1 2 3 4	Association mapping and haplotype analysis of the pre- harvest sprouting resistance locus <i>Phs-A1</i> reveals a causal role of <i>TaMKK3-A</i> in global germplasm
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#### 42 Abstract

Pre-harvest sprouting (PHS) is an important cause of quality loss in many cereal crops 43 44 and is particularly prevalent and damaging in wheat. Resistance to PHS is therefore a valuable target trait in many breeding programmes. The Phs-A1 locus on wheat 45 46 chromosome arm 4AL has been consistently shown to account for a significant 47 proportion of natural variation to PHS in diverse mapping populations. However the deployment of sprouting resistance is confounded by the fact that different candidate 48 genes, including the tandem duplicated Plasma Membrane 19 (PM19) genes and the 49 50 mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 3 (TaMKK3-A) gene, have been proposed to underlie *Phs-A1*. To further define the *Phs-A1* locus, we constructed a physical map 51 across this interval in hexaploid and tetraploid wheat. We established close proximity 52 of the proposed candidate genes which are located within a 1.2 Mb interval. An 53 association analysis of diverse germplasm used in previous genetic mapping studies 54 suggests that TaMKK3-A, and not PM19, is the major gene underlying the Phs-A1 55 effect in European, North American, Australian and Asian germplasm. We identified 56 the non-dormant TaMKK3-A allele at low frequencies within the A-genome diploid 57 progenitor Triticum urartu genepool, and show an increase in the allele frequency in 58 59 modern varieties. In UK varieties, the frequency of the dormant TaMKK3-A allele was significantly higher in bread-making quality varieties compared to feed and biscuit-60 making cultivars. Analysis of exome capture data from 58 diverse hexaploid wheat 61 accessions identified fourteen haplotypes across the extended *Phs-A1* locus and four 62 63 haplotypes for TaMKK3-A. Analysis of these haplotypes in a collection of UK and Australian cultivars revealed distinct major dormant and non-dormant Phs-A1 64 haplotypes in each country, which were either rare or absent in the opposing 65 germplasm set. The diagnostic markers and haplotype information reported in the 66 study will help inform the choice of germplasm and breeding strategies for the 67 deployment of *Phs-A1* resistance into breeding germplasm. 68

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Keywords: Dormancy, seed, *PM19*, *TaMKK3-A*, pre-harvest sprouting, *Triticum aestivum*, haplotype

#### 72 Introduction

Pre-harvest sprouting (PHS) refers to the too-early germination of physiologically 73 74 matured grains while still on the ear, but before harvest. PHS is primarily caused by 75 insufficient levels, or rapid loss, of seed dormancy and is an important cause of quality loss in many cereal crops (Li et al., 2004; Fang and Chu, 2008). This is particularly 76 relevant in wheat due to its detrimental effects on bread-making potential which 77 78 represents the most common use of wheat grains globally (Simsek et al., 2014). PHS is believed to be a modern phenomenon, as progenitor and wild wheat species 79 generally display high levels of seed dormancy (Gatford et al., 2002; Lan et al., 2005). 80 Selection for reduced seed dormancy during domestication and modern breeding 81 82 programmes allowed for more uniform seed germination and rapid crop establisment (Nave et al., 2016). However, this also resulted in higher level of susceptiblity to PHS 83 84 in modern wheat varieties (Barrero et al., 2010). In addition to its detrimental effect on quality, PHS also reduces yield and affects seed viability, making resistance to PHS 85 a high priority in many breeding programmes. 86

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88 Occurrence of PHS is heavily influenced by the environment. PHS is prevalent in 89 wheat growing regions with high levels of rainfall during the period of grain

maturation and after-ripening. Increased ambient temperature during this period can 90 further increase the susceptibility of grains to sprouting (Barnard and Smith, 2009; 91 Mares and Mrva, 2014). This environmental dependency of PHS constitutes a 92 constraint in selecting for PHS resistance in field conditions. In addition, resistance to 93 PHS is highly quantitative and is controlled by numerous quantitative trait loci (QTL) 94 located on all 21 chromosomes of bread wheat (Flintham et al., 2002; Kulwal et al., 95 96 2005; Mori et al., 2005; Kottearachchi et al., 2006; Ogbonnava et al., 2007; Liu et al., 97 2008; Torada et al., 2008; Xiao-bo et al., 2008; Mohan et al., 2009; Munkvold et al., 2009; Knox et al., 2012; Kulwal et al., 2012; Gao et al., 2013; Lohwasser et al., 2013; 98 99 Mares and Mrva, 2014; Kumar et al., 2015). This makes resistance to PHS one of the most multi-genic traits in wheat and further highlights the complexity in breeding for 100 this trait. 101

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Despite the multi-genic control of PHS resistance, a locus on chromosome arm 4AL, 103 designated as *Phs-A1*, has been consistently shown to account for a significant 104 proportion of natural variation to sprouting in diverse mapping populations. The Phs-105 106 A1 effect has been identified in at least eleven bi-parental and multi-parent mapping populations derived from diverse germplasm from Australia, UK, Japan, China, 107 Mexico, Canada and Europe (Torada et al., 2005; Ogbonnaya et al., 2007; Chen et al., 108 109 2008; Torada et al., 2008; Cabral et al., 2014; Albrecht et al., 2015; Barrero et al., 2015). Physiological evaluation of *Phs-A1* shows that it delays the rate of dormancy 110 loss during seed after-ripening when plants are grown across a wide range of 111 112 temperatures (13 °C – 22 °C; Shorinola et al., 2016).

