

Genetic factors inherited from both diploid parents interact to affect genome stability and fertility in resynthesized allotetraploid *B. napus*

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Research Article

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1 **Genetic factors inherited from both diploid parents interact to affect genome**
2 **stability and fertility in resynthesized allotetraploid *Brassica napus***

3

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29 **Abstract**

30 Established allopolyploids are known to be genomically stable and fertile. However, by
31 contrast, most newly resynthesized allopolyploids are infertile and meiotically unstable.
32 Identifying the genetic factors responsible for genome stability in newly formed allopolyploid
33 is key to understanding how two genomes come together to form a species. One hypothesis is
34 that established allopolyploids may have inherited specific alleles from their diploid
35 progenitors which conferred meiotic stability. Resynthesized *B. napus* lines are often unstable
36 and infertile, unlike *B. napus* cultivars. We tested this hypothesis by characterizing 41
37 resynthesized *B. napus* lines produced by crosses between eight *B. rapa* and eight *B. oleracea*
38 lines for copy number variation resulting from non-homologous recombination events, and
39 fertility. We resequenced eight *B. rapa* and five *B. oleracea* parent accessions, and analyzed
40 19 resynthesized lines for allelic variation in a list of meiosis gene homologs. SNP genotyping
41 was performed using the Illumina Infinium *Brassica* 60K array for three individuals per line.
42 Self-pollinated seed-set and genome stability (number of copy number variants) were
43 significantly affected by the interaction between both *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parental
44 genotypes. We identified thirteen putative meiosis gene candidates which were significantly
45 associated with frequency of copy number variants and which contained putatively harmful
46 mutations in meiosis gene haplotypes for further investigation. Our results support the
47 hypothesis that allelic variants inherited from parental genotypes affect genome stability and
48 fertility in resynthesized rapeseed.

49 **Keywords:** Copy number variation, fertility, genome stability, meiosis, resynthesized
50 *Brassica napus*, Single nucleotide polymorphism

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53 **Introduction**

54 Polyploidy is the heritable condition of possessing more than two sets of chromosomes (Comai
55 2005). The extra set/s of chromosomes may originate from the same individual or from within
56 the same species, which is referred to as autopolyploidy, or from hybridization between two
57 different species, known as allopolyploidy (Otto 2007). Polyploidy confers a number of
58 evolutionary advantages (Soltis and Soltis 2000), and many crop species are allo- or
59 autopolyploids. One important consequence for allopolyploids is that disomic inheritance of
60 each parental locus may be upset, and genetic heterozygosity between the parental species may
61 not remain fixed after whole genome duplication (Ramsey and Schemske 2002).

62 The *Brassica* genus is one of 51 genera in the tribe *Brassicaceae* belonging to the crucifer family
63 (*Brassicaceae*) and is the most economically important genus within this tribe (Rakow 2004).
64 It is an interesting model for allopolyploid formation in agricultural crops as six agriculturally
65 significant species share a genomic interrelationship (NU 1935). *Brassica napus* (genome
66 $A_nA_nC_nC_n$) was spontaneously formed by recent allopolyploidy between ancestors of *B.*
67 *oleracea* (Mediterranean cabbage, genome C_oC_o) and *B. rapa* (Asian cabbage or turnip,
68 genome A_rA_r) in the last 7500 years, and is thought to be polyphyletic in origin (Allender and
69 King 2010; Chalhoub *et al.* 2014). Therefore, the *Brassica* genus and most especially *B. napus*
70 are increasingly receiving attention as a model for regulation of meiosis in a young polyploid
71 crop species (Mason and Snowdon 2016).

72 Synthetic polyploids can be produced through genome doubling of diploid plants or hybrids
73 via methods such as chemical treatment with colchicine (Spoelhof *et al.* 2017). However, most
74 synthetic polyploids remain largely unstable in terms of meiosis and genome inheritance
75 (reviewed by Pelé *et al.*, 2018). Meiotic aberrations are common in newly formed
76 autopolyploid and allopolyploid plants, which negatively affects their fertility and early
77 demographic success (Ramsey and Schemske 2002; Gaeta and Pires 2010). Synthetic
78 allopolyploids lack the phenotypic and genomic stability of established allopolyploids (Soltis
79 and Soltis 1995; Pikaard 1999; Comai *et al.* 2000). Abnormal phenotypes and frequent failure
80 of pollen and embryo development (Schranz and Osborn 2000; Comai *et al.* 2003) as well as
81 widespread changes in gene expression have been observed in other synthetic allopolyploids
82 (Kashkush *et al.* 2002). Although not all newly resynthesized allopolyploids are genomically
83 unstable (Comai *et al.* 2000; Wang *et al.* 2006; Novikova *et al.* 2017; Chen *et al.* 2020), most
84 are, including synthetic *Brassica* allotetraploids (Song *et al.* 1995), and this has been attributed

85 to abnormal meiosis (Szadkowski *et al.* 2010). This meiotic instability involves homoeologous
86 pairing or interactions between the closely related A and C genome chromosomes during
87 meiosis (Comai 2000; Nicolas *et al.* 2007, 2012; Leflon *et al.* 2010). Although several studies
88 have produced and investigated synthetic *Brassica* e.g. (Abel *et al.* 2005; Mason *et al.* 2010;
89 Szadkowski *et al.* 2010; Girke *et al.* 2012; Jesske *et al.* 2013; Karim *et al.* 2014), almost all
90 synthetic *Brassica* lines investigated so far appear to be meiotically unstable (Chen *et al.* 2011;
91 Gaebelein and Mason 2018).

92 The question then is why the established *B. napus* species is stable and the resynthesized lines
93 are unstable. One hypothesis is that *B. napus* may have gained genetic control via the
94 inheritance of specific alleles from its diploid progenitor species (Mason *et al.* 2015a). A few
95 studies have been conducted to explain genome instability in resynthesized *Brassica napus*
96 allotetraploids (Gaeta *et al.* 2007; Szadkowski *et al.* 2010; Xiong *et al.* 2010), and recently
97 several quantitative trait loci were identified to be present in natural *Brassica napus* that confer
98 reduced homoeologous recombination rates (Higgins *et al.* 2020). However, no study to date
99 has investigated multiple genotypes of resynthesized *B. napus* in order to test the idea that
100 allelic variation inherited from the progenitor species conferred meiotic stability to natural *B.*
101 *napus*. In this study, we aimed to test the hypothesis that allelic variants inherited from diploid
102 progenitor species *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* affect the frequency of homoeologous
103 recombination in resynthesized *B. napus*, and hence that inherited allelic variation may have
104 conferred genomic stability to resynthesized *B. napus* lines.

105

106 **Materials and Methods**

107 **Description of plant material**

108 The materials used in this study comprise resynthesized *B. napus* seeds derived from crosses
109 between homozygous *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parents as described in (Abel *et al.* 2005), where
110 these are referred to as “spring-type domesticated lines”. The parental genotypes are either
111 doubled haploid or highly inbred lines. C- genome genotypes are either cauliflower (*B.*
112 *oleracea* var. *botrytis*) and Chinese Kale (*B. oleracea* var. *alboglabra*), A- genome genotypes
113 are yellow sarson (*B. rapa* ssp. *trilocularis*), oilseed turnip (*B. rapa* ssp. *oleifera*), and Chinese
114 cabbage (*B. rapa* ssp. *Pekinensis*) (Supplementary File 1). Abel *et al.* (2005) produced seeds
115 from 336 cross-combinations between twenty-one *B. rapa* (maternal parent) and sixteen *B.*

116 *oleracea* lines including a core set of 64 cross-combinations between eight *B. rapa* and eight
117 *B. oleracea* lines. Seeds from 41 resynthesized *B. napus* genotypes produced from crosses
118 between eight *B. rapa* (A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A13, A16 and A19), and eight *B. oleracea* parent
119 genotypes (C34, C36, C37, C38, C42, C46, C47 and C49) via embryo rescue, chromosome
120 doubling and self-pollination (S1 generation), as well as their *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parent
121 genotypes, were used in this study. Established *Brassica* cultivars were used as controls for
122 fertility in our experiment: winter-type *B. napus* ‘Darmor’, spring-type *B. napus* ‘Argyle’, and
123 semi-winter type *B. napus* ‘Ningyou7’, as well as *B. rapa* var. *oleifera* (unknown accession)
124 and *B. oleracea* var. *botrytis* ‘NGB 1810.2’.

125 The resynthesized *B. napus* lines are represented by codes in the form “A1C1”, where “A1” is
126 the *B. rapa* parent genotype and “C1” is the *B. oleracea* parent genotype. In the present study,
127 three seeds from each of 41 resynthesized genotypes and cultivars of established *B. napus*, *B.*
128 *rapa*, and *B. oleracea* used as controls were sown in quick-pots and seedlings transferred to
129 small pots without vernalization between September and November 2017 under glasshouse
130 conditions at Justus Liebig University (JLU). Eight *B. rapa* parent genotypes (A4, A6, A7, A8,
131 A9, A13, A16, and A19) as well as six *B. oleracea* lines (C34, C36, C37, C38, C46, and C47)
132 used to produce the resynthesized *B. napus* lines were likewise sown on the 12th of September
133 2019 under the same glasshouse conditions at JLU as the resynthesized lines . All lines except
134 C38 successfully germinated and produced plants. Three plant replicates from each genotype
135 were then isolated in bags at flowering to ensure self-pollination.

136 **Assessment of purity in resynthesized *B. napus* lines**

137 The purity of 41 resynthesized *B. napus* genotypes with SNP genotyping information was
138 assessed. Eight parent *B. rapa*; five DH lines (A6, A7, A8, A9, and A13) and three inbred lines
139 (A4, A16, A19) as well as eight *B. oleracea* genotypes; five DH lines (C34, C36, C37, C38,
140 C42) and three inbred lines (C46, C47, and C49) were used to produce the resynthesized lines
141 (Abel et al 2005). Resynthesized lines produced by DH parental crosses between *B. rapa* and
142 *B. oleracea* (AA × CC) are expected to be completely homozygous. Therefore, individuals of
143 the same progeny sets having the same maternal *B. rapa* (AA) or paternal *B. oleracea* (CC)
144 parents are expected to be non-segregating. We assessed purity using two criteria: 1) the
145 absence of segregation pattern among progeny sets; and 2) the absence of continuous blocks
146 of heterozygous (AB) calls across the A and the C genome in all individuals.

