

# 柚 *CmWOX2* 基因克隆及在胚发育过程中的表达分析

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**摘要:**【目的】克隆马家柚[*Citrus maxima* (L.) Osbeck ‘Majiayou’] *WOX2* 基因, 探讨 *CmWOX2* 基因在柚种子发育过程中的调控作用。【方法】使用 PCR 技术克隆柚 *CmWOX2* 基因, 对其进行生物信息学分析, 通过 qRT-PCR 技术比较、分析经花粉辐射处理后授粉获得的退化种子和正常果实中饱满种子中的 *CmWOX2* 基因在不同发育时期的表达情况。【结果】*CmWOX2* 基因 cDNA 序列长度为 1177 bp, 序列同源性分析结果表明, 柚 *CmWOX2* 基因与其他物种 *WOX2* 基因在 5’homeobox 区域具有高度相似性, 在 3’WUS-box 区域有部分差异。实时荧光定量 qRT-PCR 结果表明, *CmWOX2* 基因在马家柚的幼苗根、茎、叶中相对表达量较低, 在种子中的相对表达量较高; *CmWOX2* 基因在未受精的子房中也出现表达, 受精后在马家柚胚的发育过程中(授粉后 0~10 周)相对表达量持续增加, 之后随种子成熟, 相对表达量逐渐下降; 无核果实中的退化种子 *CmWOX2* 基因的相对表达量明显低于正常果实中的饱满种子。【结论】*CmWOX2* 基因在马家柚胚胎的形成发育过程中发挥着至关重要的作用, 并且通过花粉辐射获得的无核果实中 *CmWOX2* 基因相对表达量下降与胚发育异常密切相关。

**关键词:** 马家柚; *WOX2* 基因; 胚发育; 表达分析

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## Cloning and expressions analysis of *CmWOX2* from *Citrus maxima* (Burm.) Merr. during embryo development

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**Abstract:**【Objective】The development of plant embryo is an extremely important part in the process of individual development. The morphogenesis of plant embryo is jointly determined by the MAPK (MAP KINASE)/GRD (GROUNDED) pathway and the WOX (WUSCHEL RELATED-HOMEBOX) transcription factor family members. The WOX transcription factor family members are differentially expressed in apical cells and basal cells, leading to the differentiation of different cells. *WOX2* plays an important role in the early development of embryonic cells and the morphogenesis of stem apical meristems. This study aimed to explore the regulatory role of the *CmWOX2* in seed development of *Citrus maxima* (Burm.) Merr. 【Methods】The materials of this experiment were Majiayou trees from Shangrao, Jiangxi Province. The unirradiated and  $^{60}\text{Co}$ - $\gamma$  irradiated sour pomelo anthers were used for artificial pollination. The ovaries and seeds from the fruits were collected before and after pollination. The seeds derived from the pollination with the unirradiated pollens were sown in test tubes containing MS basic medium, and the roots, stems and leaves of the young plants were collected after 30 d culture (20 d dark culture, 10 d light culture, culture temperature  $26\pm1$  °C). The *WOX2* gene sequence of the pomelo was obtained through search and comparison, and the full-length sequence of the *CmWOX2* gene was obtained through amplification by designing specific primers. The PCR products were recovered and pu-

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rified, and then were connected to the PMD18-T vector, and the positive clones were obtained through the blue-white screening for further sequencing analysis. DNAMAN, ExPASy ProtParam tool, TMHMM 2.0, SignalP 4.1 software were used for bioinformatics analysis. The expression of the *CmWOX2* gene in degraded seeds obtained by pollination after pollen radiation treatment and full seeds in normal fruits were compared and analyzed by the qRT-PCR technology at different developmental stages. WPS2020 was used to sort and graph the data, SPSS 26.0 was used for significance analysis, the Duncan's method ( $p < 0.05$ ) was used for multiple comparisons of means, and the Student's t-test ( $p < 0.01$ ) was used for comparison. **【Results】**The *CmWOX2* gene were identified in the *Citrus maxima* (L.) Osbeck genome. The length of the *CmWOX2* cDNA was 1177 bp, the length of open reading frame (ORF) was 750 bp, encoding 249 amino acids. The molecular formula of the protein was  $C_{1202}H_{1859}N_{345}O_{383}S_{14}$ , and the molecular mass was 27.719 9 ku, the highest content was glutamic acid (8.8%). The predicted isoelectric point was 6.30, the instability index was 58.73, the fat solubility index was 55.26, and the total average hydrophilicity (GRAVY) was -0.770, which is speculated to be an unstable hydrophilic protein. The prediction of secondary structure showed that the *CmWOX2* protein contains 50.6% helical structure, 60.2% folding, 16.1% circular structure, and the prediction of tertiary structure also had similar conclusions, showing that most of the *CmWOX2* proteins had helical structure and folded structure, with less loop structure. Further analysis of the evolutionary relationship of the *CmWOX2* protein showed that the *CmWOX2* gene and the *WOX2* genes of other species were highly similar in the 5' homeobox region, such as *CsWOX2*, *VvWOX2*, *JrWOX2*, *HbWOX2*, *MeWOX2*, *St-WOX2*, *AtWOX2*, while there were some differences in the 3' WUS-box region compared with the *VvWOX2*, *JrWOX2* and *StWOX2*; the transmembrane domain and protein signal peptide of the amino acid sequence of *CmWOX2* were predicted, and the results showed that the *CmWOX2* is not involved in the process of cell signal transduction. The phylogenetic tree analysis showed that the *CsWOX2* from *Citrus sinensis* had the highest similarity with the *CmWOX2*, suggesting that the *CsWOX2* was homologous with the *CmWOX2*; while the *ThWOX2* and *CmWOX2* had the farthest relationship. qRT-PCR results showed that the low-level expression of the *CmWOX2* in roots, stems and leaves of seedlings, while there was high level expression in the seeds. The *CmWOX2* gene was also detected in the unfertilized ovaries, and the expression level of the *CmWOX2* began to increase in the development process of the seeds after fertilization, the highest expression level was seen at the 10th week, while the expression level of the *CmWOX2* gradually decreases with the development of the seeds; the expression level of the *CmWOX2* in degraded seeds of the seedless fruits was significantly lower than that of plump seeds in the normal fruits. **【Conclusion】**The *CmWOX2* plays a vital role in the formation and development of the Majiayou embryos, and the decrease expression of the *CmWOX2* in the seedless fruits obtained by pollen radiation is closely related to the abnormal embryo development.

