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Chemistry and Biology of Aroma and Taste

# Quantitation and taste contribution of sensory active molecules in oat (Avena sativa L.)

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### 20 **ABSTRACT**

A total of 59 taste active molecules were quantitated, and then rated for their individual 21 taste impact on the basis of dose-over-threshold factors (DoT) in oat flour (Avena 22 sativa L.). A sensitive HPLC-MS/MS-method was developed to quantitate bitter-tasting 23 steroidal and furostanol-saponins as well as avenanthramides. Four monoglycerides, 24 five free fatty acids and four saponins, were confirmed for the first time to be major 25 contributors to the bitter off-taste of oats, among them 1-linoleoyl-rac-glycerol, 26 1-stearoyl-rac-glycerol, 1-oleoyl-rac-glycerol, 1-palmitoyl-rac-glycerol, linoleic acid, 27 linolenic acid, oleic acid, palmitic acid and stearic acid, as well as avenacoside A and 28 B and the recently identified furostanosides 3-(O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)-[ $\beta$ -D-29 glucopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 3$ )- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 4$ )]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-30 glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-furost-5-ene-3*β*,22,26-triol and 3-(*O*-α-L-31 32 rhamnopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 2$ )-[ $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 4$ )]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -Dglucopyranosyl-(25R)-furost-5-ene-3 $\beta$ ,22,26-triol. By means of a Stable Isotope 33 Dilution Assay (SIDA) quantitated avenanthramides 2c, 2p, 2f, 1p, 1c, 1f, and 3f were 34 found in concentrations below their thresholds and, therefore, did not contribute to the 35 bitter sensation of the tested oat flour. 36

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*KEYWORDS:* oat, *Avena sativa*, saponins, avenanthramides, avenacosides, free
 fatty acids, monoglycerides, taste, bitter, astringent, SIDA, LC-MS/MS.

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### 42 INTRODUCTION

In addition to its characteristic attractive aroma, the sensory profile of oats is 43 driven by its typical astringent and bitter off-taste<sup>1</sup>. Whereas, multiple attempts have 44 been made to correlate this off-taste with lipid-derived bitter metabolites, such as free 45 fatty acids<sup>2</sup>, 9-hydroxy-10(*E*),12(*Z*)-octadecadienoic acid (9-HODE), 13(*S*)-hydroxy-46 acid (13-HODE)<sup>3</sup>, 9(Z), 11(E)-octadecadienoic 9,10,13-trihydroxy-trans-11-47 octadecenoic acid<sup>3</sup> and oxidized monoglycerides<sup>4</sup>, few studies have reached beyond 48 these compounds. Although oat saponins, such as avenacosides A and B and their 49 corresponding monodesmosides 26-desglucoavencoside A and B, have been studied 50 for many years<sup>5–10</sup>, there is only little knowledge on their sensory power, while other 51 chemical groups in oats are rather poorly investigated. 52

In order to identify which non-volatile, key taste molecules impart the bitterness 53 54 and astringency of oats, we recently applied the so-called taste dilution analysis (TDA)<sup>11</sup> on fractions isolated from oat flour after sequential solvent fractionation and 55 separation by means of solid phase extraction followed by high performance liquid 56 chromatography<sup>1</sup>. This activity-guided fractionation led to the identification of four 57 steroidal and furostanol saponins, as well as the three avenanthramides 2c (5), 2p (6), 58 59 2f (7) as key bitter and astringent phytochemicals in oats. Sensory evaluation of these saponins and avenanthramides showed potent bitter sensation with taste recognition 60 thresholds between 4 and 170 µmol/L, with the saponin 3-(*O*-α-L-61 rhamnopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)-[ $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)]- $\beta$ -D-62

<sup>63</sup> glucopyranosid)-26-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-furost-5-ene-3β,22,26-triol (1) <sup>64</sup> exhibiting by far the lowest bitter threshold<sup>1</sup>.

To the best of our knowledge, a comprehensive mapping of key taste molecules of oats linking human sensory recognition thresholds has not been made so far.

Therefore, this study aimed to position and quantitate previously identified taste active metabolites and minerals followed by dose-activity-relationships to positioning these compounds according to their orosensory impact, and validate previous findings by taste re-engineering studies of the non-volatile sensometabolome of oat flour.

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## 72 MATERIALS AND METHODS

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**Chemicals and Materials.** All chemicals were acquired commercially from Merck 74 (Darmstadt, Germany) and Sigma-Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany), if not stated 75 elsewise. Sucrose, o-coumaric acid, p-hydroxybenzoic acid and protocatechuic acid 76 were purchased from Carl Roth (Karlsruhe, Germany), p-coumaric and 4,5-dimethoxy-77 2-nitro-benzoic acid from Alfa Aesar (Karlsruhe, Germany), palladium on carbon from 78 EGA Chemie (Steinheim, Germany), and lauric acid from Fluka (Neu-Ulm, Germany). 79 As published recently<sup>1</sup>, saponin reference materials were isolated from oat flour and 80 avenanthramide standards were synthesized according to the published synthesis 81 82 protocol<sup>1</sup>. Stable-isotope labelled amino acids were acquired from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories (Andover, USA), (+)-dihydrorobinetine and ginsenoside Rg<sub>1</sub> and Rb<sub>1</sub> were 83 obtained from Extrasynthese (Genay, France). Deuterated solvents were supplied by 84 Euriso-Top (St. Aubin, France). Solvents for HPLC applications were of HPLC grade 85 (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), solvents for LC-MS uses were of LC-MS grade 86 (J.T.Baker, Deventer, Netherlands) whereas solvents used for extraction (Merck, 87 Darmstadt, Germany) were distilled prior to use. Water for HPLC separation was 88 purified by means of a Milli-Q water advantage A 10 water system (Millipore, Molsheim, 89 France). Bottled water (Evian, low mineralization: 405 mg/L) was adjusted to pH 6.4 90 with aqueous formic acid prior to gustatory analysis. Ethanol (absolute, Merck, 91 92 Darmstadt, Germany) was utilized for sensory analysis. Ground oat flour from heat treated oat grains was used and stored at -20 °C until use.

Syntheses of Avenanthramide 3f (13) and Labelled Internal Standards [2H,]-94 95 Avenanthramide 1f and 2f (16,17) (c.f. Figure 1). Synthesis of avenanthramide 3f was performed in a stepwise approach following the protocols described in the 96 literature<sup>12–14</sup>, with some modifications. In order to generate the educt for the final 97 condensation reaction of the monomalonate with vanilline, 5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-98 anthranilic acid was synthesized from 4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitro-benzoic acid in a two-step 99 approach. An amount (20 mmol) of 4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitro-benzoic acid was dissolved 100 101 in 20 mL of NaOH (6 mol) and heated to 100 °C for 3 h<sup>14</sup>. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was dripped into a mixture of concentrated hydrochloric acid 102 and crushed ice (pH 2). To obtain 5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-nitro-benzoic acid as an 103 orange powder (18.1 mmol, 91% yield) the icy slurry was extracted with ethylacetate, 104 washed with a saturated saline solution, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, freed from solvent 105 106 under vacuum, and finally dried at 110 °C.

In a second step, reduction of the amino-function was conducted using a catalyst consisting of palladium on activated charcoal<sup>12</sup>. The catalyst (10 wt %) and 33 mL of methanol (dried with molecular sieve 4 Å) were introduced into a three-necked glass with 12.5 mmol of 5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-nitro-benzoic acid. Reduction was performed for 4 h with gaseous hydrogen from a reservoir balloon. The solid was filtered off, washed with methanol, and removed from solvent to give 5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-anthranilic acid (5.6 mmol, 45% yield).

As reported recently<sup>13</sup>, 5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-anthranilic acid (6 mmol) was mixed in equimolar ratio with meldrums acid, dissolved in dried toluene (15 mL) and refluxed for 4 h. The mixture was allowed to cool down to room temperature, and treated with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL) solution, followed by a stepwise addition of concentrated

HCI (10 mL). The precipitate was filtered off, washed with water and dried at 100 °C to 118 obtain 5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-(2-carboxyacetyl)aminobenzoic acid (2.3 mmol, 36 % 119 yield). In a final step, 5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-2-(2-carboxyacetyl)aminobenzoic acid 120 (0.5 mmol), vanilline (0.5 mmol) and a catalytic amount of  $\beta$ -alanine were dissolved in 121 pyridine (3 mL) and refluxed for 110 min at 115 °C<sup>13</sup>. The solution was cooled with ice 122 and acidified with concentrated HCI (3 mL). The resulting solid was filtered, washed 123 with water and dried in a lab oven at 100 °C. Crude synthesis was purified by means 124 of preparative HPLC on a Phenyl-Hexyl Luna column (250 x 21.0 mm, 5 µm, 125 Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, Germany). Monitoring the effluent at 280 and 340 nm, 126 127 chromatography was performed using 0.1% formic acid in water (effluent A) and acetonitrile (effluent B) at a flow rate of 19 mL/min and isocratic conditions of 52% of 128 effluent B, respectively. Collected fractions containing the target compounds were 129 combined and separated from solvent under vacuum. After lyophilisation, 130 avenanthramide 3f (13) was obtained as white, amorphous powder in purity of more 131 than 98 % (HPLC-DAD, <sup>1</sup>H NMR). The structure was verified by means of LC-MS and 132 NMR spectroscopy. Isotope labelled standards were synthesized as described above, 133 using deuterated [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>a</sub>]-vanilline for final condensation reaction with the monomalonate. 134 N-(4'-Hydroxy-3'-methoxy-(E)-cinnamoyl)-5-hydroxy-4-methoxy-anthranilic acid 135 (avenanthramide 3f), 13 (Figure 1): UV/vis (ACN/0.1% HCOOH, 75/25 v/v)  $\lambda_{max}$ = 136 248 nm, 348 nm; LC-MS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) *m/z* 358.1 ([C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 314.1 ([C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 137 298.1 ( $[C_{17}H_{17}NO_4-H]^-$ ); MS/MS (declustering potential (DP)= -90 V) m/z (%) 358.0 138 (100), 314.0 (13), 298.0 (24), 282.6 (8), 176.0 (36), 149.8 (34); LC-TOF-MS m/z 139 358.0928 ( $[M-H]^-$ , measured), calculated for  $[C_{18}H_{17}NO_7-H]^- m/z$  358.0927; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR 140 (500 MHz, MeOD-d<sub>4</sub>) δ 3.92\* [s, 3H, H-C(10<sup>4</sup>)], 3.94\* [s, 3H, H-C(8)], 6.57 [d, 1H, 141 J=15.7 Hz, H-C(8')], 6.82 [d, 1H, H-C(5')], 7.10 [dd, 1H, J=8.2, 1.8 Hz, H-C(6')], 7.23 142

