

miR169 在植物生长发育与非生物胁迫响应中的作用

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摘要: MicroRNA (miRNA) 是一类由内源基因编码的、长度为 18~36 bp 的小非编码单链 RNA 分子, 通过序列互补降解或抑制其靶基因转录后的翻译过程, 对植物的器官形成、生长发育、维持基因组完整性以及非生物胁迫应答等方面起重要作用。miRNA169 家族是植物中广泛存在且较为保守的 microRNA 家族, 调控植物中一类保守的转录因子 NF-YA (Nuclear transcription factor Y subunit A), miR169/NF-Y 可能在植物的根系发育、侧生器官形成、花器官形成、气孔形成及胁迫应答方面具有重要作用。然而目前对于 miRNA169 的研究主要集中在植物的生长发育调控方面, 其参与应答非生物胁迫调控网络方面报道较少。本文从 miRNA169 家族的起源进化机制和参与植物的生长发育过程及高盐、干旱、低温及重金属等非生物胁迫响应等方面展开论述, 同时对其他生物胁迫进行概述, 以期 miRNA169 家族的发展概况及响应相关胁迫的研究提供参考。

关键词: MicroRNA169; 靶基因; 非生物胁迫; 反应机制

The Role of miR169 Family Members in the Processes of Growth, Development and Abiotic Stress Response in Plants

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Abstract: MicroRNA (miRNA) is a well-studied small non-coding single-stranded RNA molecules encoded by endogenous genes with a length of about 18-36 bp. It plays a key role in plant organ formation, growth and development, maintenance of genomic integrity and responses to abiotic stress. Among them, the miRNA169 family is detected widely with levels of conservation in plants, and these family members participate in the regulation of a kind of conserved transcription factor NF-YA at post-transcriptional level. They are known to play a crucial role in root development, lateral organ formation, floral organ formation, stomatal formation and stress of plants. Here we reviewed the origin and evolutionary mechanism of the miRNA169 family and its involvement in plant growth and response to abiotic stresses (high salinity, drought, low temperature and heavy metals) as other stresses conditions. We wish to provide insight of future understanding the biological function of miRNA169 family members responding to various stresses.

Key words: MicroRNA169; target gene; abiotic stress; reaction mechanism

收稿日期: 2020-10-20 修回日期: 2020-11-09 网络出版日期: 2020-12-14

URL: <http://doi.org/10.13430/j.cnki.jpgr.20201020001>

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基金项目: 国家自然科学基金 (31371683); 国家重点研发计划 (2017YFD0101905); 国家马铃薯产业技术体系 - 长沙综合试验站 (CARS-09-ES16)

Foundation projects: National Natural Science Foundation (31371683), National Key Research and Development Program of China (2017YFD0101905), National Potato Industry Technology System-Changsha Comprehensive Test Station (CARS-09-ES16)

1 miRNA 的发现及作用机制

1.1 miRNA 的发现

Lee 等^[1]利用遗传分析的方法首次在线虫中发现了大约 11 bp 的内源性小分子非编码 RNA, 得出 miRNA 与 lin-14 具有互补关系的结论, Reinhart 等^[2]注意到另一个具有类似转录后调控功能的小分子非编码 RNA: let-7, 对线虫成虫的发育至关重要。近年来, miRNA 在动植物及病毒等生物中相继报道, 发现其主要在翻译水平负调控靶 mRNA 的表达, 与 siRNA 等共同组成 RNA 调控网络, 应答各种胁迫条件、参与信号通路; 调控包括细胞增殖、分化、凋亡等一系列生理生化进程, 影响生物体的生长发育。