**Key words:** Majiayou pomelo; *WOX2* gene; Embryo development; Expression analysis

植物胚的形态建成是单细胞发育成功能性多细胞有机体的过程,是从合子的极性建立和不均等分裂开始的。极性建立是指合子中胞内物质按照一定方向不均等的分布,形成极性之后发生不均等分裂,产生远离胚孔的顶细胞以及靠近珠孔的基细胞<sup>[1]</sup>。顶细胞会分化成胚芽,进而形成根。植物胚的发育经历了合子的不均等分裂、2细胞期、8细胞期、球形

胚期、心形胚期、鱼雷胚期和子叶胚等8个阶段<sup>[2]</sup>。

在植物中已发现并克隆出30多个胚发育相关基因,表明合子的极性建立和不均等分裂由MAPK(MAP KINASE)/GRD(GROUNDED)途径和WOX(WUSCHEL RELATED-HOMEBOX)转录因子家族成员共同决定。WOX转录因子家族含有1个高度保守的同源异型结构域HD(homeodomain),由60~

66个氨基酸构成,可以与DNA序列特异地结合<sup>[3-4]</sup>。前人研究表明,WOX家族基因在胚的形成、干细胞维持、形成层分化、愈伤形成和器官发育等方面都发挥着重要的作用<sup>[5-12]</sup>。在胚胎发育的起始阶段,也就是合子第一次不对称分裂建立早期胚胎顶-基轴极性时期,WOX转录因子家族在顶、基细胞中的差异表达是引起顶、基细胞命运分化的重要原因。此期间,WOX2基因只在顶细胞特异表达,而WOX8/STIMPY-LIKE(STPL)基因和WOX9/STIMPY(STIP)基因在基细胞中表达,有研究表明WOX2受到了WOX8和WOX9的表达调控<sup>[13-14]</sup>。Haecker等<sup>[5]</sup>对WOX2基因无法表达的突变体所形成的胚胎进行研究,发现有一半的胚胎顶端发育出现了异常,表明WOX2基因在胚胎顶端区域的发育中有重要作用。Nardmann等<sup>[15]</sup>在玉米中的研究表明,玉米ZmWOX2基因与拟南芥AtWOX2基因的功能类似,都在胚胎细胞的早期发育、茎端分生组织的形态建成过程中发挥着重要作用。Li等<sup>[16]</sup>在拟南芥的研究中也发现WOX2基因在体胚发生过程早期发挥着重要作用。这都表明WOX2基因在胚早期发育过程中发挥重要作用,并且可以作为标记基因来研究植物胚的发育。

马家柚是上饶市广丰区特有的地方良种,具有优质、丰产、耐低温和适应性强等特点,通常栽培中单果种子数为80~120粒。前期研究通过授粉辐射酸柚花粉获得了马家柚的无核果实(专利号:ZL201610065023.X),发现第4周为游离核胚乳快速增殖阶段,第7周胚乳已经出现大量细胞化情况,而第10周时胚部分发育到子叶胚阶段,胚乳出现解体,且通过解剖学观察发现,果实无核可能是由于胚乳退化导致胚早期发育受到抑制<sup>[17]</sup>。笔者在本研究中以此材料为基础,首先从柚中克隆了1个CmWOX2基因,并通过实时荧光定量PCR技术分析其在正常和退化种子发育过程中的表达差异,以及在不同组织(根、茎、叶和种子)中的表达情况。通过对比分析,可以了解WOX2基因在柚种子发育过程中的调控作用。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 试验材料