143 [d, 1H, J=1.7 Hz, H-C(2')], 7.53 [s, 1H, H-C(6)], 7.56 [d, 1H, J=15.7 Hz, H-C(7')], 8.42

[s, 1H, H-C(3)]; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR [125 MHz, MeOD-d<sub>4</sub>) δ 56.3/56.5 [C(10<sup>4</sup>/8)], 104.6 [C(3)],
111.6 [C(2<sup>4</sup>)], 113.8 [C(1)], 116.5 [C(5<sup>4</sup>)], 118.4 [C(6)], 120.2 [C(8<sup>4</sup>)], 123.8 [C(6<sup>4</sup>)], 128.2
[C(1<sup>4</sup>)], 136.3 [C(2)], 142.7/142.8 [C(7<sup>4</sup>/5)], 149.4 [C(3<sup>4</sup>)], 150.2 [C(4<sup>4</sup>)], 152.3 [C(4)],
166.7 [C(9<sup>4</sup>)], 172.7 [C(7)]; \*maybe interchangeable.

[10'-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-*N*-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-(*E*)-cinnamoyl)-anthranilic ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-148 acid avenanthramide 1f), **16** (Figure 1): LC-MS (ESI<sup>-</sup>): m/z 315.0 ([C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 149 271.1 ([C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 162.0 ([C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 133.2 ([C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O-H]<sup>-</sup>); MS/MS (DP= 150 -85 V): m/z (%) 315.0 (100), 271.1 (32), 252.0 (68), 177.0 (10), 133.2 (37); LC-TOF-151 MS m/z 315.1067 ([M-H]<sup>-</sup>, measured), calculated for  $[C_{17}H_{12}^{2}H_{3}NO_{5}-H]^{-} m/z$ 152 153 315.1107; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, MeOD-d<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$ /ppm:  $\delta$  6.59 [d, 1H, J=15.6 Hz, H-C(8')], 6.83 [d, 1H, J=8.2 Hz, H-C(5')], 7,11 [dd, 1H, J=8.2, 1.9 Hz, H-C(6')], 7.15 [t, 1H, J=7.6, 154 0.9 Hz, H-C(5)], 7.24 [d, 1H, J=1.9 Hz, H-C(2')], 7.57 [t, 1H, J=8.0, 1.6 Hz, H-C(4)], 155 156 7.60 [d, 1H, J=15.5 Hz, H-C(7')], 8.11 [dd, 1H, J=8.0, 1.5 Hz, H-C(6)], 8.69 [dd, 1H, J=8.4, 0.7 Hz, H-C(3)]; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR [100 MHz, MeOD-d<sub>4</sub>) δ/ppm: δ 111.63 [C(2')], 116.42 157 [C(5')], 117.65 [C(1)], 119.52 [C(8')], 121.58 [C(3)], 123.93/123.97 [C(5/6')], 127.96 158 [C(1')], 132.64 [C(6)], 135.18 [C(4)], 142.74 [C(2)], 144.03 [C(7')], 149.40 [C(3')], 159 150.39 [C(4')], 167.16 [C(9')], 171.60 [C(7)]. 160

161 [10<sup>-2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-*N*-(4<sup>-</sup>hydroxy-3<sup>-</sup>methoxy-(*E*)-cinnamoyl)-5-hydroxyanthranilic acid 162 ([<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-avenanthramide 2f), **17** (Figure 1): LC-MS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) *m/z* 331.0 ([C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 287.0 ([C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub><sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 178.0 ([C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>), 133.2 ([C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O-H]<sup>-</sup>); MS/MS (DP= 163 -85 V): *m/z* (%) 331.0 (100), 287.0 (41), 268.0 (65), 178.0 (7), 160.0 (32), 133.2 (52); 164 LC-TOF-MS m/z 331.1018 ([M–H]<sup>-</sup>, measured), calculated for  $[C_{17}H_{12}^2H_3NO_6-H]^- m/z$ 165 331.1056; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ/ppm: δ 6.56 [d, 1H, J=15.6 Hz, H-C(8')], 166 6.95 [d, 1H, J=8.2 Hz, H-C(5')], 7.02 [dd, 1H, J=3.0, 9.0 Hz, H-C(4)], 7.10 [dd, 1H, 167 J=2.0, 7.9 Hz, H-C(6')], 7.11 [d, 1H, J=1.9 Hz, H-C(2')], 7.37 [d, 1H, J=2.9 Hz, H-C(6)], 168 7.42 [d, 1H, J=15.4 Hz, H-C(7')], 8.32 [d, 1H, J=9.0 Hz, H-C(3)]; <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (101 MHz, 169

DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ/ppm: δ 111.19 [C(5')], 113.77 [C(2')], 116.40 [C(6)], 118.72 [C(1)], 119.75
[C(8')], 120.60 [C(6')], 120.71 [C(4)], 122.40 [C(3)], 127.31 [C(1')], 132.65 [C(2)],
140.50 [C(7')], 146.55 [C(3')], 149.44 [C(4')], 152.44 [C(5)], 163.37 [C(9')], 168.97
[C(7)].

Quantitation of Avenanthramides (5-13) by means of Stable Isotope 174 Dilution Assay (SIDA). Sample Preparation. A sample weight (7 g) of oat flour was 175 placed into a conical flask, spiked with an internal standard solution (150  $\mu$ L) of [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-176 avenanthramide 1f (16, 174 mg/L) and  $[^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 2f (17, 220 mg/L), 177 dissolved in 70% acetonitrile and equilibrated for 30 min. In a first step, samples were 178 179 defatted with *n*-hexane (60 mL) and centrifuged. After decantation, the residue was taken up in 140 mL of methanol/water (70/30, v/v, aqueous phase adjusted to pH 4.0) 180 and extracted for 2 h under stirring. The liquid phase was freed from solvent under 181 vacuum and lyophilized to give the methanol/water extract. The extract was taken up 182 in a mixture of acetonitrile/0.1 % formic acid (40/60, v/v), membrane filtered and 183 analyzed by means of HPLC-MS/MS. 184

LC-MS/MS Analysis. An aliquot (10 µL) of the prepared sample was injected into an 185 LC-MS/MS system combined with a Luna C18 PhenylHexyl (150 × 2.0 mm i.d., 5 µm, 186 187 Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, Germany) equipped with a guard column of the same type. Eluent A was composed of 0.1 % formic acid in acetonitrile, eluent B of 0.1 % 188 formic acid in water. Using a flow rate of 300 µL/min, the system was operated at 25 °C 189 190 starting with 40 % A under isocratic conditions for 1 min, then increasing content A to 70 % within 1 min (holding for 2 min), followed by an increase to 100 % A within 2 min 191 and keeping isocratic conditions for 3 min. Eluent was pumped down again to 40 % A 192 within 2 min and held isocratically for further 3 min. Analysis was performed in ESI-193 mode using the mass transition and declustering potential (DP in V), collision energy 194 (CE in V), cell exit potential (CXP in V), and entrance potential (EP in V) as follows: 195

avenanthramide 2c (5) (m/z 314.2  $\rightarrow$  178.0; -65/-16/-11/-10); avenanthramide 2p (6) 196  $(m/z \ 298.1 \rightarrow 253.9; \ -50/-22/-15/-10);$  avenanthramide 2f (7)  $(m/z \ 328.0 \rightarrow 283.8;$ 197 -95/-24/-19/-10; avenanthramide 1p (8) (*m/z* 282.0  $\rightarrow$  238.0; -85/-24/-7/-10); 198 avenanthramide 1c (9) (m/z 298.0  $\rightarrow$  161.7; -65/-16/-11/-10); avenanthramide 1f (10) 199  $(m/z \ 312.0 \rightarrow 251.7; -90/-34/-17/-10);$  avenanthramide 1s (11)  $(m/z \ 342.0 \rightarrow 298.1;$ 200 -85/-24/-9/-10; avenanthramide 2s (12) (*m/z* 358.1  $\rightarrow$  314.1; -80/-24/-9/-10); 201 avenanthramide 3f (13) (m/z 358.1  $\rightarrow$  175.8; -90/-28/-11/-10); [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-avenanthramide 2f 202 (16)  $(m/z \ 331.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -85/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -86/-24/-19/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -86/-24/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -86/-24/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (17)  $(m/z \ 315.0 \rightarrow 286.8; -86/-24/-10); [^{2}H_{3}]$ 203 271.1; -85/-24/-7/-10). 204

*Calibration.* Internal standards  $[{}^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 2f (**16**) and  $[{}^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (**17**) were mixed with analytes **5–13** in molar ratios from 0.03 to 6.8 keeping the concentration of the internal standard constant. Calibration curves were prepared by plotting peak area ratios of analyte/internal standard against concentration ratios of analyte/internal standard. Application of linear regression led to linear responses showing correlation coefficients of >0.99 each.