147 **Fertility assessment in resynthesized *B. napus* lines**

148 Three parameters were scored to describe fertility in resynthesized lines: pollen viability, total
149 number of seeds produced per plant, and number of seeds produced per ten pods. Pollen
150 viability was assessed for two freshly opened flowers per plant, and pollen grains stained with
151 1-2% acetocarmine solution (Leflon *et al.* 2006). At least 600 pollen grains per plant were
152 counted and pollen viability was assessed using a light microscope (Leica DMR, Leica
153 Microsystems), assuming darkly stained (red) pollen grains were viable, and weakly stained or
154 shrivelled pollen grains were non-viable. The total number of self-pollinated seeds produced
155 per plant and the number of seeds produced per ten pods were counted for each plant after
156 harvesting.

157 **DNA extraction and genotyping using the Illumina Infinium *Brassica* 60K SNP array**

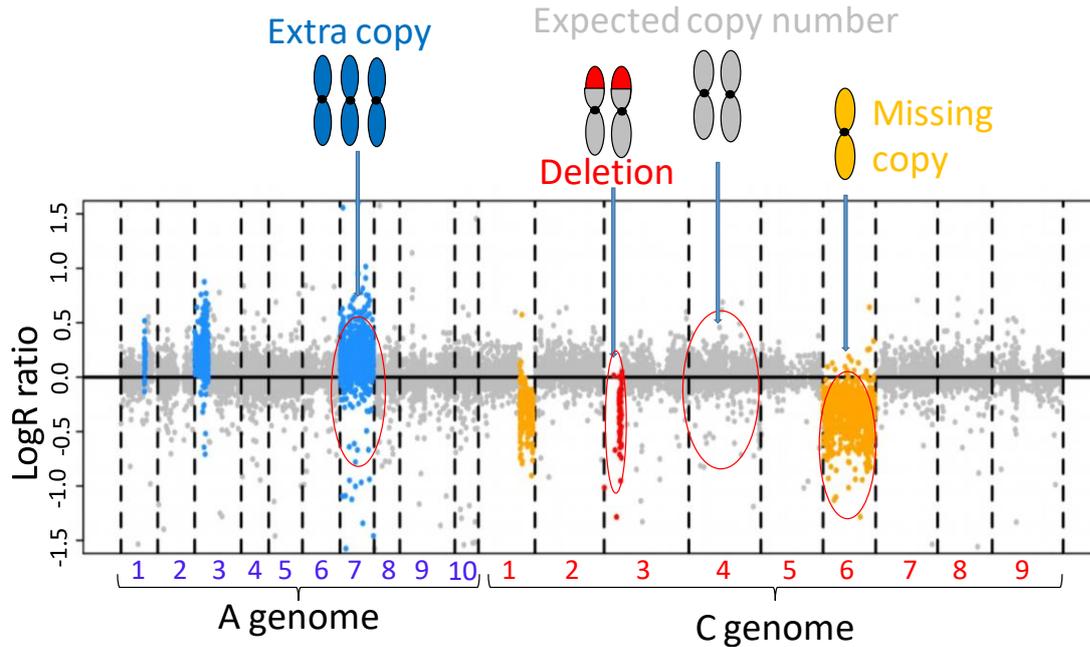
158 Young leaf samples were collected in 2 ml micro-centrifuge tubes at the 4 to 6 leaf stage of
159 plant development. DNA was extracted for 41 resynthesized lines (123 plants) using the
160 BioSprint 96 plant work station (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's
161 instructions (<http://qiagen.com/>). Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping was
162 carried out using the high-throughput Illumina Infinium 60K *Brassica* SNP array for the
163 resynthesized lines. Hybridization protocols were performed according to the manufacturer's
164 instructions for all samples.

165 SNP data was analysed, visualized, and exported into text files using Genome Studio v2.0.4
166 software (Illumina Inc., San Diego CA, USA). All 52 149 SNPs were exported for the A and
167 C genome after application of the recommended "brassica60K" cluster file (Clarke *et al.* 2016).
168 Top BLAST alignment hits for the SNP probes against the A and C genomes of the reference
169 genome sequence of Darmor-*bzh* version 8.1 (Bayer *et al.* 2017) were used for genome position
170 information. Hits to unplaced contigs were removed from further analyses. Data from samples
171 of each *Brassica* species sourced from Mason *et al.* (2015b) were used as controls for filtering
172 SNPs. SNPs which mapped to the A genome but which amplified in *Brassica carinata* (BBCC)
173 and *Brassica oleracea* (CC) genotype controls as well as SNPs which mapped to the C genome
174 but amplified in *Brassica juncea* (AABB) and *Brassica rapa* (AA) genotype controls in > 50%
175 of the controls were filtered out. SNP markers with > 50% heterozygous AB calls in all five *B.*
176 *napus* homozygous control cultivars (Boomer, Monty_028DH, Surpass400_024DH, Trilogy
177 and Westar_10DH) as well as SNPs which showed > 99% missing calls (NC) across all lines
178 were removed. Further filtering steps included the removal of SNPs with $\geq 80\%$ AB calls across
179 individuals. After filtering, 21 938 SNPs were retained: 8369 SNPs in the A genome and 13569

180 SNPs in the C genome (Supplementary File 2). Genotype calls were then converted to
181 homozygous/heterozygous calls (0 and 2 for homozygous and 1 for heterozygous) and
182 incidence of missing calls represented by NA. Since the resynthesized lines were produced by
183 chromosome doubling of parent F₁ AC hybrids using colchicine, the allotetraploid hybrids are
184 expected to be homozygous. After quality filtering of SNPs, we used the filtered SNPs to plot
185 dendrograms separately for both the A and C genome parents (Supplementary Figs. 1 and 2).

186 **Detection of copy number variation (CNV) in resynthesized *B. napus* lines**

187 A copy number pipeline was developed in R (Schiessl et al., unpublished). The pipeline uses
188 the logR ratios (Supplementary File 3) to make plots for every individual line based on
189 estimated cut off values to score copy number variants. Log R ratios estimate relative
190 fluorescence intensity for each SNP marker, and are an output metric of Illumina
191 GenomeStudio, the program used to call SNPs from raw data. For every SNP, we screened a
192 diverse population representative for the diversity among natural *B. napus* (ASSYST) to get
193 the expected log R ratio (Bus *et al.* 2012; Körber *et al.* 2012) distribution for this specific SNP.
194 We then use quantiles to determine if the log R ratio of the SNP in our test population is
195 unexpectedly low or high. The quantiles used for “deletion” were 10, for “missing copy” were
196 25 and for “extra copy” were 75: If SNP x in line y had a log R ratio value lower than the
197 expected 10th quantile, SNP x was marked as a threshold SNP in line y. Windows with more
198 than five threshold SNPs were kept and merged in case of physical overlap. The merged regions
199 were re-evaluated for the threshold SNP content, and regions with more than 50% threshold
200 SNPs were retained. Regions with the same direction of copy number variation (extra
201 copy/copies, or missing regions/deleted regions) that were very close together (< 5 Mb) were
202 merged (declared as deletion in the case that a deletion and a missing copy region were
203 merged), and regions < 2 Mb were also filtered out, so as not to overestimate CNV numbers
204 based on noise in the data, especially since we only expect a limited number of non-
205 homologous recombination events per chromosome and hence smaller CNVs are less likely in
206 this population (two close-together non-homologous recombination events are required for a
207 small, non-telomeric CNV). Therefore, using the above-mentioned criteria, we assessed copy
208 number variation in the resynthesized *B. napus* lines as deletion, missing/reduced copy, and
209 extra/higher copy, with two copies as the expected copy number (Fig. 1). We also screened the
210 LogR ratio data of the resynthesized *B. napus* lines to check whether the same CNVs (inherited)
211 are present in all progeny set derived from the *B. rapa* or *B. oleracea* parents.



212

213 **Fig. 1** An example of copy number variant calling in resynthesized *B. napus* lines showing
 214 regions of extra copy number (blue), no copies / deletion (red), expected copy (grey), and single
 215 / reduced copy (orange).

216

217

218 DNA extraction, sequencing and sequence analysis of parental lines

219 DNA was extracted from young leaf samples of eight *B. rapa* genotypes (A4, A6, A7, A8, A9,
 220 A13, A16, and A19) as well as five *B. oleracea* genotypes (C34, C36, C37, C46, and C47) using
 221 the Doyle and Doyle DNA extraction protocol (Doyle and Doyle 1987). Illumina paired-end
 222 sequencing was performed at Novogene Company Limited, United Kingdom on a Illumina
 223 HiSeq machine to produce reads of 150 bp length. Quality control was performed using
 224 FASTQC (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>), no further processing
 225 was found to be necessary. The parental reference genomes *B. rapa* cv. Chiifu version 3.0
 226 (Zhang *et al.* 2018) and *B. oleracea* cv. JZS version 2.0 (Cai *et al.* 2020) were downloaded
 227 from the BRAD database (Chen *et al.* 2022). Reads were trimmed by removing low-quality
 228 reads and unpaired reads using TRIMMOMATIC version 0.39 (Bolger *et al.* 2014).
 229 Subsequently, reads were mapped to their respective reference genomes using bwa-mem (Li
 230 and Durbin 2010). Uniquely and high-quality mapping reads were selected by “samtools view
 231 -q 20” (-b: output is bam files, -q 20, mapping quality of phred score gives a 99% probability

232 the mapping is correct) (Danecek *et al.* 2021). The depth of each base pair was obtained by
233 “samtools depth -a” (-a all sites). SNP calling was performed using bcftools mpileup and
234 filtered for a minimum quality of 30 and a minimum read depth of 10 using vcftools (Danecek
235 *et al.* 2011), restricted to meiosis gene positions (Supplementary File 4). SNP annotation was
236 performed using CooVar (Vergara *et al.* 2012).

237 **Detection of copy number variation in parental *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* lines**

238 Since protein coding genes are more conserved and less repetitive than other parts of the
239 genome, the detection of copy number variation was carried out only for gene coding regions.
240 The median sequencing depth of each gene (based on gene annotation) was calculated. These
241 gene depths were then normalized by dividing by the mean depth of all genes. As our lines are
242 not the same genotypes as the reference genome, there was probably some mapping bias. If all
243 lines from one parent species showed low (<0.5 fold relative to mean coverage) or high (>1.5
244 fold relative to mean coverage) mapping rates, these genes were excluded from the analysis.
245 To avoid uneven distribution of sequencing depth along the genome, a sliding window was
246 calculated for the median depth of 40 genes. Relative read coverage for the median depth of 40
247 genes was carried out for each of the sequenced *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* genotypes
248 (Supplementary Figs. 3 and 4).