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Recently, two independent studies by Barrero et al. (2015) and Torada et al. (2016) 114 115 identified the tandem duplicated *Plasma Membrane 19* (*PM19-A1* and *PM19-A2*) genes and a mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 3 (TaMKK3-A) gene, 116 respectively, as candidates for Phs-A1. The PM19 genes were identified through a 117 118 combined genetic approach using multi-parent mapping populations and transcriptomic analysis of near-isogenic recombinant inbred lines. The TaMKK3-A 119 gene was identified through a more traditional positional cloning strategy using bi-120 parental mapping populations. Each study confirmed the effect of the gene(s) on 121 dormancy through either down-regulation of transcript levels through RNA 122 interference (PM19) or transgenic complementation of the susceptible parent with the 123 resistant allele (TaMKK3-A). 124

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126 It is presently unclear whether the sprouting variation associated with *Phs-A1* across 127 diverse germplasm is due to allelic variation at *PM19* or *TaMKK3-A* alone, or if it's 128 due to a combination of both genes (Torada et al 2016). Fine-mapping studies 129 (Shorinola et al., 2016) defined *Phs-A1* to a genetic interval distal to *PM19* for UK 130 germplasm, consistent with the position of *TaMKK3-A*. However, a comprehensive 131 understanding of *Phs-A1* diversity taking into account both *PM19* and *TaMKK3-A* 132 genes across a wider set of germplasm is lacking.

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In this study, we characterised the *Phs-A1* physical interval in both hexaploid and tetraploid emmer wheat to establish the physical proximity of *PM19* and *TaMKK3-A*. We developed markers for the candidate genes, and showed *TaMKK3-A* alleles to be diagnostic for sprouting resistance in a panel of parental lines from mapping populations in which *Phs-A1* was identified. We used diploid, tetraploid and hexaploid accessions to further trace the origin of the sprouting susceptible *TaMKK3-A* allele

and used exome capture data from the wheat HapMap panel (Jordan et al., 2015) toexamine the haplotype variation across the *Phs-A1* locus.

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## 143 Materials and Methods

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#### 145 Physical Map Sequence Assembly and Annotation

A fingerprinted Bacterial Artificial Chromosome (BAC) library of flow-sorted 4A 146 147 chromosome was used for constructing the Chinese Spring Phs-A1 physical map 148 (accessible at https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/gb2/gbrowse/wheat phys 4AL v2/). Using the high-throughput BAC screening approach described by Cvikova et al. 149 (2015), a sequence database made from three-dimensional pool of BAC clones 150 comprising the Minimum Tilling Path (MTP) was searched for the sequences of 151 PM19-A1 and TaMKK3-A. This identified two positive clones for PM19-A1 152 153 (TaaCsp4AL037H11 and TaaCsp4AL172K12) and three positive clones for TaMKK3-A (TaaCsp4AL032F12, TaaCsp4AL012P14 and TaaCsp4AL002F16; Table 154 S1). Using Linear Topology Contig (LTC; Frenkel et al., 2010) BAC clustering 155 information for this library, we identified the BAC clusters (defined as a network of 156 overlapping BACs forming a contiguous sequence) to which these BACs belong. The 157 PM19-A1-containing BACs belong to BAC Cluster 16421 which has 20 BACs in its 158 MTP while the TaMKK3-A-containing BACs belong to BAC Cluster 285 comprised 159 of four MTP BACs (Table S1). 160

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162 DNA of the BACs was extracted using the Qiagen Plasmid Midi Kit (Qiagen, Cat. No. 12143). Eleven of the 20 MTP BACs of Cluster 16421 and the four BACs of Cluster 163 285 MTP were sequenced on the Illumina MiSeq with 250 bp paired-end reads. An 164 average of 2,105,488 and 2,752,220 paired-end reads per BAC were produced for 165 166 Cluster 16421 and 285 BACs, respectively. Illumina reads for each BAC were separately assembled using the CLC Bio genomic software (www.clcbio.com). Before 167 assembly, reads were filtered to remove contaminant sequences by mapping to the 168 169 BAC vector (pIndigoBAC-5) sequence and the Escherichia coli genome. De novo assembly of reads after contaminant removal was done with the following assembly 170 parameters: Word size: 64 bp; Bubble size: 250 bp; Mismatch cost: 2; Insertion cost: 171 3; Deletion cost 3; Length fraction: 90%; Similarity fraction: 95%. 172

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The assembled contigs were repeat-masked by BLASTn analysis against the Triticeae 174 175 Repeat Element Database (TREP: wheat.pw.usda.gov/ITMI/Repeats; Wicker et al., 2000). Gene annotation was performed using the wheat gene models described by 176 Krasileva et al. (2013)and by BLASTX analysis to NBCI 177 nr 178 (blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast). Gene models were also obtained by *ab-initio* gene 179 prediction with FGENESH (Solovyev et al., 2006). Only FGENESH gene models with protein sequence support from NCBI or Ensembl Plant protein databases 180 (plants.ensembl.org) were used. Gene models with greater than 90% protein or 181 nucleotide sequence identity and more than 75% sequence coverage to already 182 annotated genes on NCBI or *Ensembl* databases were considered as high confidence 183 genes. Gene models that did not meet these criteria were considered as low confidence 184 185 genes, and were not analysed further.

#### 187 TaMKK3-A genotyping

188 A Kompetitive Allelic Specific PCR (KASP; Smith and Maughan, 2015) assay was 189 developed for genotyping the C to A (C>A) causal *TaMKK3-A* mutation reported by

Torada et al. (2016). For this, two allele-specific reverse primers (TaMKK3-A-snp1-190 TTTTTGCTTCGCCCTTAAGG TaMKK3-A-snpA1-sus: 191 and res: TTTTTGCTTCGCCCTTAAGT) each containing the allele-specific SNP at the 3' 192 end, were used in combination with a common A-genome specific forward primer 193 (GCATAGAGATCTAAAGCCAGCA). To distinguish the amplification signal 194 produced from each allele specific primer, FAM and HEX fluorescence dye probes 195 196 (Ramirez-Gonzalez et al., 2015) were added to the 5' end of TaMKK3-A-snpA1-res and *TaMKK3-A-snpA1-sus*, respectively. KASP assays were performed as previously 197 described (Shorinola et al., 2016). 198

