. The following PCR procedures were used: an initial denaturation step at 94°C
184 for 5 min followed by 35 cycles at 94°C for 45 sec, an annealing step from 58°C to
185 63°C for 60 sec, an extension step at 72°C for 120 sec concluded with a final extension
186 step at 72°C for 10 min. PCR products were analyzed with 1% agarose gel.

187

188 2.7. Cloning, sequencing and molecular analysis

189 The AS-PCR products of expected sizes were purified from the gel and cloned with
190 the p^{GEM-T} plasmid vector (Promega, Madison, Wis.). The hybrid vector was used to
191 transfer competent cells of *Escherichia coli* DH-5α strain. DNA sequences were
192 obtained with three clones using primer walking and performed by TaKaRa Biotech.
193 Multiple sequence alignment of nucleotide and protein sequences was completed by
194 using Bioedit 7.0.1.1 software.

195

196 2.8. Expression in *E. coli* and Western-blotting

197 The ORF of *IBy8* gene was reamplified using the PCR primers EX-1
198 (5'-ATAGAATTCATGGCTAAGCGGTTGGTCC-3') and EX-2
199 (5'-TATCTCGAGTCACTGGCT AGCCGACAAT-3'). Two restriction enzyme sites
200 (*EcoR* I and *Xho* I) were introduced at the 5' and 3' end of PCR product, respectively.
201 The fragment was ligated into the expression vector pET-28a (Novagen) and

202 re-sequenced to ensure no mistakes during PCR, then transformed into an expression
203 host *E. coli* strain BLR (DE3) plysS. In order to express the HMW subunit protein, a
204 single recombinant and a negative control bacterial colony were inoculated into 5 ml
205 2YT medium containing 50 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ kanamycin and 34 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ chloramphenicol. They
206 were incubated for 4 hours at 37°C until the OD600 reached 0.6. After removing 1ml of
207 each culture, the remains were induced for 4 hours by the addition of IPTG at the final
208 concentration of 1.2 mM. According to Lee et al (1999), the expressed *IBy8* subunit
209 protein was purified simply from the culture and detected by SDS-PAGE. The
210 electrophoretic mobility of the *IBy8* protein produced in the bacterial cells was
211 compared to that extracted from the Simeto seeds. Western-blotting experiments by the
212 polyclonal antibody specific for HMW-GS prepared in our laboratory were carried out
213 based on Liu et al. (2003).

214

215 *2.9. Protein purification and dough-quality testing*

216 A 10-gram Mixograph was used to evaluate functional dough properties of *IBy8*
217 subunit according to Bekes et al. (2001). The protein subunits of *IBy8* from Simeto,
218 *IBy9* and *IDy10* from Zhongyou 9507 collected and purified by SDS-PAGE and
219 RP-HPLC (60 mg each) were incorporated into 10 g of base flour of the bread wheat
220 cultivar Jing411 (protein content 10.6%; HMWGS: Ax2*, Bx7+By8, Dx2+Dy12). The
221 Mixograph assays were carried out in duplicate following the 54-40A AACC method
222 (AACC 1995). Several parameters were measured, including mixing time (MT), stable
223 time (ST), peak resistance (PR), peak width (PW) and width at 8min.

224

225 **3. Results and Discussion**

226 *3.1. Separation and characterization of IBy8 subunit from Simeto*

227 The HMW-GS extracted from durum wheat cultivar Simeto were separated and
228 identified by different electrophoretic and chromatographic methods (Fig. 1).

229 Compared to Chinese Spring, it is obvious that Simeto has the *IBx7+IBy8* subunits

230 at the *Glu-B1* locus and *null* allele at the *Glu-A1* locus. Two-dimensional A-PAGE x
231 SDS-PAGE pattern clearly showed two protein dots, corresponding to *IBx7* and *IBy8*
232 subunits (Fig. 1). RP-HPLC and acidic capillary electrophoresis (A-CE) analysis (Fig. 1)
233 showed that the *IBx7* and *IBy8* subunits were well separated and readily identified
234 based on the migration orders of HMW-GS established by Gianibelli and Solomon
235 (2003) and Yan et al. (2003b; 2004b). The *IBy8* subunit showed lower hydrophobicity
236 than *IBx7*. Different separation methods all demonstrated that the amount of *IBy8*
237 subunit was much lower than that of *IBx7* (Fig 1).

