

乙烯响应因子(ERFs)在植物花青素合成中的调控作用

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摘要: 花青素是一种天然色素, 可以作为清除自由基的重要天然抗氧化剂, 其富含的多种化合物在医疗保健方面十分重要。花青素影响果蔬成熟、口感、色泽, 对植物的非生物和生物胁迫产生保护作用, 因此优化花青素含量被视为许多园艺作物的育种目标。本研究阐述了乙烯响应因子(ERFs)作为乙烯信号传递的次级转录因子响应植物激素信号并能产生反馈调节, 以多种方式介导了乙烯调控植物花青素生物合成的过程。在作用方式上, ERFs主要通过转录因子互作、激活转录因子、与MBW形成调控复合物或直接激活结构基因启动子的方式调控植物花青素的生物合成。本研究旨在为后续深入阐明ERF调控不同物种花青素生物合成的机制、探究果蔬成熟后期花青素快速积累与乙烯释放量增加之间存在的联系提供理论依据。

关键词: ERF; 乙烯; 花青素; 转录因子

The Regulation of Ethylene Responsive Factors (ERFs) in Plant Anthocyanin Synthesis

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Abstract: Anthocyanins, which are natural pigments and serve as important natural antioxidants scavenging free radicals, are rich in a variety of compounds that are important in health care. Anthocyanins affect the ripening, taste and color of fruits and vegetables, and prevent plants from abiotic and biotic stresses. Therefore, optimizing anthocyanin content is regarded as the breeding goal in many horticultural crops. As the secondary ethylene signaling transcription factors, ethylene response factors (ERFs) respond to plant hormone signaling and can result in feedback regulation, and these genes are known to modulate the process of ethylene regulating anthocyanin biosynthesis via various mechanisms. In terms of the molecular mode, ERFs in regulation of anthocyanin biosynthesis rely on the physical interaction with transcription factors, activating transcription factors, forming regulatory complexes with MBW or directly activating structural gene promoters. This study aims to provide a theoretical basis for further elucidating the mechanism of ERF regulating anthocyanin biosynthesis, and to explore the relationship between the rapid accumulation of anthocyanins and the increase of ethylene release in fruits and vegetables at the late ripening stage.

Key words: ERF; ethylene; anthocyanins; transcription factors

花青素在人类健康保健以及植物抵抗生物和非生物胁迫方面发挥重要作用^[1-3]。除受外界环境及所需结构基因影响外, 一些转录因子在花青素合成过程中发挥着重要的调控作用。乙烯响应因子

(ERF, ethylene responsive factor)是AP2/ERF超家族的重要成员^[4], 响应激素、胁迫、果实成熟等信号并参与调控花青素合成^[5-7]。本研究综述了ERF在植物花青素合成中的调控作用, 重点阐述了ERF介

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导乙烯调控花青素合成。乙烯在果实成熟和色素积累方面发挥非常重要的作用,ERF作为乙烯信号的次级转录因子与其关系密切,不仅响应乙烯信号还能反馈调控植物体内乙烯的产生^[8]。在方式上,ERF转录因子主要通过促进MYB类转录因子转录、与MYB类转录因子互作、与MBW形成转录调控复合物或直接激活结构基因启动子的方式来影响植物花青素的生物合成。

1 花青素的合成及调控

色泽是园艺作物的重要性状,花青素是植物着色的主要色素之一。作为一种水溶性黄酮类色素,花青素广泛分布于植物的花瓣、果实、茎和叶中^[9]。花青素的稳定性受pH等多种因素影响,条件改变容易导致花青素发生构象的变化,产生不同颜色^[10]。花青素是一种天然色素,可以作为清除自由基的重要抗氧化剂,其具有许多与营养和健康相关的功能^[11-12]。作为一类重要的植物次生代谢产物,花青素在植物生长发育和抵抗环境胁迫方面也发挥着重要作用,如抵御UV-B光损伤^[13]、病原体感染^[3]、冷胁迫^[14]和干旱^[15],另外花青素的积累还有助于果实防御采后绿霉病^[16]。在自然界中发现的550多种花青素中,约90%为6种最常见的花青素:天竺葵色素(Pelargonidin)、矢车菊色素(Cyanidin)、飞燕草色素(Delphinidin)、芍药色素(Peonidin)、矮牵牛色素(Petunidin)和锦葵色素(Malvidin)及其衍生物^[17]。