249

250 **Identification of meiosis genes candidates in resynthesized *Brassica napus***

251 SNP information from the five *B. oleracea* genotypes (C34, C36, C37, C46, and C47), and eight
252 *B. rapa* genotypes (A4, A8, A9, A13, A16, and A19) excluding A6 and A7 were analyzed
253 separately in order to detect putative meiosis genes candidates using the following steps.
254 Firstly, the SNP data of *B. oleracea* /*B. rapa* parents were read in. In the next step, all non-
255 informative SNPs were removed: if one line had “missing information” this SNP was excluded.
256 Gene haplotypes were obtained from the SNP information. We then inferred the allelic state of
257 the S₁ resynthesized *B. napus* lines by combining the respective parents, and subsequently
258 matched these to the phenotype data (fertility, CNV). Next, one-way ANOVA was used to test
259 for significant differences between haplotypes and total CNVs as well as total seed set. The p-
260 values were corrected using the False Discovery Rate (FDR) test. Subsequently, Fisher’s exact
261 test for count data was used to check for significant differences between putatively “stable”
262 and “unstable” lines.

263 **Statistical analysis**

264 Genotypic effects on fertility (self-pollinated seeds and seeds per ten pods) and genome
265 stability (as measured by number of CNVs) were tested for associations with alleles inherited
266 from either *B. rapa* or *B. oleracea* parent or with the interaction between the two in the
267 resynthesized lines. One-way ANOVA was used to test for significant differences in means
268 followed by Tukey's HSD to test for differences between parent *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea*
269 genotype groups using R v. 3.6.3 (The R Team for Statistical Computing).

270

271 **Results**

272 **Purity of S₁ resynthesized *B. napus* lines**

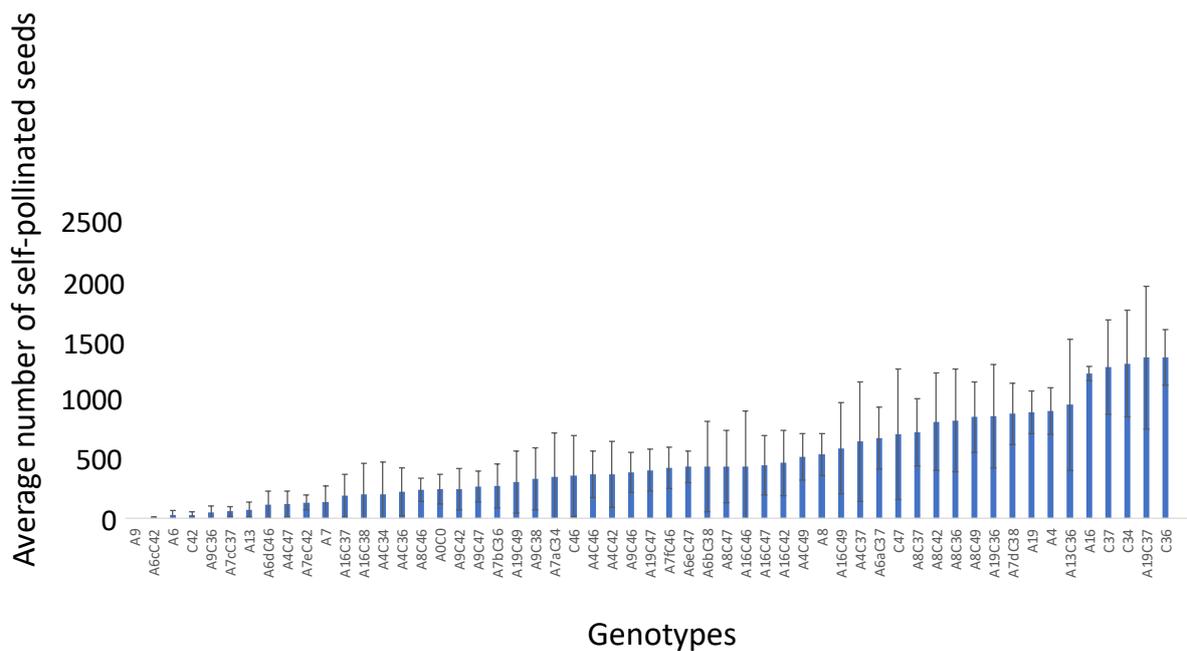
273 SNP genotyping was carried out for all 41 resynthesized *B. napus* genotypes (123 individuals).
274 All individual lines were homozygous and identical in allele inheritance to other individuals in
275 the same progeny set, as expected. However, we observed unexpected differences in allele
276 inheritance between progeny sets with the same parental lines C46, C49, and A19. For progeny
277 sets sharing *B. oleracea* parent line C46 segregating regions were observed on chromosome
278 C06 (~1.4 Mb) and C08 (2.4 Mb). Progeny sets with parent C49 also showed segregation on
279 chromosome C01 (~1.1 Mb) and C04 (0.3 Mb). A 1 Mb region on chromosome A04 was also
280 segregating between progeny sets A19C37, A19C47 and A19C49. Each of C46, C49 and A19
281 were homozygous inbred lines, rather than doubled-haploid.

282 We also observed large differences in A genome allele inheritance between progeny sets of
283 resynthesized lines with *B. rapa* A6 and A7 as A-genome parents. Hence, parent genotypes A6
284 and A7 were likely actually heterozygous instead of homozygous as expected; explaining why
285 the A genomes of different resynthesized genotype combinations with A6 and A7 *B. rapa*
286 parents were not all the same (Supplementary Fig. 1). Consequently, we renamed all
287 resynthesized *B. napus* lines which had A6 or A7 *B. rapa* parents with codes represented in the
288 form "A6aC1" or "A7aC1", where "A6a" or "A7a" represents different progeny sets (S₀ plants)
289 resulting from the heterozygous A6 or A7 *B. rapa* parent genotype and "C1" represents the *B.*
290 *oleracea* parent genotype. Other progeny sets with *B. rapa* parental genotypes A4, A8, A9,
291 A13, and A16 as well as *B. oleracea* genotypes C34, C36, C37, C38, and C42 (Supplementary
292 File 2) were completely homozygous, as no continuous blocks of heterozygosity and/or allele
293 segregation between progeny sets were observed in these lines.

294

295 **Resynthesized *B. napus* lines show comparable fertility to parent *Brassica rapa* and**
296 ***Brassica oleracea* genotypes**

297 Total self-pollinated seeds per single plant in the resynthesized lines ranged from 1 to 2067
298 (mean 445) (Supplementary Fig. 5a, Supplementary File 5), with a mean of 45 seeds per ten
299 pods (range 0 – 148) (Supplementary Fig. 5b). Resynthesized lines also showed average pollen
300 viability of 81% (Supplementary Fig. 6). Average number of self-pollinated seeds in
301 resynthesized lines was higher compared to *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parental genotypes (Fig.
302 2). Average number of seeds per 10 pods and average number of self-pollinated seeds were
303 moderately highly correlated ($r = 0.68$) (Supplementary Fig. 7), although there was no
304 significant correlation between pollen viability and either of the seed fertility measures
305 (Supplementary Fig. 8, a and b).



306

307

308 **Fig. 2** Fertility of resynthesized lines (genotype combinations given as AXCX) measured by
309 the average number of self-pollinated seeds was compared to progenitor *B. rapa* (A4, A6, A7,
310 A8, A9, A13, A16 and A19), and *B. oleracea* (C34, C36, C37, C42, C46 and C47) genotypes.

311

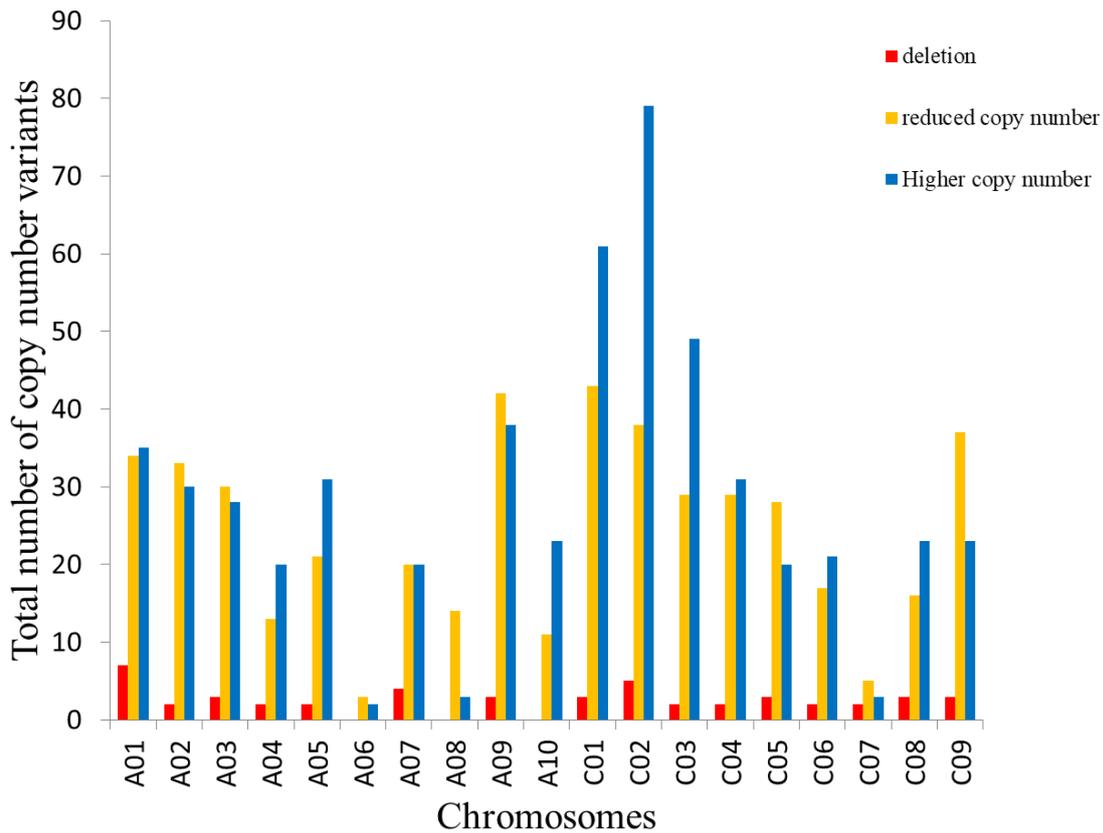
312 **Interactions between *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parent genotypes affected fertility**

313 Resynthesized *B. napus* lines were assessed in order to detect whether maternal (*B. rapa*) or
314 paternal (*B. oleracea*) genotypes independently influence fertility (total number of self-
315 pollinated seeds and seeds per ten pod). The total number of self-pollinated seeds produced
316 was significantly affected by *B. rapa* parent genotype (ANOVA, $p = 0.000539$)
317 (Supplementary Fig. 9a) but not by *B. oleracea* parent genotype (Supplementary Fig. 9b).
318 Neither *B. rapa* nor *B. oleracea* parent genotype independently affected seeds per ten pods
319 (Supplementary Figs. 10a, b). However, a significant interaction effect (one-way ANOVA, p
320 $= 5.97e-05$, Tukey's HSD $p < 0.05$) was observed for the combination of *B. rapa* and *B.*
321 *oleracea* parent genotypes on the total number of self-pollinated seeds produced in *B. napus*
322 resynthesized lines based on our linear model (Supplementary Table 1).