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In addition to the KASP assay, a genome-specific Cleavage Amplified Polymorphism 200 Sequence (CAPS) assay (Konieczny and Ausubel, 1993), designated as TaMKK3-A-201 202 caps, was developed. This CAPS marker is associated with the presence/absence of an *Hpy*166II restriction site which co-localises with the C>A causal polymorphism in 203 the fourth exon of TaMKK3-A. Genome-specific primer pairs (Forward: 204 CACCAAAGAATAGAAATGCTCTCT 205 and Reverse: AGGAGTAGTTCTCATTGCGG) were designed to amplify an 887-bp sequence 206 including the fourth exon. PCR was performed with Phusion High Fidelity polymerase 207 (NEB, UK; Cat No: M0530S) in a 50 µL volume containing 20 % buffer, 0.2 mM of 208 209 dNTP, 5 µM each of TaMKK3-A-cap forward and reverse primers, 3 % of DMSO, 200 - 400 ng of genomic DNA and 0.5 unit of Phusion polymerase (NEB, UK; Cat 210 No: M0530S). Thermal cycling was done with Eppendorf Mastercycler® Pro Thermal 211 212 Cyclers with the following programme: initial denaturation at 98 °C for 2 mins; 35 cycles of denaturation at 98 °C for 30 s; Annealing at 62 °C for 30 s and extension at 213 72 °C for 60 s; final extension at 72 °C for 10 mins. Following PCR amplification, a 214 215 25 µL restriction digest reaction containing 21.5 µL of the final PCR reaction, 2.5 µL of CutSmart® Buffer (NEB, UK; Cat No: B7204S) and 10 units of Hpy166II was 216 incubated at 37 °C for 1 hr. Digest products were separated on a 1.5 % agarose gel. 217

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## 219 PM19-A1 genotyping

Detection of an 18 bp deletion on the promoter region of PM19-A1 was carried out 220 using primers TaPM19-A1-5F (GAAACAGCTACCGTGTAAAGC) and TaPM19-221 222 A1-5R (TGGTGAAGTGGAGTGTAGTGG) reported by Barrero et al. (2015). PCR reaction mixture contained template DNA, 2.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.5 mM dNTP, 1.5 µM of 223 each primer, and 1 unit of *Taq* polymerase (NEB). The reaction mixture was made up 224 225 to a total volume of 10 µl. The PCR conditions were as follows: 3 min at 94°C, followed by 30 cycles of 40 s at 94°C, 40 s at 60°C, and 1 min at 72°C. The last step 226 was incubation for 7 min at 72°C. The PCR products were resolved on a 4% agarose 227 gel and visualized with SYBR green I (Cambrex Bio Science, Rockland, ME.). 228

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## 230 Germplasm for Association Mapping

We genotyped PM19 and TaMKK3-A across 23 wheat varieties previously reported to 231 232 segregate for Phs-A1, including UK (Alchemy, Robigus, Option, Claire, Boxer, 233 Soleil), Australian (Yitpi, Baxter, Chara, Westonia, Cranbrook, Aus1408, Janz, Cunningham, Halberd), Japenese (Kitamoe, Haruyokoi, OS21-5), Mexican/CIMMYT 234 (W7984, Opata M85), Canadian (Leader), Chinese (SW95-50213) and Swiss varieties 235 236 (Münstertaler). We also genotyped TaMKK3-A in accessions from progenitor species T. urartu (41 accessions; A<sup>u</sup> genome), T. turgidum ssp. dicoccoides (151 accessions; 237 AABB genomes), 804 hexaploid accessions from the Watkins landrace collection 238

(Wingen et al., 2014), and 457 modern European bread wheat varieties from the
Gediflux collection released between 1945 and 2000 (Reeves et al., 2004).

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#### 242 Variant Calling and Haplotype Analysis

We examined the haplotype structure around the Phs-A1 locus in three different 243 germplasm sets. These included 457 varieties in the Gediflux collection, a panel of 244 245 200 Australian varieties, and the wheat Haplotype Map (HapMap) panel consisting of 62 diverse global accessions (Jordan et al., 2015). For the HapMap panel, we selected 246 polymorphic sites as follows. We extracted SNP information from published variant 247 call files (VCF) produced from whole exome capture (WEC) resequencing dataset of 248 the 62 HapMap lines (accessible at www.wheat-urgi.versailles.inra.fr/Seq-249 Repository/Variations). For this, the corresponding IWGSC contig information for 250 genes represented in the *Phs-A1* physical map were first obtained and used to filter the 251 HapMap VCF for SNP sites located within these contigs. We kept SNP sites with 252 allele frequencies of >5 % and accessions with >80% homozygous calls across SNPs. 253 Allele information at the selected SNP loci was reconstructed for each line using the 254 255 reference, alternate and genotype field information obtained from the VCF. Haplotype cluster analysis was done with Network 5.0.0.0 (Fluxus Technology Limited, UK) 256 using the Median Joining Network Algorithm. 257

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## 259 **Pedigree Visualisation**

Pedigree information was obtained from the Genetic Resources Information System 260 261 for Wheat and Triticale (GRIS, http://wheatpedigree.net/) and the International Crop Information System (ICIS: <u>www.icis.cgiar.org</u>). Pedigree visualisation was performed 262 with Helium (Shaw et al., 2014). The coefficient of parentage (COP) analysis (i.e. the 263 probability that alleles of two individuals are identical by descent) was calculated for 264 all pairwise comparisons of lines within the most prevalent haplotypes (Australian: 265 H1/H2 and H5/H7; UK: H3 and H12). For accuracy, landraces or cultivars with 266 unknown or ambiguous pedigrees were not included in the COP analysis. Diversity 267 within haplotype groups was estimated by the mean calculation of all COPs within 268 each matrix. 269

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# 271 **Results**

## 273 *TaMKK3-A* and *PM19* are located within a 1.2 Mb physical interval.

274 We constructed an extended physical map across the Phs-A1 interval to investigate the physical proximity between the TaMKK3-A and PM19 candidate genes. Using PM19-275 A1 and TaMKK3-A sequences as queries, we screened in silico a BAC library of flow-276 277 sorted 4AL chromosome arm of the bread wheat cultivar Chinese Spring (CS). PM19-A1 and TaMKK3-A were found on two independent non-overlapping BAC clone 278 clusters which were anchored on the high resolution radiation hybrid map of 279 chromosome 4A (Balcárková et al., 2016). The MTP of Cluster 16421 (PM19) was 280 comprised of eleven BAC clones whereas the MTP of Cluster 285 (TaMKK3-A) 281 included four BAC clones (Figure 1A; Table S1). 282

