

miRNA 及其靶基因调控植物根系生长发育的研究进展

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摘要 为阐明 microRNA(miRNA)及其靶基因调控植物根系生长发育的分子机制,依据 PubMed、Web of Science 和中国知网数据库,以“miRNA”、“植物”和“根系”为关键词,检索了 1993—2021 年发表的相关文献,进行整理和归纳,分析了 miRNA 及其靶基因对植物根系的调控机理。结果表明:1)根系生长发育是一个复杂且高度有序的生物学过程,众多的 miRNA 及其靶基因参与调控。2)miRNA 通过互补配对的方式对靶基因进行转录切割或翻译抑制,在转录后水平调控根系生长发育相关基因的表达。3)miRNA 介导的根系生长发育调控在主根生长、侧根形成、不定根发育、根系形态结构、维管束形态、植物激素诱导、生物和非生物胁迫响应等方面发挥着重要的调控作用。

关键词 miRNA; 靶基因; 植物; 调控; 根系

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Research progress of miRNA and its target genes regulating plant root growth and development

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Abstract In order to clarify the molecular mechanism of microRNA (miRNA) and its target genes regulating plant root growth and development, related literature published in PubMed, Web of Science and CNKI from 1993 to 2021 with “miRNA”, “plant” and “root” as keywords were retrieved. Data obtained was sorted and summarized to analyzed regulation mechanism of miRNA and its target genes in plant root. The results showed that: 1) Many miRNAs and their target genes were involved in the regulation of root growth and development, which was a complex and highly ordered biological process. 2) MiRNA can cut target gene transcription or inhibits its translation through complementary pairing. It regulates the genes expression related to root growth and development at post-transcriptional level. 3) MiRNA-mediated regulation play an important regulatory effect in primary root growth, lateral root formation, adventitious root development, root structure, vascular bundle morphology, plant hormone induction, biotic and abiotic stress response on root growth and development.

Keywords miRNA; target genes; plant; regulation; root

植物根系一般由主根、侧根和不定根组成,依据其形态可以分为直根系和须根系,直根系一般由主

根和侧根组成,须根系一般由不定根和侧根组成^[1]。植物根系生长过程包括胚胎和胚后发育,胚胎发育

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产生主根或胚根,而胚后发育产生侧根、不定根和支撑根^[2]。根系依据发生部位不同可以分为定根和不定根。作为植物体的重要器官,植物根系对养分和水分吸收、植株直立、激素和次生代谢产物的产生等方面起着至关重要的作用^[3]。

miRNA(microRNA)是一类在调控基因表达发挥重要作用的单链内源性非编码RNA,大小通常在20~24 nt。大多数miRNA是由DNA序列转录成初级miRNA(pri-miRNA),然后加工成前体miRNA(pre-miRNA),最终加工成成熟的miRNA。在大多数情况下,miRNA通过与靶标mRNA的3个非翻译区(untranslated region, UTR)相互作用,诱导mRNA切割或翻译抑制^[4]。miRNA首次在秀丽隐杆线虫(*Caenorhabditis elegans*)中发现^[5],植物中的第一个miRNA在拟南芥(*Arabidopsis thaliana*)中被发现,命名为miR171^[6]。近年来关于miRNA的生物学特性、功能分析和逆境胁迫等方面的研究报道逐年攀升,miRNA已然成为分子生物学领域炙手可热的“明星分子”^[7-10]。在漫长的进化历史中,植物进化出了复杂的调控网络来调节功能基因的表达,从而实现植物的生存和繁衍。大量研究表明,miRNA在转录后调控中发挥主导作用,尤其倾向于靶向转录因子发挥其调控作用^[11-12]。miRNA在植物生长发育过程中发挥着极其重要的作用,如参与了发育进程、信号转导、蛋白质降解、逆境胁迫和病原体入侵的响应,并调节自身的生长发育等^[7]。

miRBase(<https://www.mirbase.org/>)是一个储存miRNA序列数据、注释信息及预测靶基因序列的在线数据库。最新发布的miRBase(Release 22.1)版本包含271种生物的miRNA序列,其中包括38 589条前体序列和48 860条成熟序列^[13]。植物miRNA数据库PMRD(<http://bioinformatics.cau.edu.cn/PMRD/>)共收录了128种植物的miRNA序列,包含1 530条拟南芥和2 780条毛果杨(*Populus trichocarpa*)miRNA序列^[14]。miRNA及其靶基因在植物根系生长发育的各个阶段都发挥着重要的调控作用^[15-18]。目前,关于miRNA调控根系生长发育的系统性综述尚未见报道。本研究以“miRNA”、“植物”和“根系”为关键词,检索了1993—2021年国内外相关文献报道,按照miRNA命名类别对miRNA调控植物根系生长发育的分子机制进行整理和归纳,旨在阐述miRNA及其靶基

