

果树早期性别分子鉴定技术研究进展

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摘要: 开花之前, 大多数雌雄异株植物的雌株和雄株形态差异很不明显, 且雌雄异株植物的童期大多很长, 从发芽到开花一般需要几年甚至更长的时间。然而, 不同性别植株所产生的经济和生态效应往往存在很大差异, 因此对于雌雄异株植物的早期性别鉴定就显得尤为重要。早期的性别鉴定方法大多是从形态学、细胞学和生理学方面入手, 其鉴定结果和准确性都具有一定的局限。近年来, 随着分子生物学的高速发展, 利用分子标记方法进行早期性别鉴定的研究越来越多, 同时分子标记方法也帮助人们获得了更加快速和准确的结果。迄今已有多种植物的性别鉴定分子标记被成功开发, 亦有雌雄异株植物的性别决定基因被成功定位。笔者主要综述了几种常用的DNA分子标记方法在雌雄异株植物性别鉴定中应用的研究进展, 指出该领域在发展中存在的一些问题, 并对其进一步的研究提出展望。

关键词: 果树; 雌雄异株; 性别鉴定; 性别决定; 分子标记

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Advances of sex identification research of dioecious fruit trees

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Abstract: In dioecious plants, both staminate and pistillate plants have unisexual flowers corresponding to genders. Although dioecious plant only shares a small proportion in angiospermae, it has always been an indispensable material for researchers to investigate plant evolution and separating mechanisms for sex expression due to its distinctive sex differentiation mechanism. In the life of perennials dioecious plants, the period before flowering, called juvenile phase, often costs a few years or even longer. Due to the long juvenile, it will cost several years to identify the gender phenotypes. Besides, the male and female plants always have different values in economy and ecology. Therefore, it is significant important to develop some methods for the detection of the two different flower types. Sex differentiation of plants is a special phenomenon of organogenesis, generally including female and male determination, gametophyte differentiation, and development and maturation process. Molecular level studies suggest that the sex differentiation of plants is a complicated process, related to the action of the induced signal transduction, the sex-determining gene have a derepression effect, making the special gene expresses selectively and then, the progress has actualized. Sex-determining genes play a decisive role in gender development. For plants containing sex chromosomes, they are the very position where their sex-determining genes are located on. The allosomes developed from autosomes. Recombinant inhibitors of chromosomal mutations (sex-determining genes) on sexual chromosomes in its early evolution are weak or even not yet occurred, and sex-determining genes are able to relocate by chromosomal recombination.

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Meanwhile, many studies have shown that plant hormones, genetic factors, epigenetic modification, etc. could determine sexuality of plants by the interaction between each other, and make gender phenotypes diversiform. After the attempt of early morphological gender identification studies of European poplars in the 1950s, sex identification studies in other plants based on morphology have been carried out in succession. However, the results of these studies are easily influenced by the stage of plant age, nutriture, environmental conditions and many other factors. Thus, it could not be used as a reliable method to identify male and female phenotypes. Besides, studies based on the physiological and biochemical methods, isoenzyme analysis and other methods were carried out, but the results still do not have a high reference value. To be sure, all the differences in traits are derived from the differences in genetic material. Therefore, the most straightforward way to find differences in gender characteristics is to identify the differences in genetic levels between genders. In recent years, with the rapid development of molecular biology, more and more studies focused on early sex identification have been conducted using DNA based molecular markers. At the same time, this method has also provided us more rapid and accurate results. DNA markers are widely used in genetic diversity analysis, germplasm resources identification, genetic map construction, comparative genomics, phylogenetic studies and molecular marker assisted breeding and some other aspects. At present, many kinds of perennial dioecious plants have been analyzed using molecular marker to distinguish their sexuality in the early development stage using such a method. Lots of molecular markers have been successfully developed for the identification of plant gender by genomic sequencing and other technologies. Moreover, sex determination genes in some dioecious plants have been successfully mapped in corresponding chromosomes. Nevertheless, the problem about how to explore the gender-determining mechanisms through molecular markers and gender-linked regions is still troubling researchers in further research since most of these studies remained in the stage of searching and locating sex-linked genes using molecular markers. While molecular markers can only reveal part of the genetic mechanisms of gender differentiation, the cooperation of cell biology, biochemistry and other related technologies are very contributing. For DNA molecular marker technology in the study of plant sex identification, the operation is complicated, the screening of sex-specific bands is difficult, the universality of the plants in the same genus with different ploidy is poor, the reproducibility is not good, and the costs is high, all these problems have made its extensive application in the production practice hampered. There are also some problems in molecular sex-identification of plant species that has three gender types, including female, male and amphoteric plants. In future study, the function and interaction mechanism of various transcription factors in plant sex differentiation will be a hot issue, which means the importance of the cooperation of modern molecular biology techniques such as gene chip technology, RNA interference technology, the second or third generation sequencing technology and the other new technology. And these will promote the sex-identification progress in a high-efficiency, high-throughput and high-accuracy way and can be finished by automation operations, which can meet the needs of production practice. We could predict with confidence that new DNA molecular marker technology and gene chip technology will unceasingly be advanced in future, and the genes related to sex-determination of dioecious plants will be found, cloned and obtained, providing new ways for early molecular gender identification.

