

木质素生物合成途径相关基因调控 琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化的研究

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摘要:【目的】探究琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞粒化过程中木质素生物合成途径相关基因在果实发育过程中的表达特征, 以揭示汁胞粒化过程中木质素合成的分子调控机制。【方法】选取2018年花后135、165、195、215 d 4个时期的琯溪蜜柚果实, 测定汁胞粒化率及木质素含量以及分析转录组数据筛选到的木质素生物合成途径关键基因的差异表达和相关酶活性变化, 并进行汁胞细胞壁木质素沉积的显微观察。【结果】在琯溪蜜柚花后195至215 d果实发育成熟期, 木质素生物合成途径中 *CrPAL1*、*CrPAL3*、*CrC4H1*、*CrC4H2*、*Cr4CL*、*CrCCR3*、*CrCAD3*、*CrPOD2* 和 *CrPOD7* 等9个基因的表达量都显著增强, qRT-PCR验证结果与转录组数据一致。这期间果实汁胞粒化明显加速, 木质素合成相关酶苯丙氨酸解氨酶(PAL)、肉桂酸-4-羟化酶(C4H)、4-香豆酸辅酶A连接酶(4CL)、肉桂醇脱氢酶(CAD)、过氧化物酶(POD)的活性明显上升, 木质素含量显著积累, 番红染色显示木质素在蜜柚汁胞细胞壁中明显沉积。【结论】琯溪蜜柚木质素生物合成途径相关基因参与调控汁胞粒化过程中细胞壁木质素的合成。研究结果为今后琯溪蜜柚的品种改良和分子育种提供了理论基础。

关键词: 琯溪蜜柚; 汁胞粒化; 基因调控; 酶活性; 木质素合成

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The genes related to lignin biosynthesis pathway regulate juice sac granulation in Guanxi pomelo

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Abstract: 【Objective】Guanxi pomelo is one of the representative subtropical fruits, which produced in Pinghe county, Fujian province of China. However, the juice sac granulation is a physiological disease in the ripening period of the pomelo, which can seriously affect the taste and nutritional value of the fruits. In this study, the pomelo juice sacs in 4 different growth and development stages were used as experimental materials. In order to reveal the molecular regulation mechanism of lignin biosynthesis during juice sac granulation, the differentially expressed key genes related to lignin biosynthesis were screened through transcriptome data, and the expression characteristics of the genes during fruit juice sac granulation were studied. 【Methods】Guanxi pomelo fruits on 135, 165, 195 and 215 days after anthesis in 2018 were collected as experimental materials. The juice sac granulation rates of the pomelo in

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different periods were calculated, and the juice sac slices were observed used microscope for cell wall. The genes related to the lignin biosynthesis pathway screened from transcriptome data were analyzed, the accuracy of transcriptome data was verified by qRT-PCR, and the expressions of the genes related to the lignin biosynthesis pathway were also analyzed. Then the enzyme activities related to the key genes of the lignin biosynthesis and the lignin content were determined. **【Results】** There was no juice sac granulation in the fruit development stage of Guanxi pomelo before 195 days after anthesis, but the juice sac granulation rate gradually increased and the lignin content of the juice sac also showed a significant increase trend on 195 days after anthesis. These results showed that the fruit juice sac granulated with the accumulation of lignin content. The microscopic observation results showed that the cell walls of the inner side cells in the fruit juice sacs on 195 days after anthesis were dyed red by safranin O staining compared with those prior to 195 days after anthesis, when the juice cells were lignified and the lignin content increased slightly. The cell walls in the inner cells and the epidermic cells of the fruit juice sacs were red and the color was deeper on 215 days after anthesis than those on 195 days after anthesis. These results confirmed that the lignification of the juice cells aggravated significantly from 195 to 215 days after anthesis. Thirteen differentially expressed lignin biosynthesis pathway genes were selected from the transcriptome of the juice sac at 4 developmental stages. The 13 genes showed an upward trend with the process of fruit development and maturation, including *CrPAL1*, *CrPAL3*, *CrC4H1*, *CrC4H2*, *Cr4CL*, *CrHCT1*, *CrCCR3*, *CrCAD3*, *CrCOMT4*, *CrPOD2*, *CrPOD6*, *CrPOD7* and *CrPOD8*, especially from 195 to 215 days after anthesis. Furthermore, the expressions of these genes on 215 days after anthesis were up-regulated by 2 to 9 times compared with those on 195 days after anthesis. qRT-PCR results confirmed that 9 of the 13 genes had similar expression pattern in the fruit juice sac with the transcriptome sequencing data, including *CrPAL1*, *CrPAL3*, *CrC4H1*, *CrC4H2*, *Cr4CL*, *CrCCR3*, *CrCAD3*, *CrPOD2* and *CrPOD7*. However, qRT-PCR results of the other 4 genes, including *CrHCT1*, *CrCOMT4*, *CrPOD6* and *CrPOD8*, were slightly inconsistent with the transcriptome sequencing data at 4 developmental stages of pomelo fruit, but their relative expression levels were rapidly up-regulated from 195 to 215 days after anthesis with significantly difference, which were consistent with the data. The enzyme activities of PAL, C4H, 4CL, CAD and POD related to lignin biosynthesis pathway were determined. The results showed that the activities of these 5 enzymes in the fruit juice sac were consistent with the expressions of the genes related to lignin biosynthesis pathway and the content of lignin during 4 different growth and development stages, indicating that these enzymes played an important role in lignin synthesis. **【Conclusion】** The juice sac granulation rate increased with the accumulation of lignin content, especially at the mature stage in Guanxi pomelo fruit. Nine genes in the pomelo juice sac including *CrPAL1*, *CrPAL3*, *CrC4H1*, *CrC4H2*, *Cr4CL*, *CrCCR3*, *CrCAD3*, *CrPOD2* and *CrPOD7* were the key regulatory genes of the lignin biosynthesis pathway. The significantly up-regulated expressions of these genes regulated the activity of important enzymes in lignin biosynthesis pathway, such as PAL, C4H, 4CL, CAD and POD, would promote the accumulation of lignin content in pomelo juice sacs and cause juice sac granulation of Guanxi pomelo. In the present study, the relationship between the expressions of the genes of juice sac lignin biosynthesis pathway and the juice sac granulation during the fruit development and maturation of Guanxi pomelo was systematically investigated at molecular and physiological levels, which would provide a theoretical basis for the variety improvement and molecular breeding of Guanxi pomelo in the future.