Method Validation. To investigate the repeatability (intraday precision) of oat samples, 211 212 four independent repetitions were analyzed using three replicates each. Precision, given as relative standard deviation (RSD), was confirmed to be between ±3% (5) and 213 214 ±9% (9 and 10) according to the individual avenanthramide. Linearity was determined 215 in the range between 0.0025–0.4753 mg/L. To determine recovery, oat flour samples were spiked with methanolic solutions containing known amounts of 5-10 (c.f. Table 216 1) at increasing concentrations and analyzed in duplicates as described before. In 217 218 order to calculate recovery, baseline samples were defined from a 4-fold determination of unspiked oat flour. 219

**Quantitation of Saponins (1–4).** Sample Preparation. A sample weight (7 g) of

oat flour was placed into a conical flask, spiked with a methanolic solution of internal 221 222 standards ginsenoside Rg<sub>1</sub> (14, 400  $\mu$ L of 577 mg/L) and ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub> (15, 450  $\mu$ L of 487 mg/L) and equilibrated for 30 min. Samples were extracted twice under stirring 223 for 10 h using 250 mL of a methanol/water mixture (70/30, v/v; aqueous phase adjusted 224 to pH 4.0) each. Combined liquid phases were separated from solvent under vacuum, 225 freeze-dried and taken up to 10 mL of an acetonitrile/0.1 % formic acid mixture (25/75, 226 v/v). After membrane filtration and, if appropriate dilution, samples were analyzed by 227 means of HPLC-MS/MS. 228

LC-MS/MS Analysis. An aliquot (5 µL) of the prepared sample was injected into an LC-229 230 MS/MS system combined with a 150 × 2.0 mm i.d., 3 µm, Nucleodur C18 Pyramid (Machery-Nagel, Düren, Germany) equipped with a guard column of the same type. 231 Eluent A consisted of 0.1 % formic acid in acetonitrile, eluent B of 0.1 % formic acid in 232 water. Using a flow rate of 300 µL/min, the system was operated at 40 °C starting with 233 25 % A under isocratic conditions for 1 min, then increasing content A to 65 % within 234 5 min, followed by an increase to 100 % A within 2 min and keeping isocratic conditions 235 for 2 min. Eluent was pumped down to 25 % A within 2 min and held isocratically for 236 further 4 min. Analysis was performed in ESI<sup>-</sup> mode using the mass transition and 237 238 declustering potential (DP in V), collision energy (CE in V), cell exit potential (CXP in V), and entrance potential (EP in V) as follows:  $3-(O-\alpha-L-rhamnopyranosyl(1\rightarrow 2)-[\beta-D-$ 239 glucopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 3$ )- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 4$ )]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-240 glucopyranosyl-(25R)-furost-5-ene-3 $\beta$ ,22,26-triol (1) (*m*/z 1225.7  $\rightarrow$  901.2<sup>qn=quantifier</sup>; 241 -225/-74/-55/-10;  $1225.7 \rightarrow 900.9^{q|=qualifier}$ ; -225/-76/-55/-10);  $3-(O-\alpha-L-rhamnopyra-$ 242 nosyl( $1 \rightarrow 2$ )-[ $\beta$ -D-gluco-pyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 4$ )]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-gluco-243 pyranosyl-(25R)-furost-5-ene-36,22,26-triol 244 (2) (m/z)1064.7 902.5<sup>qn</sup>; -185/-62/-51/-10; 1064.7  $\rightarrow$  901.9<sup>ql</sup>; -185/-62/-51/-10) were guantitated using 245

246 ginsenoside Rg1 (**14**) (*m*/*z* 799.6  $\rightarrow$  89.0<sup>qn</sup>; -200/-50/-5/-10; 799.5  $\rightarrow$  637.5<sup>ql</sup>;

247 -180/-36/-31/-10); avenacoside B (**3**) (*m/z* 1223.5 → 899.5<sup>qn</sup>; -200/-72/-41/-10; 1223.5 248 → 1061.6<sup>ql</sup>; -200/-72/-53/-10; avenacoside A (**4**) (*m/z* 1062.5 → 899.9<sup>qn</sup>; -249 235/-60/-43/-10; 1062.5 → 754.3<sup>ql</sup>; -235/-64/-35/-10); protodioscin 1047.5 → 901.4<sup>qn</sup>; 250 -175/-126/-9/-10; 1047.5 → 901.4<sup>ql</sup>; -175/-126/-9/-10) were quantitated using 251 ginsenoside Rb1 (**15**) (*m/z* 1107.6 → 783.6<sup>qn</sup>; -210/-64/-37/-10; 1107.6 → 945.4<sup>ql</sup>; -252 210/-60/-43/-10) as internal standard (c.f. Figure 2).

*Calibration.* Internal standards of ginsenoside Rg<sub>1</sub> (**14**, 577 mg/L) and ginsenoside Rb<sub>1</sub> (**15**, 487 mg/L) were diluted 1:10 using acetonitrile/0.1 % formic acid (25/75, v/v) and then added to the analytes **1–4** in molar ratios of 0.3 to 8, keeping the concentration of the internal standard constant. Calibration curves were prepared by plotting peak area ratios of analyte/internal standard against concentration ratios of analyte/internal standard using linear regression ( $\mathbb{R}^2 > 0.99$ ).

*Method Validation.* To investigate the repeatability (intraday precision) of oat samples, 259 three independent repetitions were analyzed using three replicates each. Method 260 precision, given as relative standard deviation (%), was confirmed as follows: 1 (6%), 261 2 (8%), 3 (5%), 4 (11%). Linearity was determined in the range between 262 263 0.2–51.1 mg/L. To determine recovery, oat flour samples were spiked with methanolic solutions containing known amounts of **1–4** (c.f. Table 2) at increasing concentrations 264 and analyzed in duplicates as described before. In order to calculate recovery, baseline 265 samples were defined from a 3-fold determination of unspiked oat flour. 266

Quantitation of Free Fatty Acids (18–24) by Means of SIDA. Sample Preparation. In order to quantitate free fatty acids, a literature procedure using a stable isotope dilution analysis was followed<sup>15</sup>. An amount of oat flour (12 g) was placed into a conical flask, spiked with 100  $\mu$ L each of an isopropanolic solution of internal standards [<sup>13</sup>C]-palmitic acid (**25**, 480 mg/L) and [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>]-9,10-oleic acid (**26**, 720 mg/L)

and equilibrated for 30 min. Samples were extracted three times with 300 mL of 272 273 methanol for 2 h under stirring. Liquid phases were combined, freed from solvent under vacuum, and separated from di- and triglycerides by means of solid phase extraction 274 (SPE). The residue was dissolved in 5 mL of methanol and applied onto a RP-18 275 material (Strata C18-E Giga Tubes, 10 g/60 mL, Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, 276 Germany). Elution of fatty acids was carried out using 60 mL of methanol. The resulting 277 fraction was narrowed down under vacuum, transferred into a 10 mL volumetric flask 278 and filled up with starting conditions of the HPLC gradient. After membrane filtration 279 and dilution, free fatty acids were determined by means of HPLC-MS/MS using isotope 280 281 labelled standards.

LC-MS/MS Analysis. An aliquot (5 µL) of the prepared sample was injected into 282 an LC-MS/MS system combined with a 150 × 2.0 mm i.d., 4 µm, Polar-RP ODS C18 283 (Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, Germany) equipped with a guard column of the same 284 type. Eluent A consisted of isopropanol: acetonitrile/ 0.1 % HCOOH (v/v, 60:40), eluent 285 B of 0.1 % formic acid in water. Using a flow rate of 400 µL/min, the system was 286 operated at 40 °C starting with 40 % A under isocratic conditions for 2 min, then 287 increasing content A to 65 % within 8 min, continuing to 100 % A within 2 min and 288 289 keeping isocratic conditions for 4 min, pumping down to 40 % A within 2 min and keeping constant for further 3 min. Analysis was performed in negative ESI mode using 290 the mass transition and declustering potential (DP in V), collision energy (CE in V), cell 291 292 exit potential (CXP in V), and entrance potential (EP in V) as follows: lauric acid (18)  $(m/z \ 199.0 \rightarrow 199.1; \ -70/-14/-1/-10);$  myristic acid (19)  $(m/z \ 227.1 \rightarrow 227.0; \ -$ 293 85/-12/-15/-10; palmitic acid (20) (*m/z* 255.2  $\rightarrow$  255.2; -80/-12/-7/-10); stearic acid (21) 294  $(m/z \ 283.2 \rightarrow 283.2; -80/-14/-17/-10)$  were quantitated using [<sup>13</sup>C]-palmitic acid (25) 295  $(256.1 \rightarrow 256.2; -95/-16/-7/-10);$  oleic acid (22)  $(m/z \ 281.2 \rightarrow 281.4; -100/-14/-7/-10);$ 296 linoleic acid (23) (m/z 279.2  $\rightarrow$  279.2; -85/-14/-17/-10) and linolenic acid (24) (m/z297

 $277.2 \rightarrow 277.1$ ; -80/-14/-7/-10) were quantitated using [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>]-9,10-oleic acid (**26**) (*m/z*) 298  $283.2 \rightarrow 283.1$ ; -100/-14/-7/-10) as internal standard (c.f. Figure 3). An ionisation of 299 the fatty acid molecules by negative electrospray ionisation could be achieved during 300 optimisation of MS-parameters, however a fragmentation was neither achieved by ESI 301 nor by APCI ionisation. Nevertheless, the free fatty acids were present in sufficient 302 amounts in the oat flour and separated well given the selectivity of the HPLC method, 303 therefore, the detection of a free fatty acid was obtained by its unfragmented molecular 304 305 ion.

*Calibration.* Internal standards [<sup>13</sup>C]-palmitic acid (**25**) and [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>]-9,10-oleic acid (**26**) were mixed with analytes **18–24** in molar ratios of 0.03 to 6.8 keeping the concentration of the internal standard constant. Calibration curves were set up by plotting peak area ratios of analyte to internal standard against concentration ratios of analyte to internal standard. Execution of linear regression led to linear responses showing correlation coefficients of R<sup>2</sup> > 0.99 each.

Quantitation of Monoglycerides and oxidized fatty acids by means of LC-312 **MS/MS.** Sample Preparation. According to a literature protocol<sup>15</sup> monoglycerides and 313 oxidized fatty acids were quantitated as follows with some modifications: 10 g of oat 314 315 flour was weighed into a conical flask and extracted three times with methanol (3 × 250 mL) for 1 h under stirring. Extracts were combined and freed from solvent under 316 vacuum. To separate from di- and triglycerides, a solid phase extraction (SPE) was 317 carried out on a RP-18 material (Strata C18-E Giga Tubes, 10 g/60 mL, Phenomenex, 318 Aschaffenburg, Germany). Therefore, the residue was taken up in 5 mL of methanol, 319 applied onto the cartridge, and the fatty acids were eluted with 60 mL of methanol. The 320 resulting fraction was concentrated under vacuum, transferred into a 10 mL volumetric 321 flask and filled up with 40% of eluent A. After membrane filtration and dilution, free fatty 322 acids were determined by means of HPLC-MS/MS using external calibration. 323

LC-MS/MS Analysis. An aliquot (2 µL) of the prepared sample was injected into an LC-MS/MS system combined with a Polar-RP ODS C18 (150 × 2.0 mm i.d., 4 µm, Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, Germany) equipped with a guard column of the same type. Eluent A consisted of isopropanol: acetonitrile/ 0.1 % HCOOH (v/v, 60:40), eluent B of 0.1 % formic acid in water. A flow rate of 400 µL/min was used for both analyte groups.