试验以江西省上饶市广丰区排山镇果园中的马家柚( $118^{\circ}19'49.548''E$ ,  $28^{\circ}26'55.572''N$ )为材料,随机选取8年生、树势和结果量基本一致、生长健壮的

马家柚作为授粉树,进行人工授粉。花粉来自1000 Gy剂量 $^{60}\text{Co}-\gamma$ 辐射(湖南省原子能农业应用研究所)和未辐射处理(对照)的酸柚花药。

采集对照(未辐射)和1000 Gy处理的授粉前子房以及授粉后2、4、7、10、16、22、26周果实中种子,并将未辐射花粉处理的种子播种于含MS基本培养基的试管中,收集培养30 d(暗培养20 d,光照培养10 d,培养温度 $26^{\circ}\text{C}\pm1^{\circ}\text{C}$ )后的幼嫩植株的根、茎和叶片。所有样品材料液氮速冻,置于 $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ 超低温冰箱储存备用。

### 1.2 植物总RNA的提取及cDNA合成

采用TaKaRa的植物总RNA提取试剂盒(TaKaRa MiniBEST Plant RNA Extraction Kit)提取所有柚组织样品的RNA,并用TaKaRa公司的Prime-Script<sup>TM</sup> RT反转录试剂盒合成cDNA第一链,保存于 $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ 冰箱备用。

### 1.3 WOX2序列的克隆

通过检索和比对,获得柚WOX2基因序列(<http://citrus.hzau.edu.cn/>),设计特异性引物(WOX2-F: 5'-GCACCAAAACAATACGC-3'; WOX2-R: 5'-GAAACAAACAGATTGTC-3')通过扩增获得CmWOX2基因全长序列。PCR产物、回收以及纯化后,与PMD18-T载体(TaKaRa)连接,通过蓝白斑筛选获得阳性克隆子,进一步进行测序分析。

### 1.4 生物信息学分析

用DNAMAN软件进行蛋白质的多序列比对以及一致性分析。系统进化树的构建采用MEGA 6软件中的Neighbor-Joining算法进行。使用ExPASy ProtParam tool (<http://www.expasy.org/prosite/>)来分析蛋白等电点、分子质量、亲水性等理化性质。使用TMHMM 2.0工具(<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TMHMM/>)进行跨膜结构域预测。使用SignalP 4.1软件(<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP-4.0/>)预测蛋白的信号肽。

### 1.5 实时荧光定量PCR检测

利用Real time RT-PCR检测马家柚辐射后退化和对照种子不同发育时期,以及正常幼苗不同组织部位WOX2基因的表达水平差异(Bio-Rad CFX 96 PCR,美国),使用的试剂来自TaKaRa生物公司的SYBR<sup>®</sup>Premix Ex Taq<sup>TM</sup>(Tli RNaseH Plus)的试剂盒。扩增引物为WOX2-F: 5'-TTCACGATGGAACCCGACAA-3', WOX2-R: 5'-TTCAGC-

GCTTGGTGTCTCAA-3', 利用柑橘 *Actin* 作为内参基因(*Actin-F*: 5'-AGAACTATGAACTGCCTGATGGC-3'; *Actin-R*: 5'-GCTTGGAGCAAGTGCTGT-GATT-3')。每个样品设置3次生物学重复,利用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 方法进行数据分析。

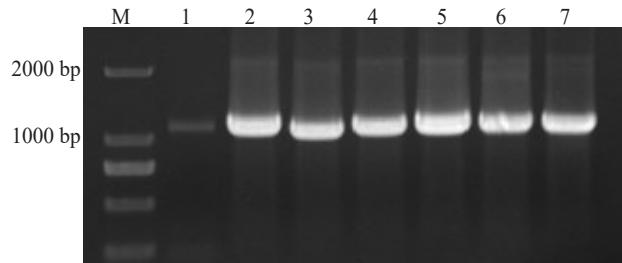
### 1.6 数据统计分析

采用WPS 2020对数据进行整理和绘制图表,采用SPSS 26.0进行显著性分析,并利用Duncan's法( $p<0.05$ )进行均值的多重比较,利用Student's *t*-test( $p<0.01$ )进行两者之间的比较。

## 2 结果与分析

### 2.1 柚 *WOX2* 基因的克隆和生物信息学分析

以马家柚叶片总RNA经反转录后的cDNA为模板,用特异性引物进行PCR扩增。产物经1.0%琼脂糖凝胶电泳获得长度为1100~1200 bp的单一条带。将该片段连接到pMD18-T载体上转化大肠杆菌感受态细胞,获得与前面PCR扩增到的目的片段大小一致的条带(图1)。