1.1 花青素合成途径及调控

花青素生物合成途径中,结构基因编码的一系列酶参与花青素的生物合成^[18]。苯丙氨酸(Phenylalanine)依次经过上游结构基因苯丙氨酸解氨酶(PAL, phenylalanine ammonia-lyase)、肉桂酸羟化酶(C4H, cinnamate 4-hydroxylase)、4-香豆酰-CoA连接酶(4CL, 4-coumarate CoA ligase)的催化反应生成4-香豆酰 CoA(4-coumaroyl-CoA)。4-香豆酰 CoA在早期生物合成基因(EBGs, early biosynthesis genes)查尔酮合成酶(CHS, chalcone synthase)、查尔酮异构酶(CHI, chalcone isomerase)、黄酮-3-羟化酶(F3H, flavanone 3-hydroxylase)催化下生成二氢黄酮醇(Dihydrokaempferol)。二氢黄酮醇在类黄酮3'-羟化酶(F3'H, flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase)和类黄酮3,5-羟化酶(F3'5'H, flavonoid 3'5'-hydroxylase)的催化作用下分别生成二氢槲皮酮(Dihydroquercetin)和二氢杨梅黄酮(Dihydromyricetin)。二氢黄酮醇、二氢槲皮酮和二氢杨梅黄酮分别在晚期生物合成

基因(LBGs, late biosynthesis genes)二氢黄酮醇-4-还原酶(DFR, dihydroflavonol 4-reductase)、花青素合成酶(ANS, anthocyanidin synthase)和类黄酮3-O-葡萄糖基转移酶(UFGT, UDP-flavonoid3-O-glucosyltransferase)作用下合成不同的有色花色素苷(图1)。除此之外,分别编码多酚氧化酶(PPO, polyphenol oxidase)、MATE家族的一种二级转运因子、H(+)-ATP酶和谷胱甘肽S-转移酶(GST, glutathione S-transferase)的4个结构基因 *Transparent Taste 10(tt10)*、*Transparent Taste 12(tt12)*、*Transparent Taste 13(tt13)*和 *Transparent Taste 19(tt19)*以及修饰基因甲基转移酶(MT, methyltransferase)、O-甲基转移酶(OMT, O-methyltransferase)和花青素转移酶(AT, anthocyanin transferase)也参与花青素的生物合成,这些蛋白质在花青素的修饰、运输和氧化中起着重要作用^[19-22]。

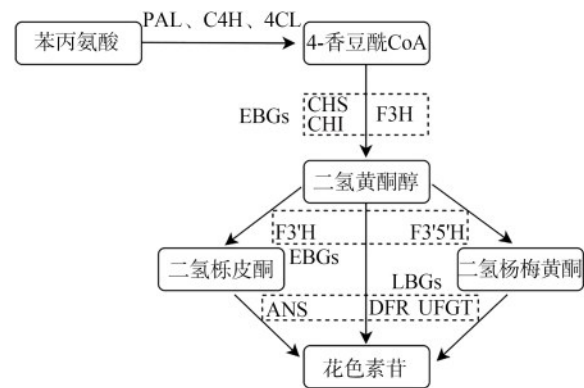


图1 花青素生物合成途径图

Fig.1 Pathway diagram of anthocyanin biosynthesis

这些结构基因主要由MYB家族、bHLH家族和WD40蛋白组成的MBW转录复合物共同调节^[23]。其中MYB中的R2R3-MYB在调控途径中发挥着关键作用,它可以直接调节相关基因的表达并促进花青素积累^[24-25]。如MYB类转录因子MdMYB114可以通过与bHLH3和WD40相互作用促进苹果果实着色^[26],卵叶牡丹R2R3-MYB转录因子PqMYB113能激活PqDFR和PqANS启动子,正调控拟南芥和烟草中花青素的积累^[27]。LvMYB5通过激活ANS基因启动子,增强结构基因的表达促进百合中花青素合成^[28]。MYB转录因子BrMYBL2.1通过抑制MYB-bHLH-WD40复合物活性负调控白菜花青素的生物合成^[29]。除了MBW复合物,其他转录因子也影响花青素的生物合成,例如梨中的PyERF3和PyWRKW26,桃中的PpNAC1,以及甘薯中的IbNAC56,它们直接或间接地与MBW复合物相互

