

植物花青素和甜菜色素互斥机理研究进展

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摘要: 花青素和甜菜色素同为植物水溶性天然色素, 在植物中分布和功能相似。前者为苯丙氨酸衍生色素, 后者为酪氨酸衍生色素, 含有生色团甜菜醛氨酸。花青素在植物中分布广泛, 但在石竹目植物中, 甜菜色素已经取代了花青素。值得注意的是, 从未在同一植物中同时发现花青素和甜菜色素, 这种互斥现象可能是由进化中的偶然导致, 也可能是因为两种色素共存会对植物的生存造成问题, 这一问题一直未解。本文综述了花青素和甜菜色素的概况、生物合成途径及其调控、人工诱导两种色素共存的案例, 以及两者互斥的可能原因等研究进展。此外, 还讨论了两种色素互斥的可能机制、未来可以开展的研究方向以及在分子育种等各方面的潜在应用价值。本文旨在通过对前人研究的综述及展望, 更好地理解花青素和甜菜色素之间的关系, 揭示它们存在互斥的原因, 并为相关领域的研究和应用提供新的思路和方法。

关键词: 花青素; 甜菜色素; 互斥; 生物合成途径; 人工诱导

Review of the Mutually Exclusive Mechanism between the Anthocyanins and Betalains Pigments in Plants

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Abstract: Anthocyanins and betalains are both natural water-soluble pigments with similar distribution and functions in plants. Anthocyanins is a type of phenylalanine-derived pigment, and the betalains is a tyrosine-derived pigment that contains the chromophore betalamic acid. Anthocyanins are widely distributed in plants, but in Caryophyllaceae plants, betalains present instead of anthocyanins. It is worth attention that anthocyanins and betalains have never been found in the same plant at the same time. This mutual exclusion may be raised by accident in evolution, or the co-existence of both pigments would bring troubles in plant survival. This article reviewed and discussed the general characters of anthocyanins and betalains, the biosynthetic pathways and their regulations, the cases of induced co-existence of the two pigments, and the possible reasons for the mutual exclusion between the two pigments. In addition, the possible mechanism of the mutual repulsion of the two pigments, the research focuses for the future, and the possible application value in molecular breeding are also prospected. The purpose of this article is to better understand the relationship between anthocyanins and betalains through the review and prospect of previous studies, reveal the mechanisms for their mutual exclusion, as well as provide new ideas and methods for research and application in related fields.

Key words: anthocyanins; betalains; mutually exclusive; biosynthesis pathway; artificial induce

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花色是观赏植物中重要的性状之一。植物花色主要受类黄酮、类胡萝卜素和甜菜色素3种色素的影响。花青素是类黄酮中最主要的显色物质,也是高等植物中广泛存在的一种水溶性天然色素。植物中常见的花青素有6种,包括天竺葵素、矢车菊素、飞燕草素、芍药花素、矮牵牛素和锦葵素^[1](图1A)。研究

表明,花青素具有抗氧化、消炎、抗衰老、治疗阿尔茨海默病,还有降低癌症、心脑血管疾病和糖尿病风险等多种生物学功能^[2-3]。因其丰富的生物学活性,花青素在食品、制药、化妆品和保健品等多个领域得到广泛应用。在植物茎、叶、花和果实等器官中,花青素主要存在于表皮细胞液泡中。亚细胞定位分析显