For analysis of monoglycerides (29-33) the system was operated at 40 °C starting 330 at 40 % A increasing to 70 % within 2 min, rising to 100 % A within 5 min and keeping 331 isocratic conditions for a further 5 min, pumping down again to 40 % A within 3 min 332 333 and holding constant conditions for 3 min. Operation of HPLC gradient for analysis of oxidized fatty acids (27/28) was run at same temperature starting at 40 % A and kept 334 at constant conditions for 2 min, then increasing to 65 % within 8 min, rising further to 335 100 % A within 2 min and holding isocratic conditions for 4 min before going back to 336 40 % A within 2 min and keeping for further 3 min. The oxidized fatty acids 9-HODE 337 (27) and 13-HODE (28) were not chromatografically separated and therefore 338 integrated together (27/28). Analysis was performed in positive ESI mode for 339 monoglycerides and negative mode for oxidized fatty acids using the mass transition 340 341 and declustering potential (DP in V), collision energy (CE in V), cell exit potential (CXP in V), and entrance potential (EP in V) as follows: 1-myristoyl-rac-glycerol (29) (m/z 342  $303.2 \rightarrow 284.9$ ; 91/13/8/10); 1-palmitoyl-rac-glycerol (**30**) (m/z 331.2  $\rightarrow$  312.9; 343 86/13/10/10); 1-stearoyl-rac-glycerol (**31**) (m/z 359.2  $\rightarrow$  341.3; 71/17/10/10); 1-oleoyl-344 *rac*-glycerol (**32**) (*m*/*z* 357.2  $\rightarrow$  339.0; 51/17/12/10); 1-linoleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**33**) (*m*/*z* 345  $355.0 \rightarrow 262.8; 41/13/8/10); 9-HODE/ 13-HODE (27/28) (m/z 295.2 \rightarrow 295.0;$ 346 -100/-12/-19/-10; 13-HpODE (*m/z* 311.3  $\rightarrow$  112.9; -95/-22/-1/-10) (c.f. Figure 4). 347 Calibration. Quantification was performed using external calibration of monoglyceride 348

349 and oxidized fatty acid reference standards. Monoglyceride calibration standards were

prepared at concentrations of 0.2–335 mg/L using 1-myristoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**29**), 1palmitoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**30**), 1-stearoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**31**), 1-oleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**32**) and 1-linoleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**33**). For oxidized fatty acids calibration standards were made up from 9-HODE/ 13-HODE (**27/28**) and 13-hydroperoxy-9*Z*,11*E*-octadecadienoic acid (13-HpODE) at concentrations of 0.2–165 mg/L. Calibration curves were prepared by plotting peak areas of the analyte against the analyte concentration. Correlation coefficients of linear regression revealed values greater than 0.99 each.

Quantitation of Free Amino Acids by Means of SIDA. Free amino acids were 357 quantitated by means of HILIC-MS/MS using a stable isotope dilution analysis (SIDA) 358 following a literature protocol<sup>16</sup>. Sample Preparation. A sample weight (10 g) of oat 359 flour was placed into a conical flask, spiked with 250 µL of an internal standard solution 360 containing the isotope labelled amino acids in acetonitrile (0.1 mg/L) and equilibrated 361 for 30 min. Samples were defatted with 200 mL of *n*-hexane under stirring followed by 362 centrifugation for 25 min at 4 °C (Avanti J-E, Beckman Coulter, Krefeld, Germany) and 363 decantation of the solvent. Then, samples were extracted two times with 200 mL of 364 methanol/water (50/50, v/v; aqueous phase adjusted to pH 4.0) for 2 h under stirring. 365 Combined extracts were treated on a rotary evaporator at 40 °C to remove solvents 366 and lyophilized afterwards. A weight of 60 mg of the resulting extract was transferred 367 into a volumetric flask (5 mL), filled up with 85% of eluent A, filtered and diluted if 368 required. Quantification of amino acids was done by means of HPLC-MS/MS and 369 stable isotope dilution assay. 370

LC-MS/MS Analysis. An aliquot (2 µL) of the prepared sample was injected into an LC-MS/MS system combined with a TSK-gel Amide 80 HILIC column (150 × 2.0 mm i.d., 3 µm, Tosoh Bioscience, Stuttgart, Germany) equipped with a guard column of the same type. Eluent A consisted of 5 mmol/L ammonium acetate buffer (pH 3.0, adjusted with acetic acid) in 95 % acetonitrile, eluent B of 5 mmol/L ammonium acetate

buffer (pH 3.0, adjusted with acetic acid) in water. Using a flow rate of 200 µL/min, the 376 377 system was operated at 40 °C starting with 85 % A under isocratic conditions for 3 min, then increasing content A to 45 % within 7 min, continuing to 100 % A within 4 min and 378 keeping isocratic conditions for 4 min, pumping back to initial 85 % A within 3 min and 379 keeping constant for further 5 min. Analysis was performed in positive ESI mode using 380 the mass transition and declustering potential (DP in V), collision energy (CE in V), cell 381 exit potential (CXP in V), and entrance potential (EP in V) as follows: L-alanine (m/z382  $90.1 \rightarrow 90.0$ ; 26/5/6/10); L-alanine-[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>3</sub>] (*m*/z 93.0  $\rightarrow$  93.0; 41/5/5/10); L-arginine (*m*/z 383  $175.0 \rightarrow 70.1; 41/35/4/10);$  L-arginine-[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>] (*m*/z 181.0  $\rightarrow$  74.0; 78/36/5/10); L-384 asparagine (m/z 132.9  $\rightarrow$  73.9; 1/19/6/10); L-asparagine-[<sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub>] (m/z)135.0  $\rightarrow$ 385 89.0; 39/14/5/10); L-aspartic acid (m/z 134.0  $\rightarrow$  74.0; 46/19/6/10); L-aspartic acid-[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>4</sub>-386 <sup>15</sup>N]  $(m/z \ 139.1 \rightarrow 92.0; \ 39/14/10/10);$  L-glutamine  $(m/z \ 147.0 \rightarrow 84.0; \ 46/23/6/10);$ 387 L-glutamine- $[^{13}C_5]$  (*m*/*z* 152.0  $\rightarrow$  88.0; 43/23/10/10); L-glutamic acid (*m*/*z* 148.0  $\rightarrow$  84.0; 388 31/23/6/10) was quantitated over L-glutamine-[ $^{13}C_5$ ]; L-histidine (*m*/z 156.1  $\rightarrow$  110.0; 389 41/21/8/10); L-histidine-[ $^{13}C_6$ ] (*m*/*z* 162.0  $\rightarrow$  115.0; 46/21/10/10); L-isoleucine (*m*/*z* 390  $132.0 \rightarrow 86.0; 41/15/6/10);$  L-isoleucine [<sup>13</sup>C<sub>6</sub>] (*m*/z 138.0  $\rightarrow$  91.0; 47/14/10/10); L-391 leucine (m/z 132.0  $\rightarrow$  86.0; 41/15/6/10); L-leucine-[<sup>13</sup>C<sup>2</sup>] (m/z 134.1  $\rightarrow$  87.2; 392 393 44/14/10/10); L-lysine (m/z 147.0  $\rightarrow$  84.0; 46/23/6/10);

394 L-lysine-[<sup>13</sup>C6-<sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub>] (*m*/*z* 155.0 → 90.0; 44/23/10/10); L-methionine (*m*/*z* 150.0 395 → 104.0; 31/15/8/10); L-methionine-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>] (*m*/*z* 153.1 → 107.0; 50/14/10/10);

L-phenylalanine (m/z 166.0  $\rightarrow$  120.0; 51/19/10/10); L-phenylalanine-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>5</sub>] (m/z 171.1 396  $\rightarrow$  125.0; 48/19/10/10); L-proline (m/z 116.0  $\rightarrow$  70.0; 21/21/4/10); L-proline-397  $[^{13}C5-^{15}N] (m/z \ 122.0 \rightarrow 75.0;$ 73/25/5/10); L-serine (*m/z* 106.0 60.0; 398  $\rightarrow$ 26/17/4/10; L-serine-[<sup>13</sup>C<sub>3</sub>] (*m*/*z* 109.0  $\rightarrow$  62.0; 38/16/5/10); L-threonine 399  $(m/z \ 120.0 \rightarrow 55.9; \ 36/25/4/10);$  L-threonine-[<sup>13</sup>C4-<sup>15</sup>N]  $(m/z \ 125.0 \rightarrow 78.0;$ 400 32/14/5/10; L-tryptophan (*m/z* 205.1  $\rightarrow$  146.0; 41/25/12/10); 401

L-tryptophan-[ ${}^{2}H_{5}$ ] (*m*/*z* 210.0  $\rightarrow$  150.0; 40/37/10/10); L-tyrosine 402 (*m*/z 182.1  $\rightarrow$  91.0; 26/41/6/10); L-tyrosine-[<sup>2</sup>H<sub>4</sub>]  $186.0 \rightarrow 140.0;$ 38/19/10/10); 403  $(m/z \ 118.0 \rightarrow 72.1; \ 21/15/6/10); \ L-valine-[^{13}C_5-^{15}N]$ L-valine (m/z)124.0 404  $\rightarrow$ 77.0; 64/31/10/10); 405

406 *Calibration.* Internal standards were mixed with analytes in molar ratios of 0.01 to 407 7, keeping the concentration of the internal standard constant. Calibration curves were 408 set up by plotting peak area ratios of analyte to internal standard against concentration 409 ratios of analyte to internal standard. Execution of linear regression led to linear 410 responses showing correlation coefficients of >0.99 each.