Key words: Guanxi pomelo; Juice sac granulation; Gene regulation; Enzyme activity; Lignin synthesis

琯溪蜜柚 [*Citrus grandis* (L.) Osbeck. Guanxi pomelo] 为亚热带芸香科常绿果树, 是福建省平和县乃至全国具有代表性的亚热带水果之一, 已有 500 多年的栽培历史, 是当地农民脱贫致富的主要经济来源^[1]。然而, 琯溪蜜柚的汁胞粒化严重影响到了果实的生产和销售, 对琯溪蜜柚的口碑和相关产业造成了冲击, 给当地农民带来一定的经济损失。

琯溪蜜柚成熟过程中的汁胞粒化是一种生理病害, 将粒化汁胞与正常汁胞比较, 发现粒化汁胞变干、变硬, 呈现浑浊的絮状物。汁胞粒化对果实汁胞的外观、质地和风味都有不利影响^[2]。Shomer 等^[3]通过观察琯溪蜜柚汁胞细胞壁的超微结构, 认为汁胞粒化是汁胞细胞次生壁木质化形成厚壁组织的结果。潘腾飞等^[4]的研究发现琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化指数与木质素含量呈显著正相关, 表明琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化和木质素合成关系密切。木质素是沉积在植物细胞壁中的酚类聚合物, 主要有 3 种类型^[5], 分别是由香豆醇合成的对羟基苯基木质素(H型)、由松柏醇合成的愈创木基木质素(G型)、由芥子醇合成的紫丁香基木质素(S型)^[6]。琯溪蜜柚粒化汁胞中发现的木质素主要为 G 型木质素^[7]。研究发现肉桂酰辅 A 还原酶(CCR)、肉桂醇脱氢酶(CAD)和过氧化物酶(POD)等和木质素合成直接相关^[8]。此外, 苯丙氨酸解氨酶(PAL)、肉桂酸-4-羟化酶(C4H)、4-香豆酸辅酶 A 连接酶(4CL)、CAD、POD 等酶活性的变化也与木质素含量相关^[9]。目前, 对琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化与木质素代谢关系的报道多为对木质素代谢途径中个别基因家族的分析或木质素相关合成酶活性对木质素含量的影响, 关于琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化过程中木质素代谢途径的系列关键基因表达变化与汁胞粒化关系的相关研究尚未见报道, 因此在基因、酶及其代谢物水平上对此展开系统研究是十分必要的。

琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞粒化现象通常发生在果实成熟和采后的贮藏过程中, 有关采后贮藏汁胞粒化的研究较多, 但对成熟果实的汁胞粒化研究较少。笔者在本研究中以不同生长发育时期的琯溪蜜柚汁胞为材料, 通过转录组筛选差异表达的木质素合成关键基因分析相关酶活性和木质素含量、粒化率的变化, 以期揭示琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化过程的生理与分子调控机制。

1 材料和方法

1.1 试验材料

琯溪蜜柚果实样品由福建省漳州市平和县小溪镇旧楼村石角坛“平和琯溪蜜柚综合试验站科研基地”果园提供, 果园海拔 420 m, 选取 25 年以上树龄、树势一致的健壮树体, 正常管理。于 2018 年花后 135、165、195 和 215 d 4 个时期分别随机采集大小一致、健康、无明显机械外伤的果实各 9 个立即运回实验室, 并进行果实粒化率的测定和果实汁胞石蜡切片。每个时期每个果实各取汁胞 10 g, 混合后放入液氮中速冻, 存于 -80 °C 冰箱, 用于后续木质素合成相关酶活性的测定和 qRT-PCR 验证试验。此外, 每个果实各取约 100 g 置于玻璃瓶内于烘箱 60 °C 烘干, 研钵研磨后装入 15 mL 离心管中, 用于木质素含量测定。以上所有试验均设 3 次生物学重复。