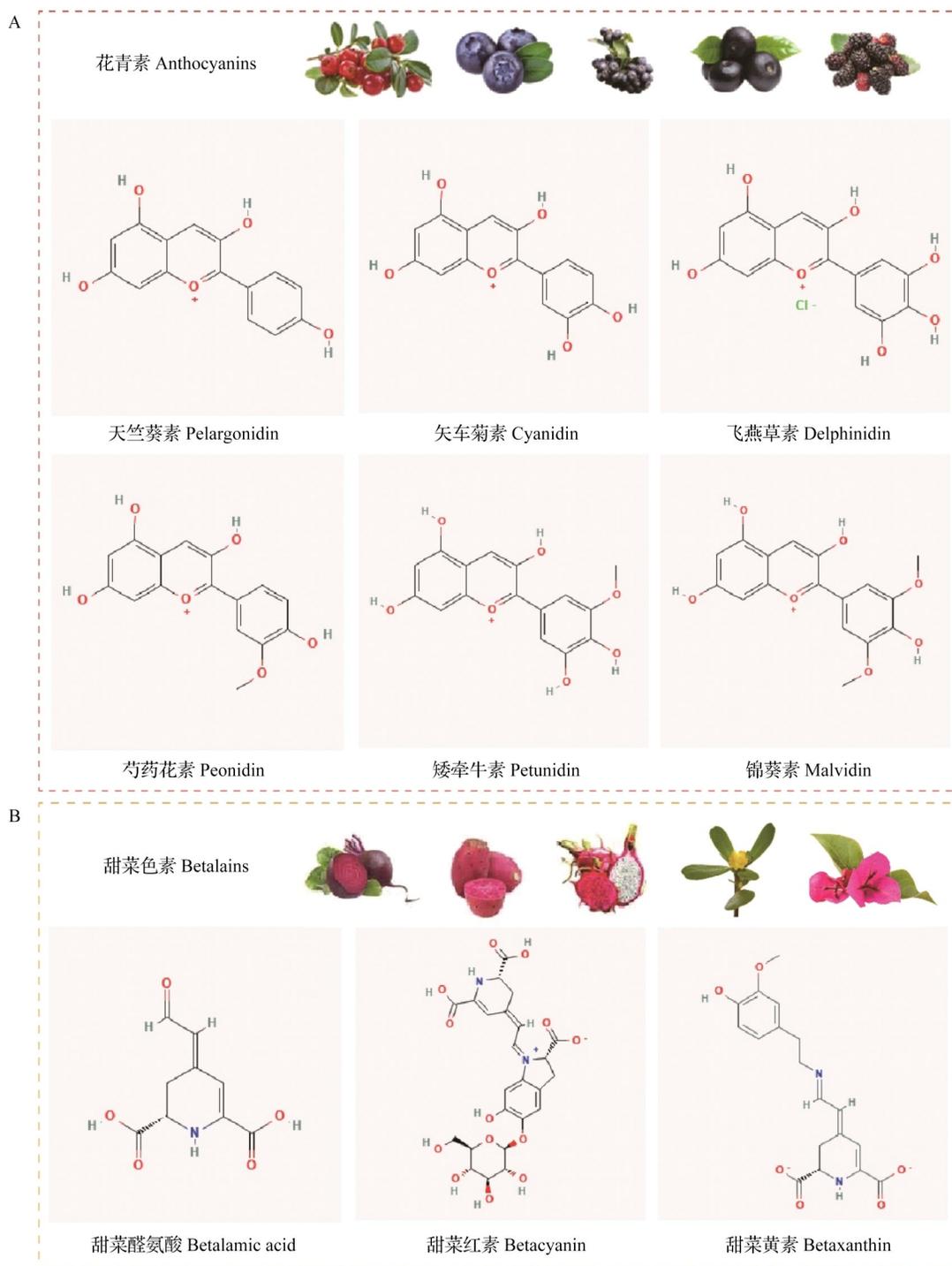


图1 花青素和甜菜色素结构式

Fig.1 Displayed formula of anthocyanins and betalains

示,花青素是在细胞质中合成后转运至液泡中储存并发挥作用^[4]。尽管花青素具有重要的生物活性,但其颜色和稳定性受多个因素的影响,如pH值、温度、化学结构、浓度、紫外线、氧气、酶、蛋白质和金属离子等。一般来说,甲基化可以增强红色并提高稳定性,而羟基化则会增加蓝色并降低稳定性^[5]。

甜菜色素是一种L-酪氨酸(Tyr)衍生的水溶性含氮生物碱类色素,因最早在甜菜根中被发现而得名。甜菜色素包括甜菜红素和甜菜黄素两类^[6],它们分别是由甜菜醛氨酸与环多巴和氨基酸或胺形成的不定共轭物。所有甜菜色素都含有基本生色团——甜菜醛氨酸(图1B)。甜菜色素是重要的天然色素之一,通常用作食品添加剂、化妆品着色剂等。同时,甜菜色素也具有抗氧化、抗炎、抗肿瘤、保肝和预防阿尔茨海默病、糖尿病等生物活性和潜在的保健医用价值^[7-8]。与花青素不同,甜菜色素仅存在于高等植物石竹目(除石竹科和粟米草科积累花青素)和一些高等真菌中,如甜菜、苋菜、千日红、

梨果仙人掌等的花、果实、根、叶、茎和种子等营养组织中^[9-10]。此外,研究发现,甜菜色素稳定性容易受到酶(过氧化物酶、多酚氧化酶和葡萄糖苷酶等)、糖基化和酰化程度、金属阳离子、pH值、高温、光照以及氧气等因素的影响^[11]。

花青素和甜菜色素同为水溶性色素,在植物着色、发育、组织分布和功能上相似。有不少研究表明两者呈互斥状态,至今尚未发现一种植物同时天然含有花青素和甜菜色素(表1)。针对这一现象,前人开展了许多相关研究,但目前还无法确定这种现象是进化上的偶然还是两种色素共存会导致生存问题。两种不同的生物合成途径在调控上的相似性和互斥是如何演变的,至今仍未明确^[9]。本文综述了花青素和甜菜色素的生物合成途径及其调控,并简要探讨了两者不共存的可能原因。此外,还论述了两种色素互斥的可能机制,概述了未来可以开展的研究方向及其在分子育种等领域的潜在应用价值。