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Individual BACs were sequenced, assembled, repeat-masked and annotated for coding
 sequences. Cluster 16421 included nine high-confidence genes in addition to the
 *PM19-A1* and *PM19-A2* genes. These included *YUCCA3-like*, *Myosin-J Heavy Chain*

- protein, Ubiquitin Conjugating Enzyme, Amino-Cyclopropane Carboxylate Oxidase 1
- 288 like (ACC Oxidase-1), two Leucine-Rich Repeat Kinases (LRR kinase 1 and LRR

kinase 2), Agmatine Coumaroyl Transferase, Malonyl Coenzyme A: anthocyanin 3-0-289 glucoside-6"-O-malonyltransferase and a gene encoding for a hypothetical protein. In 290 addition to TaMKK3-A, Cluster 285 contained four additional genes including Protein 291 Phosphatase1-Like (PP1-Like), Activating Signal Co-integrator 1- Like (ASC1-Like), 292 Ethylene Responsive Factor-1B-Like (ERF-1B-Like) and a gene fragment showing 293 high sequence similarity to ERF-1B-Like and as such designated as ERF-C. Together, 294 295 this highlights the presence of at least 16 protein-coding genes across the Phs-A1 interval in hexaploid bread wheat (Figure 1). 296

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298 We also characterised the *Phs-A1* interval in the recently constructed assembly of a wild emmer wheat, Zavitan (Figure 1B; Hen-Avivi et al., 2016). This allowed 299 300 comparative analysis of the *Phs-A1* interval in tetraploid and hexaploid wheat species. Fifteen of the 16 genes found in the CSS physical map were located on two Zavitan 301 scaffolds. Nine of these 15 genes were positioned across a 0.93 Mb interval on the 302 Zavitan 4A pseudomolecule. These included 4 genes from BAC Cluster 285 and five 303 genes from BAC Cluster 16421 (Figure 1). The remaining six genes spanned a 0.13 304 305 Mb interval on an unanchored scaffold. On average, the coding sequence identity between CS and Zavitan was 99.7% across the genes shared by both assemblies. We 306 could not find sequence for *ERF-C* in the Zavitan assembly at similar identity. We 307 308 annotated two genes encoding for disease resistance protein RPM1 in the Zavitan sequence corresponding to the gap between the two CS BAC clusters. Combining the 309 CS and Zavitan physical maps, the physical region between *TaMKK3-A* and the *PM19* 310 311 genes was covered and estimated to be approximately 1.2 Mb (Figure 1).

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#### 313 *TaMKK3-A* is most closely associated with *Phs-A1*.

314 Torada et al. (2016) reported a C>A mutation in position 660 of the TaMKK3-A coding sequence (C660A) as being causative of the Phs-A1 effect. Using alignments of the 315 three wheat genomes, we developed a genome-specific and co-dominant KASP assay 316 for this SNP designated as TaMKK3-A-snp1. The TaMKK3-A-snp1 assay is co-317 dominant as it distinguished between heterozygotes and homozygotes F<sub>2</sub> progenies in 318 the Alchemy x Robigus population previously reported to segregate for Phs-A1 319 (Shorinola et al., 2016; Figure 2A). We also developed a CAPS marker (Konieczny 320 and Ausubel, 1993) for TaMKK3-A to enable genotyping of Phs-A1 using a gel-based 321 assay. This marker, designated as TaMKK3-A-cap, amplifies a genome-specific 887 322 bp region and is designed to discriminate for the presence of an Hpy166II site 323 324 (GTNNAC) which is lost by the C660A mutation. Dormant lines with the C allele 325 maintain the Hpv166II site which leads to digestion of the 887 bp amplicon into fragments of 605 and 282 bp (Figure 2B). Conversely, non-dormant lines with the A 326 327 allele lose the *Hpy*166II site and hence remain intact (887 bp) after digestion. As with the KASP assay, the CAPS marker was co-dominant when used to genotype F2 328 progenies (Figure 2B). 329

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Using the KASP assay, we genotyped an association panel comprised of the parents 331 of 11 bi-parental mapping populations and a MAGIC population in which Phs-A1 had 332 333 previously been reported (Table 1). The TaMKK3-A-snp1 was polymorphic and diagnostic for Phs-A1 in all parental lines. Consistent with Torada et al. (2016), non-334 dormant sprouting-susceptible parents carry the TaMKK3-A "A" allele while all the 335 336 dormant sprouting-resistant parents carry the TaMKK3-A-snp1 "C" allele (Table 1). We genotyped the same panel for the promoter deletion in PM19-A1 previously 337 proposed to be causal of PHS susceptibility (Barrero et al., 2015). We found the PM19-338

A1 deletion to be linked with the non-dormant TaMKK3-A A allele in most, but not 339 all, of these populations. The putative linkage was broken in the dormant Kitamoe, 340 OS21-5 and SW95-50213 parents, whose dormancy phenotypes are not consistent 341 with their PM19-A1 promoter deletion status, but can be explained by their TaMKK3-342 A genotype (Table 1). This association was confirmed genetically in the SW95-50213 343 x AUS1408 cross. This population, which did not segregate for the dormancy 344 345 phenotype in the original work by Mares et al. (2005), is monomorphic for the dormant C allele at TaMKK3-A, but segregates for the PM19-A1 deletion. Similarly, parents of 346 the two populations OS21-5 x Haruyokoi and Kitamoe x Münstertaler segregating for 347 the dormancy phenotype in the work by Torada et al. (2005) are monophormic for the 348 PM19-A1 deletions, but segregate accordingly for the TaMKK3-A causal mutation. 349 These results strongly support TaMKK3-A as the most likely causal gene for Phs-A1 350 351 across this highly-informative panel.

