



***Brassica napus* surface wax: understanding and manipulating surface chemistry for crop improvement.**

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Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



**SASK
OILSEEDS**

Canada

Smith. Lipid lab

- Seed oil: Pathways of biosynthesis and chemical diversity.
- Lipids and seedling performance at sub-optimal temperature.
- **Surface lipids: Chemistry, structure, biosynthesis, function.**
- *Camelina sativa*: Seed oil and induced genetic diversity (mutagenesis)





Surface wax

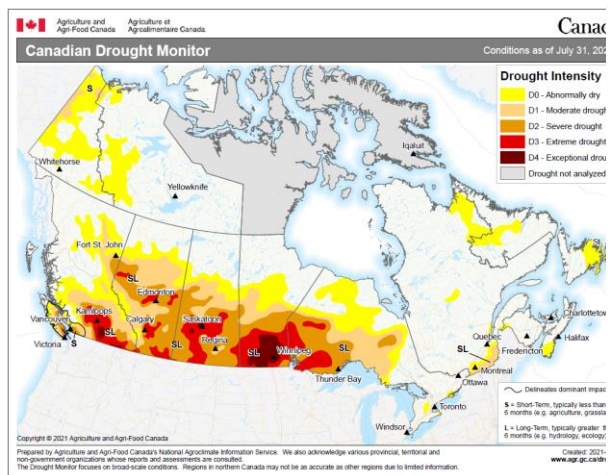
What is it?

How is it made ?

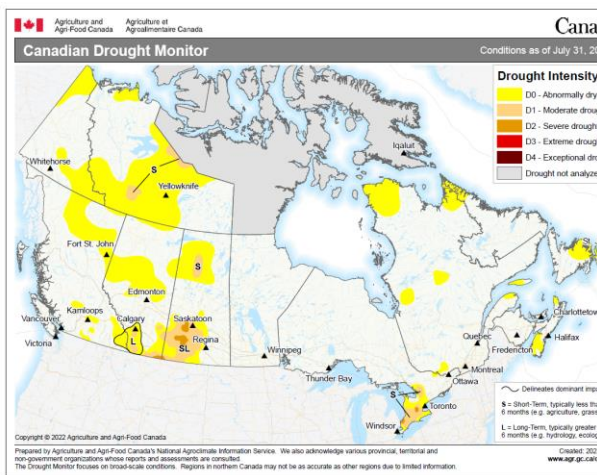
Why is it there?

**Could wax
manipulation be
a target for crop
improvement?**

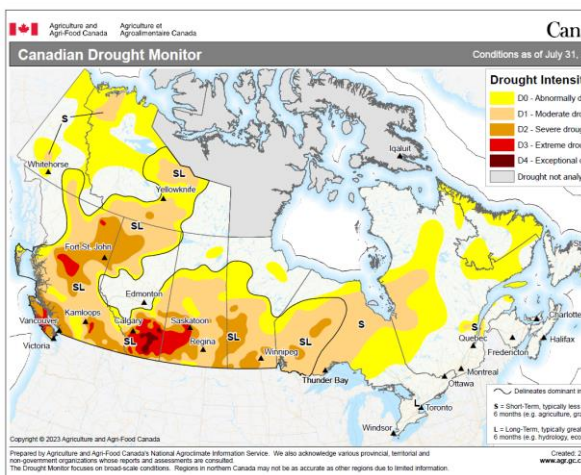
Canadian Drought Monitor. Month of July.