表1 花青素和甜菜色素植物

Table 1 Anthocyanins and betalains plants

植物 Plants	花青素 Anthocyanins	甜菜色素 Betalains	参考文献 References	植物 Plants	花青素 Anthocyanins	甜菜色素 Betalains	参考文献 References
拟南芥 <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	+		[12]	三角梅 <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>		+	[22]
烟草 <i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	+		[13]	紫茉莉 <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>		+	[23]
菊花 <i>Dendranthema grandiflora</i>	+		[14]	鸡冠花 <i>Celosia cristata</i> L.		+	[24]
矮牵牛 <i>Petunia hybrida</i>	+		[15]	千日红 <i>Gomphrena globosa</i>		+	[25]
月季 <i>Rosa chinensis</i>	+		[16]	甜菜 <i>Beta vulgaris</i>		+	[26]
葡萄 <i>Vitis vinifera</i> L.	+		[17]	梨果仙人掌 <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>		+	[27]
康乃馨 <i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>	+		[18]	仙人掌 <i>Opuntia dillenii</i>		+	[28]
迪奥卡蝇子草 <i>Silene dioica</i>	+		[19]	盐地碱蓬 <i>Suaeda salsa</i>		+	[29]
粟米草科 <i>Molluginaceae</i>	+		[20]	苋 <i>Amaranthus mangostanus</i>		+	[30]
垂序商陆 <i>Phytolacca americana</i>		+	[21]	火龙果 <i>Stenocereus pruinosus</i>		+	[31]

+:代表植物中存在对应色素

+:Represents the presence of corresponding pigments in plants

1 花青素和甜菜色素在植物中的作用

植物的花、叶、茎和果实等组织器官由于含有的色素种类和含量不同而呈现出不同的颜色,花青素和甜菜色素均为水溶性天然色素,在细胞质中合成,储存在液泡中。两种色素在植物中的功能也较

为相似,均在植物花色形成、种子传播、花粉萌发以及在不同生物和非生物胁迫防御等过程中发挥着十分重要的作用^[32-33]。花青素主要赋予植物黑色、红色、蓝色或紫色等颜色^[34],而甜菜色素主要赋予植物红色、紫色、黄色或白色等颜色^[35]。

在植物中花青素多以花青素苷的形式存在,花

青素苷在营养器官中的合成和积累对植物适应和抵抗恶劣的环境条件至关重要。花青素可以增强植物对不同生物胁迫和非生物胁迫的抵抗能力,比如提高植物耐旱、耐盐和耐低温等非生物胁迫的能力以及提高植物对病害的抗性^[33]。近年来关于花青素提高植物抗性方面的研究已有诸多报道,比如 Cirillo 等^[36]研究发现,干旱胁迫后 *ANI* 植株(所有组织中过度积累花青素的转基因烟草)叶片中蔗糖和氨基酸(包括脯氨酸)的含量显著高于野生型植株,表现出更高的 CO₂ 同化率和更低的干生物量减少,导致植物具有更高的抗旱性。Kim 等^[37]发现 *AtDFR* 基因可以有效地调控油菜植株中花青素的大量积累,从而增强油菜的耐盐性和抗旱性。转红色植物基因 *RI* 促进棉花光诱导的花青素积累和棉花中红色/紫色形成,过表达 *RI* 注释基因 *GhPAP1D* 增强转基因棉花对棉铃虫和蜘蛛螨的抗性^[38]。

甜菜色素和花青素在生物和非生物胁迫防御中具有类似功能。研究发现,盐胁迫下甜菜色素积累增加,与绿叶相比,天然红叶和多巴诱导的红叶在白光或绿光下产生的 H₂O₂ 更少,有效降低了光损害,这可能有助于植物在光暴露和盐碱环境中存活^[39-40]。此外,两种色素在抵御植物病原真菌方面也表现出相似的功能。研究发现,花青素的积累降低了番茄果实对植物致病的灰霉菌 (*Botrytis cinerea*) 的易感性,提高了抗氧化能力从而延缓果实的过度成熟过程^[41]。Polturak 等^[42]研究发现,甜菜色素具有类似作用机制,与野生型烟草相比,产甜菜色素植株对灰霉菌侵染叶片表现出更强的抗性,从而延缓了植物细胞死亡和致病菌的增殖。

甜菜色素和花青素在植物中具有类似的功能,此现象有助于理解两种色素在植物进化中的相互作用,两种色素以相互排斥的方式分布在植物中是合理的,如果甜菜色素不能代替花青素在植物着色、吸引授粉、抵抗生物胁迫或非生物胁迫和抗病等过程中的作用,就不可能取代石竹目中花青素的存在。因此,两种色素在植物组织分布和功能上的相似性也是推动两者向互斥方向进化的原因之一。

