

7个苹果KNOX转录因子基因克隆、 表达和蛋白互作分析

卢苗, 李佩^a, 荣钰莹, 张梦涵, 贾鹏, 栾好安, 齐国辉, 张雪梅*, 董庆龙*

(河北农业大学林学院, 河北保定 071001)

摘要:【目的】KNOTTED1 like homeobox (KNOX) 蛋白在植物生长发育等多个生物学过程中发挥着重要作用。以紫弘富士为材料, 分离了多个苹果 (*Malus domestica*) KNOX 基因, 研究其结构域、进化分析、组织表达、非生物胁迫响应及其与 MdOFP 相互作用情况。【方法】使用 RT-PCR 技术克隆获得 7 个 MdKNOX 基因并进行生物信息学分析。利用 Array 技术检测 MdKNOX 基因在苹果不同组织中的表达模式。使用 RT-qPCR 技术检测 MdKNOX 基因在盐胁迫和渗透胁迫下的表达模式。通过 Y2H 实验检测了 MdKNOX 蛋白与 MdOFP 蛋白的互作情况。【结果】测序结果表明, 获得了 7 个 KNOX 转录因子 cDNA: *MdKNOX1*、*MdKNOX2*、*MdKNOX5*、*MdKNOX10*、*MdKNOX13*、*MdKNOX16* 和 *MdKNOX22* (GenBank 登录号: MG021644~MG021650)。结构域分析表明, 获得的 7 个 MdKNOX 蛋白序列均含有 MEL-NOX、HD 和 ELK 结构域。进化分析表明, *MdKNOX1*、*MdKNOX2* 和 *MdKNOX5* 属于 KNOX II 亚组; *MdKNOX10*、*MdKNOX13*、*MdKNOX16* 和 *MdKNOX22* 属于 KNOX I 亚组。启动子顺式作用元件分析结果表明, 7 个 *MdKNOX* 基因启动子上包含多个顺式作用元件。Array 分析结果显示, *MdKNOX* 基因具有不同的组织表达模式。实时荧光定量 PCR 分析结果表明, 盐胁迫处理下, *MdKNOX13* 的相对表达水平上调, 而 *MdKNOX1*、*MdKNOX2* 和 *MdKNOX5* 的相对表达水平下调; 渗透胁迫处理下, *MdKNOX2* 的转录水平下调。酵母双杂交结果显示, *MdKNOX1/22* 蛋白能与 *MdOFP6* 蛋白相互作用, *MdKNOX5* 蛋白能与多个 *MdOFP* 蛋白相互作用, 且 *MdKNOX5* 蛋白与 *MdOFP* 蛋白相互作用, HD 区域是互作必需的。【结论】这些结果为苹果 KNOX 转录因子在生长、发育和逆境下生物学功能的解析、调控网络的构建提供了强有力的理论基础和参考。

关键词: 苹果; KNOX 转录因子; 基因克隆; 表达分析; 蛋白互作

中图分类号: S661.1

文献标志码: A

文章编号: 1009-9980(2023)05-0841-11

Cloning, expression and protein-protein interaction analysis of seven KNOX transcription factors in apple

LU Miao, LI Pei^a, RONG Yuying, ZHANG Menghan, JIA Peng, LUAN Hao'an, QI Guohui, ZHANG Xuemei*, DONG Qinglong*

(College of Forestry, Hebei Agricultural University, Baoding 071001, Hebei, China)

Abstract: 【Objective】KNOTTED1 like homeobox (KNOX) proteins are a class of transcription factors that can regulate gene expression via binding with promoters of down-stream target genes. KNOX genes belong to the TALE (Three Amino acid Loop Extension) homeodomain subfamily, and contain multiple family members in plants. KNOX proteins contain four conserved domains: the KNOX1 domain, which is a conserved region of about 39 amino acids at the N-terminal of the KNOX protein, has shown to be important for generating the altered phenotypes caused by ectopic KNOX gene expression;

收稿日期: 2022-10-24

接受日期: 2022-11-25

基金项目: 河北省自然科学基金项目 (C2022204086); 河北省重点研发计划项目 (20326812D); 河北省现代农业产业技术体系苹果产业创新团队 (HBCT2021100211); 河北省自然科学基金项目 (C2022204016)

作者简介: 卢苗, 女, 在读本科生, 研究方向为经济林栽培学。Tel: 18331990830, E-mail: 2628701235@qq.com。a 为共同第一作者。李佩, 女, 在读本科生。Tel: 15188601743, E-mail: 2034389544@qq.com

*通信作者 Author for correspondence. 董庆龙, Tel: 0312-7528735, E-mail: dong19850412@163.com; 张雪梅, Tel: 0312-7528735, E-mail: zhangxuemei888@163.com

the KNOX2 domain, which is critical for dimer formation and transactivation, is essential for the generation of abnormal phenotypes in transgenics; the HD domain, which is located in the C-terminal of the KNOX protein, is involved in DNA binding and possibly in homodimer formation; and the ELK domain, which is located between the KNOX2 domain and the HD domain, is involved in nuclear localization and transcriptional repression. The various studies have shown that KNOX proteins play important roles in many biological processes such as plant growth and development. In this study, various apple (*Malus domestica*) *KNOX* genes were isolated using Zihong Fuji as plant material, and their domains, evolutionary analysis, tissue expression, abiotic stress response and interaction with MdOFP proteins were studied. **【Methods】** The total RNA was extracted from Zihong Fuji leaves using the CTAB method and the first strand cDNA was synthesized by PrimeScript™ 1st Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit. The full-length cDNA sequences of the *MdKNOXs* were isolated by RT-PCR method, the obtained cDNA sequences and the deduced amino acid sequences were analyzed with DNAMAN 6.0.3. The phylogenetic tree was constructed using the MEGA 6.0 software to investigate the evolutionary relationship between *MdKNOXs* and other KNOX proteins from *Arabidopsis* and rice. The PlantCARE (<https://bioinformatics.psb.ugent.be/webtools/plantcare/html/>) was used to annotate elements, and elements related to growth, development, hormones, and stress were selected for location distribution mapping. The expression levels of the *MdKNOXs* were detected in 16 different tissues using array from NCBI GEO database. The expression levels of the *MdKNOXs* were detected under 150 mmol · L⁻¹ NaCl and 300 mmol · L⁻¹ mannitol treatments using qRT-PCR method with BIO-RAD IQ5 Real-time PCR Detection Systems (USA). The interaction between *MdKNOX* proteins and *MdOFP* proteins was detected by Y2H. **【Results】** Totally seven *MdKNOX* genes (designated as *MdKNOX1*, *MdKNOX2*, *MdKNOX5*, *MdKNOX10*, *MdKNOX13*, *MdKNOX16* and *MdKNOX22*; GenBank Accession No. MG021644–MG021650) were isolated from Zihong Fuji leaves using RT-PCR method. The cDNAs of the *MdKNOXs* contained open reading frame (ORF) of 1083, 867, 867, 1005, 990, 1062 and 1002 bp in length which encoded proteins of 360, 288, 288, 333, 329, 353 and 332 amino acid residues with calculated molecular weight (MW) of 40.78, 32.89, 32.86, 37.72, 36.92, 40.21 and 37.67 kD and predicted isoelectric point (pI) of 5.15, 6.65, 6.78, 6.61, 5.20, 5.65 and 6.57, respectively. Conserved domain analysis showed that all the 7 *MdKNOX* protein contained MEINOX, HD and ELK domains. The Phylogenetic analyses revealed that KNOX proteins were divided into three groups: KNOX I group, KNOX II group and KNOX M group. The KNOX I group was classed into STM-like subgroup, KNAT2/6-like subgroup and KNAT1/BP-like subgroup. The KNOX II group was classed into KNAT7-like subgroup and KANT3/4/5-like subgroup. *MdKNOX1* and *MdKNOX19* belonged to KANT3/4/5-like subgroup. *MdKNOX2* and *MdKNOX5* belonged to KNAT7-like subgroup. *MdKNOX10* and *MdKNOX22* belonged to STM-like subgroup. *MdKNOX13*, *MdKNOX15* and *MdKNOX16* belonged to KNAT2/6-like subgroup. The results of cis acting elements showed that promoters of the *MdKNOX* genes contained multiple cis acting elements, including methyl jasmonate, salicylic acid, auxin, gibberellin, ethylene, abscisic acid, anaerobic induction, wound, defense and stress, MYB binding site was involved in drought-inducibility, heat stress, low-temperature and fungal elicitor responsive elements. The expression profiles of the 16 different tissues of apple (GSE42873) were downloaded using the NCBI GEO database to detect the expression of the *MdKNOXs* in different tissues. The array results indicated that the *MdKNOX* genes were expressed at different levels in the detected tissues. Among these *MdKNOX* genes, the *MdKNOX1*, *MdKNOX2* and *MdKNOX5* were relatively highly expressed in the detected tissues; The *MdKNOX10*, *MdKNOX13*, *MdKNOX16* and *MdKNOX22* were relatively highly expressed in the leaf (M49), flower