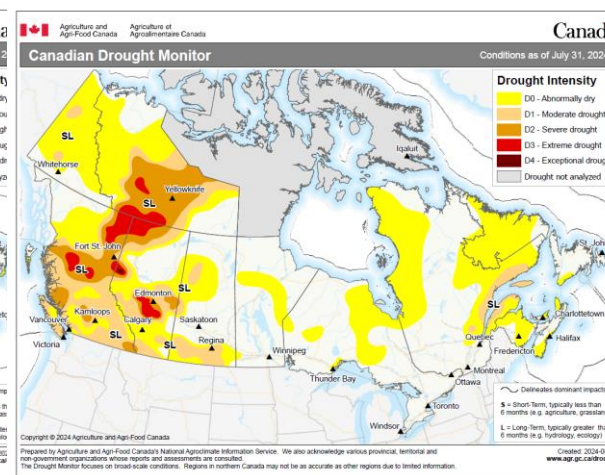
2021



2022



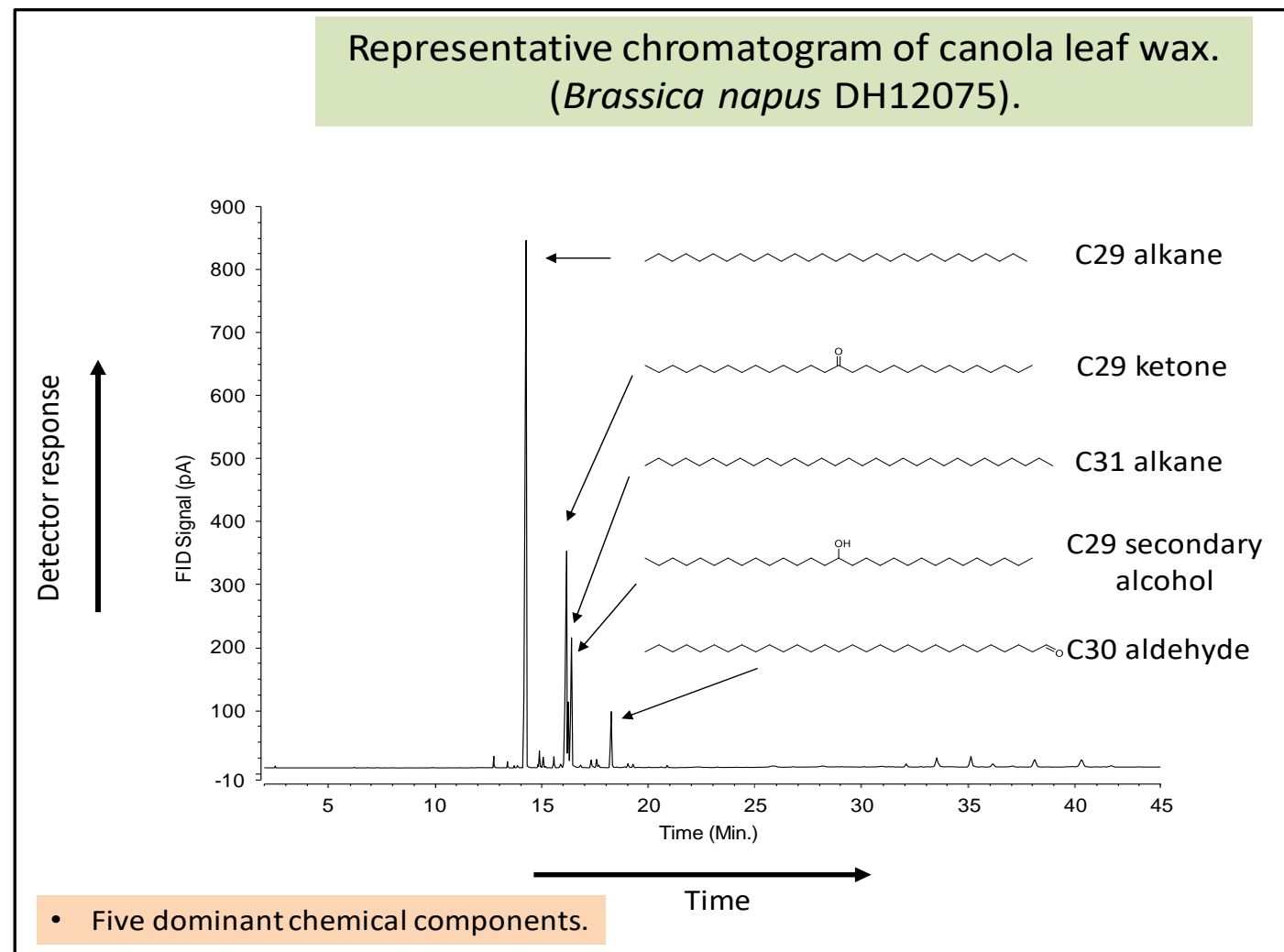
2023



2024



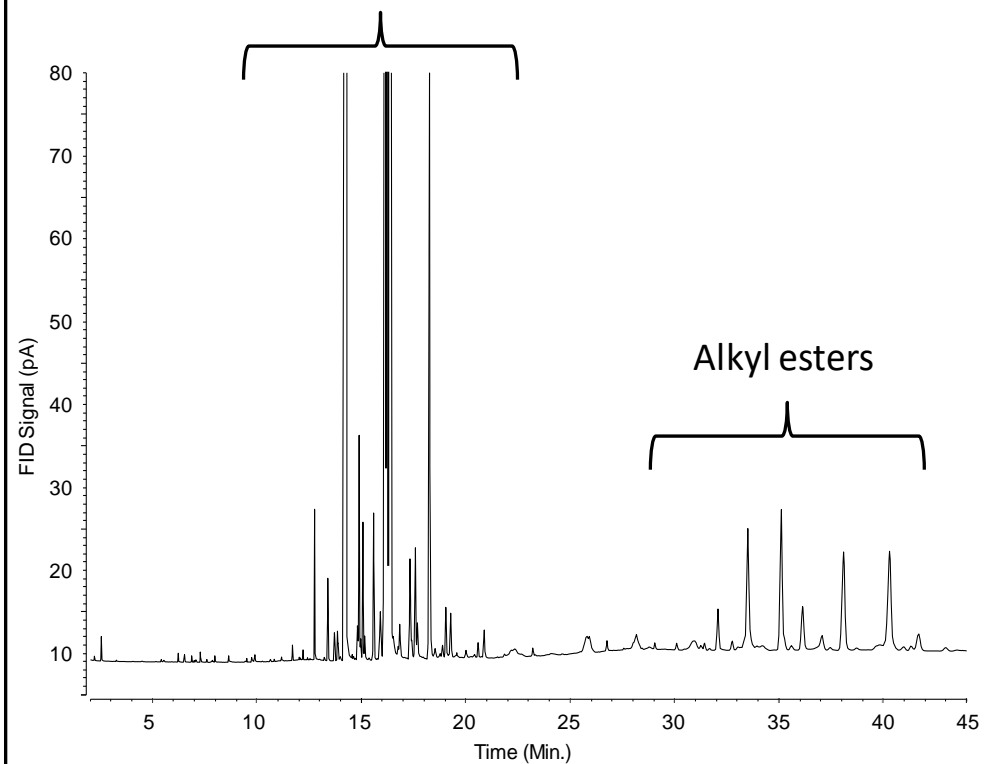
CHCl_3



GC FID (Thermo Trace 1310 GC). 30 m TG-SQC capillary column DB5 equivalent.

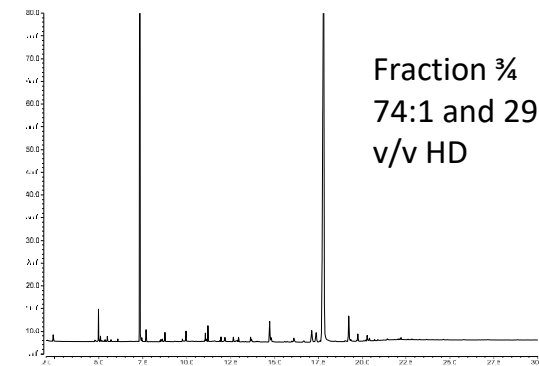
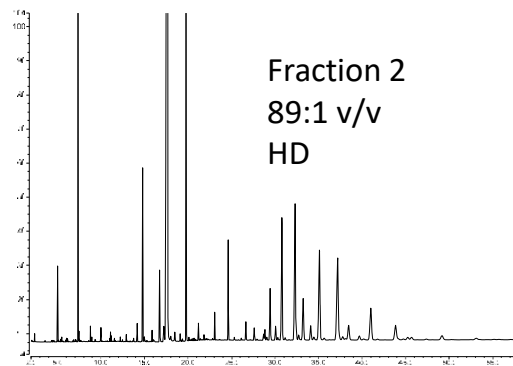
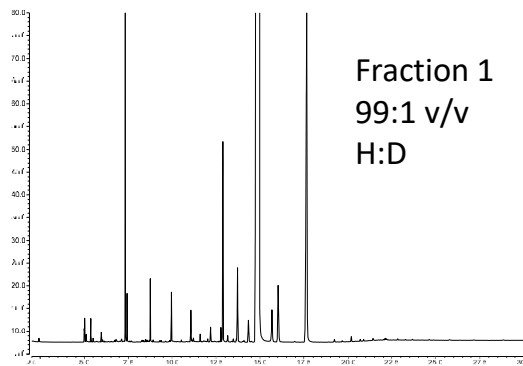
Representative chromatogram of canola leaf wax.
(*Brassica napus* DH12075). **ZOOM IN**

Alkanes, ketones, aldehydes, alcohols,
free fatty acids and triterpenes.

