

# 采后跃变型果实软化与果胶降解的研究进展

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**摘要:**呼吸跃变型果实采后会在出现呼吸高峰后迅速成熟衰老软化, 影响其营养价值与商品价值, 而造成其软化的现象与细胞壁果胶的降解相关。笔者在本文中结合国内外最新研究进展, 介绍了水果细胞壁中果胶的组成及其分子结构, 综述了水果软化过程中水溶性果胶(WSP)、离子可溶性果胶(ISP)和共价可溶性果胶(CSP)等成分的含量变化, 归纳了软化时果胶甲酯酶(PME)、多聚半乳糖醛酸酶(PG)、果胶裂解酶(PL)和 $\beta$ -半乳糖苷酶( $\beta$ -GAL)的活性及相应基因表达水平的变化与调控, 为采后呼吸跃变型果实保鲜新技术的研发提供理论参考。

**关键词:**采后水果; 呼吸跃变; 软化; 果胶降解; 果胶酶

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## Research progress on postharvest fruit softening and pectin degradation in climacteric fruits

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**Abstract:** As an important part of the daily diet, fruits are an important source of vitamin a, vitamin c and dietary fiber. However, fresh fruits are difficult to preserve and will spoil and rot quickly, especially the fruits with respiratory climacteric. This kind of fruits rapidly ripen and soften after the peak of respiration, which not only affects their texture, taste and nutritional value, but also causes the loss of commercial value. The softening process is believed to be related to the degradation of cell wall pectin. Pectin in the cell wall is a kind of complex acidic polysaccharide with D-galacturonic acid as the main component connected by 1, 4-glycosidic bonds, contributing to the adhesion between cells and the mechanical strength of cells. Currently the smooth and hairy region model is the most recognized pectin structure, which consists of four structural domains-homogalacturonans, rhamnogalacturonan I, rhamnogalacturonan II and xylogalacturonan. Studies have found that the process of fruit ripening and softening is often related to changes in pectin composition. The degree of esterification of pectin and polymerization will decrease. The insoluble protopectin degrades to form soluble pectin and pectic acid, and intercellular adhesion decreases, resulting in softening of the fruit. For example, alkaline soluble pectin is more in the early stage of maturity while water soluble pectin is more in the later stage of maturity in tomato. One of the main reasons for fruit softening is the degradation of pectin, which is catalyzed by specific pectinase including pectin methylesterase (PME), polygalacturonase (PG), pectate lyases (PL) and  $\beta$ -galactosidase ( $\beta$ -GAL). The main function of PME is to act on the methyl esterified carboxyl group to

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form methanol and polygalacturonic acid. PG is a key enzyme for the softening of most fruits with respiratory climacteric. Its role is to hydrolyze the glycosidic bond of demethylated polygalacturonic acid residues to produce galacturonic acid. PL degrades pectin polymers directly by  $\beta$ -elimination mechanism that results in the formation of 4,5-unsaturated oligogalacturonides, promoting the process of fruit softening. There are two kinds of  $\beta$ -GAL. One acts on the  $\beta$ -(1, 3) and  $\beta$ -(1, 6) glycosidic bonds of arabinogalactan, and the other acts exclusively on the  $\beta$ -(1, 4) galactosidic bonds of pectin branched chains. Both of them are related to the strength of cell wall structure. The activities of the four pectinases will change when fruits mature, and generally show a trend of first rising and then falling. Among them, the activity of  $\beta$ -GAL changes in the early post-harvest period, which is earlier than the change of PG and PME, and it may have a greater impact on fruit softening than the other enzymes. Activities of all kinds of enzymes are regulated by genes. It is helpful to clarify the molecular mechanism of fruit softening by studying the expression of related genes and the activity changes of various pectinases. Several genes related to pectinase have been reported. For PME, 71 genes have been found in peach. The expression of *Solyc03g083360*, *Solyc07g071600* and *Solyc12g098340* increased at maturity, which may be related to softening of tomato. PG genes are classified into 3 major clades by phylogenetic analysis and each clade contains PG genes that involved in fruit softening. Exogenous ethylene and 1-MCP mainly regulate the enzyme activity by affecting the expression of PG genes, which in turn affects the ripening and softening of fruits. The *SIPL* is involved in the ripening and softening of tomato and silencing it can inhibit the expression of genes related to cell wall degradation and slow down the fruit softening. There are many expression patterns of  $\beta$ -GAL gene, some of which have high expression level at maturity, some have high expression level at fruit development, while others always maintain a low level. In general, PME genes are up-regulated during cold storage and highly expressed when the fruit is ripe. PG genes are mainly expressed at maturity, and the gene expression level increases first and then decreases with fruit maturation. The change in gene expression level is consistent with the change in PG enzyme activity. PL genes are mainly expressed before fruit ripening and softening, and some members show high levels of expression at the end of ripening. Most of the  $\beta$ -GAL genes are expressed at the beginning of ripening and early fruit softening. Studying the relationship between fruit softening and cell wall pectin degradation and revealing its mechanism will contribute to the formulation of postharvest fruit preservation strategies so as to prolong fruit shelf life and maintain good fruit quality and commerciality. In this paper, the composition and molecular structure of pectin in plants are summarized according to the latest research progress at home and abroad, and the degradation of pectin in cell wall during the softening process is introduced. At the same time, the mechanisms of pectin degradation and fruit softening are revealed from pectin degradation, pectinase activity and the expression level of related genes.

