

# 红瓢核桃JrbHLHA2转录因子靶向查尔酮合成酶基因JrCHS4调控种皮花青苷合成的功能研究

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**摘要:**【目的】查尔酮合成酶(CHS)是植物花青苷合成途径中的第一个限速酶,探究红瓢核桃(*Juglans regia L.* RW-1)查尔酮合成酶(CHS)在种皮花青苷合成中的功能,为红瓢核桃的品种改良提供理论支撑。【方法】以红瓢核桃RW-1和普通核桃中林1号不同发育期的种皮为材料,根据qRT-PCR结果,筛选并克隆JrCHS4基因;克隆2种核桃JrCHS4的启动子序列,通过GUS染色和GUS蛋白定量分析启动子活性差异;通过酵母单杂交(Y1H)和双荧光素酶检测试验(LUC)验证上游bHLH转录因子对JrCHS4启动子的调控作用;通过农杆菌介导将JrCHS4瞬时转化烟草叶片,观察叶片颜色及花青苷含量的变化。【结果】花后60、120 d时仅JrCHS4在红瓢核桃种皮中的表达量显著高于普通核桃种皮且表达量差异最大,分别约为66.04、11 970.93倍,花后90 d时除JrCHS4在2种核桃种皮中的表达量基本相同外,其他3个JrCHSs在红瓢核桃种皮中的表达量均显著低于普通核桃种皮,推测JrCHS4可能是红瓢核桃种皮花青苷合成的关键基因。*GW-JrCHS4*启动子与*RW-JrCHS4*启动子具有98.50%的同源性,含有许多响应激素如脱落酸、乙烯、赤霉素以及与逆境胁迫相关的顺式作用元件,与*GW-JrCHS4*启动子相比,*RW-JrCHS4*启动子缺失了1个MYB结合位点MYB1AT,插入了1个bHLH结合位点MYCCONSENSUSAT。GUS染色结果表明,*RW-JrCHS4*启动子诱导产生的蓝色深于*GW-JrCHS4*启动子诱导产生的蓝色;经GUS蛋白定量检测,*RW-JrCHS4*启动子活性显著高于*GW-JrCHS4*启动子活性,约是*GW-JrCHS4*启动子活性的1.17倍。酵母单杂交试验结果表明,JrbHLHA2可以特异性结合JrCHS4启动子;经LUC试验进一步验证,JrbHLHA2能够显著激活JrCHS4启动子的活性,其LUC/REN比值约是对照的2.45倍。瞬时转化JrCHS4的烟草叶片绿色变浅呈现轻微的红色,总花青苷含量得到了显著提高,约是对照的1.09倍,表明JrCHS4能够促进花青苷的生物合成与积累。【结论】红瓢核桃JrbHLHA2转录因子靶向查尔酮合成酶基因JrCHS4是调控红瓢核桃种皮花青苷合成的关键因素。

**关键词:**红瓢核桃;花青苷;查尔酮合成酶;转录调控

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## Functional research on JrbHLHA2 transcription factor targeting chalcone synthase gene JrCHS4 regulating anthocyanin biosynthesis in red walnut

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**Abstract:**【Objective】Walnut (*Juglans regia L.*), which ranks first among the four major nut crops, has been widely planted and processed for utilization. Red walnut RW-1 with red leaves, pericarps and seed coats has been researched because of its high contents of anthocyanin. Anthocyanins are important secondary metabolites in plants, which play an important role in avoiding UV damage, attracting insect pollination and resisting low temperature stress. Although the anthocyanin biosynthesis gene has been stud-