1.2 蜜柚果实粒化率、汁胞木质素含量测定

琯溪蜜柚果实粒化率测定参考代亚兰等^[10]的方法, 分别测定花后 4 个时期的粒化汁胞质量和汁胞总质量。果实粒化率/%=粒化汁胞质量/汁胞总质量×100。

琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞木质素含量采用 AB 法, 即乙酰溴法测定^[11]。

1.3 蜜柚汁胞木质素显微镜观察

参照秦永亭等^[12]的方法, 将琯溪蜜柚汁胞用石蜡包埋后, 用石蜡切片机切成 7 μm 厚的切片, 干燥后用番红染液染色 2 h、中性树胶封片后, 用 LEICADMI 48 倒置显微镜观察。木质化的细胞壁被番红染成红色。

1.4 蜜柚汁胞转录组木质素合成差异基因表达分析

转录组测序由深圳华大基因研究院完成, 统计和评估转录组测序数据数量和质量以及组装效果。通过转录组测序, 得到基因的表达水平。将 $\log_2 > 2$, 并且 $Q\text{-value} \leq 0.001$ 的基因定义为差异基因。根据 4 个时期汁胞转录组测序中的差异基因 KEGG (Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes) 途径富集分析, 木质素合成代谢途径属于苯丙烷次生代谢途径中的一部分, 将所有木质素代谢途径关键基因进行表达量分析, 利用 TBtools 软件绘制热图, 并从中挑选出差异表达基因。

1.5 蜜柚汁胞木质素生物合成差异基因引物设计

从转录组中筛选出 13 个差异表达基因 (*CrPAL1*、*CrPAL3*、*CrC4H1*、*CrC4H2*、*Cr4CL*、*CrHCT1*、*CrCCR3*、*CrCAD3*、*CrCOMT4*、*CrPOD2*、*CrPOD6*、*CrPOD7*、*CrPOD8*), 利用 NCBI 上的引物设计程序 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/tools/primer-blast/index.cgi>)、按照荧光定量引物设计原则设计基因的 qRT-

PCR引物,以 *Actin* 为内参基因(表1)。引物合成由擎科生物公司完成。

使用通用RNA提取试剂盒(东盛生物)提取汁胞RNA,参照HiScrip® II Q RT SuperMix for qPCR试剂盒说明书,以琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞RNA为模板合

1.6 qRT-PCR验证分析

表1 内参基因与13个琯溪蜜柚汁胞木质素生物合成途径目的基因的引物

Table 1 Primers of internal reference gene and 13 target genes related to lignin biosynthesis in Guanxi pomelo juice sacs

基因名称 Gene name	基因ID Gene ID	正向引物(5'—3') Forward primer (5'—3')	反向引物(5'—3') Reversed primer (5'—3')
CrPAL1	102607860	TTTACGGACCACTTGACGC	CGCCTTGTCCTTGATACATC
CrPAL3	102619342	GGAACAAGGCATTACACGG	CACCAGACAGATTTGAAGGC
CrC4H1	102577934	CAGTGTAGGAGGTTGGCTTCT	TGTTGTTTCTATTGCCGCC
CrC4H2	102578013	TTGGACGCTCAGACAAAGG	GCGGCACAAGAAGAGGAAT
Cr4CL	102623419	GGATTCAAGTTGCTCCAGC	TTGCCAGATGGTGCTTTC
CrHCT1	102611960	TACACGAGTTGAGGCAGTTTC	CCATCCAGAGCAGATTTCC
CrCCR3	102615114	GTGGTGGAGATTCTGGCTAAG	GTGTAGGGATTGGAAGGTGAC
CrCAD3	102630907	AACAAGAACGGCAGCAGTT	GAACAAAGTGGAAGTGGTGG
CrCOMT4	102629858	CAGTGCCTCAGTCTTGCTTA	AGCCTCTCAACTTTGCCGT
CrPOD2	102612835	GACTGCTTCATCGTGGGAT	CTCCAGCCAGAACTACAACATC
CrPOD6	102619551	ATCCCGAACCAAACCGTT	TGAGCCGACTAAAGTTGAAGG
CrPOD7	102625757	GCACATCATTACGGGCTCA	CTTTCTGTTGACCAGGTTCTTG
CrPOD8	102626445	GCAACCACCAGAAGAACAAC	TCTCCATCAGTCCCAGTGAG
<i>Actin</i>		CCAAGCAGCATGAAGATCAA	ATCTGCTGGAAGGTGCTGAG

成双链cDNA。使用ChamQ Universal SYBR qPCR Master Mix试剂盒在罗氏荧光定量PCR仪上测定基因的表达量。

1.7 蜜柚汁胞木质素合成相关酶活性测定

分别参考PAL、C4H、4CL、CAD和POD检测试剂盒(上海优选)说明对琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞进行PAL、C4H、4CL、CAD和POD提取并测定其活性。

1.8 数据处理

采用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 方法计算基因的相对表达量^[13]。利用WPS表格进行数据统计(2019),SPSS 19.0进行差异显著性分析。