**Key words:** Postharvest fruit; Respiratory climacteric; Softening; Pectin degradation; Pectinase

水果是人们日常饮食中不可或缺的部分,也是维生素、膳食纤维等营养的重要来源,但是采后水果仍具生命特征,不断成熟衰老,特别是呼吸跃变型果实的自身呼吸作用不断进行,采后果实硬度也随之下降,达到一定临界值后品质发生劣变,影响其品质与商品性。植物细胞壁主要由多糖和蛋白质组成,其中约90%的成分为多糖,而多糖主要包括纤维素、

半纤维素和果胶三大类<sup>[1]</sup>。有研究将植物细胞壁描述为长、薄而坚硬的纤维素微纤维丝群,半纤维素有可能与一部分纤维素微纤维丝结合,果胶填充在各微纤维丝间的空隙中,果胶的存在有助于增强细胞间的黏附和细胞的机械强度<sup>[2]</sup>。不同植物细胞壁中的果胶含量差异很大,双子叶植物的原代细胞壁中约含有35%的果胶,草类含有2%~10%的果胶,一些水果和

蔬菜中果胶的含量则更高<sup>[3]</sup>。对于不同的植物体细胞,如木质部、韧皮部和厚壁组织等的细胞壁,主要由纤维素、半纤维素和木质素构成,与其他组织相比,含水量更低、刚性更强,果胶含量也更低<sup>[4]</sup>。

诸多研究表明,呼吸跃变型果实的软化与果胶的降解有着密切的联系,果实软化时细胞壁成分发生去酯化和解聚等修饰作用,变化最大的细胞壁成分果胶多糖<sup>[5]</sup>,其中有多种果胶修饰酶起到了重要作用<sup>[6]</sup>。果胶含量与果实硬度密切相关,果实软化时高度甲基化和乙酰化的原果胶降解,形成可溶性果胶和甲基化程度低、酯化度低的果胶酸<sup>[7]</sup>。研究发现,油柿<sup>[8]</sup>、杧果<sup>[9]</sup>等多种植物果实在成熟软化过程中伴随着原果胶含量降低,水溶性果胶和离子可溶性果胶含量上升以及果胶裂解酶、果胶甲酯酶活性增强等过程。模式植物番茄的细胞壁变化已被广泛研究,在成熟时其内果皮的细胞间隙较大、HG钙基细胞黏附水平降低,同时伴随着一系列细胞壁修饰酶的表达和活性变化<sup>[10]</sup>。

笔者在本文中总结了植物细胞壁中果胶的组成及其分子结构,综述了水果软化过程中果胶的降解规律,同时阐述了果胶酶活性及其相关基因调控机制,以期为今后深入研究果胶降解与果实软化提供参考。

## 1 果胶的组成与分子结构

果胶是一类以D-半乳糖醛酸为主要成分,通过1,4-糖苷键连接而成的复杂酸性多糖物质<sup>[11]</sup>,主要由大量的半乳糖、阿拉伯糖和鼠李糖组成,具有无毒、成膜能力强、可生物降解等优点,是一种良好的食品生物基包衣基质<sup>[12]</sup>。由于果胶结构复杂,同时缺乏有效的果胶原位观察技术,针对其结构模型的假说也较多,目前受到广泛认可的是“平滑区和毛发区”模型<sup>[13]</sup>。

### 1.1 果胶分子的主要结构域

目前的研究认为果胶分子的结构单元主要包括半乳糖醛酸聚糖(HG)(图1)、鼠李半乳糖醛酸聚糖I型(RG-I)(图2)、鼠李半乳糖醛酸聚糖II型(RG-II)(图3)以及木糖半乳糖醛酸聚糖(XGA)(图4)<sup>[16]</sup>。

HG是最早被分离出来的结构单元,是由半乳糖醛酸通过 $\alpha$ -1,4-糖苷键连接的、无分支侧链的聚合物,大约占果胶总量的65%(图1)<sup>[17]</sup>。HG的单糖

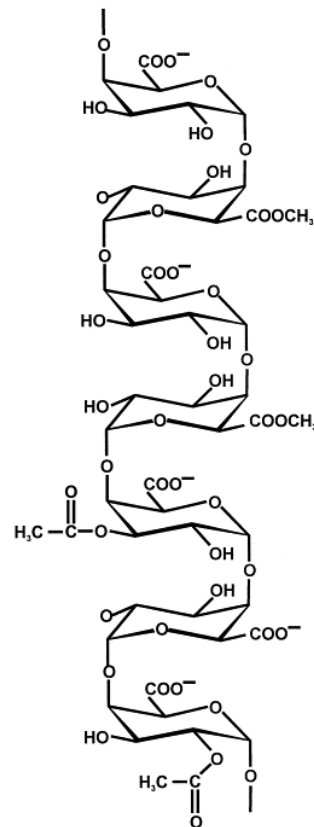


图1 HG结构域的结构简图<sup>[14]</sup>

Fig. 1 Structure diagram of HG domains<sup>[14]</sup>

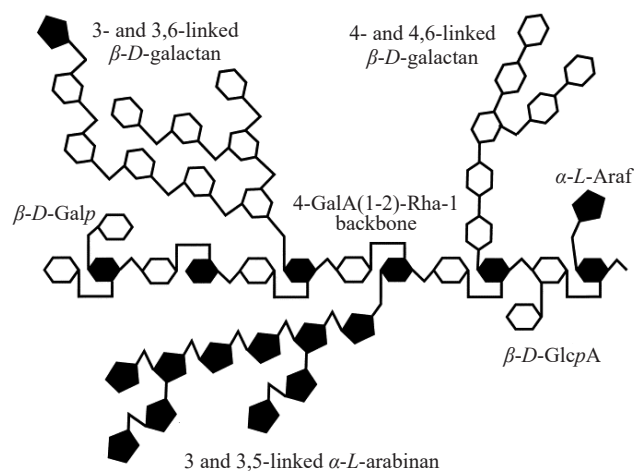
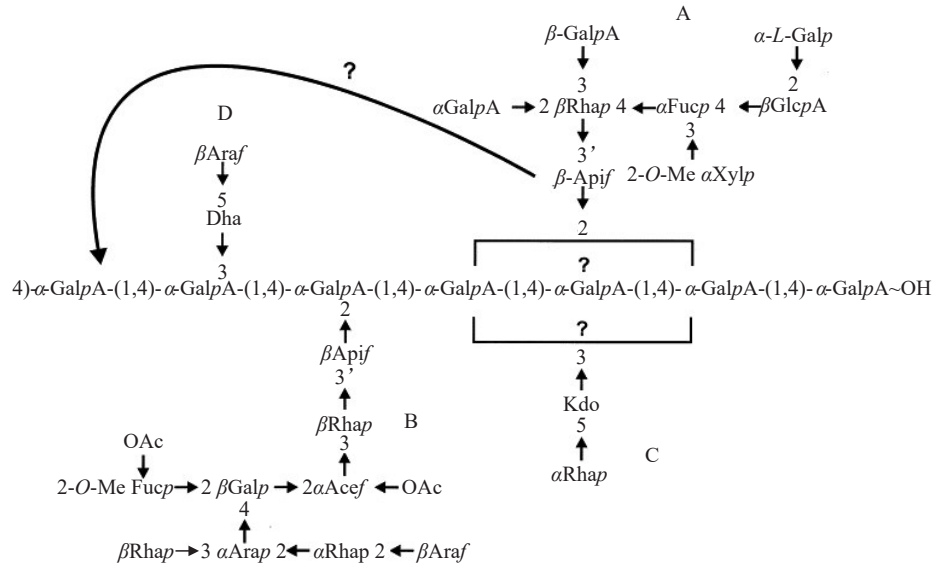