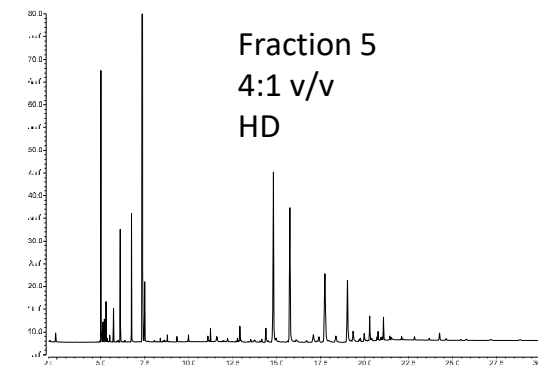
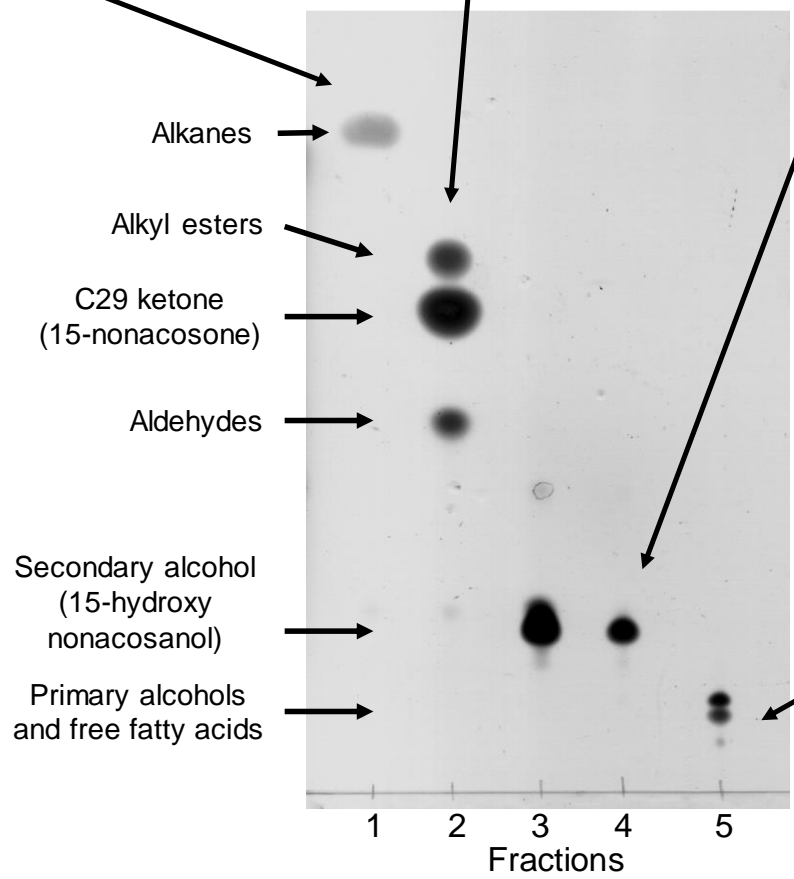


- Five dominant chemical components.
- **Many, diverse minor chemical components**

ID of minor peaks is
challenging!



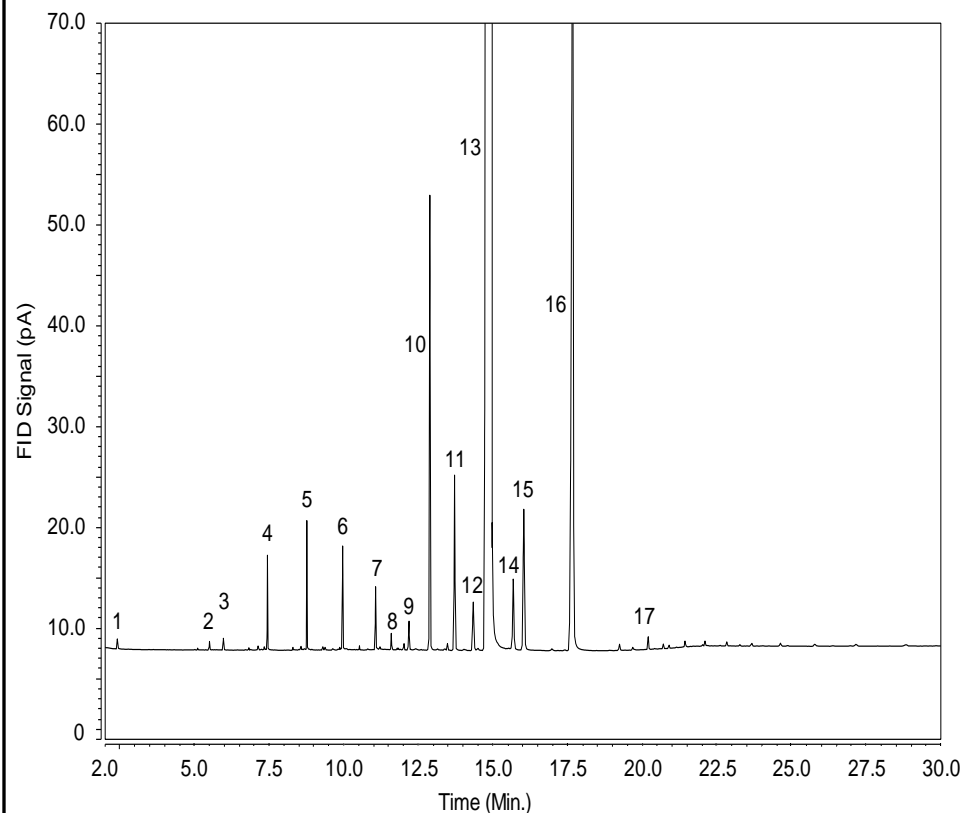
Fractionation of wax extract on a simple Silica gel SPE column.



