## Nutrition



## Macromolecules

Fats
Fatty Acids
Cholesterol


Carbohydrates
Sugars
Starches
Cellulose


Ex: Glucose


Carbon
Oxygen
Hydrogen

Proteins
Amino Acids


Ex: Glutamate


Carbon
Oxygen
Hydrogen
Nitrogen

## Average Plant



Average Insect

| Protein | Lipids | $[\mathrm{C}]=45 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $[\mathrm{~B}]=12 \%$ |  |  |

Average Animal



## Periodic Table of the Elements



Stable Isotopes of H, C, N, O

## Measuring Isotopes: Little ( $\delta$ ) Notation

Means of expressing the relative abundance of the heavier stable isotope in a mixture of atoms.
$R=$ molar ratio of heavy-to-light isotopes of an element $R$ for carbon isotopes $={ }^{13} \mathrm{C} /{ }^{12} \mathrm{C}$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\delta=\left(\frac{R_{\text {sample }}}{R_{\text {standard }}}-1\right) \times 1000 \\
\delta^{13} \mathrm{C}=\left(\frac{\left[{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} /{ }^{12} \mathrm{C}\right]_{\text {sample }}}{\left[{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} /{ }^{12} \mathrm{C}\right]_{\text {standard }}}-1\right) \times 1000
\end{gathered}
$$

Units of $\delta$ are "\%" or "per mil"

## International Reference Standards

| Acronym | Standard Name | Isotopes | $R_{\text {heavy/Light }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| V-SMOW | Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{H} /{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ | 0.00015576 |
| V-SMOW | Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water | ${ }^{18} \mathrm{O} /{ }^{16} \mathrm{O}$ | 0.00200520 |
| V-PDB | Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite | ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C} /{ }^{12} \mathrm{C}$ | 0.0112372 |
| Air | Atmospheric Air | ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~N} /{ }^{14} \mathrm{~N}$ | 0.0036765 |

International reference standards (by definition) have a value of $0 \%$ on the $\delta$-scale of interest.

## Isotopic Fractionation: Some Basics

Isotopes of the same element undergo the same chemical reactions (because isotopes have same number of protons and electrons)


But isotopes have different thermodynamic properties
because they have different masses.
(melting point, vapor pressure, diffusion coefficient, reaction rate constants)
Thus, different isotopes react at different rates in chemical reactions


This leads to isotopic sorting (fractionation).

## Isotopic Fractionation: Lighter Goes Faster

Reactant (A)


## Product (B)



Process that occurs during chemical reactions resulting in abundance of heavy isotopes in the reactant (A) being different from the abundances of the heavy isotopes in the product ( $B$ )