1.2 植物中 miRNA 的作用机制

miRNA 基因在 RNA 聚合酶 II 的切割作用, 在细胞核中转录形成茎环结构的初级转录产物 pri-miRNA (初级转录产物), pri-miRNA 经 RNA 聚合酶 III 剪切形成约 60 bp 的发夹结构 RNA, 即 pre-miRNA (发夹结构前体), pri-miRNA 的 2 次切割作用皆由细胞核内 Dicer-like1 (DCL1) 完成^[3-4]。pri-miRNA 经 DCL1 的 2 步切割, 两端形成双链 miRNA, 之后由 Exportin5 的同源基因 HASTY 运出细胞核, 之后解链形成两条单链 miRNA, 一条单链 miRNA 能够与多种蛋白组成 RISC 沉默复合体, 包括 AGO (Argonaut) 蛋白和 Dicer 酶 (图 1)^[5]。能与 AGO 蛋白结合的单链的向导链才具有功能效应, 另外一条链被降解。RISC 沉默复合体产生 RNA 干扰 (RNAi)。miRNA 与 miRNA* 通过碱基序列互补引导 AGO 蛋白与目标 mRNA 的结合, 在 mRNA 水平上完成切割或翻译抑制^[6-7]。

1.3 植物中 miR169/NF-Ys (CBF) 的发现

目前在单子叶植物、双子叶植物和裸子植物中鉴定出 400 多个 miR169 家族成员。miRBase 数据库中部分植物 miR169 基因家族成员数分别为: 拟南芥 (*Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.) Heynh.) 14 个、玉米 (*Zea mays* L.) 18 个、高粱 (*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench) 21 个、大豆 (*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.) 21 个、水稻 (*Oryza sativa* L.) 19 个、蒺藜苜蓿 (*Medicago truncatula* Gaertn.) 118 个、葡萄 (*Vitis vinifera* L.) 25 个、毛果杨 (*Populus trichocarpa* Torr. & A. Gray) 33 个^[8], miR169 基因家族是迄今为止上述物种中发现的最大 miRNA 基因家族。不同 miR169 基因拷贝在染色体片段上成簇排列的

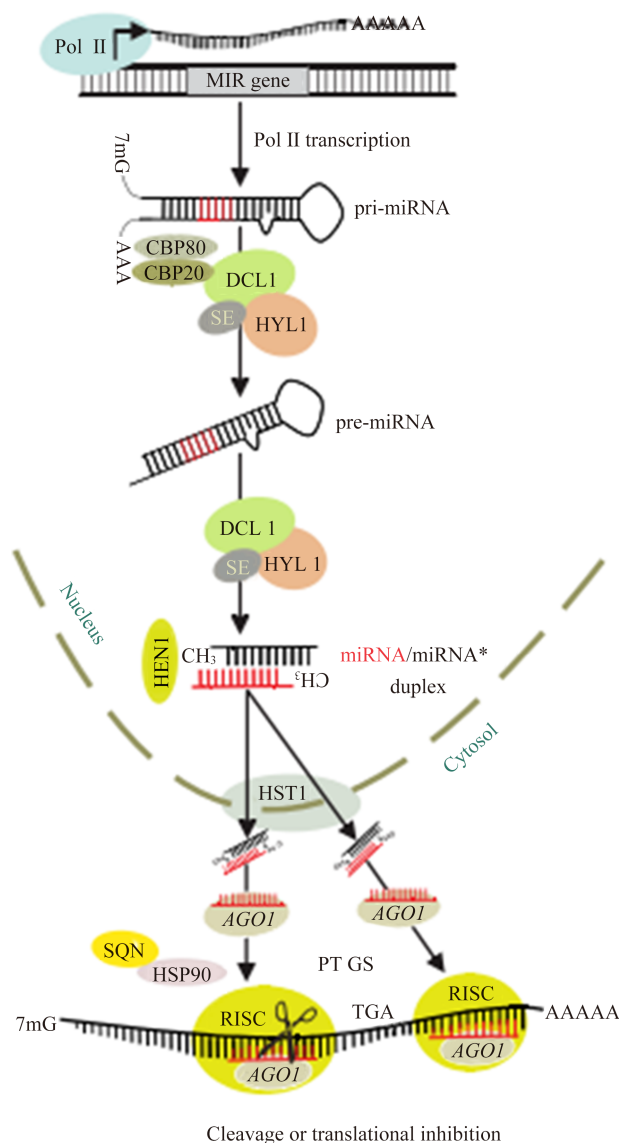


图 1 植物中 miRNA 形成过程^[5]

Fig.1 The formation of miRNA in plants^[5]

