

Title:

**Spring growth improves yield stability under dryland conditions in Syria**

**Fast reproductive growth improves biomass and yield stability under Mediterranean dryland conditions**

**Variation at the vernalisation genes Vrn-H1 and Vrn-H2 determines growth and yield stability under dryland conditions in Syria**

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**Abstract.** The objective of the present study was to identify QTL influencing agronomic performance in rain-fed Mediterranean environments in a recombinant inbred line (RIL) population, ARKE derived from the Syrian barley landrace, Arta and the Australian feed cultivar, Keel. The population was field tested for agronomic performance at two locations in Syria for four years with two sowing dates, in autumn and winter. **Genotypic variability in yield** of the barley RIL population was mainly affected by year-to-year variation presumably caused by inter-annual differences in rainfall distribution. The spring growth habit and early flowering inherited from the Australian cultivar Keel increased plant height and biomass and improved yield stability in Syrian environments. QTL for yield and biomass coincided with the map location of flowering time genes, in particular the vernalisation genes *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2*. Under slowly progressing drought in the field, the *Vrn-H1* allele inherited from Keel improved final biomass and yield. Under changing climate conditions, such as shorter winters, reduced rainfall, and early summer drought, spring barley might thus outperform the traditional vernalisation sensitive Syrian landraces. We present the ARKE population as a valuable genetic resource to further elucidate the genetics of drought adaptation in barley in the field and under controlled conditions.

## Introduction

Marginal agricultural areas constitute the majority of the land used for agriculture and therefore offer the greatest opportunity to substantially increase worldwide food production (Tester and Langridge 2010). Marginal environments are characterised by abiotic stress, such as heat and drought, the occurrence of which strongly varies over space and time (Blum 1996, Baum et al. 2007). In contrast to favorable environments with stable conditions, marginal Mediterranean environments are thus characterised by high environmental fluctuations which result in low heritability and high genotype-by-environment interactions (Voltas et al. 2002).

Barley is the second most widely cultivated crop in marginal Mediterranean environments and is often the most common crop in the driest rain-fed farming areas as it is well adapted to abiotic stresses (Faostat 2010). Selection and breeding have resulted in landraces and modern genotypes adapted to stress-prone environments, and both germplasm groups are under cultivation in these environments. While landraces are characterised by high yield stability and intermediate yield levels under low input agriculture, modern cultivars are often bred for high yield potential under favourable conditions (Zeven 1998, Pswarayi et al. 2008). There are two schools of breeding philosophy: breeding for adaptation to a specific agroecological environment (specific adaptation) or breeding for wide adaptation across agroecological environments (Ceccarelli 1989). Breeding for specific adaptation has been used in particular for adaptation to marginal environments with high variation in climatic and edaphic conditions (Atlin and Frey 1990; Ceccarelli et al. 1992). In this context it is essential to identify similar stress-prone agroecological environment which can be geographically distant, for effective breeding and germplasm exchange (Windhausen et al. 2012). An example of the adaptation of breeding material to locations geographically distant is given by the adaptation of the barley germplasm bred by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, Syria (ICARDA) for the drought stress environments of West Asia and Northern Africa (WANA) to the dry Southern Australian environments (Coventry et al. 2004). Barley lines from WANA (ICARDA) tested in Southern Australia displayed favourable levels of abiotic stress resistance, and a significant number of barley genotypes performed at least as well as the best Australian feed varieties (Eglington et al. 2001). In some instances, Australian breeding lines have also been tested for adaptation to dry locations in Syria and results suggested that these lines and derived crosses performed well in wetter locations in Syria (Shakhatreh et al. 2001). This reciprocal adaptation is typically a case of wide “geographical” adaptation but not necessarily of wide “environmental” adaptation as in both environments abiotic stresses are the main yield limiting factors. It is however interesting because ICARDA and Australian germplasm represent very different genetic backgrounds and breeding histories. While ICARDA lines often represent selected landraces grown by subsistence farmers as feed barley, Australian genotypes are bred for the malting industry even though in dry

years they do not meet the industry requirements and are also used as feed. Despite the high economic value of germplasm exchange (Gepts, 2006), the genetic basis of adaptation of genetically diverse germplasm to drought-prone environments in Syrian and Southern Australian, respectively, is not yet understood.

Previous QTL studies for agronomic performance in dry Mediterranean environments have found that differences in reproductive development were one of the key factors determining adaptation under water-limiting conditions (Francia et al. 2011; Cuesta-Marcos et al. 2008). Barley is characterised by two major growth types: winter and spring. Winter growth types are defined here as genotypes which show accelerated flowering after vernalisation, the prolonged exposure to cold temperature. In contrast, spring barley does not respond to vernalisation. However, there exists a continuous gradation from typical spring to extreme winter growth (vernalization requirement). The growth habit is determined by the interaction of *Vrn-H2*, a strong inhibitor of flowering under long day conditions and *Vrn-H1* which is upregulated during vernalisation and represses *Vrn-H2* (Yan et al. 2003; 2004). A recessive deletion of the *Vrn-H2* locus and dominant alleles at *Vrn-H1*, resulting from deletions in the first intron, are associated with the increased *Vrn-H1* expression in the absence of cold treatment, reducing or eliminating the requirement for vernalization. Variation in the size of the first intron of *Vrn-H1* thus causes quantitative differences in *Vrn-H1* expression and in vernalisation requirement (Hemming et al. 2009). Vernalisation response is often associated with strong photoperiod sensitivity, dominant alleles of the photoperiod response gene *Ppd-H1* induce early flowering under long day conditions as an adaptation to short growing seasons in Mediterranean environments. A recessive mutation in the gene prevalent in spring barley causes reduced photoperiod sensitivity and delayed flowering as an adaptation to Northern European environments (Turner et al. 2005). *Ppd-H1*, *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* converge on the floral inducer *HvFT1* (*Vrn-H3*); *Vrn-H2* represses *HvFT1* to counteract the *Ppd-H1* dependent long day induction of *HvFT1* before vernalisation (Hemming et al. 2008). Under long days, high levels of *Vrn-H1* expression positively correlate with *HvFT1* expression and time to flowering. Most wild ancestors of domesticated barley, *H. vulgare* ssp. *spontaneum*, are classified as having a winter growth habit and early flowering under long day (Takahashi et al. 1963 in Saisho et al. 2011), indicating that the winter growth habit is ancestral in barley. In Mediterranean areas and the Near East, cultivated barley is generally sown in autumn and typically shows an intermediate vernalisation requirement as determined by partial deletions in the *Vrn-H1* intron, or by a spring growth habit due to deletions of *Vrn-H2* and/or in the intron of *Vrn-H1*. The spring growth type is more common in coastal areas and Southern parts of the Fertile Crescent where winter temperatures are mild (Weltzien 1988, 1989), but cultivars with and without vernalisation response occupy similar cultivation areas (Seisho et al. 2011). It is thus interesting to study the effects of spring versus winter growth habit on yield and yield component traits in marginal Mediterranean environments with cold winters and dry summers.

The objectives of the present study were to 1) study the genetic basis of adaptation to dry environments in a Syrian landrace and an Australian cultivar, 2) test the effects of spring versus winter growth on agronomic performance, 3) characterise the magnitudes of trait variation between close locations and between years within the same location in dry Mediterranean environments.

A QTL analysis for agronomic performance was conducted in a recombinant inbred line population termed ARKE derived from two genetically diverse parental lines, the Syrian landrace selection and winter barley, Arta and the Australian spring cultivar, Keel. The analysis showed that year to year variation had stronger effects on agronomic performance than variation across two contrasting locations in Syria. QTL for yield coincided with QTL for plant height and flowering time suggesting that improved growth and early flowering increased yield in dry environments. Many QTL clusters coincided with known flowering time genes and loci, in particular the vernalisation genes *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* at which the Keel alleles accelerated heading date, plant growth and yield in the majority of tested environments. The spring growth habit inherited by the Australian cultivar Keel thus caused early flowering, and correlated increases in plant height and biomass and improved yield stability. We present the ARKE population as a valuable genetic resource to further elucidate the genetics of drought adaptation in barley.

## Materials and Methods

### Plant material

The Syrian barley, ‘Arta’ and an Australian feed barley cultivar, ‘Keel’ were used to develop a population of 499 recombinant inbred lines (RILs) at ICARDA. Arta is a two-row pure line selected from the Syrian white-seeded landrace, Arabi Abiad, is a facultative winter barley and is well adapted to the driest sites in Syria (Baum et al. 2003). Keel is a two-row spring feed barley variety, which was developed by the South Australian Barley Improvement Program from a cross between Clipper, CPI18197, and WI 2645. Keel is well suited to low rainfall areas where it showed a clear yield advantage over most current Australian feed varieties (South Australian Field Crop Evaluation Program and Field Crop Pathology, SARDI, and the South Australian Barley Improvement Program, University of Adelaide).

Arta was crossed with Keel to generate the uniformly heterozygous F1 generation. By selfing the F1 population, the F2 population was created. The F2 was selfed again and 500 heads were collected. The seeds of each head were grown in 1m-long single rows as F3 generation. From each F3 family, one head was collected at random and grown as F4 generation in a 1m-long single row. The population, henceforth designated as ARKE, was then advanced to F8. Field data was collected for all 499 ARKE lines, but only 188 randomly selected lines were genotyped.

The parental lines and RIL population were scored for eleven agronomic traits (Table 1) in the field from 2006 to 2009 at two locations in Syria, Tel Hadya (36.01 °N; 36.56 °E, elevation 284 m asl) and Breda (35.56 °N, 37.10° E, elevation 300m asl) with a long-term average rainfall of 303 mm (27 seasons) and 275 mm (25 seasons), respectively. The soil of Tel Hadya is classified as very fine clay, thermic, Chromic Calcixerert, while the soil of Breda is a loamy, thermic, Calcixerollic Xerochrept with a lower calcium carbonate (5%) compared to the Tel Hadya soil (20%) (Ryan et al. 1997). Both soils have similar pH values (7.9–8.1) and are deficient in phosphorus and nitrogen.

From 2005 to 2008, the RIL population was sown in autumn and additionally from 2007 to 2009 in winter (Supplementary Table 1 for sowing and emergence dates). Thus, the population was tested in 14 different environments including winter planting in 2007, 2008, and 2009. However, the trial at Breda sown in winter in 2008 was not scored as most lines did not flower due to severe water limitations. Environments are abbreviated as follows: B for Breda, T for Tel Hadya, then two digits for the year (example 07 = 2007), A for autumn sowing and W for winter sowing. The field trials were set up in a row and column unreplicated design with the two parents as systematic checks (50 plots of Keel and 51 of Arta) with a total of 600 plots (4

m<sup>2</sup> each, 8 rows of 2.5 m at 20 cm distance) and with a different randomization in each combination of location and year (Gleeson 1997; Kempton and Gleeson 1997). The sowing density was 300 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> for all entries and planting was done with a plot drill. A plot combine was used for harvesting and the seeds were subsequently ventilated before taking the weight. The field management, net plot size, and seed density were according to the local practice. Climate data was recorded on a daily basis and is summarized in Table 2.

### **Statistical analyses**

For each trait at each available combination of location, sowing date and year, the best linear unbiased estimates (BLUEs) of the genotype effects were calculated using the most suitable spatial model determined for the associated individual field layout. The procedure of Singh et al. (2003), which was developed for an incomplete block design, was further modified to suite an un-replicated trial in a rectangular field layout as in the present study where there were no blocks and the spatial variability was gauged by the best of the nine applicable models. These models comprised factorial combinations of: 1) three ways of accounting for linear trends in column direction, with or without a linear trend and random cubic smoothing spline (CS) in column number, and 2) three structures for plot errors, first-order autoregressive (AR) errors along rows, first-order autoregressive (AR) errors along rows as well as AR along columns, and independent errors. These are listed as:

1. Crd (completely randomized design). This is non-spatial and serves as a control model to compute the efficiency of other models which have one or more features of spatial variability.
2. CrdAr, using a completely randomized design with first order auto-correlated (AR) errors along rows
3. CrdArAr, using a completely randomized design with first order auto-correlated (AR) errors along rows and along columns.
4. CrdL, using a completely randomized design with linear trend along rows.
5. CrdLAr, using a completely randomized design with linear trend along rows and first order auto-correlated (AR) errors along rows.
6. CrdLArAr, using a completely randomized design with linear trend along rows, and first order auto-correlated (AR) errors along rows and along columns.
7. CrdCS, using a completely randomized design with linear trend along rows and random cubic smoothing spline in column numbers.
8. CrdLCSAr, using a completely randomized design with linear trend along rows, random cubic smoothing spline in column numbers and first order auto-correlated (AR) errors along rows.