因对植物根系发育的调控功能,以期为植物根系生长发育的深入研究提供参考。

1 文献来源

依据PubMed、Web of Science和中国知网数据库,以“miRNA”、“植物”和“根系”为关键词检索了1993—2021年国内外相关文献报道118篇。

2 植物miRNA调控根系的机制与生物学功能

2.1 miR156

植物组织再生能力随生理年龄增加而逐渐降低是一种普遍现象,miR156的靶向调控发挥着重要功能^[19]。miR156最早在拟南芥中被发现,经研究发现在植物进化中高度保守^[20]。拟南芥miR156通过调控靶基因SPL(SQUAMOSA promoter binding protein-like)抑制不定根的发育。从分子机制上看,miR156随着生理年龄的增长相对表达量下降,导致其靶基因SPL表达量上升,进而导致不定根再生能力下降^[21]。拟南芥miR156过表达产生更多的侧根,其靶基因SPL10起主导作用,SPL10在侧根的整个发育阶段都保持较高的转录活性^[22]。进一步研究发现根系发育时期用10 μmol/L吲哚乙酸(indole-3-acetic acid, IAA)处理可诱导miR156表达,抑制靶向SPLs(SPL9和SPL10)转录表达^[22-23]。Barrera-Rojas等^[24]研究发现miR156通过负调控靶基因SPLs抑制主根的伸长,miR156通过靶标SPL10控制拟南芥根尖分生组织活性。

水稻(*Oryza sativa*)不定根的生长发育过程受到遗传及环境因素的综合调控,Shao等^[25]研究发现1个水稻少冠状根的突变体lcrl1(lower crown root number1)的SPL3点突变干扰了miR156对它的转录后抑制,导致SPL3转录产物积累,蛋白含量增加,抑制了不定根的发生,SPL3直接结合下游靶基因MADS50的启动子调控其表达。MADS50过表达抑制水稻不定根数目,而在lcrl1中敲除MADS50可部分恢复不定根数目。对另一个水稻冠状根缺陷突变体crd1(crown root defect1)研究发现CRD1基因通过调控不定根原基的发生影响不定根的发育,crd1突变体较野生型不定根数显著减少,发现仅当抑制miR156时才能模拟出类似crd1突变体的不定根缺失表型^[26]。

植物通过基因表达和生理代谢的变化来响应非

生物逆境胁迫。玉米(*Zea mays*)通过 miR156-SPL 调节生理代谢及侧根形态来响应盐胁迫^[27]。棉花(*Gossypium hirsutum*)在铅胁迫下 miR156-SPL 和 miR396-GRF 参与了根的应激响应^[28]。紫花苜蓿(*Medicago sativa*)miR156 通过沉默转录因子 SPL 调控各种生物学功能,在紫花苜蓿中发现 3 个 SPL 基因(SPL6、SPL12 和 SPL13)的转录本被 miR156 切割,在根系中均可检测到 SPL 基因表达水平^[29]。而且紫花苜蓿 miR156 过表达会抑制 SPL12 的表达,进而促进植株根系伸长和再生^[30-31]。已有报道紫花苜蓿 miR156 可以通过沉默 SPL13 和增加 WD40-1 的表达水平从而改变根系结构,提高抗旱能力^[32-33]。

植物形成更多的不定根对于林业和园艺植物营养繁殖至关重要,是多年生木本植物无性繁殖成功的关键因素^[34]。用 3 g/L 吲哚丁酸(indolebutyric acid, IBA)处理小金海棠(*Malus xiaojinensis*)幼龄和复幼半木质化插穗后,插穗中 miR156 表达水平显著升高,不定根发生能力显著高于成龄树^[35]。进一步研究发现成龄小金海棠插穗在 IBA 处理下,细胞壁代谢、细胞分裂和碳水化合物代谢等与不定根形成相关的基因表达下调,从而抑制细胞去分化和再分化,抑制不定根的形成,其中受 IBA 诱导表达的 *HB13* 受到 *SPL26* 的负调控,并结合 *ABCB19-2* 的启动子,因此 miR156 介导的多基因调控网络在外源 IBA 激素诱导下参与了小金海棠的不定根形成过程^[36]。