2 生物合成途径

2.1 花青素生物合成途径

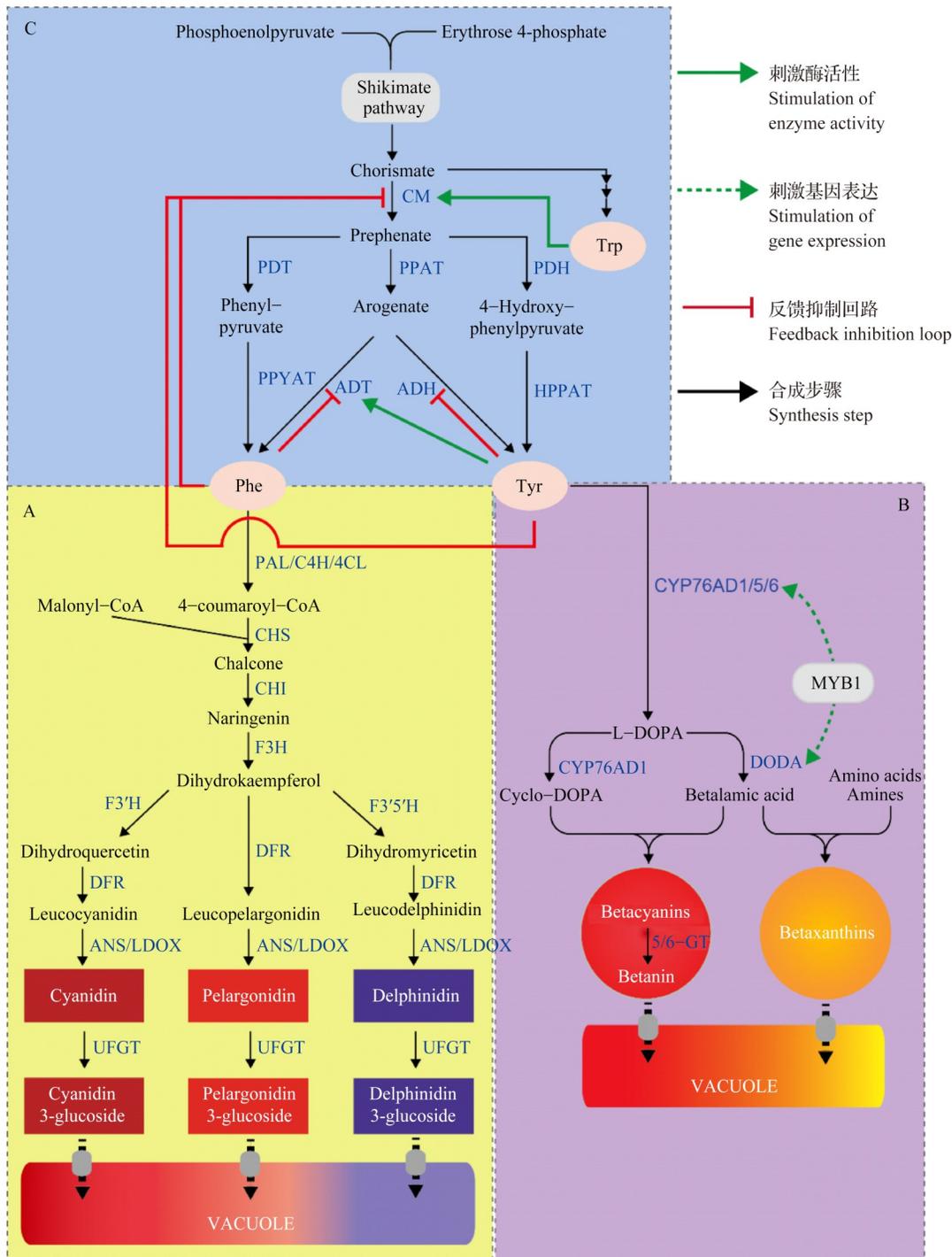
花青素的生物合成途径是类黄酮合成的一个重要分支,主要分为以下3个阶段。第一阶段,苯丙氨酸氨解酶(PAL, phenylalanine ammonialyase)、肉桂酸4-羟化酶(C4H, cinnamate 4-hydroxylase)和4-香豆酸-

CoA 连接酶(4CL, 4-coumarate-CoA ligase)依次催化苯丙氨酸(Phe, phenylalanine)反应合成4-香豆酰CoA (4-coumaroyl-CoA)。第二阶段,4-香豆酰CoA 和丙二酰辅酶A (Malonyl-CoA)在查尔酮合成酶(CHS, chalcone synthase)、查尔酮异构酶(CHI, chalcone isomerase)和黄烷酮3-羟化酶(F3H, flavanone 3-hydroxylase)催化作用下合成二氢黄酮醇(DHK, dihydrokaempferol)。第三阶段,将花青素前体修饰成各种不同花青素苷。该阶段由二氢黄酮醇-4-还原酶(DFR, dihydroflavonol-4-reductase)、花青素合成酶/无色花青素双加氧酶(ANS/LDOX, anthocyanidin synthase/leucoanthocyanidin dioxygenase),将无色的二氢黄酮醇转化为有色花青素,然后由类黄酮3-O-葡萄糖基转移酶(UFGT, flavonoid 3-O-glucosyltransferase)催化有色花青素结合糖苷,经糖基化、甲基化或酰基化修饰后生成稳定的有色花青素苷(图2A)^[43-44]。