作用,以调节花青素的生物合成^[30-33]。另外,miRNA也会影响花青素生物合成,如miRNA通过其靶基因影响荔枝花青素的生物合成^[34],miRNA通过调控相关靶基因影响花生花斑种皮花青素积累^[35]。

1.2 环境因素影响花青素的合成

植物激素等内部因素以及光照、温度、干旱等外部因素都能影响靶基因的转录激活和花青素的生物合成、积累和运输。如ERF38转录因子促进干旱条件下苹果花青素的生物合成^[5],在强光和低温胁迫下,HUA2(Enhancer of AG-4 2)与PAP1(Production of anthocyanin pigment 1)和PAP2(Production of anthocyanin pigment 2)相结合促进花青素积累^[23],被磷酸化的MYB75参与光照诱导拟南芥花青素的积累^[36],红光处理提高了蓝莓愈伤组织中花青素的合成^[37]。夜间低温提高了葡萄果实花青素的生物合成能力^[38],却抑制草莓果实花青素积累^[39]。另外,植物激素水平通常会影响到基因的表达以及植物体内的生理代谢过程从而参与果实成熟和着色,如脱落酸处理显著增强了葡萄中总花色苷积累量和速率^[40]。不同物种中花青素合成受到外界信号时的反应也有所不同,乙烯增强了梨中PpERF105对花青素合成负调节因子PpMYB140的激活作用从而抑制花青素的生物合成^[41],但在苹果中乙烯会增强花青素合成正调节因子MdMYB1的表达水平,显著诱导花青素合成及果实着色^[8]。花色苷的生物合成受多种因素影响,不同植物品种的花青素代谢合成途径和相关基因转录对不同因素的响应方式不同,因此植物花色苷的调控机制复杂多样。

2 ERF 转录因子在植物花青素合成中的调控作用

超家族AP2/ERF成员包含一个共同的DNA结合域AP2域,根据该区域拷贝数的差异,AP2/ERF通常可分为4个家族即AP2、ERF、RAV和Soloist^[4,42]。大多数AP2/ERF蛋白能与含有GCC-box的启动子结合,但不同组别的成员激活程度不同^[43]。乙烯响应因子(ERF)家族是AP2/ERF超家族中的重要成员,ERF成员以单个AP2结构域为特征^[4,44]。除了与含有GCC-box的启动子结合外,ERF蛋白还可以与烟草中的VWRE(血管损伤反应元件,GAAATTTC)和CE1(偶联元件,CACCG)结合^[45-46]。

ERF在植物生长中起着重要作用,参与调节植物对激素、胁迫、果实成熟的反应并调控花青素合成^[5-7]。如热诱导基因乙烯响应因子LIERF110的过

量表达会降低百合的耐热性^[47],OsBIERF3对水稻瘟病菌和水稻白叶枯病菌的免疫起正调控作用,但对水稻的抗冷胁迫起负调控作用^[48]。ERF对果实成熟有重要调节作用,如PpERF4通过直接结合目的基因启动子增强其活性,促进了桃果实成熟^[6]。DkERF8/16/19能够激活与柿子软化相关的细胞壁降解酶DkXTH9(木葡聚糖内糖基转移酶/水解酶),加速柿子的软化过程^[49]。还有研究表明AtERF4和AtERF8双突变体可以降低光诱导的拟南芥花青素产生的速率和程度^[50]。植物生长发育过程中不可或缺的植物激素,如茉莉酸、脱落酸、乙烯和生长素,可以刺激ERF的表达,并参与调节植物的各种过程,调节花青素的生物合成、防御和应激反应^[18,43,51]。作为植物激素信号的关键调节器,ERF不仅参与响应植物激素信号还可以反馈调节植物激素的生物合成,在植物激素信号转导过程中发挥重要作用^[43,52]。

