### **Supporting Information**

### Apocarotenoids in the sexual interaction of *Phycomyces*

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#### A simple estimate of the apocarotenoid content

A simple estimate, C, of the increased apocarotenoid content was calculated as C = B-kA, where B is the absorbance at 328 nm in mated cultures, A is their maximum absorption near 260 nm, and k is the quotient between the respective values, B' and A', in single cultures (Figure S1). The k values were  $0.048 \pm 0.005$  for cultures on minimal agar and  $0.071 \pm 0.007$  for cultures on enriched agar (mean and standard deviation of the distribution in 8 independent experiments with the wild-type cultures in each case). This difference reflected the differences in the composition of agar media.

The C value was  $0.37 \pm 0.03$  in 12 mated cultures of the wild types and  $0.011 \pm 0.003$  in 19 mated cultures of the carB mutant strains (means and standard error). These values were independent of the media (minimal or enriched agar) and the strains (NRRL1555, NRRL1554, and A56).



**Figure S1**. Absorption spectra of culture media of wild-type strains A56 and NRRL1555 grown together for five days on minimal agar (mated culture, thick line), and NRRL1555 was grown alone in the same way (single culture, thin line). A and A' are the maximum absorbances (at about 260 nm); B and B' are the absorbances at 328 nm.



**Figure S2.** Chromatograms of neutral and acid extracts of single and mated cultures of the wild types NRRL1554, NRRL1555 and A56 and the *carB* mutants C5 and S342, unable to produce  $\beta$ -carotene. The ordinates represent the absorbance at 328 nm in milliunits. Note the changes of scale. The sex, (+) or (-), is indicated for each strain.



**Figure S3**. Chromatograms of neutral and acid extracts of single and mated cultures of the wild-types NRRL1554, NRRL1555 and A56 and the *carB* mutants C5 and S342, unable to produce  $\beta$ -carotene. The ordinates represent the absorbance at 280 nm in milliunits. Note the changes of scale. The sex, (+) or (-), is indicated for each strain.



Figure S4. Absorption spectra of the apocarotenoids as eluted from the HPLC column.







Spectrum <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **4a** + **5a** 







Spectrum <sup>13</sup>C NMR of 4 + 5

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Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **6** 



Spectrum <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **6** 



Spectrum COSY of 6



Spectrum HSQC of 6



Spectrum HMBC of 6



Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **7** 



Spectrum <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **7** 







Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **7** + **8** 



Spectrum <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **7** + **8** 



Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **7** + **8** 



Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of  $\bf 2$ 



Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **2** + **12** 

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Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **3** 

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Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **11a** (9*E*)



Spectrum <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **9a** and **10** (9Z)



Spectrum <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **9a** and **10** (9*Z*)