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植物硼营养高效的分子调控途径

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摘要 植物体内的硼主要存在于细胞壁中,对稳定细胞壁结构和促进生长发育起重要作用。双子叶植物需硼多,对缺硼敏感,但不同物种及不同品种对缺硼的抗性存在极显著的基因型差异。华中农业大学王运华教授在1990年代带领团队开展甘蓝型油菜硼高效品种的筛选,从此开启了我国植物硼营养高效利用的遗传与分子机制研究。近10多年的研究表明,植物响应缺硼胁迫提高硼效率存在2条不同的分子调控途径。(1)依赖硼转运基因的途径。在这条途径中,NIPs和BORs家族基因受缺硼诱导表达增强根系对土壤硼的吸收和体内硼的转运分配,实现硼的高效吸收和转运,进而提高植物对缺硼胁迫的抗性或适应性;(2)独立于硼转运基因的途径。该途径中,植物通过影响激素信号和细胞壁合成代谢相关基因的表达,调节根系生长发育和细胞壁组分结构等方式,提高体内硼的利用效率,进而增强植物对缺硼的抗性。在硼被确定为植物必需营养元素的百年纪念之际,我们对这一工作进行综述归纳,以飨读者。同时,在王运华先生逝世1周年之际,深切缅怀先生在开启华中农业大学作物硼营养遗传研究领域中所做的奠基性贡献。

关键词 硼;甘蓝型油菜;硼效率;硼转运蛋白;植物激素;细胞壁

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1923年,Warrington的研究表明硼是植物生长发育所必需的微量营养元素^[1]。植物体内硼的主要功能是参与细胞壁的合成,维持其结构的稳定。研究表明,高等植物细胞内60%~98%的硼定位在细胞壁中^[2],Hu等^[3]和O' Neill等^[4]进一步发现硼与顺式二元醇络合成硼酸酯的形式交联2分子 α -鼠李半乳糖醛酸聚糖(RG-II)形成复合体结构,这种复合结构会直接影响细胞壁空隙大小和细胞壁扩张等特性^[5-6]。

植物体内硼的含量通常介于2~100 mg/kg,随着物种和组织部位的不同存在差异。一般双子叶植物,以及同一植物中的生殖器官和生长点中的硼含量相对较高,这也导致这些部位极容易出现缺硼症状^[7]。植物对硼的需求量处于狭窄的浓度范围内,很容易出现缺硼或硼毒的症状^[8]。酸性土壤中硼的有效性低,而且土壤中的硼极易淋失,这导致我国长江中下游流域土壤普遍缺硼,严重降低了当地油菜、棉花、果树等需硼量大作物的产量及品质。20世纪90

年代初,华中农业大学王运华教授带领团队收集甘蓝型油菜种质,筛选硼高效品种^[9-10],研究硼高效的遗传规律,定位硼高效基因^[11-12]。在此基础上,华中农业大学微量元素研究中心作物硼营养研究团队以异源四倍体甘蓝型油菜为主要试验材料,辅以模式植物拟南芥,深入开展植物硼高效基因的克隆和分子调控机制研究。本文结合国内外的研究,重点归纳该研究中心在这一领域近10多年来的工作成果,总结出植物响应缺硼胁迫的2条分子调控途径,以期后续研究并实现作物硼高效品种的遗传改良提供理论基础。

1 依赖硼转运基因的途径

提高植物硼营养效率最直接的方法就是提高植物在缺硼条件下对土壤中硼的吸收能力和体内硼的转运分配能力,这个过程需要大量的硼转运基因参与。目前,大量报道的吸收转运硼的蛋白分别是阴离子转运子BORs家族和水通道蛋白NIPs家族^[13]。