Key words: Fruit trees; Dioecious; Sex identification; Sex determination; Molecular markers

雌雄异株(dioecious)植物是相对于雌雄同株(monoecious)植物而言的,指雌花和雄花分别位于不同植株上的单性花植物种类,即雌株仅开雌花,雄

株仅开雄花^[1-2]。多年生植物如猕猴桃(*Actinidia chinensis* Planch)、银杏(*Ginkgo biloba* L.)、阿月浑子(*Pistacia vera* L.)、香榧(*Torreya grandis* Fort. ex

Lind L.)、君迁子(*Dispyrus Lotus* L.)、杨梅(*Myrica rubra* Sieb. et Zucc.)、番木瓜(*Carica papaya* L.)、沙棘(*Hippophae rhamnoides* Linn.)、枣椰树(*Phoenix dactylifera*)等均为不同程度的雌雄异株植物。植物界中仅有4%~6%的被子植物为严格的雌雄异株植物^[3-4],但因其独特的性别分化方式,此类植物一直以来都是植物性别决定研究中较为理想的研究对象^[5]。此外,在绝大多数的雌雄异株植物中,不同性别植株的价值往往具有很大差异。例如果树以收获果实为主,则雌株的经济价值就远大于雄株,而雄株则用于授粉树的配置。因此,在很多雌雄异株果树研究中,对雌性植株的研究较多,而对雄性植株的研究较少^[6]。然而,果树在实生育种过程中,童期一般较长,如猕猴桃的童期为5~7 a(年)^[7],银杏则长达25 a^[8],而在开花前对其进行性别判别的难度很大。因此,雌雄异株植物的早期性别鉴定研究在其育种和生产实践中都具有重要意义。

早在上世纪50年代,波兰学者就对欧洲山杨(*Populus tremula*)进行了基于外观形态的早期性别鉴定研究尝试^[9],之后人们陆续对多种植物进行早期性别形态学鉴定方法的研究,但从多项研究结果来看,该方法的结果易受树龄、营养、环境条件等多种因素影响,不能作为雌雄鉴定的绝对依据。也有人尝试利用生理生化鉴定、同工酶分析等方法进行雌雄性别的鉴定,但其结果并不具有很高的参考价值。分子标记技术以个体间核苷酸序列变异为基础,是生物个体遗传变异的直接反映,可以检测出生物个体之间在核苷酸序列水平上的差异^[10],该技术被广泛应用于遗传多样性分析、种质资源鉴定、遗传图谱构建、比较基因组学和系统进化研究及分子标记辅助育种等方面,也为雌雄异株植物的早期性别鉴定提供了新的途径。笔者主要对果树早期分子鉴定技术研究进展进行综述并提出展望。