图2 RG-I结构域的结构简图<sup>[14]</sup>

Fig. 2 Structure diagram of RG-I domains<sup>[14]</sup>

C-6可以被甲基化或酰胺化,C-2或者C-3位点也可以被乙酰化<sup>[18]</sup>,而甲基化和乙酰化的位点与修饰程度则主要取决于植物的种类<sup>[17]</sup>。

RG-I是一类具有侧链的结构域,也是果胶结构中最复杂的一类多糖,其主链由[-2- $\alpha$ -Rha-1 $\rightarrow$ 4- $\alpha$ -D-GalA-1-]的重复单元所构成(图2)。侧链以阿拉伯糖、半乳糖为主,并且其结构也会随着植物的生长



图中数字代表糖苷键的连接位置。

The number in figure represented the position of the glycosidic bond.

图 3 RG-II 结构域的结构简图<sup>[14]</sup>

Fig. 3 Structure diagram of RG-II domains<sup>[14]</sup>

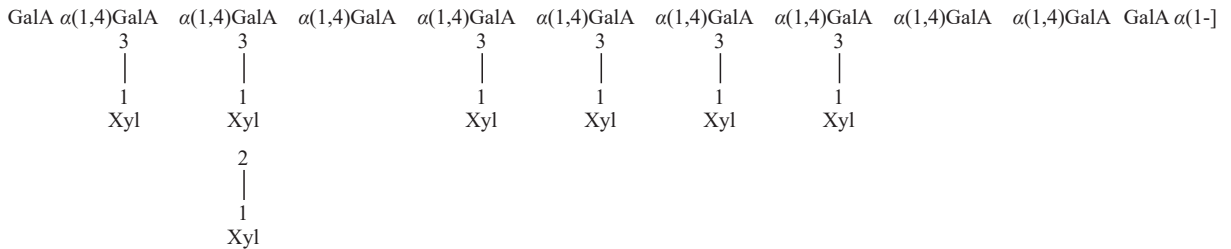


图 4 XGA 结构域的结构简图<sup>[15]</sup>

Fig. 4 Structure diagram of XGA domains<sup>[15]</sup>

发育而发生改变<sup>[19]</sup>。

RG-II 同样是一类复杂的、具有侧链的果胶结构域,总共含有 11 种不同的糖残基(图 3)。RG-II 的主链骨架是由 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-半乳糖醛酸残基组成的,侧链由 1 条八糖链(A)、1 条非糖链(B)以及 2 条不同的二糖链(C 和 D)组成<sup>[18]</sup>。

XGA 的主链为 HG 型结构域(图 4),其中部分半乳糖醛酸的 O-3 位取代有非还原型的木糖或者连接有一条含有 2~8 个木糖的支链,木糖支链上大多还连接着阿拉伯糖、半乳糖以及岩藻糖<sup>[20]</sup>。XGA 结构域存在于植物的茎、叶以及生殖器官中,可能与植物的多种功能密切相关<sup>[21]</sup>。