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1.1 拟南芥中硼的转运基因

AtBOR1是植物中第1个克隆的硼酸外排转运子^[14]。缺硼后,BOR1蛋白在根中靠近木质部一侧的细胞质膜中富集,将硼向木质部转运,并随着蒸腾压力向地上部运输^[15]。在高浓度硼条件下,AtBOR1蛋白通过5'-UTR抑制转录和泛素化降解的2种方式降低植物对硼的吸收^[16-17]。AtBOR2和AtBOR4是拟南芥中与AtBOR1同源的2个硼酸外排转运子,其中AtBOR2极性定位在根表皮细胞近轴一侧的细胞膜上,负责将硼从共质体运输到外质体中,参与细胞壁果胶的交联作用^[18];AtBOR4则定位在根表皮细胞的远轴一侧,硼毒条件下被诱导表达,参与将过量的硼从根系中排出,从而缓解植物硼毒症状^[19]。

AtNIP5;1是通过基因芯片技术从拟南芥中鉴定到的第1个硼酸通道蛋白,该蛋白极性定位在根表皮细胞靠土壤一侧的质膜上,参与植物根系对外界硼的吸收^[20]。进一步研究发现,AtNIP5;1的转录水平随硼浓度的高低而改变:在高浓度硼条件下,核糖体会在5'-UTR的uORF区(AUGUAA)滞留,导致AtNIP5;1的mRNA被降解,从而限制硼的过量吸收,避免产生硼毒^[21-22]。AtNIP6;1和AtNIP7;1是与AtNIP5;1同源的硼酸通道基因,其中AtNIP6;1定位在地上部节点区域,负责参与硼从木质部向韧皮部的转运与分配^[23],而AtNIP7;1在花发育阶段第8~10时期的花药绒毡层中表达,可能参与调控雄配子中硼的分配^[24-25]。

1.2 甘蓝型油菜中硼的转运基因

Zhang等^[26]利用甘蓝型油菜(*Brassica napus* L.)硼高效品种“QY 10”和硼低效品种“Westar 10”为亲本开发了1个含81个株系的双单倍体群体,将该群体硼效率的相关性状与利用油菜60k芯片的SNP标记构建的遗传连锁图谱相结合,在A3染色体上鉴定到1个硼高效的主效QTL位点*qBEC-A3a*。利用*qBEC-A3a*位点的近等基因系材料进行精细定位,结合响应缺硼胁迫的转录组数据分析,克隆到*qBEC-A3a*位点的硼高效基因*BnaA03g24370D*,由于该基因与AtNIP5;1同源,故命名为*BnaA3.NIP5;1*^[27]。He等^[28]研究证实*BnaA3.NIP5;1*是甘蓝型油菜中调控低浓度硼耐受的重要因子,该基因特异定位在根尖侧根冠区靠近土壤一侧的细胞膜上,促进根尖分生组织对硼的吸收利用和根系的生长发育;同时,研

究发现*BnaA3.NIP5;1*的5'-UTR中的CTTTC串联重复序列调控着该基因的表达量,且直接影响该基因在油菜硼高效亲本“QY 10”和硼低效亲本“Westar 10”之间的表达差异。*BnaA3.NIP5;1*的同源基因*BnaA2.NIP5;1*则在根尖分生区和伸长区的外皮层细胞表达,也受缺硼诱导促进根系对硼的吸收及硼向地上部的转运^[29]。

对于*BnaBORs*家族基因,Sun等^[30]和Chen等^[31]利用同位克隆法和RACE技术,在甘蓝型油菜中成功分离出6个*AtBOR1*的同源基因,通过半定量分析发现*BnaC4.BOR1;1c*在硼高效品种中表达量高于硼低效品种,且受缺硼诱导显著上调表达。进一步研究发现,*BnaC4.BOR1;1c*在油菜根、地上部节以及花器官中均有表达,且缺硼时该基因的RNAi株系苗期生长严重受抑制,花期地上部尤其是花器官的硼含量显著下降,柱头外露,花蕾干枯脱落,表现出典型的“花而不实”缺硼症状,籽粒产量极显著下降^[32-33]。这说明相比模式植物拟南芥基因*AtBOR1*,异源四倍体植物甘蓝型油菜基因*BnaC4.BOR1;1c*的功能具有多样性,不仅调控硼从根部向地上部的运输,还参与了硼在地上部的分配,影响花器官中硼的累积和产量形成。