2.2 miR160

植物生长素信号通路是由生长素响应因子(Auxin response factor, ARF)家族介导的,拟南芥 miR160 通过靶向 *ARF17* 调控根系生长^[37]。同时也发现 miR160 调控 *ARF10* 和 *ARF16*,从而控制根冠细胞的形成; miR160 过表达与 *arf10-2* 和 *arf16-2* 双突变体根冠表型为相同的根尖缺陷,根冠细胞分化分裂受阻^[38]。拟南芥 *ARF6*、*ARF8* 和 *ARF17* 参与了下胚轴不定根的生长发育,并受到 miR160 和 miR167 的调控,其中 miR160 的靶基因 *ARF17* 负调控不定根的形成,而 miR167 的靶基因 *ARF6* 和 *ARF8* 正调控不定根的形成^[39-40]。因此,miR160 和 miR167 及其靶基因在控制拟南芥不定根形成过程中可能形成一个复杂的调控通路。豆科植物蒺藜苜蓿(*Medicago truncatula*)miR160 在根系发育中存在 2 种变异序列(mtr-miR160abde 和 mtr-

miR160c),靶向 17 个候选 ARF 基因,mtr-miR160a 过表达株系根长缩短、根尖分生组织发育严重紊乱^[41]。

miR160 在非生物胁迫中也具有生物学功能。在正常和干旱胁迫的烟草根中鉴定到 122 个差异表达的 miRNA,其中 miR160 在干旱胁迫下表达上调,靶向调控 ARF 转录因子,miRNAs 参与了烟草干旱胁迫下根系发生^[42]。另外对红花大金元烟草(*Nicotiana tabacum*)的根茎叶不同组织 miRNA 差异表达分析,nta-miR160c 在根组织中表达量高度富集,nta-miR319a 在茎中显著富集,及 nta-miR167d 在叶片中高度富集,大多数靶标编码的转录因子都参与了细胞代谢过程^[43]。

根尖和茎尖分生组织在植物组织和器官的发生中起着重要的作用。在‘南林 895’杨树(*Populus*)根尖和茎尖中鉴定到多个差异表达 miRNAs,而且 pei-miR160a 负调控 6 个 *PeARFs*,5 个 lncRNAs 和 1 个 circRNA^[44]。Liu 等^[45]研究进一步得出杨树 miR160a 负调控 *PeARF17.1* 和 *PeARF17.2*,miR160a 过表达植株不定根长度显著缩短,侧根数量增加, *PeARF17.1* 或 *PeARF17.2* 过表达不定根数量显著增加,表明 miR160a-PeARF17.1/PeARF17.2 参与了杨树不定根发育的调控。

不定根的形成是植物生长发育的一个重要的生态和经济过程^[46]。矮化苹果(*Malus x domestica Borkh.*)砧木 miRNAs 及其靶基因参与了不定根生长素信号转导(miR160 和 miR390)、应激途径(miR398、miR395 和 miR408)、细胞转运、增殖和扩增途径(miR171、miR156、miR166、miR319 和 miR396)^[47]。另外苹果砧木在不定根形成阶段,mdm-miR160 负调控靶基因(*MdARF16* 和 *MdARF17*),在烟草中 mdm-miR160a 过表达会抑制不定根的形成,但外源 1 mg/L IBA 处理可促进不定根的形成^[48]。

2.3 miR164

NAC(NAM、ATAF1/2 和 CUC2)是一类植物特异性转录因子家族,拟南芥 miR164 可以靶向 5 个 NAC 编码 mRNAs,miR164a 和 miR164b 突变体导致 *NAC1* 表达量升高,并产生较多的侧根,而且突变体表型可以通过 miR164a 和 miR164b 的过表达来补偿,同时 miR164 在野生型中诱导表达导致 *NAC1* 表达水平下降,侧根数量减少^[49]。玉米 *ZmNAC1* 过表达增加了侧根的密度,与野生型拟南芥相比 *ZmNAC1* 过表达侧根数量增加,进一步研