2.1 ERF 转录因子调控乙烯介导的花青素积累

乙烯是调节植物生长、发育、衰老和抗逆性的重要激素^[43],对果实成熟和发育期间的颜色调控不可或缺,能调节葡萄、兰花、蓝莓等多种植物体中花青素的生物合成^[53-55]。乙烯在果实中受两条途径调节:生物合成途径和信号转导途径。乙烯生物合成包括两个关键步骤:ACC合成酶(ACS, ACC synthase)将S-腺苷甲硫氨酸(SAM, S-adenosylmethionine)转化为1-氨基环丙烷1-羧酸(ACC, 1-aminocyclopropanecarboxylic acid),然后通过ACC氧化酶(ACO, ACC oxidase)从ACC中形成乙烯^[56]。在乙烯信号转导途径中,乙烯首先与受体结合,使乙烯信号途径的负调控因子CTR1(Constitutive triple response 1)失活,导致CTR1无法磷酸化下游的正调控因子EIN2(Ethylene insensitive 2),去磷酸化的EIN2可以稳定下游乙烯信号途径的初级转录因子EIN3/EIL(Ethylene insensitive 3-like/ethylene insensitive 3)并促进其积累^[57-59]。在EIN3/EIL下游,乙烯反应因子(ERF)作为触发乙烯信号传递的二级转录因子,可以专一地与乙烯反应基因启动子的脱水反应元件(DRE, dehydration responsive element)基序或GCC-box结合^[52,60-61],最终诱导乙烯反应。植物组织中产生的乙烯量与ACS和ACO活性呈正相关,GCC-box通常出现在许多植物的ACS和ACO启动子中,而大多数AP2/ERF蛋白能与含有GCC-box的启动子结合,因此表达ERF基因,如TERF2/LeERF2、MaERF9可以增强ACS和ACO的活性,从而加速乙烯生物合成和信号

转录^[52,62]。除了正反馈基因外,有少部分ERF转录因子还表现为ACS和ACO活性的阻遏物,以阻止乙烯生物合成,包括*AtERF11*和*MaERF11*^[62-63]。因此,ERF不仅响应乙烯信号转录,还可以反馈调节植物组织中乙烯的合成^[52]。

乙烯对花青素生物合成的调节作用因植物种类而异,例如乙烯通过抑制*SLAN2-like*基因转录抑制花青素的生物合成^[64],但合适的乙烯处理却可以提高葡萄中花青素含量^[65]。果蔬成熟后期通常伴随着乙烯合成释放量增加以及花青素大量积累导致果实着色,在探究两者之间存在的某种联系时发现一些ERF转录因子在乙烯调控花青素合成过程中发挥着重要作用(图2)。乙烯可以促进苹果花青素的积累,近年来的一些研究有助于探究其调控机制。乙烯通过促进*MdMYB1*和花青素合成关键基因的转录,加速了花青素积累,同时*MdMYB1*诱导乙烯响应因子*MdERF3*的转录来进一步加强乙烯介导的花青素积累和苹果果实着色^[8]。研究发现乙烯和茉莉酸都能促进花青素的合成,并增强*MdERF1B*和*MdMYC2*的表达水平。*MdERF1B*介导乙烯调控的花青素合成途径中,乙烯提高了*MdERF1B*的转录活性,促进*MdERF1B*结合*MdMYC2*启动子增强其表达,进而激活花青素结构基因转录、促进花青素积累。*MdERF1B*介导的茉莉酸调控花青素合成途径中,茉莉酸信号通路抑制剂*MdJAZ5/10*与*MdERF1B*蛋白互作显著降低了*MdERF1B*对*MdMYC2*启动子的激活,导致*MdMYC2*表达水平降低及产生花青素的相关基因水平下调,从而抑制花青素积累。当茉莉酸含量升高时,*MdJAZ5/10*被抑制,促进*MdERF1B*对*MdMYC2*启动子的激活,导致*MdMYC2*基因表达水平及花青素生物合成相关基因的上调^[66]。乙烯途径中的调控蛋白*MdERF1B*与*MdMYB9*、*MdMYB11*蛋白互作,此外*MdERF1B*通过结合*MdMYB9*和*MdMYB11*的启动子激活了*MdMYB9*和*MdMYB11*的转录,从而上调花青素合成结构基因ANS的活性促进花青素的生物合成^[67]。有研究发现乙烯处理促进花青素积累和*ERF5*基因强烈表达,凝胶迁移实验和双荧光素酶实验分析表明*ERF5*能结合*MYBA*和*F3H*启动子提高其表达水平,实现乙烯对“紫金”桑葚花青素积累的积极调节^[68]。