238 In order to obtain accurate molecular mass, the HMW-GS of Simeto were further
239 characterized by MALDI-TOF-MS. As shown in Fig. 1, two separate mass spectra with
240 M_r 82974.5 Da and 77171.9 Da in the high molecular mass region were consistent with
241 the molecular size of *IBx7* and *IBy8*, respectively. According to the gene sequence of
242 *IBx7* (Anderson and Greene 1989) and *IBy8* subunits (see below), their deduced M_r s
243 were 82873 Da and 75156.7 Da, generally corresponding well to the molecular weight
244 of *IBx* and *IBy* subunit, respectively.

245 Twenty-eight residues (EGEASRQLQCERELQESSLEACRQVVDQ) of the
246 N-terminal amino acid sequences of *IBy8* subunit were obtained by microsequencing,
247 which were identical to those of *IBy9*, *IDy10* and *IDy12* subunits from bread wheat.
248 This suggested that the N-terminal sequences of y-type subunits were highly conserved.

249

250 3.2. PCR and molecular analysis of *IBy8* gene

251 In this work, different annealing temperatures from 58 °C to 65 °C were tested in
252 order to obtain optimal PCR amplification results. As shown in Fig. 2, two single
253 fragments of about 1.1 kb at 64 °C and 2.1 kb at 63 °C were amplified by primer pairs
254 F1 + R1 and F2 + R2, respectively. According to previous results of y-type subunit
255 genes (Halford et al. 1987; Yan et al. 2004a), they are consistent with the sizes of the 5'
256 flanking upstream and coding region of *IBy8* gene, respectively.

257 Both amplified products were cloned and sequenced by primer walking. The
258 complete *IBy8* gene sequence of 3020 bp was obtained by alignment of two amplified

259 sequences with 309 bp in overlapping. The complete gene contained 857 bp of
260 upstream sequence and an intronless open reading frame (ORF) of 2166 bp encoding a
261 mature protein of 720 amino acid residues. The comparisons of 5' flanking regions of
262 *IBy8* and other six HMW-GS genes (*IBy9*, Halford et al. 1987; *IAy*, Forde et al. 1985;
263 *IAx2**, Anderson and Greene 1989; *IDx5* and *IDy10*, Anderson et al. 1989; *IDy12.1'*,
264 Yan et al. 2004a) were conducted and are shown in Fig. 3A. It is obvious that the 5'
265 flanking regions of HMW-GS genes (about 750-850 bp from the initiator codon) have
266 similar structures and contain some eukaryotic typical consensus, such as a TATA box
267 and the -300 element (Forde et al. 1985) conserved in cereal storage protein genes, and
268 a CCACC sequence that is highly conserved in eukaryotes (Kozak 1987). They may
269 relate to tissue specific expression and efficient translation initiation of storage proteins
270 (Anderson and Greene 1989). An enhancer sequence of HMW-GS genes identified by
271 Thomas and Flavell (1990) is highly conserved and is considered as a major regulatory
272 element for gene expression (Shewry and Halford, 2002). In addition, three
273 CCAAT-like sequences (Messing et al., 1983) and three imperfect direct repeats
274 (Halford et al., 1987) are present and also conserved in HMW-GS genes.

275 The deduced amino acid sequence of *IBy8* subunit showed similar structural
276 characteristics to other HMW-GS, including a signal peptide of 21 amino acid residues,
277 an N-terminal sequence of 104 amino acid residues followed by a central repetitive
278 domain of 553 residues and a C-terminal domain of 42 residues. The 28 N-terminal
279 amino acid residues were identical to those obtained by microsequencing. The predicted
280 molecular weight of *IBy8* mature protein was 75156.7Da, 2015.2Da less than the
281 molecular mass determined by MALDI-TOF-MS (77171.9Da) as shown in Fig. 1. The
282 result is consistent with our unpublished data, which shows that discrepancy often
283 exists between molecular weights deduced from sequence and measured with
284 MALDI-TOF, based on analyzing a large number of germplasms. This suggests that
285 some types of post-translational modifications, such as glycosylation or
286 phosphorylation etc, may be present in the *IBy8* subunit. This is consistent with the
287 previous reports that some glycosylations and phosphotyrosine in HMW glutenin
288 subunits were detected (Tilley et al. 1993; Tilley and Schofield 1995; Lauriere et al

289 1996). In particular, *IBy8* subunit in genotype TAM105 was found to be extensively
290 glycosylated by lectin binding and sugar analysis (Tilley et al. 1993).