花青素的生物合成主要受结构基因和调节基因共同调控。结构基因编码生物合成途径中所需的酶,包括 PAL、C4H、4CL、CHS、CHI、F3H、F3'H (Flavanone 3' hydroxylase)、F3'5'H (Flavonoid 3'5' hydroxylase)、DFR、ANS 和 UFGT 等^[45-46]。调节基因则编码转录因子,调控结构基因的时空表达。通常,由 MYB-bHLH-WD40 转录因子组成 MBW 复合物^[46-47],如 CgsMYB6/CgsMYB11^[48]、VvMYBA2r/VvMYBA2w^[49]、TaTCL2^[50]、BrMYBL2.1^[51]、PqMYB113^[52]、FcTTG1^[53]、MaMYBPA1/MaMYBPA2^[54] 和 PsMYB2^[55] 等对花青素生物合成的调控。

2.2 甜菜色素生物合成途径

甜菜色素是一种次级代谢产物,由芳香族氨基酸酪氨酸(Tyr, tyrosine)通过莽草酸途径合成。其合成途径比较简单,首先 Tyr 在羟化作用下形成 L-DOPA,然后再在酪氨酸酶的氧化作用下生成多巴醌(o-DOPA-quinone),接着自发形成环状多巴(Cyclo-DOPA)。另一个合成途径是 L-DOPA 通过 4, 5-多巴双加氧酶(DODA, 4, 5-L-DOPA dioxygenase)作用生成开环多巴(4, 5-Seco-DOPA),继而自发反应生成甜菜醛氨酸;甜菜醛氨酸和环状多巴自发缩合形成甜菜红素,甜菜红素再在 UDP-葡萄糖基转移酶(5-GT/6-GT, UDP-glucose 5-O-/6-O-glucosyltransferases)的作用下连接糖基,形成甜菜红苷(Betanin),最后在液泡中积累。同时,甜菜醛氨酸和氨基酸或者胺也能自发结合形成甜菜黄素^[56-59](图2B)。



A: 花青素生物合成途径^[56]; B: 甜菜色素生物合成途径^[57]; C: 上游莽草酸途径^[58]; 蓝色字体表示酶

A: Anthocyanins biosynthesis pathway^[56]; B: Betalains biosynthesis pathway^[57];

C: Upstream shikimate pathway^[58]; Enzymes are indicated in blue text

图2 花青素和甜菜色素生物合成途径

Fig.2 Anthocyanins and betalains biosynthesis pathway

甜菜色素的合成主要依赖于CYP(Cytochrome P450)、DODA和GT(Glucosyltransferase)等关键酶^[11,60-61],同时转录因子的调控也很重要。目前已知一些转录因子参与调控甜菜色素的生物合成,例如HpWRKY44^[62]、BvMYBI^[63]、HmoWRKY40^[64]、

AmMYBI^[65]、AmMYB2^[66]和HpERF1/2/3^[67]等。这些转录因子通过作用于甜菜色素合成途径中的关键酶来调控甜菜色素的生物合成。

2.3 花青素和甜菜色素生物合成途径的交叉点

甜菜色素和花青素是植物常见的水溶性色素,

颜色相似,是形成植物红、紫等颜色的主要色素,但是从合成途径上两者是来源和结构均不相同的物质。植物在长期进化过程中甜菜色素合成途径和花青素合成途径分离的机理尚不清楚,但从花青素和甜菜色素合成的前体物质来看,二者之间也存在某种联系。花青素合成的前体物质是Phe,而甜菜色素合成的前体物质是Tyr,Phe和Tyr属于芳香族氨基酸,是由莽草酸途径的最终产物分支酸(Chorismate)产生的。其合成始于磷酸烯醇式丙酮酸(PRPP, phosphoenolpyruvate)和4-磷酸赤藓糖(E4P, erythrose 4-phosphate),两者通过莽草酸途径转化为分支酸,分支酸在分支酸变位酶(CM, chorismate mutase)作用下形成预苯酸(Prephenate),然后预苯酸在预苯酸脱水酶(PDT, prephenate dehydratase)/阿罗酸脱水酶(ADT, arogenate dehydratase)、预苯酸脱氢酶(PDH, prephenate dehydrogenase)/阿罗酸脱氢酶(ADH, arogenate dehydrogenase)催化下脱水/脱羧生成Phe或脱氢/脱羧生成Tyr,该途径在植物中高度保守,其中催化最后一步反应的PDT/ADT和PDH/ADH被认为是Phe和Tyr合成途径中关键酶,且活性通常受到产物Phe和Tyr的反馈抑制^[68-71](图2C)。此外,研究发现在生物体内Phe可以羟化生成Tyr,而植物Tyr合成不需要由Phe羟化,因此先前认为植物中不存在芳香族氨基酸羟化酶(AAHs, aromatic amino acid hydroxylases);但有研究表明,在一些非开花植物火炬松(*Pinus taeda*)、苔藓(*Physcomitrella patens*)和衣藻(*Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*)中可检测到苯丙氨酸羟化酶活性,认为其可将Phe降解为Tyr^[72-73]。