现象在单子叶和双子叶植物中均保守存在^[9], 油菜中 miR169 基因家族成员成簇分布于 9 条染色体上^[10], 暗示 miR169 在植物生长和发育过程中扮演着非常重要的角色。

NF-Ys 是广泛存在于真核生物中的一种转录因子, 能够与 CCAAT-box 特异性地结合。CCAAT-box 作为一种顺式元件广泛存在于部分真核生物基因启动子中。NF-Y 主要包含 NF-YA (CBF-B 或 HAP2)、NF-YB (CBF-A 或 HAP3)、NF-YC (CBF-C 或 HAP5) 3 个亚基^[11]。NF-YB 和 NF-YC 通过组蛋白折叠域紧密结合形成二聚体结构, 该二聚体在染色质上滑动寻找 CCAAT-box 元件, 与 NF-YA 结合并插入 DNA 双螺旋的小沟中, 之后聚集 RNA 聚

合酶或其他转录因子负调控下游靶基因^[12]。

miR169 对靶基因 NF-YA 转录因子的作用及其功能在拟南芥^[13-15]、玉米^[16]、油菜^[10]等均得到验证。通过靶基因预测在拟南芥和玉米中分别鉴定了 10 个、14 个 NF-YA 基因。油菜 miR169 基因家族中鉴定出 16 个靶基因,大部分属于 NF-YA 家族。拟南芥和烟草 (*Nicotiana tabacum* L.) 中 NF-YA 的 3'UTR 具有 miR169 的切割靶位点,miR169m/n/o 分别对 NF-YA3/9/2/12 有切割作用^[17],miR169/NF-YA 模块能够受到内源信号或外部环境激活,使植物表现出增强适应内外环境变化的特性^[18]。

1.4 miR169 家族及其靶基因互作机理

Sombir 等^[19]在番茄中发现 miR169 靶基因包括 RNA 结合蛋白、蛋白磷酸酶、转氨酸、四肽重复蛋白、氧化酶、结合蛋白、抗病蛋白、蛋白质降解、蛋白激酶、受体蛋白、基团转移酶及转录因子 ARF-9B 和 SEPELLATA-3。成熟复合物核组装后,NF-Ys 在包含 CCAAT 框的调控元件中进行 DNA 结合、蛋白质与蛋白质互作,miR169 基因通常为正向调控因子^[20],在启动子的近远端区域与 DNA 结合,调节靶基因表达^[21]。于月华等^[22]通过靶基因预测表明鹰嘴豆中大部分 miR169 家族成员的靶基因为 NF-YA。杨树中 NF-YA1/2/3/5/6/7/8/10/11 在基因组复制域具有 miR169 靶基因切割位点^[23]。Qi 等^[24]通过检测杨树休眠及生长活跃期间形成层区 miR169 及 HAP2-6 的休眠相关特异性靶基因。证实 PagHAP2-6 是 miR169 的靶基因。Yu 等^[25]发现 19 种靶 mRNA 的切割位点大部分位于 *gma-miR169c* 成熟序列的第 10~11 位;少数靶 mRNA 的剪切位点位于上游或下游互补区域。这些靶 mRNA 包括 NF-YA 转录因子、高亲和镍转运蛋白、剪切因子,miR169 亚型成员能够识别不同的 NF-YS 转录本,这些转录本主要为 NF-YA。

NF-YA (NF-Y1/2/5/6/8/9/10) 分别对植物雄配子发育、胚胎形态发育、种子形态建成、种子萌发、根系形成、根瘤发育、响应病原菌等方面具有重要作用。NF-YA2 和 NF-YA10 在拟南芥萌发后初期阶段负责调节主根生长及侧根初始发育。在拟南芥生长后期 NF-YA2/NF-YA10 和 *miR169defg* 亚型能够协同控制主根以及侧根的生长发育^[26]。水稻中 *OsHAP2E* 的过表达,使水稻对稻瘟病和白叶枯病产生抗性,此外 NF-YA2 和 NF-YA10 在 *MIM169a/b/c* 亚型和 *MIM169d/e/f/g* 亚型中产生差异性表达,可能对于植株抗病性具有不同的作用,过表