323

324 **Frequent copy number variation detected in resynthesized *B. napus* lines**

325 Copy number variants (deletions, reduced copy numbers, and higher copy numbers) were
326 detected at a high frequency across the A and C genomes in the resynthesized *B. napus* lines
327 (Fig. 3). The total number of CNVs detected varied widely between resynthesized *B. napus*
328 lines (Supplementary Fig. 11, Supplementary File 5). We also observed no inherited CNVs ($>$
329 0.5Mb) between progeny sets of resynthesized *B. napus* lines with either the same A or C
330 genome parental genotypes.



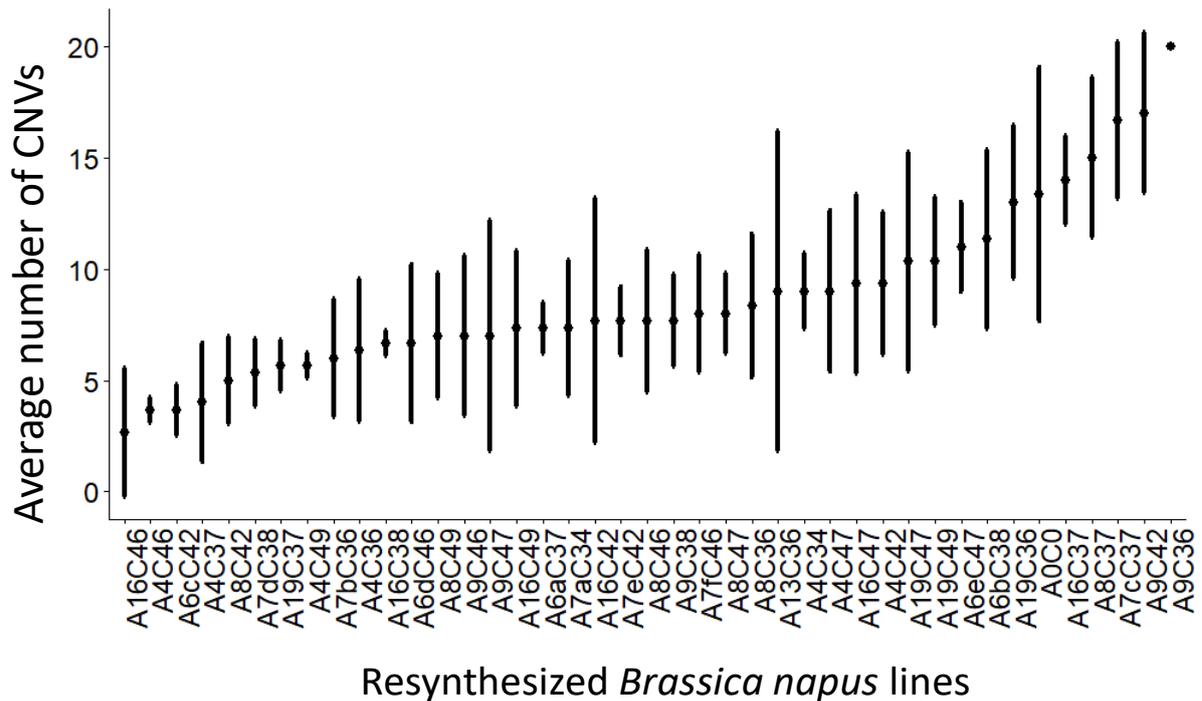
331

332 **Fig. 3** Genome-wide copy number variation was detected in resynthesized *B. napus* lines.
 333 Deletions (blue), reduced copy (red), and higher copy number (green)

334

335 ***B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parent genotypes interact to affect genome stability (number of**
 336 **copy number variants) in resynthesized rapeseed lines**

337 Although parent *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* genotypes independently had no significant effect on
 338 the number of CNVs, the interaction between the two parent genotypes was significant, such
 339 that there were significant differences between resynthesized lines (ANOVA, $p = 3.15e-06$;
 340 Fig. 4, Tukey's HSD $p < 0.05$ Supplementary Table 2). Hence, the number of CNVs detected
 341 was affected by different cross combinations of *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parent genotypes based
 342 on our linear model.



343

344 **Fig. 4** Average number of CNVs between resynthesized *Brassica napus* (rapeseed) lines
 345 from different genotype combinations. Parent genotypes of *B. rapa* are A4, A6, A7, A8, A9,
 346 A13, A16 and A19, parent genotypes of *B. oleracea* are C34, C36, C37, C38, C42, C46, C47
 347 and C49, and synthetic rapeseed lines are indicated by the parent combination in the form
 348 AXCX or AXaCX.

349

350 The relationship between genome stability (as measured by copy number variation) and fertility
 351 was assessed in the resynthesized *B. napus* lines. Genome stability was negatively correlated
 352 with fertility ($r = -0.22$) in resynthesized *B. napus* lines (Supplementary Fig. 12). This
 353 relatively weak relationship indicates that other factors apart from genome stability might also
 354 contribute to fertility in resynthesized lines.

355

356 Allelic state of resynthesized S₁ *B. napus* lines predicted by estimating CNVs

357 Nineteen resynthesized *B. napus* lines, excluding cross combinations with heterozygous A6
 358 and A7 parents, were classified into stable, intermediate, and unstable using the following
 359 criteria and process. Firstly, we undertook pairwise comparisons of CNV data to determine
 360 which resynthesized lines were significantly different from each other (Tukey's HSD $p < 0.05$,

361 Supplementary Table 2). Two groups were established which were significantly different from
 362 each other in numbers of CNVs: these lines were classified as either putatively “stable” (low
 363 numbers of CNVs) or putatively “unstable” (high numbers of CNVs) while lines which were
 364 not significantly different from any other line were classified as “intermediate”. Based on this,
 365 resynthesized lines with average number of CNVs below 6 were classified into putatively
 366 “stable” (4 combinations), from 6 to 10 putatively “intermediate” (11 combinations), and above
 367 10 as putatively “unstable” (4 combinations) (Table 1).

368 Table 1 Classification of resynthesized *B. napus* cross combinations into putatively “stable”,
 369 putatively “unstable”, and putatively “intermediate” by pairwise comparisons and estimation
 370 of average CNVs trait data. Genotypes without data (no plants) are indicated with “-”

	C34 var bot dh	C36 var bot dh	C37 var bot dh	C46 var alb il	C47 var alb il
A4 var tri il	Intermediate	Intermediate	Stable	Stable	Intermediate
A16 var tri il	-	-	Unstable	Stable	Intermediate
A19 var tri il	-	Unstable	Stable	-	Intermediate
A8 var tri dh	-	Intermediate	Unstable	Intermediate	Intermediate
A9 var olei dh	-	Unstable	-	Intermediate	Intermediate
A13 var pek dh	-	Intermediate	-	-	-

371 *var olei represents *B. rapa* var. *oleifera*, var tri represents *B. rapa* var. *trilocularis*, var bot represents *B. oleracea* var.
 372 *botrytis*, and var alb represents *B. oleracea* var. *albogabra*. *dh means double haploid while il means inbred lines

373

374 Allelic variation in meiosis genes is associated with number of CNVs

375 Eight parent accessions of *B. rapa* (A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A13, A16, A19) and five parent
 376 accessions of *B. oleracea* (C34, C36, C37, C46, C47) were resequenced. However, *B. rapa* A6
 377 and A7 accessions was found to be heterozygous, and was subsequently taken out of the
 378 analysis. In the next step, the allelic variation was analysed in a list of meiosis gene homologs.
 379 3689 SNPs in *B. rapa* meiosis genes were detected, of which 832 were non-synonymous and
 380 no splice variants were detected (Supplementary File 6a). In *B. oleracea* meiosis genes, 2549
 381 SNPs were detected, of which 729 were non-synonymous, 4 were splice variants and 3 were
 382 stop codon gains (Supplementary File 6b). Moreover, CNVs in meiosis genes were detected
 383 by analysing coverage. It was found that 96 of the 197 *B. rapa* meiosis gene copies carried a
 384 deletion in at least one accession, out of which two were deleted in all 8 accessions, and 90
 385 gene copies carried a duplication (Supplementary File 6c). In *B. oleracea*, 33 gene copies out

386 of 193 were deleted in at least one accession, one of them in all accessions, and 57 were
387 duplicated (Supplementary File 6d).

388 From these data, the allelic state of the S1 *B. napus* resynthesized lines by combining the
389 respective parents was inferred (Supplementary File 6, e and f) from which the list of putative
390 meiosis genes candidates were pulled (Supplementary File 7, a-d) . Phenotypic data for 19
391 cross combinations (excluding combinations with heterozygous A6 and A7 parents) which
392 could be tested in the greenhouse was used, and CNV counts classified lines into putatively
393 “stable” (4 combinations), “intermediate” (11 combinations), “unstable” (4 combinations) and
394 “missing” (11 combinations) (**Table 1**). In the next step, meiosis candidate genes were selected
395 using the following criteria (Supplementary File 7, a-e). Firstly, significant associations of
396 number of CNVs with meiosis gene haplotypes after FDR correction (Supplementary File 7, b
397 and e). Secondly, presence of putatively harmful mutations in meiosis genes haplotypes which
398 fulfil criterion 1 (non-conservative missense codon, stop codon gain variants and/or splice
399 variants) (Supplementary File 7, b and e). Thirdly, putative gene function in meiosis related to
400 DNA or double strand break repair, effects on meiotic crossover or effects on homoeologous
401 recombination (Supplementary File 7e).