(M49) and fruit (M20-100DAM and M20-harvest). RT-qPCR results showed that the transcription level of the *MdKNOX13* was induced, while the transcription level of the *MdKNOX1*, *MdKNOX2* and *MdKNOX5* were down-regulated under the salt stress; the transcription level of the *MdKNOX2* was down-regulated under the osmotic stress. Y2H experiment showed that MdKNOX1 and MdKNOX22 proteins interacted with MdOFP6 protein, MdKNOX5 protein interacted with MdOFP1, MdOFP4, MdOFP14 and MdOFP16 proteins, and HD domain of MdKNOX5 protein was essential for its interaction with MdOFP1, MdOFP4, MdOFP14 and MdOFP16 proteins. 【Conclusion】 Seven *MdKNOX* genes were isolated and constitutively expressed in all examined tissues, and they showed different expression patterns under salt or mannitol treatment. In addition, MdKNOX1, MdKNOX5 and MdKNOX22 could interact with multiple MdOFP proteins. These results would provide a strong theoretical basis and a valuable reference for analysis of the biological functions of the MdKNOX transcription factors in apple growth, development and stress and also for construction of regulatory networks.

Key words: Apple; KNOX transcription factor; Gene clone; Expression analysis; Protein interaction

自从在玉米中发现 *knotted1* (*kn1*) 基因以来,已在多个植物中发现 *KNOX* (*KNOTTED1 like homeobox*) 基因^[1]。KNOX 转录因子属于 TALE (three amino-acid loop extension) 基因家族中的亚家族,在植物中包含多个家族成员,其显著的特征是含有同源异型盒结构域 (homeodomain, HD), 此外还含有 KNOX1、KNOX2 和 ELK 结构域^[2]。其中 HD 结构域参与蛋白互作的形成和与 DNA 的结合^[3]。KNOX1 和 KNOX2 结构域被称为 MEINOX 结构域,对转基因植株表型的变化起到重要作用^[3]。ELK 结构域编码核定位信号,在与其他蛋白互作和转录抑制过程中也起到一定作用^[3]。多项研究表明,KNOX 蛋白能与 BLH 蛋白相互作用形成不同组合的异质二聚体,某些异质二聚体还可与 MADS-box 或者 OVATE family proteins (OFP) 转录因子相互作用形成功能复合体,调控植物的生长和发育过程^[4]。基于 *KNOX* 基因的序列相似性、结构特征、系统进化关系以及表达模式,可将 KNOX 蛋白分为 2 个亚家族: Class I (KNOX I) 和 Class II (KNOX II)^[2,5-8]。进一步的研究表明,在蒺藜苜蓿 (*Medicago truncatula* L.)、番茄 (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) 和拟南芥 (*Arabidopsis thaliana* L. Heynh.) 中鉴定到一个新的 KNOX 蛋白亚家族 KNOXM, 与 KNOX I 和 KNOX II 亚家族不同的是其本身缺少 ELK 和 HD 结构域^[9-11]。KNOX I 能够进一步分为 3 个亚组: STM-like、KNAT2/6-like 和 KNAT1/BP-like, 而 KNOX II 分为 2 个亚组: KNAT7-like 和 KNAT3/4/5-like^[1]。通过拟南芥突变体研究发现,

KNOX 基因不仅调控植物细胞增殖和组织分化,还参与调节细胞分裂素和赤霉素信号途径^[1,7,12]。拟南芥 KNOX I 亚组包含 4 个基因: *SHOOTMERISTEMLESS* (*STM*) 以及 *KNAT1/2/6*。其中, STM 基因在茎顶端分生组织 (shoot apical meristem, SAM) 早期胚胎发生期间表达,对 SAM 形成的起始起到重要作用^[12]。KNAT1 和 KNAT6 在 SAM 功能的形成和花序发育过程中扮演着重要角色^[13-14]。KNAT2 对花模型的调控起到重要作用^[15]。相比 KNOX I 的广泛研究, KNOX II 已知突变体缺乏表型,研究相对较少,在拟南芥中发现 *KNAT7* 基因在调控次级细胞壁合成转录网络中起到一定作用^[16-17]。最近研究表明, *KNAT3/4/5* 这 3 个基因与 KNOX I 成员起到相反的作用,功能冗余地促进结瘤器官的分化^[8]。此外, *MtKNAT3/4/5-like* 基因参与共生根瘤的发育,并可调节豆科植物根瘤细胞分裂素生物合成^[18]。在苹果 (*Malus domestica* Borkh.) 中发现 *MdKNOX15* 可通过调节赤霉素水平调控苹果株高和开花^[19]。MdKNOX19 能够靶向 *ABI5* 调节 ABA 敏感性和种子萌发^[20]。

Jia 等^[21]通过对苹果基因组数据库序列比对,发现苹果基因组中含有 22 个 *MdKNOX* 基因。去除已克隆的 *MdKNOX15* 和 *MdKNOX19* 基因,笔者获得了 7 个苹果 *MdKNOX* 基因,进一步对它们进行了生物信息学、组织器官表达、盐和渗透胁迫表达以及蛋白相互作用分析,为苹果 KNOX 转录因子在生长、发育和逆境下生物学功能的解析、调控网络的构建提供了强有力的理论基础和参考。

1 材料和方法

1.1 植物材料与处理方法

盐和渗透胁迫表达分析供试材料为嘎拉组培苗。嘎拉组培苗培养条件和处理方法参照李慧峰等^[22]的文献描述进行操作。将嘎拉组培苗放在液氮中速冻以备提取RNA。

1.2 *MdKNOX*基因克隆

*MdKNOX*基因克隆所采用的模板为完全展开的紫弘富士苹果叶片,采用改良热硼酸法进行RNA

的提取。嘎拉组培苗RNA的提取采用QIAGEN公司的RNA提取试剂盒RNeasy Plant Mini Kit(货号:74903)。cDNA的合成采用TaRaKa公司的反转录试剂盒PrimeScript™ 1st Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit(货号:6110A)。依据苹果*MdKNOX*核苷酸序列使用Primer 3在线软件(<https://primer3.ut.ee/>)设计*MdKNOX*基因特异性引物(表1)进行RT-PCR扩增。PCR反应条件参照Dong等^[23]文献描述进行操作。对PCR反应液进行胶回收后,将目的基因克隆片段导入到pMD18-T克隆载体上转化*Escherichia coli*