Quantitation of Polyphenols by means of SIDA. Sample Preparation. For the 411 quantification of polyphenols a modified literature protocol was used<sup>17</sup>. Oat flour (15 g) 412 was placed into a conical flask, spiked with an internal standard solution (250 µL, 0.015 413 mg/L) and equilibrated for 30 min. Samples were defatted with *n*-hexane (300 mL) for 414 30 min in an ultrasonic bath and centrifuged. After decantation, the residue was taken 415 up two times in 250 mL of methanol/water (70/30, v/v, aqueous phase adjusted to pH 416 4.0) and extracted for 30 min in an ultrasonic bath. The solvent was removed from the 417 liquid phase under vacuum and lyophilized to give the methanol/water extract. The 418 419 extract was taken up in starting conditions of the HPLC gradient, filtered and analyzed by means of HPLC-MS/MS. Quantification was performed by unlabelled and labelled 420 internal standards. 421

422 *LC-MS/MS Analysis.* An aliquot (5  $\mu$ L) of the prepared sample was injected into an LC-423 MS/MS system combined with a 150 × 2.0 mm i.d., 3  $\mu$ m, Luna C18 (Phenomenex, 424 Aschaffenburg, Germany) equipped with a guard column of the same type. Eluent A 425 was composed of 0.1 % formic acid in acetonitrile, eluent B of 0.1 % formic acid in 426 water. Using a flow rate of 300  $\mu$ L/min, the system was operated at 40 °C starting from 427 40 % A to 70 % A within 2 min. Effluent was increased to 100 % within 5 min (holding

for 5 min), followed by a pump down to 40 % A within 3 min and holding conditions for 428 a further 3 min. Analysis was performed in negative ESI mode using the mass transition 429 and declustering potential (DP in V), collision energy (CE in V), cell exit potential (CXP 430 in V), and entrance potential (EP in V) as follows: p-coumaric acid (m/z 162.98  $\rightarrow$ 431 119.0; -55/-20/-1/-10); caffeic acid (m/z 178.96  $\rightarrow$  135.0; -50/-22/-9/-10) and ferulic 432 acid  $(m/z \ 193.01 \rightarrow 133.8; \ -55/-22/-7/-10)$  were quantitated using o-coumaric acid 433  $(m/z \ 162.98 \rightarrow 119.1; \ -55/-20/-1/-10);$  protocatechuic acid  $(m/z \ 152.96 \rightarrow 108.8;$ 434 -20/-20/-5/-10) and gallic acid (*m*/z 168.96  $\rightarrow$  124.8; -50/-22/-7/-10) were guantitated 435 using [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>5</sub>]-gallic acid ethyl ester (m/z 201.92  $\rightarrow$  123.9; -85/-32/-7/-10); vanilline (m/z436 437  $151.03 \rightarrow 135.8;$ -50/-18/-9/-10; *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid (*m*/z 136.94  $\rightarrow$  92.8; -50/-22/-7/-10; *p*-hydroxybenzaldehyde (*m*/*z* 121.00  $\rightarrow$  91.80; -90/-34/-5/-10); 438 dihydrorobinetine (m/z 302.97  $\rightarrow$  284.8; -60/-14/-17/-10) and guercetine (m/z 301.02 439  $\rightarrow$  150.8; -80/-30/-9/-10) were quantitated using [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-methoxybenzoic acid (*m/z* 440 -65/-30/-5/-10) while sinapinic acid (*m/z* 223.02  $\rightarrow$  163.9;  $154.04 \rightarrow 91.8;$ 441 -60/-20/-9/-10) quantification was done using  $[^{2}H_{5}]$ -caffeic acid ethyl ester (*m/z* 211.98) 442 → 133.9; -80/-28/-7/-10). 443

Calibration. Internal standards were mixed with analytes in molar ratios from 0.01 to 2.3 keeping the concentration of the internal standard constant. Calibration curves were prepared by plotting peak area ratios of analyte/internal standard against concentration ratios of analyte/internal standard. Application of linear regression led to linear responses showing correlation coefficients of >0.99 each.

Quantitation of Minerals by means of HPIC. Sample Preparation. A defined amount
of oat flour (1.5 g) was placed into a conical tube (50 mL, Carl Roth, Karlsruhe,
Germany), filled with 15 mL deionized water and homogenized for 75 sec at 9000 rpm
by means of an Ultra-Turrax T25 digital (Ika Labortechnik, Staufen, Germany).

Samples were centrifuged for 30 min at 4 °C and 4700 rpm using a Heraeus Multifuge 453 454 X3 FR Zentrifuge (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA). The aqueous supernatant was transferred into a volumetric flask, filled up to the mark with deionized water and, 455 finally, filtered. Analysis of the samples was performed by means of high performance 456 ion chromatography (HPIC), following a modified literature procedure<sup>18</sup>, using an 457 Dionex ICS-2000 Ion Chromatography System (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, 458 USA) consisting of a DS 6 heated conductivity cell detector, a dual piston pump, a 459 CSRS 300 suppressor cell, an eluent generator RFIC EluGen Cartridge; EGC II MSA 460 and an AS-AP autosampler. Using 5 mM methanesulfonic acid as mobile phase and a 461 462 flow rate of 300 µL/min the system was operated at 40 °C under isocratic conditions for 20 min (injection volume 10 µL). Quantitative data were generated by means of 463 external calibration at concentration levels between 0.8 and 250 mg/L. To quantitate 464 cations, reference standards of potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium 465 chloride, and calcium chloride were used. 466

Quantitation of Carbohydrates by means of Enzymatic Assay. Sample 467 Preparation. Quantification of D-(+)-glucose, D-(+)-fructose und sucrose was 468 performed using an enzymatic assay kit for glucose/fructose/sucrose (R-Biopharm, 469 Darmstadt, Germany). An amount of 10 g oat flour was placed into a volumetric flask 470 (100 mL), and filled up with 60 mL deionized water. After the addition of 5 mL of 471 Carrez I and II solutions for protein precipitation, the flask was filled up to the mark with 472 deionized water and then filtered. Samples were treated according to the protocol of 473 the assay kit and measurements were recorded on a UV-2401 PC UV-Vis 474 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) at 340 nm. The guantitative data are 475 given as the mean of three replicates (RSD for each data point <4.1 %). 476

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Sensory Experiments. Panel Training. According to literature<sup>19</sup> and in order to 478 familiarize the panelists (six female, six male; 22-35 years in age) with the taste 479 language, assessors were trained on different qualities of oral sensation. The 480 panelists, who had no history of known taste disorders and who gave informed consent 481 to participate in the sensory studies, took part in weekly sessions for at least two years. 482 Aqueous solutions (2 mL; pH 6.4) of the following standard taste components were 483 used for training: sucrose (50 mM) for sweet taste, L-lactic acid (20 mM) for sour taste, 484 NaCl (20 mM) for salty taste, caffeine (1 mM) for bitter taste, and sodium glutamate 485 (3 mM) for umami taste. For the astringent oral sensation, tannic acid (0.05 %) was 486 used to train the panelists using the so-called half-tongue test.<sup>19,20</sup> All sensory studies 487 were performed in a sensory panel room at 22-25 °C in three different sessions and 488 using nose clips to avoid cross-modal interactions with odorants. 489

Pretreatment of Food Fractions and Taste Compounds for Sensory Analysis. Prior to sensory analysis, fractions or compounds, either commercially available or isolated from synthesis, were suspended in water and freeze dried twice, after removing the volatiles in high vacuum (<5 mPa). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and ion chromatography revealed that fractions treated by that procedure are essentially free of solvents and buffer compounds.

Taste Profile Analysis. An amount of methanol/water fraction II (2.5 g) isolated from oat flour as reported recently<sup>1</sup>, was suspended in water (25 mL) containing 3% ethanol and adjusted to pH 6.4. After a dilution of 1:10, the aqueous solution was presented to the trained sensory panel to evaluate the taste sensations sweet, sour, umami, salty, bitter, and astringent on a linear intensity scale from 0 (not detectable) up to 5 (strongly detectable).

502 *Taste Recognition Threshold Concentrations.* Following the protocol reported 503 recently<sup>21</sup>, commercial or synthesized standard compounds were first proven to be

pure by means of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy and HPLC-MS and, then, taken up in bottled 504 water (pH 6.4, 2% ethanol) to determine threshold concentrations for sweet, sour, 505 salty, bitter and umami, as well as astringent taste sensation. Taste recognition 506 thresholds were recorded by means of the half-tongue<sup>19,22</sup> test in order of increasing 507 concentration. Taste thresholds concentrations were determined as the geometric 508 mean across all panelists in three individual sessions. The values between individual 509 and separate sessions differed by not more than plus or minus one dilution step, 510 meaning that a threshold concentration of, for example, 81 µmol/L for avenanthramide 511 3f (13) represents a range of 40.5–162 µmol/L. 512

Preparation of Taste Recombinants in Aqueous Solution for Comparative Taste 513 Analysis. A basic taste recombinant OR was prepared by dissolving the tastants from 514 group I-V (see Table 3) in their "natural" concentrations (as determined in oat flour). 515 Tastants were taken up in bottled water with a pH adjusted to 6.4 using 1 % formic acid 516 and an ethanol content of 3 %. A 1:10 dilution of this stock solution was rated against 517 a reference of the methanol-water fraction II (pH 6.4, 3 % ethanol, dilution 1:10) 518 isolated from oat flour. Taste sensations sweet, sour, umami, salty, bitter, and 519 astringent were then evaluated on a linear scale from 0 (not detectable) up to 5 520 521 (strongly detectable).

In the same way, a second recombinant  $(OR_{>1})$  was prepared consisting of the 522 tastants from group I-V showing DoT-factors solely greater than 1.0 (Table 3) in their 523 "natural" concentrations (as determined in oat flour). This recombinant was then rated 524 against a reference of the basic taste recombinant OR (pH 6.4, 3 % ethanol, dilution 525 1:10) as described before. The overall comparative taste profiles of the recombinants 526 were evaluated by means of a taste profile analysis using nose-clips and ranked on a 527 linear scale from 0 to 5. Data are based on the average of three individual panel 528 sessions. 529

High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). Preparative analysis of
crude synthesis was performed on a HPLC apparatus (Jasco, Groß-Umstadt,
Germany) consisting of two PU-2087 Plus pumps, a MD 2010 Plus photodiode array
detector and a Rh 7725i type Rheodyne injection valve (Rheodyne, Bensheim,
Germany). Data acquisition was executed by means of Chrompass 1.9. (Jasco, GroßUmstadt, Germany).