M. 2000 bp DNA Marker; 1~7. 样品序号。

M. 2000 bp DNA Marker; 1-7. The sample serial number.

图1 *CmWOX2* 扩增电泳分析

Fig. 1 Gel electrophoresis of PCR amplified product of *CmWOX2*

测序结果和生物信息学分析结果表明,*CmWOX2*基因(登录号:MG558352)克隆cDNA序列长度为1177 bp,含有750 bp的完整开放阅读框(open reading frame, ORF),编码249个氨基酸的蛋白;蛋白分子式为C<sub>1202</sub>H<sub>1859</sub>N<sub>345</sub>O<sub>383</sub>S<sub>14</sub>,分子质量为27.719 9 ku;含量最高的氨基酸是谷氨酸Gly(8.8%),含量最低的氨基酸是色氨酸Trp(0.8%),其中包含25个酸性氨基酸(Asp+Glu)和23个碱性氨基酸(Arg+Lys)。预测的等电点为6.30,不稳定指数为58.73,脂溶指数为55.26,总平均亲水性(GRAVY)为-0.770,推测其属于不稳定亲水性蛋白。通过CFSSP在线预测*CmWOX2*基因编码蛋白的二级结构(图2),结果表明,该蛋白含50.6%螺旋结构,60.2%折叠,16.1%环状结构。通过ExPASY在线推测*CmWOX2*基因编码蛋白的三维结构模型,结果(图3)表明,该蛋白大部分为螺旋结构和折叠结构,环状结构较少,预测得到的二、三级结构相似,这说明*CmWOX2*基因编码蛋白的预测结果是合理可信的。

将柚*CmWOX2*基因与甜橙*CsWOX2*基因、葡萄*VvWOX2*基因、核桃*JrWOX2*基因、橡胶树*HbWOX2*基因、木薯*MeWOX2*基因、马铃薯*StWOX2*基因和拟南芥*AtWOX2*基因编码的氨基酸序列进行多序列比对分析,结果(图4)发现,8种植物的*WOX2*基因编码的氨基酸在5' homeodomain区域高度保守,而在3' WUS-box区域*CmWOX2*基因、*CsWOX2*基因、*HbWOX2*基因、*MeWOX2*基因和*AtWOX2*基因编码的氨基酸一致,但与*VvWOX2*基因、*JrWOX2*基因和*StWOX2*基因编码的氨基酸存在差异。