291 The repetitive domain of *IBy8* subunit possessed the typical characteristics of
292 *y*-type HMW-GS. It consisted of tandem and interspersed repeats of 58 hexapeptide
293 (consensus PGQGQQ) and 22 nonapeptide (consensus GYYPTSLQQ) motifs.
294 Tripeptide (consensus GQQ), present in the *x*-type HMW subunit, was not present. The
295 nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of *IBy8* gene were deposited in the
296 EMBL database under the accession number AY245797.

297 A comparison of the deduced amino acid sequences of the *IBy8* subunit with other
298 6 *y*-type HMW-GS from different genomes is shown in Fig. 3B. Apparently, all
299 subunits displayed high homology and 7 cysteine residues were highly conserved. In
300 particular, *IBy8* subunit showed the highest identity (99%) to *IBy9* from bread wheat
301 cultivar Cheyenne (Halford et al. 1987). Compared to the *IBy9* subunit, the *IBy8*
302 subunit possessed an additional insertion of 15 amino acid residues (QYPASQQQPA
303 QGQQG) at position 342. Consequently, the molecular weight of *IBy8* was 1641.7 Da
304 higher than that of *IBy9* (73515.02Da). In addition, two residue substitutions occurred
305 at positions 78 (leucine/proline) and 442 (arginine/glutamine) as indicated in Fig. 3B.
306 The *IBy8* contained 157 hydrophobic residues while *IBx7* had 168 hydrophobic
307 residues. Hence, *IBy8* subunit showed less hydrophobicity than the *IBx7* subunit,
308 which is consistent with the migration order of RP-HPLC separation (Fig. 1).

309

310 3.3. Expression of *IBy8* gene in *E. coli*

311 In order to analyze the effects of the *IBy8* subunit on flour processing
312 characteristics, the ORF of *IBy8* gene was amplified and cloned into the expression
313 vector pET-28a, and then transformed into an expression host *E. coli* strain BLR (DE3)
314 *plysS*. The expressed protein was purified by extraction with 50% (v/v) propanol
315 containing 2% DTT (w/v). The recombinant *IBy8* subunit was separated by SDS-PAGE
316 and the results are shown in Fig. 4. Apparently, the electrophoretic mobility of
317 expressed protein is similar to that of the *IBy8* subunit extracted from seeds of cultivar

318 Simeto. Their similarity was also confirmed by Western-blotting analysis. Both the
319 bacterially expressed protein and endogenous *1By8* subunit of Simeto displayed strong
320 reaction to the polyclonal antibody that was specific for HMW glutenin subunits.

321

322 *3.4. Functional analysis of 1By8 subunit*

323 The small-scale testing (2g or 10g Mixograph) of flour through single subunit
324 incorporation with a reduction/re-oxidation procedure has been shown to be an
325 effective method for investigating functional properties of HMW-GS (Bekes et al.,
326 2001; Shewry et al., 2003). In this study, 60 mg subunit proteins of *1By8*, *1By9*, and
327 *1Dy10* were incorporated into 10g of Jing411 base flour and their Mixograph properties
328 were compared. As shown in Table 1 and Fig. 5, incorporation of y-type high molecular
329 weight glutenin subunits can significantly alter Mixograph properties of base flour.
330 Their impact on dough strength follows the order of *1Dy10* > *1By8* > *1By9*. Compared
331 to *1By8* and *1By9* subunits, incorporation of subunit *1Dy10* resulted in increased
332 mixing time, stable time and width at 8min. In contrast, incorporation of subunit *1By8*
333 produced striking increases in peak resistance and peak width, and medium increases in
334 MT, ST and width at 8min when compared to *1Dy10* and *1By9* subunits. While
335 significant difference in effects on quality was observed between the two *By* subunits,
336 their molecular weight or protein sequences are highly similar; ie, only a single 15
337 amino acid deletion within the repetitive domain and two single amino acid
338 substitutions. This is consistent with previous findings that HMWGS subunits of
339 different alleles usually share a high similarity in gene or protein sequences but differ
340 widely in their effects on quality (Reviewed by Gianibelli et al., 2001; Ma et al., 2003;
341 Butow et al., 2003; Ma et al., 2005; Lei et al., 2006; Liu et al., 2009). For example, a
342 less desirable subunit Bx13 only differs in 100 daltons of molecular weight from Bx7
343 subunit (equal to 1 amino acid difference. Liu et al 2009). However, our results strongly
344 demonstrate the importance of y-type subunits in wheat quality. The HMW-GS alleles
345 usually consist of two genes or proteins, one x-type and one-y-type. Up to now, the
346 functional differences between HMW-GS alleles have been usually interpreted by the