9. CrdLCSArAr, using a completely randomized design with linear trend along rows, random cubic smoothing spline in column numbers and first order auto-correlated (AR) errors along rows and along columns.

Each of the above models was fitted for the data of each trial by expressing the plot position in row and column number. The REML (Restricted Maximum Likelihood) method of the Genstat software (Payne 2011) was used to fit the model by setting the associated directives, VCOMPONENTS to declare the fixed and random components in the model and VSTRUCTURE to declare the error structures (for example, first order auto-correlated errors along rows/columns). To select the best model out of the nine models, we used Akaike information criterion expressed in terms of a quantity called 'deviance' produced by Genstat. The 'deviance' is minus twice the REML log-likelihood ignoring a constant depending on the fixed terms, and thus Akaike information criterion expressed as deviance is  $AICD = \text{deviance} + \text{twice the number of linear and non-linear variance components of the models}$  and was used to compare models with the same fixed effect terms (Singh et al. 2003). The best model out of the nine models was used for estimating the experimental error variance and genetic parameters. Means of the genotypes were estimated as best linear unbiased estimates (BLUES) by fitting the model with genotype effects assumed as fixed.

We used the BLUES in the GGE biplot to indicate possible specific adaptations of lines to the environments. The biplot was environment scaled/focused (Yan et al 2000). The BLUES were also used for all further analyses including the subsequent QTL detection. We further carried out estimation of variance components associated with genotypes (G) and partitioning of genotype x environment components where the environments was partitioned into location (L), sowing time (S), interaction L×S, years within location (Y(L)), years within sowing time (Y(S)) and the remainder. The main effects of L and S and their interaction were assumed fixed, while the genotype, G, and its interaction with a) fixed environment effects, G×L, G×S and G×L×S and random environment effects involving years, G×Y(L) and G×Y(S) were assumed random. Assessment of these interactions are relevant in discussing breeding strategies related to wide and specific adaptation. The highest order interaction (G×Y×L×S) was treated as random error. For the traits which were recorded at either only one locations or year, the highest available three factor interaction was taken as random error. We used REML directive of Genstat (Payne 2011) to estimate the variance components. Statistical significance of various genotypic variance components was carried out by treating the estimate divided by its standard error as an approximation by standard normal variate.

~~We next carried out analysis of variance to evaluate the fixed effect of location and sowing time and the random effects of genotype and year and all possible two and three way interactions (PROC MIXED, SAS ver. 9.2). However, of the possible three way interactions only the effects of genotype by year within~~

location and genotype by sowing time within year were significant and are reported. The model allows a subdivision of Genotype x Environment (GE) interactions in the two components Genotype x Location (GL) and Genotype x Years within Locations GY(L), which are relevant in discussing breeding strategies related to wide and specific adaptation.

The procedure MEANS (SAS ver. 9.2) was used to calculate means and standard deviations for each trait in the RIL population, Arta and Keel at each location and sowing date, separately. Significant differences between means were identified with the Duncan test (Duncan 1955). Genetic correlations were determined separately for autumn and winter sowings.

### **Genotyping and linkage map construction**

Arta, Keel, and 188 RILs were genotyped with 103 microsatellites (SSR markers), 623 DArT-markers and ten gene specific PCR markers (*Vrn-H1*, *Vrn-H2*, *Vrn-H3*, *HvFT3*, *HvCO1*, *HvCO2*, *HvVrt2*, *HvGI*, *HvPRR1* and *HvAI*, Supplementary Table 2 for primer information). *Vrn-H3*, *HvFT3*, *HvCO1*, *HvCO2*, *HvVrt2*, *HvGI*, *HvPRR1* were sequenced in Arta and Keel and SNPs between both genotypes were targeted for genotyping using High-Resolution Melting (HRM) in the RocheLightcycler 480. Amplifications were carried out with 100-150ng of DNA, 0.4 U of GoTaq Flexi DNA polymerase (Promega), 0.2 mM dNTP, 2.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.4 μM of each primer, and 0.75 μL of EvaGreen (Biotium). Reactions were performed with the following amplification conditions: 95°C for 3 min, 45 cycles of 95°C for 15 sec and 56°C for 30 sec. High-resolution melting included a first-step heating to 95 °C for 5 min and a melting program that went from 65 °C to 95 °C. Melting curve analysis was performed on the LightCycler 480 with the gene-scanning module (version 1.3).

DArT genotyping was carried out by Triticarte Pty. Ltd. (<http://www.triticarte.com.au>). Markers with a segregation distortion higher than 20% in 188 RILs were excluded from linkage map construction. SSR markers were assigned to barley chromosomes based on a previously published barley consensus map (Alsop et al. 2011). Linkage groups of SSR-, DArT- and PCR-markers were calculated with the mapping software JoinMap3.0 (van Ooijen and Voorrips 2001). Genetic distances between markers were calculated with the Haldane mapping function and a LOD threshold of 3.0.

### **QTL analysis**

The QTL analysis was conducted with the program MultiQTL Version 2.5 (Korol et al. 2005) using the MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENT OPTION which calculates significant effects across all environments, but reports effects for each environment separately After performing simple-interval mapping (SIM) for each trait, significances of detected QTL were estimated by permutation tests (N = 1,000). For the entire genome

analysis, we included all chromosomes with significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) putative QTL detected by SIM into the multiple-interval mapping (MIM) model to reduce “background” variation by taking into account QTL effects from other chromosomes. QTL obtained with MIM were tested for significance ( $P < 0.001$ ) with a global permutation test ( $N = 10,000$ ) and QTL effects and percentage of explained variance reported are inferred from the multi-locus model. The most significant marker interval is reported in Table 5. In addition, pairwise interaction effects between flowering time genes were calculated for each environment for all traits within MultiQTL.

## Results

### Phenotypic variation is high across years and locations

The largest climatic differences between locations were recorded for cumulative rainfall, number of rainy days and soil temperature. The largest climatic variation between years was observed for cumulative rainfall and number of rainy days (Table 2). Cumulative rainfall showed the highest correlation with yield in autumn-sown (0.71) and winter-sown experiments (0.79). Yield in autumn-sown field trials was lower in Breda with an average yield of 1656 kg/ha as compared with Tel Hadya with an average yield of 3462 kg/ha. Yield was strongly reduced in winter-sown field trials in both locations; average yield levels were 256 kg/ha in Breda and 1027 kg/ha in Tel Hadya. The lowest average rainfall of 174 mm in Breda and 223 mm in Tel Hadya was recorded in 2007-08, when rainfall was only recorded at 37 days in Breda and 58 days in Tel Hadya. The GGE biplot for yield performance separated the autumn and winter-sown trials, while the autumn-sown experiments in 2008 clustered between the autumn and winter-sown trials (Figure 2). The Australian cultivar Keel yielded higher than Arta in all environments from 2006-2008, while Arta produced more yield in all environments in 2009 (Table 2). In particular, Keel showed higher yields in the environments with low rainfall in 2008 and the winter-sown experiments, while Arta yielded higher in 2009 which was characterised by more favourable climatic conditions. Keel thus showed a higher yield stability as compared to Arta.

In all environments, the RIL population showed significant transgressive segregation for yield and biomass (Figure 1a, 1b, Table 3).

The correlation analysis revealed significant and positive correlations of GY with BY, and HI with correlation coefficients of 0.54 and 0.45 in the autumn-sown and 0.60 and 0.79 in the winter-sown trials, respectively (Table 4). GY also showed positive correlations with KW (0.42), PED (0.44), PH (0.33), and SL (0.48) in the winter-sown trials, but not in the autumn-sown trials. Additionally, DH showed high negative correlations with yield component traits such as GY in autumn-sown trials (-0.26) and winter-sown trials (-0.66), KW in autumn-sown (-0.28) and winter-sown trials (-0.57), and SL (-0.71) only in the winter-sown trials. In addition, DH was negatively correlated with BY (-0.33) and PH (-0.30) in autumn-sown trials and

with BY (-0.24) and PH (-0.39) in winter-sown trials. The analysis revealed more significant and higher correlations coefficients in the winter-sown than in the autumn-sown trials. **Partitioning of phenotypic variation revealed a high variation and with variable degree of significance, due to genotype (for dh, gh, gv, gy, hi, kw, ped, pedex and ph) and its interaction with sowing season (for dh, gh, gv, kw and sl), interaction with year within locations (by, gv, gy, hi, ped, pedex and ph) and with year within sowing seasons (by, gv, kw, ped, pedex, ph and sl). There was no significant variation due to genotype and location interaction while the interactions between genotypes and years within locations were significant. Where estimable, the genotype and year interactions within sowing seasons were either stronger in significance or higher in magnitude compared to genotype × sowing seasons (by, gv, gy, ped, pedex, ph, sl except kw) (Supplementary Table 3). Partitioning of phenotypic variance revealed a high variation between years and sowing dates and significant interaction effects between the genotype by year or sowing time. The ANOVA thus demonstrated that year to year variation had on average the strongest effect on phenotypic variation followed by the time of sowing (Supplementary Table 3).**

Taken together, the year to year variation in total rainfall and rainfall distribution had the strongest effects on traits expression. Early flowering was correlated with increased biomass, plant height and yield in autumn and winter-sown trials. The early flowering spring barley Keel showed improved yield in the majority of environments and in particular in environments with low rainfall (Table 2).

### **Genetic marker map and QTL analysis**

A recombination map was constructed for the ARKE RIL population with 554 DArT markers, 101 SSR markers, and ten STS markers derived from nine genes involved in the control of reproductive development and the stress response gene *HvAl*. Sequencing of candidate genes revealed that both parents carried the dominant allele of *Ppd-H1* (Turner et al. 2005). The parental lines showed functional polymorphism in *Vrn-H1* (Hemming et al. 2009) and *Vrn-H2* (Karsai et al. 2005), and were differentiated by an insertion/deletion polymorphism of 4bp in the promoter of *Vrn-H3* (*HvFT1*) and silent SNPs in the remaining genes (Supplementary Table 2). A total of 665 markers clustered into 11 linkage groups with a total map size of 1129 cM and an average marker distance of 1.7 cM (Supplementary Table 4). Two linkage groups were found for chromosome 1H and 2H and three linkage groups for chromosome 7H, thus separate linkage groups were designated as 1Ha/1Hb, 2Ha/2Hb and 7Ha/7Hb/7Hc, respectively. Most markers adjacent to gaps within chromosomes also showed segregation distortion (Supplementary Table 4). Linkage groups within chromosomes were ordered according to information of the consensus map of Alsop et al. (2011).

Single-trait analysis with single-QTL-per-chromosome model and MIM-single-trait analysis was employed to detect QTL. A total of 86 QTL were detected for eleven traits (Figure 3). Significant QTL, additive

effects, and phenotypic variance explained are listed for each environment separately in Table 5. Multi-environment QTL analysis demonstrated that QTL effects were relatively stable for the traits DH and PH; QTL-alleles exhibited either an increase or a reduction of trait values across all tested environments. In contrast, QTL-effects for the traits GY and KW showed cross-over effects, a QTL-allele caused either decrease or increase of the trait values in different environments. Strong variation in QTL effects across environments corresponded to strong interaction effects between the genotype and year and sowing date for yield related traits (Supplementary Table 3).