综上所述,两种色素的前体物质之间存在一定程度的同源性,并可能存在底物竞争关系。在大多数植物中,Phe衍生的花青素途径和Tyr衍生的甜菜色素途径均来自并竞争共同的底物阿罗酸(Arogenate)^[69]。其中,Phe合成途径关键酶PDT/ADT含有Phe结合结构域,而Tyr合成途径关键酶PDH/ADH缺乏独立的Tyr结合结构域,并且受到与Tyr对芳香酸底物的竞争性抑制^[74-75]。Chen等^[70]发现,在过表达*ADT4/ADT5*基因的转基因植株中,Phe和花青素的产量均较野生型高,这表明Phe的含量是体内花青素生物合成的关键因素。Lopez-Nieves等^[76]研究发现,在过表达*BvADHα*基因烟草中,Tyr浓度显著增加,而Phe浓度显著减少。此外,含有ADHα的石竹目植物比不含ADHα的植物更容易累积甜菜色素和Tyr^[76]。

此外,Yang等^[77]的研究表明,在三色堇中,*VwTYDC*基因主要在花瓣中表达,外源添加Tyr和酪胺能够有效增加花青素含量。这表明Tyr作为一种非必需氨基酸,可能借助*VwTYDC*基因(催化Tyr生成酪胺)作用,通过其代谢产物酪胺对三色堇花青素生物合成下游基因进行调控,从而影响花青素的累积。

虽然花青素和甜菜色素的积累在同一植物中是天然互斥的,但前期研究发现在同一物种中两种代谢途径所涉及的酶或调控因子并不完全互斥,具有共存现象或同源性^[9,63,78-80]。在石竹目花青素植物中,ADH丢失可能意味着色素类型的转变与Phe和Tyr的平衡之间存在联系。因此,寻找石竹目特异性失调ADH的机制也为甜菜色素和花青素的最终互斥提供了潜在的线索。然而,仍然需要进一步的研究来探究不同植物体内两种截然不同的色素合成策略的背后原因。

3 花青素和甜菜色素不共存的可能原因

花青素与甜菜色素不共存现象是植物色素形成机理中的未解之谜。前人已经研究了花青素合成植物中甜菜色素合成相关酶基因,以及甜菜色素合成植物中花青素合成相关酶基因,发现虽然存在互斥色素合成相关酶基因,但其不表达或者表达缺陷导致无法在同一植株中检测到两种色素的存在(图3)。研究发现,在石竹目非花青素植物菠菜(*Spinacia oleracea*)和美洲商陆(*Phytolacca americana*)中,成功分离到花青素生物合成酶基因*DFR*,且序列分析发现与产花青素植物中*DFR*具有高度同源性^[81]。此外,在菠菜和美洲商陆中发现,*DFR*和*ANS*基因在除种子外的大多数组织和器官中都不表达,*ANS*可能参与原花青素的合成,因此石竹目植物中缺乏花青素的一个可能的解释是*DFR*和*ANS*的表达受限或者受到抑制^[78]。进一步对*DFR*和*ANS*启动子研究发现,石竹目植物中缺乏花青素的一个可能解释是*DFR*和*ANS*的启动子区域与产花青素植物不同,*DFR*和*ANS*基因的启动子发生了突变,导致其转录激活受阻,其基因表达受限,从而抑制花青素在石竹目植物中的合成^[82]。通过检测积累甜菜色素植物紫茉莉花中类黄酮/花青素生物合成途径及其中间代谢产物基因的表达,发现花青素合成相关基因*MjANS*在花瓣中高表达,然而*MjANS*在主要酶活性部位序列缺失,导致其功能丧失,从而

无法合成花青素^[83]。此外,通过对甜菜色素植物三角梅(*Bougainvillea glabra*)转录组测序分析发现,花青素合成相关酶基因 *DFR* 和 *LDOX* 在花器官和叶片中表达,这些发现表明至少在 *LDOX* 活性阶段花青素途径功能正常,花青素的缺失可能是后期基因(如 *3-O-GT*, *anthocyanidin 3-O-GT/5*)表达受到抑制导致的^[79]。然而,石竹目植物中花青素的丢失并不完全是由花青素合成途径基因的缺失造成的。此外,研究表明在石竹目甜菜色素植物中 *CYP761A* 和 *DODA* 重复产生了甜菜色素特异性 *CYP761A-α* 和 *DODA-α* 异构体,而石竹目花青素植物中 *DODA-α* 和 *CYP761A-α* 的缺失表明,甜菜色素在石竹目花青素植物中已丢失两次^[84]。同样有趣的是, *ADHα* 基因在石竹目花青素植物中表现出相似的丢失模式,这表明石竹目中花青素色素的缺失到甜菜色素的积累的转变,可能是从更早的上游合成途径 Tyr 和 Phe 的代谢途径开始的^[69,76]。