在乙烯响应因子*ERF*作用下乙烯促进苹果、桑葚花青素积累但对梨花青素生物合成表现出明显的抑制效果,这体现出不同物种对乙烯反应的差异性。乙烯诱导的*PpERF105*通过激活负调控转录因

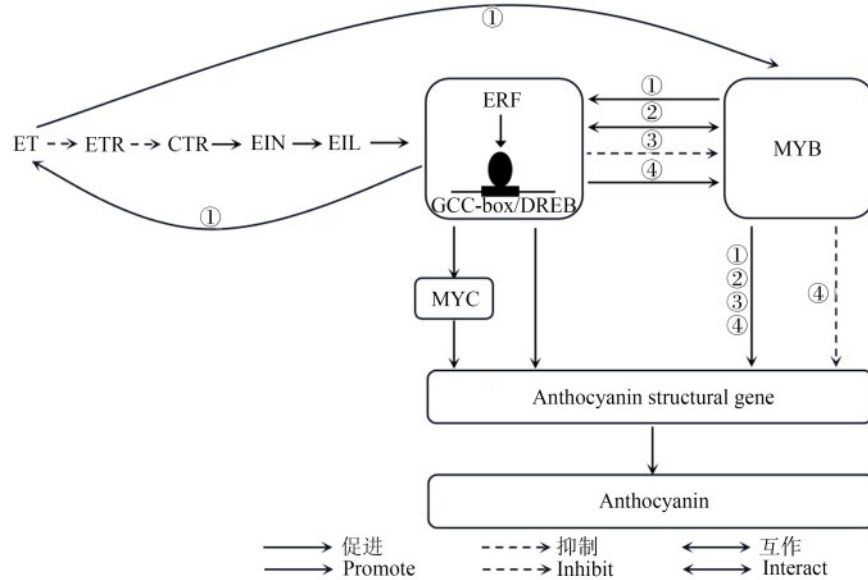
子*PpMYB140*的转录,导致形成MBW复合物,该复合物下调花青素生物合成相关基因的表达抑制了梨中花青素生物合成。另外乙烯信号通路抑制正调控转录因子*PpMYB10*和*PpMYB114*的表达,导致花青素生物合成减少^[41]。乙烯还可以通过转录因子ERF直接抑制*PpMYB10*和*PpMYB114*的表达,最终抑制红梨中花青素的生物合成,花青素生物合成途径被抑制导致黄酮/异黄酮和花青素生物合成途径所需的相同的前体(黄烷酮)的积累,从而黄酮/异黄酮生物合成提供丰富的前体。因此,在乙烯存在的情况下,茉莉酸诱导了黄酮/异黄酮的生物合成和梨果实的深黄色^[69]。

2.2 ERF转录因子通过多种方式调控花青素生物合成

在作用方式上,ERF转录因子通过与MYB类转录因子蛋白互作、激活MYB类转录因子、与MBW形成转录调控复合物来影响结构基因启动子活性或直接激活结构基因启动子来发挥作用调控花青素合成(图3)。

2.2.1 ERF转录因子通过MYB类转录因子调节花青素生物合成

酵母双杂和双分子荧光互补分析表明苹果中*MdERF78*与*MdMYB1*蛋白互作,双荧光素酶和GUS染色等实验证明*MdERF78*通过增强*MdMYB1*对*MdDFR*、*MdUFGT*、*MdGSTF12*启动子的转录活性,在ALA(5-aminolevulinic acid)诱导的花青素积累中发挥着积极作用^[70]。过表达*MdERF1B*的苹果愈伤组织中花青素水平显著升高,通过酵母双杂交、双分子荧光互补和双荧光素酶等实验证明了*MdERF1B*与*MdMYB9*、*MdMYB11*蛋白相互作用,并能够激活*MdMYB9*和*MdMYB11*的启动子,提高其表达水平对花青素合成起到正向调控作用^[67]。苹果中,*MdERF38*与花色苷生物合成的正调控转录因子*MdMYB1*蛋白互作,并且*MdERF38*通过提高*MdMYB1*的转录活性增强其表达,促进了*MdMYB1*与*MdDFR*、*MdUFGT*启动子的结合从而加速苹果花青素积累^[5]。另外,*MdMYB1*能结合*MdERF3*启动子激活其转录,通过*MdERF3*依赖的途径促进乙烯的生物合成,从而增强了乙烯途径对激活*MdMYB1*自身转录活性的促进作用,进而加速花青素生物合成^[8]。梨中,*Pp4ERF24*和*Pp12ERF96*分别与*PpMYB114*蛋白互作而作为辅助因子,促进*PpMYB114*与*PpBHLH3*之间的相互作用,从而增强*PpMYB114*对*PpUFGT*启动子的激活作用,诱导红枣酥梨花青素的积累^[71]。