1 雌雄异株植物性别决定机制

植物的性别分化是一种特殊的器官(即雄蕊或雌蕊)发生现象,广义的性别分化包括雌、雄性别决定和配子体的分化、发育与成熟的过程。分子水平上的研究表明,植物的性别分化是性别决定基因在诱导信号等作用下,发生去阻遏作用,使特异基因选择性表达,从而实现性别分化程序表达的过程。

性别决定基因对性别的选择具有决定性作用。

对于含有性染色体的植物,性别决定基因位于性染色体上,此类被子植物的性别决定分为XX/XY型(包括ZZ/ZW型)、X:A型2种^[11]。大部分雌雄异株果树的性别分化类型属于前者,如阿月浑子^[12]、番木瓜^[13-14]、枣椰^[15]等,其性别取决于Y染色体^[16]或W染色体的存在与否。目前,番木瓜^[17]、杨树^[18]等多年生植物的性别决定位在性染色体上的定位已通过遗传图谱获得,但由于这些位点多位于染色体着丝粒附近^[19],且该区域含大量的DNA重复序列^[20],致使性别决定基因的分离难度很大。

性染色体是由常染色体进化而来的,处于进化早期的性染色体,染色体突变位点(性别决定基因)的重组抑制还未发生或者很弱,性别决定基因可以通过染色体重组进行重新组合。大量研究表明,植物激素、遗传因子、表观遗传修饰等可能通过相互之间的共同作用来决定植物性别,这种既相互独立又协同作用的动态过程使性别表型具有多样性^[21-24]。如猕猴桃实生苗早期有时会出现雌雄同株异花的现象,番木瓜在自然界中除雌株、雄株之外还存在雌雄同株的个体等,可见性别分化也是植物进化过程中自然发生的过程^[25]。目前,仍有很大一部分多年生雌雄异株植物的性别决定机制尚不清楚。

2 分子标记技术在性别鉴定中的研究进展

2.1 SSR及ISSR的应用

SSR(simple sequence repeats)标记,也称为微卫星DNA(microsatellite DNA)标记,于1988年发明,是一种以特异引物PCR为基础的分子标记技术^[26]。SSR标记是在植物遗传研究上应用较为广泛的一种分子标记,可分为基因组SSR和EST-SSR 2种类型。ISSR(inter-simple sequence repeat)是由Ewa等^[27]于1994年提出的一种新型分子标记技术,用于检测SSR间DNA序列差异;利用锚定引物的ISSR-PCR可以检测到基因组位点上更多的差异。SSR及ISSR在性别鉴定中应用较为广泛,而且都证实了该标记方法的有效性。

在猕猴桃性别鉴定研究中,SSR比RAPD标记具有更好的差异性和多态性^[28],并有研究利用山梨猕猴桃与中华猕猴桃的种间F₁代建立高密度RAD-seq基因遗传图谱,开发出3个性别特异性SSR标记,可用于猕猴桃性别鉴定,并将猕猴桃的性别决定

区域(SDR)缩小到25号染色体上的1-Mb亚端粒区域^[29]。枣椰中也确定了3个存在性别特异等位基因的可靠位点,并利用这些标记鉴定了部分个体性别,准确率达到100%^[15];此外,新型的包含SSR的微生物性别相关标记筛选出3个雄性特异的SSR引物,可用于枣椰的早期性别鉴定^[30]。在水曲柳中证实了EST-SSR分子标记的有效性^[31];在中国杨梅中筛选出了ZJU062和ZJU130 2个SSR标记,表明其性别分离的原因就是与该2个标记相对应的等位基因的存在^[32]。另外,在银杏^[33]、枣椰^[34]、杜仲(*Eucommia ulmoides*)^[35]、番木瓜中发现了基于ISSR的雌性特异标记^[36],同时在银杏^[37]、杜仲^[38]中开发出了可用于性别鉴定的雄性特异EST-SSR标记。