2 结果与分析

2.1 琯溪蜜柚果实粒化率及汁胞木质素含量的变化

在琯溪蜜柚果实不同生长发育期间,花后195 d之前的果实发育期未见汁胞粒化,但在花后195 d之后的果实成熟期汁胞粒化率明显增加(图1);随着蜜柚果实的成熟,汁胞木质素含量也呈现增加的趋势,在花后195和215 d汁胞中发现木质素含量显著增加(图1),这些结果说明在蜜柚果实生长发育期间,随着木质素的积累,果实汁胞粒化率也随之增加,果实汁胞粒化可能是木质素含量过度累积引起的。

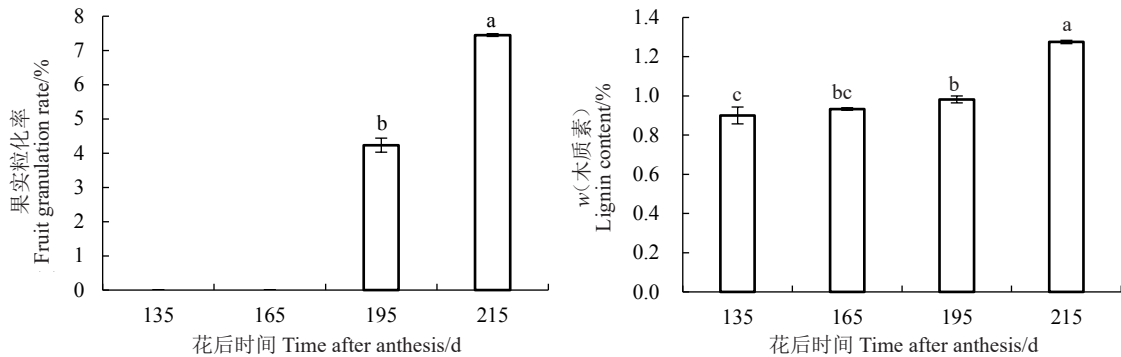


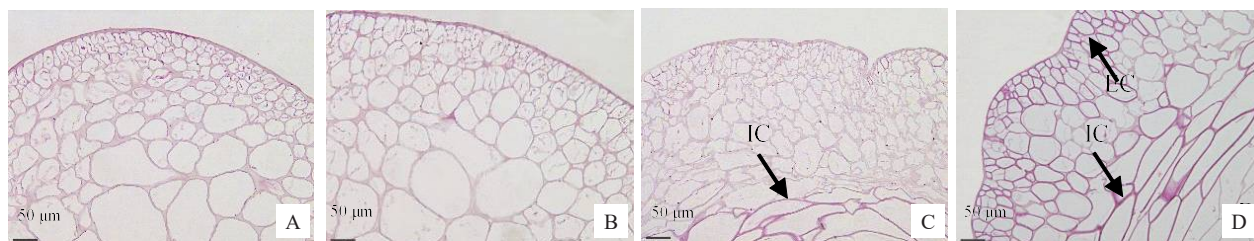
图1 琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞粒化率和汁胞木质素含量的变化

Fig. 1 Changes of the rates of fruit juice sac granulation and lignin contents of Guanxi pomelo

2.2 蜜柚汁胞木质素显微观察

对FAA固定处理后的花后135、165、195和215 d的琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞进行石蜡包埋、切片及番红染色,图片由下至上是汁胞内部细胞到汁胞外表皮层。用20倍显微镜观察发现,花后135和165 d蜜柚果实汁胞颜色相似,无明显红色、无明显颜色变化(图2-A、B),说明这两个时期汁胞木质素含量较低;

花后195 d汁胞内部细胞壁呈现红色(图2-C),汁胞外表皮层细胞壁颜色与花后135、165 d汁胞相比无明显变化,但此时汁胞已出现木质化,木质素含量较花后135、165 d相比略微增加。花后215 d汁胞内部细胞和外表皮层的细胞壁均被染成红色(图2-D),且颜色较花后195 d更深,说明在花后195 d之后的果实成熟期汁胞细胞壁木质化程度增加,木质素含



A. 花后 135 d 汁胞; B. 花后 165 d 汁胞; C. 花后 195 d 汁胞; D. 花后 215 d 汁胞; IC. 汁胞内部细胞壁; EC. 汁胞外表皮层细胞壁。

A. Juice sacs on 135 day after anthesis; B. Juice sacs on 165 day after anthesis; C. Juice sacs on 195 day after anthesis; D. juice sacs on 215 day after anthesis; IC. Internal cell walls of juice sacs; EC. Epidermic cell walls of juice sacs.

图 2 番红染色显示木质素在琯溪蜜柚汁胞细胞壁中的沉积

Fig. 2 Safranin O staining showed lignin deposition in cell walls of Guanxi pomelo juice sacs

量显著上升。

2.3 蜜柚汁胞转录组木质素合成差异基因表达分析

对4个生长发育时期琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞转录组17个木质素生物合成途径中差异表达基因进行热图分析(图3),结果表明,其中1个基因 *CrCCR1* 和另外3个基因 *CrPAL*、*Cr4CL2*、*Cr4CL7* 分别在花后165和195 d的表达量与这2个时期的木质素含量的增加趋势不相一致。但值得注意的是, *CrPAL1*、*CrPAL3*、*CrC4H1*、*CrC4H2*、*Cr4CL*、*CrHCT1*、*CrCCR3*、*CrCAD3*、*CrCOMT4*、*CrPOD2*、*CrPOD6*、*CrPOD7*、*CrPOD8* 等13个基因的表达量随着果实的发育成熟进程,在花后165、195和215 d差异表达($\log_2 > 2$, $Q\text{-value} \leq 0.001$)这些基因的表达水平在蜜柚花后215 d与195 d相比上调了2至9倍,并且和木质素含量的变化趋势相一致。研究认为这13个基因可能是蜜柚汁胞木质素合成的关键基因,因此筛选这13个基因用于后续的qRT-PCR验证分析。