①②③④代表转录因子ERF介导乙烯调控花青素合成时,与MYB共同作用的多种调控通路。① 通路代表着乙烯通过激活MYB类转录因子转录加速了结构基因转录和花青素积累,同时MYB转录因子激活乙烯响应因子ERF的转录来调控乙烯生成,进一步加强乙烯介导的花青素积累。② 通路代表着乙烯响应因子ERF与MYB转录因子蛋白互动后通过上调花青素合成相关结构基因活性促进花青素合成。③ 通路代表着乙烯响应因子ERF通过抑制MYB类花青素合成正调控因子的表达阻碍花青素生物合成。④ 通路代表着乙烯响应因子ERF通过激活MYB类花青素合成正调控/负调控转录因子转录,促进/抑制花青素生物合成结构基因表达,从而促进/抑制花青素积累。
ET: 乙烯; ETR: 乙烯受体

①②③④ represent multiple regulatory pathways in which ERF and MYB act together when the transcription factor ERF mediates ethylene to regulate anthocyanin synthesis. ①: The pathway represents that ethylene accelerates the transcription of structural genes and anthocyanin accumulation by activating the transcription of MYB transcription factors. At the same time, MYB transcription factors regulate ethylene production by activating the transcription of ethylene response factor ERF, which further enhances the ethylene mediated anthocyanin accumulation.

②: The pathway represents that the interaction between ethylene response factor ERF and MYB transcription factor protein promotes anthocyanin synthesis by upregulating the activity of structural genes related to anthocyanin synthesis. ③: The pathway represents that the ethylene responsive factor ERF inhibits anthocyanin biosynthesis by inhibiting the expression of positive regulators of MYB anthocyanin synthesis. ④: The pathway represents that ethylene response factor ERF promotes/inhibits anthocyanin accumulation by activating MYB anthocyanin synthesis positive/negative regulation of transcription factor transcription, promoting/inhibiting the expression of anthocyanin biosynthetic structural genes. ET: Ethylene; ETR: Ethylene receptor

图2 转录因子ERF参与乙烯调控花青素合成的方式

Fig.2 The transcription factor ERF participates in the way that ethylene regulates anthocyanin synthesis

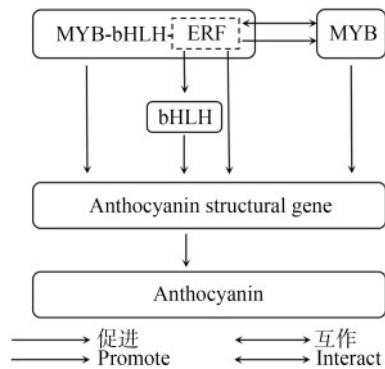


图3 转录因子ERF调控花青素合成的作用方式

Fig.3 Mode of action of transcription factor ERF in the regulation of anthocyanin synthesis