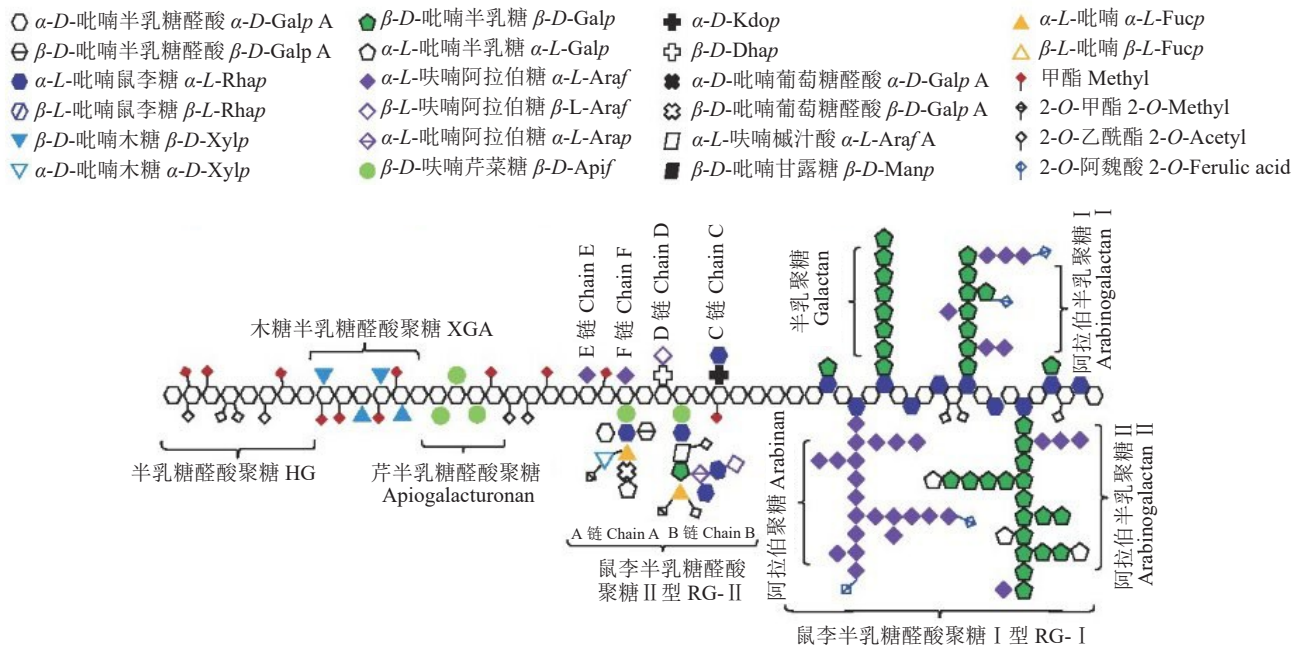
### 1.2 “平滑区和毛发区”模型

“平滑区与毛发区”模型(图 5<sup>[22]</sup>)可以很好地解释不同植物细胞壁中的果胶结构,因此是目前受到较多认可的一类果胶结构模型。该模型认为果胶结

构中具有一条主链,并含单条或多条支链<sup>[23]</sup>。主链的骨架结构由 4 个主要的结构域交替连接而成,分别是半乳糖醛酸聚糖(homogalacturonans, HG)、鼠李半乳糖醛酸聚糖 I 型(rhamnogalacturonan I, RG-I)、鼠李半乳糖醛酸聚糖 II 型(rhamnogalacturonan II, RG-II)和木糖半乳糖醛酸聚糖(xylogalacturonan, XGA)<sup>[20]</sup>。其中,平滑区由无分支的 HG 结构域组成,而带有分支侧链的 RG-I、RG-II 或 XGA 在主链上有规律地重复出现,并且大多位于主链末端,组成毛发区<sup>[22]</sup>。

## 2 果实软化时果胶成分的变化

果胶在植物的根、茎、叶和果实等器官中均有分布,其主要以原果胶、果胶酸和果胶的形式分布<sup>[24]</sup>。根据果胶的溶解特性,利用不同的提取溶剂,不同的果胶成分可以被分离得到。利用去离子水、螯合剂

图5 “平滑区与毛发区”模型示意图<sup>[22]</sup>Fig. 5 Schematic diagram of smooth and hairy regions model<sup>[22]</sup>

和稀碱溶液提取,可以相应得到水溶性果胶(water soluble pectin, WSP)、离子可溶性果胶(ionic soluble pectin, ISP)和共价可溶性果胶(covalent soluble pectin, CSP)<sup>[25]</sup>。在果实软化过程中,细胞壁的果胶会发生降解,变化主要是果胶酯化程度降低和长链聚合度降低,不溶性的原果胶降解形成可溶性果胶和果胶酸<sup>[26]</sup>,细胞初生壁解体,胞间黏合度降低,分区逐渐消失,最终导致果实软化<sup>[27]</sup>。研究表明,果实的硬度与细胞壁果胶的成分有着密切关系,其中硬度与WSP含量之间存在着显著的负相关关系,WSP含量较高而CSP含量较低的果实硬度较低,反之则果实的硬度较高<sup>[28]</sup>;Ren等<sup>[29]</sup>发现番荔枝(跃变型)成熟软化时果胶降解,WSP以及低分子质量的果胶成分迅速增加,果实迅速软化;Song等<sup>[30]</sup>报道果实硬度与WSP含量呈负相关关系,3种西洋梨Starkrimson、Bartlett和Abbe Fetel(跃变型)在成熟软化时WSP含量增加。

植物果胶中碱溶性果胶(alkaline soluble pectin, ASP)通常由高分子质量的原果胶和高甲氧基化的不溶性果胶酸组成,草酸溶性果胶(oxalate soluble pectin, OSP)和WSP通常由低甲氧基化的果胶酸组成。果实成熟时,在果胶酶的作用下,高分子质量、高甲氧基化的果胶被分解为低分子质量、可溶于水的果胶,细胞壁结构被破坏,最终导致果实的软化,

以典型的呼吸跃变型果实为例,番茄(跃变型)果实成熟时细胞壁中WSP含量随着时间的延长逐渐增加,原果胶含量逐渐下降<sup>[31]</sup>;菠萝蜜(跃变型)的原果胶在采后第2天迅速下降,同时可溶性果胶达到最大值<sup>[32]</sup>。桑椹(跃变型)细胞壁中含有约10.95%的果胶成分<sup>[33]</sup>,贮藏期间桑椹果实会迅速软化,在4℃低温贮藏10d以后,大十和白玉王桑椹果实的细胞壁物质含量分别减少为原来的78.4%和80.9%<sup>[34]</sup>。

近年来,利用细胞壁成分的无标记、可视化技术来获取软化过程中的信息在细胞壁研究领域取得了一定的进展,这是一类可以快速获取大量果实信息的方法。Huang等<sup>[35]</sup>采用了共焦拉曼显微镜(CRM)、傅里叶变换红外显微镜(FTIRM)和受激拉曼散射显微术(SRS)3种方法,实现了对水蜜桃(跃变型)在单细胞和大细胞水平上的可视化观测,并研究了果实软化过程中果胶等多种细胞壁成分的变化情况,在细胞层面上为研究果实软化提供更直观的认识。