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#### 353 Origin and distribution of the *TaMKK3-A* alleles in ancestral and modern 354 germplasm

To examine the origin, distribution and allele frequencies of the causative TaMKK3-355 A C660A SNP, we genotyped a set of 41 T. urartu (diploid: AA genome) and 151 T. 356 turgidum ssp. dicoccoides (tetraploid: AABB genome) accessions. These represent the 357 358 diploid and tetraploid progenitors of the modern bread wheat A genome on which Phs-A1 is located. Torada et al. (2016) previously suggested that the non-dormant A allele 359 was the mutant form since the dormant C SNP was conserved across different species. 360 361 Across T. urartu accessions, the C allele was predominant (39 accessions) while the non-dormant A allele was present in only two accessions (5% allele frequency; Figure 362 2C). Similarly, across T. dicoccoides accessions, the dormant C allele frequency was 363 found in 134 accessions while the non-dormant allele was found in 17 accessions (11%) 364 allele frequency; Figure 2C). Our results are consistent with Torada et al. (2016) in 365 that the non-dormant A allele is derived from the wild type C allele. In addition, the 366 367 presence of the A allele across both progenitor species suggests that the mutation predates the hybridization and domestication events that gave rise to modern bread 368 wheat. 369

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We also genotyped the Watkins Collection representing a set of global bread wheat 371 landraces collected in the 1920 and 1930s (Wingen et al., 2014), as well as the 372 Gediflux collection comprised of modern European bread wheat varieties released 373 374 between 1945 and 2000 (Reeves et al., 2004). The allele frequency of the non-dormant A allele was 13% in the Watkins landrace collection (Figure 2C; Table S2), 375 comparable to that in T. dicoccoides (11%). However, the non-dormant A allele 376 frequency in the Gediflux collection was 48% across 457 varieties (Figure 2C). This 377 represents a marked increase of the non-dormant allele in the more modern European 378 collection when compared to European accessions within the Watkins landraces in 379 which the non-dormant A allele was found at a 15% frequency (Table S2). 380

381

To determine if the *TaMKK3* dormant allele was associated with improved end-use quality, we genotyped 41 UK varieties representing the four UK market classes (Figure 2D, nabim groups 1-4; nabim, 2014). Of the 13 bread-making quality varieties (groups 1 and 2), eleven (85%) had the dormant *TaMKK3* allele. This frequency was significantly higher (Contingency table  $\chi^2 = 8.497$ ; P < 0.01) than in the 28 biscuit and animal feed varieties (groups 3 and 4) in which the *TaMKK3* dormant allele was only present in 10 varieties (36%).

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#### 390 *Phs-A1* haplotypes in global germplasm

We next examined the allelic diversity across the extended *Phs-A1* interval (including 391 TaMKK3-A and PM19) with the aim of elucidating the haplotype structure across this 392 region. For this, we used the SNP Haplotype Map (HapMap) dataset obtained from 393 whole exome capture resequencing of 62 diverse germplasm (Jordan et al., 2015). 394 395 From this SNP dataset, we obtained data for eight of the sixteen genes found in the Phs-A1 interval (PP1-like, TaMKK3-A, ASC1-like, ERF-C, LRR Kinase 1, LRR Kinase 396 397 2, PM19-A2 and PM19-A1) corresponding to 51 SNPs. To improve the accuracy of 398 the haplotype analysis, we selected accessions with >80% homozygous calls across the selected genes and SNPs with >5% allele frequency. This filtering resulted in 39 399 SNPs across the eight genes in 58 accessions. 400

401

Across the Phs-A1 interval (PP1-like to PM19-A1) we identified 14 distinct 402 haplotypes (H1–14; Figure 3A). Haplotypes were comprised of a mix of cultivars. 403 landrace, breeding lines and synthetic population in varying proportion (Figure 3B; 404 405 Table S3). H1 represented the major haplotype present in 33% of all accessions examined, whereas five haplotypes were relatively infrequent (<5%; H2, H5, H6, H9, 406 H13). Also, we observed haplotype linkage from the TaMKK3-A to LRR Kinase 2 in 407 408 76% of the accessions, highlighting possible evidence for limited recombination in this 780 kb interval in global germplasm. Similar haplotype linkage was observed at 409 the tandem PM19 loci in all but one of the 58 lines. 410

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Five of the selected SNPs were found in *TaMKK3-A* including the causal C660A SNP in the fourth exon and four additional intron SNPs. These five SNPs defined four distinct *TaMKK3-A* haplotypes (Figure 3C, TaMKK3-A\_HapA - D) in the HapMap collection with only one having the non-dormant A allele (TaMKK3-A\_HapA). The non-dormant A allele was present in 50% of the HapMap population, consistent with the Gediflux collection (48%).

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## 419 Haplotype structure at the *Phs-A1* interval in UK and Australian germplasm

To characterise a larger set of European (Gediflux) and Australian germplasm, we 420 selected seven informative polymorphisms across seven genes from the HapMap 421 dataset and developed KASP assays for these (Table S4). Using these seven assays, 422 we defined 16 haplotypes in the European Gediflux collection (Table S5). This 423 included eleven haplotypes previously identified in the global HapMap dataset and 424 425 five haplotypes unique to this European germplasm set, although these were relatively infrequent (Figure 4). The UK subpopulation within the Gediflux collection comprised 426 427 of 176 varieties and contained 11 of the 15 haplotypes identified. Six haplotypes include the dormant TaMKK3-A C allele (63% of UK varieties), with the majority of 428 these varieties sharing haplotype H12 (89 of 110 varieties), consistent with the wider 429 Gediflux population (Figure 4). This suggests one main source of PHS resistance in 430 UK and European germplasm. 431

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By combining haplotype and pedigree information for these lines we could trace, to a reasonable degree of accuracy, the founder lines for the most common resistant haplotypes in UK germplasm (Figure S1). We identified the origin of the major resistant haplotype in the UK germplasm (H12) as ViImorin-27, a French winter wheat variety released in the late 1920s (Figure 5, Figure S2). Vilmorin-27 was a direct parent and the donor of haplotype H12 for Cappelle-Desprez, a major founder variety

for wheat breeding programmes in Northern France and the UK released in 1948.
Haplotype H12 has since remained an important part of UK breeding programmes
through varieties such as Rendezvous and Riband (released between 1985-1987).