2.2 SNP标记的应用

单核苷酸多态性(single nucleotide polymorphism, SNP)主要是指在基因组水平上由单个核苷酸变异所引起的DNA序列多态性。植物中的SNP标记分布广、分辨率高、共显性和多态性也高^[39]。该标记在雌雄异株植物性染色体进化、性别决定位点在性染色体上的定位以及性别决定系统研究方面发挥着重要作用,在雌雄异株果树性别鉴定研究中的应用也越来越多。

在分化的早期阶段,常染色体演化成同态的性染色体。尽管同态的性染色体在动植物中非常普遍,但对于形成这些类型性染色体的进化力仍知之甚少。研究人员基于山杨中“染色体XIX的端粒周围区域含有比其他染色体更少的SNP,并具有明显的进化史,且在该区域末端具有最大的核苷酸结合位点-亮氨酸重复序列(NBS-LRR)类型的抗病基因,且染色体XIX上microRNA的发生率较高”的研究结果,提出在该物种进化过程中“选择压力改变了染色体XIX端粒周围区域的基因组结构和基因组成,产生了一个独特的基因组结构和基因簇”的假设,这与假定的性别决定位点和NBS-LRR基因所在的区域一致^[40]。此后,通过SNaPshot分析验证,在阿月浑子中筛选出38个SNP位点,其中8个位点可以100%区分阿月浑子的性别,但为确定这些标记的成本效益问题,进一步进行高分辨率熔解(HRM)分析,筛选出4个在阿月浑子中可以完全区分性别的标记;由于所有候选SNP基因座都是雌性异配,因此判定阿月浑子具有ZZ/ZW性别确定系统,并在大规模种质中进行鉴定和验证^[41]。在蒿柳(*Salix vimi-*

nalis L.)中,使用来自雌性和雄性的DNA-和RNA-Seq数据探索雌性杂种蒿柳中的性染色体,发现雌性中SD区域的SNP密度要明显高于雄性,这表明此物种近期发生了重组抑制以及性别特异性SNP的积累;该研究还确定了2种可能代表W染色体特异性序列的雌性特异性支架。这也说明,位于SD区域的基因在性别特异性组织中显示出轻微过度的雄性偏倚表达,经等位基因特异性基因表达分析,证明这是Z染色体上表达雄性化的结果,而不是W染色体上雌性表达的变异^[42]。

2.3 AFLP标记的应用

扩增片段长度多态性(amplified fragment length polymorphism, AFLP)是由荷兰科学家Pietor等^[43]于1995年发明的DNA分子标记技术,是RFLP与PCR相结合的产物,融合了RFLP和RAPD 2种技术的优点,同时具有RFLP技术的可靠性、PCR技术的高效性和RAPD技术的灵敏性^[44]。目前仅在个别雌雄异株植物中开发了该标记用于性别鉴定。另外,此标记也用于性别决定基因的查找及定位研究。

AFLP标记的技术和成本要求相对较高,现代研究更倾向于将AFLP标记转换为更可靠且更具位点特异性的SCAR标记^[45]。在罗汉果[*Siraitia grosvenorii* (Swingle) C. Jeffrey ex Lu et Z. Y. Zhang]^[46]、山葡萄^[47]、杜仲^[45]、葎草[*Humulus scandens* (Lour.) Merr]^[48]、无花果(*Ficus fulva* Reinw. ex Bl.)^[49]等植物中开发了稳定的雄性特异性SCAR标记,其中,无花果中开发的雄性特异性SCAR标记在染色体性别特异性区域之间的序列差异较小^[49]。在番木瓜中,利用多重PCR技术,成功建立了适合番木瓜性别研究的cDNA-AFLP分析体系^[50];将筛选出的32个AFLP分子标记转化为16个SCAR标记,可以有效地区分雌株、兼性株或雄株,但在兼性株和雄性株中均扩增出相同大小的DNA片段,无法有效区分兼性株和雄性株^[51]。在簸箕柳中,构建了高密度遗传图谱,并通过AFLP标记和伪交叉策略,确定其性别由连锁组LG_03上的单个位点决定,雌性是异配性别^[52]。