402 Using these three criteria, we identified thirteen putative meiosis genes from the *B. oleracea* C
403 genome parents used to produce the resynthesized *B. napus* lines (Table 2). Of these, *RPA1C*,
404 *MSH2*, and *RECQ4B* also showed presence of either a stop codon or a splice variant in at least
405 one gene copy. *RPA1C* gene copies carried two non-conservative missense codons and one
406 stop codon gain. *MSH2* carried one stop codon gain and one splice donor variant, while
407 *RECQ4B* showed 4 missense codons, one stop codon gain variant, and one splice acceptor
408 variant. Other putative candidate genes with significant CNV association with haplotypes and
409 carrying at least one non-conservative missense codon were *BRCA*, *ATR*, *RAD51C*, *MLH3*,
410 *RECQ4A*, *SDS*, *RAD51*, *BLAP75/RM11*, and *SYN1/DIF1/REC8*, *AtGRI/COM1* (Table 2). In
411 the *Brassica rapa* parents, none of the gene haplotypes fulfilled criterion 1, which is our most
412 important criterion for the selection of putative meiosis gene candidates. So these genes from
413 *Brassica rapa* parents (Supplementary File 7, c-d) were not considered as interesting meiosis
414 gene candidates.

415

416

417 Table 2 Meiosis gene haplotypes associated with copy number variants (CNVs) in
 418 resynthesized *B. napus* derived from crosses between *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parents

Candidate genes involved	chromosome	Location of other copies	<i>B. oleracea</i> copies	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> homologue	Type of mutation	Significant CNV association with haplotypes after FDR correction ($p < 0.05$)
RPA1C	C02	C09	<i>Bo2g127130.1</i> , <i>Bo9g061490.1</i>	<i>AT5G45400.1</i> , <i>AT5G45400.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon, stop codon gain	0.04, 0.04
MSH2	C06	C06, C03	<i>Bo6g030570.1</i> , <i>Bo3g071550.1</i> , <i>Bo6g003510.1</i>	<i>AT3G18524.1</i> , <i>AT3G18524.1</i> , <i>AT3G18524.1</i>	Stop codon gain, Splice variant donor	P > 0.05, 0.03, P > 0.05
RECQ4B	C09	-	<i>Bo9g043460.1</i>	<i>AT1G60930.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon, stop codon gain, splice acceptor variant	0.04
AtGR1/COM1	C04	-	<i>Bo4g125630.1</i>	<i>AT3G52115.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.03
ATR	C04	-	<i>Bo4g145640.1</i>	<i>AT5G40820.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.03
BRCA	C01	C01	<i>Bo1g023820.1</i> , <i>Bo3g001340.1</i>	<i>AT4G21070.1</i> , <i>AT5G01630.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.03, 0.04
RAD51C	C04	-	<i>Bo4g038470.1</i>	<i>AT2G45280.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.04
MLH3	C07	-	<i>Bo7g117460.1</i>	<i>AT4G35520.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.03
RECQ4A	C08	C08	<i>Bo8g059730.1</i> , <i>Bo8g109200.1</i>	<i>AT1G10930.1</i> , <i>AT1G10930.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.03, 0.03
SDS	C08	C05	<i>Bo8g066230.1</i> , <i>Bo8g106580.1</i> , <i>Bo5g019980.1</i>	<i>AT1G14750.1</i> , <i>AT1G14750.1</i> , <i>AT1G14750.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.04, 0.03, 0.03
RAD51	C09	C03	<i>Bo9g151450.1</i> , <i>Bo3g015380.1</i>	<i>AT5G20850.1</i> , <i>AT5G20850.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.04, 0.03
BLAP75/RMI1	C09	-	<i>Bo9g017740.1</i>	<i>AT5G63540.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.03
SYN1/DIF1/REC8	C09	-	<i>Bo9g177100.1</i>	<i>AT5G05490.1</i>	Non-conservative missense codon	0.04

419

420 Genetic analyses of resynthesized *Brassica napus* lines

421 Analysis of the genetic background of the parental lines used in this study showed that maternal
 422 *B. rapa* var. *trilocularis* was the parent for all stable resynthesized lines (4 out of 4 considered
 423 as putatively stable), although this subspecies also contributed to intermediate (8 out of 11) and

424 unstable lines (3 out of 4) (Table 1). Resynthesized cross combinations with C46 (*B. oleracea*
425 *var. alboglabra*) as paternal *B. oleracea* parent were also either putatively stable or
426 intermediate (Table 1). Although it is not possible to draw statistically significant conclusions
427 from these results in the current study, further investigation of this association may be
428 warranted in future.

429

430 **Discussion**

431 In this study, we analyzed relative genome stability (as measured by copy number variants)
432 and measured fertility using self-pollinated seed set, seeds per ten pods, and pollen viability in
433 resynthesized *Brassica napus* after one generation of self-pollination as well as screened for
434 variants of meiosis candidate genes possibly affecting genome stability in the lines. Our results
435 show that allelic variants inherited from both diploid *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parents interact
436 to affect genome stability and fertility in resynthesized *B. napus* lines. Resynthesized rapeseed
437 lines from different genetic backgrounds also vary significantly in both fertility and genome
438 stability. We identified thirteen putative meiosis candidate genes which were significantly
439 associated with frequency of copy number variants and which contained putatively harmful
440 mutations in meiosis gene haplotypes for further investigation.

441 Our results show a negative correlation between genome stability (CNVs) and fertility
442 (Spearman correlation $r = -0.22$) in resynthesized *B. napus*. In natural *B. napus*, inheritance of
443 unbalanced translocation events in mapping populations was also associated with a fertility
444 penalty (Osborn *et al.* 2003). Negative correlations between chromosome rearrangements and
445 fertility have also been observed in both natural and resynthesized *B. napus* populations
446 (Samans *et al.* 2017). These results support the present study where copy number variation was
447 significantly negatively associated with fertility (self-pollinated seed set). However, the
448 detected correlation was low, indicating that other factors apart from genome stability might
449 be contributing to fertility in resynthesized *B. napus* lines.

450 We observed a wide range of genotype-dependent fertility across the resynthesized *B. napus*
451 lines, and some resynthesized lines showed higher fertility than *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea*
452 parental genotypes in our study. Malek *et al.* (2012) detected higher fertility in synthetic *B.*
453 *napus* compared to its parental *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* genotypes in terms of the number of
454 seeds per silique, 1000-seed weight and seed yield per plant. In support of the hypothesis that

455 polyploid crops (interspecific hybrids) often show higher yield levels and outperform their
456 diploid relatives (Sattler *et al.* 2016), highlighting the heterotic potential of resynthesized *B.*
457 *napus* lines (Abel *et al.* 2005). Rousseau-Gueutin *et al.* (2017) assessed fertility (number of
458 seeds/50 pollinated flowers and number of seeds/50 pods) in both open-pollinated and
459 manually-self-pollinated resynthesized *B. napus* populations, and found very low fertility
460 compared to natural *B. napus* using both fertility measures. Rousseau-Gueutin *et al.* (2017)
461 hypothesized that self-incompatibility alleles carried by the parental diploid species might have
462 affected the fertility of their hybrids, since different subspecies of *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea*
463 parents had been used to produce the resynthesized *B. napus* population. Many genotypes of
464 *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* are self-incompatible, a trait genetically controlled by the self
465 incompatibility S-locus (Camargo *et al.* 1997; Kimura *et al.* 2002; Kitashiba and Nasrallah
466 2014), which prevents self- seeds. Self-pollinated seed set varied greatly across our *B. rapa*
467 and *B. oleracea* parents and their progeny, with possible self-incompatibility issues in a few
468 parental genotypes used to produce the resynthesized lines (Fig. 2). One genotype, *B. rapa* A9,
469 was most likely self-incompatible, setting no self-pollinated seed. Interestingly, none of the
470 synthetic combinations with A9 were completely sterile, and some were highly fertile,
471 suggesting the synthetic *B. napus* mostly overcame self- fertilization via recognition in the
472 stigma and failed germination of pollen with the same S-haplotype as the parent plant.
473 However, self-incompatibility alleles present in some parent genotypes used to produce our
474 resynthesized lines might be responsible for low fertility in a few lines (9 genotypes produced
475 <15 seeds). Further investigation would be needed to confirm this.

476 In this study, we detected copy number variation at a high frequency across the A and C
477 genome. We also found fewer deletions (5.6%) than either reduced (one missing copy) or
478 higher copy number (one or two extra copies as predicted by the pipeline) variants. Several
479 studies have shown that chromosomal rearrangements occur frequently in both resynthesized
480 and natural *B. napus* (Pires *et al.* 2004; Udall *et al.* 2005; Leflon *et al.* 2006; Liu *et al.* 2006;
481 Nicolas *et al.* 2007; Chalhoub *et al.* 2014; Guo *et al.* 2016). Homoeologous exchanges have
482 been detected in translocated regions (deletion-duplication events) between A and C
483 homoeologous chromosomes in both resynthesized and natural *B. napus* (Chalhoub *et al.* 2014;
484 Samans *et al.* 2017; Mason *et al.* 2018). Samans *et al.* (2017) analyzed 52 highly diversified *B.*
485 *napus* genotypes including 32 natural and 20 synthetic *B. napus* accessions using whole
486 genome sequencing, and detected a greater number and size of genomic rearrangements in
487 synthetic *B. napus* compared to natural accessions as well as more areas with deletions than

488 duplications. In contrast to the above mentioned studies, which were all on established lines of
489 *B. napus* or synthetic *B. napus* which had been through many generations of self-pollination,
490 our resynthesized *B. napus* material has undergone only one self-pollination event (two
491 meiosis). Hence, any novel variants which have arisen are unlikely to be “fixed” (homozygous,
492 present in both homologous chromosomes), as the products of a single homoeologous
493 crossover event during meiosis rarely segregate together: two recombinant chromatids are
494 produced from one homoeologous crossover, but these are usually separated into different
495 gametes in the first meiosis. Subsequently, selection against unbalanced translocations may
496 “fix” these events in self-pollinated progeny, resulting in balanced duplication/deletions.

497 Our copy number pipeline was not robust enough to efficiently discriminate whether three
498 copies of an allele or more copies (4+) were present, leading us to use a combined “higher copy
499 number” category. Our copy number pipeline may also be over-estimating reduced and higher
500 copy number CNV calls. Failed SNP calls from the 60K *Brassica* SNP chip used possibly
501 lowered the average copy numbers across specific regions, leading to high false positive error
502 rates (Mason *et al.* 2017). In addition, lower signal detection may result from other types of
503 sequence polymorphism other than CNVs, which may also result in false positives as reported
504 by Zmieńko *et al.* (2014). Although both hybridization-based arrays and NGS approaches used
505 for the detection of CNVs have different limitations (Zmieńko *et al.* 2014); high-coverage
506 sequencing likely provides a more robust method of calling CNVs (Yoon *et al.* 2009).
507 However, obtaining sufficient read depth is still factorially more expensive than calling CNVs
508 from array data (Mason *et al.* 2017).

