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REVIEW PAPER**Sink, Source, or Equilibrium? Observation Length and Measurement Method Shape Reported Carbon Balance in Old-Growth Forests****Éva Király^{1,*}, Gábor Illés¹, Kinga Raszpovits-Esztó¹ and Attila Borovics¹****Addresses:** (1) University of Sopron, Forest Research Institute, Várkerület 30/A, H-9600 Sárvár, Hungary*** Correspondence:** e-mail: kiraly.eva.ilona@uni-sopron.hu**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL S1 – SEARCH STRATEGY**

Supplementary Material S1 provides the complete database-specific search strings used in the Web of Science Core Collection and Scopus databases, including Boolean operators, wildcards, and applied filters. These search strings were applied consistently across databases and were not modified during the review process, ensuring full reproducibility of the literature search.

Web of Science (Core Collection)

```
TS=(  
("old-growth forest*" OR "primary forest*" OR "unmanaged forest*" OR "mature forest*")  
AND  
("carbon sequestration" OR "carbon sink" OR "carbon source" OR "carbon balance")  
AND  
("net ecosystem productivity" OR "net ecosystem exchange" OR NEP OR NEE OR NBP)  
AND  
(equilibrium OR "steady state" OR flux*)  
)
```

Filters applied

- Document types: Article, Review
- Language: English

Scopus

```
TITLE-ABS-KEY(  
("old-growth forest*" OR "primary forest*" OR "unmanaged forest*" OR "mature forest*")  
AND  
("carbon sequestration" OR "carbon sink" OR "carbon source" OR "carbon balance")  
AND  
("net ecosystem productivity" OR "net ecosystem exchange" OR NEP OR NEE OR NBP)  
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(equilibrium OR "steady state" OR flux*)  
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