2.4 RAPD标记的应用

随机扩增多态性DNA(random amplified polymorphic DNA, RAPD)标记由Williams等^[53]发明于1990年,此技术以基因组总DNA为模板,通过PCR扩增技术和凝胶电泳,对整个未知序列的基因组进

行多态性分析,它是一种基于随机引物的PCR分子标记技术^[54]。利用RAPD进行性别鉴定,在不同植物中有雄性特异性和雌性特异性片段出现,但是在个别植物中进行验证时出现重复性、稳定性较差等问题^[55]。

在猕猴桃中,将DNA的RAPD标记转为SCAR标记来大规模筛选中华猕猴桃(*Actinidia chinensis*)雌雄单株,开发了2个与猕猴桃性别相关的特异引物SmX和SmY,其中SmY为雄性特异,SmX为雌性特异^[55-56],随后又通过连锁图谱构建将性别决定位点定位到染色体亚端粒区^[57];之后的研究中又利用美味猕猴桃(*Actinidia deliciosa* var. *deliciosa*)筛选了6个雌性特异性标记和2个雄性特异性标记^[58];从美味猕猴桃获得与雄性基因连锁的RAPD标记S1032-850,在杂种后代、中华猕猴桃和美味猕猴桃雌雄个体上进行验证,得到了该标记的核苷酸特定序列^[59]。其他如银杏^[60]、阿月浑子^[61]、君迁子^[62]、香榧^[63]、藤黄胶牙(*Garcinia gummi-gutta* L.)^[64]、大麻科(*Humulus lupulus*)^[65]、孟加拉国红瓜(*Coccinia grandis* L.)^[66]、蛇皮果(*Salacca zalacca* var. *zalacca*)^[67]等植物中,均筛选出了雄性特异性RAPD标记,除了蛇皮果中得到的RAPD标记在转化为SCAR标记后不能作为幼苗性别鉴定的可靠指标外,其他几种植物转化的SCAR标记均可有效鉴别雄株^[67]。另外,藤黄胶牙的RAPD标记转化为雄性特异的SCAR标记后,在退火温度为67℃时,目标条带只出现在雄性中,而在退火温度为52℃时,两性中均出现条带^[64]。

在番木瓜中,得到了1个能够正确区分雌雄同体植株和雌性植株的RAPD标记,但在转化为SCAR标记后,分析中存在假阳性和阴性,未能鉴定出样本的真实性别^[68]。在沙棘(*Hippophae rhamnoides* L.)中,得到1对引物并扩增出2条雌性特异的多态性片段,之后依此设计出SCAR标记,并在120个雌性样本中扩增出了雌性特异的序列^[69]。

2.5 Small RNA的应用

Small RNA,又称microRNAs、siRNAs和piRNAs等,是动植物生命活动重要的调控因子,参与调节多种生长发育和内外应答反应,在基因表达调控、生物个体发育、代谢及疾病发生等生理过程中起着重要的作用^[70-76]。基于小RNA测序的分子标记技术已在雌雄异株植物性别决定机制研究中得到应用,但因其成本较高,且在雌雄异株植物生长早期调控

性别分化的小RNA可能并未表达,故此标记在性别鉴定研究中的应用不多。

在番木瓜中,对雌株、雄株、雌雄同株3种性别类型植株进行sRNA序列分析,确定了番木瓜X、Y和Y^b染色体间隙侧翼的sRNA热点,并鉴定了14种差异表达miRNA^[77]。猕猴桃属植物中,对猕猴桃雌花和雄花中表达的小RNA进行了测序,在猕猴桃25号连锁群(Chr 25)上共预测得到3个miRNA,其中novel-ach-mi R362的靶基因Achn298021可能与猕猴桃花的性别发育有关^[72]。上述研究为了解雌雄异株植物的性别决定机制提供了有利信息。