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ied in other plants, the function in walnut is still unclear. Chalcone synthase is the first key enzyme in anthocyanin biosynthesis pathway, which determines the final product of anthocyanin biosynthesis. In this study, the function of *JrCHS4* was researched by transient transformation in tobacco leaves. 【Methods】 The expression patterns of key chalcone synthase genes related to anthocyanin biosynthesis (*JrCHS1–JrCHS4*) were detected by qRT-PCR. The promoters of *JrCHS4* in two different color types of walnuts were cloned by the Phytozome database. The *cis*-acting elements were predicted by PLACE databases. The promoters were inserted into pCAMBIA1381-GUS vector, and the recombinant vector was transformed into *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101 for transient expression. The activity of two promoters was detected by GUS histochemical staining and quantitation GUS protein. The regulatory effect of upstream bHLH transcription factors (JrbHLHA1, JrbHLHA2, JrEGL1a and JrEGL1b) on the *JrCHS4* promoter was detected by yeast one-hybrid (Y1H) and luciferase assay (LUC). The over-expression vector of *JrCHS4* was transient transformed into tobacco leaves, and the changes of leaf color and anthocyanin content were observed. 【Results】 The expression patterns of four *CHSs* genes related to anthocyanin biosynthesis were detected by qRT-PCR using different development stages of seed coat. The results showed that at 60th and 120th days after flowering, the expression level of *JrCHS4* was significantly higher in the red walnut seed coat than in the normal walnut seed coat and the difference in expression level was the largest, which indicated that *JrCHS4* may be the key gene in red walnut anthocyanin biosynthesis. To investigate whether the different expression trends of *CHS4* gene in the seed coat development of red walnut RW-1 and normal walnut Zhonglin 1 were related to their promoters, the promoters of *JrCHS4* were cloned from the two types of walnuts by the Phytozome database, and 98.50% nucleotide identify were shared. From PLACE database, some elements related to hormone response and stress, like ABRE, MYC, ERE, GARE and MYB1AT, were found in *RW-JrCHS4* promoter. Compared with the *GW-JrCHS4* promoter, the *RW-JrCHS4* promoter lacked one MYB binding site MYB1AT and inserted one bHLH binding site MYCCONSENSUSAT. In order to determine the difference in activity of two *JrCHS4* promoters, the promoters were cloned into pCAMBIA1381-GUS vector. After they were transformed into *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101, the positive clones were transient transformed into tobacco leaves. The result of histochemical assay showed that the negative control (only GUS without the promoter) showed almost no expression, the positive control (35S-GUS) showed a strong expression, and the GUS activity under *RW-JrCHS4* was higher than that of *GW-JrCHS4*. The same results were also gotten by quantitation of GUS protein. The results from both assays showed that compared with the *GW-JrCHS4* promoter, the promoter of *RW-JrCHS4* showed high activity, which suggested that the different expression patterns of *JrCHS4* may be caused by their promoter activities. To screen out the bHLH transcription factors, which were in the upstream of *JrCHS4*, four bHLHs related to anthocyanin biosynthesis (JrbHLHA1, JrbHLHA2, JrEGL1a and JrEGL1b) were selected out. After cloned into pGADT7 vector, four bHLHs were co-transformed into yeast stain Y1HGold with *RW-JrCHS4<sub>pro</sub>*-pAbAi. The optimal AbA concentration to inhibit the expression of *JrCHS4* promoter was 150 ng · mL<sup>-1</sup>. After they grew on the selected medium, only JrbHLHA2-pGADT7+*RW-JrCHS4<sub>pro</sub>*-pAbAi stain ensured the normal growth, while none of the other combinations could grow, which indicated that JrbHLHA2 could bind to the promoter of *JrCHS4*. Moreover, the results of LUC assays showed that the activity of *RW-JrCHS4* promoter co-transformed with *JrbHLHA2* was almost three times more than co-transformed with empty vector. So the results indicated that *JrbHLHA2* and *JrCHS4* may be the key genes of anthocyanin biosynthesis in red walnut, and *JrbHLHA2* was bound the promoter of *JrCHS4* to promote the biosynthesis and accumulation of anthocyanin. In order to verify the func-

tion of *JrCHS4* in anthocyanin biosynthesis, the over-expression vector of *JrCHS4* was transformed into tobacco leaves. After they were injected for seven days, the accumulated anthocyanin content of injected *JrCHS4* tobacco leaves was higher than the empty vector injected. The results indicated that *JrCHS4* promoted the accumulation of anthocyanin. 【Conclusion】The *JrbHLHA2* transcription factor targeting chalcone synthase gene *JrCHS4* is the key factor to regulate the biosynthesis of anthocyanin in red walnut RW-1, which provided important theoretical significance and application value for seed coat color improvement as well as breeding new varieties of red walnut.