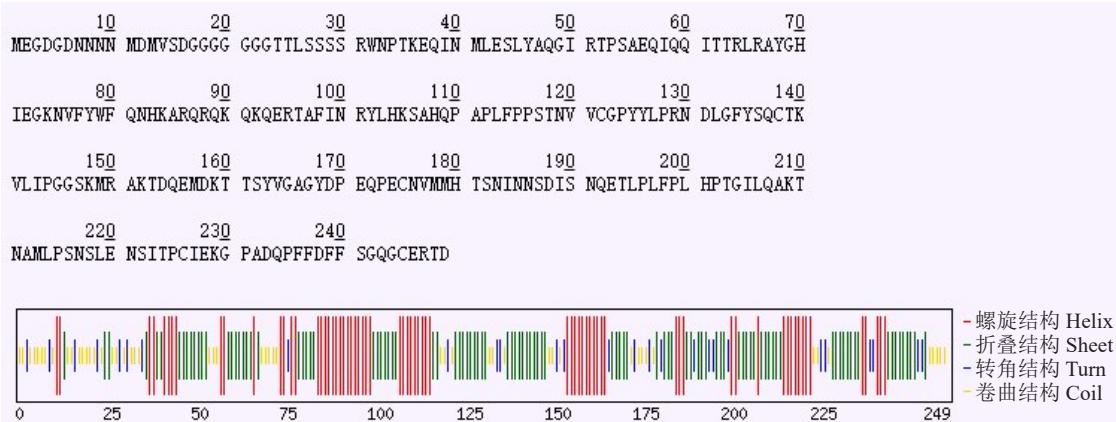
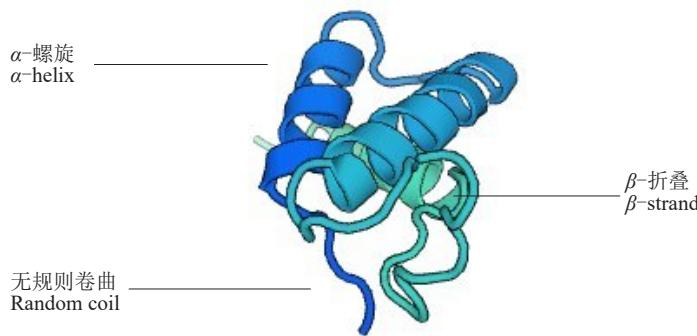
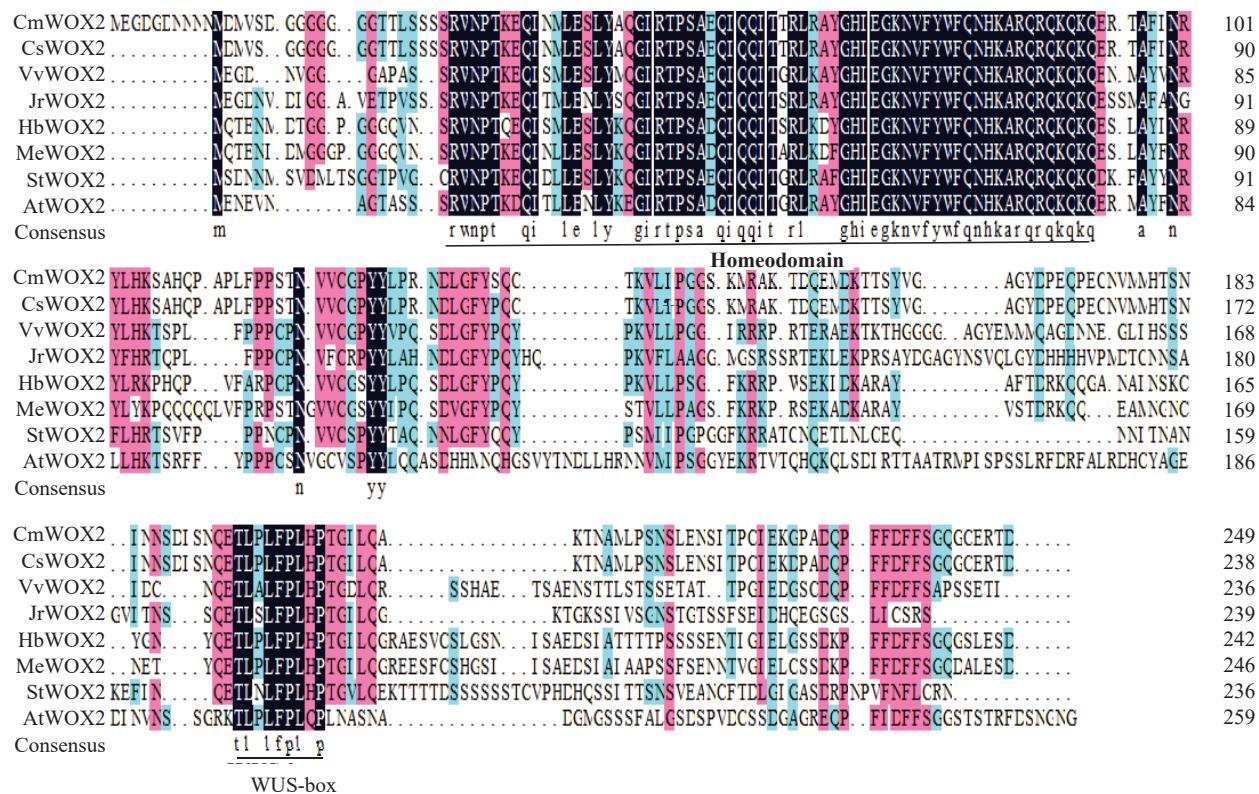