究发现 miR164 是引导内源性 *ZmNAC1* 切割的反式因子,从而导致侧根表型差异显著^[50]。马铃薯 (*Solanum tuberosum*) Stu-miR164 在 NAC 转录因子 CDS 序列中存在一个互补序列,在对照和 PEG (聚乙二醇) 处理下 Stu-miR164 负调控靶基因 *StNAC262*,另外发现在 PEG 胁迫下 Stu-miR164 抑制 *StNAC262* 的表达,导致侧根数较少,但其侧根长度与对照相同^[51]。毛竹 (*Phyllostachys edulis*) 组织特异性表达分析表明 miR164b 和 *PeNAC1* 在根、茎、叶及叶鞘中均有表达,其中 miR164b 在根中表达最高,在茎中表达最低;miR164b 负调控靶基因 *PeNAC1*^[52]。

miR164 作为植物特有的 miRNA,家族成员高度保守。研究发现胡杨 (*Populus euphratica*) miR164 与其靶基因 *PeNAC070* 在 NaCl、甘露醇和脱落酸(abscisic acid, ABA) 胁迫下表达模式相反,在拟南芥中 *PeNAC070* 过表达促进侧根发育,抑制茎伸长^[53]。生长素信号参与了 miRNA 介导的根系调控,水稻突变体(*osaxr*)与野生型相比,突变体很多 miRNA 对生长素的敏感性大大降低,其中 miR164 家族的表达水平在突变体中显著上调,在侧根缺失表型中发挥调控作用^[54]。

2.4 miR165/166 和 miR167

植物 miR165/166 通过负调控 HD-ZIP III_s(同源异型域-亮氨酸拉链蛋白 III 类)发挥重要作用。拟南芥 miR165/166 过表达通过增强细胞分裂和分生组织活性促进根伸长,而 HD-ZIP III_s 过表达则抑制根伸长^[55]。进一步研究发现 HD-ZIP III_s 介导的拟南芥根系发育既受植物激素的诱导,又受 miR165/166 的转录后调控,而 miR165/166 又反过来受植物激素信号通路的调控^[56]。miR165/166 还可以通过抑制 HD-ZIP III_s 类转录因子 PHB (PHABULOSA) 的表达,促进木质部分化,miR165 以剂量依赖的方式调控拟南芥根的分化^[57]。转录因子 GRAS 家族中的 SHR (SHORT-ROOT) 和 SCR (SCARECROW) 在根尖分生组织的形成过程中发挥重要作用,拟南芥 SHR 蛋白在维管束中合成,通过进入内皮层激活 SCR,并共同激活 miR165A 和 miR166B 的转录^[58]。水稻 HD-ZIP III 可以被 miR166 的不同成员调控,miR166m 在干旱胁迫下表达上调,导致 HD-ZIP III 表达下调,侧根数量减少;而在淹水处理下,miR166g/h、miR166m 和 miR166a-d/f/h 表达下调,导致 HD-

ZIP III 表达上调,侧根数量增加^[59]。蒺藜苜蓿 miR166a 过表达导致侧根数量减少及转基因植株根中维管束的异位发育,miR166a 及其靶基因 HD-ZIP III 介导了蒺藜苜蓿根系结构的调控^[60]。

miR167 在禾本科植物非生物应激响应中发挥着重要的功能。拟南芥 IAR3 (IAA-Ala resistance 3) 是 miR167a 新的靶基因,在渗透胁迫下,miR167a 表达水平降低,IAR3 表达水平升高,从而促进 IAA 积累和侧根生长^[61]。Gifford 等^[62]发现拟南芥 miR167a 可以通过响应低氮胁迫调节侧根生长,miR167a 在低氮胁迫下表达上调,导致靶基因 ARF8 表达下调,从而抑制侧根的生长,促进主根的伸长。小果咖啡 (*Coffea arabica*) 在氮饥饿胁迫下根组织 miR167 表达水平显著上调,而且参与了不同时间点胁迫响应过程^[63]。miR167 也参与了水稻生长素信号转导途径,水稻悬浮培养细胞在外源生长素处理下,调控网络 miR167 → ARF8 → GH3 是响应外源生长素的重要代谢途径,参与了侧根的形成^[64]。在林木中也有 miR167 功能的报道,杨树嫩枝扦插生根过程中共检测到 373 对 miRNA-靶基因,miR167a 及其靶基因 *PeARF6s* 和 *PeARF8s* 介导了植物生长和激素信号转导途径,miR167a 过表达抑制靶基因,促进侧根发生;*PeARF8.1* 过表达突变体增加不定根数量,抑制侧根发育^[65]。