2.2.2 ERF 转录因子与 MBW 转录因子形成复合调控花青素合成 作为伴侣, bHLH 可以与 MYB 相互作用, 调节花青素的生物合成。例如, MYBA1 和 MYB113 与 bHLH 互作, 以调节马铃薯中的花青

素生物合成^[72], AcMYBF110-AcbHLH1-AcWDR1 复合物直接作用于花青素合成基因的启动子来调控猕猴桃果实中花青素的生物合成^[73]。ERF 转录因子除促进 MYB 类转录因子发挥作用外, 它们也可以直接或间接地与 MBW 复合物相互作用, 以调节花青素的生物合成。如 PyERF3 与 PyMYB114 相互作用, 并与 bHLH3 形成新的转录调控复合物 PyERF3-PyMYB114-PybHLH3, PyERF3-PyMYB114-PybHLH3 分别与 PyDFR、PyANS 和 PyUGFT 的启动子结合, 激活其转录进而调控梨花青素的生物合成^[31]。转录因子 IbERF71 与 IbMYB340、IbbHLH2 形成一种新的复合物 IbERF71-IbMYB340-IbbHLH2, 其通过增强紫色肉质甘薯中 IbANS1 的转录活性来调节花青素的生物合成^[74]。

2.2.3 ERF 转录因子激活结构基因启动子调控花青素生物合成 ERF 转录因子不仅通过 MYB 类转

录因子发挥作用以调控花青素生物合成,还可以直接激活结构基因的启动子调控花青素生物合成。研究发现,梨中瞬时过表达 *PbERF22* 显著上调了结构基因 *PbCHS*、*PbDFR*、*PbANS*、*PbUFGT* 的表达水平,进一步通过双荧光素酶实验发现 *PbERF22* 可以显著激活 *PbUFGT* 的启动子,同时 *PbERF22* 也可促进调节基因 *PbMYB10*、*PbMYB10b*、*PbbHLH3* 的表达,该基因通过增强 *PbMYB10*、*PbMYB10b* 以及复合物 *MYB10-bHLH3*、*MYB10b-bHLH3* 对 *PbUFGT* 启动子的激活作用来促进早熟梨中花青素的生物合成^[18]。胡萝卜中, *DcERF1* 能够与 *DcPAL3* 启动子区域的顺式元件 GCC-box 同源物结合,激活 *DcPAL3* 启动子并上调其活性,促进花青素生物合成^[7]。苹果中,酵母单杂交和双荧光素酶实验显示, *MdERF78* 直接结合 *MdF3H* 和 *MdANS* 启动子并激活基因表达,证明了 *MdERF78* 在 ALA 诱导的花青素积累中发挥正向作用^[70]。研究表明 *MdERF109* 通过直接结合花青素结构基因 *MdCHS*、*MdUFGT* 以及调节基因 *MdbHLH3* 启动子并激活其转录,促进了光诱导的花青素生物合成^[75]。

3 展望

花青素在植物体内的合成途径已研究的较为清楚,近年来有大量的研究在阐述其调控机制,但花青素的生物合成受多种因素影响,导致不同植物花青素的合成代谢途径以及不同情况下花青素相关基因的表达水平存在差异,因此植物花青素的调控机制十分复杂,仍需科研工作者继续深入探究。研究各种转录因子调控植物花青素的合成机制,是近年来科学前沿尤为关注的热点。作为乙烯信号传递的次级转录因子,ERF 与乙烯等激素的合成和释放密切相关,果实成熟后期出现乙烯水平波动以及花青素大量积累的现象引起广泛关注,研究 ERF 转录因子则被视为探明这一现象的突破口。

因此还有些问题需要深入探究:(1)有研究表明,乙烯水平上升能诱导乙烯响应因子 ERF 表达进而调控花青素的生物合成,苹果花青素合成途径中的转录因子 *MdMYB1* 可通过激活 *ERF* 调控乙烯产生。那么花青素合成途径中的其他转录因子是否也能激活 *ERF*,从而通过调控 *ERF* 来影响乙烯合成?(2)ERF 转录因子在调控花青素合成过程中多见于对 MYB 类转录因子的激活或与 MYB、bHLH 形成转录调控复合物,而 MYB、bHLH、WD40 联系密切,那么花青素合成过程中 ERF 转录因子是否与

WD40 存在某种联系?(3)为什么 ERF 转录因子调控不同植物中花青素合成的作用机制存在明显差异?

研究 ERF 转录因子在不同物种中花青素的调控机制以及其通过调控花青素合成来影响果蔬成熟和抵御胁迫具有更加实践性的意义,期待今后随着研究的深入可以不断阐明完善以 ERF 转录因子为中心的花青素合成调控网络,以丰富完善富含花青素的育种资源。

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