### 3 果实软化相关酶活性的变化

果实软化主要原因之一是细胞壁中原果胶降解为可溶性果胶,而这些过程都要依靠特定的果胶酶来催化,目前已经发现的降解果胶的酶类主要有果胶甲酯酶(PME)、多聚半乳糖醛酸酶(PG)、果胶裂解酶(PL)以及 $\beta$ -半乳糖苷酶( $\beta$ -GAL)<sup>[36]</sup>。

### 3.1 果胶甲酯酶(PME)

PME的主要作用是水解果胶中甲酯化的羧基,使糖醛酸残基生成甲醇和聚半乳糖醛酸,进而可以被PG等作用降解<sup>[37]</sup>。PME活性影响着果实的软化过程,Sanchez等<sup>[38]</sup>发现番木瓜(跃变型)成熟过程中PME活性先显著下降再显著上升,并利用麦克斯韦模型解释了番木瓜质地变化与PME活性之间的相关性,Dong等<sup>[39]</sup>发现在欧洲Comice梨的WSP和CSP含量在储存时增加,PME活性先上升后下降,1-MCP处理可以显著降低其酶活性。

在不同呼吸类型果实的软化过程中,PME的贡献程度不完全一致,因此其活性变化也不完全相同。在葡萄果实(非跃变型)中,贮藏期间PME的活性持续上升,60 d后活性是初始值的5倍多<sup>[40]</sup>;在番木瓜果实中,PME的活性为峰型变化趋势,贮藏20 d后出现活性高峰<sup>[41]</sup>。

### 3.2 多聚半乳糖醛酸酶(PG)

PG是一类细胞结合蛋白,依据作用方式的不同分为内切半乳糖醛酸酶和外切半乳糖醛酸酶,其主要作用是水解去甲酯化的多聚半乳糖醛酸残基的糖苷键,产生半乳糖醛酸,破坏细胞壁的结构,使果实软化。针对大多数呼吸跃变型果实,PG是果实软化的关键酶,其活性在果实成熟软化过程中有显著提高,王倩等<sup>[42]</sup>研究结果表明,2种番茄在贮藏第9天PG活性达到最大( $895.72 \text{ U} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ 和 $574.68 \text{ U} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ )。另外还有一部分果实属于例外,比如冬枣(非跃变型),Zhao等<sup>[43]</sup>发现贮藏75 d后冬枣硬度下降了约10%,PG活性从 $3.4 \text{ U} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ (第35天)迅速升高至 $5.6 \text{ U} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ (第75天),呈现出延迟但显著的升高趋势;而Tian等<sup>[44]</sup>则发现半红果中PG活性总体高于白熟果,但在常温下PG酶并没有出现明显的活性高峰,这表明虽然PG参与了果实的软化过程,但并非启动酶,可能是其中的诱导酶;桑椹中PG活性在第II快速生长期的早期即达到峰值,在随后的成熟过程中又逐渐降低,说明了PG在桑椹果实软化中未起到关键作用<sup>[45]</sup>。

### 3.3 果胶裂解酶(PL)

PL的作用原理是通过 $\beta$ -反式消除作用降解果胶分子平滑区去甲酯化的HG的 $\alpha$ -1,4-糖苷键,并在非还原性末端生成含不饱和和半乳糖醛酸残基的寡聚糖<sup>[46]</sup>。在果实成熟过程中,PL主要通过降解植物细胞壁中的去甲酯化果胶促进果实的软化<sup>[47]</sup>。

PL最先在香蕉(跃变型)的成熟过程中被发现,

Zhu等<sup>[48]</sup>发现在香蕉的呼吸跃变早期PL活性开始出现并稳定升高,到第15天达到峰值,随后逐渐下降。在芒果成熟过程中PL活性显著提高,表现出先上升后下降的趋势,在储存第8天达到峰值,电子束处理可以显著降低PL活性(约50%)<sup>[49]</sup>,1-甲基环丙烯(1-MCP)也可以抑制PL活性的升高,而外源乙烯可以提高PL活性的峰值(约7%)<sup>[50]</sup>。番茄贮藏过程中PL活性总体上呈现先上升后下降的趋势,乙烯利可以提高PL活性,促进果实软化,而NO则相反,可以将整个贮藏期间的PL活性抑制在较低的水平,延缓果实的软化<sup>[51]</sup>。

### 3.4 $\beta$ -半乳糖苷酶( $\beta$ -GAL)

$\beta$ -GAL属于糖基水解酶35家族,根据其作用方式分成2类,一类作用于阿拉伯半乳糖上 $\beta$ -半乳糖苷的 $\beta$ -(1,3)和 $\beta$ -(1,6)糖苷键,另一类专一性地作用于果胶支链上的 $\beta$ -(1,4)半乳糖苷键。 $\beta$ -GAL与细胞壁的加固或者松弛相关<sup>[52]</sup>,主要通过水解果胶中的半乳糖影响果实的软化过程。 $\beta$ -GAL活性在果实采后初期就开始升高,比PG和PME更早,同时它和果实硬度之间的相关性远远高于PG和PME,与细胞壁组分的变化存在显著相关性,这表明 $\beta$ -GAL对果实软化的作用可能大于PG和PME<sup>[53]</sup>。

不同于其他几种酶活性, $\beta$ -GAL活性在果实的未成熟期和成熟早期均相对较高,而随着果实的成熟其活性逐渐下降<sup>[49]</sup>,甜瓜中 $\beta$ -GAL活性在采后1 d便迅速达到峰值,随后逐渐下降<sup>[54]</sup>,湿苞菠萝蜜成熟软化时 $\beta$ -GAL活性在成熟第III阶段达到最高值( $0.232 \text{ U} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ),到果实完全成熟时又下降到 $0.110 \text{ U} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ <sup>[55]</sup>,这表明 $\beta$ -GAL主要在软化早期起作用,对软化早期的影响更为明显。