表1 载体构建和PCR所用引物

Table 1 Primers for vector construction and PCR

基因名称 Gene name	上游引物(5'-3') Forward primer sequence (5'-3')	下游引物(5'-3') Reverse primer sequence (5'-3')
全长编码框扩增 Complete ORF amplification		
<i>MdKNOX1</i>	ATGGCGTTTCATCACCAGCAGCAG	TCACCTCTTGCCTTGTCTTGA
<i>MdKNOX2</i>	ATGCAAGAATCCGGGTGGGGAT	CTATCTTTTGCCTTGGACTTTAA
<i>MdKNOX5</i>	ATGCAAGAATCCGGGTGGGGAT	CTATCTTTTGCCTTGGACTTTAA
<i>MdKNOX10</i>	ATGGAAGGAGGAAGTAGTCGCAA	TCAAAGGAGAGTAGATGTGCAAT
<i>MdKNOX13</i>	ATGGAGGATTTTACAGGATGAA	TCACATATCATCGTGAATATT
<i>MdKNOX16</i>	ATGGAGGAAATATACAGATTGCA	TCATTCACTGTAAAGAATGGTC
<i>MdKNOX22</i>	ATGGAAGGAGGAATCAGTCGTAA	TTACAGCCGAGTAGATGAACAATC
RT-qPCR		
<i>MdKNOX1</i>	TCTTGACTCAAAAAGCCGCTT	CTGCTGCTGGTGATGAAACG
<i>MdKNOX2</i>	AGTCCCCTCTCAAACCACA	TGCATTTCTAGACGACCCGA
<i>MdKNOX5</i>	ACCCATCCCTCAGAATTTCCA	GAGGGTGTGGCTATCTCA
<i>MdKNOX10</i>	ACCCAGAAGTGCTTAGACAGA	TCTGAATTCATTAGGGCAGCAG
<i>MdKNOX13</i>	CGGGAAAGAAAGTAAAGTCTGGT	AGTGAGAGTGCAAGTGTGAGA
<i>MdKNOX16</i>	GGGACACAGGGTTTCAATCG	GATGGTGGTGATTGTGCTCC
<i>MdKNOX22</i>	TGGAAGGAGGAATCAGTCGT	TCAAAGGTAGGGAAAGAACTGC
Y2H-pGBT9		
<i>MdOFP1</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGCAAAACACA	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACTCAATGCCGGCGGGCG
<i>MdOFP4</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGAAGTTGCCCT	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACCTAAGACATTGTGAT
<i>MdOFP5</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGGGCAAGAAA	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACTTAGTCGTCTCTCGTC
<i>MdOFP6</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGGGGAAGAAA	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACTTATTTAATCTGGTC
<i>MdOFP11</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGGGAAACCAC	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACTTACTTGGACCCAAT
<i>MdOFP13</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGCCTACAACA	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACCTAGTAGTCACGTGA
<i>MdOFP14</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGGGGAATTAC	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACCAATTTGATGTGTGC
<i>MdOFP16</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGAAAACCGA	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACTCAAGATCCCCAGTT
<i>MdOFP19</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGCTTTCATCC	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACTCACATGATCATCGG
<i>MdOFP20</i>	GCCGGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGCTTCTTCC	TTAGCTTGGCTGCAGGTCGACTCATATGATCATCGG
Y2H-pGAD424		
<i>MdKNOX1</i>	AGATCGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGGCGTTTCAT	CATAGATCTCTGCAGGTCGACTCACCTCTTGCCTTT
<i>MdKNOX5</i>	AGATCGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGCAAGAATCC	CATAGATCTCTGCAGGTCGACCTATCTTTTGCCTTT
<i>MdKNOX22</i>	AGATCGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGGAAGGAGGA	CATAGATCTCTGCAGGTCGACTTACAGCCGAGTAGA
<i>MdKNOX5</i> △HD	AGATCGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGCAAGAATCC	CATAGATCTCTGCAGGTCGACCTAGTCATCTCATC
<i>MdKNOX10</i> △MEINOX	AGATCGAATCCCGGGGATCCGTATGCAGATGGAT	CATAGATCTCTGCAGGTCGACCTATCTTTTGCCTTT

DH5 α 感受态细胞,涂板后筛选阳性克隆,把摇菌送到公司进行测序。

1.3 苹果KNOX转录因子蛋白序列、进化关系和顺式作用元件分析

使用苹果、拟南芥和水稻全长KNOX氨基酸序列,采用MEGA 6软件(<http://www.megasoftware.net>)进行进化树分析。软件具体参数:NJ方法、pairwise deletion、Poisson correction 和 bootstrap (1000 repeat)^[24]。利用序列分析软件DNAMAN 6.0.3.99分析苹果KNOX全长蛋白序列。*MdKNOX*基因启动子上含有的顺式作用元件利用PlantCARE网站(<http://bioinformatics.psb.ugent.be/webtools/plantcare/html/>)进行分析。

1.4 *MdKNOX*的表达分析

根据NCBI网站中GEO数据库GSE42873生成苹果*MdKNOX*组织器官表达数据。该转录谱(Array)包含10个不同苹果基因型的16个器官组织数据。通过TIGR MeV v4.8.1软件进行表达热图的绘制。*MdKNOX*基因在盐和渗透胁迫下的表达分析采用实时荧光定量PCR(RT-qPCR)进行检测,使用*MdMDH*基因作为苹果内参基因,相对表达水平结果采用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ 法进行计算^[25]。RT-qPCR反应体系和程序参照李慧峰等^[22]的文献描述进行操作。*MdKNOX*基因的荧光定量引物见表1。

1.5 酵母双杂交(Y2H)实验

Y2H方法参照Clontech公司公布的方法进行操作。将*MdKNOX1*、*MdKNOX5*和*MdKNOX22*全长编码框、*MdKNOX5*删除MEINOX结构域片段和*MdKNOX5*删除HD结构域片段插入到pGAD424(GAL4 activation domain, AD)捕获载体中;将*MdOFP1/4/5/6/11/13/14/16/19/20*全长编码框克隆到pGBT9(GAL4 DNA-binding domain, BD)诱饵载体

中^[26]。将不同融合载体以AD和BT配对形式分别转化酵母菌株Y2HGold,然后涂布在二缺培养基SD/-Trp/-Leu和四缺培养基SD/-Trp/-Leu/-His/-Ade+X- α -Gal中进行培养,通过观察菌体是否变蓝判断蛋白是否存在相互作用。采用pGBT9-MdOFP和pGBT9-MdWKRY52融合载体与pGAD424空载体质粒共转化的酵母菌作为阴性对照;采用pGBT9-MdWRKY52和pGAD424-MdVQ10融合载体共转化的酵母菌作为阳性对照^[23]。

1.6 数据分析

*MdKNOX*基因在盐和渗透胁迫处理下的表达水平采用IBM SPSS Statistics v.20软件中One-way ANOVA方法及Duncan检验($p < 0.05$)进行差异显著性分析。

2 结果与分析

2.1 苹果*MdKNOX*基因的克隆

使用紫弘富士叶片的cDNA作为PCR反应模板,进行RT-PCR扩增。测序结果显示,7个苹果*MdKNOX*基因克隆成功。根据前人对*MdKNOX*基因家族鉴定的研究结果,对7个苹果*MdKNOX*基因进行命名,各个基因的GenBank登录号、基因组ID号、染色体定位、开放阅读框、分子质量以及等电点信息详见表2。DNAMAN软件分析结果显示,7个MdKNOX转录因子含有典型的KNOX1、KNOX2、ELK和HD结构域(图1)。

