

**TABLE 1** Coefficients of determination ( $R^2$ ) for the five endogenous variables in the structural equation model

| Variable                              | Fast | Linear | Slow | Constant |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------|------|----------|
| Cell size                             | 0.30 | 0.31   | 0.43 | 0.44     |
| Dissolved oxygen<br>content of medium | 0.63 | 0.61   | 0.60 | 0.56     |
| Consumer abundance                    | 0.22 | 0.44   | 0.50 | 0.43     |
| Bacteria abundance                    | 0.11 | 0.11   | 0.08 | 0.08     |
| Growth rate                           | 0.77 | 0.66   | 0.37 | 0.11     |