达 *MIM169d/e/f/g* 的植株有更强的抗病性^[27],暗示 miR169/NF-YA 模块在响应植物青枯病方面具有重要作用。

2 miR169/NF-Y (CBF) 在植物生长发育中的作用

2.1 激素信号通路

miR169 家族在激素介导的信号通路中具有重要的作用^[28-29]。生长素 / 吲哚 -3- 乙酸 (Aux/IAA) 是一种编码短寿命的核蛋白^[30],通过与生长素响应因子 ARF 结合,使早期基因转录发生,调控下游基因表达。有研究发现 *DREB/CBF* 通过 Aux/IAA 基因转录直接促进 IAA5 的转录和生长素调控网络 (CRN) 的响应性^[31]。脱落酸 (ABA, abscisic acid) 受体蛋白与内源 ABA 结合,激活信号通路^[32]。miRNAs 可能响应 ABA 介导信号应答最早发现自一个拟南芥突变体 *hyl1*,该突变体对 ABA 敏感。近来有独立研究组表明 miR169 在 ABA 处理条件后的拟南芥种子中表达上调,在水稻中表达下调。*PagHAP2-6* 转录水平受外源 ABA 诱导后增加外源 ABA 的抗性^[33]。

ABA 在植物胚胎发育和形态建成中起重要调控作用,*LaNFYAs* 是一类与抗逆和激素应答相关的转录因子,正常体细胞胚发生过程中,随着外源 ABA 含量的增加,*LaNFY1/2/3* 的表达量均在第 7 天时达到最大,无 ABA 处理的落叶松胚性胚柄团 (ESMs) 中,前 14 d *LaNFY1/2/3* 均无明显变化,暗示这 3 个基因对 ABA 敏感^[34],相似的结果在大豆叶片中也得到了印证^[35]。

田佳星^[36]在毛白杨叶片中发现 292 个靶 miRNA,通过转录组测序分析发现 *ptc-miR169y* 的靶基因介导赤霉素 (GA_3 , Gibberellic acid) 差异表达和信号转导途径可能与植物的生长发育相关,miR169 响应其他激素介导的信号通路有待进一步的研究。

2.2 气孔发育

FAMA 在叶片内皮层和气孔细胞谱系的角状细胞中表达,是 BHLH 蛋白的转录因子和下游靶点,作用于气孔细胞谱系发育^[37]。FAMA 具有基因主调节因子的特征^[38-39],FAMA 启动子通过调控 β -葡萄糖醛酶 (GUS) 介导保卫细胞分裂分化。叶片表皮中,FAMA 首先表达于膜系统,在保卫细胞初始分裂时达到峰值,在保卫细胞发育成熟时消失。Kanaoka 等^[40]发现 bHLH 蛋白诱导

CBF1 (*ICE1*)、*SCREAM* (*SCRM*) 和 *SCRM2*, 直接与 *SPCH*、*MUTE* 和 *FAMA* 相互作用, *SPCH* 转录因子控制细胞的不对称分裂过程, 失去功能的突变体只有表皮和表皮毛; *FAMA* 转录因子调控保卫细胞的分化过程, 抑制保卫母细胞的繁殖和保卫细胞重复形成; *MUTE* 转录因子控制细胞的不对称分裂过程, 造成类分生组织被不完全分化细胞包围, *MUTE* 过度表达或功能过强, 导致所有表皮细胞转

变成保卫细胞。在叶表皮细胞发育过程中, 气孔的位置和数目受到整体大环境和自身小环境的调控, 目前发现冷调控关键基因 *SCREAM* (*I/2*), 又称 *ICE1*, 编码亮氨酸拉链蛋白。一个半显性突变体 *SCRM-D* 过表达可直接使表皮细胞分化形成保卫细胞, *SCREAM* (*I/2*) 与 *SPCH*/*MUTE*/*FAMA* 形成异源复合体在气孔发育 3 个阶段起作用, 在所有衍生细胞中表达, 促进新细胞分裂分化形成。(图 2)。