2.5 miR172

植物 miR172 及其靶基因 AP2 (APETALA2) 在植物发育时序转换、花器官发育和开花时间等方面发挥着重要的调控功能,目前发现 miR172-AP2 在豆科植物根瘤形成过程中同样发挥着重要作用^[66]。大豆 (*Glycine max*) miR172 调控根瘤菌侵染和根瘤器官发生,miR172 通过抑制其靶基因 *GmNNCI* 来调控根瘤的形成,*GmNNCI* 编码 AP2 转录因子,直接结合在早期结瘤因子基因 *ENOD40* 的启动子上,实现对结瘤数目的调控^[67]。菜豆 (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) miR172c 在根瘤菌侵染后表达水平逐渐上调,AP2-1 负调控靶基因 miR172c,而且 miR172c 过表达增加了根系的生物量,诱导早期结瘤基因表达^[68]。

木本植物的不定根发生是发育时序转换过程中重要的特性,从巨桉 (*Eucalyptus grandis*) 幼年到成熟阶段伴随着生根能力逐渐丧失,大量的差异表达基因参与了这一过程^[69]。另外,巨桉在生根能力逐渐丧失过程中,miR172 表达逐渐增加,miR156

表达逐渐减少,但表达水平的高低与生根能力的丧失没有显著相关性^[70]。丹参(*Salvia miltiorrhiza*)miR156a 和 miR156b 在根、茎和叶中的含量随着丹参的生长而降低,miR172a 和 miR172b 水平则升高,推测 miR172 可能受 miR156 调控而与其共同参与根的发育过程^[71]。

芜菁(*Brassica rapa*)块根是一种重要的营养贮藏器官,在不同发育时期存在大量的差异表达 miRNA,miR156a、miR157a 和 miR172a 表达水平较高,在块根起始和次生增厚过程中差异表达,且负调控其靶基因^[72]。马铃薯(*Solanum tuberosum*)miR171_9 和 miR172_1 在根中的表达量比茎、叶中高,预测的靶基因 GRAS 和 APETALA2 在根、茎、叶和块根发育过程中发挥重要作用^[73]。BAK1 (BRI1-Associated Receptor Kinase 1) 是一种富含亮氨酸的重复丝氨酸/苏氨酸受体样激酶(RR-RLK),参与油菜素内酯信号转导、植物免疫和植物细胞死亡控制等多种发育途径,拟南芥 *bak1* 突变体中 miR172-D 过表达促进植株叶片伸长,幼苗根系和下胚轴生长^[74]。

2.6 miR390

miR390 与其他 miRNAs 不同,miR390 的靶标并不是 mRNA,而是小干扰 RNA(small interference RNAs, siRNA),siRNA 通过剪切形成反式作用干扰小 RNA(trans-acting siRNA, tasiRNA)。拟南芥 miR390 靶标是 TAS3(tasiRNA 编码的基因),miR390→TAS3→ARF 形成的生长素响应调控网络控制侧根的生长,miR390 特异表达于侧根起始位点,并诱导 TAS3 的合成,进而抑制 ARF2、ARF3 和 ARF4 的表达,从而释放对侧根生长的抑制^[75]。另外 Yoon 等^[76]研究报道 miR390 切割 TAS3 前体 RNA 形成 TAS3-ARF,负调控 ARF4 参与了拟南芥侧根的发育。蒺藜苜蓿 miR390 过表达增加了侧根的长度和密度,而结瘤信号通路基因表达下调,导致根瘤菌侵染和根瘤器官生产能力下降^[77]。胡杨 miR390 过表达促进侧根的生长并增强了植株的耐盐性,盐胁迫下显著抑制了 ARF3.1、ARF3.2 和 ARF4 的表达,miR390/TAS3/ARFs 是通过生长素信号途径调控盐胁迫下杨树侧根生长发育^[78]。

2.7 miR393

生长素信号通路关键基因 *TIR1* 和 *AFB* (*AFB1*、*AFB2* 和 *AFB3*) 在拟南芥幼苗根系中发挥重要作用,并被 miR393 负调控^[79]。拟南芥在干旱