509 We observed that different cross combinations of *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* genotypes
510 significantly affect genome stability (as measured by number of CNVs after self-pollination;
511 two meiosis events) based on our linear model. This observation is likely due to the selection
512 of specific allelic variants from the parent genotypes which influenced genome stability in the
513 resynthesized lines. Gaeta *et al.* (2007) suggested that *B. napus* might have initially been
514 unstable, but that alleles responsible for genetic control of meiosis inherited from one or both
515 diploid progenitors may have been selected for over time, possibly by conferring improved
516 seedset. In *Arabidopsis arenosa*, selection of specific alleles of meiosis genes seems to be
517 responsible for reduced crossover frequency, resulting in meiotic stability in the polyploid
518 (Yant *et al.* 2013). Recently, allelic variants of *ASY1* and *ASY3* in particular were found to
519 reduce multivalent frequencies and help regulate meiosis in polyploid *Arabidopsis arenosa*
520 (Morgan *et al.* 2020), and introgression of meiosis gene alleles from *A. arenosa* was found to

521 help stabilize tetraploid *A. lyrata* (Marburger *et al.* 2019). Similarly, selection of genetic
522 variants at pre-existing loci may have contributed to form stable meiosis in ancient polyploid
523 *Brassica* (Lloyd *et al.* 2014).

524 We presented a summary of thirteen putative meiosis gene candidates which show significant
525 CNV association and presence of putatively harmful mutation in meiosis genes haplotypes as
526 well as putative gene function in meiosis related to DNA or double strand break repair, effects
527 on meiotic crossover or suppression of homoeologous recombination. Of the thirteen genes,
528 three are of special interest due to the presence of stop codons or splice variants in at least one
529 copy: *RPA1C*, *MSH2*, and *RECQ4B*.

530 Replication protein A(*RPA*) is a eukaryotic, single stranded DNA binding protein made up of
531 three subunits *RPA1*, *RPA2*, and *RPA3*, and plays important roles in almost all DNA metabolic
532 pathways including S-phase genome replication, DNA recombination, and DNA excision
533 repair (Aklilu *et al.* 2014). *RPA1C* has been shown to promote homologous recombination in
534 early meiosis, and interactions between *RPA1C* and *RPA1E* are primarily responsible for DNA
535 repair in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Aklilu *et al.* 2014; Aklilu and Culligan 2016). In rice, *RPA1C*
536 is shown to be required for ~79 % of chiasma formation, and the *RPA* complex comprising
537 *RPA1C* and *RPA2C* is required to promote meiotic crossovers (Li *et al.* 2013). In *B. napus*,
538 *RPA1C* was found within the *BnaA9* QTL region responsible for the prevention of
539 homoeologous chromosome pairing (Higgins *et al.* 2020). In the present study, we found two
540 copies of *RPA1C* on chromosomes C02 and C09 from the *B. oleracea* parent of resynthesized
541 *B. napus*. The two copies significantly associated with CNVs and fertility, and radical SNP
542 mutations were observed in both C02 and C09 copies while a stop codon gene variant was
543 predicted in the C02 copy.

544 MutS is an ATPase involved in mismatch recognition, with four MutS homologues identified
545 in *Arabidopsis* (*AtMSH2*, *AtMSH3*, *AtMSH6*, and *AtMSH7*) on the basis of their sequence
546 conservation (Emmanuel *et al.* 2006). The *MSH2* protein regulates meiotic recombination
547 during Prophase 1, thereby functioning in a pro-crossover role in regions of higher sequence
548 diversity in *A. thaliana*. *AtMSH2* has also been shown to have an anti-recombination meiotic
549 effect in *A. thaliana* (Emmanuel *et al.* 2006). *MSH2* was found in the QTL interval underlying
550 fertility on chromosome C3 in *Brassica* allohexaploids derived from a cross (*B. napus* × *B.*
551 *carinata*) × *B. juncea* (Gaebelein *et al.* 2019). Here, we found three gene copies of *MSH2*. Two
552 copies of this gene were found in the *B. oleracea* parent genome, two on chromosome C06 and

553 one copy on C03. Although one of the gene copies on C06 showed no significance association
554 with CNV number, a stop codon gain variant as well as a splice variant donor were observed
555 as allelic variants of this gene copy. However, the other C06 copy was not significantly
556 associated with fertility or CNV traits, with no SNP mutations observed. Another gene copy
557 on chromosome C03 was significantly associated with CNV and total seed set and contained a
558 missense codon.

559 *RecQ* helicases are involved in the processing of DNA structures arising during replication,
560 recombination, and repair throughout all kingdoms of life (Hartung *et al.* 2007). Seven different
561 *RecQ* genes are present in *Arabidopsis*. Among them are two paralogs, *RECQ4A* and *RECQ4B*,
562 which arose as a result of a recent duplication, and which are nearly 70% identical on a protein
563 level (Hartung *et al.* 2007; Schröpfer *et al.* 2014). In *Arabidopsis*, *RECQ4A* and *RECQ4B* have
564 both been shown to limit crossovers (Fernandes *et al.* 2018; Serra *et al.* 2018). However, an
565 earlier study showed that *AtRECQ4B* is specifically required to promote but not to limit
566 crossovers, a role which is different from all other known eukaryotic *RecQ* homologues
567 (Hartung *et al.* 2007). de Maagd *et al.* (2020) investigated the role of tomato *RecQ4* on
568 crossover formation in an interspecific cross between cultivated tomato and its wild relatives,
569 and observed a 1.53 fold increase of ring bivalents, suggesting a less important role in limiting
570 crossover compared to *Arabidopsis*. Here, we found *RECQ4B* on chromosome C09 in *B.*
571 *oleracea* used to produce our resynthesized *B. napus* interspecific cross. *RECQ4B* was
572 significantly associated with CNV numbers, and showed predicted radical SNP mutations with
573 a potential harmful effect on protein function, as observed by a stop codon gain variant, as well
574 as a splice acceptor variant. Two copies of *RECQ4A*, which is the other paralog of *RECQ4B*,
575 were found on C08. Both copies were also significantly associated with CNVs and seed-set,
576 with radical SNP mutations as indicated by the presence of non-conservative missense codons.

577 Genetic variation in meiosis genes in general may cause large effects on genome stability in
578 different plant lineages (Addo Nyarko and Mason 2022). Although *B. napus* is not thought to
579 have undergone detectable gene fractionation since formation (Chalhoub *et al.* 2014), knock-
580 out of one existing *MSH4* gene copy was shown to help prevent non-homologous chromosome
581 pairing in *B. napus* (Gonzalo *et al.* 2019), supporting the idea that loss of functional meiosis
582 gene copies in mesopolyploids *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* may also then contribute to formation
583 of allopolyploids with higher meiotic stability. We could not identify any interesting meiosis
584 gene candidates from the *B. rapa* parent genotypes based on our analysis, most likely due to
585 the small numbers of genotypes in our study. We have identified putative meiosis genes present

586 in the diploid *B. oleracea* progenitor genotypes used to produce our resynthesized *B. napus*
587 lines, some of which were present in more than one copy. Meiosis gene copies have been shown
588 to be under strict control, with most genes returning rapidly to single copies (Lloyd *et al.* 2014),
589 presumably to avoid meiotic abnormalities caused by the retention of several gene copies
590 following polyploidization. However, allelic variants of meiosis genes which are only present
591 in a few copies could potentially have an impact on genome stability and /or fertility of
592 resynthesized *B. napus*. Hence, the respective allelic variants of the putative meiosis genes
593 identified are putatively good candidates for the variation in copy number observed in our
594 study. *Brassica napus* itself appears to be too young (<10 000 years) to have undergone any
595 major gene fractionation: almost all (if not all) A and C genome gene copies in *B. napus* are
596 still intact (and expressed) relative to progenitor *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* subgenomes
597 (Chalhoub *et al.* 2014). However, *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* are themselves mesopolyploids, and
598 not all meiosis genes have been reduced to single copy in these species (Lloyd *et al.* 2014).
599 Hence, these genomes may contain allelic variants including loss-of-function mutations which
600 could conceivably affect meiosis in resynthesized *B. napus*.

601 Our results show that some resynthesized lines are more genomically stable and fertile than
602 others, and suggest that allelic variation present in both of the diploid parents interacts to affect
603 the chance of chromosome rearrangement and copy number variation events, but that the
604 presence of such events may not always be detrimental to fertility in resynthesized *B. napus*
605 lines. Our study suggests meiotic stability in *B. napus* arose via selection of allelic variants
606 from its diploid progenitor species, and provides information that will be useful for breeders
607 aiming to use resynthesized lines in breeding programs. The production of genomically stable
608 resynthesized *B. napus* lines might be useful in future as a germplasm resource to broaden the
609 limited genetic diversity of established *B. napus* cultivars or for hybrid breeding (Abel *et al.*
610 2005).

Data Availability

The data that supports the findings of this study are available in the supplementary material of this article. Sequencing data generated in this project is available under Bioproject accession code PRJNA724876 from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Figure legends

Figure 1 An example of copy number variant calling in resynthesized *B. napus* lines showing regions of extra copy number (blue), no copies / deletion (red), expected copy (grey), and single / reduced copy (yellow).

Figure 2 Fertility of resynthesized lines (genotype combinations given as AXCX) measured by the average number of self-pollinated seeds was compared to progenitor *B. rapa* (A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A13, A16 and A19), and *B. oleracea* (C34, C36, C37, C42, C46 and C47) genotypes.

Figure 3 Genome-wide copy number variation was detected in resynthesized *B. napus* lines. Deletions (blue), reduced copy (red), and higher copy number (green).

Figure 4 Average number of CNVs between resynthesized *Brassica napus* (rapeseed) lines from different genotype combinations. Parent genotypes of *B. rapa* are A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A13, A16 and A19, parent genotypes of *B. oleracea* are C34, C36, C37, C38, C42, C46, C47 and C49, and synthetic rapeseed lines are indicated by the parent combination in the form AXCX.

Table legends

Table 1 Table 1 Classification of resynthesized *B. napus* cross combinations into putatively “stable”, putatively “unstable”, and putatively “intermediate” by pairwise comparisons and estimation of average CNVs trait data. Genotypes without data (no plants) are indicated with “_”

Table 2 Meiosis gene haplotypes associated with copy number variants (CNVs) in resynthesized *B. napus* derived from crosses between *B. rapa* and *B. oleracea* parents.