The QTL analysis revealed nine QTL for GY. At six QTL the Keel allele improved GY in the majority of environments and at three loci Arta improved GY in the majority of environments. QTL for GY located close to QTL for PH, PED and PEDEX on chromosomes 2Ha and 3H, where increased PH, PED and PEDEX contributed by Keel at the QTL on 2Ha and by Arta on 3H, improved GY (Figure 3). QTL for GY on chromosomes 2Hb, 4H, 5H, 7Ha and 7Hb coincided with QTL for DH, KW, PH, PED, PEDEX and SL, where reduced DH correlated with increased GY, KW, PH, PED, PEDEX, and SL. Co-segregation of QTL for traits which also showed high correlation coefficients suggested causal relationships between different traits. With exception of the QTL on 7Ha, the Keel allele accelerated DH, increased PH, BY and GY at these QTL clusters in the majority of the autumn and winter-sown trials. The strongest effects on GY and all other traits were recorded at the marker intervals spanning the position of the vernalisation genes *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2*. Genotyping revealed that Arta carries the *Vrn-H2* locus and the vernalisation-responsive *Vrn-H1-6* allele (Casao et al. 2011a; 2011b; Hemming et al. 2009; Cockram et al. 2007). In contrast to Arta, Keel carries a deletion of the *Vrn-H2* locus and is characterised by the *Vrn-H1-4* allele, which shows a reduced vernalisation requirement as compared to *Vrn-H1-6* (Hemming et al. 2009). Significant, but relatively small, delays in flowering were already correlated with significant yield reductions, particularly in low rainfall environments. For example, the Arta allele at *Vrn-H1* delayed flowering by one day and reduced yield by 271kg/ha in Tel Hadya 2008, autumn-sown. Calculation of pairwise marker interactions between QTL for DH revealed significant interactions between *Vrn-H2* and *Vrn-H1*, but not between other loci (Table 6). Variation at *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* caused significant differences in time to flowering in the autumn and winter-sown trials 2008 and 2009 in Tel Hadya. A significant delay in DH was recorded for genotypes with the Arta allele at *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2*, while genotypes with other combinations of Arta and Keel alleles at both loci flowered earlier, but not significantly different from each other. Only in T08A, the genotypes with Keel alleles at both loci flowered even significantly earlier than genotypes with a combination of Arta and Keel alleles at both genes. Significant interactions between *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* were also observed for BY, GV, GY, PED, PEDEX and SL. Genotypes with the Keel alleles at *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* showed the highest yield in all environments, with the exception of B08A and T09A, where genotypes with the Arta allele at

*Vrn-H2* and the Keel allele at *Vrn-H1* were yielding highest. Faster development as inherited by the Keel allele at *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* also increased BY, SL and PED, in particular in the winter-sown experiments. Interactions between *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* had thus strong effects not only on time to flowering, but also on growth rate, spike length and yield. In short season environments due to low rainfall (2008) or late sowing in winter, faster development was beneficial for yield. In more favourable environments as represented by T09A, an intermediate phenotype as determined by the Arta allele at *Vrn-H2* and the Keel allele at *Vrn-H1* was beneficial. However, the Keel allele at *Vrn-H1* caused a yield increase in 11 out of 13 tested environments and was thus overall beneficial under winter and standard autumn-sown conditions.

Taken together, the QTL analysis showed that genetic variation in biomass accumulation/ plant height and in reproductive development primarily determined yield in the ARKE RIL population grown in Syrian environments. Fast reproductive development primarily inherited by Keel accelerated plant growth and thus increased final PH and BY in environments with short seasons due to terminal stress. Interaction effects at the vernalisation genes *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* had the strongest effects on DH and correlated traits BY, GY, PED, PEDEX and SL. The Keel allele at *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* caused earlier DH and increased BY and GY in the winter-sown and most autumn-sown experiments.

## **Discussion**

### **High environmental fluctuations in dry Mediterranean environments**

Previous studies have identified high environmental variation between barley trials in different Mediterranean environments, but these have not identified the specific contributions of the year and location to the overall environmental variance (Comadran et al. 2011, Francia et al. 2011). In the present study, we dissected the specific contributions of variation between years and between locations which allowed a more precise definition of genotype by environment interactions. We selected two geographically close locations which are characterised by different environmental conditions, Tel Hadya represents a favourable Mediterranean environment with deep, clay-rich soils and intermediate rainfall, while Breda is characterised by shallow soils and low rainfall (Ryan et al. 1997). The analysis of variance (Supplementary Table 3) and the GGE biplot (Figure 2) demonstrated that year to year variation had stronger effects on agronomic performance than environmental variation between locations. Variation in detected QTL-effects, in particular between different years and sowing dates also indicated high environmental fluctuations and gene-by-environment interactions. In particular, QTL-effects for yield and yield component traits exhibited quantitative and qualitative differences between years and sowing dates, while QTL-effects for developmental and plant architecture traits were more stable across environments (Table 5). We recorded pronounced differences in average rainfall between the two locations, however, variation in rainfall was even higher between years within locations. The highest correlations of yield with ecological factors were observed for the cumulative rainfall supporting results by Francia et al. (2011) who found strong positive correlation between water input and grain yield. The occurrence, severity, timing, and duration of drought thus varied strongly from year to year even at the same location and this year to year variation had the strongest effects on yield.

### **Spring growth improves yield stability**

Under variable climatic conditions as encountered in Syrian environments yield stability is an important breeding goal. The Australian cultivar Keel showed an overall better agronomic performance and higher yield stability in the Syrian environments compared to the locally adapted landrace Arta. Keel bred for Australian dry environments was thus well adapted to Syrian environments and even outperformed the local landrace Arta in the driest year of 2008 and in the winter-sown experiments. These results thus complement previous observation that germplasm from the Middle East performed well in Australian environments (Eglington et al. 2004) suggesting that Australian and Mediterranean germplasm are adapted to similar

environmental conditions. Yield was correlated with biomass, growth vigour and heading in the autumn and winter-sown experiments suggesting that early flowering improved biomass and final yield. Arta and Keel represent two different growth types. Arta has an intermediate vernalisation requirement characteristic of landraces from Syria (Mediterranean environments with cold winters), while Keel shows a spring growth habit with no vernalisation response and a concomitant susceptibility to cold. Late sowing in winter was used to test the performance of the parents and RIL population under more severe conditions of drought and heat, which increased towards the end of the growing season. The bimodal distribution of yield from winter-sown experiments at Tel Hadya (Figure 1) suggested that the segregation of vernalisation response as inherited by Arta and Keel had a major effect on yield distribution. In the winter-sown trials, Keel and RILs with the erect growth type and faster reproductive development showed a performance superior to Arta and RILs with prostrate growth and vernalisation response. However, also in the autumn-sown experiments 2006-2008 Keel and genotypes with a spring growth habit had higher or the same yield compared to Arta and genotypes with vernalisation response. Francia et al. (2011) have argued that an intermediate vernalisation requirement was beneficial in dry Mediterranean environments as trade-off between cold tolerance during winter and drought escape in summer. In contrast, our results suggested that the spring growth type was beneficial particularly in the low rainfall environments and was not associated with a strong yield penalty due to higher susceptibility to cold in years with higher rainfall. The spring growth type thus provided a better yield stability in Syrian environments.

### **Plant growth under drought is positively correlated with yield**

A higher yield stability in Keel may have also been achieved by the capacity to maintain growth under stress. Plant growth, peduncle length and peduncle extrusion were strongly affected by drought as seen in the significant differences of these traits between Breda and Tel Hadya and between autumn and winter-sown experiments (Table 3). Arta showed significantly higher reductions in biomass and plant height in the drier environments than Keel and this was correlated with a yield decrease (Tables 3, 4). Our data suggested that in the field, limiting growth reduction might provide a strategy to increase productivity under stress. These results confirm recent studies in *Arabidopsis* which demonstrated that mild drought primarily affected plant growth and consistent with the hypothesis that plants reduce their growth as a primary adaptation response to stress rather than as a secondary consequence of resource limitations (Muller et al. 2011; Skiryzc et al. 2011). Tisné et al. (2010) showed that high biomass under drought was correlated with a lengthening of the vegetative phase and a reduction of the leaf emergence rate in *Arabidopsis* grown under control conditions. These results suggested a trade-off between water saving strategies such as early flowering and a reduction of leaf area, as compared to maintained growth and photosynthetic activity over a plant cycle. However, our

results suggested that in the field with progressively increasing drought, early flowering does not only allow plants to set seeds before the drought season, but also to accumulate vegetative biomass faster which in turn supports yield.

### **Flowering time genes and QTL have pleiotropic effects on yield component traits**

Many of the QTL for flowering time, biomass, plant height, peduncle length and yield coincided with the map location of known flowering time genes or loci. Previous studies have identified strong effects of flowering time genes on agronomic performance in Mediterranean environments (Francia et al. 2011; Comadran et al. 2008; 2011; Cuesta-Marcos 2009). *Eam6* at the centromeric region of 2H was commonly identified as a major locus controlling reproductive development in spring by winter barley crosses tested in Mediterranean environments (Cuesta-Marcos et al. 2008; 2009; Francia et al. 2011; Comadran et al. 2011). In the present study, this locus coincided with a QTL cluster for yield component traits, such as kernel weight, plant height and peduncle length; however, no effects for flowering time were detected at this locus (Figure 2). Comadran et al. (2012) have recently identified *Eam6* as an ortholog of *Antirrhinum CENTRORADIALIS (HvCEN)*, which segregated between winter and spring barley and contributed to the adaptation of barley to higher latitudes in Europe. As Keel does not belong to the germplasm pool of spring barleys from Northern Europe, *Eam6* may not segregate between Keel and Arta.

Variation at the interacting vernalisation genes *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* had the strongest effects on reproductive development, plant growth and yield, where a reduced vernalisation requirement as determined by a deletion of *Vrn-H2* and the Keel allele at *Vrn-H1* improved yield performance. This is in contrast to previous studies which have not identified *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* as major determinants of performance in Mediterranean environments, neither in standard autumn nor in winter-sown experiments, presumably because vernalisation was always fully satisfied (Francia et al. 2011; Comadran et al. 2011; Ponce-Molina et al. 2012). The strong effects of *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* on yield may be explained by insufficient vernalisation in the winter-sown experiments and very low rainfall in 2006-2008, when small, delays in flowering were already correlated with significant yield reductions. Variation at *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* also had strong effects on growth vigour, where the Arta allele at both loci increased expression of both traits. It is known that cold tolerance co-segregates with the *Vrn-H1* locus on chromosome 5H; as *Vrn-H1* expression levels in the leaves increase during winter, cold tolerance is progressively reduced (Dhillon et al. 2010; Stockinger et al. 2007). Growth habit and growth vigour, but not flowering time, were also controlled by a QTL on the long arm of chromosome 1H, close to *HvFT3*, which is the candidate for the photoperiod response locus *Ppd-H2* (Faure et al. 2005; Kikuchi et al. 2009). The functional allele of *HvFT3* causes faster flowering under short day conditions when vernalisation is not fully satisfied (Casao et al. 2011b), while a truncation of gene primarily

observed in winter barley causes a delay of flowering under short days (Kikuchi et al. 2009). Arta and Keel carry the functional form of the *HvFT3* allele, but may show *cis*-regulatory variation, or variation at flowering time regulators in the vicinity of *HvFT3*.