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Within the 200 Australian varieties we identified twelve haplotypes including ten 443 previously identified HapMap haplotypes, and two Australian-specific haplotypes at 444 445 low frequency (<1%, Table S6, Figure S3). Eight haplotypes present in 89 varieties (44.5%) have the dormant TaMKK3-A C allele while the other four haplotypes present 446 in 111 varieties (55.5%) have the non-dormant TaMKK3-A A allele (Figure S4). This 447 448 represents a near balanced distribution of both alleles in Australian germplasm. In this set, 71% of lines with the dormant TaMKK3-A C alleles were traced to Federation (or 449 Purple Straw) ancestry. Across the entire set, the alternative, non-dormant allele was 450 451 more associated with the presence of cv. Gabo or CIMMYT-derived material in the pedigree. These lines had a more recent average release date of 1976 compared to the 452 lines with the dormant allele (average release date 1941). 453

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The mean coefficient of parentage (COP) for the Australian and UK Gediflux set of lines was 0.10 and 0.11 respectively (Table 2). Within each germplasm set, the lines with the most prevalent haplotypes had higher COP values, indicating a higher degree of relatedness amongst these lines relative to the entire collection (Table 2).

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## 460 **Discussion**

## 462 Physical Map

We characterised the *Phs-A1* interval by constructing a 1.5 Mb physical map spanning 463 the PM19 and TaMKK3-A candidate genes (Barrero et al., 2015; Torada et al., 2016) 464 and including 16 protein-coding genes. We observed near perfect sequence and gene 465 466 content conservation in the interval between hexaploid and tetraploid physical maps. A similar overall collinearity between bread wheat, barley and *Brachypodium* was also 467 observed except for the interval between ACC Oxidase-1 and ERF-C where the gene 468 content in each species diverged (Figure S5). The PM19 candidates where conserved 469 across these species, whereas TaMKK3-A was only present in barley and wheat. 470

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Sequence information from the BAC-based CS assembly and the whole genome 472 shotgun Zavitan assemblies was used in a complementary manner. Neither assembly 473 was fully contiguous across the Phs-A1 interval, but the gaps were different in the two 474 assemblies allowing the spanning of the complete interval. This lack of contiguity was 475 also present in the **IWGSC** CS v0.4 (available 476 at https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/blast\_iwgsc/blast.php), TGAC (Clavijo et al., 2017) and 477 Refeqv1.0 assemblies, where intervals covering TaMKK3-A and ASC1-Like were 478 479 unanchored. While the new whole genome assemblies offer major improvements in contiguity, the available BAC physical maps will be of value to assign unanchored 480 481 scaffolds or solve inconsistencies in regions were contiguity is broken.

482

## 483 TaMKK3-A determines Phs-A1 effect across diverse germplasm

The 1.5 Mb physical interval which defines *Phs-A1* includes the proposed candidates *PM19* and *TaMKK3-A*, as well as other genes with potential roles in dormancy/germination regulation. For example, *ACC Oxidase-1* catalyses the last steps in the biosynthesis of ethylene – a germination promoting hormone (Matilla and Matilla-Vázquez, 2008; Linkies and Leubner-Metzger, 2012; Corbineau et al., 2014).

However, using two bi-parental mapping populations we showed linkage of *Phs-A1* to the interval between *PP1-Like* – *LRR Kinase* 2 in UK populations, thereby excluding the *PM19* and *ACC Oxidase-1* loci as candidate genes (Shorinola et al., 2016). This was consistent with Torada et al. (2016) who identified *TaMKK3-A* as the causal gene in their mapping population and work in barley which identified the barley homologue (*MKK3*) as the causal gene for the seed dormancy QTL SD2 (Nakamura et al., 2016).

496

In support of this, the causal TaMKK3-A C660A SNP is perfectly associated with the 497 phenotypes of 19 diverse parents of eleven mapping population in which Phs-A1 had 498 previously been identified. This was also the case for the parents of the MAGIC 499 population (Yipti, Chara, Westonia, Baxter) previously used to propose the PM19 loci 500 501 as the causal gene (Barrero et al., 2015). Barrero et al (2015) proposed a promoter deletion in *PM19-A1* affecting motifs important for ABA responsiveness as the cause 502 of non-dormancy in sprouting susceptible genotypes. The PM19-A1 deletion and the 503 non-dormant TaMKK3-A A allele are in complete linkage in all the non-dormant 504 505 parents from the multiple mapping populations. However, the PM19-A1 promoter deletion did not account for the dormant phenotype of Kitamoe, OS21-5 and SW95-506 50213 (Table 1). These dormant varieties have the PM19-A1 promoter deletion 507 508 associated with low dormancy, but carries the dormant TaMKK3-A allele. These natural recombinants suggest that TaMKK3-A is the causal Phs-A1 gene. SW95-50213 509 is a Chinese landrace which is an important source of *Phs-A1*-mediated dormancy in 510 511 Australian breeding programs. When SW95-50213 was crossed to a line carrying both TaMKK3-A and PM19 dormant alleles (AUS1408), no grain dormancy QTL could be 512 identified (Mares et al., 2005). Despite the segregation of the PM19-A1 promoter 513 514 polymorphism in this population, all lines displayed dormant to intermediate dormancy phenotype consistent with the TaMKK3-A genotype of their parents. Taken 515 together, this evidence confirms the tight linkage between TaMKK3-A, PM19, and the 516 517 *Phs-A1* phenotype, and suggest that *TaMKK3-A*, but not *PM19*, is the causal gene underlying sprouting variation associated with *Phs-A1* in diverse European. North 518 American, Australian and Asian germplasm. 519

#### 521 **Breeding implications**

Given the identification of a number of T. urartu accessions with the non-dormant A 522 allele, it is likely that the C660A mutation originates from this diploid ancestor and 523 524 predates the domestication and hybridisation events that gave rise to modern bread wheat. The non-dormant allele frequency was below 15% in accessions and landraces 525 collected previous to 1920, but rose sharply to close to 50% in more modern 526 527 germplasm. It is tempting to speculate that this could be due to selective pressure by 528 breeders over the past 70 years for the non-dormant A allele in European and Australian environments. This pressure could be driven by selection for genotypes 529 with more rapid and uniform germination that would be associated with the non-530 dormant allele. However, allele frequencies for both alleles have remained overall 531 balanced given the improved end-use quality associated with the dormant allele. This 532 hypothesis is supported by the fact that 85% of UK bread-making varieties carry the 533 dormant allele, compared to only 35% of feed and biscuit-making varieties. 534