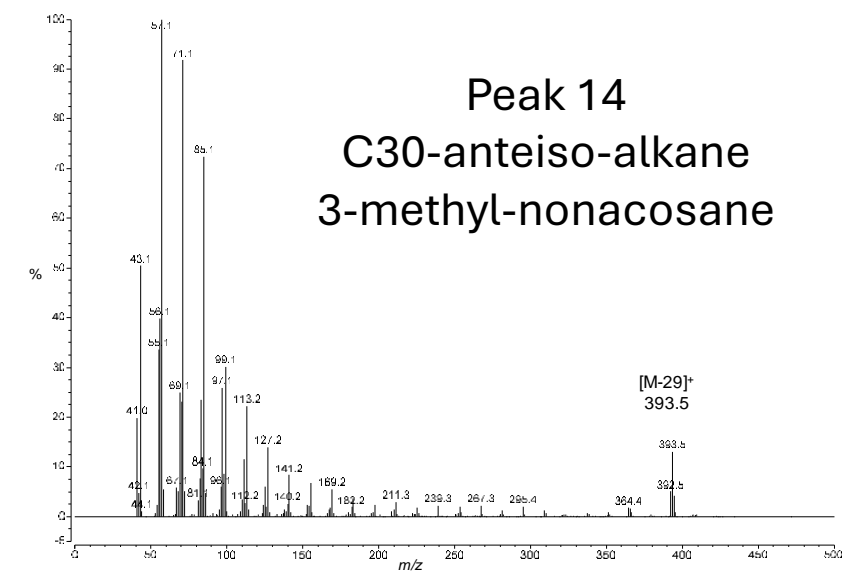
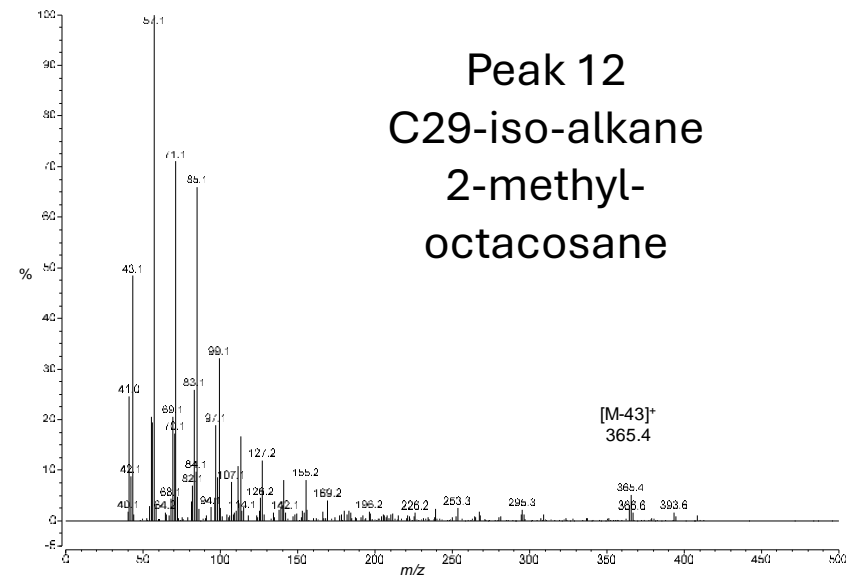
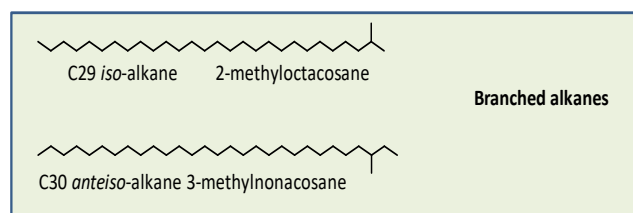
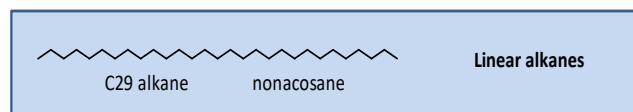
Claire Stevens CO-OP 2019

H=Hexane
D=Diethyl-ether

Brassica napus leaf wax (DH12075). Alkane fraction (Fraction 1).



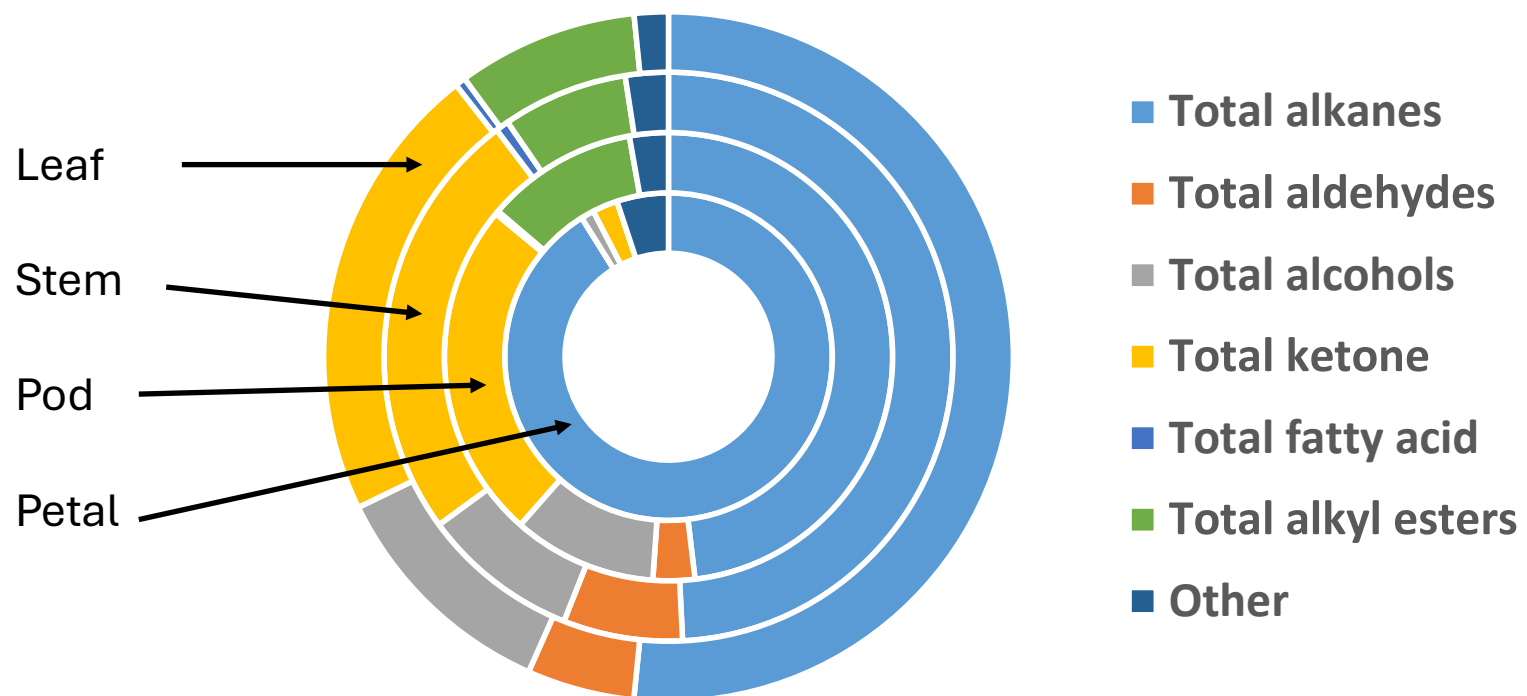
Peak	Identity	% of total alkanes
1	Unknown	0.02%
2	Unknown	0.02%
3	C16 alkane	0.02%
4	C18 alkane	0.14%
5	C20 alkane	0.20%
6	C22 alkane	0.15%
7	C24 alkane	0.11%
8	C25 alkane	0.03%
9	C26 alkane	0.06%
10	C27 alkane	1.11%
11	C28 alkane	0.53%
12	C29 <i>iso</i> -alkane	0.20%
13	C29 alkane	90.38%
14	C30 <i>anteiso</i> -alkane	0.31%
15	C30 alkane	0.66%
16	C31 alkane	5.99%
17	C33 alkane	0.03%