2.4 蜜柚汁胞木质素合成差异基因 qRT-PCR 验证分析

对13个木质素生物合成途径差异基因进行qRT-PCR验证(图4)。随着果实的生长发育 *CrPAL1*、*CrPAL3*、*CrC4H1*、*CrC4H2*、*Cr4CL*、*CrCCR3*、*CrCAD3*、*CrPOD2* 和 *CrPOD7* 等9个基因qRT-PCR相对表达量都上调表达,尤其在花后195至

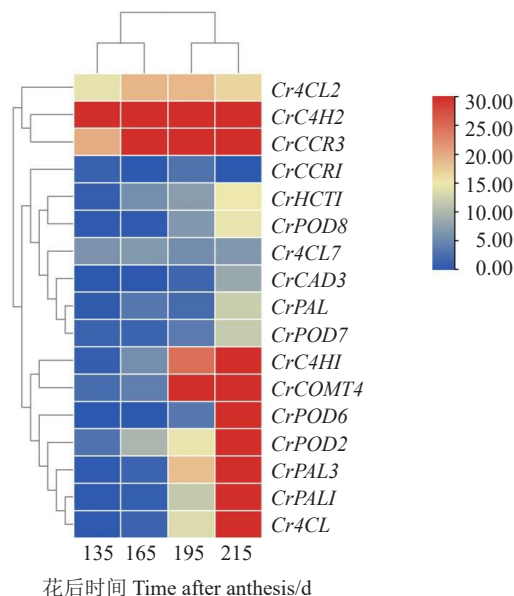


图 3 不同发育时期琯溪蜜柚汁胞转录组木质素合成差异基因的相对表达量

Fig. 3 Relative expression levels of differential genes in lignin biosynthesis pathway screening by transcriptome in Guanxi pomelo juice sacs at different developmental stages

215 d的果实成熟期显著表达,且与转录组测序的结果一致,证明了这9个基因转录组数据的可靠性。说明花后195至215 d是蜜柚果实汁胞粒化时期。另外4个基因 *CrHCT1*、*CrCOMT4*、*CrPOD6* 和 *CrPOD8* 的qRT-PCR相对表达量变化与转录组数据