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To facilitate breeding for PHS resistance, we developed co-dominant KASP and CAPS markers for the causal *TaMKK3-A* mutation, as well as KASP markers for the wider region. We identified fourteen *Phs-A1* haplotypes in a global germplasm panel

with four haplotypes for the *TaMKK3* gene itself, of which only one included the 539 C660A non-dormant SNP. Comparison of Australian and UK haplotypes highlighted 540 distinct frequencies in both sets with the most prevalent haplotypes containing the 541 dormant TaMKK3-A allele differing in both countries. Haplotype H5/H7 is most 542 frequent in Australian varieties, whereas haplotype H12 dominates in the UK. 543 Interestingly, these haplotypes are either rare (<5% H5/H7 in UK) or absent (H12 not 544 545 present in Australia) in the other country, suggesting distinct sources of pre-harvest sprouting resistance in Australian and UK breeding programmes. Understanding 546 haplotypes structure across genes of agronomic interest is increasingly possible with 547 548 the latest advances in wheat genomics (Clavijo et al., 2017; Uauy, 2017). It is also increasingly relevant given potential negative linkage drag associated with major 549 phenology traits (Voss-Fels et al., 2017). The markers and knowledge generated in 550 this study should facilitate the choice of parental genotypes for the deployment of 551 TaMKK3 in commercial cultivars. 552

553

The earliest line in the Australian set (Golden Drop, released 1840) carries the 554 555 favourable TaMKK3-A 'C' SNP and also the most prevalent haplotype (H5/H7) at this locus. Golden Drop was derived from a Purple Straw/Yandilla cross and its sister 556 line, Federation (released in 1901) become the foundation of many successful 557 558 Australian cultivars due to earlier maturity and thus ability to avoid drought stress late in the growing season. Not only was Federation wheat better adapted to the Australian 559 climate, it also had improved grain quality for milling, and so become widely adopted 560 561 by breeders (Eagles et al., 2009).

562

The next major introduction of germplasm into Australia occurred in the 1970's, as 563 564 CIMMYT material was deployed widely by breeders seeking traits affecting height. quality and disease resistance (Brennan and Fox, 1998). Important CIMMYT parents 565 in Australian breeding include Sonora-64, Pitic, Pavon-76, WW15 and WW80. 566 567 Pedigree analysis suggests that such material could be the source of the most prevalent haplotype in Australia (H1/H2) containing the non-favourable TaMKK3-A allele. A 568 high proportion of modern Australian cultivars with the non-dormant haplotype 569 suggests opportunities may exist for the incorporation of favourable alleles at the 570 571 locus.

572

## 573 **Future outlook**

574 The dormant TaMKK3-A C allele is predominant in all the progenitor and historic 575 germplasm evaluated in this study, suggesting that it represents the ancestral allele as proposed by Torada et al. (2016). The N220K amino acid substitution (C660A 576 577 mutation) in the kinase domain results in a gain-of-function allele which reduces 578 dormancy in wheat. This is in contrast with barley where the non-dormant MKK3 allele is ancestral and the N260T substitution in the kinase domain results in a loss-of-579 function allele leading to increased seed dormancy (Nakamura et al., 2016). This 580 provides an additional example of how for the same biological process, gain-of-581 function (dominant) mutations have been more readily selected in polyploid wheat 582 compared to recessive variation in diploid barley (Borrill et al., 2015). The fact that 583 the same gene has been selected in both species also suggests that the kinase activity 584 of *TaMKK3-A* can be modulated to fine-tune the level of seed dormancy in temperate 585 586 cereals. A better understanding of the activity and regulation of TaMKK3-A and its homoeologs could allow the identification of mutants (Krasileva et al., 2017) or the 587

588 creating of gene edited alleles (Zong et al., 2017) with different levels of activity or 589 the design of novel alleles with different degrees of dormancy.

590

#### 591 **Conflict of interest statement**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### 594 Author contributions

- 595 OS led the genotype and pedigree analysis of the UK varieties, annotation of BAC
- sequences, developed the KASP and CAPS marker, and analysed the HapMap data;
- 597 JH performed pedigree analysis of Australian; JFGT and MJH performed genotyping
- of Australian varieties; MV, BB and KH constructed the 4AL physical map of CS;
- AD constructed the physical map of tetraploid wheat Zavitan; AT performed
- 600 genotyping of Japanese varieties; JMB led the work on Australian varieties; OS,
- 601 CU, JH, JMB contributed to the writing of the manuscript; OS and CU designed the 602 experiments.
- 603

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- 611

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820	

# 821 Tables

Population	Variety	Origin	Status	TaMKK3-A Allele	<i>PM19-A1</i> promoter InDel	Reference
Alchemy x Robigus	Alchemy	UK	Dormant	С	Insertion	Shorinola et al (2016)
	Robigus	UK	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	
Option x Claire	Option	UK	Dormant	С	Insertion	Shorinola et al (2016)
Option x Claire	Claire	UK	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Shormola et al (2010)
	Yitpi	AUS	Dormant	С	Insertion	
MACIC Dopulation	Baxter	AUS	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Barrero et al (2015)
MAGIC Population	Chara	AUS	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Ballelo et al (2013)
	Westonia	AUS	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	
Onata y W7094	W7984	MEX	Dormant	С	Insertion	Lobyconstat $(2012)$
Opata x W7984	Opata	MEX	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Lohwasser et al, (2013)
OS21-5 x	OS21-5	JPN	Dormant	С	Deletion	Tarada at al. (2008)
Haruyokoi	Haruyokoi	JPN	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Torada et al, (2008)
Laadar y Harwalaa	Leader	CAN	Dormant	С	Insertion	Torada et al, (2008)
Leader x Haruyokoi	Haruyokoi	JPN	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	
Kitamoe x	Kitamoe	JPN	Dormant	С	Deletion	Tarada at al. $(2005)$
Münstertaler	Münstertaler	SUI	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Torada et al, (2005)
Cranbrook x	Halberd	AUS	Dormant	С	Insertion	Mare et al (2005),
Halberd	Cranbrook	AUS	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Zhang et al (2008)
Janz v AUS1409	Aus1408	AUS, SA	Dormant	С	Insertion	Mare et al (2005);
Janz x AUS1408	Janz	AUS	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Ogbonnaya et al (2007)
SW95-50213 x	5-50213 x SW95-50213	CHN	Dormant	С	Deletion	Marga $at al (2005)$
Cunningham	Cunningham	AUS	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	Mares et al (2005)
SW95-50213 x AUS1408*	SW95-50213	CHN	Dormant	С	Deletion	Mares et al (2005)
	Aus1408	AUS, SA	Dormant	С	Insertion	
Pover v Solail	Soleil	UK	Dormant	С	Insertion	Flintham (2000)
Boxer x Soleil	Boxer	UK	Non-dormant	А	Deletion	

# 822 **Table 1**: *TaMKK3-A* and *PM19* alleles in *Phs-A1* association panel

# \**Phs-A1* was not detected in this population as the DH lines were generally dormant. However, limited number of lines showed transgressive segregation relative to the dormant phenotypes of the two parents.