QTL clusters for developmental, plant architecture, and yield component traits were additionally detected on 2Hb, 3H and 7Hb where the Keel allele caused early flowering and an increase in yield and plant height. Previous QTL studies have detected effects on flowering time and yield at the markers HVM54/EBmach415 on 2H in Arta x *H. spontaneum* 41-1 (Baum et al. 2003), Tadmor x Er/Apm (Teulat et al. 2001; von Korff et al. 2008), Barke x HOR11508 (Talamé et al. 2004), and Beatrix x SBCC145 (Ponce-Molina et al. 2012) suggesting that this locus shows genetic variation within Mediterranean barley germplasm and influences agronomic performance under dry conditions. The locus was fine mapped to a region which included *HvAP2*, a gene encoding an AP2 domain protein, with similarity to the wheat domestication gene *Q* (Chen et al. 2009). Gene *Q* from wheat represents a major domestication locus and confers a compact spike, reduced plant height, free threshing grains, and a fragile rachis (Simons et al. 2006) and is associated with delayed ear emergence (Kato et al. 1999). The QTL cluster on 3H mapped close to the *sdw1* locus and coincides with QTL for heading date and grain yield identified in Arta x *H. spontaneum* 41-1 (Baum et al. 2003), Tadmor x Er/Apm (von Korff et al. 2008), Barke x HOR11508 (Talamé et al. 2004), and Beatrix x SBCC145 (Ponce-Molina et al. 2012). *Ga20-oxidase*, a gene involved in the synthesis of gibberellin has been recently proposed as a potential candidate for this locus (Jia et al. 2009). The QTL interval on 7Hb that controlled flowering time, plant height, yield, and spike length coincided with QTL for heading date detected in Arta x *H. spontaneum* 41-1 (Baum et al. 2003), Barke x HOR11508 (Talamé et al. 2004), and Beatrix x SBCC145 (Ponce-Molina et al. 2012). This locus harbours the *Vrn-H3/HvFT1* gene (Yan et al. 2006) with homology to the Arabidopsis gene *Flowering Locus T (FT)* and to *Hd3a* in rice (Corbesier et al. 2007; Tamaki et al. 2007). Arta and Keel are distinguished by a 4 bp deletion in the promoter region of *HvFT1*, where Arta carried the allele of Calicuchima-sib and Keel the Morex allele (indel 2 in Casas et al. 2011). Casas et al. (2011) have shown that natural variation in the promoter and intron of *HvFT1* causes variation in flowering time and may be important in driving agro-ecological adaptation of barley.

The QTL cluster on 7Hc, where the Arta allele accelerated time to flowering and increased yield, mapped close to QTL for heading date, plant height, and yield traits detected in crosses between cultivated and wild barley (Pillen et al. 2003; 2004; von Korff et al. 2006; 2010; Talamé et al. 2004; Baum et al. 2003; Lakew et al. 2012).

The QTL study thus suggested that variation at loci controlling reproductive development and plant growth was important for yield stability in the cross Arta x Keel. QTL for biomass, plant height, peduncle extrusion and spike length collocated with known flowering time genes and loci, suggesting that flowering time genes

also controlled growth rate and spike development. Earlier studies have identified a strong effect of flowering time genes on yield in dry environments, e.g. early flowering represents a drought escape mechanism through which the plant can reproduce outside the dry season (Acevedo et al. 1991; Francia et al. 2011; Comadran et al. 2011). Our QTL results suggested that flowering time genes had pleiotropic effects on growth, spike architecture and yield. Especially the Arta alleles at *Vrn-H2* reduced biomass and plant height in all tested environments and peduncle extrusion and spike length in the majority of environments (Table x). The effects of *Vrn-H1* and *Vrn-H2* on growth are likely correlated with their control on the onset and duration of stem elongation (Borras-Gelonch et al. 2011a; 2011b; Campoli et al. 2012). Under control condition, the duration of the late reproductive phase of stem elongation in wheat was positively correlated with spike weight and the number of fertile florets at anthesis (Gonzalez et al. 2002, 2011). In contrast, under terminal drought in the field fast reproductive development increased spike length and kernel weight in the present study. Our results suggested that under changing climate conditions, such as shorter winters, reduced rainfall, and early summer drought, early heading Australian barley genotypes might thus outperform vernalisation sensitive Syrian landraces.

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### **Figure legends**

Figure 1: Frequency distribution of grain yield at different sowing times (autumn, winter) across four years in different locations a) Breda and b) Tel Hadya. The mean performance of the parental lines Arta and Keel is indicated above the bars.

Figure 2: GGE biplot based on best linear unbiased estimates for yield. T= Tel Hadya, B = Breda, 06 = 2005-06, 07 = 2006-07, 08 = 2007-08, 09 = 2008-09, A = autumn sowing, W = winter sowing.

Figure 3: Seven barley chromosomes with markers indicated to the left and significant QTLs indicated to the right of the chromosomes. See Table 1 for trait abbreviations.

## **Legends for supporting information**

Supplementary Table 1: Sowing date and seedling emergence date in the different environments.

Supplementary Table 2: Marker assays for candidate genes.

Supplementary Table 3: Quantitative genetic partitioning of variation and significance of effects for eleven agronomic traits.

Supplementary Table 4: Genetic map, genotype data and segregation distortion for 665 markers scored in the ARKE RIL population.

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## Tables

Table 1. List of eleven quantitative traits investigated in a total of thirteen different environments.

| Abb    | Trait              | Units | Method of measurement                                                          | Environment                                                      |
|--------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BY     | Biological yield   | kg/ha | Vegetative biomass                                                             | B08A B09A B09W T08A T08W T09A T09W                               |
| DH     | Days to heading    | days  | Days from emergence to heading                                                 | T06A T07A T07W T08A T08W T09A T09W                               |
| GH     | Growth habit       |       | As a visual score from 1=erect to 5=flat at the 5-6 leaf stage                 | B09A T06A T07A T07W T08A T09A T09W                               |
| GV     | Growth vigour      |       | As a visual score from 1 = poor vigour to 5 =good vigour at the 5-6 leaf stage | B06A B07A B07W B08A B09A T06A T07A T07W T08A T08W T09A T09W      |
| GY     | Grain yield        | kg/ha | Measured after threshing the harvested sample                                  | B06A B07A B07W B08A B09A B09W T06A T07A T07W T08A T08W T09A T09W |
| HI     | Harvest index      |       | Ratio of generative to vegetative biomass                                      | B08A B09A B09W T08A T08W T09A T09W                               |
| KW     | Kernel weight      | g     | Measured as the average of 3 samples of 100 kernels per plot                   | B07A B07W B08A B09A B09W T07A T07W T08A T09A T09W                |
| PED    | Peduncle length    | cm    | Measured from the last node to the bottom of the spike                         | B06A B07A B07W B08A B09A B09W T06A T07A T08A T08W T09A T09W      |
| PEDE X | Peduncle extrusion | cm    | Measured from the ligule of flag leaf to the bottom of the spike               | B06A B07A B07W B08A B09A B09W T06A T07A T08A T08W T09A T09W      |
| PH     | Plant height       | cm    | Measured from soil surface to the bottom of the spike                          | B06A B07A B07W B08A B09A B09W T06A T07A T07W T08A T08W T09A T09W |
| SL     | Spike length       | cm    | Spike length excluding the awns                                                | B06A B07A B07W B08A B09A B09W T06A T07A T07W T08A T08W T09A T09W |

Environment designed as a combination of the location (Breda=B, Tel Hadya=T), the year (2006=06, 2007=07, 2008=08, 2009=09) and the planting date (autumn =A, winter =W). In 2007, 2008 and 2009 additional planting in winter was carried out to extend the generative phase of plants into summer drought.

Table 2: Ecological data and mean grain yield (kg/ha), in four different years and two different locations.

| Env              | Tm        | Ts        | Tj       | Tdd       | Ts        | Rc         | Rn        | Hu-an     | Ev       | par       | RAD       | So   | GY RILs A   | GY RILs W  | GY A/W Arta | GY A/W Keel |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| B05-06           | 13        | 22        | 7        | 15        | 18        | 237        | 62        | 67        | 5        |           |           | loam | 2821        | nd         | 2970/nd     | 3440/nd     |
| B06-07           | 12        | 24        | 6        | 14        | 18        | 224        | 60        | 62        | 4.5      |           |           | loam | 1037        | 108        | 975/ 6      | 1030/ 174   |
| B07-08           | 14        | 19        | 3        | 13        | 19        | 174        | 37        | 54        | 5.6      |           |           | loam | 1539        | 0          | 1181/ 0     | 1449/ 0     |
| B08-09           | 14        | 21        | 6        | 14        | 19        | 247        | 72        | 56        | 4.8      |           |           | loam | 1226        | 660        | 1486/ 568   | 1219/ 801   |
| <b>Breda</b>     | <b>13</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>221</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>5</b> |           |           |      | <b>1656</b> | <b>256</b> |             |             |
| T05-06           | 14        | 23        | 6        | 13        | 17        | 302        | 82        | 63        | 4.2      | 27        | 15        | clay | 4930        | nd         | 4610/ nd    | 4962/ nd    |
| T06-07           | 13        | 24        | 6        | 16        | 16        | 290        | 74        | 61        | 3.6      | 27        | 16        | clay | 2269        | 701        | 2251/ 241   | 2366/ 941   |
| T07-08           | 14        | 21        | 3        | 16        | 15        | 314        | 58        | 58        | 4.8      | 28        | 15        | clay | 4160        | 888        | 2905/ 143   | 4094/ 1592  |
| T08-09           | 14        | 20        | 8        | 14        | 15        | 291        | 89        | 65        | 3.2      | 25        | 13        | clay | 2490        | 291        | 2830/ 1452  | 2003/ 1303  |
| <b>Tel Hadya</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>299</b> | <b>76</b> | <b>62</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>15</b> |      | <b>3462</b> | <b>627</b> |             |             |

Temperature °C: Tm = mean annual temperature; Ts = mean May temperature; Tj = mean January temperature; Tdd = day-night temperature difference; Ts = soil temperature at 5cm, Water availability: Rc = cumulative rainfall in mm, Rn = number of rainy days; RHu-an: = mean annual humidity; Ev = mean annual evaporation; Solar radiation: PAR = photosynthetically active radiation, Rad = total daily solar radiation, So = soil type, GY = yield in kg/h in A (autumn-sown) and W (winter-sown) experiments.

Table 3: Recorded traits, abbreviations and number of environments, in which the eleven traits were measured. Means and standard deviations are calculated for the RIL population, and means for Arta and Keel, for the two locations and for sowing in autumn and winter, separately.

| Abbr  | Trait                    | #env <sup>a</sup> | Means B-A           |             |        | Means B-W           |             |       | Means T-A           |        |        | Means T-W           |            |       |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------|---------------------|-------------|-------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|------------|-------|
|       |                          |                   | RILs <sup>b,c</sup> | Arta        | Keel   | RILs <sup>b,c</sup> | Arta        | Keel  | RILs <sup>b,c</sup> | Arta   | Keel   | RILs <sup>b,c</sup> | Arta       | Keel  |
| BY    | Biological Yield (kg/ha) | 7                 | 3042± 703a          | 2726ac<br>f | 2811ac | 1848± 364c          | 2172ce<br>f | 1697c | 6552± 1496b         | 5876d  | 6090d  | 3695± 1740a         | 2398a<br>e | 3885a |
| DH    | Days to heading (d)      | 7                 | nd                  | nd          | nd     | nd                  | nd          | nd    | 98±9a               | 100a   | 98a    | 53±8b               | 60c        | 50b   |
| GH    | Growth habit             | 7                 | 2.3±0.2a            | 2.4a        | 2.5a   | nd                  | nd          | nd    | 2.5±0.4a            | 2.3a   | 2.5a   | 2.4±0.8a            | 3.4b       | 2.0a  |
| GV    | Early growth vigour      | 12                | 2.4±0.7ab           | 2.0a        | 2.8a   | 2.4±0.8a            | 3.5b        | 2.1a  | 2.3±0.7a            | 2.4a   | 2.6a   | 2.5±0.9a            | 3.2ab      | 2.3a  |
| GY    | Grain yield (kg/ha)      | 12                | 1681± 755a          | 1652a       | 1784a  | 377± 308c           | 403c        | 371c  | 3455± 1272b         | 3149b  | 3356b  | 1091± 565d          | 611c       | 1279d |
| HI    | Harvest index            | 7                 | 0.45c               | 0.45c       | 0.46c  | 0.20a               | 0.18a       | 0.21a | 0.52bc              | 0.57bc | 0.48bc | 0.39c               | 0.28a      | 0.46c |
| KW    | Kernel weight (g)        | 10                | 36±4a               | 35a         | 36a    | 31±5c               | 29c         | 31c   | 41±8bd              | 39d    | 41bd   | 40±9bd              | 36a        | 39d   |
| PED   | Peduncle length (cm)     | 12                | 12±5dg              | 11gh        | 11gh   | 7±3b                | 5f          | 8bc   | 16±7a               | 15a    | 15a    | 10±3c               | 8bc        | 11gh  |
| PEDEX | Peduncle extrusion (cm)  | 12                | -7±5ae              | -5b         | -9cf   | -9±2cf              | -7ae        | -10f  | -4±7b               | -2d    | -5b    | -8±3ce              | -8ae       | -9cf  |
| PH    | Plant height (cm)        | 12                | 35±12a              | 31a         | 36ac   | 21±6ef              | 16f         | 23eh  | 53±22b              | 51b    | 52b    | 33±7ac              | 29ch       | 34ac  |
| SL    | Spike length (cm)        | 12                | 6.8± 1.0a           | 6.8a        | 6.8a   | 5.0±1.8b            | 3.2f        | 5.5b  | 7.3±1.0de           | 7.5e   | 7.1ad  | 6.1±0.9c            | 6.1c       | 6.1c  |

<sup>a</sup> Number of environments in which the trait was measured (see materials and methods, Table 1). <sup>b</sup>Means of the RIL population, Arta and Keel are calculated for the four locations, sowing dates separately. Significant differences between means of RILs and parents and between the different locations are indicated with different letters according to the Tukey-Kramer test for multiple comparisons ( $P < 0.05$ ). <sup>c</sup> Standard deviation for RILs (Means).