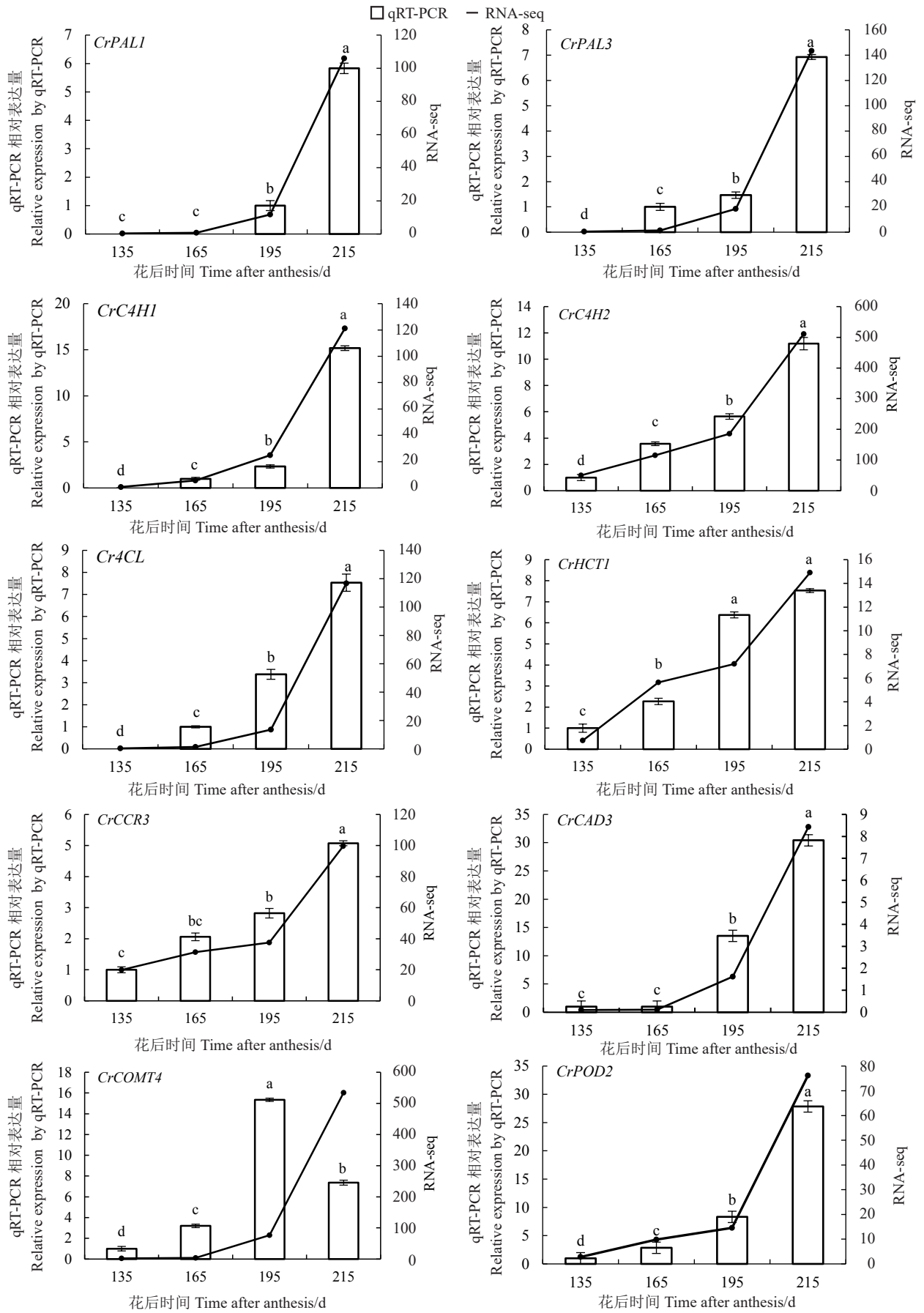


图4 木质素生物合成途径差异基因在琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞的 qRT-PCR 验证

Fig. 4 Verification of different genes related to lignin metabolism pathway in Guanxi pomelo juice sacs by qRT-PCR

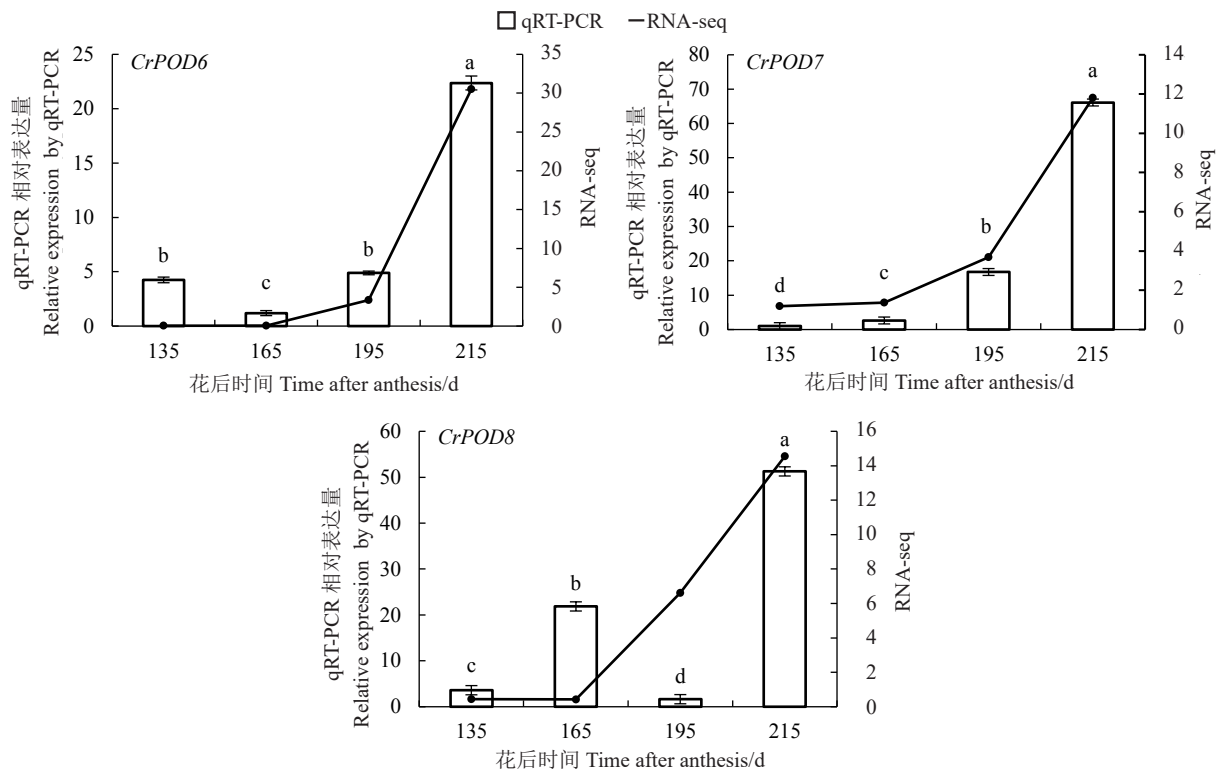


图 4 (续) Fig. 4 (Continued)

不一致。

2.5 蜜柚汁胞木质素生物合成途径相关酶活性变化分析

分别对花后 135 至 215 d 琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞中

木质素生物合成途径相关酶 PAL、C4H、4CL、CAD 和 POD 的活性进行测定, 结果显示, 酶活性随着果实的发育成熟呈现上升趋势, 在花后 215 d 达到峰值 (图 5), 与木质素含量及粒化率的变化规律基本一