347 molecular and structural differences between x-type subunits. Little attention is paid to
348 the variations of y-type subunits and their impact on quality parameters. Butow et al.
349 (2003b) incorporated *IDy10* subunit into transgenic lines and found that such
350 incorporation significantly altered a range of quality parameters, including weaker
351 dough and higher extensibility. The observed effect was attributed to the decrease of the
352 *Dx/Dy* ratio after incorporating the *IDy10* subunit. In contrast, our experiment provided
353 direct evidence of functional difference between different y-type subunits. Molecular
354 tools for differentiating and selecting different *By* subunits are now available (Lei et al
355 2006). The results obtained in this study may assist wheat breeders to utilize *By* subunit
356 related variations in wheat quality improvement.

357

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Table 1 Effects of HMW-GS incorporations on Mixograph properties of dough

Parameters	Mix time (MT)	Stable time (ST)	Peak resistance (PR)	Peak width (PW)	Width at 8 min
Control (Jing 411)	1.900	1.850	43.250	17.000	4.250
<i>1By8</i>	4.325	5.100	70.250	34.000	20.500
<i>1By9</i>	3.000	5.900	47.500	29.000	17.500
<i>1Dy10</i>	4.925	7.900	49.250	22.500	24.000
<i>LSD</i> _{0.05}	0.319	0.353	6.418	3.539	2.454
<i>LSD</i> _{0.01}	0.529	0.585	10.644	5.870	4.070

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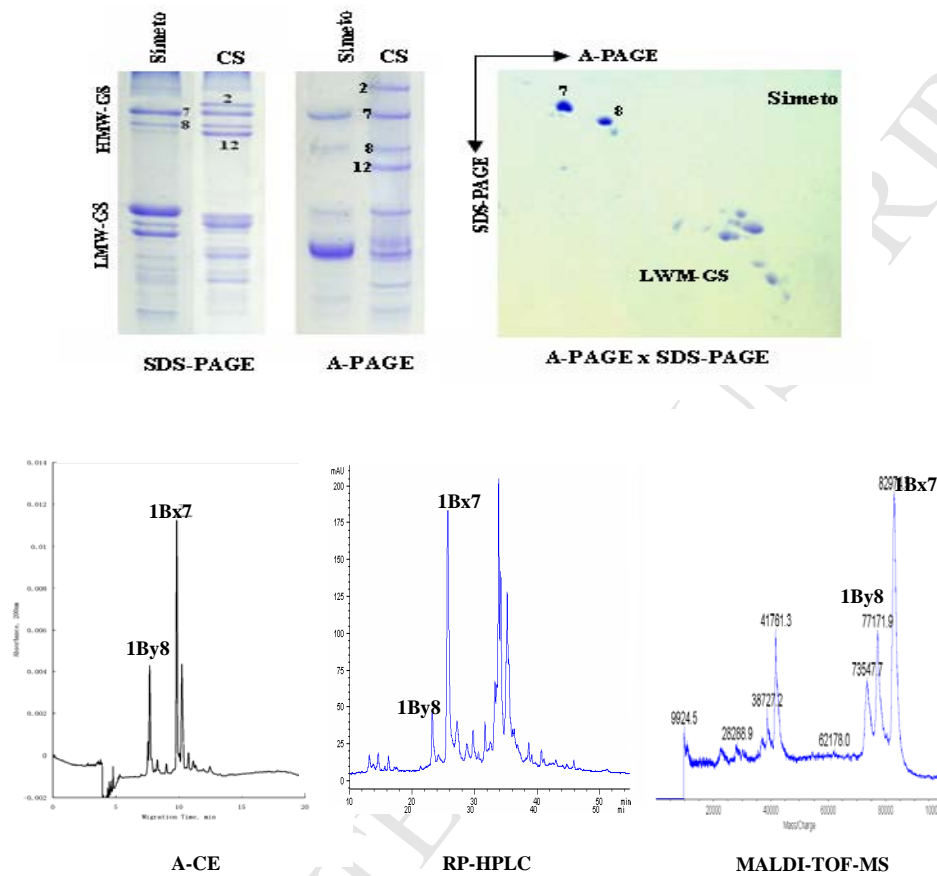


Fig. 1

Fig. 1. Separation and characterization of HMW-GS from Italy durum wheat cultivar Simeto by various separation methods.