胁迫下,miR393 的靶基因 *TIR1* 和 *AFB2* 表达上调,可以补偿 ABA 和渗透胁迫对根系生长的抑制效应,促进主根和侧根伸长^[80]。在硝酸盐处理下,拟南芥 miR393 表达水平上调,*AFB3* 突变体主根和侧根生长都发生了改变,表明 miR393/*AFB3* 受硝酸盐的诱导调控拟南芥的根系结构^[81]。拟南芥 miR393 的靶基因 *TIR1* 过表达增强了对生长素处理的敏感性,并导致主根伸长被抑制、侧根的密度增加、叶片表型改变和开花延迟等,且 *TIR1* 会通过反馈途径促进 miR393 的表达^[82]。

miR393 介导的生长素信号途径在水稻根系发育中起着关键作用,水稻 miR393a 主要表达于根冠、侧根原基以及胚芽鞘尖端,miR393b 表达于茎尖分生组织,过表达 miR393a/b 导致旗叶倾斜度增大、主根和冠根生长改变^[83]。miR393 在水稻种子萌发和幼苗建成中也发挥调控作用,水稻种子萌发时 miR393a 促进主根伸长,在淹水条件下 miR393a 的表达被抑制,进而诱导 *OsTIR1* 和 *OsAFB2* 表达上调^[84]。大麦中 miR393 靶向调控 *HvTIR1* 和 *HvAFB* 基因,miR393 的过表达减弱了外源萘乙酸(naphthalene acetic acid, NAA)对铝胁迫下根系生长抑制作用,导致生长素应答基因表达下调,miR393/*TIR1*/*AFB* 通过改变生长素信号途径调控根对铝胁迫的敏感性^[85]。

2.8 miR396

生长调节因子(Growth-Regulating Factor, GRF)是一种植物特异性转录因子,在植物根系生长发育中发挥重要作用^[86]。拟南芥中 miR396 在根组织中表达模式与合胞体诱导/形成阶段相一致,在根系发育中负调控靶基因 *GRF1* 和 *GRF3*^[87]。拟南芥 miR396a 靶向调控 7 个 GRF 和 *bHLH74* (Basic Helix-Loop-Helix 74) 基因,其中 miR396a 过表达导致根变短, *bHLH74* 过表达促进根伸长^[88]。另外还发现拟南芥 miR396 通过与 GRF 相互作用,miR396 过表达导致根尖细胞周期速率降低,根尖分生组织大小增加,表明其通过调控靶基因 GRF 的表达参与根的发育^[89]。

蒺藜苜蓿 miR396a 和 miR396b 在根尖高表达,并在侧根和根瘤发生过程中表现出不同的表达模式,miR396b 过表达负调控 *GRF5* 和 *bHLH79*,导致根尖分生组织的细胞周期基因表达水平降低和分裂细胞数量减少^[90-91]。苹果 miR396 在侧根和果实中的表达量显著高于其他组织,其候选靶基因

GRF1、GRF2 和 GRF5 表达量则在花芽和腋芽中显著高于其他组织;不定根发育过程中,miR396 负调控候选靶基因 *MdGRF*,外源 1 mg/L IBA 处理可诱导 miR396 在不定根诱导期和根系生长期表达上调^[92]。

2.9 miR159、miR163 和 miR169

植物组织生长是一个基于细胞分化、增殖和伸长的发育过程,根的生长是由根尖分生组织的活性维持的。拟南芥 miR159ab 双突变体比野生型的根尖分生组织体积更大,细胞数量更多,并形成更长的主根,miR159 负调控 *MYB33*、*MYB65* 和 *MYB101* 基因,而且 miR159 表达水平下调会促进拟南芥根尖分生组织的细胞分裂及初级根的生长^[93]。拟南芥 miR163 在幼苗去黄化和种子萌发过程中受到光诱导调控,miR163 及其靶基因 *PXMT1* 主要在胚根中表达,与野生型相比,miR163 突变体或 *PXMT1* 过表达株系在连续光照条件下种子萌发延迟,幼苗主根变短,侧根数量增加,表明 miR163 靶向 *PXMT1* 促进种子萌发和调控根系形态结构^[94]。