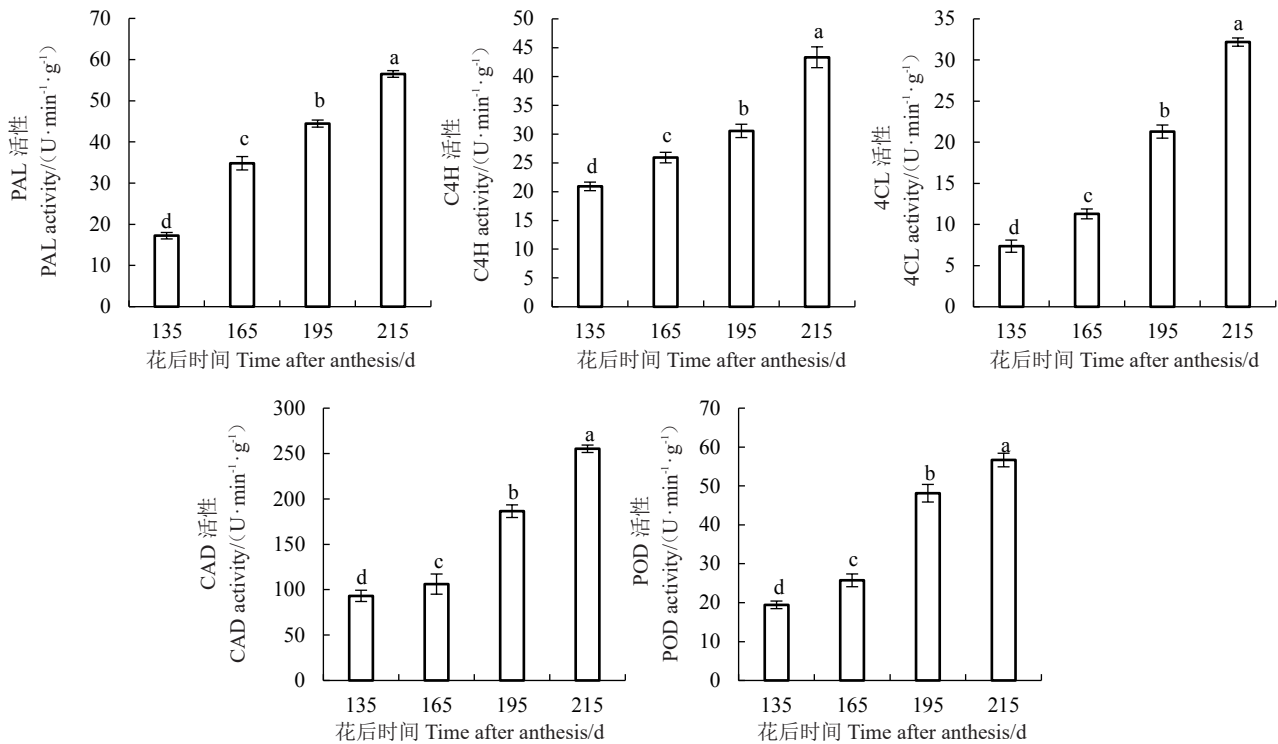


图 5 琯溪蜜柚果实汁胞木质素合成相关酶活性的变化

Fig. 5 Changes of enzyme activities related to lignin synthesis in the fruit juice sacs of Guanxi pomelo

致,表明这些酶可能在蜜柚果实发育成熟阶段的汁胞木质素生物合成途径中起关键作用。

3 讨 论

木质素是植物细胞中的苯丙烷代谢途径的代谢产物。木质素在果实汁胞中过量积累可能会导致汁胞粒化,会影响果实的口感和风味,目前在收获的柑橘果实中普遍存在汁胞粒化这一现象^[14]。前人有研究表明木质素生物合成与汁胞粒化之间有着密切关联,粒化的汁胞通常发生木质素过度积累的现象^[15],但总体研究还不够完整和系统。因此,笔者在基因转录、翻译和产物生成3个水平展开木质素代谢与琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化机制的系统研究。

果实中木质素含量的变化与木质素生物合成途径相关基因的表达有关,其中 *PAL*、*C4H*、*4CL*、*CCR*、*CAD* 和 *POD* 等基因在木质素的合成过程中起着极为重要的调控作用,且木质素合成量与这些基因的表达量呈正相关^[16-17]。笔者在本研究中通过琯溪蜜柚汁胞转录组测序筛选到 17 个木质素生物合成途径的差异表达基因,其中 13 个基因的表达量与汁胞粒化率及木质素含量变化趋势一致,且在花后 195 至 215 d 显著表达。qRT-PCR 验证结果显示, *CrPAL1*、*CrPAL3*、*CrC4H1*、*CrC4H2*、*CrCCR3*、*CrCAD3*、*Cr4CL*、*CrPOD2*、*CrPOD7* 等 9 个基因在蜜柚果实发育和成熟期的表达量与转录组测序结果变化趋势一致,均随着果实的成熟呈显著上调表达趋势,同时相关酶活性也随之增强,并与木质素生物合成的增加及蜜柚汁胞粒化趋势相一致。这一研究结果表明以上 9 个基因是蜜柚汁胞木质素的合成调控的关键基因,它们可能参与了琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化的过程。