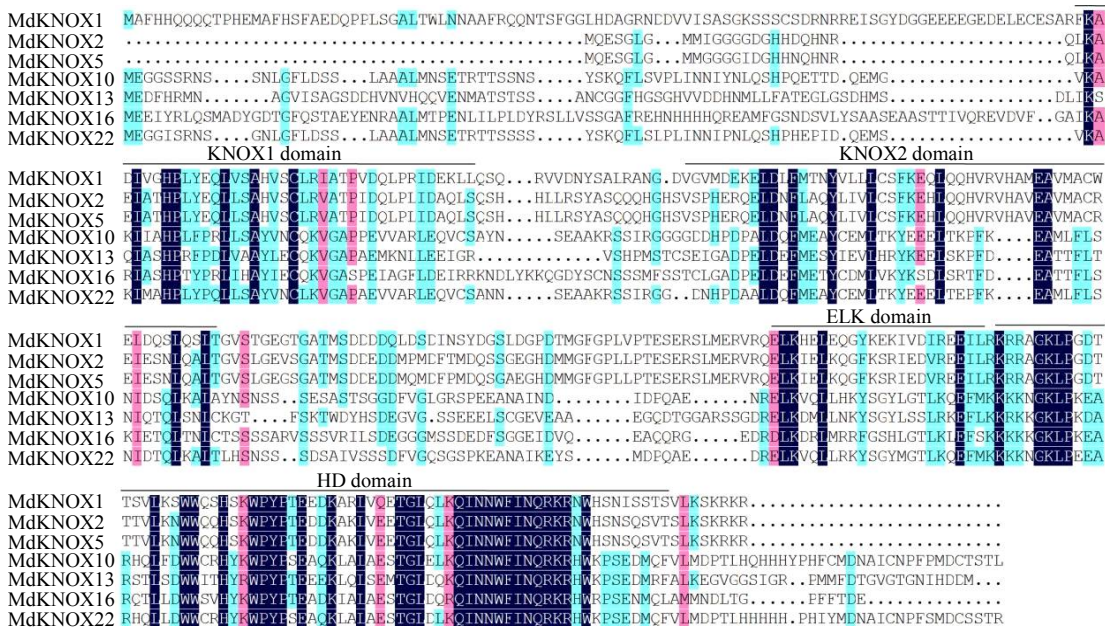
2.2 苹果KNOX转录因子的进化分析

利用进化树分析软件MEGA6对9个苹果MdKNOX(7个本文克隆的MdKNOX、MdKNOX15和MdKNOX19)、9个拟南芥KNOX和11个水稻(*Oryza sativa* L.)KNOX全长蛋白序列进行进化分析。图2结果显示,KNOX成员被清楚地分为3个亚家族

表2 *MdKNOX*基因的基本信息

Table 2 Basic information of *MdKNOX* genes in apple

基因名称 Gene name	GenBank 登录号 GenBank accession	基因ID Gene ID	染色体定位 Chromosome location	开放阅读框长度 ORF length/bp	分子质量 Molecular weight/ku	等电点 pI
<i>MdKNOX1</i>	MG021650	MD02G1012900	chr02: 821 928~824 755	1083	40.781	5.153
<i>MdKNOX2</i>	MG021649	MD04G1069700	chr04: 9 546 486~9 554 585	867	32.887	6.650
<i>MdKNOX5</i>	MG021648	MD06G1071100	chr06: 17 203 340~17 208 257	867	32.855	6.775
<i>MdKNOX10</i>	MG021644	MD09G1112500	chr09: 8 548 509~8 551 109	1005	37.716	6.606
<i>MdKNOX13</i>	MG021646	MD12G1205700	chr12: 28 623 114~28 626 178	990	36.921	5.196
<i>MdKNOX16</i>	MG021647	MD16G1097200	chr16: 6 783 533~6 790 006	1062	40.205	5.650
<i>MdKNOX22</i>	MG021645	MD17G1102600	chr17: 8 723 668~8 726 679	1002	37.666	6.565



不同颜色字体代表相同或相似氨基酸残基。KNOX1、KNOX2、ELK 和 HD 保守结构域使用上划线标出。

Different color-boxed letters represent identical or similar residues. The conserved KNOX1, KNOX2, ELK and HD domains have been underlined.

图 1 苹果 MdKNOX 氨基酸序列同源性比对

Fig. 1 Homology comparison of the deduced amino acid sequence alignment of cloned MdKNOX proteins

(KNOX I、KNOX II 和 KNOX M), 其中 KNOX I 中可进一步分为 3 个亚组 (STM-like、KNAT2/6-like

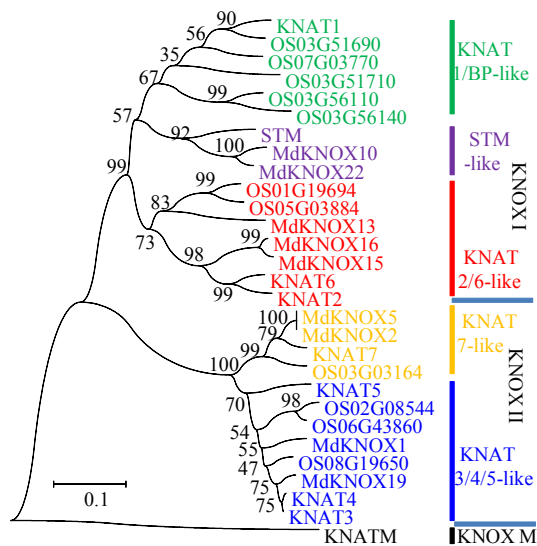
和 KNAT1/BP-like), KNOX II 分为 2 个亚组 (KNAT7-like 和 KANT3/4/5-like)。STM-like 亚组中包含 MdKNOX10 和 MdKNOX22; KNAT2/6-like 亚组中包含 MdKNOX13、MdKNOX15 和 MdKNOX16; KNAT7-like 亚组中包含 MdKNOX2 和 MdKNOX5; KNAT3/4/5-like 亚组中包含 MdKNOX1 和 MdKNOX19。

2.3 苹果 MdKNOX 启动子序列分析

下载已克隆 MdKNOX 基因翻译起始位点上游 1500 bp 序列, 获得了 7 个 MdKNOX 基因的启动子序列。通过 PlantCARE 数据库分析启动子序列上的顺式作用元件, 除了光响应元件, 还有多个逆境和激素响应元件 (图 3)。在 7 个 MdKNOX 基因的启动子上总共存在 13 种不同类型的顺式作用元件, 分别是对响应逆境的低氧、低温、热、干旱、机械创伤、病原菌和激素响应的茉莉酸甲酯、水杨酸、生长素、赤霉素、乙烯和 ABA 等顺式作用元件 (图 3)。这些结果表明, MdKNOX 启动子上的顺式作用元件可能在苹果生长和发育以及逆境胁迫响应中起到重要的作用。

2.4 苹果 MdKNOX 基因的表达分析

利用 NCBI 网站的 GEO 数据库下载苹果 16 个不同组织的转录谱 (GSE42873), 检测 MdKNOX 在不同组织中的表达情况 (图 4)。结果显示, Md-



利用 29 个苹果、拟南芥和水稻 KNOX 蛋白全长序列, 使用 MEGA 6 软件构建进化树。

The phylogenetic tree was constructed with MEGA 6 software using full-length amino acid sequences from the 29 KNOX proteins of apple, Arabidopsis and rice.