**Key words:** Red walnut; Anthocyanin; Chalcone synthase; Transcriptional regulation

花青苷是植物重要的次生代谢产物,主要存在于高等植物的花、果实、种皮等器官中,使植物呈现不同的色彩,在避免植物受到紫外线伤害、吸引昆虫传粉和抵御低温胁迫等方面起着重要的作用<sup>[1]</sup>。花青苷的合成由一系列的酶促反应构成,主要包括苯丙氨酸解氨酶(phenylalanine ammonialyase, PAL)、查尔酮合成酶(chalcone synthase, CHS)、查尔酮异构酶(chalcone isomerase, CHI)、黄烷酮-3-羟化酶(flavanone 3-hydroxylase, F3H)、二氢黄酮醇-4-还原酶(dihydroflavonol 4-reductase, DFR)、花青素合成酶(anthocyanidin synthase, ANS)、类黄酮-3-O-糖基转移酶(UDP-glucose: flavonoid-3-O-glucosyltransferase, UFGT)等<sup>[2]</sup>。

查尔酮合成酶(chalcone synthase, CHS)是类黄酮生物合成途径中的第一个关键酶,催化3分子的丙二酰-CoA 和1分子的4-香豆酰-CoA结合形成查尔酮,是类黄酮途径中的第一个呈色物质<sup>[3]</sup>。大量研究表明,CHS能够影响花青苷的累积水平。在智利草莓[*Fragaria chiloensis* (L.) Mill.]果实发育过程中,ABA通过激活 *FcPAL*、*FcCHS*、*FcANS*等花青素途径的关键基因加速果实颜色的积累<sup>[4]</sup>;套袋处理降低了杏果实中包括 *PaCHS*在内的花青苷合成基因的表达量,从而导致花青苷含量的下降<sup>[5]</sup>。苹果<sup>[6]</sup>、梨<sup>[7]</sup>和柑橘<sup>[8]</sup>中,CHS基因的表达量随花青苷积累量的增加而升高;实验室前期在红瓢核桃自然杂交后代中鉴定了4个与花青苷含量呈正相关的*JrCHSs*基因,但其功能还没有相关研究<sup>[9]</sup>。

bHLH(basic Helix-Loop-Helix, 碱性螺旋-环-螺旋)转录因子是植物第二大转录因子家族,其蛋白结构包含两个功能不同的区域,即位于N端的碱性区域(DNA识别区)和C端的HLH区域(可形成同源或异源二聚体),在植物的生长发育、抵抗胁迫和转导信号等方面发挥着重要作用,是植物花青苷合成

的关键调控因子<sup>[3]</sup>。研究发现,茄子 *SmbHLH13* 可以正向调控茄子 *F3H* 和 *CHS* 基因的表达,促进茄子花青素的合成<sup>[10]</sup>。笔者课题组前期根据生物信息学与表达分析,筛选出了4个与红瓢核桃花青苷合成相关的bHLH转录因子基因*JrbHLHA1*、*JrbHLHA2*、*JrEGL1a*、*JrEGL1b*<sup>[11]</sup>,但对其调控红瓢核桃花青苷生物合成的分子机制比如与*JrCHSs*基因的调控关系没有相关研究。