1.3 甘蓝型油菜中硼转运基因的调控因子

转录调控因子是一类能与目的基因启动子中特定的顺式作用元件发生专一性结合,从而激活或抑制目的基因转录的蛋白质分子^[34]。近年来越来越多的研究发现,转录因子广泛地参与了植物对营养元素的吸收和转运过程^[35-36]。Kasajima等^[37]通过筛选拟南芥T-DNA插入突变体的表型,发现*Atwrky6*突变体对缺硼和硼毒敏感;同时该基因在根尖区会受缺硼强烈诱导,但却不会影响到硼转运基因*AtNIP5;1*的表达。AtWRKY6是第一个被报道响应缺硼胁迫的转录调控因子,但其调控机制尚未有进一步的研究报道。

WRKY家族因其结构域N端含有高度保守的核心序列WRKYGQK而得名,其专一识别元件是启动子区的W-box(T/CTGACC/T)结构^[38]。Feng等^[39]利用甘蓝型油菜响应硼胁迫的转录组数据,筛选出51个响应缺硼的*BnaWRKYs*基因。经过定量验证,挑选出4个受缺硼显著诱导的*BnaWRKYs*,通过酵母单杂试验发现这4个基因都可以与*BnaNIP5;1s*和*BnaBOR1s*启动子的保守区域互作。对其中的*BnaA9.WRKY47*进行研究,发现该基因突变体材料

对缺硼敏感,植株硼含量显著降低,且硼高效基因 *BnaA3.NIP5;1* 的表达量比野生型更低;而超表达材料则与突变体完全相反,表现出更强的抗缺硼能力。互作试验发现 *BnaA9.WRKY47* 通过与硼转运基因 *BnaA3.NIP5;1* 启动子区的 TGAC^{-646~-643} 结合,可以直接激活后者的表达,从而提高油菜对缺硼胁迫的抗性^[39]。

2 独立于硼转运基因的途径

相较于依赖硼转运基因的途径,独立于硼转运基因的途径则主要是通过调节植物激素信号、活性氧代谢或细胞壁代谢相关的基因表达来调控缺硼条件下根系和植物的生长,进而提高植物对硼的利用效率来增强植物对缺硼的抗性。

2.1 硼营养对植物激素的影响

植物激素参与植物生长发育的各个过程。研究表明,缺硼会通过影响植物激素的合成、代谢以及转运来调节各种激素的含量,比如在根中,缺硼导致生长素(IAA)、细胞分裂素(CK)、脱落酸(ABA)、乙烯(ETH)以及茉莉酸(JA)的积累,但同时也会使油菜素甾醇(BR)含量降低^[40-41]。早先研究发现,BR合成受影响的突变体材料根系生长受抑制^[42]。近期,对拟南芥转录组的分析发现受缺硼诱导的基因与受BR信号调控的基因之间存在高度的共调控,且大部分呈现相反的调控趋势,表明BR参与植物对缺硼的应答反应。进一步的研究表明,缺硼抑制BR合成通路中关键基因 *BR6OX1* 和 *BR6OX2* 的转录,使根系中油菜素内酯(BL)含量显著减少。当BL浓度降低后,使BL与细胞膜上BR受体蛋白 *BRI1* 结合减少,从而减弱BR信号。同时使 *BRI* 抑制子 *BSU1* 的表达下降,导致 *BIN2* 激酶处于持续磷酸化的活性状态,进而将BR信号下游的2个重要转录因子 *BES1* 和 *BZR1* 磷酸化,使其滞留在细胞质中,无法进入细胞核去启动BR响应的基因,最终导致植物根系变短^[43]。此外,利用BR信号下游转录因子 *BES1* 能持续进入细胞核发挥功能的获得性突变体 *bes1-D*,分析突变体和野生型在缺硼条件下植株硼含量和硼转运基因的表达,结果显示缺硼条件下 *bes1-D* 和野生型的硼积累量无明显差异,根中除突变体 *AtNIP5;1* 的表达量比野生型更低外,其他硼转运基因与野生型均无明显差异,说明增强BR信号缓解植物缺硼敏感并不依赖硼的转运蛋白途径^[43]。