High-Performance Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry 536 (LC-MS/MS). Mass spectral analysis was performed on an API 4000 Q-Trap 537 LC-MS/MS (AB Sciex. Darmstadt, Germany) connected to a Dionex UHPLC UltiMate-538 539 system 3000 (Dionex, Idstein, Germany). For electrospray ionization, the ion spray voltage was set at -4500 V in the negative mode and at 5500 V in the positive mode. 540 Both quadrupoles operated at unit mass resolution, and nitrogen served as both curtain 541 gas (25 psi) and turbo gas (425 °C). Fragmentation of the pseudo molecular ions 542 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> or [M–H]<sup>-</sup> into specific product ions was induced by collision with nitrogen (4.5 543 × 10<sup>-5</sup> Torr). Data acquisition and instrumental control were performed with Analyst 544 1.5.1 (AB Sciex, Darmstadt, Germany). 545

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR). One- and two-546 547 dimensional <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were acquired on a 500 MHz Bruker Avance III equipped with a triple resolution cryo probe (TCI) (Bruker, Rheinstetten, Germany). 548 Samples were dissolved in methanol-d<sub>4</sub> containing 0.03 % trimethylsilane (TMS) or 549 pyridine-d<sub>5</sub>. The chemical shifts are referenced to the TMS or the solvent signal 550 (pyridine-d<sub>5</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H: 7.22 ppm; <sup>13</sup>C: 123.87 ppm). TOPSPIN version 2.1 (Bruker, 551 Rheinstetten, Germany) was used for data processing. <sup>1</sup>H-, <sup>13</sup>C-, COSY-, HSQC- and 552 HMBC-spectroscopy were recorded using standard pulse sequences of the Bruker 553 library. Interpretation of the obtained spectra was performed with MestReNova 8.1.0-554 11315. (Mestrelab Research, Santiago de Compostela, Spain). 555

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## 558 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

As reported recently<sup>1</sup>, sequential application of solvent extraction, solid phase 559 extraction (SPE), and isolation by means of RP-HPLC followed by a taste dilution 560 analysis disclosed that, besides steroidal saponins avenacoside A and B, two novel 561 furostanol saponins as well as, unique oat constituents of avenanthramides were 562 identified as bitter and astringent taste active molecules in oat flour<sup>1</sup>. In order to 563 evaluate the sensory impact of previous findings, LC-MS/MS methods were developed 564 to quantitate saponins and avenanthramides in oat flour samples. Furthermore, 565 additional known taste active compounds were screened and analysed by means of 566 LC-MS/MS, such as free fatty acids<sup>15</sup>, monoglycerides<sup>15</sup>, free amino acids<sup>16</sup>, 567 polyphenols<sup>17</sup>, whereas soluble carbohydrates<sup>17</sup> were determined by means of an 568 enzymatic assay, and minerals<sup>16</sup> were quantitated by means of HPIC. 569

HPLC-MS/MS Method Development and Quantification of Saponins 1–4 in Oats. A Selected Ion Monitoring method by means of LC-MS/MS was established with the aim of determining the concentrations in oats of recently<sup>1</sup> identified bitter and astringent tasting saponins, namely,  $3-(O-\alpha-L-rhamnopyranosyl(1\rightarrow 2)-[\beta-D$ glucopyranosyl(1→3)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1→4)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-

575glucopyranosyl-(25R)-furost-5-ene-3β,22,26-triol(1),3-(O- $\alpha$ -L-

rhamnopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)-[ $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-

577 glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-furost-5-ene-3 $\beta$ ,22,26-triol (**2**), avenacoside A (**4**) and 578 avenacoside B (**3**).

579 To quantitate exact concentrations, commercially available ginsenosides Rb<sub>1</sub> 580 (**14**) and Rb<sub>1</sub> (**15**) were utilized as internal calibration standards. For method validation, 581 oat flour measurements were run in three independent analyses, each injected into the LC-MS/MS system in triplicate. Resulting measurement precision, expressed as relative standard deviation, ranged between 5% (**3**) and 11% (**4**). Recovery studies were performed by spiking known concentrations of saponins **1**–**4** into oat flour at two different concentrations. A comparison to those amounts found in unspiked oat flour samples resulted in average recovery rates of 101.0% (**4**), 104.0% (**3**), 126.0% (**2**), and 140.5% (**1**).

Quantitative analysis revealed avenacoside A (**4**, 231.8  $\mu$ mol/kg) and avenacoside B (**3**, 178.9  $\mu$ mol/kg) as to be the most abundant saponins in oats, which is well in line with literature reported earlier<sup>10</sup>. The so far unknown furostanosides **1** and **2** were quantitated for the first time in oats and were found at 40-fold lower concentrations, with 6.0 and 12.3  $\mu$ mol/kg, respectively.

HPLC-MS/MS Method Development and Quantification of Avenanthramides 593 5-10 and 13 in Oat by Means of SIDA. With the aim to investigate the recently<sup>1</sup> 594 identified bitter and astringent tasting avenanthramides, namely, 2c (5), 2p (6), 2f (7), 595 1p (8), 1c (9), 1f (10), 1s (11), 2s (12), and the newly synthesized 3f (13), a LC-MS/MS 596 method using Selected Ion Monitoring mode was set up to screen their presence in 597 oats. As reported recently<sup>1</sup>, the presence of 1s (11) and 2s (12) has not been confirmed 598 599 in oat flour so far, whereas bismethoxylated avenanthramide 3f (13) was screened and successfully confirmed<sup>23</sup> to be present in oats within this study after tuning and 600 optimisation of LC-MS/MS parameters using synthesized avenanthramide compounds 601 602 in combination with a screening of oat flour samples and co-chromatography experiments. 603

To quantitate exact concentrations by means of SIDA, isotope labelled standards of  $[^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 2f (**16**) and  $[^{2}H_{3}]$ -avenanthramide 1f (**17**) were synthesized by condensation reaction with labelled  $[^{2}H_{3}]$ -vanillin. Incorporation of the labelled OCD<sub>3</sub>function was confirmed by means of NMR and LC-MS/MS spectra. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of unlabelled avenanthramide 1f (**10**) revealed a singlet at  $\delta$  3.93 ppm, demonstrating an intensity of three protons, for the methoxylation at position C-H(10') whereas for the labelled [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-avenanthramide 1f (**17**) no proton signal could be detected at C-H(10'). In addition, mass spectrometry measurements of **10** revealed an exact mass of *m/z* 312.0868 for [M–H]<sup>-</sup>, while the labelled [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>3</sub>]-avenanthramide 1f **17** gave a mass of *m/z* 315.1067 for [M–H]<sup>-</sup>, showing an increase of three daltons for the incorporated three deuterium molecules.

To validate the method, oat flour measurements were run in four independent analysis, each injected into LC-MS/MS in three replicates. Resulting measurement precision ranged between 3% (**5**) and 9% (**9** and **10**). Recovery studies were performed by spiking known concentrations of avenanthramides **5–10** to oat flour samples at three different concentrations. A comparison to those amounts found in unspiked oat flour samples resulted in average recovery of 53.7% (**9**), 56.3% (**8**), 78.5% (**10**), 90.3% (**5**), 95.5% (**6**), and 98.3% (**7**).

Quantitative analysis revealed avenanthramide 3f (**13**, 35.9  $\mu$ mol/L), 2f (**7**, 33.5  $\mu$ mol/L), 2p (**6**, 23.0  $\mu$ mol/L), 2c (**5**, 14.8  $\mu$ mol/L) as the major abundant avenanthramides, whereas 1p (**8**), 1c (**9**), 1f (**10**), were found in lower quantities, between 0.3 (**10**) and 1.3  $\mu$ mol/L (**9**). These results are well in line with data reported in previous studies<sup>23-25</sup>.

Concentration and DoT Factors of Taste Compounds. With the aim of evaluating the relative contribution of individual taste molecules to the overall off-taste in oats, a total of 59 compounds were quantitated in oat flour, among them the saponins 1–4, avenanthramides 5–10 and 13, free fatty acids 18–24 and 27/28, monoglycerides 29–33, and in addition, ten polyphenols, eighteen amino acids, four minerals, and three soluble carbohydrates. Taking their individual taste recognition thresholds into consideration, quantitated molecules of oat taste were grouped into five

clusters according to their different taste sensations (see Table 3). In order to map out
the key molecules driving the overall oat taste sensation, Dose-over-Threshold (DoT)
factors were calculated for each individual compound.

Representing compounds of bitter and astringent oro-sensations, saponins 1-4, avenanthramides 5-10 and 13, free fatty acids 18-24 and 27/28, monoglycerides 29-33 as well as magnesium, calcium, L-tryptophan, L-arginine, L-lysine, L-valine, L-histidine, L-phenylalanine, L-isoleucine, L-tyrosine, L-leucine were classified into group I (c.f. Table 3).

Calculation of the DoT factors for bitter taste showed an extremely high value of 305.1 for 1-linoleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**33**). Furthermore, 1-stearoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**31**), 1oleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**32**), linoleic acid (**23**), avenacoside A (**4**), avenacoside B (**3**), 1palmitoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**30**), linolenic acid (**24**), oleic acid (**22**) and palmitic acid (**20**) were rated with slightly lower DoT factors between 4.6 and 42.9 for bitterness, while 3-(*O*-*α*-L-rhamnopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)-[*β*-D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)-*β*-D-

glucopyranosyl( $1\rightarrow 4$ )]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(25R)-furost-5-648 ene-3 $\beta$ ,22,26-triol 3-(O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 2$ )-[ $\beta$ -D-gluco-649 (1) and pyranosyl( $1\rightarrow 4$ )]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(25R)-furost-5-ene-650 651  $3\beta$ ,22,26-triol (2) and stearic acid (21) only slightly exceeded their bitter thresholds showing DoT factors between 1 and 1.5. Although lipid derived compounds are well 652 known to induce a bitter off-taste<sup>3,26-29</sup> this study positions monoglycerides, free fatty 653 654 acids and the furostanol saponins (1) and (2) for the first time as to be the major bitter

655 taste stimuli in oats.