## 4 果实软化相关酶基因

水果的成熟、软化是受基因调控的酶促和非酶促机制导致细胞壁物质变化的结果。尽管有证据表明,非酶促机制可以促进果胶聚合物的降解,但它们对软化的总体作用仍不清楚<sup>[56]</sup>。酶促反应造成果胶降解仍然是导致采后果实软化的主要原因。借助分子生物学手段,研究果实软化过程中相关基因的表达和各类果胶酶的活性变化,有助于明晰水果软化背后的分子机制,从而对成熟和软化过程进行干扰和调控,开发水果保鲜技术。表1展示了部分呼吸跃变型果实中果胶酶相关基因在软化时的表达情况。

表 1 不同呼吸跃变型果实软化相关基因的表达情况

Table 1 Expression of genes related to fruit softening in different climacteric fruits

酶 Enzyme	果实 Fruit	基因名称 Gene name	成熟软化时基因的表达 Gene expression at maturity
果胶甲酯酶 Pectin methylesterase, PME	杏(跃变型) Apricot (Climacteric)	<i>PaPME1</i>	低温冷藏期间 <i>PaPME1</i> 的表达持续增加,并在35 d达到最高水平 <sup>[57]</sup> 。 The expression of <i>PaPME1</i> continued to increase during cold storage and reached its highest level on day 35 <sup>[57]</sup> .
	番茄(跃变型) Tomato (Climacteric)	<i>Solyc03g083360</i> <i>Solyc07g071600</i> <i>Solyc12g098340</i>	三者果实成熟过程中均表现出了高表达 <sup>[58]</sup> 。 All three showed high expression during fruit ripening <sup>[58]</sup> .
	杏(跃变型) Apricot (Climacteric)	<i>PaPME38</i> <sup>[58]</sup>	<i>PaPME38</i> 在前14 d保持低水平,从14~35 d其表达水平显著增加 <sup>[59]</sup> 。 <i>PaPME38</i> remained low during the first 14 days, and its expression level increased significantly from 14 to 35 days <sup>[59]</sup> .
多聚半乳糖醛酸酶 Polygalacturonase, PG	杏(跃变型) Apricot (Climacteric)	<i>PaPG1</i>	低温冷藏时 <i>PaPG1</i> 在较低水平上缓慢增加,从14 d开始迅速增加至35 d达到峰值 <sup>[57]</sup> 。 The expression of <i>PaPG1</i> increased slowly at a low level during cold storage, and increased rapidly from the 14th day to the peak at the 35th day <sup>[57]</sup> .
	梨(跃变型) Pear (Climacteric)	61 <i>PbrPGs</i>	<i>PbrPG6</i> , 35 和 42 在果实成熟时表达增加; <i>PbrPG37</i> 和 38 在果实成熟时表达下降; <i>PbrPG4</i> , 33 和 46 在成熟早期下降后上升; <i>PbrPG2</i> , 13, 17, 37, 47, 49, 55 和 61 则在成熟早期上升后下降 <sup>[60]</sup> 。 The expression of <i>PbrPG6</i> , 35 and 42 increased at maturity; The expression of <i>PbrPG37</i> and 38 decreased at maturity; The expression of <i>PbrPG4</i> , 33 and 46 decreased first and then increased in early maturity; The expression of <i>PbrPG2</i> , 13, 17, 37, 47, 49, 55 and 61 increased and then decreased in early maturity <sup>[60]</sup> .
	猕猴桃(跃变型) Kiwifruit (Climacteric)	<i>AcPG4</i> <i>AcPG8</i> <i>AcPG18</i>	<i>AcPG4</i> 、 <i>AcPG8</i> 和 <i>AcPG18</i> 的转录水平先迅速增加,而后下降,并且与PG活性变化趋势相类似 <sup>[61]</sup> 。 The transcription levels of <i>AcPG4</i> , <i>AcPG8</i> and <i>AcPG18</i> increased rapidly at first and then decreased, which was similar to the change of PG activity <sup>[61]</sup> .
果胶裂解酶 Pectate lyases, PL	苹果(跃变型) Apple (Climacteric)	<i>MdPG1</i>	保存7 d后苹果中 <i>MdPG1</i> 表达增加了2~3倍 <sup>[62]</sup> 。 After 7 days of storage, the expression of <i>MdPG1</i> in apples increased by 2-3 times <sup>[62]</sup> .
	桃(跃变型) Peach (Climacteric)	<i>PpPL1</i>	<i>PpPL1</i> 在桃采后软化开始前表现出较高的表达量,随后逐渐下降 <sup>[63]</sup> 。 <i>PpPL1</i> showed a higher expression level before the start of peach softening, and then gradually decreased <sup>[63]</sup> .
	乌桃(跃变型) Peach (Climacteric)	<i>PpPL</i>	果实成熟前 <i>PpPL</i> 几乎没有表达,成熟末期表达水平显著提高,为成熟后期的6.9倍 <sup>[64]</sup> 。 There was almost no expression of <i>PpPL</i> before maturity, but the expression at the end of maturity significantly increased, which was 6.9 times that of the late stage of maturity <sup>[64]</sup> .
β-半乳糖苷酶 β-galactosidase, β-GAL	猕猴桃(跃变型) Kiwifruit (Climacteric)	<i>AdPL1</i> <i>AdPL5</i>	猕猴桃收获后软化的关键候选基因包括 <i>AdPL1</i> 、 <i>AdPL5</i> <sup>[65]</sup> 。 Key candidate genes for postharvest softening of kiwifruit include <i>AdPL1</i> and <i>AdPL5</i> <sup>[65]</sup> .
	柿(跃变型) Persimmon (Climacteric)	<i>DkGAL1</i> <i>DkGAL2</i>	<i>DkGAL2</i> 在发育期果实中表达量较高, <i>DkGAL1</i> 在果实成熟开始时的表达量较高 <sup>[66]</sup> 。 The expression level of <i>DkGAL2</i> was higher in developing stage and <i>DkGAL1</i> was higher at the beginning of fruit maturity <sup>[66]</sup> .
	猕猴桃(跃变型) Kiwifruit (Climacteric)	<i>AdβGAL-1</i> <i>AdβGAL-2</i>	<i>AdβGAL-1</i> 、 <i>AdβGAL-2</i> 的表达从软化初期开始上调,随着软化持续增加, <i>AdβGAL-1</i> 在软化末期达到最大表达量, <i>AdβGAL-2</i> 在软化III期达到最大表达量 <sup>[67]</sup> 。 The expression of <i>AdβGAL-1</i> and <i>AdβGAL-2</i> was upregulated at the initial stage of softening, and the maximum expression of <i>AdβGAL-1</i> was reached at the late stage of softening while the maximum expression of <i>AdβGAL-2</i> was reached at the stage III of softening <sup>[67]</sup> .
苹果(跃变型) Apple (Climacteric)	苹果(跃变型) Apple (Climacteric)	<i>Mdβ-GAL1</i>	<i>Mdβ-GAL1</i> 、 <i>Mdβ-GAL2</i> 、 <i>Mdβ-GAL3</i> 、 <i>Mdβ-GAL5</i> 和 <i>Mdβ-GAL11</i> 的表达水平在苹果果实发育过程中逐渐升高 <sup>[68]</sup> 。 The expression of <i>Mdβ-GAL1</i> , <i>Mdβ-GAL2</i> , <i>Mdβ-GAL3</i> , <i>Mdβ-GAL5</i> and <i>Mdβ-GAL11</i> increased gradually during the development of apple fruits <sup>[68]</sup> .
		<i>Mdβ-GAL2</i>	
		<i>Mdβ-GAL3</i>	
		<i>Mdβ-GAL5</i>	
		<i>Mdβ-GAL11</i>	