***B. napus* wax components identified (so far).**

Class	Chain length	Name	Class	Chain length	Name
Alkanes	C16	Hexadecane	Free fatty acids	C16	Palmitic acid
	C18	Octadecane		C18	Stearic acid
	C20	Eicosane		C28	Octacosanoic acid
	C22	Docosane		C30	Triacotanoic acid
	C24	Tetracosane	Alkyl esters	C36	Multiple isomers
	C25	Pentacosane		C38	
	C26	Hexacosane		C40	
	C27	Heptacosane		C41	
	C28	Octacosane		C42	
	C29 <i>iso</i>	2-Methyl octacosane		C43	
	C29	Nonacosane		C44	
	C30 <i>anteiso</i>	3-Methyl nonacosane		C45	
	C30	Triacotane		C46	
	C31	Hentriacotane		C47	
	C33	Tritriacotane	C48		
	Aldehydes	C26	Hexacosanal	Triterpenes	α -amyrin
C28		Octacosanal	β -amyrin		
C30		Triacotanal			
C32		Dotriacotanal			
Ketone	C29	Nonacosan-15-one			
Secondary alcohol	C29	Nonacosan-15-ol			
Primary alcohols	C22	Docosan-1-ol			
	C24	Tetracosan-1-ol			
	C26 <i>iso</i>	24-Methyl-pentacosan-1-ol			
	C26	Hexacosan-1-ol			
	C27 <i>anteiso</i>	24-methyl-hexacosan-1-ol			
	C27	Heptacosan-1-ol			
	C28 <i>iso</i>	26-Methyl-heptacosan-1-ol			
	C28	Octacosan-1-ol			
	C29 <i>anteiso</i>	26-Methyl-octacosan-1-ol			
	C30	Triacotan-1-ol			

