Symbols and acronyms	Description	Dimensions*
AE	Assimilation efficiency	–
BPE	Biomass production efficiency	–
C	Carbon mass	$M\,L^{-2}$ or M
CSE	Carbon-storage efficiency	–
CUE	Carbon-use efficiency	–
CUE_A	Apparent carbon-use efficiency	–
EG	Egestion	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
EX	Exudation	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
F_{in}	Abiotic carbon input	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$
F_{out}	Abiotic carbon output	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$
G	Growth	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
GGE	Gross growth efficiency	–
GPP	Gross primary productivity	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$
I	Input	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
NECB	Net ecosystem carbon balance $(=\mathrm{d}C/\mathrm{d}t)$	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$
NEP	Net ecosystem productivity	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$
NGE	Net growth efficiency	–
NPP	Net primary productivity	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$
O	Output	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
R	Respiration	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
R_a	Autotrophic respiration	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
R_{growth}	Growth respiration	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
R_h	Heterotrophic respiration	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
$R_{maintenance}$	Maintenance respiration	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
$R_{overflow}$	Overflow respiration	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
T	Biomass turnover	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
U	Carbon uptake	$M\,L^{-2}\,T^{-1}$ or $M\,T^{-1}$
Y_G	Growth yield	–