

Table 1 **Observed and expected biomass production and CO₂ release by *B. napus* embryos in culture**

Metabolic sink	Percentage of carbon observed	Percentage of carbon expected by conventional pathways
Oil	49.7 ± 2.8	<44.9*
Protein, starch, cell wall, etc.	32.7 ± 2.3	32.7
CO ₂ released	17.6 ± 2.2	>22.4*
Ratio of carbon in oil to CO ₂ released	2.9 ± 0.3	<2.0

Aseptically isolated embryos in the early phase of storage accumulation were grown in liquid culture for 3 days at a light intensity of 50 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹, with glucose, sucrose, glutamate and alanine as ¹⁴C-labelled substrates. Standard deviations are given for *n* = 5 experiments.

* Assuming that CO₂ is produced only for oil synthesis (PDH reaction), the carbon fractions of oil and CO₂ are expected to be in the ratio 2:1. This value is a minimum because, in addition to PDH, the OPPP and the TCA cycle produce CO₂ (see the text).