1 Table 4: Correlation coefficients (r) according to Pearson between eleven agronomic traits.

|       | BY       | DH       | GH       | GV       | GY       | HI      | KW       | PED      | PEDEX   | PH       | SL      |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| BY    |          | -0.33*** | -0.09    | -0.29*** | 0.54***  | 0.09    | -0.07    | 0.09     | 0.01    | 0.14*    | 0.00    |
| DH    | -0.24*** |          | 0.35***  | 0.52***  | -0.26*** | -0.15   | -0.28*** | -0.22*** | 0.03    | -0.30*** | 0.12    |
| GH    | -0.40*** | 0.79***  |          | 0.48***  | -0.16*   | -0.01   | -0.16*   | -0.10    | 0.06    | -0.22*** | 0.01    |
| GV    | -0.43*** | 0.76***  | 0.84***  |          | -0.27*** | -0.06   | -0.23*** | -0.02    | 0.09    | -0.19*   | 0.05    |
| GY    | 0.60***  | -0.66*** | -0.63*** | -0.66*** |          | 0.45*** | -0.03    | 0.09     | 0.01    | 0.10     | -0.01   |
| HI    | 0.28***  | -0.47*** | -0.45*** | -0.45*** | 0.79***  |         | -0.07    | 0.11     | 0.16*   | -0.06    | -0.08   |
| KW    | 0.16*    | -0.57*** | -0.53*** | -0.51*** | 0.42***  | 0.24*** |          | 0.18*    | -0.03   | 0.33***  | 0.30*** |
| PED   | 0.20***  | -0.46*** | -0.39*** | -0.40*** | 0.44***  | 0.34*** | 0.37***  |          | 0.52*** | 0.66***  | 0.23*** |
| PEDEX | 0.08     | -0.03    | -0.07    | -0.12    | 0.07     | 0.08    | 0.00     | 0.45***  |         | 0.19*    | -0.03   |
| PH    | 0.28***  | -0.39*** | -0.48*** | -0.47*** | 0.33***  | 0.14    | 0.43***  | 0.62***  | 0.16*   |          | 0.36*** |
| SL    | 0.13     | -0.71*** | -0.57*** | -0.53*** | 0.48***  | 0.34*** | 0.49***  | 0.42***  | -0.10   | 0.45***  |         |

2 For calculating correlations the least square means of the trait performance of each RIL averaged for each location and sowing time were used. In the  
 3 upper triangular area correlations based on least square means averaged across autumn sowing (moderate stress), and in the lower triangular area least  
 4 square means averaged across environments with winter sowing (more severe stress) are depicted. Significant correlations are indicated \* p<0.05, \*\*  
 5 p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001.

6

7 Table 5: QTLs for agronomic traits detected across all environments. Additive effects, explained phenotypic variance are given for each environment  
8 separately.

| Chr | Marker/interval         | Pos         | LOD | B06A | B07A | B07W | B08A         | B09A          | B09W         | T06A          | T07A          | T07W          | T08A          | T08W          | T09A          | T09W          |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|-----|------|------|------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| BY  |                         |             |     |      |      |      |              |               |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 2Hb | bPb09199-bPb02244       | 92.3-92.5   | 10  |      |      |      | -249<br>4.5% | -108<br>0.8%  | 14<br>0.0%   |               |               |               | -535<br>11.2% | -329<br>2.8%  | -43<br>0.1%   | -184<br>1.6%  |
| 3H  | Scssr25691-bPb01681     | 89.3-102.9  | 6   |      |      |      | 295<br>6.3%  | -156<br>1.7%  | 131<br>2.8%  |               |               |               | 403<br>6.4%   | 239<br>1.5%   | 94<br>0.3%    | -82<br>0.32%  |
| 4H  | <i>Vrn-H2</i> -HvM67    | 160.7-164.0 | 10  |      |      |      | -195<br>2.8% | -62<br>0.3%   | -195<br>6.3% |               |               |               | -297<br>3.5%  | -654<br>11.2% | -211<br>1.3%  | -199<br>1.9%  |
| 5H  | bPb04988- <i>Vrn-H1</i> | 140.0-140.9 | 12  |      |      |      | -26<br>0.0%  | -211<br>3%    | 15<br>0.0%   |               |               |               | -56<br>0.1%   | -907<br>21.5% | 58<br>0.1%    | 68<br>0.2%    |
| DH  |                         |             |     |      |      |      |              |               |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 1Ha | bPb03451-bPb07112       | 0-0.2       | 6   |      |      |      |              |               |              | -0.1<br>0.01% | 0.5<br>0.05%  | 2.4<br>0.04%  | 0.3<br>0.04%  | 0.1<br>0.02%  | 0.3<br>0.04%  | 0.6<br>0.04%  |
| 2Hb | bPb03575-bPb03950       | 81.6-82.0   | 16  |      |      |      |              |               |              | 0.2<br>0.45%  | 0.8<br>7.6%   | 2.8<br>3.7%   | 0.8<br>7.2%   | 0.8<br>4.2%   | 0.7<br>7.7%   | 1.3<br>12.9%  |
| 3H  | bPb04156-bPb03109       | 157.0-157.6 | 16  |      |      |      |              |               |              | 0.5<br>3.1%   | 0.7<br>6.5%   | 3.9<br>7.5%   | 0.8<br>7.1%   | 1.1<br>7.1%   | 0.5<br>3.3%   | 1.1<br>9.2%   |
| 4H  | Bmag419A- <i>Vrn-H2</i> | 149.9-153.5 | 44  |      |      |      |              |               |              | 0.1<br>0.3%   | 0.4<br>1.6%   | 8.2<br>35%    | 0.9<br>8.7%   | 1.2<br>7.5%   | 0.4<br>2.9%   | 1.6<br>20%    |
| 5H  | <i>Vrn-H1</i> -bPb03910 | 140.9-142.3 | 53  |      |      |      |              |               |              | 0.3<br>1.2%   | 0.9<br>10%    | 6.5<br>22%    | 1.0<br>10.1%  | 1.1<br>6.2%   | 0.7<br>7.1%   | 1.6<br>21%    |
| 6H  | bPb01982-bPb02054       | 133.0-138.3 | 11  |      |      |      |              |               |              | 0.4<br>1.9%   | 0.8<br>7.4%   | 0.7<br>0.2%   | 0.6<br>4.1%   | -0.7<br>2.4%  | 0.5<br>3.4%   | 0.5<br>1.9%   |
| 7Hb | Vrn-H3- bPb09907        | 7.2-8.0     | 9   |      |      |      |              |               |              | 0.3<br>1.2%   | 0.1<br>0.1%   | 2.6<br>3.7%   | -0.4<br>1.4%  | 0.6<br>2.1%   | 0.2<br>0.6%   | 0.6<br>3%     |
| 7Hc | Bmag0011-BMS64          | 13.9-18.9   | 11  |      |      |      |              |               |              | -0.2<br>0.6%  | -0.1<br>0.1%  | -4.0<br>7.7%  | -0.3<br>0.9%  | -0.3<br>0.7%  | -0.3<br>1.3%  | -1.0<br>7.3%  |
| GH  |                         |             |     |      |      |      |              |               |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 1Ha | GBM5162-HvFT3           | 102.3-108.6 | 14  |      |      |      |              | -0.09<br>3.3% |              | -0.03<br>0.1% | -0.16<br>6.1% | -0.25<br>2%   | -0.22<br>8.1% |               | -0.02<br>0.4% | -0.16<br>2.4% |
| 2Ha | -bPb03608               | 0.0-1.7     | 9   |      |      |      |              | -0.07<br>2.2% |              | -0.06<br>0.5% | -0.16<br>6.3% | -0.05<br>0.1% | -0.20<br>6.8% |               | -0.02<br>0.4% | -0.10<br>0.9% |
| 2Hb | GBM1047-bPb05942        | 88.2-       | 13  |      |      |      |              | 0.05<br>0.9%  |              | 0.06<br>0.4%  | 0.16<br>5.9%  | 0.44<br>5.8%  | 0.20<br>6.3%  |               | 0.01<br>0.0%  | 0.37<br>11.3% |
| 3H  | Ebmac705-HVLTTPPB       | 23.0-24.8   | 13  |      |      |      |              | 0.08<br>2.6%  |              | 0.12<br>1.8%  | 0.19<br>8.3%  | 0.24<br>1.9%  | 0.24<br>10%   |               | 0.05<br>2.2%  | 0.12<br>1.2%  |
| 4H  | <i>Vrn-H2</i> -HvM67    | 160.7-164.0 | 26  |      |      |      |              | 0.07<br>2.1%  |              | 0.15<br>3.1%  | -0.02<br>0.1% | 0.78<br>19.2% | 0.06<br>0.6%  |               | 0.03<br>0.6%  | 0.35<br>10.7% |
| 5H  | bPb03246-bPb06676       | 114.9-115.0 | 52  |      |      |      |              | 0.02<br>0.1%  |              | 0.03<br>0.1%  | 0.14<br>4.9%  | 1.16<br>43%   | 0.22<br>8.2%  |               | -0.01<br>0.0% | 0.43<br>17%   |
| 6H  | HvCO2-GBM1400           | 95.2-99.0   | 14  |      |      |      |              | 0.09<br>3.5%  |              | 0.09<br>1.2%  | 0.16<br>5.8%  | 0.45<br>6%    | 0.24<br>9.6%  |               | 0.04<br>1%    | 0.32<br>8.5%  |
| 7Hb | Vrn-H3-bPb-9907         | 7.2-7.9     | 9   |      |      |      |              | 0.00<br>0.0%  |              | -0.05<br>0.4% | -0.03<br>0.3% | 0.39<br>4.8%  | -0.10<br>1.8% |               | 0.01<br>0.1%  | 0.17<br>2.7%  |
| GV  |                         |             |     |      |      |      |              |               |              |               |               |               |               |               |               |               |