Petals are different



Little change in 56 years of canola breeding

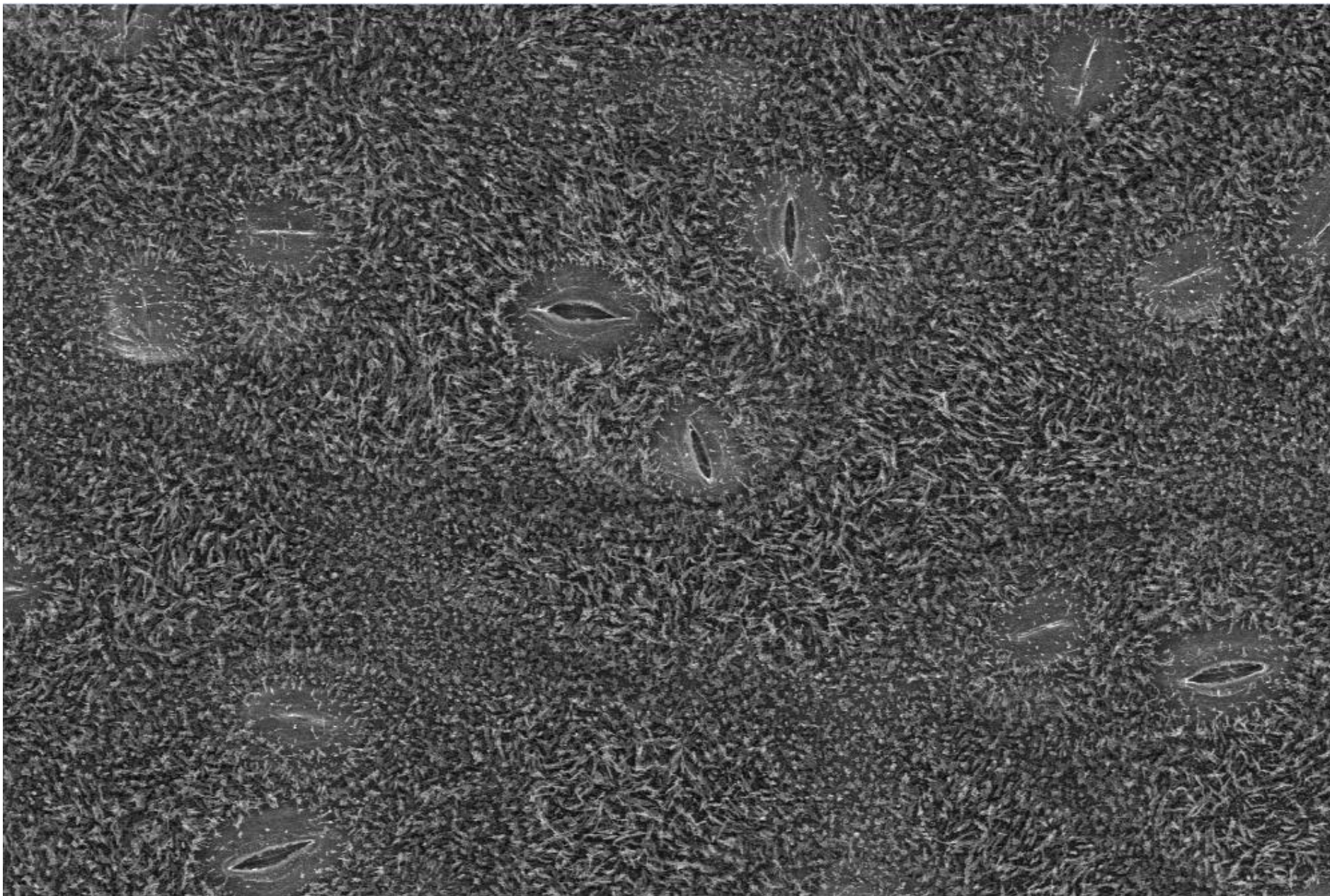
Variety	Year of Canadian registration	Total alkyl esters	Total alkanes	Total aldehydes	Total primary alcohol	Total free fatty acids	C29 ketone	C29 alcohol-2
Target	1966	6.24	58.33	4.26	2.06	0.49	17.07	10.67
Oro	1968	6.75	57.47	4.13	1.72	0.39	19.16	10.35
Midas	1973	6.40	57.95	4.21	1.74	0.36	17.88	10.82
Tower	1974	6.76	55.27	4.39	1.94	0.39	19.11	11.43
Westar	1982	6.67	56.00	4.88	2.09	0.49	17.95	11.10
Profit	1989	6.37	56.54	4.95	1.89	0.54	18.68	10.09
AC Excel	1990	5.40	57.34	5.06	2.18	0.47	17.93	10.89
AC Elect	1992	5.63	57.42	5.22	2.25	0.38	17.44	10.84
Defender	1994	6.74	54.21	5.39	2.26	0.56	19.60	10.51
46A65	1996	5.61	55.33	4.24	2.15	0.48	19.89	11.41
Q2	1998	5.97	56.36	4.28	1.88	0.31	19.24	11.35
SP BANNER	2002	4.99	57.33	4.16	2.08	0.33	19.41	11.32
InVigor 5440	2007	6.20	56.97	4.09	1.65	0.50	17.76	11.76
46H75	2011	5.12	54.83	5.07	2.49	0.54	19.75	11.37
74-44BL	2012	5.63	60.40	4.91	1.72	0.41	15.14	10.99
InVigor L252	2013	5.20	58.02	4.75	1.94	0.31	18.62	10.50
45H76	2014	5.99	54.64	4.04	1.87	0.45	20.13	11.65
PV 200 CL	2015	5.82	52.95	4.60	2.74	0.52	20.52	11.18
PV533G	2015	6.28	54.79	5.65	2.09	0.56	17.69	11.26
InVigor L233P	2016	5.47	56.59	5.45	2.66	0.55	17.70	10.70
75-42CR	2019	5.03	63.69	4.98	1.83	0.39	13.24	10.34
Argentine		6.78	56.40	4.38	2.00	0.50	18.28	10.82
H151797		5.31	57.50	4.94	2.07	0.38	18.28	10.78
NAM-0		6.14	57.15	4.10	1.78	0.45	17.69	11.94
YN04-C1213		3.50	56.27	4.48	2.63	0.58	19.09	12.29 ¹

Limited
chemical
diversity in *B.
napus*.

More diversity
in *B.carinata*



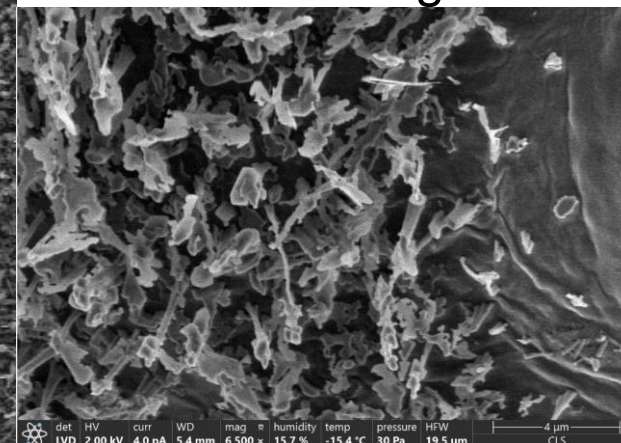
Plant Genome Resources Canada (PGRC) *Brassica carinata* diversity collection 2022