- **Table 2.** Mean Coefficient of Parentage (COP) within Australian and UK
- germplasm, and between groups of the most prevalent haplotypes containing

Germplasm	Haplotype	TaMKK3-A SNP	Mean COP	Comparisons (n)
Australia	All	A/C	0.10	13530
Australia	H5/H7	С	0.17	350
Australia	H1/H2	А	0.15	2700
UK	All	A/C	0.11	1596
UK	H12	С	0.20	496
UK	Н3	А	0.21	55
	Australia Australia Australia UK UK	AustraliaAllAustraliaH5/H7AustraliaH1/H2UKAllUKH12	AustraliaAllA/CAustraliaH5/H7CAustraliaH1/H2AUKAllA/CUKH12C	AustraliaAllA/C0.10AustraliaH5/H7C0.17AustraliaH1/H2A0.15UKAllA/C0.11UKH12C0.20

dormant (C) and non-dormant (A) SNPs at *TaMKK3-A*.

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# 829 **Figure Legends:**

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**Figure 1**: Physical map of the *Phs1-A1* interval in bread wheat Chinese Spring (CS) and wild emmer (Zavitan). (A) *Phs1-A1* interval in CS is covered by two nonoverlapping BAC clusters: Cluster 285 (4 BACs) and Cluster 16421 (11 BACs). BACs are represented by solid lines while genes found on the BAC are represented by filled ovals. The proposed candidate genes for *Phs-A1* are in red font. (B) Whole genome assembly of Zavitan wild emmer across the *Phs1-A1* interval. Genes present in both assemblies are joined by dotted lines.

838

Figure 2: Marker development and allele distribution of MKK3-A in ancestral and 839 historic germplasm. (A) Genotype plot of varieties and a F<sub>3</sub> population segregating for 840 Phs-A1 using the TaMKK3-A KASP assay. (B) Development of co-dominant CAPS 841 marker based on Hpy166II restriction digest of the C660A SNP. Non-dormant 842 varieties Robigus (R) and Clare (C); dormant varieties Alchemy (A) and Option (O). 843 (C) Allele frequency of the causal C660A SNP in T. urartu and T. turgidum ssp. 844 dicoccoides accessions and the Watkins and Gediflux collections. The number of lines 845 genotyped in each germplasm set is in parenthesis. (D) TaMKK3-A allele distribution 846 in the four wheat end-use groups (nabim 1-4) in the UK. 847

848

Figure 3: *Phs-A1* haplotype analysis. (A) Structure of 14 haplotypes identified in the 849 850 HapMap population across 39 SNP loci in the Phs-A1 interval. SNP loci are ordered 851 based on their physical position on the Zavitan assembly. Exons, intron and intergenic 852 regions are represented by filled boxes, solid lines and breaks, respectively. Note that 853 *ERF-C* is not on the Zavitan assembly. (B) Haplotype network of the 14 haplotypes. The size of each circle corresponds to the number of lines in each haplotype. Blue, 854 light blue, amber and red represent cultivars, landraces, breeding and synthetic line in 855 each haplotype, respectively. (C) Geographical distribution of the four TaMKK3-A 856 haplotypes. The size of the circle represents the sample size obtained within each 857 country while each section represents the proportion of the country sample size with 858 the specified haplotype. 859

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Figure 4: Relationship between the European, UK, Australian and HapMap *Phs-A1*Haplotypes. The distribution (bar charts) of the HapMap and unique haplotypes found
in the Gediflux (European), UK and Australian germplasm using genotype
information of seven of the 39 HapMap SNPs within the *Phs-A1* interval.

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Figure 5: Pedigree of selected UK and European varieties highlighting the origin of
the major resistant haplotype (H12). Each circle represents a variety and colours
represent the different haplotypes. Nodes are size based on the number of varieties
derived from the node.

# 870 Supplemental files:

871

A single excel document includes the following supplemental tables as individualspreadsheets.

- 874
- **Table S1**: BAC, Sequence and gene content information for the BAC cluster in Phs-A1 interval.
- **Table S2**: TaMKK3-A Alleles of cultivars in the Watkins collection.
- **Table S3**: Classification of HapMap lines according to *Phs-A1* haplotypes.
- **Table S4**: KASP markers designed for haplotype analysis of Phs-A1 interval.
- **Table S5**: Haplotype map of the Gediflux Collection
- **Table S6**: Haplotype map of Australian germplasm
- 882
- Figure S1: Pedigree of UK and European varieties with their corresponding *Phs-A1*haplotype status. Each circle represents a variety and the colours represent the different
  haplotypes.
- 886
- Figure S2: Pedigree of UK and European varieties with their corresponding *TaMKK3*A allele. Each circle represents a variety and the colours represent the different haplotypes.
- 890
- Figure S3: Pedigree of Australian varieties with their corresponding *Phs-A1* haplotype
  status. Each circle represents a variety and the colours represent the different
  haplotypes.
- 894

Figure S4: Pedigree of Australian varieties with their corresponding *TaMKK3-A*allele. Each circle represents a variety and the colours represent the different
haplotypes.

898

**Figure S5:** Comparison of syntenic *Phs-A1* physical maps and contigs in *Brachypodium*, wheat and barley. Genes in the homologous intervals in *Brachypodium* (amber line), wheat (black lines) and barley (grey line) are compared against each other. Orthologous genes across genomes are joined by lines. The region of high conservation is indicated with grey background while the region of low conservation has plain background.