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10 **Fig. 2.** AS-PCR products of *IBy8* gene upstream and complete coding region from
11 durum wheat cultivar Simeto.

12 A. Lane 1: 1kb DNA ladder Marker

13 Lane 2: amplified product of *IBy8*

14 gene upstream

15 B. Lane 1: 1kb DNA ladder Marker

16 Lane 2: negative CK

17 Lane 3: amplified product of *IBy8* complete coding region

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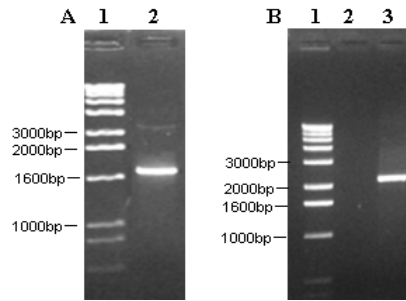
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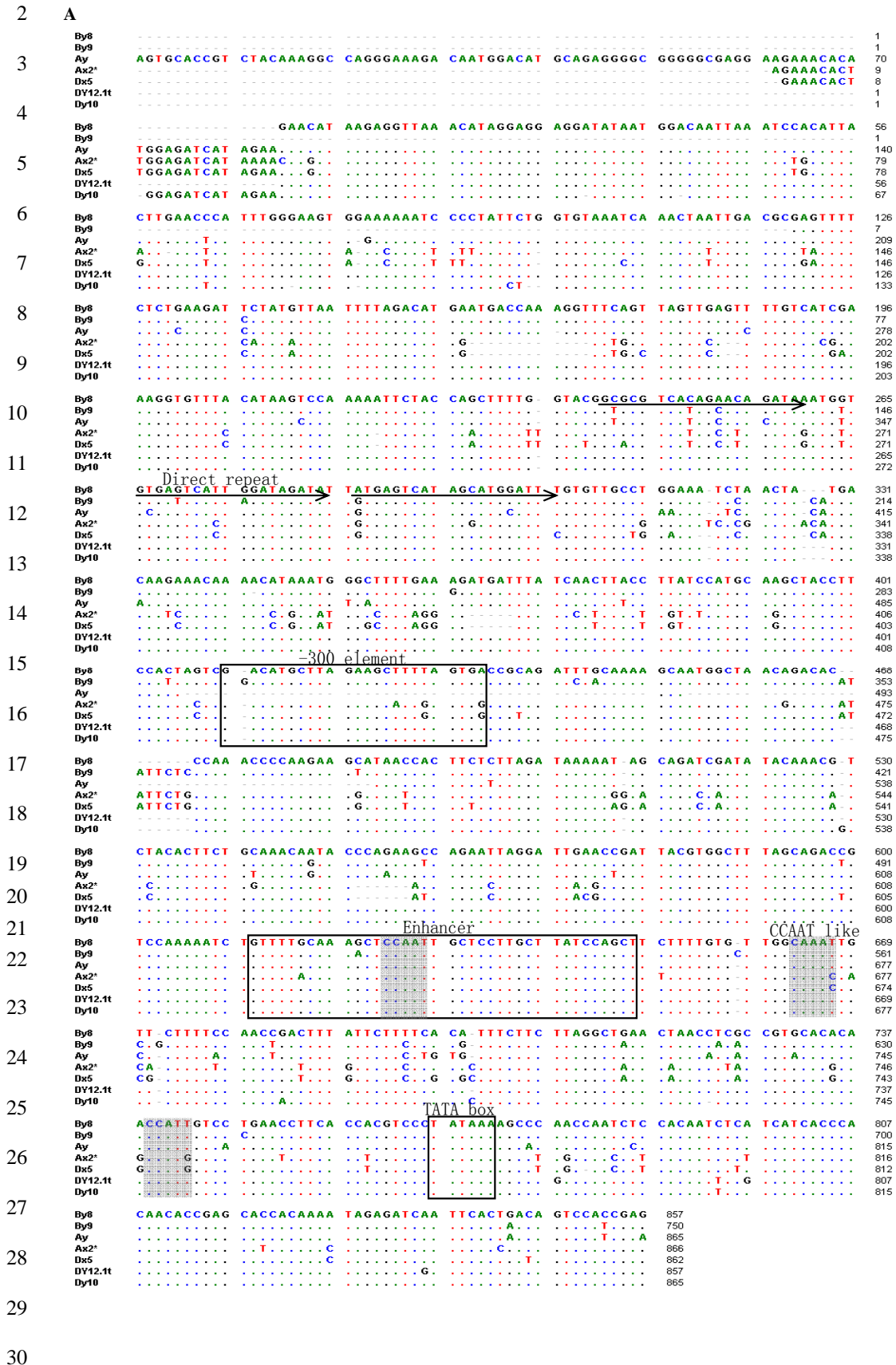