NF-Y(Nuclear factor Y, 核因子 Y)是一种普遍存在的转录因子,由 3 个不同的亚基(NF-YA、NF-YB 和 NF-YC)组成。拟南芥 *NFYA5* 在叶片、花和根维管组织中都有表达,miR169 通过 ABA 途径靶向调控 *NFYA5* 基因,miR169a 抑制 *NFYA5* 基因的表达比 miR169c 更有效^[95]。拟南芥 miR169 亚型及其 *NF-YA2* 靶基因控制根系形态结构,miR169 亚型的特异性表达改变了根尖分生组织细胞数量和大小,抑制 miR169 对 *NF-YA2* 的调控会间接影响侧根的发生^[96]。

2.10 miR394、miR395、miR397、miR398 和 miR399

miRNA 参与植物营养胁迫的响应,拟南芥 miR394a 的靶基因是 *ARF8* 和 *F-box*,在缺铁胁迫下通过生长素信号途径调控侧根和根毛的生长^[97]。小金海棠在缺铁胁迫下,miR394a 在根及叶片中表达均上调,但表达模式有所不同,在根中响应迅速而在叶片中响应相对缓慢^[98]。

油菜素内酯(Brassinosteroid, BR)是植物生长发育所必需的植物内源激素。拟南芥在 10 nmol/L 2,4-EBR 处理下 miR395a 在根组织中表达上调,抑制 *GUN5* 的表达及其下游信号转导,通过抑制主根生长和增加侧根数量来调控幼苗萌发^[99]。miR395 是拟南芥硫代谢的关键调控因子,miR395 在根和叶维管组织中均表达,miR395 的靶基因 *SULTR2;1*

表达水平在根系硫酸盐诱导过程中显著升高,miR395 参与了硫诱导下根尖的生长发育^[100]。

木质素沉积在各种组织和细胞中,主要分布在次生细胞壁、薄壁组织和维管组织中。在水分亏缺下,拟南芥 *LAC2*(LACCASE2)作为根维管组织中木质素沉积的负调控因子,受到 miR397b 的转录后调控,miR397b 表达下调诱导 *LAC2* 表达上调,导致根长增加,根维管组织中木质素的含量降低;同样磷酸盐缺乏反过来会诱导 miR397b 和 *LAC2* 表达,根伸长区木质素的沉积与 *LAC2* 的表达密切相关,表明 miR397b-LAC2 在水分和磷酸盐缺乏下调控根系木质化的过程^[101]。

各种逆境胁迫导致活性氧(ROS)的积累会影响植物的生长发育。miR398 及其铜/锌(Cu/Zn)超氧化物歧化酶(CSD1 和 CSD2)靶基因在根系中的表达模式说明参与拟南芥根系发育,在 100 μmol/L 铜和铁胁迫处理下 miR398 表达下调,导致 CSD1 和 CSD2 转录后积累,miR398 对 CSD2 的抑制是植物应对氧化胁迫响应的有效途径之一^[102]。

植物通过改变根系结构和生长习性来适应低磷环境,拟南芥根与芽之间存在一个复杂的磷酸盐稳态调控网络,miR399-PHO2 参与的磷酸盐稳态在拟南芥中已被鉴定^[103]。在高磷条件下,拟南芥 miR399 过表达株系的初级根系生长的抑制被解除,恢复低磷胁迫下的生长^[104]。miR399 通过长距离信号调控磷酸盐稳态,油菜(*Brassica napus*)和南瓜(*Cucurbita maxima*)在磷酸盐饥饿诱导下 miR399 在韧皮部中积累,并从茎运输到根中通过抑制其靶基因 *PHO2* 和 *APS4* 的表达来控制磷的吸收,从而调控植物营养系统的稳态^[105]。

2.11 其他 miRNA 调控植物根系发生

miRNA 受植物激素诱导调控,拟南芥突变体 miR846 序列可直接切割 AT5G28520 基因,而 AT5G28520 表达受根中 ABA 诱导显著上调^[106]。拟南芥 miR847 靶向 *IAA28* 的 mRNA,在生长素处理下,拟南芥 miR847 的快速积累与 *IAA28* 水平的降低相一致,miR847 和 *IAA28* 均在莲座叶边缘分生组织和侧根起始位点特异表达,调控拟南芥细胞增殖和侧根生长^[107]。玉米 zma-miR159、ath-miR395-like、ptc-miR474-like 和 osa-miR528-like 在转录后水平调控根系的代谢、生理和形态建成,其预测靶基因参与碳水化合物和能量代谢过程^[108]。干旱和淹水胁迫条件下,miR408 和 miR528 通过靶