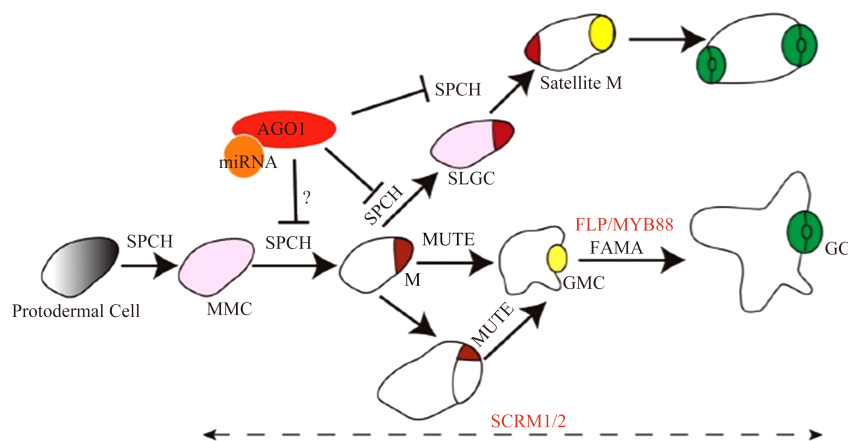


图 2 AGO1 调节保卫细胞分化途径^[41]

Fig.2 AGO1 regulates guard cell differentiation^[41]

MicroRNAs 调节多细胞植物的基因表达, miRNA 的 *HYL1*、*ARGONAUTE1* (*AGO1*) 和 *HUAENHANCER1* (*HEN1*) 基因, 参与叶片近-远端形态建成和气孔发育^[41]。miR169 家族基因通过特异靶向 MADS-box 蛋白调控气孔发育, miR169 受植物中光敏色素调节上调表达, 参与光信号转导^[42-43], 影响植物光合效率^[44-45], 拟南芥的叶片大小受 NF-YA2/NF-YA10 调控, NF-YA2/NF-YA10 过表达促进叶细胞分裂分化和叶绿素积累。NF-YB2 的 RNAi 干扰使叶绿素含量降低和叶绿体退化^[46]。马铃薯 (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) 中超表达 *NF-YB3*/*NF-YB1* 使马铃薯提前开花^[47]、叶绿素含量显著增加、ABA 介导的气孔关闭、光合速率及气孔导度下降、马铃薯产量降低^[48]。张敏等^[49]发现拟南芥中过表达株系叶片中表皮细胞较野生型小, 其主要在新叶的顶端分生组织和叶片维管束系统表达水平较高, 暗示 miR169 在气孔发育中具有重要作用。