图 2 苹果、拟南芥和水稻 KNOX 蛋白的进化分析

Fig. 2 Phylogenetic relationship of KNOX proteins in apple, Arabidopsis and rice

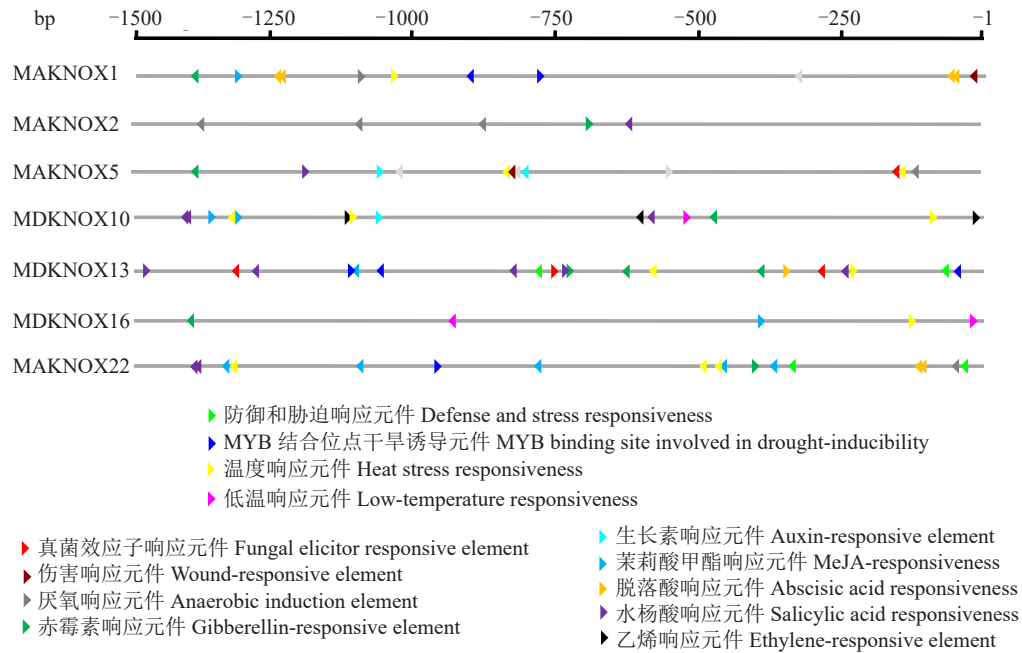


图3 7个 *MdKNOX* 基因启动子顺式作用元件分析
 Fig. 3 The *cis*-acting elements of 7 promoters in *MdKNOX* genes

*KNOX*基因在被检测的组织中均有表达。其中, *MdKNOX1*、*MdKNOX2* 和 *MdKNOX5* 在被检测的组织中有相对较高的表达水平;在叶_M49(Leaf M49)、花_M74(Flower M74)、果实_M20花后100 d [Fruit M20 (100DAM)] 和果实_M20收获期[Fruit M20 (harvest)]组织中, *MdKNOX10*、*MdKNOX13*、*MdKNOX16* 和 *MdKNOX22* 基因有相对较高的表达水

平(图4)。进一步利用荧光实时定量PCR分析盐和甘露醇处理下嘎拉组培苗中 *MdKNOX*基因的表达情况,结果显示,在正常条件下, *MdKNOX*的相对表达水平无明显变化(图5-A);在NaCl处理条件下, *MdKNOX13*与对照相比,相对表达水平升高,在处理48 h后相对表达水平达到对照的1.96倍, *MdKNOX1*、*MdKNOX2*

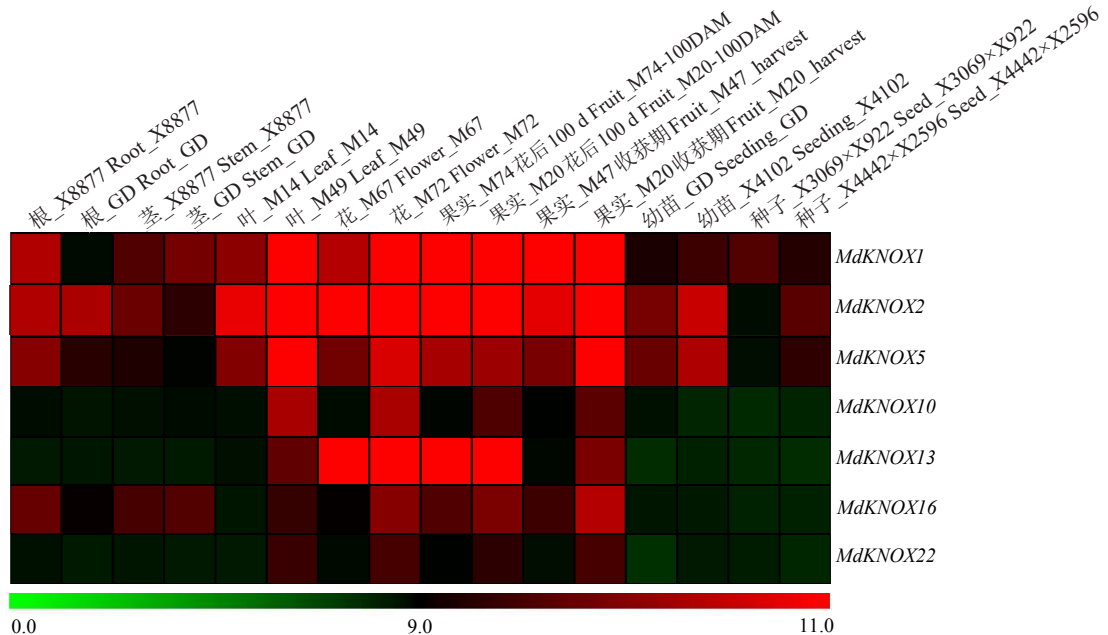
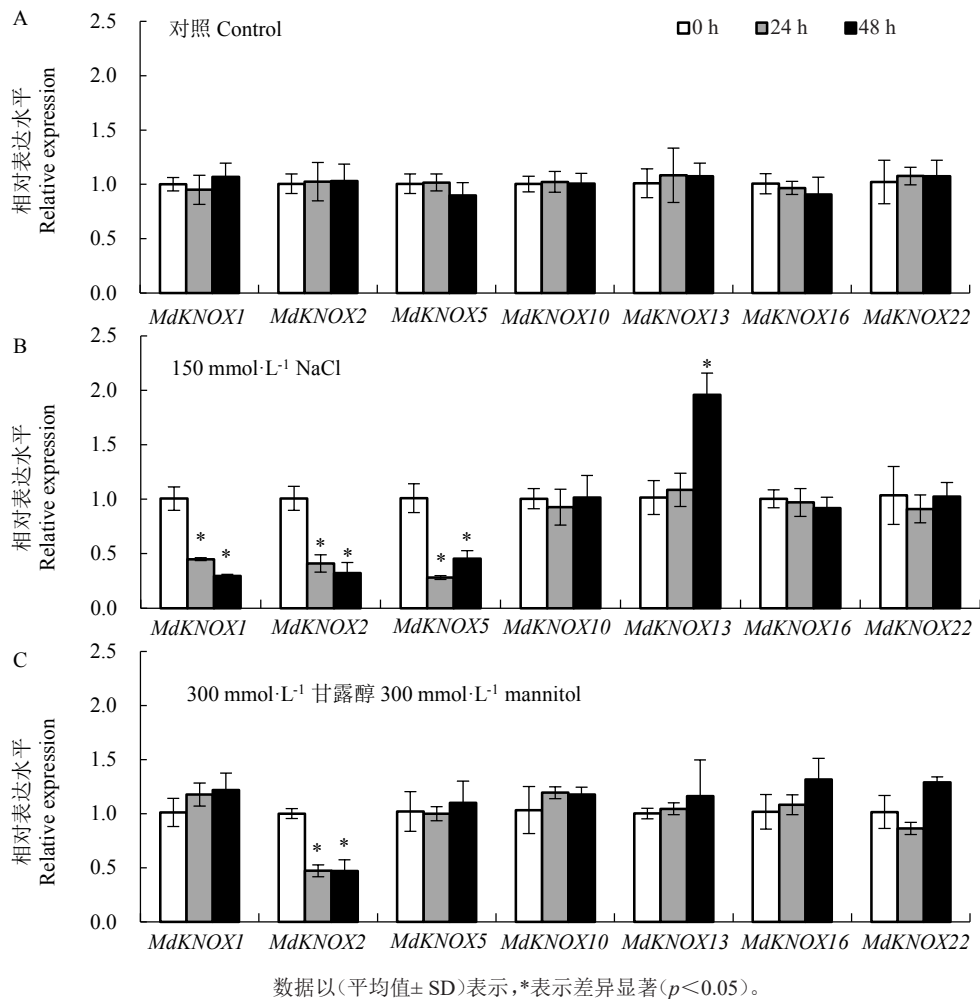