| Chr | Marker/interval     | Pos         | LOD | B06A          | B07A          | B07W          | B08A            | B09A           | B09W           | T06A          | T07A          | T07W           | T08A           | T08W            | T09A          | T09W           |
|-----|---------------------|-------------|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1Ha | GBM5162-HvFT3       | 102.3-108.6 | 15  | 0.07<br>0.5%  | -0.38<br>5%   | -0.39<br>6%   | 0.01<br>0.0%    | -0.32<br>7.3%  |                | -0.09<br>1.2% | -0.37<br>6.7% | -0.40<br>6.4%  | -0.06<br>0.2%  | -0.12<br>0.5%   | -0.29<br>4.2% | -0.15<br>1.3%  |
| 2Ha | bPb07831-bPb02827   | 2.9-3.7     | 8   | 0.03<br>0.1%  | 0.15<br>0.8%  | -0.01<br>0.0% | -0.02<br>0.0%   | -0.23<br>3.7%  |                | -0.03<br>0.2% | -0.15<br>1.1% | -0.23<br>2.1%  | -0.16<br>1.3%  | -0.10<br>0.3%   | -0.12<br>0.8% | -0.26<br>4.2%  |
| 2Hb | bPb00886-GBM1047    | 87.7-88.2   | 24  | 0.02<br>0.0%  | 0.36<br>4.5%  | 0.43<br>7.3%  | 0.15<br>1.7%    | 0.27<br>5.3%   |                | 0.03<br>0.1%  | 0.29<br>4%    | 0.45<br>8.3%   | 0.47<br>12%    | 0.51<br>8.3%    | 0.37<br>6.8%  | 0.36<br>7.9%   |
| 3H  | bPb04004-bPb08441   | 0-9.2       | 14  | -0.09<br>0.9% | 0.15<br>0.8%  | 0.19<br>1.4%  | 0.14<br>1.4%    | 0.24<br>4.2%   |                | 0.03<br>0.1%  | 0.29<br>4.1%  | 0.17<br>1.2%   | 0.49<br>12.7%  | 0.03<br>0.0%    | 0.25<br>3%    | 0.08<br>0.4%   |
| 3H  | bPb00104-bPb08504   | 151.6-155.4 | 13  | -0.06<br>0.4% | 0.21<br>1.5%  | 0.13<br>0.7%  | 0.28<br>5.5%    | 0.21<br>3.3%   |                | 0.12<br>2.1%  | 0.34<br>5.4%  | 0.06<br>0.1%   | 0.38<br>7.8%   | 0.32<br>3.2%    | 0.23<br>2.5%  | 0.13<br>1%     |
| 4H  | Bmag419A-Vrn-H2     | 153.5-160.7 | 29  | 0.04<br>0.2%  | -0.22<br>1.7% | 0.55<br>12.2% | 0.02<br>0.0%    | 0.02<br>0.0%   |                | 0.02<br>0.0%  | -0.19<br>1.7% | 0.60<br>15%    | -0.01<br>0.0%  | 0.71<br>16.3%   | 0.14<br>0.89% | 0.22<br>2.9%   |
| 5H  | Vrn-H1-bPb03910     | 140.9-142.3 | 71  | 0.00<br>0.0%  | 0.48<br>8%    | 0.78<br>22%   | 0.15<br>1.5%    | 0.22<br>3.3%   |                | 0.08<br>1%    | 0.16<br>1.2%  | 0.96<br>38%    | 0.25<br>3.3%   | 1.03<br>34%     | -0.01<br>0.0% | 0.25<br>4%     |
| 6H  | bPb07068-bPb00386   | 8.7-9.0     | 24  | 0.05<br>0.39% | -0.24<br>2.1% | -0.44<br>7.4% | -0.10<br>0.7%   | -0.36<br>9.2%  |                | 0.02<br>0.1%  | -0.02<br>0.0% | -0.57<br>13.2% | -0.22<br>2.8%  | -0.56<br>10%    | -0.09<br>0.4% | -0.36<br>8%    |
| 6H  | bPb01982-bPb02054   | 132.9-138.3 | 18  | -0.02<br>0.1% | 0.46<br>7.4%  | 0.23<br>2.1%  | 0.10<br>0.7%    | 0.20<br>3%     |                | 0.05<br>0.4%  | 0.45<br>10%   | 0.30<br>3.6%   | 0.19<br>1.9%   | 0.14<br>0.6%    | 0.24<br>2.8%  | 0.14<br>1.2%   |
| 7Hc | bPb00259-Bmag135    | 80.7-82.2   | 10  | -0.07<br>0.6% | 0.30<br>3.2%  | 0.17<br>1.1%  | 0.15<br>1.7%    | -0.02<br>0.0%  |                | -0.07<br>0.7% | 0.13<br>0.8%  | 0.07<br>0.2%   | 0.38<br>7.7%   | 0.13<br>0.6%    | 0.26<br>3.3%  | 0.03<br>0.0%   |
| GY  |                     |             |     |               |               |               |                 |                |                |               |               |                |                |                 |               |                |
| 2Ha | bPb04447-GBM1052    | 28.9-29.7   | 11  | 76<br>1.1%    | -58<br>3.1%   | -27<br>2.3%   | -226<br>6.8%    | -68<br>1.3%    | -72<br>3.5%    | 205<br>1.5%   | 94<br>2.6%    | -7<br>0.0%     | 4<br>0.0%      | -182<br>2.3%    | -104<br>1.3%  | -156<br>6.4%   |
| 2Hb | bPb08302-bPb03925   | 81.6-82.0   | 10  | -70<br>1%     | -3<br>0%      | -31<br>3.2%   | -26<br>0.1%     | -35<br>0.4%    | -48<br>1.5%    | 4<br>0%       | 12<br>0%      | -57<br>0.8%    | -428<br>9.8%   | -275<br>6.5%    | 121<br>1.9%   | -45<br>1%      |
| 3H  | bPb00285-HvGI       | 54.2-57.7   | 12  | 86<br>1.4%    | -22<br>0.4%   | 32<br>3.2%    | 254<br>8.6%     | -9<br>0.0%     | 64<br>2.7%     | -154<br>1.0%  | 60<br>1%      | 94<br>2.3%     | 172<br>1.6%    | 182<br>2.4%     | 151<br>2.8%   | 41<br>0.4%     |
| 3H  | bPb01609-bPb012026  | 151.6-155.4 | 13  | 7<br>0%       | 47<br>2.1%    | -36<br>4.4%   | 19<br>0%        | -108<br>3.2%   | -44<br>1.3%    | -25<br>0%     | -27<br>0.2%   | -181<br>8.4%   | -288<br>4.4%   | -278<br>6.6%    | -15<br>0%     | -15<br>0.1%    |
| 4H  | Bmag419A-Vrn-H2     | 153.5-160.7 | 37  | -51<br>0.5%   | -15<br>0.2%   | -83<br>22%    | 41<br>0.2%      | 41<br>0.48%    | -91<br>5.6%    | -191<br>1.3%  | -42<br>0.5%   | -280<br>21%    | -14<br>0.0%    | -507<br>19%     | 97<br>1.2%    | -131<br>4.5%   |
| 5H  | bPb04988-Vrn-H1     | 140.0-140.9 | 47  | -67<br>0.9%   | -33<br>1%     | -73<br>17%    | -57<br>0.4%     | -142<br>5.6%   | -86<br>5%      | -103<br>0.4%  | 19<br>0.1%    | -310<br>25%    | -271<br>3.9%   | -537<br>21%     | 67<br>0.6%    | -81<br>1.7%    |
| 6H  | bPb07143-Scssr09398 | 0.0-4.5     | 8   | -46<br>0.4%   | -34<br>1%     | 11<br>0.4%    | 122<br>2%       | 107<br>3.2%    | 73<br>3.6%     | -219<br>1.7%  | 14<br>0.1%    | 133<br>4.5%    | 87<br>0.41%    | 167<br>2.4%     | 78<br>0.8%    | 74<br>1.4%     |
| 7Hb | bPb09269-bPb08049   | 14.5-14.6   | 8   | -172<br>5.7%  | -47<br>2.1%   | -1<br>0.0%    | 151<br>3%       | -7<br>0.0%     | -33<br>0.7%    | 52<br>0.1%    | 145<br>6.1%   | 22<br>0.1%     | 77<br>0.3%     | 34<br>0.1%      | -64<br>0.5%   | 12<br>0.036%   |
| 7Hc | Bmag0011-BMS64      | 13.9-18.9   | 9   | 0<br>0%       | -65<br>4%     | -8<br>0.2%    | 5<br>0.0%       | 14<br>0.1%     | 15<br>0.2%     | -183<br>1.2%  | -141<br>5.8%  | 19<br>0.1%     | -259<br>3.6%   | -170<br>2.1%    | -56<br>0.4%   | 64<br>1.1%     |
| HI  |                     |             |     |               |               |               |                 |                |                |               |               |                |                |                 |               |                |
| 2Hb | bPb04837-Bmag829    | 11.4-13.2   | 7   |               |               |               | -0.004<br>0.1%  | 0.013<br>2.3%  | 0.010<br>0.5%  |               |               |                | 0.007<br>0.4%  | 0.035<br>2.1%   | 0.023<br>5.8% | 0.021<br>3.4%  |
| 3H  | bPb04371-bPb06785   | 35.1-35.4   | 8   |               |               |               | 0.034<br>3.9%   | 0.004<br>0.16% | 0.032<br>4.7%  |               |               |                | 0.009<br>0.6%  | 0.025<br>1.1%   | 0.007<br>0.6% | 0.021<br>3.3%  |
| 4H  | Bmag419A-Vrn-H2     | 153.5-160.7 | 9   |               |               |               | -0.006<br>0.1%  | 0.007<br>0.7%  | -0.017<br>1.3% |               |               |                | 0.004<br>0.2%  | -0.097<br>16.3% | 0.012<br>1.6% | -0.020<br>3.1% |
| 5H  | bPb04012-bPb05951   | 139.5-140.0 | 16  |               |               |               | -0.011<br>0.4%  | -0.017<br>3.8% | -0.031<br>4.6% |               |               |                | -0.019<br>3.1% | -0.088<br>13.7% | 0.000<br>0.0% | -0.027<br>5.8% |
| 6H  | bPb00432-Scssr103   | 121.8-128.5 | 7   |               |               |               | -0.014<br>0.65% | 0.010<br>1.3%  | 0.027<br>3.4%  |               |               |                | 0.003<br>0.1%  | 0.018<br>0.6%   | 0.021<br>4.8% | 0.019<br>2.8%  |