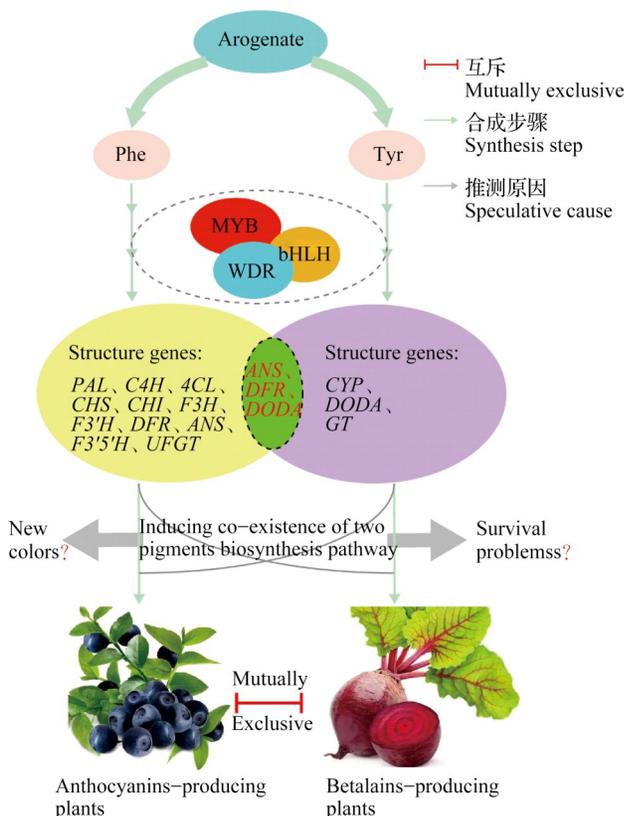


图3 花青素和甜菜色素合成调控

Fig.3 Regulation of anthocyanin and betalains biosynthesis

最近研究表明,花青素和甜菜色素不共存现象的发生,不仅与合成途径中相关酶基因的表达有关,也可能与同一类型转录因子的调控相关,MBW复合体包含花青素合成的MYB、bHLH和WDR转

录因子,也可能参与甜菜色素生物合成的调节^[63]。甜菜 *BvMYB1* 是一个典型的植物花青素 R2R3-MYB,位于红肉甜菜的色素模式基因座 *Y* 上,调节甜菜色素合成途径,沉默 *BvMYB1* 下调甜菜色素生物合成基因 *BvDODA1* 和 *BvCYP76AD1* 的表达,过表达 *BvMYB1* 则上调表达,它可能通过选择性地与甜菜色素生物合成基因启动子区域结合来调控甜菜色素生物合成,由于 *BvMYB1* 存在非保守残基,不会与异源花青素 MBW 复合物中的 bHLH 成员相互作用,从而无法调控花青素的生物合成。因此,在甜菜色素植物中调控花青素生物合成转录因子的参与是一个重要的进化事件,从而使甜菜色素在很大程度上取代花青素^[63]。在拟南芥叶片中 MYB 转录因子 PAPI (Production of anthocyanin pigment 1) 激活菠菜 *ANS* (*SoANS*) 启动子,与 *PhAN9* (编码矮牵牛谷胱甘肽 S-转移酶,花青素螯合所需) 过表达可诱导异位花青素的积累,但石竹目中产甜菜色素植物 *PAP* 无法激活 *ANS* 的启动子,因此 MYB 转录因子功能的丧失可能会抑制参与花青素合成后期基因的表达,从而导致产甜菜色素的石竹目植物中缺乏花青素^[85]。

4 人工诱导花青素和甜菜色素共存

自然界中,尚未发现天然的同时存在甜菜色素和花青素的植物。但研究发现,一些花青素合成植物中存在甜菜色素合成酶基因,并且,在甜菜色素合成植物中也存在花青素合成酶基因(图3)。此外,相比花青素合成途径,甜菜色素合成途径较为简单,只需在 L-DOPA 存在条件下,由 DODA 酶催化多巴形成 4,5-开环多巴,并经过一系列自发反应,即可形成甜菜黄素。因此,将甜菜色素的生物合成途径引入产花青素植物中,试图在独立系统中产生甜菜色素,一直备受关注。

早期的研究表明,在植物中异源生产甜菜色素也依赖于底物供应。在非石竹目植物蚕豆(*Vicia Faba*)和豌豆(*Pisum Sativum*)中,通过直接向植株幼苗添加甜菜醛氨酸,生成了甜菜黄素,并为甜菜醛氨酸与胺的自发缩合反应提供了证据^[86]。Harris 等^[87]的研究表明,在产花青素植物马铃薯(*Solanum tuberosum*)、金鱼草(*Antirrhinum majus*)和拟南芥中,添加外源 L-DOPA 条件下,通过瞬时过表达 *DODA* 基因,可以产生甜菜色素。Nakatsuka 等^[88]通过转化花菇(*Shiitake mushroom*)的酪氨酸酶及紫茉莉 *DODA* 酶,首次报道了在烟草(*Nicotiana tabacum*)