**Environmental SEM
with cooled stage**

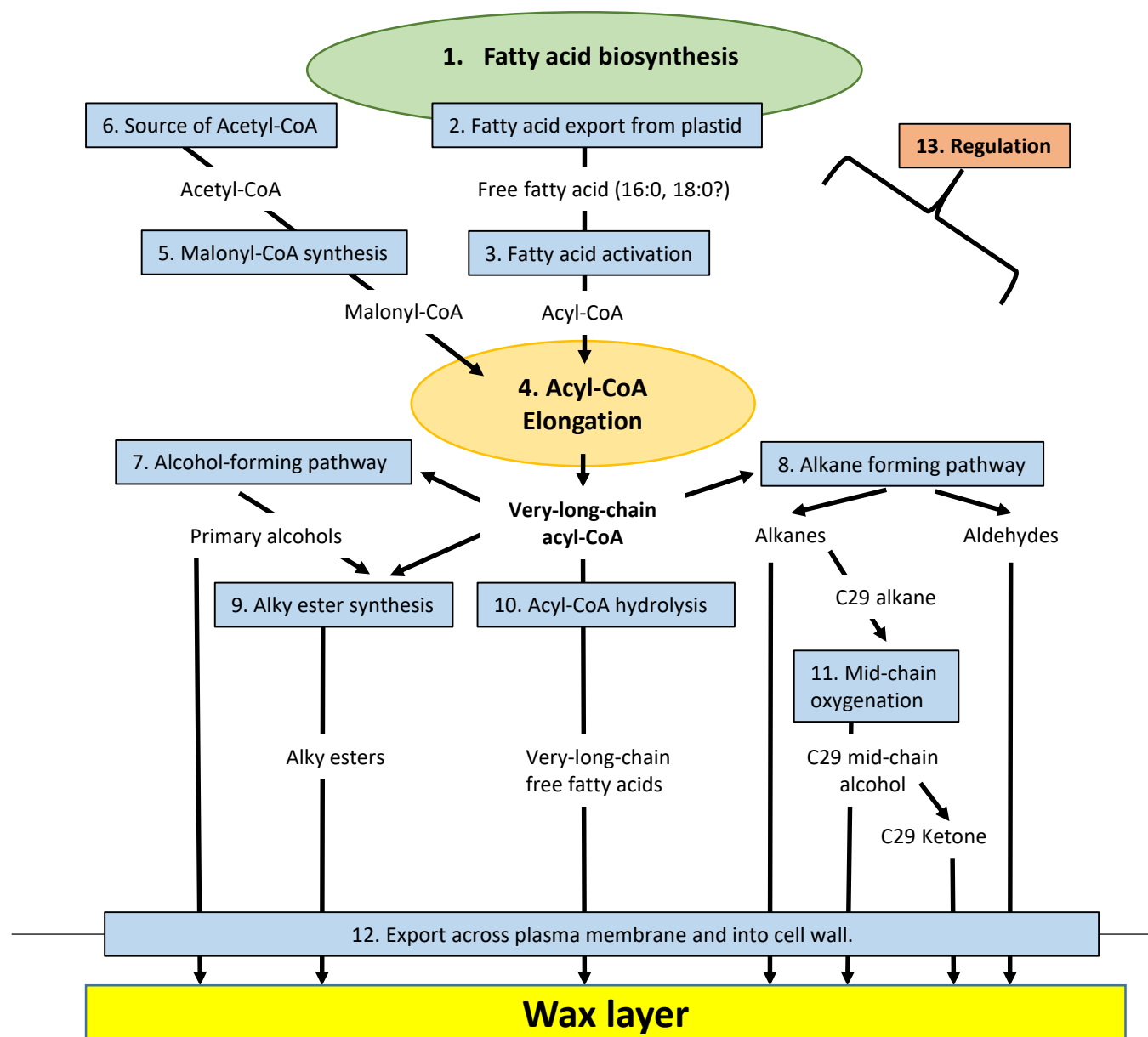
B. napus DH12075
Leaf lower surface

Controlled
environment grown.



	det	HV	curr	WD	mag	humidity	temp	pressure	HFW	
	LVD	2.00 kV	4.0 pA	5.4 mm	500 ×	15.5 %	-15.4 °C	30 Pa	254 µm	

Wax biosynthesis in Arabidopsis



TRANSCRIPTOME ANALYSIS

Petiole and Petiole Epidermis

TRANSCRIPTOME ANALYSIS Top 100 highly expressed genes (epidermis)

Rank	<i>Brassica napus</i> gene ID (DH12075)	Arabidopsis Ortholog	Arabidopsis Annotation	Process
1	BnaN17g49910	AT4G30270.1	MERI5B, MERI-5, XTH24, SEN4 xyloglucan endotransglucosylase/hydrolase 24 chr4:14819445-14820448	Cell wall
2	BnaN03g51590	AT4G30270.1	MERI5B, MERI-5, XTH24, SEN4 xyloglucan endotransglucosylase/hydrolase 24 chr4:14819445-14820448	Cell wall
3	BnaN13g16540	AT5G59310.1	LTP4 lipid transfer protein 4 chr5:23925296-23925772	Lipid transport
4	BnaN04g25160	AT2G38540.1	LP1, LTP1, ATLTP1 lipid transfer protein 1 chr2:16130418-16130893	Lipid transport
5	BnaN02g10550		No Arabidopsis Ortholog	
6	BnaN02g10540		No Arabidopsis Ortholog	
7	BnaN01g12010	AT4G21960.1	PRXR1 Peroxidase superfamily protein chr4:11646613-11648312	Cell wall/metabolism
8	BnaN03g38740	AT2G05520.1	GRP-3, ATGRP-3, GRP3, ATGRP3 glycine-rich protein 3 chr2:2026217-2026882	Cell division
9	BnaN13g48730	AT2G05520.4	GRP-3, ATGRP-3 glycine-rich protein 3 chr2:2026217-2026882	Cell division
10	BnaN05g06710	AT2G38530.1	LTP2, LP2, cdf3 lipid transfer protein 2 chr2:16128481-16128948	Lipid transport
11	BnaN03g13740	AT5G59320.1	LTP3 lipid transfer protein 3 chr5:23929051-23929492	Lipid transport
12	BnaN16g42310		No Arabidopsis Ortholog	
13	BnaN11g14650	AT4G21960.1	PRXR1 Peroxidase superfamily protein chr4:11646613-11648312	Cell wall/metabolism
14	BnaN08g19780	AT4G38770.1	PRP4, ATPRP4 proline-rich protein 4 chr4:18097009-18098448	Cell wall
15	BnaN06g28880	AT5G25460.1	Protein of unknown function, DUF642 chr5:8863430-8865394	Unknown
16	BnaN12g24530		No Arabidopsis Ortholog	
17	BnaN14g07880	AT2G38530.1	LTP2, LP2, cdf3 lipid transfer protein 2 chr2:16128481-16128948	Lipid transport
18	BnaN12g11700		No Arabidopsis Ortholog	
19	BnaN17g36630	AT5G25460.1	Protein of unknown function, DUF642 chr5:8863430-8865394	Unknown
20	Bna00208bs0030	AT2G34420.1	LHB1B2, LHCB1.5 photosystem II light harvesting complex gene B1B2 chr2:14522716-14523513	Photosynthesis

Name	Arabidopsis gene	Arabidopsis gene ID	<i>B.napus</i> potential homologues (DH12075)		
			Epidermis	Whole petiole	
VLC-aldehyde decarbonylase	CER1	AT1G02205	BnaN18g53870	65828	108
			Bna01708s0010	30069	0
			Bna25797s0010	0	0
			Bna01708s0020	0	0
	CER1-Like	AT2G37700	BnaN04g24680	2376	184
			BnaN14g55470	6230	779
			BnaN14g55480	3616	369
VLC-acyl-CoA reductase	CER3/WAX2	AT5G57800	BnaN03g10750	0	0
			BnaN13g13230	0	0
			BnaN02g11420	15400	334
			BnaN10g12700	7457	420
			BnaN03g10770	0	0
			BnaN12g12900	9414	216
			BnaN19g43290	9618	585