#### 4.1 果胶甲酯酶(PME)相关基因

PME 相关基因是一个大家族。Zhu 等<sup>[69]</sup>研究发现了桃果实中的 71 个 PME 基因,其中 36 个为类型 1(同时编码 PME 抑制基因),35 个为类型 2(不编码 PME 抑制基因),类型 1 的 ORF 长度在 1473~1827 bp 之间,预测分子质量在 54.16~67.66 ku 之间,类型 2 的 ORF 长度在 477~1443 bp 之间,预测分子质量在 17.26~49.98 ku 之间。

果实成熟软化相关的 PME 基因,往往在果实采后贮藏的过程中表现出较高的表达量。杏果实采后低温贮藏期间,*PaPME1* 基因的表达量持续增加,在 35 d 时达到最大值<sup>[57]</sup>;桃果实成熟时有 11 个 PME 和 15 个 PMEIs 基因表达,其中 1 个 PME (*Prupe.7G192800*)和 2 个 PMEIs (*Prupe.1G114500*、*Prupe.2G279800*)及其启动子是未来研究桃果实成熟生化代谢和调控的潜在靶点<sup>[69]</sup>;Wen 等<sup>[58]</sup>对番茄 PME 家族进行了全基因组分析,总共鉴定得到了 57 个 PME 基因,并发现了 *Solyc03g083360*、*Solyc07g071600* 和 *Solyc12g098340* 在成熟时表达量上升,可能与番茄果实的软化相关;同时 Gwanpua 等<sup>[62]</sup>还报道了 3 个 *MdPME* 基因在苹果中具有显著正相关的关系,表明这 3 个基因可能是共同调控的。

植物激素乙烯是影响 PME 表达的重要因素。苏素香等<sup>[70]</sup>发现贮运性较好的秦王桃由于缺乏乙烯合成的关键酶而使其在贮藏时乙烯释放量极低,PME 的表达量也极低,而贮藏性较差的沙红桃的乙烯释放较多,贮藏时 PME 基因的表达也不断增加,导致了其快速软化。

#### 4.2 多聚半乳糖醛酶(PG)相关基因

PG 是参与果胶降解过程的一种重要的果胶水解酶,对 48 个果实 PG 基因的系统进化分析表明,软化相关基因至少来源于 3 个不同基因祖先,其中多数半胱氨酸位点具备一定的保守性,桃的 PG 基因已经被定位到第 3、4、7、8 条染色体上<sup>[71]</sup>。

PG 在果实成熟软化过程中的重要作用也不断被人们证明,Zhang 等<sup>[60]</sup>发现在梨中 *PbrPG6* 参与了果实的软化过程,在成熟软化时其表达量增加,通过沉默果实中的 *PbrPG6* 可以获得更高的硬度;Gwanpua 等<sup>[62]</sup>发现苹果中的 *MdPG1* 在储存 7 d 后表达量增加了数倍,其表达与果实硬度、乙烯产生量之间有着显著的正相关关系( $r > 0.95$ ),同时指出 *MdPG1* 是苹果中主要的软化相关基因。外源乙

烯和 1-MCP 可以调节果实的成熟过程,研究表明两者主要通过影响 PG 相关基因的表达来实现对酶活性的调节,进而影响果实的成熟软化,Qian 等<sup>[72]</sup>发现乙烯处理桃果实后 8 个 *PbPG* 基因的表达显著上调,而 1-MCP 的处理则使得相关基因的表达受到显著抑制。

#### 4.3 果胶裂解酶(PL)相关基因

PL 基因在植物中广泛存在,目前已经在番茄、杨树、拟南芥等植物中鉴定发现了多个 PL 基因。番茄中 *SLPL* 基因参与了果实的成熟软化过程,沉默 *SLPL* 基因可以抑制细胞壁降解相关基因的表达,减缓果实的软化速度<sup>[73]</sup>;温波等<sup>[63]</sup>研究发现桃中 *PpPL1* 果实软化阶段显著表达,并且与番茄的 *SLPL* 基因属于同一亚族,由此推断 *PpPL1* 可能是桃中参与软化的主要基因,同时发现 *Pec-Lyase-N* 结构域可能是实现果胶裂解功能所必需的功能团。