In contrast, twenty-one out of the 34 bitter and astringent compounds where found at concentrations below their respective taste threshold among them the bitter amino acids, 1-myristoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**29**), the bivalent cations magnesium and calcium, the fatty acids 9/13-hydroxy-9*Z*,11*E*-octadecadienoic acid (**27/28**) myristic

acid (19), as well as the avenanthramides 5-10 and 13 showing DoT factors below 0.1 660 up to 0.6. Avenanthramides 1s (11), 2s (12) and lauric acid (18) were not detected by 661 means of LC-MS/MS in oat flour samples and considered not to be present in oat flour. 662 Among the astringent taste actives of group 2, p-hydroxybenzaldehyde was 663 found to be the most abundant polyphenol with a DoT factor of 104.0, followed by 664 ferulic acid, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, caffeic acid, p-coumaric acid and sinapinic acid 665 showing DoT values between 2.1 and 27.3 (see Table 3). Polyphenols of 666 protocatechuic acid, vanillin, and gallic acid were detected at concentrations below 667 their taste thresholds (DoT <1.0). 668

Group 3, consisting of sweet-tasting soluble carbohydrates and sweet amino
acids (Table 3), revealed sucrose as to be the key sweet parameter in oat flour with a
DoT factor of 1.9. In contrast, fructose, L-serine, glucose, L-proline, L-alanine,
L-threonine, and L-methionine did not reach DoT values greater than 0.2.

Potassium and sodium, both analyzed at concentrations above their recognition 673 thresholds (DoT 3.4 and 2.0), were classified into salty-tasting compounds of group 4. 674 Finally, the umami-tasting compounds of group 5 revealed L-aspartic acid as to 675 be the major umami active component, showing a DoT greater than 1, while for 676 677 L-glutamic acid, L-asparagine and L-glutamine the calculated DoT values were ≤0.1. With the exception of sucrose and L-aspartic acid, we conclude that sweet- and umami-678 tasting compounds are of minor importance to the characteristic taste of oats, taking 679 680 into consideration that the overall concentrations of group 3 and 5 were below their taste recognition thresholds. 681

**Taste Reconstitution Experiments.** In order to confirm the results of quantitation studies and to determine whether the compounds already identified can create the characteristic taste of oats, we compiled an aqueous taste recombinant of 59 substances in "natural" concentrations as given in Table 3 and compared it against

a freshly prepared aqueous solution of the methanol water-extract isolated from oat 686 flour. The taste compounds were dissolved in bottled water and the pH value was 687 adjusted to those of the methanol-water fraction by addition of trace amounts of formic 688 acid. After dilution (1:10) of both aqueous solutions, trained panelists were asked to 689 judge taste quality intensity of the taste recombinant against the methanol-water 690 extract on a linear scale from 0 (not detectable) to 5 (strongly detectable). Averaged 691 intensities for bitter  $(3.4/2.7 \pm 1.2)$ , astringent  $(2.2/1.8 \pm 0.6)$ , sour  $(1.1/1.0 \pm 0.3)$ , sweet 692  $(0.8/0.7 \pm 0.3)$ , scratchy  $(0.4/0.5 \pm 0.4)$ , given in Table 4, were close to those of the 693 reference. Descriptors for umami and salty-taste were rated below 0.5 and were 694 therefore excluded from further discussions. Assuming a symmetric distribution, results 695 were tested for significance using a Wilcoxon rank test<sup>30,31</sup>. Calculated test values for 696 bitterness (PG<sub>calc</sub> 29; PG<sub>tab</sub> 21) and astringency (PG<sub>calc</sub> 24; PG<sub>tab</sub> 21) exceeded 697 tabulated values, which confirmed the null hypothesis H<sub>0</sub> to be true, resulting in a non-698 significant difference between the taste recombinant and the methanol-water fraction. 699 Based on these findings it was concluded, that the compounds in group 1 and 2 are 700 sufficient to create the typical taste of an extract prepared from oat flour. For sweet 701 (PG<sub>calc</sub> 19; PG<sub>tab</sub> 21), sour (PG<sub>calc</sub> 21; PG<sub>tab</sub> 21) and scratchy (PG<sub>calc</sub> 19; PG<sub>tab</sub> 21) 702 703 attributes, the alternative hypothesis H<sub>1</sub> was accepted, leading to the conclusion, that the extract and the recombinant are significantly different from each other. Due to the 704 fact that we focused, in our previous SENSOMICS study, on astringent and bitter 705 706 notes, further not-quantitated sweet, sour and scratchy taste stimuli may be present in oats. While the major sweet tasting molecules are more or less screened, the presence 707 of oat organic acids e.g. such as free anthranilic acid or 5-hydroxyanthranilic acid could 708 be clarified in a further study. Furthermore, it could be tested if previously reported fatty 709 acids derivatives, such as 9,12,13-trihydroxy-trans-10-octadecenoic acid<sup>3</sup>, 9,10,13-710 trihydroxy-trans-11-octadecenoic acid<sup>3</sup>, 9-hydroxy-trans, cis-10, 12-octadecadienoic-1'-711

monoglyceride<sup>4</sup> and 13-hydroxy-*cis,trans*-9,11-octadecadienoic-1'-monoglyceride<sup>4</sup>
impact not only the bitter but also the scratchy impression described by the sensory
panel.

To further investigate the importance of compounds showing a DoT factor below 715 1 to the overall taste profile, a partial taste recombinant  $OR_{\geq 1}$  was prepared from 23 716 analytes showing a DoT factor  $\geq$  1 (c.f. Table 4) and compared to the taste recombinant 717 OR containing all of the 59 analytes quantitated in oat flour. The resulting averaged 718 descriptors bitter  $(2.4/2.1 \pm 0.4)$ , astringent  $(1.8/1.6 \pm 0.4)$ , sour  $(0.8/0.9 \pm 0.3)$ , sweet 719  $(0.5/0.6 \pm 0.1)$ , scratchy  $(0.9/0.6 \pm 0.4)$  were very close to those of the completed 720 721 recombinant. A significance test, using a Wilcoxon rank test as discussed before, 722 revealed higher test values compared to tabulated values ( $PG_{calc} > PG_{tab}$ ), leading to a non-significant difference between the two recombinants: bitter (PG<sub>calc</sub> 20; PG<sub>tab</sub> 8), 723 astringent (PG<sub>calc</sub> 21; PG<sub>tab</sub> 8), sweet (PG<sub>calc</sub> 25; PG<sub>tab</sub> 8), sour (PG<sub>calc</sub> 10; PG<sub>tab</sub> 8) and 724 scratchy (PG<sub>calc</sub> 24; PG<sub>tab</sub> 8). Therefore, it can be concluded that the overall sensory 725 profile of oat flour can be achieved solely from the 23 compounds used within the 726 partial taste recombinant OR<sub>≥1</sub>. Consequently, it can be derived that neither 727 avenanthramides 5-7 and 13 nor bitter amino acids, bivalent cations such as 728 729 magnesium and calcium or oxidized fatty acids 27/28 play an important role in oat bitterness. 730

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In summary, quantification of non-volatile taste active compounds in oat flour and recombination experiments led to the overall identification of 59 taste active components. Out of these, 23 compounds were identified as key taste contributors showing a DoT factor above a threshold of 1.0. Lipid-derived taste molecules such as monoglycerides and free fatty acids, namely, 1-linoleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**33**), 1-stearoyl*rac*-glycerol (**31**), 1-oleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**32**), 1-palmitoyl-*rac*-glycerol (**30**), linolenic acid

(24), oleic acid (22), palmitic acid (20), linoleic acid (23), and stearic acid (21) were 738 739 validated for the first time to be the most abundant bitter substances in oat followed by the saponins avenacoside A (4) and B (3) and 3-(O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)-[ $\beta$ -D-740 glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-741 glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-furost-5-ene-3*β*,22,26-triol 3-(*O*-α-L-742 (1) and rhamnopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 2$ )-[ $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl( $1 \rightarrow 4$ )]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-O- $\beta$ -D-743 glucopyranosyl-(25R)-furost-5-ene-3 $\beta$ ,22,26-triol (2). However, recently identified 744 avenanthramides, imparting a bitter and astringent oro-sensation, did not exceed their 745 recognitions thresholds, and thus, were not confirmed to play a key role in overall bitter 746 747 off-taste of the analyzed oats. 748 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** 749 We are thankful to Mrs. Daniela Günzkofer for her excellent technical assistance. We 750

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## FIGURE LEGEND

- Figure 1. Chemical structures of taste-active compounds identified in oat flour.
- **Figure 2.** HPLC-MS/MS chromatograms (MRM, ESI<sup>-</sup>) of 3-(*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)-[ $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)]- $\beta$ -Dglucopyranosid)-26-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-furost-5-*ene*-3 $\beta$ ,22,26triol (1), 3-(*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)-[ $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)]- $\beta$ -Dglucopyranosid)-26-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-furost-5-*ene*-3 $\beta$ ,22,26triol (2), avenacoside B (3) and A (4) and the internal standards ginsenoside Rg<sub>1</sub> (14) and Rb<sub>1</sub> (15) in fraction II extracted from oat flour.
- Figure 3. HPLC-MS/MS analysis (MRM, ESI<sup>-</sup>) of oat flour showing mass transitions of taste active myristic acid (19), palmitic acid (20), stearic acid (21), oleic acid (22), linoleic acid (23), linolenic acid (24), 9-hydroxy-10*E*,12*Z*-octadecadienoic acid/13-hydroxy-9*Z*,11*E* octadecadienoic acid (9/13-HODE) (27/28). Labeled internal standards [<sup>13</sup>C]-palmitic acid (25) und [<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>]-9,10-oleic acid (26) were used for quantification of 19–24.
- Figure 4. HPLC-MS/MS chromatograms (MRM, ESI<sup>-</sup>) of 1-Myristoyl-*rac*-glycerol (29), 1-Palmitoyl-*rac*-glycerol (30), 1-Stearoyl-*rac*-glycerol (31), 1-Oleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (32), and 1-Linoleoyl-*rac*-glycerol (33) extracted from oat flour.