图2 *CmWOX2* 基因编码蛋白二级结构预测

Fig. 2 Secondary structure prediction of *CmWOX2* protein

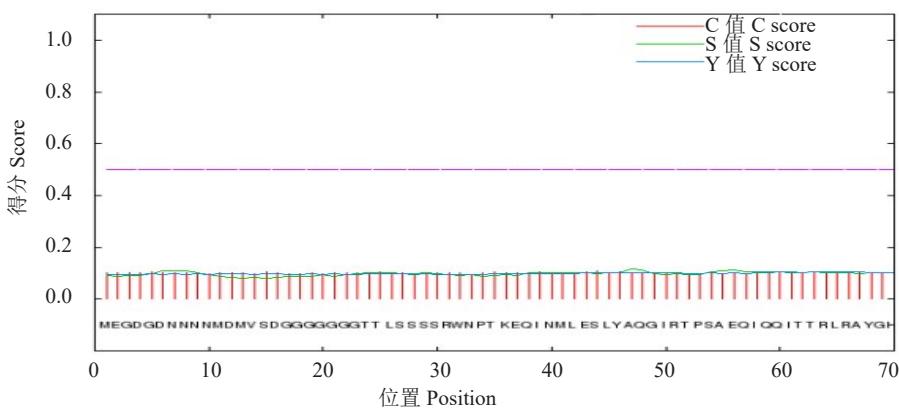
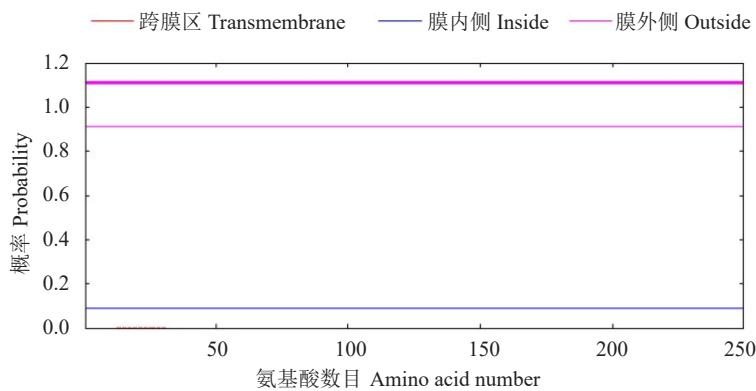
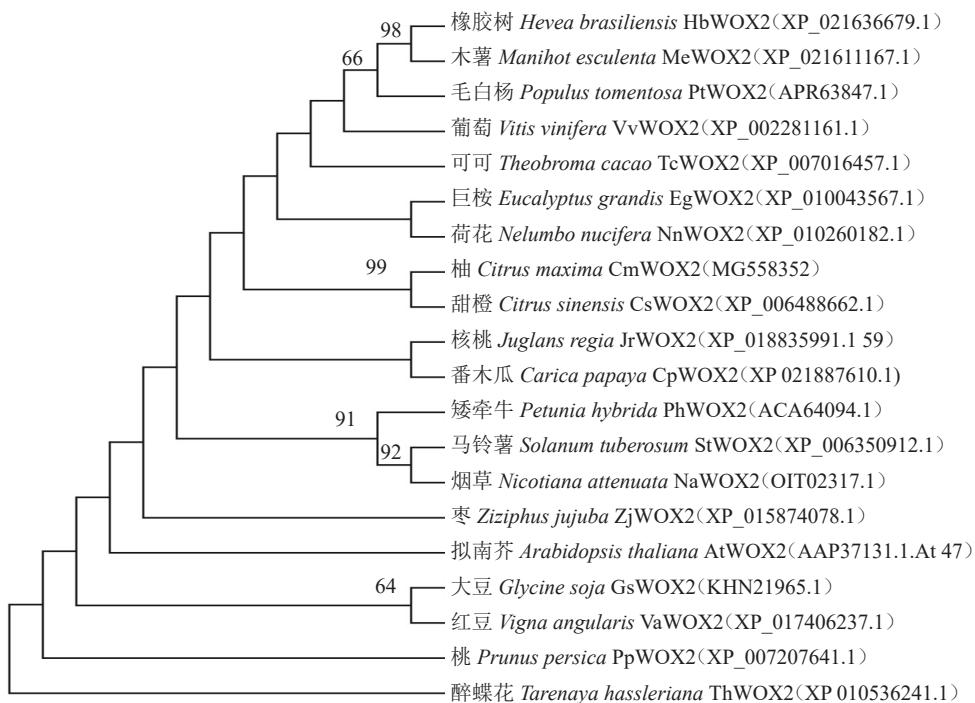
图 3 *CmWOX2* 基因编码蛋白三维结构预测模型Fig. 3 Predicted 3D structure model of *CmWOX2* protein

CmWOX2. 柚 *Citrus maxima* MG558352; CsWOX2. 甜橙 *Citrus sinensis* XP\_006488662.1; VvWOX2. 葡萄 *Vitis vinifera* XP\_002281161.1; JrWOX2. 核桃 *Juglans regia* XP\_018835991.1; HbWOX2. 橡胶树 *Hevea brasiliensis* XP\_021636679.1; MeWOX2. 木薯 *Manihot esculenta* XP\_021611167.1; StWOX2. 马铃薯 *Solanum tuberosum* XP\_006350912.1; AtWOX2. 拟南芥 *Arabidopsis thaliana* AAP37131.1。

图 4 不同物种 *WOX2* 基因编码的氨基酸序列多重比对Fig. 4 Multiple sequence alignment of *WOX2* gene amino acid sequences from different species

对 *CmWOX2* 基因编码的蛋白序列的跨膜结构域进行预测, 结果表明该蛋白无跨膜区(图 5)。*CmWOX2* 基因编码的蛋白信号肽利用 SignalP 4.0 Server 在线工具进行预测, 结果表明, 柚 *CmWOX2* 基因编码的蛋白不含信号肽, 预测其含有信号肽的概率为 0.101(图 6)。这表明 *CmWOX2* 基因编码蛋白不参与细胞信号转导过程。

为了进一步分析 *CmWOX2* 基因编码蛋白的进化关系, 利用 MEGA 5.0 对 *CmWOX2* 基因编码的蛋白与其他 20 种植物分别构建邻接法 NJ(neighbor joining)系统发育树。结果(图 7)表明, 柚 *CmWOX2* 基因与甜橙(*Citrus sinensis*)*CsWOX2* 基因编码的蛋白遗传距离最近, 与荷花(*Nelumbo nucifera*)*NnWOX2* 基因编码蛋白的遗传距离较近, 与大豆