PL 基因的表达还受到许多表达因子的影响,*SI-miR482* 是参与番茄软化过程的一类 miRNA,莫显兰等<sup>[74]</sup>研究发现 *SI-PL13* 是 *SI-miR482* 的靶基因,二者的表达存在着此消彼长的关系;Zhang 等<sup>[65]</sup>的研究结果表明,6 个细胞壁代谢相关结构基因 *AdGAL1*、*AdMAN1*、*AdPL1*、*AdPL5*、*Adβ-Gal5*、*AdPME1* 和 4 个转录因子 *AdZAT5*、*AdDOF3*、*AdNAC083*、*AdMYBR4* 为果胶降解的中枢候选基因,同时发现瞬时过表达 *AdZAT5* 可以显著提高 *AdPL5* 和 *Adβ-Gal5* 的表达量,证实了转录因子对 PL 基因的调控作用。

#### 4.4 β-半乳糖苷酶(β-GAL)相关基因

$\beta$ -GAL 基因与 PG、PME 基因来自于同一个家族,许多学者对其基因结构展开了大量的研究,Zhuang 等<sup>[75]</sup>从香蕉中克隆得到的一段  $\beta$ -GAL cDNA 片段显示该基因全长为 927 bp,编码一条含有 309 个氨基酸的多肽链,与植物中的  $\beta$ -GAL 高度同源;Guo 等<sup>[76]</sup>鉴定得到了桃中的 17 个 *PpBGAL* 基因,长度在 2154~2691 bp 之间,编码的氨基酸数量在 717~896 个之间。

$\beta$ -GAL 很可能是果实软化过程中酶诱导细胞壁分解的关键调节因子,Gwanpua 等<sup>[62]</sup>报道苹果中的 *Mdβ-GAL1*、*Mdβ-GAL2* 在软化时表现出高度表达,甚至高于 PG 基因;Yang 等<sup>[68]</sup>发现 *Mdβ-GAL1*、*Mdβ-GAL2*、*Mdβ-GAL3*、*Mdβ-GAL5* 和 *Mdβ-GAL11* 的表达水平在苹果果实发育过程中逐渐升高,特别是 *Mdβ-GAL1*、*Mdβ-GAL2* 和 *Mdβ-GAL5* 被认为与果实成熟



过程高度相关。不同的 $\beta$ -GAL基因有着不同的表达模式,从表3中可以发现柿的*DkGAL1*在果实成熟开始时表达量较高,猕猴桃的*Ad $\beta$ GAL-1*在软化末期的表达水平达到峰值。根据先前大量的试验结果,人们将 $\beta$ -GAL基因的表达模式分为4类:①果实成熟时表达水平逐渐提高;②果实发育时有较高的表达水平,而果实成熟时表达水平逐渐降低;③果实中一直维持较高的表达水平;④果实中一直维持较低的表达水平<sup>[65]</sup>。

综上所述,PME相关基因在果实冷藏期间就有上调,在成熟过程中有较高表达;PG相关基因主要在成熟时表达,且随着成熟的推进表达水平呈现先上升后下降的趋势,其表达水平的变化与PG活性的变化情况相一致;PL相关基因主要在果实成熟软化前表达,也有部分基因在成熟末期表现出较高水平的表达; $\beta$ -GAL相关基因大多在成熟开始时、果实软化初期表达;同时不同基因间的表达也存在着相关性,某些PG基因和 $\beta$ -GAL基因间可能存在着共同调控作用<sup>[62]</sup>。

## 5 小结与展望

果实成熟软化是一个复杂、受多种酶催化影响以及多种基因调控的变化过程,不同种类、品种的果实成熟时的果胶降解相关酶及其基因表达也存在差异。特别是呼吸跃变型果实由于其本身呼吸作用的特点而更容易成熟软化,这个过程主要伴随着细胞壁成分尤其是果胶的降解,其中PME、PG、PL和 $\beta$ -GAL等果胶酶起到了至关重要的作用,在不同的成熟软化阶段,不同的果胶酶基因有着特异性的表达且发挥着不同的作用,果实的成熟软化与这些相关酶基因表达密不可分。同时,这些相关基因的表达与转录调控又受不同激素等信号通路的调控,众多研究也报道了激素类保鲜剂等对果实成熟软化的影响,如乙烯通常可以促进果实的成熟软化,而乙烯作用抑制剂1-MCP通过延缓果实成熟软化发挥保鲜作用,两者不仅可以影响果胶酶的活性,还可以通过影响相关酶基因的表达水平而起作用。除了内在因素,外部的环境因素如病原体等也会影响果实的成熟软化,很多病原体会释放果胶酶、蛋白酶等细胞外酶,从而引发乙烯、脱落酸等通路,破坏果胶的稳定结构,加速果实的软化。

该领域未来的研究,除了借助前沿生物学研究

果胶酶的相关活性与作用机制外,许多非酶类物质,例如羟基自由基,其降解细胞壁多糖引起果胶降解和果实软化的现象也正成为研究的新热点之一。总之,果实采后的细胞壁结构及其果胶等细胞壁成分的变化以及生理调控方式仍是目前对于其机制研究的重点,综合前人的研究推测,PG是有些果实软化的启动酶,起关键作用,而其他酶可能只起到诱导作用;此外,还有许多果胶降解关键基因被发现报道,这类基因在果实软化中起到更重要的作用,与软化的相关性更高,因此今后可以重点研究此类果实软化过程中启动酶的活性变化及关键基因的表达、转录调控及其相关信号调控通路等。此外,也要关注果实软化是一个多基因调控的过程,除了果胶酶调控基因以外,其他诸如活性氧清除相关基因也会参与果实软化,它们会通过PG、PL等酶基因的启动子结合而影响软化过程。因此,开发新型保鲜技术时可以考虑开发一些果胶酶的抑制剂或者活性氧清除剂,抑制启动酶的基因表达、降低其酶活性或者抑制活性氧对细胞壁的攻击,从而达到果实保鲜效果。

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