JA作为可长距离运输的植物激素信号,在抵抗

逆境胁迫中发挥着重要功能^[44]。研究发现,缺硼促进乙烯的合成、诱导乙烯响应因子 *ERF018* 的表达,进而促进JA合成基因 *AOC1* 和 *AOC3* 的上调表达,提高JA的含量。同样受缺硼上调表达的 *JAR1* 将不具备生物活性的JA转变为具有生物活性且更能被受体识别的JA-Ile形式,从而增强JA信号^[45]。进一步通过激活下游转录因子 *MYC2* 表达和增加JA-Ile与受体蛋白 *COI1* 的结合,启动大量后续受JA调控的基因的表达,最终抑制植物根系的伸长^[45-46]。此外,缺硼时 *ACS11* 表达水平提高,促使乙烯信号增强,抑制主根伸长,但在缺硼的 *jar1-1* 突变体中无法抑制主根伸长。其原因是 *jar1-1* 突变体中,JA信号减弱,导致JAZ蛋白无法被降解,保持对乙烯转录因子 *EIN3* 的抑制作用,从而减弱对植物主根生长的抑制。综上,JA信号能与乙烯信号协同调控参与缺硼条件下主根生长受抑制的过程^[46]。利用 *jar1-1* 突变体, Huang等^[46] 分析缺硼条件下突变体与野生型硼转运基因的表达和植株硼含量的差异,发现缺硼条件下 *jar1-1* 与野生型中硼转运基因 *AtNIP5;1* 和 *AtBOR1* 在转录水平上没有差异,但突变体内的硼含量提高。这表明 *jar1-1* 中硼的增加不依赖硼转运基因表达量的改变,可能是JA信号的减弱影响根系结构和发育的结果。

2.2 硼营养对细胞壁相关基因的影响

现有的相关研究表明,植物体内许多与细胞壁果胶代谢和修饰相关的基因都会受到硼胁迫的调控^[47-48]。果胶结构的变化影响植物细胞壁的合成与降解过程,对细胞壁稳态的调节发挥重要功能^[49]。硼主要存在于细胞壁的果胶中,稳定细胞壁的结构,进而维持细胞的发育和植物生长^[50]。Zhou等^[48] 研究发现低浓度硼条件下甘蓝型油菜硼低效品种细胞壁更容易破损,原因是低效品种缺硼条件下果胶合成相关基因表达量上升,导致果胶含量特别是RG-II的单体含量显著提高,使得细胞壁再生能力下降。楚刘阳^[51] 分析油菜花蕾响应缺硼胁迫的转录组数据,发现表达量较高的果胶甲酯酶抑制因子 *PMEIs* 和木葡聚糖转移酶 *XTHs* 可受缺硼诱导表达,前者表达上调意味着果胶甲酯化程度升高,细胞壁松弛度下降,而后者表达上调会使细胞壁更易纵向延伸,拥有更低的细胞壁屈服阈值,最终都会导致细胞在缺硼条件下生长受抑制。之后,Zhang等^[52] 研究表明缺硼诱导 *XTH22/TCH4* 的表达,且超表达株系对缺硼更敏感。根系硼浓度和 *AtNIP5;1* 的定量结果表明,

*XTH22/TCH4*的超表达株系对缺硼敏感可能并不是通过影响植物根系对硼的吸收导致。对细胞壁组分和结构进行研究,发现 *TCH4* 的表达会增加对细胞壁中半纤维素的修饰,使螯合态果胶含量提高,碱性果胶含量降低,这个过程会降低细胞壁果胶的交联程度,使纤维素微管间的距离加大,从而导致细胞壁增厚变脆。另外,细胞壁果胶结构的改变本身会导致 ROS 的积累,促使细胞内相关的 ROS 清除酶上调表达,但在缺硼条件下, *TCH4* 超表达株系中 ROS 清除酶的活性会显著降低,导致细胞内 ROS 含量升高,最终也会影响植物正常生长^[52]。