图4 *MdKNOX* 基因在苹果不同组织中的表达模式
 Fig. 4 Expression profiles of *MdKNOX* genes in various tissues



The data were expressed as (mean ± SD), * indicates the difference was significant ($p < 0.05$).

图5 *MdKNOX* 基因在正常生长(A)、盐处理(B)和甘露醇处理下(C)的表达模式

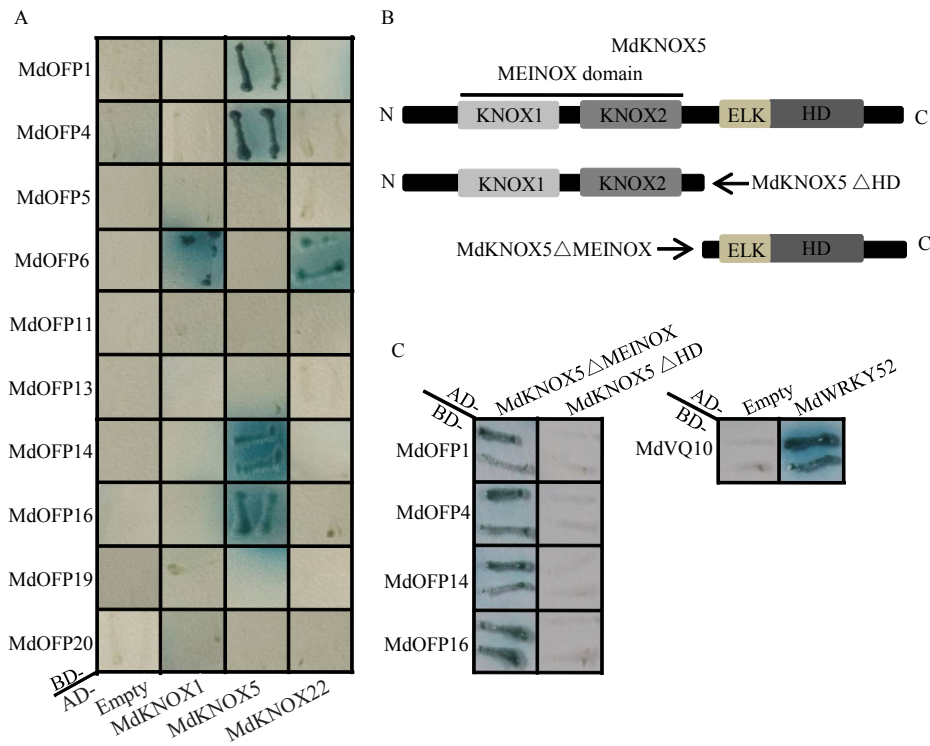
Fig. 5 Expression analysis of *MdKNOX* genes under normal growth (A), salt (B) and mannitol (C) treatments

和 *MdKNOX5* 的相对表达量与对照相比下降, *MdKNOX1* 在处理 24 h 后相对表达水平为对照的 0.28 倍; *MdKNOX2* 和 *MdKNOX5* 在处理 48 h 后, 相对表达水平分别是对照的 0.32 和 0.29 倍(图 5-B); 在甘露醇处理条件下, *MdKNOX2* 与对照相比, 表达水平降低, 在 48 h 时为对照的 0.47 倍(图 5-C)。

2.5 *MdKNOX* 蛋白与 *MdOFP* 蛋白相互作用

笔者前期研究发现苹果基因组中存在 26 个 *MdOFP* 基因家族成员, 并且成功克隆了 10 个 *MdOFP* 基因 (*MdOFP1/4/5/6/11/13/14/16/19/20*)^[26]。本研究利用酵母双杂交试验, 检测了 *MdKNOX* 蛋白与这 10 个 *MdOFP* 蛋白的相互作用情况。3 个 *MdKNOX* 全长 cDNA 序列也融合到 AD 捕获载体上, 同时 10 个 *MdOFP* 全长 cDNA 序列融合到 BD 诱饵载体中^[26]。将 AD-*MdKNOX* 和 BD-*MdOFP* 融合载体共转化到酵母细胞, 通过观察 β -galactosidase 活

性来测试 *LacZ* 报告基因的表达。如图 6-A 所示, 作为阴性对照, 10 个 BD-*MdOFP* 融合诱饵载体与空 AD 捕获载体在四缺培养基上不变蓝, 说明这 10 个 *MdOFP* 蛋白没有转录自激活活性。 *MdKNOX1* 和 *MdKNOX22* 蛋白能与 *MdOFP6* 蛋白相互作用, *MdKNOX5* 蛋白能与 *MdOFP1*、*MdOFP4*、*MdOFP14* 和 *MdOFP16* 蛋白相互作用(图 6-A)。为了检测 *MdKNOX* 蛋白哪一段区域对于 *MdOFP* 蛋白相互作用是必需的, 构建了 *MdKNOX10* 删除 MEINOX 结构域捕获载体 (AD-*MdKNOX10* Δ MEINOX) 和 *MdKNOX10* 删除 HD 结构域捕获载体 (AD-*MdKNOX10* Δ HD)(图 6-B)。如图 6-C 所示, 作为阳性对照, *MdVQ10* 蛋白和 *MdWRKY52* 蛋白相互作用变蓝^[23]。 *MdKNOX5* Δ MEINOX 与 *MdOFP1*、*MdOFP4*、*MdOFP14* 和 *MdOFP16* 蛋白相互作用, 而 *MdKNOX5* Δ HD 与这些蛋白失去相互作用能力, 说



A. AD-MdKNOX 融合捕获载体与 BD-MdOFP 融合诱饵载体共转化酵母细胞。酵母细胞在缺乏 Leu-Trp-His-Ade 四缺培养基外加 α -gal 上正常生长变蓝代表存在相互作用。空 AD 捕获载体加 BD-MdOFP 融合诱饵载体作为阴性对照; B. 分离 MdKNOX5 不同片段用于酵母双杂交实验; C. AD-MdKNOX 片段融合捕获载体与 BD-MdOFP 融合诱饵载体互作分析。空 AD 捕获载体加 BD-MdWRKY52 融合诱饵载体作为阴性对照。AD-MdVQ10 捕获载体加 BD-MdWRKY52 融合诱饵载体作为阳性对照。

A. The AD-MdKNOX fusion prey vectors were co-transformed with the BD-MdOFP fusion bait vectors into yeast cells. Postive interactions were indicated by the ability of cells to grow on synthetic dropout medium additive α -gal and lacking Leu, Trp, His and Ade. The empty AD prey vector plus BD-MdOFP fusion bait vectors were used as negative controls; B. Names and Locations of MdKNOX5 fragments cloned separately and used for Y2H; C. The fragments of AD-MdKNOX5 interacted with BD-MdOFP1/4/14/16. The empty AD prey vector plus BD-MdWRKY52 fusion bait vectors were used as negative controls. The AD-MdVQ10 plus BD-MdWRKY52 was used as positive control.