857

Figure 1. (Günther-Jordanland et al.)



	amount added <sup>a</sup> (nmol/kg) and recovery (%) at spiking level					
experiment	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	2.41	3.41	2.81	2.20	1.82	2.48
	100.1 %	99.4 %	99.1 %	61.6 %	60.9 %	76.2 %
2	5.36	7.57	6.25	4.89	4.04	5.52
	91.5 %	98.3 %	99.2 %	56.1 %	53.5 %	81.0 %
3	11.48	16.22	13.39	10.48	8.65	11.82
	79.3 %	88.8 %	96.8 %	51.3 %	46.8 %	78.3 %
mean value (%)	90.3 %	95.5 %	98.3 %	56.3 %	53.7 %	78.5 %

Table	1.	Determination	of	Recovery	Rates	for	Avenanthramides	5-10	in	Oat
Flour.										

<sup>a</sup> avenanthramides **5–10**; Mean out of two independent repetitions at three different concentration levels (experiment 1–3). Values were compared to those of non-spiked oat flour.

	amount added	l <sup>a</sup> (nmol/kg) and	l recovery (%) a	at spiking level
experiment	1	2	3	4
1	17.2	51.9	84.1	193.3
	143.0 %	125.0 %	97.0 %	95,0 %
2	116.6	117.5	79.2	89.3
	138.0 %	127.0 %	111.0 %	107.0 %
mean value (%)	140.5	126.0 %	104.0 %	101.0 %

<sup>a</sup> saponins 1-4; Mean out of two independent repetitions at two different concentration levels (experiment 1-2). Values were compared to those of non-spiked oat flour.

## Table 3. Taste Qualities. Taste Thresholds (TC), Concentrations, and Dose-over Threshold (DoT) Factors of Taste-Active Compounds in Oat Flour.

taste compound	conc.	TC	DoT <sup>c</sup>	
	(µM/kg)ª	(µM/L) <sup>⊿</sup>	factor	
group 1: bitter, scratchy and astringent-tasting compounds				
1-linoleoyl- <i>rac</i> -glycerol (33) <sup>q</sup>	74448	152 <sup>d</sup> /244 <sup>e</sup>	489.8/305.1	
1-stearoyl- <i>rac</i> -glycerol ( <b>31</b> ) <sup>q</sup>	9579	91 <sup>d</sup> /223 <sup>e</sup>	105.3/42.9	
1-oleoyl- <i>rac</i> -glycerol ( <b>32</b> ) <sup>q</sup>	47699	172 <sup>//</sup> 1147 <sup>e</sup>	277.3/41.6	
linoleic acid $(23)^q$	60209	270 <sup>d</sup> /1810 <sup>e</sup>	223.0/33.3	
avenacoside A (4)°	232	3 <sup>f</sup> /7 <sup>e</sup>	77.3/33.1	
avenacoside B (3)°	179	4 <sup>f</sup> /6 <sup>e</sup>	44.7/29.8	
1-palmitoyl- <i>rac</i> -glycerol ( <b>30</b> ) <sup><i>q</i></sup>	13225	118 <sup>d</sup> /888 <sup>e</sup>	112.1/14.9	
linolenic acid ( <b>24</b> ) <sup><i>q</i></sup>	3620	189 <sup>d</sup> /277 <sup>e</sup>	19.2/13.1	
oleic acid $(22)^q$	15676	203 <sup>d</sup> /2180 <sup>e</sup>	77.2/7.2	
palmitic acid ( <b>20</b> ) <sup><i>q</i></sup>	7036	1002 <sup>d</sup> /1546 <sup>e</sup>	7.0/4.6	

3-( <i>O</i> -α-L-rhamnopyranosyl(1→2)-[β-D-	6.0	3 <sup>f</sup> /4 <sup>e</sup>	2.0/1.5
glucopyranosyl(1→3)-β-D-gluco-			
pyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosid)-26-			
<i>Ο-β-</i> D-glucopyranosyl-(25 <i>R</i> )-furost-5- <i>ene</i> -			
3β,22,26-triol ( <b>1</b> )°			
3-( <i>O</i> -α-L-rhamnopyranosyl(1→2)-[β-D-	12.3	3 <sup>f</sup> /9 <sup>e</sup>	4.1/1.4
glucopyranosyl(1→4)]-β-⊡-gluco-			
pyranosid)-26- <i>O</i> -β-⊡-glucopyranosyl-			
(25 <i>R</i> )-furost-5- <i>ene</i> -3β,22,26-triol ( <b>2</b> )°			
stearic acid $(21)^q$	697.8	645 <sup>d</sup> /726 <sup>e</sup>	1.1/1.0
1-myristoyl- <i>rac</i> -glycerol ( <b>29</b> ) <sup>q</sup>	179.9	277 <sup>d</sup> /359 <sup>e</sup>	0.6/0.5
avenanthramide 3f ( <b>13</b> ) <sup>p</sup>	35.9	49 <sup>f</sup> /81 <sup>e</sup>	0.7/0.4
avenanthramide 2p (6) <sup>p</sup>	23.0	55 <sup>f</sup> /60 <sup>e</sup>	0.4/0.4
avenanthramide 2f (7) <sup>p</sup>	33.5	135 <sup>f</sup> /170 <sup>e</sup>	0.2/0.2
avenanthramide 2c (5) <sup>p</sup>	14.8	45 <sup>f</sup> /78 <sup>e</sup>	0.3/0.2
magnesium	1238.4	6400 <sup>g,h</sup>	0.2
9/13-hydroxy-9Z,11E-octadecadienoic			
acid ( <b>27/28</b> ) <sup>q</sup>	139.8	300 <sup>d</sup> /750 <sup>e</sup>	0.5/0.2
calcium	776.6	6200 <sup>g,h</sup>	0.1
L-tryptophan	359.5	5000 <sup>i</sup>	0.1
myristic acid ( <b>19</b> ) <sup><i>q</i></sup>	189.5	1620 <sup>d</sup> /1703 <sup>e</sup>	0.1/0.1
L-arginine	837	75000 <sup>i</sup>	<0.1
L-lysine	528	80000 <sup><i>i</i></sup>	<0.1
L-valine	410	30000 <sup>i</sup>	<0.1
L-histidine	355	45000 <sup>i</sup>	<0.1
L-phenylalanine	333	45000 <sup>i</sup>	<0.1
L-isoleucine	217	10000 <sup><i>i</i></sup>	<0.1
L-tyrosine	172	4000 <sup><i>i</i></sup>	<0.1
L-leucine	126	11000 <sup><i>i</i></sup>	<0.1
avenanthramide 1c (9) <sup>p</sup>	1.3	56 <sup>f</sup> /130 <sup>e</sup>	<0.1
avenanthramide 1p (8) <sup>o</sup>	0.7	70 <sup>f</sup> /96 <sup>e</sup>	<0.1
avenanthramide 1f (10) <sup>p</sup>	0.3	98 <sup>f</sup> /113 <sup>e</sup>	<0.1
group 2: astringent-tasting compounds			
<i>p</i> -hydroxybenzaldehyde	69247	665	104.0
ferulic acid	1828	67 <sup>j</sup>	27.3
<i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoic acid	17123	665 <sup>j</sup>	25.7
caffeic acid	1136	72 <sup>j</sup>	15.8
<i>p</i> -coumaric acid	1255	139 <sup>j</sup>	9.0
sinapinic acid <sup>p</sup>	1459	693	2.1
protocatechuic acid	105	206 <sup>j</sup>	0.5
vanilline	43	829 <sup>k</sup>	0.1

1.9
0.2
<0.1
<0.1
<0.1
<0.1
<0.1
<0.1
3.4
2.0
2.6
0.1
<0.1
<0.1

<sup>a</sup> concentration (μM/kg dry matter) of oat flour. <sup>b</sup> Taste threshold concentrations (μM/L) were recorded in water at pH 6.4 or taken from literature. <sup>c</sup> Dose-over-threshold (DoT) factor is calculated as the ratio of concentration and taste threshold. <sup>d</sup> TC for scratchy perception. <sup>e</sup> TC for bitter taste. <sup>f</sup> TC for astringent mouthfeel. <sup>g</sup> TC for the corresponding chloride ion. <sup>h</sup> value taken from <sup>32</sup>. <sup>i</sup> value taken from <sup>16</sup>. <sup>j</sup> value taken from <sup>33</sup>. <sup>k</sup> value taken from <sup>17</sup>. <sup>1</sup>value taken from <sup>18</sup>. <sup>m</sup> value taken from <sup>34</sup>. <sup>o</sup> recorded in 1 % ethanol at pH 6.4. <sup>p</sup> recorded in 2 % ethanol at pH 6.4. <sup>q</sup> recorded in 3 % ethanol.



Figure 2. (Günther-Jordanland et al.)



Figure 3. (Günther-Jordanland et al.)





**Table 4.** Comparative Sensory Evaluation of Methanol-Water Extract versus Taste Recombinant (OR) Containing the Tastants of Groups 1–5 and of Taste Recombinant (OR) versus Partial Taste Recombinant ( $OR_{\geq 1}$ ) Containing Compounds Showing a DoT Factor  $\geq 1$ .

	Intensity				
Taste quality	methanol-water <sup>a</sup>	OR♭	OR≥1°		
bitter	3.4	2.7 ± 1.2 <sup>nsd</sup>	2.1 ± 0.4 <sup>nsd</sup>		
astringent	2.2	$1.8 \pm 0.6^{nsd}$	1.6 ± 0.4 <sup>nsd</sup>		
sour	1.1	1.0 ± 0.3	$0.9 \pm 0.3^{nsd}$		
sweet	0.8	0.7 ± 0.3	$0.6 \pm 0.1^{nsd}$		
scratchy	0.4	0.5 ± 0.4	$0.6 \pm 0.4^{nsd}$		
umami	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1		
salty	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1		

<sup>a</sup> equal to fraction II isolated from oat flour as reported recently<sup>1</sup>, <sup>b</sup> Total recombinant (pH adjusted to 6.4, 3 % ethanol) containing of 59 substances (group 1 to 5; Table 3); rated against a reference of methanol water extract, <sup>c</sup> Total recombinant (pH adjusted to 6.4, 3 % ethanol) containing of 23 substances showing a DoT≥1 (group 1 to 5; Table 3) rated against a reference of OR, <sup>nsd</sup> not significantly different versus the reference.

## TOC figure. (Günther-Jordanland et al.)