PAL 是苯丙烷代谢途径中木质素生物合成的第一个关键酶,它在木质素生物合成中非常重要^[18], *PAL* 催化苯丙氨酸脱氨为反式肉桂酸^[19]。前人通过对 5 种白梨 *PAL* 基因家族比较分析,结果显示 *PbPAL1* 和 *PbPAL2* 的表达水平对梨果中石细胞和木质素的含量有影响, *PbPAL1* 和 *PbPAL2* 的转录水平在木质化组织(根和茎)中高于在木质化程度较低的组织(叶、芽和花)^[20]。笔者在本研究中发现 *CrPAL1*、*CrPAL3* 在汁胞木质素含量及粒化率较高的成熟期果实中表达量也大幅度增加, *PAL* 酶活性与汁胞木质素含量测定结果及 *PAL* 基因表达量一致,与汁胞

粒化率也大致相符。 *C4H* 被证明参与了木质素生物合成途径中 G 木质素单体的产生^[21],小麦中发现 *C4H1* 基因的表达与木质素含量呈显著相关^[22],竹笋贮藏期间 *C4H* 活性增加促进木质素的合成,导致竹笋组织木质化^[23],在本研究中,蜜柚汁胞 *CrC4H1*、*CrC4H2* 的表达量在成熟期显著上调表达。同时, *C4H* 酶活性也随着果实的发育成熟逐渐增强,并与汁胞中木质素含量及粒化率变化相一致。 *4CL* 是 *CCR* 上游的一个酶, *4CL* 的产物是 *CCR* 的底物,而 *CCR* 被认为是木质素合成的关键酶^[24]。青稞研究中发现 *4CL* 是影响木质素合成的一个关键酶, *4CL* 活性的提高可以增强茎秆的抗倒伏能力^[25]。在本研究中转录组测序与 qRT-PCR 结果显示随着木质素含量的增加及汁胞粒化率的上升, *Cr4CL* 在蜜柚成熟过程中也逐渐上调表达, *4CL* 的酶活性也与 *Cr4CL* 的表达相一致,这也与芹菜发育阶段的观察结果相似^[26]。前人在梨果实中木质素合成的有关研究中发现, *PbCCR1*、*PbCCR2* 和 *PbCCR3* 的表达趋势与果核细胞的积累和木质素含量相关^[27],笔者在本研究中发现 *CrCCR3* 在汁胞中的表达趋势也与木质素含量、粒化率变化趋势相一致。此外,催化肉桂醛转化为肉桂醇^[28],参与单体木质素生物合成最后一步的另一个关键酶是 *CAD*^[29]。 *SbCAD2* 和 *OsCAD2* 基因已被证明参与了茎秆木质素的生物合成^[30-31], *PpCAD2* 过量表达促进了转基因番茄植株中木质素的沉积,木质素含量增加, *CAD* 酶活性更活跃^[32]。笔者在本研究中发现,蜜柚汁胞中 *CAD* 活性在蜜柚成熟后期相应上升,且与木质素含量、木质素合成酶基因 *CrCAD3* 的表达以及粒化率相一致。 *POD* 则通过聚合单体木质素催化松柏醇发生脱氢聚合反应形成 G 型木质素^[33]。有报道对白桦 *POD* 全基因组鉴定,发现 *BpPOD6*、*BpPOD21* 和 *BpPOD37* 在木质部中高度表达^[34], *AgPOD* 在芹菜叶柄、叶片中表达水平与木质素积累模式一致,说明 *POD* 在木质素生物合成中起着重要作用^[35]。贮藏水果蔬菜时,通常会通过抑制木质素合成相关酶 *POD* 活性来减缓木质素积累^[36],对贮藏菜薹进行乙烯处理,发现木质素含量下降的同时 *BcPOD* 的表达也下降^[37]。在本研究中 *CrPOD2* 以及 *CrPOD7* 基因表达与 *POD* 酶活性以及木质素含量和粒化率变化相符,表明 *CrPOD2* 和 *CrPOD7* 参与了蜜柚汁胞粒化过程木质素的调控作用。本研究表明,以上琯溪蜜柚汁胞 9 个木质素合

成基因的表达及相关酶活性的动态变化与汁胞木质素含量和粒化率变化相一致,因此认为琯溪蜜柚汁胞粒化是由木质素代谢途径中的系列关键基因共同调控的结果。

4 结 论

在琯溪蜜柚果实发育成熟过程中,汁胞粒化率随着木质素含量的积累而提高,尤其在成熟后期提高迅速。蜜柚汁胞中 *CrPAL1*、*CrPAL3*、*CrC4H1*、*CrC4H2*、*Cr4CL*、*CrCCR3*、*CrCAD3*、*CrPOD2* 和 *CrPOD7* 是木质素合成的关键调控基因。这 9 个基因的上调表达,调控木质素合成途径中重要酶 PAL、C4H、4CL、CAD 和 POD 活性的增强,从而促进汁胞木质素含量积累,引起汁胞粒化发生。笔者在分子和生理水平上系统地研究了琯溪蜜柚果实发育过程中汁胞木质素生物合成途径关键基因表达与汁胞粒化的关系,为今后琯溪蜜柚的品种改良和分子育种提供了理论基础。

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