Supplementary information

Supplementary Figures

Figure S1 Phylogenetic relationships in the A genomes of resynthesized *B. napus* lines showed heterozygosity in genotypes with A6 and A7 *B. rapa* cross combinations.

Figure S2 Phylogenetic relationship in the C genome of resynthesized *B. napus* lines showed homozygosity in *B. oleracea* parental cross combination

Figure S3 Relative read coverage of sequenced *B. rapa* parent genotypes (A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A13, A16 and A19) calculated for a median depth of 40 genes showing regions of the chromosomes with expected copies as well as copy number variation

Figure S4 Relative read coverage of sequenced *B. oleracea* parent genotypes (C34, C36, C37, C46, and C47) calculated for a median depth of 40 genes showing regions of the chromosomes with expected copies as well as copy number variation

Figure S5 Fertility of resynthesized *B. napus* lines was measured by the total number of self-pollinated seeds produced, as well as the number of seeds per ten pods a) total number of self-pollinated seeds produced in resynthesized lines and b) number of seeds per ten pods in resynthesized lines

Figure S6 Percent pollen viability across individuals in resynthesized *B. napus* lines

Figure S7 Moderate positive correlation between average number of seeds per ten pods and average self-pollinated seeds ($r = 0.68$)

Figure S8a Correlation between average percent pollen viability and average self-pollinated seed set ($r = 0.06$)

Figure S8b Correlation between average percent pollen viability and average seeds per ten pods ($r = 0.22$)

Figure S9a. *B. rapa* maternal genotype significantly affected the total number of self-pollinated seeds produced (ANOVA, $p = 0.000539$, Tukey's HSD, $p < 0.05$) in resynthesized *B. napus* lines produced from different combinations of *B. rapa* crossed with *B. oleracea* genotypes represented by "CX". Letters "ab" on boxplots represent non significant association

while “a” and b represent significant differences between genotypes based on Tukey pairwise comparison

Figure S9b. *Brassica oleracea* paternal genotypes show no significant association with total number of self-pollinated seeds (ANOVA, $p= 0.068$) in resynthesized *B. napus* lines produced from different *B. rapa* genotypes represented by “AX” crossed with *B. oleracea* genotypes. Letters “a” on boxplots represent no significant association between genotypes.

Figure S10a. *Brassica rapa* maternal genotype show no significant effect on the number of seeds per ten pods (ANOVA, $p = 0.658$) in resynthesized *B. napus* lines produced from different combinations of *B. rapa* genotypes crossed with different *B. oleracea* genotypes represented by “CX”. Letters “a” on boxplots represent no significant association between genotypes.

Figure S10b. *Brassica oleracea* paternal genotype show no significant effect on the number of seeds per ten pods (ANOVA, $p = 0.0982$) in resynthesized *B. napus* lines produced from different combinations of *B. rapa* represented by “AX” crossed with *B. oleracea* genotypes. Letters “a” on boxplots represent no significant association between genotypes.

Figure S11 Number of copy number variants present varied widely between different synthetic *B. napus* lines

Figure S12 Negative correlation between average number of self-pollinated seeds and average number of copy number variants in 41 resynthesized *B. napus* lines ($r = -0.2$)

Supplementary Tables

Table S1 Pairwise comparison (Tukey’s HSD) in total number of self-pollinated seeds between different resynthesized *B. napus* genotypes produced

Table S2 Pairwise comparisons (Tukey’s HSD) in copy number variation between different resynthesized *B. napus* genotypes produced

Supplementary Files

File S1 Description of S_1 resynthesized *Brassica napus* lines

File S2 SNP genotyping data for all resynthesized *Brassica napus* S₁ individual lines across the A and C genomes after quality control

File S3 LogR ratio values of S₁ resynthesized *Brassica napus* lines

File S4 Meiosis gene positions determined by BLAST in *Brassica rapa* and *B. oleracea* genotypes

File S5 Phenotype information for all resynthesized *Brassica napus* S₁ lines

File S6a SNP variation and meiosis gene positions in *Brassica rapa* parents

File S6b Copy number variation and meiosis gene positions in *Brassica rapa* parents

File S6c SNP variation and meiosis gene positions in *Brassica oleracea* parents

File S6d Copy number variation and meiosis gene positions in *Brassica oleracea* parents

File S6e SNP variation and meiosis gene positions in resynthesized *Brassica napus* lines

File S6f Copy number variation and meiosis gene positions in resynthesized *Brassica napus* lines

File S7a List of meiosis gene candidates in *Brassica oleracea* parents and putative effect mutations (p-values before FDR correction)

Figure S7b List of meiosis gene candidates in *Brassica oleracea* parents (p-values after FDR correction)

File S7c List of meiosis genes candidates in *Brassica rapa* parents and putative effect mutations (p-values before FDR correction)

File S7d List of meiosis gene candidates in *Brassica rapa* parents (p-values after FDR correction)

File S7e Selection of meiosis candidate genes of interest from *Brassica oleracea* parents

Figures

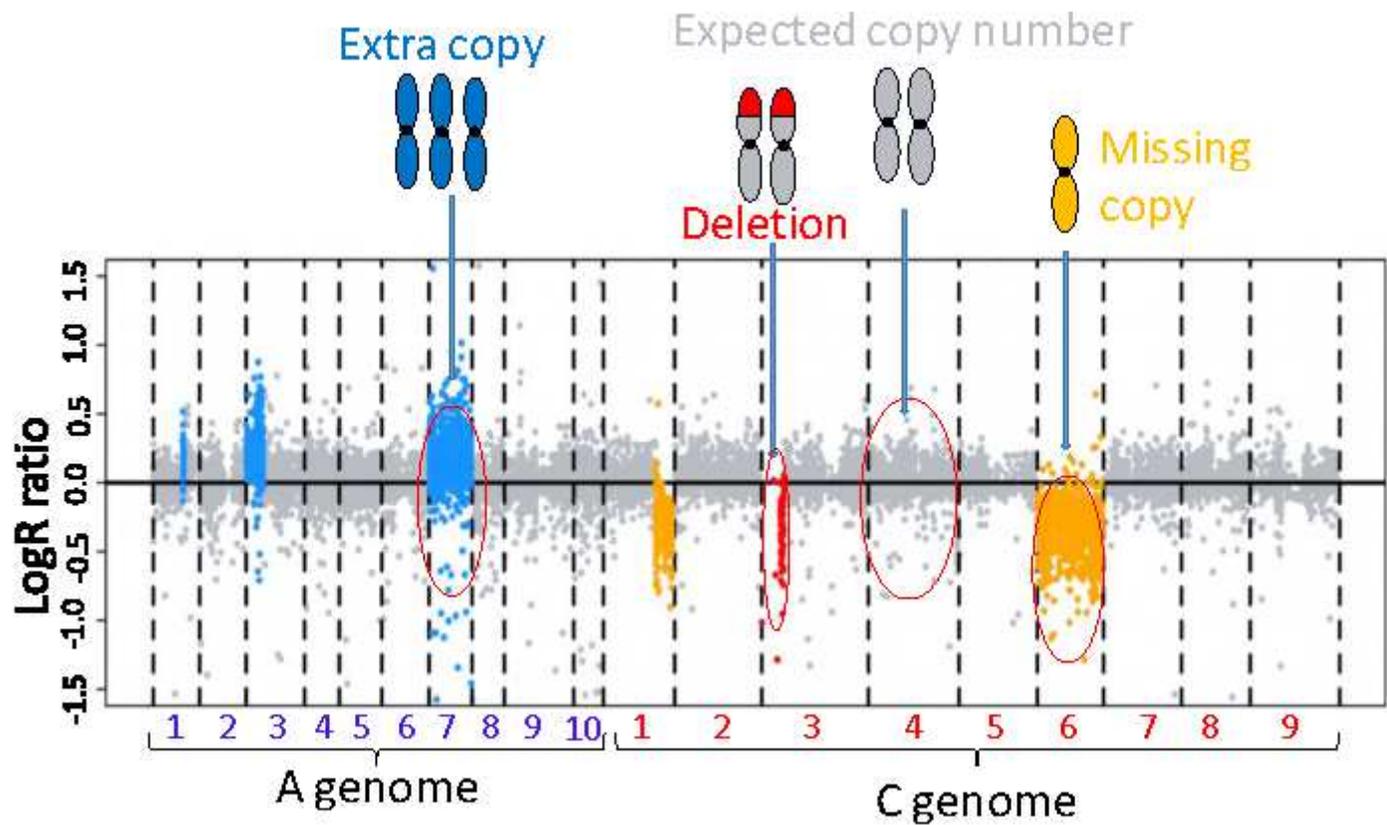


Figure 1

Fig. 1 An example of copy number variant calling in resynthesized *B. napus* lines showing regions of extra copy number (blue), no copies / deletion (red), expected copy (grey), and single / reduced copy (yellow)