图 6 MdKNOX 蛋白和 MdOFP 蛋白在酵母细胞中的互作分析
Fig. 6 Interactions of MdKNOX proteins with MdOFP proteins in yeast cells

明 MdKNOX5 与 MdOFP1、MdOFP4、MdOFP14 和 MdOFP16 相互作用,HD 区域是互作必需的。

3 讨论

根据植物 KNOX 蛋白的高度保守结构域和苹果基因组数据库公布的数据, Jia 等^[22]对苹果 KNOX 基因进行了基因组范围内的家族鉴定, 筛选出了 22 个 MdKNOX 基因, 随后对 MdKNOX15 和 Md-KNOX19 转录因子进行了功能鉴定^[19-20]。本研究根据前人研究结果, 克隆了 7 个 MdKNOX 基因, 对结构域、进化分类和启动子顺式作用元件进行了分析, 检测了组织器官表达、非生物胁迫应答以及与 MdOFP 蛋白互作模式, 表明这些 MdKNOX 基因在苹果调控生长、发育以及应对非生物胁迫过程中起到不同的作用。

研究表明, KNOX 蛋白能够与 BLH 形成异质二

聚体或者与 OFP 转录因子相互作用或者它们 3 者形成功能复合体参与调控植物生长和发育^[12,16,27]。例如, KANT3 与 BLH1 形成异质二聚体, AtOFP5 介导它们活性的抑制参与到胚囊的正常发育以及细胞命运的决定^[28]; KNAT7 与 OFP4 相互作用, 增强 KNAT7 的转录抑制活性调控次生细胞壁的形成^[29]。此外, KNAT7 蛋白还可与 BLH6 蛋白相互作用, 通过抑制 homeodomain-leucine zipper transcription factor REVOLUTA/INTERFASCICULAR FIBERLESS1 (REV/IFL1) 的表达, 进而调控次生细胞壁的形成^[16]。进一步研究表明, KNAT7-BLH6 异质二聚体还可与 AtOFP1 和 AtOFP4 相互作用形成功能复合体, 参与到次生细胞壁的形成^[30]; 水稻 OsKNAT7 可与 Os-OFP2、BLH6-like 和 BLH-like2 相互作用调控维管发育^[31]。水稻 KNOX 蛋白 OSH15 与 BEL-like home-

odomain 蛋白 SH5 相互作用形成二聚体,通过抑制木质素生物合成基因改善落粒性^[32];玉米(*Zea mays* L.)KNOTTED1 与 BLH12 和 BLH14 相互作用,在茎中的脉管和节间结构中起到重要作用^[27]。此外,KNAT7 可与 MYB75 相互作用在茎和种皮中对细胞壁的形成起到重要的调控作用^[33-34]。在本文中,通过酵母双杂交实验,发现 MdKNOX1 和 MdKNOX2 蛋白能与 MdOFP6 蛋白相互作用,MdKNOX5 蛋白能与多个 MdOFP 蛋白相互作用。MdKNOX 蛋白与 MdOFP 之间的这种不同的相互作用可能影响到苹果可能的 BLH-KNOX 异质二聚体的活性,从而改变它们所调控靶基因的表达水平,进而调控苹果的生长和发育,但还需进一步的试验来分析这种潜在的相关分子机制。

尽管 KNOX 蛋白能够调控植物生长和发育等多个方面,但其对非生物和生物胁迫的响应机制还研究甚少。最近研究表明,在干旱、盐和冷处理条件下,鹰嘴豆(*Cicer arietinum* Linn.)根和茎中部分 KNOX 基因响应胁迫处理应答^[35]。在干旱处理下,大豆少数 KNOX 基因受胁迫响应;在病原菌侵染下,大豆 KNOX 基因 *Glyma17g14180*、*Glyma04g06810*、*Glyma09g01000* 和 *Glyma14gg37550* 受到不同的响应^[35]。在本文中,MdKNOX13 受盐胁迫诱导;MdKNOX1、MdKNOX2 和 MdKNOX5 受盐胁迫下调;MdKNOX2 受甘露醇胁迫下调,并且这些 MdKNOX 基因启动子上含有多个逆境胁迫顺式作用元件,表明 MdKNOX 蛋白可能在应对苹果非生物胁迫中起到一定的作用。相信随着关于 KNOX 基因研究的深入,其在非生物胁迫中作用和机制也会日益清晰。

4 结 论

本研究克隆获得了苹果中 7 个 MdKNOX 基因,发现均含有保守的 KNOX1、KNOX2、ELK 和 HD 结构域。通过进化分析表明 7 个 MdKNOX 转录因子分别属于 KNOX I 亚组和 KNOX II 亚组。Array 结果发现,MdKNOX 基因在 16 个组织中均有不同的表达水平。RT-qPCR 结果表明,MdKNOX13 的相对表达水平受到盐胁迫诱导,而 MdKNOX1、MdKNOX2 和 MdKNOX5 的相对表达水平下调;MdKNOX2 的转录水平在渗透胁迫处理下下调表达。酵母双杂交分析表明,MdKNOX 蛋白能够与多个 MdOFP 蛋白相互作用,且 HD 区域是互作必需的。这些结果为苹

果 KNOX 转录因子在生长、发育和逆境下生物学功能的解析、调控网络的构建提供了强有力的理论基础和参考。

参考文献 References:

- [1] HAMANT O, PAUTOT V. Plant development: A tale story[J]. *Comptes Rendus Biologies*, 2010, 333(4): 371-381.
- [2] MUKHERJEE K, BROCCIERI L, BURGLIN T R. A comprehensive classification and evolutionary analysis of plant homeobox genes[J]. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 2009, 26(12): 2775-2794.
- [3] SAKAMOTO T, NISHIMURA A, TAMAOKI M, KUBA M, TANAKA H, IWAHORI S, MATSUOKA M. The conserved KNOX domain mediates specificity of tobacco KNOTTED1-type homeodomain proteins[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 1999, 11(8): 1419-1431.
- [4] ARNAUD N, PAUTOT V. Ring the BELL and tie the KNOX: Roles for TALEs in gynoecium development[J]. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 2014, 5: 93.
- [5] BÜRLIN T R. Analysis of TALE superclass homeobox genes (MEIS, PBC, KNOX, Iroquois, TGIF) reveals a novel domain conserved between plants and animals[J]. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 1997, 25(21): 4173-4180.
- [6] BELLAOUI M, PIDKOWICH M S, SAMACH A, KUSHALAPPA K, KOHALMI S E, MODRUSAN Z, CROSBY W L, HAUGHN G W. The *Arabidopsis* BELL1 and KNOX TALE homeodomain proteins interact through a domain conserved between plants and animals[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2001, 13(11): 2455-2470.
- [7] HAKE S, SMITH H M S, HOLTAN H, MAGNANI E, MELE G, RAMIREZ J. The role of KNOX genes in plant development[J]. *Annual Review of Cell and Developmental Biology*, 2004, 20: 125-151.
- [8] FURUMIZU C, ALVAREZ J P, SAKAKIBARA K, BOWMAN J L. Antagonistic roles for KNOX1 and KNOX2 genes in patterning the land plant body plan following an ancient gene duplication[J]. *PLoS Genetics*, 2015, 11(2): e1004980.
- [9] KIMURA S, KOENIG D, KANG J L, YOONG F Y, SINHA N. Natural variation in leaf morphology results from mutation of a novel KNOX gene[J]. *Current Biology*, 2008, 18(9): 672-677.
- [10] MAGNANI E, HAKE S. KNOX lost the OX: The *Arabidopsis* KNATM gene defines a novel class of KNOX transcriptional regulators missing the homeodomain[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2008, 20(4): 875-887.
- [11] PENG J L, YU J B, WANG H L, GUO Y Q, LI G M, BAI G H, CHEN R J. Regulation of compound leaf development in *Medicago truncatula* by fused compound leaf1, a class M KNOX gene[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2011, 23(11): 3929-3943.
- [12] HAY A, TSANTIS M. KNOX genes: Versatile regulators of