3 总结与展望

对植物硼营养的研究已持续了100年,人们充分意识到硼在植物生长发育过程中的重要性。综合分析华中农业大学微量元素研究中心近10年的研究结果,我们发现植物响应缺硼的分子调控机制存在2条途径(图1)。一是依赖硼转运基因的途径:植物缺硼会调控转录因子,如 *BnaA9.WRKY47* 的表达来诱导下游硼转运蛋白 *NIPs* 和 *BORs* 的表达(如 *BnaA3.NIP5;1*),进而增强根系对外界硼的吸收与体内硼的分配转运能力,最终显著提高植物抗缺硼能力;二是独立于硼转运基因的途径:缺硼胁迫后,植物通过改变激素信号以及细胞壁代谢相关酶等方式调控根系和地上部的生长发育,提高植物体内硼的利用效率,从而增强对低浓度硼胁迫的适应性。独立于硼转运基因的途径和依赖硼转运基因的途径彼此之间也会相互影响,协同参与调控植物响应缺硼胁迫。研究发现,缺硼诱导的转录因子 *WRKY23* 参与介导叶片中生长素转运蛋白 *PIN* 的极性定位^[39, 53];而多种植物激素,特别是 ABA 会提高硼转运基因 *AtNIP5;1* 启动子的活性,外源添加 ABA 会提高缺硼条件下植物体内的硼含量^[54]。完善植物硼营养高效协同调控途径是团队下一步的研究重点。

此外,目前对植物硼营养高效调控机制的研究主要集中在根系,对生殖生长时期硼营养高效的调控机制研究报道甚少。植物花器官是如何响应缺硼的?其分子调控机制又是如何?这些都是亟待深入研究的问题。今后将在深入解析植物各个发育时期对缺硼胁迫响应机制的基础上挖掘出更多的硼高效利用基因,并通过分子聚合或全基因组设计培育农作物硼高效高产优质的优良品种。

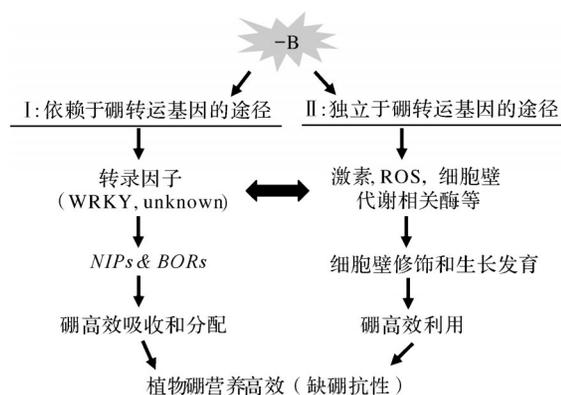


图1 植物响应缺硼胁迫的分子调控途径

Fig. 1 Molecular regulation pathways in response of plants to boron deficiency stress

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Molecular regulatory pathways for boron efficiency in plants

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Abstract Boron in plants is mainly present in cell walls and plays an important role in stabilizing the structure of cell wall and promoting the growth and development of plants. Eudicots require more boron and are sensitive to boron deficiency, but there are significant genotypic differences in the resistance of different species and varieties to boron deficiency. Professor Yunhua Wang from Huazhong Agricultural University led a team to screen boron efficient varieties of *Brassica napus* in the early 1990s, thus initiating studies on the genetic and molecular mechanisms of boron efficiency in plants in China. The results of studying over a decade showed that there were two different molecular regulatory pathways for plants to improve boron efficiency under boron deficiency. In the B transporter-dependent pathway, the expression of *NIPs* and *BORs* family genes is induced by boron deficiency, which enhances the absorption of B in root and the distribution of B in shoot, achieving efficient absorption and transport of boron, thereby improving the resistance and adaptability of plants under B deficiency. In the B transporter-independent pathway, plants improve the utilization efficiency of boron in their shoot by influencing hormone signals and the expression of genes related to cell wall synthesis and metabolism, regulating the growth and development of root, and the structure of cell wall component, thereby enhancing plant resistance to boron deficiency. On the 100th anniversary of boron being identified as an essential nutrient for plants, the author reviewed and summarized these researches to enrich readers. At the same time, on the first anniversary of Mr. Wang Yunhua's pass away, it is to commemorate his groundbreaking contribution in initiating the field of genetic studies on crop boron nutrition at Huazhong Agricultural University.

Keywords boron; *Brassica napus*; boron-efficiency; boron transporters; plant hormones; cell wall

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