对君迁子性别特异的kmer分析发现,位于Y染色体上的雄性特异基因*OGI*对柿的性别决定起着关键作用;*OGI*编码的小RNA靶向并抑制常染色体上雌性特异基因*MeGI*的表达,从而抑制植株的雌性化发育;*MeGI*可能以剂量依赖的方式使雄蕊失活^[78-80]。针对*OGI*在君迁子性别决定机制中的作用,对拟南芥(*Arabidopsis*)和烟草(*Nicotiana*)分别进行外源转基因试验,在烟草中*OGI*过表达,证实了其对*MeGI*的抑制作用。*MeGI*在上述2个转基因系统中稳定表达,与转基因植物所表现出的剂量依赖性一致,也在一定程度上确定了其在促进植株发育为雌性时的作用^[81]。*OGI*和*MeGI*序列都与同源结构域转录因子同源,并且2者的分离预测早于柿属的起源;*MeGI*启动子甲基化与六倍体东方柿(*Diospyros kaki*)雌雄同株植株的花性紧密相关^[78]。通过了解*OGI*和*MeGI*对发育中的雄花及雌花的性别调控作用,可以利用某种DNA甲基化抑制剂来诱导发育中的雄性花芽发育为雌性花;*OGI*的表达会因SINE(short interspersed nuclear element)插入*OGI*启动子而沉默^[81,82-83]。根据*OGI*基因开发出雄性连锁标记DISx-AF4S,证实其在柿、君迁子以及其他柿属植物中均表现出良好的鉴别准确率和通用性,可用于柿属植物及其杂交后代的早期雄性性别鉴定^[84-85]。

3 问题与展望

由于雌雄异株植物的显著特点,其性别早期鉴定一直以来都是该领域研究的热点方向之一。性别特征差异究其根源来自于细胞内遗传物质的差异,因此直接从DNA水平出发寻找性别特征差异具有可行性。目前,在多种雌雄异株植物早期性别鉴定中开展了分子鉴定技术的尝试,在果树上的研究多

数停留在利用分子标记查找并定位性别连锁基因的阶段,如何通过已经掌握的分子标记与性别连锁区域揭示其性别决定机制还需进一步研究。同时,分子标记只能揭示部分性别分化的遗传机制,还需细胞生物学与生物化学等相关技术的配合。

在雌雄异株植株性别鉴定的研究中,SSR和SNP标记是目前应用最多的分子标记,其他标记虽然应用较少,但各有利弊,应根据所研究树种的遗传及生理特点选择适当的方法。另外,DNA分子标记技术仍存在诸多问题,如操作繁琐、性别特异条带筛选困难、相同属不同倍性植物之间通用性较差、重复性较差以及费用较高等,均使其在生产实践中的广泛应用受到阻碍。另外,在同时存在雌株、雄株以及两性株的植物种类中,分子鉴定方法仍存在问题。在今后雌雄异株果树的研究中,性别分化过程中各种转录因子的功能及其相互作用机制仍会是热点问题,需要借助现代分子生物学技术如基因芯片技术、RNA干涉技术、二代三代测序技术等新技术,对不同性别间的差异序列进行快速准确的筛选与分离,并根据所得序列设计引物,然后将筛选到的特异性引物制备成探针,使雌雄异株果树的性别鉴定更加高效、高通量、高准确率,不断实现性别鉴定的操作自动化,以满足生产实践的需求。随着分子生物学的发展,新的DNA分子标记技术和基因芯片等技术也将不断出现,与雌雄异株植物性别决定有关的基因将不断克隆获得,早期性别分子鉴定将会为后续工作提供更多的途径。

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