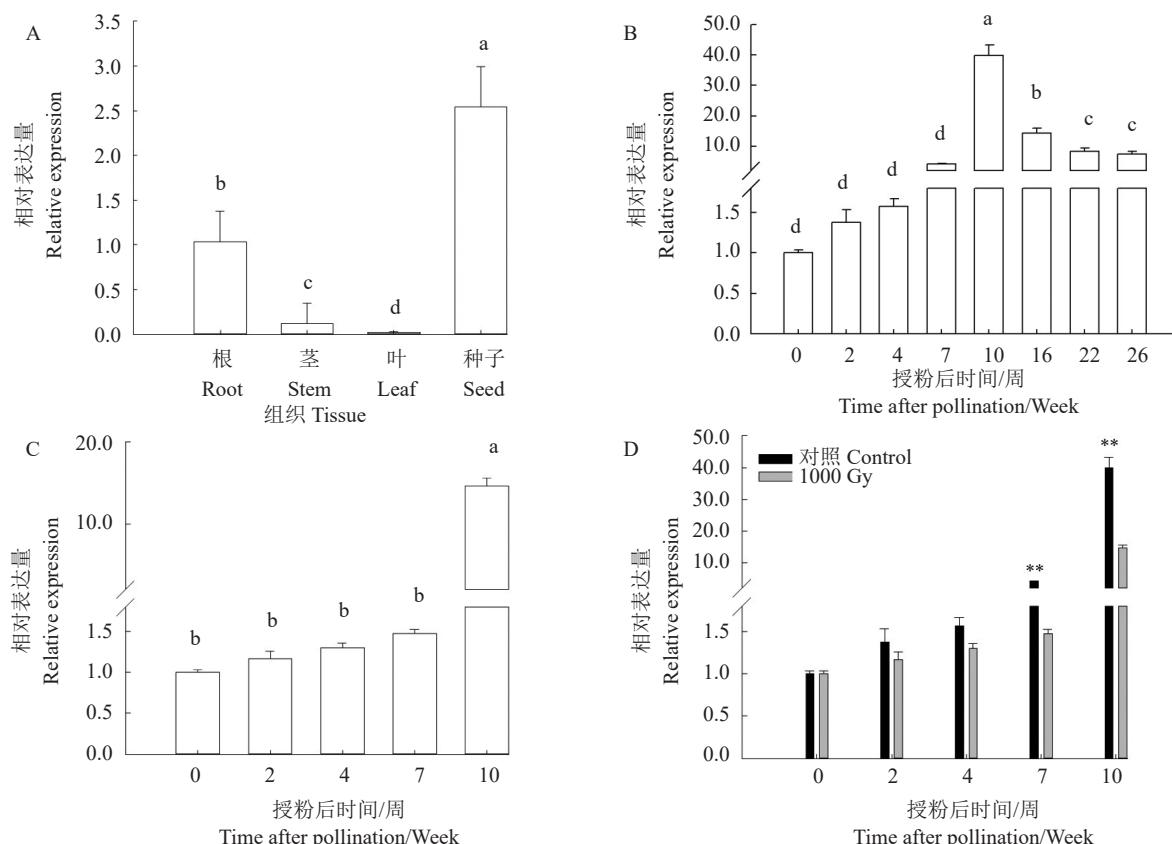
图 5 *CmWOX2* 基因编码的蛋白跨膜结构域预测Fig. 5 Transmembrane domain of *CmWOX2* predicted by TMHMM图 6 柚 *CmWOX2* 基因编码的蛋白信号肽预测Fig. 6 Prediction signal peptide of *CmWOX2* by signalP图 7 *CmWOX2* 基因与其他植物 *WOX2* 基因编码的蛋白系统进化关系Fig. 7 Phylogenetic relationship among *CmWOX2* and *WOX2* proteins of other species

(*Glycine soja*) *GsWOX2* 基因编码蛋白的遗传距离较远,与醉蝶花 (*Tarenaya hassleriana*) *ThWOX2* 基因编码蛋白的遗传距离最远。

## 2.2 *CmWOX2* 基因的时空表达分析

马家柚中 *CmWOX2* 基因时空表达分析结果(图 8)表明,该基因在种子和幼苗根、茎、叶中均有表达,在种子中的相对表达量最高,其次为根和茎,在叶中

相对表达量最低(图 8-A); *CmWOX2* 基因在未受精的子房中也出现表达,受精后在马家柚胚的发育过程中相对表达量开始增加,在 10 周达到最大值,之后随种子成熟逐渐下降(图 8-B);1000 Gy 辐射处理花粉果实中的种子在停止发育前一直呈上升趋势,而在此期间对照种子中的 *CmWOX2* 基因相对表达量一直都高于辐射处理,并在授粉 7 周和 10 周时呈