向调控氧化应激反应信号途径相关基因,从而调控水稻和玉米的根冠形成、侧根发育和根系伸长^[109-110]。

萝卜(*Raphanus sativus*)块根不同发育时期存在大量差异表达 mRNAs 和 miRNAs,其中 miR319 候选靶基因 *RSG11844.t1*, *RSG42419.t1* 和 *RSG49768.t1* 参与了块根的形成和发育^[111]。柑橘在 400 μmol/L H₃BO₃ 胁迫下,miR319 和 miR171 在根中表达量上调,导致靶基因 MYB 和 SCARECROW 下调,引起根尖数量减少,从而显著改变根系形态结构^[112]。耐涝黄瓜根系(*Cucumis sativus*)在淹水处理下,miR396 和 miR167 表达水平显著高于正常处理,在线 psRNATarget 软件鉴定到 miR396 有 92 个靶基因,miR167 有 50 个靶基因^[113]。

miRNA 调控基因表达在植物代谢过程中起着重要的作用。荷花(*Nelumbo nucifera*)不定根形成密切相关的 miRNAs 达 13 个,在已知 miRNAs 中,miR396b-5p 的表达水平上调约 12 倍,其次是 miR160a;在新发现的 miRNA 中,novel_miR_133 表达水平上调约 8 倍^[114]。葡萄(*Vitis vinifera*)根域限制栽培(root restriction cultivation, RRC)的不定根和侧根数量增加,根尖退化,miR156、miR166、miR2111-5p 和 miR3624-3p 的靶基因参与根毛发育,miR164 和 miR482 的靶基因影响侧根和根冠发育,miR396 的靶基因注释到根系发育进程,另外 miR160 家族的 5 个成员(miR160a、b、c、d 和 e,)都参与了葡萄根尖发育^[115]。Mica 等^[116]研究还发现葡萄 miR397a、miR398a 和 miR408 在根中的表达比叶和花序中均高 100 倍,相反 miR164a、miR164b、miR171c 和 miR172c 在根中表达较低。木本植物无性系繁殖效率取决于插穗基部的不定根形成,毛白杨(*Populus tomentosa*)miR476a 超表达导致不定根发生时间提前,不定根数量显著增多,靶基因 *RFL* (*Restorer of Fertility Like*) 能恢复 miR476a 超表达的根系表型,*RFL* 编码线粒体 P 类 PPR 蛋白,因此 miR476a/*RFL* 介导的线粒体内稳态调控参与毛白杨不定根的形成,并依赖于生长素信号转导通路^[117]。

3 总结与展望

植物根系将植物固定在土壤中,通过根系吸收养分和水分。根系的生长发育是一种复杂且高度有序的生物学过程,具有较高的表型可塑性^[118]。除

植物激素、转录因子和环境因子等因素外,miRNA 在调控植物生长发育方面发挥着重要的作用,参与了许多生物学过程^[4,7,15]。近年来,miRNA 在鉴定、靶标预测、生物学功能和分子机制等方面取得了快速的进展,在植物遗传改良领域逐渐成为了新的研究方向。

在漫长的进化历史中,植物进化出了复杂的基因调控网络来适应环境胁迫。植物 miRNA 及其靶基因调控根系生长发育是目前的研究热点。miRNA 介导的根系发育调控网络非常复杂,许多 miRNAs 参与了多种信号通路^[3,17,34,46]。禾本科 miRNA 调控根系的研究及其功能分析较为深入和系统,但木本植物由于其生长周期长,基因组高度杂合及遗传转化体系不完善,目前 miRNA 功能分析还需要通过模式植物遗传转化来实现,导致林木 miRNA 的相关研究比较滞后。此外,长链非编码 RNA(long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)和小干扰 RNA 等非编码 RNA 对植物发育的调控也非常 important,miRNA 与这些小 RNA 之间的相互作用也可能影响植物的发育。因此随着生物学特性的全面解析和基因功能的转录后调控网络的需求,未来 miRNA 的研究方向需要更深入的拓展:1)对某种植物一类 miRNA 家族成员的功能表达和缺失分析的研究;2)miRNA 与其他非编码 RNA 的互作及其调控网络的探究;3)病毒诱导基因沉默(Virus-induced gene silencing, VIGS)与 CRISPR/Cas9 技术的联合应用于木本植物的根系生长发育的功能解析。

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