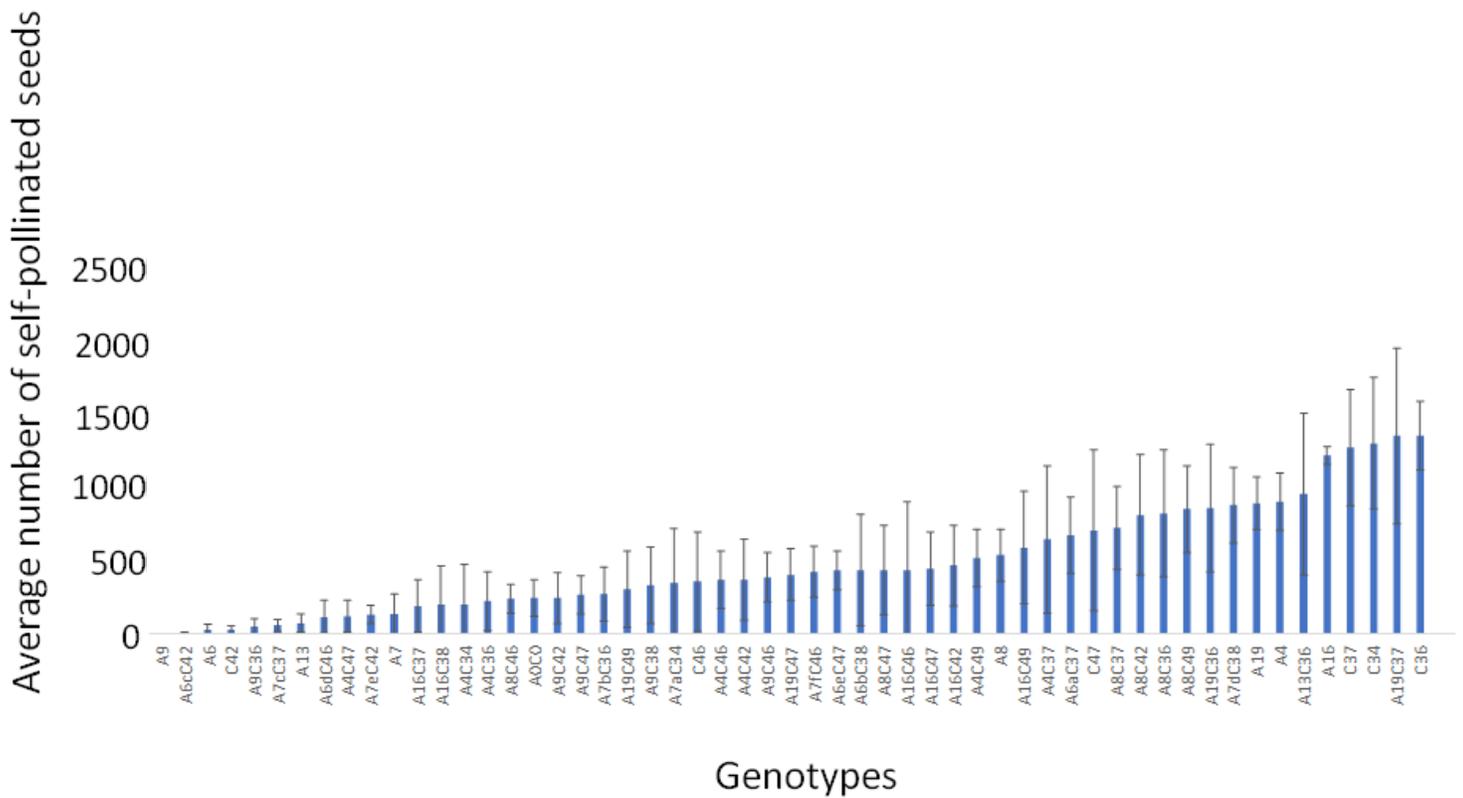


Figure 2

Fig. 2 Fertility of resynthesized lines (genotype combinations given as AXCX) measured by the average number of self-pollinated seeds was compared to progenitor *B. rapa* (A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A13, A16 and A19), and *B. oleracea* (C34, C36, C37, C42, C46 and C47) genotypes.

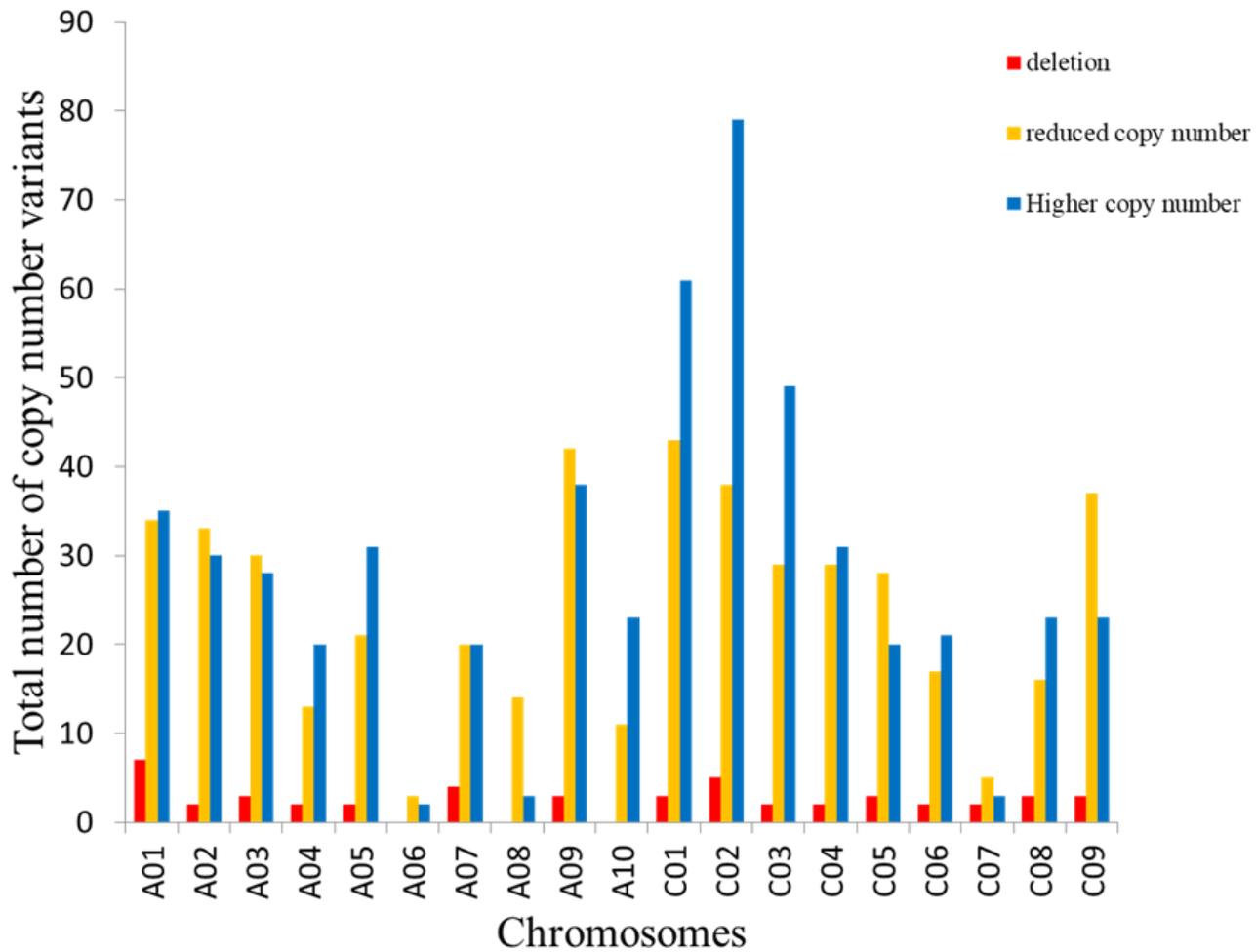


Figure 3

Fig. 3 Genome-wide copy number variation was detected in resynthesized *B. napus* lines. Deletions (blue), reduced copy (red), and higher copy number (green)

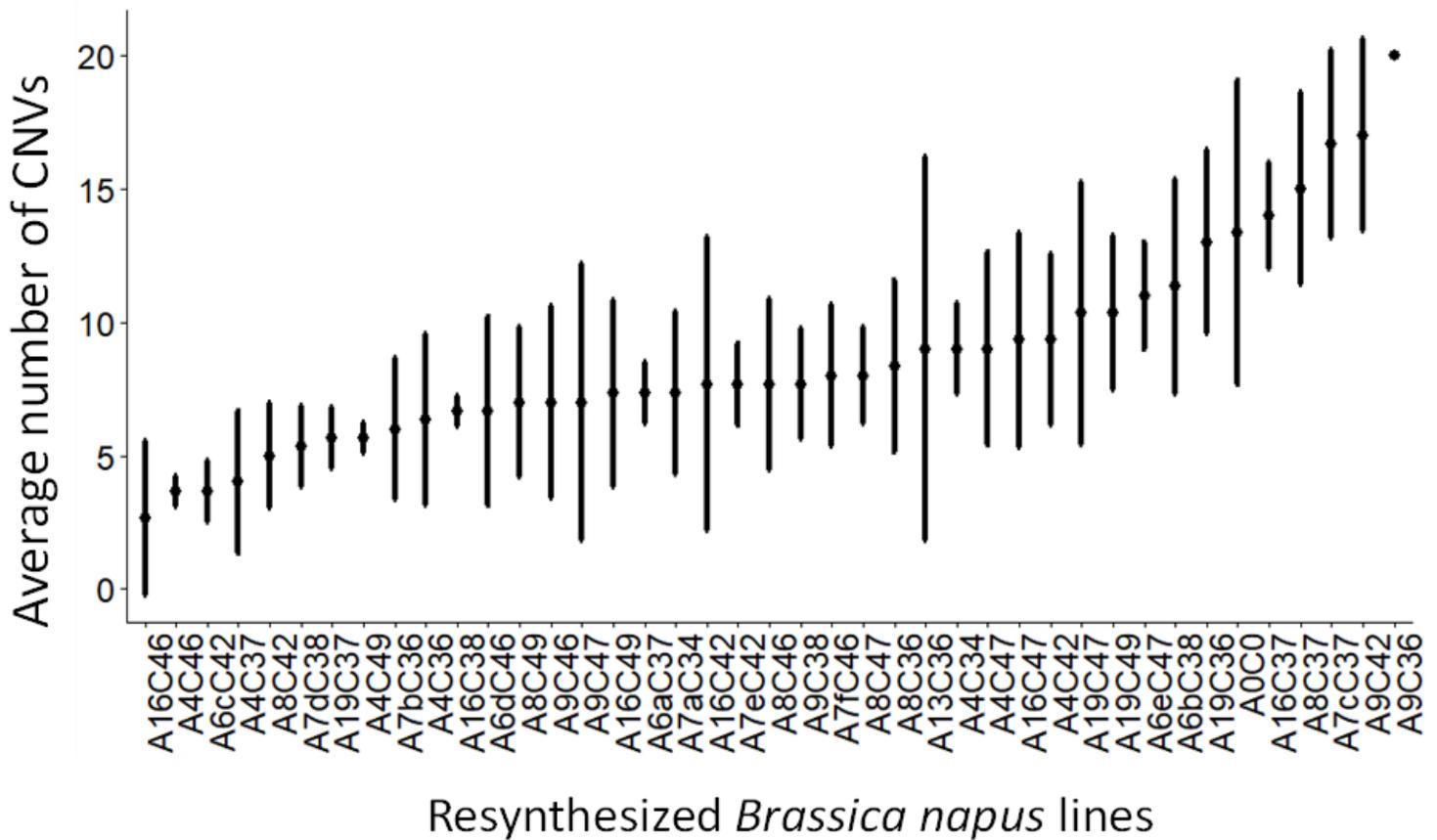


Figure 4

Fig. 4 Average number of CNVs between resynthesized *Brassica napus* (rapeseed) lines from different genotype combinations. Parent genotypes of *B. rapa* are A4, A6, A7, A8, A9, A13, A16 and A19, parent genotypes of *B. oleracea* are C34, C36, C37, C38, C42, C46, C47 and C49, and synthetic rapeseed lines are indicated by the parent combination in the form AXcX or AXaCX.

Supplementary Files

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- [FileS7summaryselectionofmeiosisgenes.xlsx](#)
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