3 miR169/NF-Y (CBF) 在非生物胁迫响应中的作用

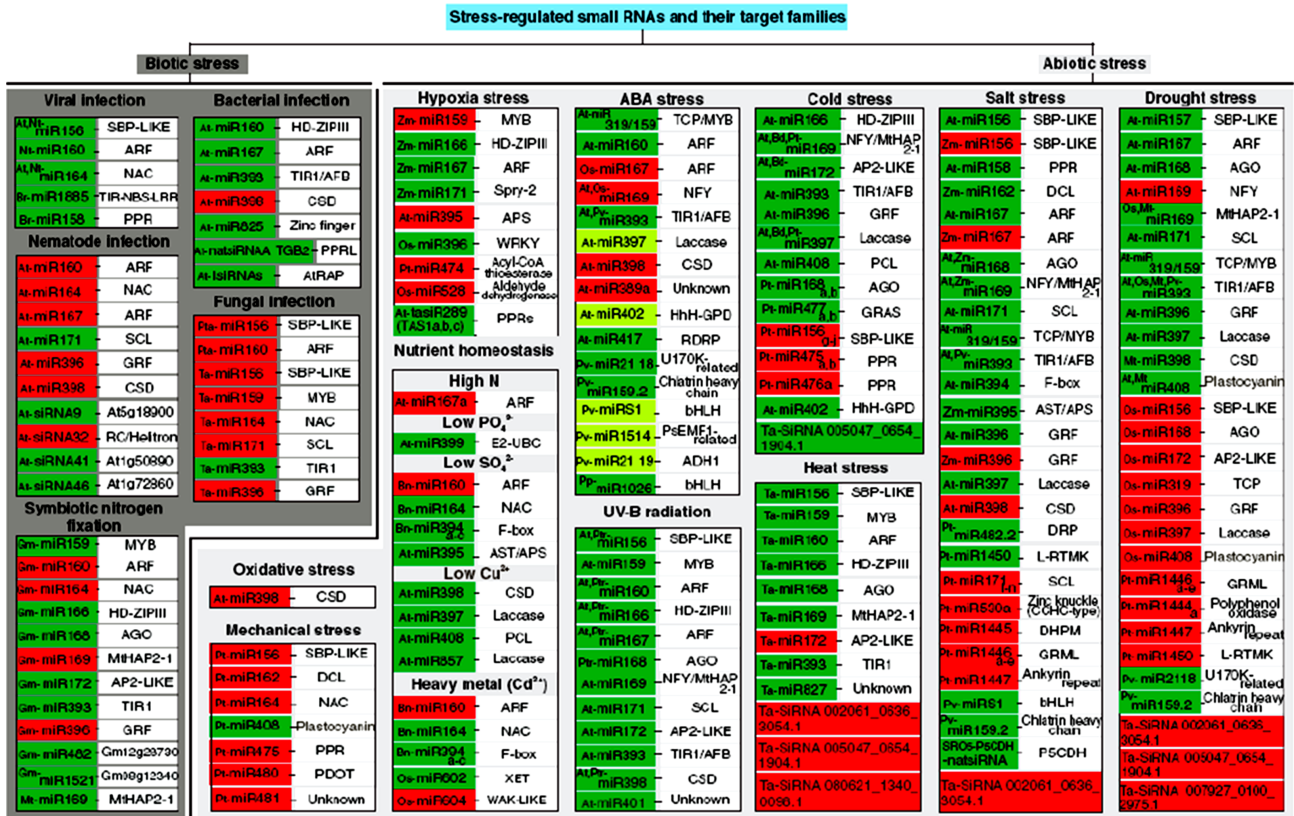
随着生物信息学快速发展, 陆续鉴定出与逆境机制相关的 miRNA, 这为植物从遭受逆境到下游基因转录激活的级联反应及 miR169 调控 NF-Y 网络

机制的研究提供极大可能(图 3)。

3.1 盐胁迫

高盐胁迫改变细胞渗透压, 造成严重的离子毒害及营养失衡现象, 严重限制植物的正常生长发育。miRNA 不仅能够调节植物的生长发育、参与能量代谢、信号转导、蛋白质合成与降解等过程, 通过调控下游转录因子消除离子毒害、维持细胞平衡、提高植株耐盐性。miR169 参与的非生物胁迫有高温、干旱、高盐碱、低铁、铝、砷、臭氧、镉、ABA 胁迫、UV-B 辐射等^[50-51]。miR169 通过调控 NF-YAs 响应高盐胁迫在油菜^[43]、胡杨 (*Populus euphratica* Olivier)^[52]、番茄 (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.)^[53]、黄瓜 (*Cucumis sativus* L.)^[54]、水稻^[55]等方面得到了广泛的研究和关注。

覃玉蓉等^[56]检测 miR169g/o/j 在高盐胁迫下胡杨叶片中表达上调, 且转基因植株萌发率以及存活率明显高于野生型, 暗示 miR169o 通过负调控 NF-YA1/2/8 参与调控耐盐功能的分子机制。水稻^[37]中的 miR169g/n/o 皆受到高盐胁迫的诱导, 其靶基因 NF-YA 作为 CCAAT 转录因子, 参与下游基因的表达调控和信号转导。高盐胁迫条件下 miR169 在耐盐品系山农 91-11 中表达量下调^[57], 暗示 miR169 响应高盐胁迫下的表达具有品种特异性。

图3 非生物胁迫调控 miRNA 及其靶基因概述^[5]Fig. 3 Summary of abiotic stress-regulated small RNAs and their target families^[5]