A. 幼苗时期 *CmWOX2* 在不同组织中的表达;B. 在对照(CK)种子发育过程中的表达;C. 在辐射(1000 Gy)种子发育过程中的表达;D. CK 和 1000 Gy 种子发育过程中相对表达量比较。误差条表示同一遗传背景下 3 个生物复制的标准误差。\*\* 表示基因表达水平的统计显著变化,使用 Student's *t*-检验确定( $p \leq 0.01$ )。不同小写字母表示在  $p < 0.05$  差异显著。

A. Expression of *CmWOX2* in different tissues at seedling period; B. Expression in CK seeds during development; C. Expression in 1000 Gy seeds during development; D. Comparison of the expression levels of CK and 1000 Gy during seed development. Error bars indicate standard errors of the three biological replicates in the same genetic background. \*\*. Statistically significant change in gene expression levels, determined using Student's *t*-test ( $p \leq 0.01$ ). Different small letters indicate significant difference at  $p < 0.05$ .

图 8 *CmWOX2* 基因在不同组织和发育期中的相对表达量

Fig. 8 Relative expression level of *CmWOX2* in different tissues and developmental stages

极显著差异。

## 3 讨 论

*WOX2* 基因已在多种植物中被研究,在胚胎的形成和发育过程中发挥着重要的作用。笔者从柚中克隆得到了 *CmWOX2* 基因,对其进行生物信息学分

析,氨基酸序列比对结果表明, *CmWOX2* 基因编码的氨基酸序列与其他物种具有很高的同源率,与葡萄 *VvWOX2* 基因和马铃薯 *StWOX2* 基因编码的氨基酸序列的 homeobox 区域相似性达 93.65% 和 92.06%,并且 *CmWOX2* 基因编码的氨基酸序列具有 WOX 家族现代进化支所特有的 homeodomain 和

WUS-box 这 2 个特异结构,说明所克隆的 *CmWOX2* 基因是柚 WOX 家族的成员。同时发现不同物种间 *WOX2* 基因编码的氨基酸序列在 5' homeodomain 区域高度保守,也预示着其具有类似的功能。*WOX2* 基因编码的氨基酸在 WOX 家族中属于现代进化支,现代进化支不仅含有 HD 结构域,还有一个 WUS-box 结构域(一般形式是 T-L-X-L-F-P-X-X, X 代表任意氨基酸),这是其他进化支没有的<sup>[18]</sup>。

前人研究结果表明,*WOX2* 基因在胚胎的形成和发育过程中发挥着重要的作用,并且可以作为标记基因来研究植物胚胎的发育<sup>[19]</sup>。笔者在本研究中通过荧光实时定量 PCR 的方法检测了马家柚中 *CmWOX2* 基因的时空表达差异,结果表明 *CmWOX2* 基因在种子中的相对表达量最高,其次是根组织,而茎和叶片中相对表达量非常低。*WOX2* 基因在胚胎发育过程中的作用,主要表现在早期。Palovaara 等<sup>[14]</sup>以挪威云杉为试验材料,研究了 *WOX2* 基因在不同时期的表达情况,结果显示 *WOX2* 基因在胚胎发育早期相对表达量较高,至胚胎发育成熟时其表达水平显著降低,此外 Park 等<sup>[20]</sup>以黑松为试验材料也获得了相似的结果。霍胜楠<sup>[21]</sup>研究了 *WOX2* 基因在水稻胚不同发育时期的相对表达量,表明 *WOX2* 基因在幼胚中相对表达量较高,随着胚发育成熟,表达水平逐渐降低。通过前期对马家柚种子进行解剖学研究的结果可知,马家柚正常种子与其他柚类相似,在授粉后 7~10 周期间,胚经历了球形胚到子叶胚的发育过程,16 周后种子成熟<sup>[17,22]</sup>。而在本研究中,与前人研究结果一致,*CmWOX2* 基因在合子中就开始表达,随着胚发育相对表达量逐渐升高,在球形胚到子叶胚发育关键时期达到最大值,之后随种子和胚成熟相对表达量逐渐下降。

授粉辐射花粉获得无核果实的方法已在西瓜<sup>[23]</sup>、金橘<sup>[24]</sup>以及土佐文旦柚<sup>[25]</sup>上进行了相关研究,并获得了无核、少核的果实。在前期研究中通过此方法,也已成功获得了早期胚胎退化的无核马家柚果实,使之成为了研究 *CmWOX2* 基因非常适合的材料<sup>[24]</sup>。通过表达分析发现,无核果实中的败育种子在退化前 *CmWOX2* 基因表达水平大致呈上升趋势,但明显低于正常种子,并且在授粉后 7~10 周(胚发育关键时期)表现出极显著差异。以上结果都证明 *CmWOX2* 基因在马家柚胚胎的形成发育过程中发挥着至关重要的作用,并且通过花粉辐射获得的无

核果实中 *CmWOX2* 基因相对表达量下降与胚发育异常密切相关。

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