BY2悬浮细胞系和拟南芥T87悬浮细胞系中,成功合成不依赖外源底物L-DOPA的甜菜黄素,但在烟草BY2的转化过程中发现转基因愈伤组织变为棕色并发育缓慢,可能是多巴醌及其衍生物的积累对细胞具有毒害作用。Sunnadeniya等^[89]研究发现,只有在添加底物L-DOPA条件下,*PgDODA*表达才会生成甜菜黄素,但当*PgDODA*和*CYP76AD5*在拟南芥中共表达时,植株在没有任何底物的情况下也能生成甜菜黄素。Polturak等^[90]发现细胞色素P450家族*CYP76AD6*也可以催化Tyr形成L-DOPA,并通过转化紫茉莉*cDOPA5GT*和甜菜*BvDODA1*、*CYP76AD1*基因构建的融合载体*pX11*,成功在烟草、番茄、马铃薯和茄子等植物中人工合成了甜菜色素。将*pX11*基因导入3种不自然产生甜菜色素的重要农作物番茄、马铃薯和茄子以及观赏植物矮牵牛中,番茄、茄子果实和马铃薯块茎均出现红紫色,LC-MS分析证实了甜菜色素的存在^[83]。此外,不同花色变异的烟草植株是通过表达不同组合的甜菜色素途径相关基因组合而产生的,导致甜菜色素以不同的甜菜红素/甜菜黄素比例积累^[83]。在烟草BY-2细胞悬浮培养中表达*pX11*(*CYP76AD1*、*BvDODA1*和*cDOPA5GT*)和*pX13*(*BvDODA1*和*CYP76AD6*)载体,也可导致甜菜色素的累积,获得稳定的甜菜色素产量^[83]。He等^[91]将甜菜色素合成相关基因*CYP76AD1*、*DODA*和*Glucosyltransferase*偶联到一个开放阅读框“RUBY”中,成功在烟草、拟南芥和水稻中合成了甜菜色素。Sho等^[92]利用农杆菌侵染法在烟草中进行*BpCYP76AD1*、*BpDODA1*和*MjcDOPA5GT*瞬时过表达,发现在5 d内侵染区域出现暗红色沉淀,光谱检测发现在520~534 nm处有吸收峰,证明有甜菜红素的产生。

综上所述,虽然自然条件下花青素与甜菜色素在同一植物中不共存,但可以通过合成生物学技术,将甜菜色素的生物合成途径引入产花青素植物中,从而人工合成两类色素共存的植株。此外,异源生产甜菜色素有望实现基本食品的生物强化、增强植物的抗逆性、开发新的观赏品种、增加商业甜菜色素生产的创新来源,以及在作物保护中利用这些色素。

5 结论与展望

花青素和甜菜色素是天然色素,在食品、制药、化妆品和保健品等行业生产中有广泛应用。两者在植物着色中赋予植物五彩缤纷的艳丽色彩。但

两种色素不共存的现象限制了我们对异色多彩植物的想象。因此,对于两者互斥机理的研究一直未间断。

根据前人研究的结果,本文主要将两种色素不共存的可能原因归结为以下3个方面:(1)可能存在底物竞争或底物合成受抑,如Phe和Tyr合成途径关键酶ADH和ADT在两者互斥中发挥关键作用导致不平衡;(2)两者生物合成途径中关键酶基因表达受抑或丢失,如花青素合成关键基因*ANS*或甜菜色素合成关键基因*DODA*等的功能丧失;(3)合成途径中关键调控因子MBW复合体的调控,如R2R3-MYB基因*BvMYB1*与花青素合成相关bHLH相互作用残基的缺失。

虽然前人对两者进行了大量研究,但对其为何不共存的机理仍不清楚。当前,现代生物技术和多组学的共同发展为解释其互斥机理提供了非常便利的工具和平台。

在后续研究中,可以从以下几个方面开展相关研究:(1)鉴定石竹目中*ADH*酶基因在花青素植物和甜菜色素植物中的表达是否正常,是否存在缺失或缺陷;(2)研究较为简单的甜菜色素合成途径中关键基因*DODA*在花青素植物中是否有功能,并揭示调控其功能的关键位点差异,对其关键位点进行回复突变后,观察其对植物生长发育的影响;(3)鉴定植物中是否存在同一或同源性极高关键转录因子,如MYB1是否可在花青素和甜菜色素合成中同样起到调控作用;(4)两色素合成途径中,是否由于不同转录因子MBW复合体分别调控使两者产生不同的生物合成策略,从而逐渐向互斥方向进化。

这些研究进展将为解释两色素互斥机制、培育花青素和甜菜色素共存的全新花色品种及开发植物来源天然色素提供理论依据。最终,将促进天然色素在工业应用中的发展和推广。

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