陶庆^[58]发现 *bn-miR169m/n/o* 在 150 mmol/L NaCl 处理条件下上调表达, 之后对 *bn-miR169o* 和 *BnNF-YA12* 过表达植株进行各项生理试验, 发现 *BnNF-YA12* 对盐胁迫表现出敏感, *bn-miR169o* 过表达植株与对照组相比无显著差异, 玉米中 *ZmNF-YA14* 过表达表现出抗盐的表型。邹哲^[52]将番茄 *Sly-miR169c* 转基因 T₁ 株系进行盐逆境的胁迫处理, 转基因株系抗逆性强。李超汉^[53]采用浓度 100 mmol/L NaCl 溶液浇湿黄瓜幼苗模拟盐胁迫, 发现 2 h/6 h/24 h 后 miR169 基因表达量较靶基因 *Tl69* 呈现出上调趋势, Lian 等^[54]也发现 NaCl 能够下调 *PtNF-YA9* 的表达水平。

3.2 干旱胁迫

干旱胁迫严重影响作物的生长发育、品质及产量, 是限制园艺作物生产主要的非生物胁迫因素之一。植物对干旱胁迫的响应主要是通过调控下游基因表达产生一系列生理、生化反应来实现。目前大量干旱相关基因在转录水平上被鉴定, miR169 基因作为一类重要的非编码单链小分子 RNA, 通常在转录后表达。

2007 年, 在水稻中证实 miR169g 上游有 2 个 DREs 脱水反应元件, 作为 miR169 家族中唯一响应干旱诱导的成员, 在干旱诱导下表达上调, 在根中的诱导作用较芽明显。推测 miR169g 的表达可能受到 *CBF/DREBs* 的直接调控^[57-58]。干旱胁迫早期拟南芥 miR169a/miR169c 表达下调, miR169a 高效抑制 *NFYA5* 的 mRNA 水平^[59-62]。*ath-miR169a* 转基因植株加快叶片失水速率, 干旱敏感型植株 miR169f-3p 较耐旱型植株表达上调^[63-65]。

NF-YA 可分为 3 组亚群, 第 1 组 (NF-YA3/5/6/8)、第 2 组 (NF-YA1/9)、第 3 组 (NF-YA2/10)^[66]。miRNA 调控基因表达可使植物适应压力条件, 转录调控应激反应基因是其主要模式网络的重要组成部分^[67]。Siefers 等^[12]发现, miR169/NF-YA5 调控模块可以响应干旱胁迫, 增强拟南芥抗旱性, 暗示 miR169 负调控 NF-YA5 表达促进植物的抗旱能力。miR169 剪切大豆 *GmNFYA3* 基因, 对于干旱胁迫抗性具有正向调控作用^[68-69], *GmNFYA3* 过表达降低叶片失水速率, 抗旱性增强^[70]。干旱胁迫诱导 *sly-miR169c* 表达, 下调 *siNF-YA1/2/3* 转录水平, 降

低气孔导度、呼吸速率和叶片失水速率,增强植株的干旱耐受性^[71-72],在番茄^[73]、水稻^[74-75]中也显示 miR169o 在干旱胁迫下表现为正调控因子;靶基因 NF-YA1/2/3 表达模式基本与 miR169o 相反,但并不完全对应。推测在水稻干旱胁迫早期,miR169o 可能只调控了特定靶基因的表达。此外,miR169o 在水稻不同组织中的表达和丰度存在着明显差异,具有组织特异性。

3.3 高温胁迫

高温胁迫导致细胞膜透性增强、叶片萎蔫,影响叶片正常发育,影响植物的光合速率、蒸腾速率、生物量积累,严重限制马铃薯的植株发育和块茎形成过程^[76],番茄叶片叶绿素总含量和光合色素含量在高温胁迫下可分别降低到 45.45% 和 25.35%^[73]。

转录后调控是植物应答逆境胁迫的一个重要过程,转录因子在植物非生物胁迫应答中至关重要^[77-78],植物高温胁迫抗性相关的转录因子主要为热激转录蛋白 (At Hsf A6a) HSLF、脱水响应结合蛋白 DREB、多蛋白结合因子 MBF1c, DREB2A 与 NF-YA2/NF-YB3 等转录因子相互作用,诱导 HSF43 的过表达植株的抗热性^[79]。番茄^[80]、油菜^[81]、拟南芥^[82]等植物中皆出现响应高温胁迫的 miR169。高温诱导下水稻组织中 miR169 靶向 NF-Ys 上调表达^[83-84],柳枝稷 (*Panicum virgatum* L.) 发现存在不同的调节模式^[85],表明 miRNAs 的高温响应存在基因型、品种、器官差异性,推测水稻和柳枝稷品种 (组织) 中存在不同的 miRNA 主导的胁迫响应模式。