| Chr | Marker/interval      | Pos         | LOD | B06A | B07A          | B07W          | B08A          | B09A          | B09W           | T06A          | T07A           | T07W          | T08A            | T08W          | T09A          | T09W          |               |
|-----|----------------------|-------------|-----|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 7Hc | Bmag0011-BMS64       | 13.9-18.9   | 13  |      |               |               | 0.030<br>3.2% | 0.019<br>4.8% | 0.061<br>17.7% |               |                |               | -0.010<br>0.89% | 0.036<br>2.2% | 0.022<br>5.5% | 0.025<br>4.7% |               |
| KW  |                      |             |     |      |               |               |               |               |                |               |                |               |                 |               |               |               |               |
| 2Ha | bPb09404-bPb06755    | 36.52-38.2  | 8   |      | -1.1<br>4.3%  | 0.0<br>0.0%   | -1.1<br>3.7%  | -0.8<br>1.8%  | -0.4<br>0.5%   |               | -0.2<br>0.2%   | -0.7<br>1%    | -0.3<br>0.5%    |               | -1.0<br>2.2%  | -0.8<br>0.9%  |               |
| 2Hb | Ebmac415-bPb02329    | 82.6-82.8   | 37  |      | -0.9<br>2.5%  | -1.6<br>8.1%  | -0.8<br>1.7%  | -0.5<br>0.77% | -2.0<br>11.8%  |               | -0.8<br>3%     | -0.9<br>1.7%  | -1.9<br>16.8%   |               | 0.5<br>0.62%  | -2.9<br>12.7% |               |
| 3H  | Bmag0606-bPb04209    | 136.4-137.9 | 24  |      | 0.2<br>0.2%   | 1.1<br>3.4%   | 1.2<br>4.3%   | 0.9<br>2.6%   | 1.1<br>6.1%    |               | 1.3<br>3.3%    | 1.2<br>6.7%   | 1.9<br>8.3%     |               | 0.6<br>0.6%   | 1.2<br>4.5%   |               |
| 4H  | VRNH2-HVM67          | 160.7-164.0 | 18  |      | 0.1<br>0.0%   | -0.6<br>1%    | 0.2<br>0.1%   | 0.6<br>1%     | -1.1<br>3.5%   |               | 1.0<br>4.9%    | 0.8<br>1.2%   | -0.4<br>0.8%    |               | 1.2<br>3.3%   | -2.0<br>6%    |               |
| 5H  | GBM1399-Bmag812      | 90.8-108.0  | 18  |      | -1.2<br>5.1%  | -1.7<br>8.6%  | -1.5<br>6.4%  | -2.0<br>12.5% | -1.7<br>8.2%   |               | -1.5<br>10.8%  | -2.5<br>13%   | -1.2<br>7%      |               | -1.7<br>6.8%  | -1.6<br>3.9%  |               |
| 6H  | bPb06034-GMS6        | 70.1-71.8   | 23  |      | 1.0<br>3.4%   | -1.4<br>6%    | 0.2<br>0.12%  | 1.1<br>3.5%   | 0.8<br>2%      |               | 1.8<br>14.8%   | -0.5<br>0.6%  | 1.0<br>4.7%     |               | 1.1<br>2.6%   | 0.5<br>0.5%   |               |
| 7Hb | bPb028890-Vrn-H3     | 6.6-7.2     | 18  |      | -0.8<br>2%    | -0.2<br>0.2%  | -0.9<br>2.2%  | -0.7<br>1.6%  | -1.5<br>6.3%   |               | -0.6<br>1.5%   | 0.3<br>0.1%   | -0.3<br>0.4%    |               | -1.1<br>2.9%  | -1.6<br>3.9%  |               |
| 7Hc | bPb09912-bPb01596    | 24.8-24.9   | 20  |      | 1.4<br>6.9%   | 1.4<br>6.1%   | 1.0<br>2.8%   | 1.2<br>4.5%   | 1.3<br>5.3%    |               | 0.5<br>1.3%    | 0.3<br>0.2%   | 0.4<br>0.9%     |               | 1.3<br>4%     | 1.8<br>5.1%   |               |
| PH  |                      |             |     |      |               |               |               |               |                |               |                |               |                 |               |               |               |               |
| 1Ha | bPb09360-Bmag718     | 48.6-49.2   | 23  |      | -0.2<br>0.0%  | 1.2<br>2.5%   | 1.5<br>5.4%   | 1.6<br>3%     | 0.5<br>0.4%    | 1.4<br>3.2%   | -1.1<br>0.5%   | 3.8<br>11.4%  | 1.8<br>4.2%     | 1.6<br>4.1%   | 0.9<br>1.4%   | 2.5<br>4.5%   | 1.2<br>1.8%   |
| 2Ha | bPb06755- bPb05326   | 38.2-39.9   | 19  |      | -1.7<br>3.2%  | -1.6<br>4.3%  | -1.1<br>3.1%  | -1.9<br>4.2%  | 0.1<br>0.02%   | -1.6<br>3.7%  | -0.2<br>0.024% | -0.7<br>0.44% | -1.2<br>1.9%    | -1.2<br>2.5%  | -1.1<br>2.4%  | -2.3<br>3.8%  | -1.8<br>3.9%  |
| 2Hb | bPb02329-bPb02948    | 82.8        | 62  |      | 0.6<br>0.3%   | -3.4<br>19.8% | -1.5<br>5.7%  | -2.5<br>7.1%  | -2.3<br>7.2%   | -2.9<br>13%   | 1.1<br>0.6%    | -3.0<br>7.3%  | -2.6<br>9.2%    | -2.8<br>13.8% | -2.8<br>14.7% | -2.5<br>4.8%  | -3.2<br>12.6% |
| 3H  | Bmag209-bPb06554     | 75.1-77.4   | 12  |      | 0.6<br>0.4%   | 1.2<br>2.3%   | -0.3<br>0.3%  | 1.2<br>1.6%   | 0.2<br>0.1%    | 1.1<br>1.9%   | 1.7<br>1.4%    | 3.1<br>7.7%   | 1.1<br>1.7%     | 0.1<br>0.0%   | -0.3<br>0.2%  | 2.2<br>3.6%   | 1.5<br>2.7%   |
| 3H  | bPb01390- bPb07684   | 187.4-187.8 | 19  |      | -1.1<br>1.4%  | -1.3<br>2.8%  | -1.2<br>3.1%  | -1.3<br>2.1%  | -2.5<br>8.9%   | -1.0<br>1.5%  | -0.2<br>0.0%   | -2.7<br>5.6%  | -2.1<br>6.5%    | -1.5<br>3.8%  | -2.1<br>8.8%  | -1.4<br>1.6%  | -1.6<br>3%    |
| 4H  | bPb04699- GBM1143    | 2.9-6.5     | 29  |      | 0.7<br>0.6%   | 1.9<br>5.8%   | 1.3<br>3.8%   | 2.0<br>4.8%   | 1.7<br>4.1%    | 2.0<br>6.1%   | 3.2<br>5.1%    | 2.9<br>6.4%   | 1.9<br>5.4%     | 3.0<br>15%    | 2.1<br>8.5%   | 2.5<br>4.7%   | 2.6<br>7.9%   |
| 4H  | <i>Vrn-H2</i> -HvM67 | 160.7-164.0 | 24  |      | -0.7<br>0.6%  | -0.7<br>0.9%  | -0.4<br>0.3%  | -2.0<br>4.4%  | -2.3<br>7.4%   | -2.8<br>11.6% | 0.4<br>0.1%    | -1.6<br>2.1%  | -2.4<br>7.8%    | -1.6<br>4.3%  | -1.4<br>3.5%  | -1.6<br>1.9%  | -1.9<br>4.4%  |
| 5H  | bPb06579-bPb05271    | 132.7-133.6 | 15  |      | 0.1<br>0.0%   | -1.9<br>6.1%  | -0.1<br>0.1%  | -1.5<br>2.7%  | -1.8<br>4.7%   | -1.4<br>2.8%  | -0.1<br>0.0%   | -1.0<br>0.9%  | -2.3<br>6.9%    | -1.0<br>1.6%  | -1.8<br>5.9%  | -0.7<br>0.4%  | -1.9<br>4.5%  |
| 6H  | bPb04190-bPb05515    | 139.1-140.8 | 26  |      | -0.2<br>0.0%  | -2.6<br>11%   | -1.0<br>2.5%  | -2.4<br>7%    | -2.5<br>8.9%   | -2.1<br>6.8%  | -0.1<br>0.0%   | -2.3<br>4.1%  | -1.3<br>2.3%    | -2.1<br>7.1%  | -1.7<br>5.8%  | -2.7<br>5.6%  | -1.8<br>3.9%  |
| 7Hb | Vrn-H3-bPb09907      | 7.2-8.0     | 29  |      | -1.8<br>3.8%  | -1.7<br>4.6%  | -0.9<br>1.7%  | -1.6<br>3.2%  | -1.3<br>2.3%   | -1.8<br>5.2%  | -3.1<br>4.6%   | -3.1<br>7.7%  | -2.6<br>9.6%    | -3.0<br>14.4% | -1.6<br>4.9%  | -2.4<br>4.3%  | -2.4<br>7.1%  |
| 7Hc | bPb00235-Bmac0755    | 55.4-59.2   | 25  |      | 0.1<br>0.0%   | -1.6<br>4.4%  | -1.2<br>3.3%  | -2.1<br>5.2%  | -2.1<br>6.7%   | -1.6<br>3.8%  | -0.5<br>0.1%   | -3.5<br>9.8%  | -2.2<br>7.3%    | -2.5<br>10.4% | -1.9<br>7.2%  | -2.1<br>3.3%  | -2.1<br>5.3%  |
| PED |                      |             |     |      |               |               |               |               |                |               |                |               |                 |               |               |               |               |
| 1Ha | bPb09360-Bmag718     | 48.6-49.2   | 17  |      | 0.21<br>0.1%  | 1.11<br>5.9%  | 0.28<br>0.7%  | 0.99<br>2.5%  | 0.30<br>0.4%   | 0.29<br>0.3%  | -0.75<br>0.7%  | 2.08<br>11.4% |                 | 0.40<br>1.0%  | 1.18<br>7.8%  | 1.38<br>4.6%  | 0.73<br>1.7%  |
| 2Ha | bPb09404-bPb06755    | 36.6-38.2   | 11  |      | -1.22<br>3.5% | -1.08<br>5.5% | -0.32<br>0.9% | -1.23<br>4%   | 0.23<br>0.2%   | -0.69<br>1.9% | -0.22<br>0.1%  | -0.18<br>0.1% | -0.36<br>0.8%   | -0.58<br>1.9% | -0.87<br>1.8% | -1.10<br>3.8% |               |
| 2Hb | bPb03925-Ebmac415    | 82.1-82.6   | 16  |      | -0.65<br>1.0% | -1.38<br>9.1% | -0.33<br>1%   | -0.41<br>0.4% | -0.29<br>0.4%  | -1.19<br>5.6% | -0.46<br>0.3%  | -0.68<br>1.2% |                 | -0.91<br>4.9% | -0.79<br>3.4% | -0.92<br>2%   | -1.35<br>5.7% |