Regulation

Arabidopsis gene	Arabidopsis gene ID	<i>B.napus</i> potential homologues (DH12075)	Epidermis	Whole petiole
DEWAX	AT5G61590	BnaN19g07370	4863	2657
		BnaN17g39310	9135	3841
		BnaN03g41000	8420	2890
DEWAX2	AT5G07580	BnaN09g06640	6187	4960
		BnaN19g59730	4529	8799
		BnaN02g02250	1228	1642
SHINE1/WIN1	AT1G15360	BnaN12g02040	1204	0
		BnaN18g21930	302	0
		BnaN08g26410	0	0
GCN5	AT3G54610	BnaN15g11960	352	0
		BnaN09g51740	0	0
		BnaN06g10230	619	0
		BnaN18g46610	0	0
		BnaN04g04650	508	454
		BnaN04g04690	333	555
MYB96	AT5G62470	BnaN14g33530	289	594
		BnaN09g39580	0	0
		BnaN14g33490	451	511
		BnaN19g17570	2000	1100
		Bna15446s0010	8550	484
		BnaN02g40410	8815	510
		BnaN19g07610	5401	369
		BnaN09g06900	6315	453
		BnaN13g56450	1458	171
		BnaN06g22560	1152	255

Anomalies from automated genome annotation

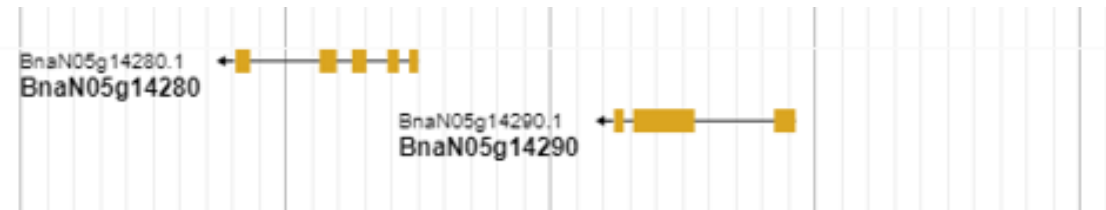
Name	Arabidopsis gene	Arabidopsis gene ID	<i>B.napus</i> potential homologues (DH12075)	Epidermis	Whole petiole
WSD1-like O-acyl transferase	WSD1	AT5G37300	BnaN04g28050	0	0
			BnaN05g14280	10090	0
			BnaN05g14290	6551	0
			BaN16g14670	14321	0

Tandem duplication?

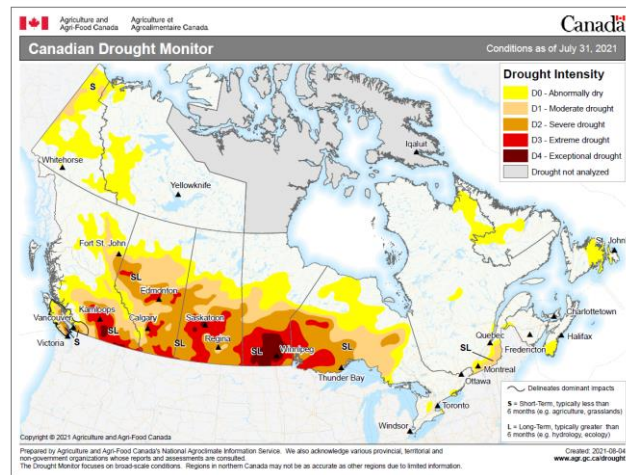
B. napus WSD1 gene prediction
C genome copy



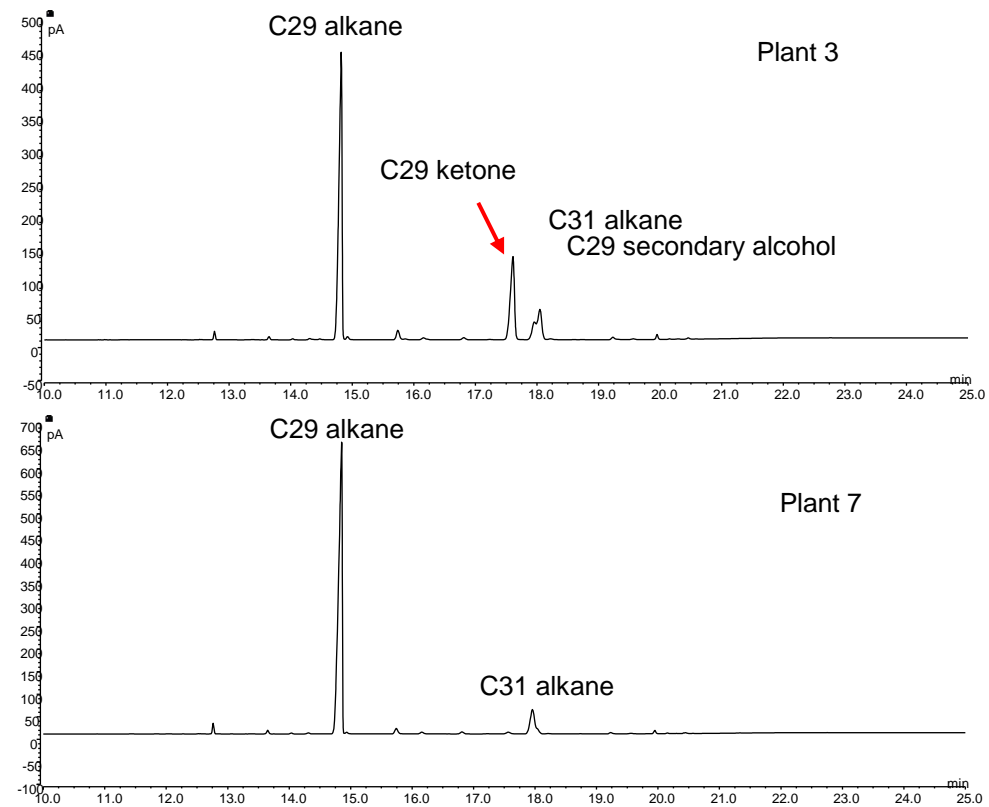
B. napus WSD1 gene prediction
A genome copy



Function and potential for crop improvement



Variant composition for functional studies



12 October 2021

Thank you.