Fig 3.

Comparison of the 5' flanking DNA sequences and the deduced amino acid sequences of *lBy8*

2 gene with those of other six HMW-GS gene. In the DNA sequences, *dots* indicate the
3 consensus sequences of *1By8* and *dashes* represents deletions. Some typical
4 sequences, including -300 element, enhancer, TATA box, CCAAT-like and three
5 direct repeats were indicated. In the protein sequences, the cysteine residues and
6 an additional insertion of 15 amino acid residues and two residue substitutions
7 in 1By8 subunit were marked.

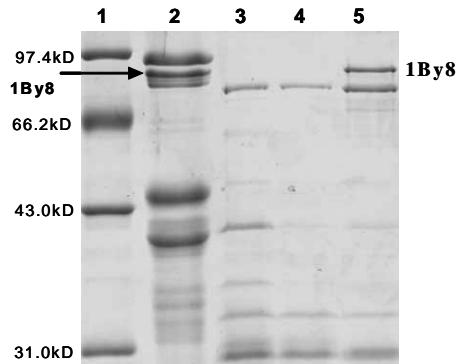
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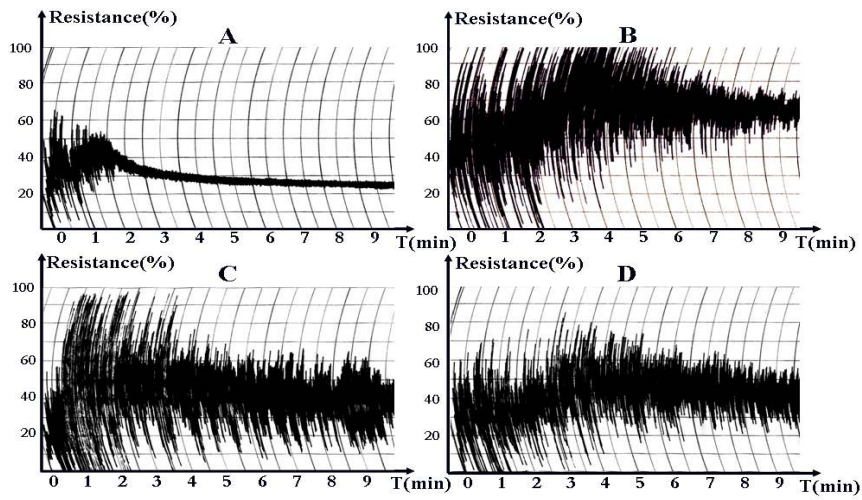
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10 **Fig. 4** Comparison of *IBy8* subunit expressed in *E. coli* with that extracted from seeds
 11 of Simeto.
 12 Arrow indicates the position of *By8* subunit.
 13 Lane 1: protein marker;
 14 Lane 2: glutenin subunits extracted from of Simeto seed;
 15 Lane 3: untransformed BLR-21(DE3) pLysS;
 16 Lane 4: control bacterial culture transformed by *IBy8* recombinant plasmid
 17 without IPTG inducing;
 18 Lane 5: *IBy8* recombinant plasmid lysate induced by IPTG.

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Fig. 5. Comparison of Mixograms of Control with those of incorporation into base

flour of *IBy8*, *IBy9* and *IDy10* subunits

A: Control (Jing 411)

B: *IBy8* subunit

C: *IBy9* subunit

D: *IDy10* subunit