3.4 低温胁迫

低温是影响植物生长发育、地理分布的重要限制性因素之一,低温胁迫主要影响植物细胞酶活性、膜系统、细胞水分等,导致细胞代谢紊乱,甚至是细胞程序性死亡。Shi 等^[86]通过酵母功能互补分析表明, *PagHAP2-6* 作为 NF-YA 的同源基因低温休眠期显著高表达,与 *page-miR169a/n/r* 的表达模式相反,暗示 *page-miR169a/n/r* 能够负调控 *PagHAP2-6* 响应低温胁迫应答^[87]。这与党春艳^[88]研究得出的在白毛杨中低温抑制 miR169a/c 的表达的结论相符合。Li 等^[89]通过高通量测序预测了高山离子芥 (*Chorispora tenella* (Pall.) DC.) 中低温胁迫响应的 miRNAs,发现 miR169a 在冷胁迫下无显著表达,而 miR169 在冷胁迫下表达下调,暗示 miR169a 作为 miR169 家族之一,与 miR169 家族表型相比存在差异。

3.5 养分胁迫

营养元素对植物体内有机化合物、生物膜和叶

绿素的合成、参与氧化还原反应等具有关键作用。MicroRNA 已被证实在拟南芥、玉米、番茄等植物响应低营养元素胁迫的过程中都起重要作用。王立博^[90]通过基因差异性表达分析发现 miR169 基因家族中有 133 个成员对低磷胁迫有响应,这与裴腊明^[91]的研究结果相似。赵永平^[92]发现在低硝酸盐胁迫条件下,低氮响应基因 *zma-miRC10/68* 在玉米的根和叶中表达均出现较丰氮条件下大幅度下调,暗示 *zma-miRC10/68* 在低硝酸盐环境适应性调节中起重要作用。有学者研究发现了玉米中 miRNA 应答低氮胁迫功能网络^[93],低氮条件下由于氮吸收系统遭到破坏使得包含 35S 启动子和 miR169a 前体序列在内的转基因植株的硝酸盐转运蛋白 *AtNRT1.1* 和 *AtNRT1.2* 的表达较野生型低,推测 miR169a 在应对植物调节土壤中的氮素有效性波动过程中起关键作用^[94],氮饥饿能够使 miR169 强烈下调,过表达 miR169a 拟南芥只能积累很少的氮,在氮胁迫下较野生型拟南芥敏感^[95]。番茄中也发现 miR169 受到磷酸盐营养调节,明确了 miR169 家族在磷酸盐营养代谢网络中的调控作用。

4 展望

植物 miRNA 基因可能起源于靶基因的反向重复^[96-97],miRNA 基因家族在功能上的分化导致不同家族成员调控的靶基因存在差异^[98-99]。miR169 通过与下游转录本互作参与应激胁迫。研究 miR169 在应答各种胁迫调控网络成为植物逆境研究的热门话题。然而目前国内外学者对于 miR169 的研究主要侧重于水稻和玉米及模式植物,对于马铃薯和茶树在内的其他园艺作物及其经济作物的研究进程较为缓慢。深度测序技术结合其他生物学信息技术的应用使得物种之间能够根据亲缘关系的远近建立起众多同源数据库,为 miRNA 多样性的挖掘及品种特异性表达鉴定提供了可能,然而园艺作物种类繁多,转基因技术难度因品种而异,成为限制 miR169 调控靶基因广泛参与各种胁迫网络应答的技术瓶颈。启动子克隆、酵母单双杂、原位瞬时表达等技术不断完善将为包括 miR169/NF-Ys 在内的 miRNA 功能及其靶基因互作的深入研究提供高效技术支持。

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