- plant development and diversity[J]. *Development*, 2010, 137(19):3153-3165.
- [13] DOUGLAS S J, CHUCK G, DENGLER R E, PELECANDA L, RIGGS C D. *KNAT1* and *ERECTA* regulate inflorescence architecture in *Arabidopsis*[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2002, 14(3):547-558.
- [14] RAGNI L, BELLES-BOIX E, GÜNL M, PAUTOT V. Interaction of *KNAT6* and *KNAT2* with *BREVIPEDICELLUS* and *PENNYWISE* in *Arabidopsis* inflorescences[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2008, 20(4):888-900.
- [15] LI Y, PI L M, HUANG H, XU L. ATH1 and KNAT2 proteins act together in regulation of plant inflorescence architecture[J]. *Journal of Experimental Botany*, 2012, 63(3):1423-1433.
- [16] LIU Y Y, YOU S J, TAYLOR-TEEPLES M, LI W L, SCHUETZ M, BRADY S M, DOUGLAS C J. BEL1-LIKE HOMEODOMAIN6 and KNOTTED ARABIDOPSIS THALIANA7 interact and regulate secondary cell wall formation via repression of *REVOLUTA*[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2015, 26(12):4843-4861.
- [17] HE J B, ZHAO X H, DU P Z, ZENG W, BEAHAN C T, WANG Y Q, LI H L, BACIC A, WU A M. KNAT7 positively regulates xylan biosynthesis by directly activating *IRX9* expression in *Arabidopsis*[J]. *Journal of Integrative Plant Biology*, 2018, 60(6):514-528.
- [18] DI GIACOMO E, LAFFONT C, SCIARRA F, IANNELLI M A, FRUGIER F, FRUGIS G. KNAT3/4/5-like class 2 KNOX transcription factors are involved in *Medicago truncatula* symbiotic nodule development[J]. *New Phytologist*, 2017, 213(2):822-837.
- [19] JIA P, XING L B, ZHANG C G, CHEN H, LI Y M, ZHANG D, MA J J, ZHAO C P, HAN M Y, REN X L, AN N. MdKNOX15, a class I knotted-like transcription factor of apple, controls flowering and plant height by regulating GA levels through promoting the MdGA2ox7 transcription[J]. *Environmental and Experimental Botany*, 2021, 185:104411.
- [20] JIA P, XING L B, ZHANG C G, ZHANG D, MA J J, ZHAO C P, HAN M Y, REN X L, AN N. MdKNOX19, a class II knotted-like transcription factor of apple, plays roles in ABA signaling/sensitivity by targeting ABI5 during organ development[J]. *Plant Science*, 2021, 302:110701.
- [21] JIA P, ZHANG C G, XING L B, LI Y M, SHAH K, ZUO X Y, ZHANG D, AN N, HAN M Y, REN X L. Genome-wide identification of the *MdKNOX* gene family and characterization of its transcriptional regulation in *Malus domestica*[J]. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 2020, 11:128.
- [22] 李慧峰, 张文芹, 董庆龙, 王小非, 冉昆. 苹果生长素响应因子(MdARF)基因克隆与表达分析[J]. *果树学报*, 2018, 35(10):1170-1181.
- LI Huifeng, ZHANG Wenqin, DONG Qinglong, WANG Xiaofei, RAN Kun. Cloning, sequencing and expression analysis of auxin response factors (MdARF) in apple[J]. *Journal of Fruit Science*, 2018, 35(10):1170-1181.
- [23] DONG Q L, ZHAO S, DUAN D Y, TIAN Y, WANG Y P, MAO K, ZHOU Z S, MA F W. Structural and functional analyses of genes encoding VQ proteins in apple[J]. *Plant Science*, 2018, 272:208-219.
- [24] TAMURA K, STECHER G, PETERSON D, FILIPSKI A, KUMAR S. MEGA6: Molecular evolutionary genetics analysis version 6.0[J]. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 2013, 30(12):2725-2729.
- [25] LIVAK K J, SCHMITTGEN T D. Analysis of relative gene expression data using real-time quantitative PCR and the $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method[J]. *Methods*, 2001, 25(4):402-408.
- [26] LI H F, DONG Q L, ZHAO Q, RAN K. Genome-wide identification, expression profiling, and protein-protein interaction properties of ovate family proteins in apple[J]. *Tree Genetics & Genomes*, 2019, 15(3):45.
- [27] TSUDA K, ABRAHAM-JUAREZ M J, MAENO A, DONG Z B, AROMDEE D, MEELEY R, SHIROISHI T, NONOMURA K I, HAKE S. KNOTTED1 cofactors, BLH12 and BLH14, regulate internode patterning and vein anastomosis in maize[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2017, 29(5):1105-1118.
- [28] PAGNUSSAT G C, YU H J, SUNDARESAN V. Cell-fate switch of synergid to egg cell in *Arabidopsis eostre* mutant embryo sacs arises from misexpression of the BEL1-like homeodomain gene *BLH1*[J]. *The Plant Cell*, 2007, 19(11):3578-3592.
- [29] LI E Y, WANG S C, LIU Y Y, CHEN J G, DOUGLAS C J. OVATE FAMILY PROTEIN_i (OFP_i) interaction with KNAT7 regulates secondary cell wall formation in *Arabidopsis thaliana*[J]. *The Plant Journal*, 2011, 67(2):328-341.
- [30] LIU Y Y, DOUGLAS C J. A role for OVATE FAMILY PROTEIN_i (OFP_i) and OFP₄ in a BLH6-KNAT7 multi-protein complex regulating secondary cell wall formation in *Arabidopsis thaliana*[J]. *Plant Signaling & Behavior*, 2015, 10(7):e1033126.
- [31] SCHMITZ A J, BEGCY K, SARATH G, WALIA H. Rice *Ovate Family Protein 2* (OFP2) alters hormonal homeostasis and vasculature development[J]. *Plant Science*, 2015, 241:177-188.
- [32] YOON J, CHO L H, ANTT H W, KOH H J, AN G. KNOX protein OSH15 induces grain shattering by repressing lignin biosynthesis genes[J]. *Plant Physiology*, 2017, 174(1):312-325.
- [33] BHARGAVA A, MANSFIELD S D, HALL H C, DOUGLAS C J, ELLIS B E. MYB75 functions in regulation of secondary cell wall formation in the *Arabidopsis* inflorescence stem[J]. *Plant Physiology*, 2010, 154(3):1428-1438.
- [34] BHARGAVA A, AHAD A, WANG S C, MANSFIELD S D, HAUGHN G W, DOUGLAS C J, ELLIS B E. The interacting MYB75 and KNAT7 transcription factors modulate secondary cell wall deposition both in stems and seed coat in *Arabidopsis*[J]. *Planta*, 2013, 237(5):1199-1211.
- [35] BHATTACHARJEE A, GHANGAL R, GARG R, JAIN M. Genome-wide analysis of homeobox gene family in legumes: Identification, gene duplication and expression profiling[J]. *PLoS One*, 2015, 10(3):e0119198.