| Chr   | Marker/interval          | Pos         | LOD | B06A           | B07A            | B07W           | B08A          | B09A           | B09W           | T06A          | T07A           | T07W          | T08A          | T08W          | T09A          | T09W           |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------|-----|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 3H    | Bmac0209-bPb06554        | 75.1-77.4   | 11  | 0.29<br>0.19%  | 1.12<br>6%      | 0.38<br>1.3%   | 0.94<br>2.3%  | 0.56<br>1.4%   | 0.81<br>2.6%   | 0.76<br>0.77% | 1.67<br>7.4%   |               | 0.35<br>0.71% | 0.16<br>0.14% | 0.39<br>0.37% | 1.00<br>3.2%   |
| 4H    | Bmag419A- <i>Vrn-H2</i>  | 153.5-160.7 | 18  | -0.12<br>0.03% | -0.53<br>1.3%   | 0.26<br>0.6%   | -1.00<br>2.6% | -1.09<br>5.2%  | -2.05<br>16.6% | -1.13<br>1.7% | -1.24<br>4.1%  |               | -0.82<br>4%   | 0.26<br>0.4%  | 0.41<br>0.4%  | -1.82<br>10.5% |
| 5H    | Bmag5-Bmag105b           | 55.8-56.3   | 9   | -0.16<br>0.1%  | -0.39<br>0.7%   | -0.18<br>0.3%  | -0.31<br>0.2% | -0.71<br>2.2%  | -0.13<br>0.1%  | 0.35<br>0.2%  | -1.77<br>8.2%  |               | 0.05<br>0.0%  | -0.42<br>1.0% | -0.67<br>1.1% | -0.78<br>1.9%  |
| 5H    | <i>Vrn-H1</i> -bPb03910  | 140.9-142.3 | 8   | -0.11<br>0.0%  | -0.72<br>2.5%   | -0.08<br>0.1%  | -0.31<br>0.3% | -0.36<br>0.6%  | -0.54<br>1.2%  | -1.08<br>1.6% | 0.18<br>0.1%   |               | -0.64<br>2.4% | -0.48<br>1.3% | -0.59<br>0.9% | -1.82<br>11%   |
| 7Hc   | bPb02620-bPb09865        | 79.0-79.3   | 7   | 0.28<br>0.2%   | -0.42<br>0.9%   | 0.78<br>5.4%   | -0.27<br>0.2% | -0.55<br>1.3%  | -0.81<br>2.6%  | 0.79<br>0.8%  | -0.57<br>0.8%  |               | 0.14<br>0.1%  | 0.42<br>1.0%  | 0.65<br>1%    | -0.16<br>0.1%  |
| PEDEX |                          |             |     |                |                 |                |               |                |                |               |                |               |               |               |               |                |
| 1Ha   | bPb09256-bPb01604        | 40.2        | 21  | -0.09<br>0.0%  | 0.87<br>5.9%    | 0.11<br>0.1%   | 1.13<br>6.5%  | 0.21<br>0.24%  | 1.09<br>7.3%   | -1.35<br>2.7% | 1.31<br>8.9%   |               | 0.79<br>5.2%  | 0.56<br>1.5%  | 1.14<br>2%    | 1.06<br>5.1%   |
| 1Ha   | Bmag105a-bPb04041        | 61.0-64.6   | 14  | 0.88<br>1.9%   | 1.15<br>10.3%   | 1.02<br>6.4%   | 1.53<br>11.8% | 0.36<br>0.7%   | 0.43<br>1.2%   | -0.65<br>0.6% | 0.83<br>3.7%   |               | 0.73<br>4.5%  | 0.82<br>3.1%  | 1.40<br>3.1%  | 0.29<br>0.4%   |
| 2Ha   | bPb09404-bPb06755        | 36.6-38.2   | 10  | -1.16<br>3.3%  | -0.41<br>1.3%   | -0.28<br>0.5%  | -0.79<br>3.2% | -0.16<br>0.14% | -0.78<br>3.8%  | -0.12<br>0.0% | -0.25<br>0.31% |               | -0.39<br>1.3% | 0.07<br>0.0%  | -1.80<br>5.1% | -0.35<br>0.54% |
| 2Hb   | bPb08033-bPb023426       | 79.9-80.1   | 7   | 0.59<br>0.9%   | 0.33<br>0.8%    | 0.83<br>4.3%   | 0.72<br>2.6%  | 0.51<br>1.5%   | -0.10<br>0.1%  | 1.41<br>2.9%  | 0.16<br>0.1%   |               | 0.75<br>4.7%  | 0.07<br>0.0%  | -0.16<br>0.0% | -0.21<br>0.2%  |
| 3H    | bPb02119-bPb05145        | 64.7-69.6   | 17  | -0.26<br>0.2%  | 0.72<br>4%      | -0.21<br>0.3%  | 0.69<br>2.5%  | 0.54<br>1.6%   | 0.37<br>0.9%   | 1.46<br>3.1%  | 1.11<br>6.4%   |               | 0.90<br>6.8%  | 0.19<br>0.2%  | 1.08<br>1.8%  | 1.31<br>7.9%   |
| 4H    | bPb03847-Bmag419B        | 143.4-149.9 | 9   | 0.32<br>0.3%   | 0.46<br>1.7%    | 1.29<br>10.2%  | 0.59<br>1.7%  | 0.75<br>3.1%   | -0.30<br>0.6%  | -0.58<br>0.5% | -0.12<br>0.1%  |               | 0.37<br>1.2%  | 1.16<br>6.2%  | 0.17<br>0.1%  | -0.75<br>2.8%  |
| 5H    | <i>Vrn-H1</i> -bPb03910  | 140.9-142.3 | 13  | -0.16<br>0.1%  | 0.11<br>0.1%    | 1.19<br>8.5%   | -0.14<br>0.1% | -0.25<br>0.3%  | -0.39<br>1.0%  | -0.24<br>0.1% | 0.30<br>0.5%   |               | -0.01<br>0.0% | 0.17<br>0.1%  | 0.45<br>0.3%  | -1.77<br>14.2% |
| 7Hb   | <i>Vrn-H3</i> -bPb09907  | 7.2-8.0     | 14  | 0.56<br>0.8%   | 1.09<br>9.2%    | 0.99<br>6.1%   | 1.27<br>8.2%  | 0.92<br>4.7%   | -0.19<br>0.2%  | -0.43<br>0.3% | 0.27<br>0.4%   |               | 0.85<br>5.9%  | 0.37<br>0.6%  | 0.29<br>0.1%  | -0.11<br>0.1%  |
| 7Hc   | BMS64-bPb01847           | 18.9-24.7   | 10  | -0.08<br>0.0%  | 0.68<br>3.6%    | -0.46<br>1.2%  | 0.23<br>0.3%  | 0.35<br>0.7%   | 0.88<br>4.7%   | 0.49<br>0.4%  | 0.76<br>3%     |               | -0.06<br>0.0% | -0.18<br>0.1% | 1.25<br>2.5%  | 1.02<br>4.7%   |
| SL    |                          |             |     |                |                 |                |               |                |                |               |                |               |               |               |               |                |
| 2Hb   | Bmag749-bPb05642         | 107.7-109.5 | 10  | 0.06<br>0.1%   | 0.15<br>0.7%    | 0.09<br>0.1%   | -0.47<br>3.8% | -0.10<br>0.5%  | -0.30<br>3.2%  | 0.01<br>0.0%  | -0.35<br>3%    | -0.36<br>2.6% | -0.22<br>1.5% | -0.56<br>6.6% | -0.30<br>2.9% | -0.05<br>0.1%  |
| 4H    | Bmag419A- <i>Vrn-H2</i>  | 153.5-160.7 | 23  | 0.14<br>0.8%   | 0.03<br>0.0%    | -1.64<br>23%   | -0.30<br>1.6% | 0.27<br>3.4%   | -0.29<br>3.1%  | 0.00<br>0.0%  | 0.29<br>2%     | -0.56<br>6.4% | -0.06<br>0.1% | -0.78<br>13%  | 0.40<br>5%    | -0.06<br>0.2%  |
| 5H    | bPb04012- <i>Vrn-H1</i>  | 140.0-140.9 | 15  | 0.18<br>1.3%   | -0.01<br>0.003% | -1.30<br>14.3% | 0.08<br>0.11% | 0.15<br>1%     | -0.23<br>1.9%  | 0.03<br>0.02% | 0.18<br>0.76%  | -0.51<br>5.4% | 0.12<br>0.43% | -0.33<br>2.4% | 0.26<br>2.1%  | 0.07<br>0.24%  |
| 7Ha   | bPb00186- bPb09079       | 6.4-6.9     | 12  | -0.06<br>0.2%  | 0.39<br>4.7%    | -0.03<br>0.0%  | 0.44<br>3.3%  | 0.28<br>3.5%   | 0.34<br>4.1%   | 0.22<br>1%    | 0.53<br>6.9%   | 0.27<br>1.4%  | 0.18<br>1%    | 0.28<br>1.7%  | 0.23<br>1.7%  | 0.21<br>2.3%   |
| 7Hb   | bPb028890- <i>Vrn-H3</i> | 6.6-7.2     | 9   | -0.05<br>0.1%  | -0.47<br>7.2%   | -0.36<br>1.1%  | -0.11<br>0.2% | -0.32<br>4.5%  | -0.13<br>0.6%  | -0.02<br>0.0% | -0.21<br>1.1%  | -0.02<br>0.0% | -0.34<br>3.7% | -0.26<br>1.5% | 0.01<br>0.0%  | -0.07<br>0.3%  |

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10 Chromosome, significant marker interval, chromosomal positions and LOD values are given. Additive effects (Arta-Keel) and percentage of explained  
11 phenotypic variance (PEV) are listed for each environment separately. Environments in which the seeds were sown in winter are shaded grey.  
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14 Table 6: Interaction effects of allelic variation at the vernalisation genes *Vrn-H2* and *Vrn-H1* for days to heading in the different environments.

| Trait | <i>Vrn-H2</i> | <i>Vrn-H1</i> | LOD | B06A  | B07A  | B07W  | B08A  | B09A   | B09W  | T06A  | T07A  | T07W | T08A   | T08W   | T09A   | T09W  |
|-------|---------------|---------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| BY    | Arta          | Arta          |     |       |       |       | 3352a | 2518a  | 1848a |       |       |      | 7727a  | 1775a  | 5201a  | 4095a |
|       | Arta          | Keel          |     |       |       |       | 3489a | 2721b  | 1758a |       |       |      | 7847a  | 3446b  | 5631b  | 3975a |
|       | Keel          | Arta          |     |       |       |       | 3390a | 2618ab | 1853a |       |       |      | 7706a  | 2923bc | 5421b  | 4142a |
|       | Keel          | Keel          |     |       |       |       | 3440a | 2831b  | 1925a |       |       |      | 7841a  | 3586d  | 5083a  | 4226a |
| DH    | Arta          | Arta          | 116 |       |       |       |       |        |       | 84a   | 101a  | 63a  | 108a   | 46a    | 103a   | 61a   |
|       | Arta          | Keel          |     |       |       |       |       |        |       | 84a   | 100a  | 51b  | 107bc  | 43b    | 102b   | 58b   |
|       | Keel          | Arta          |     |       |       |       |       |        |       | 84a   | 100a  | 50b  | 107b   | 43b    | 102b   | 58b   |
|       | Keel          | Keel          |     |       |       |       |       |        |       | 84a   | 100a  | 49b  | 106c   | 43b    | 102b   | 58b   |
| GV    | Arta          | Arta          |     | 2.5a  | 2.5ab | 3.1a  | 2.1a  | 2.4a   |       | 2.2a  | 2.0a  | 3.2a | 2.2ab  | 2.8a   | 2.6a   | 3.5a  |
|       | Arta          | Keel          |     | 2.4a  | 2.6ab | 2.0b  | 2.2a  | 2.1ab  |       | 2.2a  | 2.0a  | 2.1b | 2.3ab  | 1.5b   | 2.4a   | 3.0b  |
|       | Keel          | Arta          |     | 2.5a  | 3.1a  | 2.3b  | 2.3a  | 2.3ab  |       | 2.3a  | 2.1a  | 2.5c | 2.4a   | 2.0bc  | 2.3a   | 3.0b  |
|       | Keel          | Keel          |     | 2.5a  | 1.4b  | 2.0b  | 2.1a  | 2.1b   |       | 2.2a  | 2.0a  | 1.7d | 2.1b   | 1.3d   | 2.5a   | 3.0b  |
| GY    | Arta          | Arta          |     | 2776a | 1015a | 19a   | 1530a | 1276a  | 543a  | 4846a | 2266a | 321a | 4070ab | 410a   | 2468a  | 1372a |
|       | Arta          | Keel          |     | 2803a | 1050a | 132b  | 1643a | 1401b  | 675b  | 4886a | 2247a | 859b | 4275ab | 1176b  | 2552ab | 1533b |
|       | Keel          | Arta          |     | 2805a | 1014a | 131bc | 1500a | 1240a  | 669b  | 4907a | 2292a | 805b | 4014a  | 976c   | 2498ab | 1553b |
|       | Keel          | Keel          |     | 2903a | 1057a | 156c  | 1549a | 1415b  | 716b  | 5026a | 2231a | 863b | 4323b  | 1334bc | 2353b  | 1574b |
| PED   | Arta          | Arta          |     | 19a   | 9a    | 6a    | 8a    | 10a    | 8a    | 26a   | 11a   |      | 8a     | 7a     | 15a    | 11a   |
|       | Arta          | Keel          |     | 19a   | 10b   | 6a    | 9b    | 10a    | 8a    | 26a   | 11a   |      | 9b     | 8b     | 16a    | 13b   |
|       | Keel          | Arta          |     | 19a   | 10b   | 6a    | 9b    | 11a    | 9b    | 26a   | 12a   |      | 9b     | 8b     | 15a    | 13b   |
|       | Keel          | Keel          |     | 19a   | 10b   | 6a    | 9b    | 11a    | 9b    | 27b   | 12a   |      | 9b     | 8b     | 16a    | 13b   |
| PEDEX | Arta          | Arta          |     | -1.4  | -8.4a | -6.6a | -9.5a | -7.9a  | -9.8a | 6.4a  | -6.0a |      | -9a    | -9a    | -5a    | -8a   |
|       | Arta          | Keel          |     | -0.8  | -8.5a | -8.6b | -9.6a | -8.0a  | -9.1a | 6.4a  | -6.5a |      | -9a    | -9a    | -5a    | -6b   |
|       | Keel          | Keel          |     | -1.6  | -8.7a | -8.4b | -9.6a | -8.2a  | -9.3a | 7.1a  | -6.5a |      | -9a    | -10a   | -6a    | -6b   |
|       | Keel          | Arta          |     | -2.1  | -8.3a | -8.4b | -9.7a | -8.4a  | -9.2a | 6.5a  | -6.0a |      | -9a    | -9a    | -6a    | -7b   |
| SL    | Arta          | Arta          |     | 6.7a  | 6.7a  | 1.9a  | 6.3a  | 7.6a   | 6.3a  | 7.2a  | 7.4a  | 5.4a | 7.1a   | 5.8a   | 7.9a   | 6.3a  |
|       | Arta          | Keel          |     | 6.7a  | 6.7a  | 4.5b  | 6.3a  | 7.6a   | 6.3a  | 7.0a  | 7.4a  | 6.0b | 7.2a   | 6.0ab  | 7.8a   | 6.2a  |
|       | Keel          | Arta          |     | 6.7a  | 6.7a  | 4.7b  | 6.7a  | 7.5a   | 6.7a  | 7.1a  | 7.3a  | 6.0b | 7.3a   | 6.3bc  | 7.8a   | 6.4a  |
|       | Keel          | Keel          |     | 6.5a  | 6.9a  | 4.4b  | 6.4a  | 7.4a   | 6.4a  | 7.1a  | 7.0a  | 6.3b | 7.1a   | 6.5c   | 7.4b   | 6.3a  |

15 Arta = Allele from Arta, Keel = Allele from Keel, T = Tel Hadya, B = Breda, A = autumn sowing, W = winter sowing

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