核桃(*Juglans regia* L.)是世界四大坚果之首,含有丰富的营养成分,被广泛种植和加工利用<sup>[12]</sup>。据联合国粮食及农业组织(FAO)(<http://faostat.fao.org>)最新数据统计,2022年中国核桃收获面积占世界核桃收获面积的28.58%,产量占世界核桃产量的36.14%,均稳居世界首位。中国核桃栽培历史已有3000多年,具有极丰富的种质资源,目前广泛栽培的核桃品种种皮均为黄白色或浅黄色<sup>[13]</sup>,可选择的外观性状较少。笔者课题组前期在太行山区域发现了珍稀的红瓢核桃种质资源(*J. regia* L. RW-1),其叶片、果皮和种皮均因富含花青苷而呈红色,但其呈色机制目前尚不清楚,限制了核桃的色泽品质改良。因此,笔者在前期研究的基础上,筛选红瓢核桃种皮花青苷合成关键 *CHS* 基因,探究其与上游 *JrbHLHs* 的调控关系,并验证其在花青苷生物合成与积累中发挥的功能与作用,以期解析红瓢核桃种皮花青苷合成与积累的分子机制,为促进红瓢核桃色泽品质的改良及育种奠定基础。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 试验材料

供试材料为野生资源红瓢核桃(*J. regia* L. RW-1, 资源编号 JUREG4108210002)和普通核桃中林1号(*J. regia* L. ‘Zhonglin 1’),均种植于河南农业大学教园区毛庄果树资源圃,南北向定植,株行距

2 m × 3 m, 常规肥水管理。选择生长状况良好、长势一致的植株,于花后 60、90、120 d 采集红瓢核桃 RW-1(RW)和普通核桃中林 1 号(GW)的种皮,采集样品于液氮速冻后置于-80 °C超低温冰箱中保存备用。

所有用于注射的烟草(*Nicotiana tabacum* L.)均在温度 22 °C、湿度 60%、光照 16 h/黑暗 8 h 的培养箱中进行培养。

## 1.2 总花青素含量测定

将样品于液氮中速冻并研磨至粉末状,悬浮于预冷的1%盐酸甲醇溶液中,充分混匀后于4 °C黑暗浸提24 h,4 °C条件下12 000g离心10 min收集上清液,检测上清液在波长为530、620、650 nm处的吸光值,代入公式计算:总花青素含量(w,后同)/(mg·g<sup>-1</sup>)=[(A<sub>530</sub>-A<sub>620</sub>)-0.25(A<sub>650</sub>-A<sub>620</sub>)]/0.1,进行3次生物学重复<sup>[14]</sup>。

## 1.3 DNA 提取及启动子克隆

使用 EZ-10 Spin Column Plant Genomic DNA Purification Kit(生工生物工程股份有限公司,上海)对样品进行DNA提取<sup>[15]</sup>。JrCHS4的启动子序列通

过核桃基因组<sup>[16]</sup>预测获得,关键顺式作用元件的分析通过PLACE(<https://www.dna.affrc.go.jp/PLACE/>?action=newplace)获得。

## 1.4 RNA 提取与 cDNA 合成、实时荧光定量 PCR (qRT-PCR)

使用快速通用植物RNA提取试剂盒(北京华越洋生物科技有限公司,北京)对样品进行RNA提取,利用HiScript® III RT SuperMix for qPCR (+gDNA wiper)反转录试剂盒(南京诺唯赞生物科技股份有限公司,南京)对质量合格的RNA进行cDNA合成。

于 ABI 7500 实时 PCR 系统(Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, United States) 使用 ChamQ Universal SYBR qPCR Master Mix(南京诺唯赞生物科技股份有限公司,南京)进行 qRT-PCR 试验。以Jr18S(XM\_019004991.1)作为内参基因,基因相对表达水平使用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 法计算<sup>[17]</sup>,引物序列见表1。

## 1.5 GUS 染色与 GUS 蛋白定量检测

从 2 种核桃 DNA 中分别克隆 JrCHS4 启动子

表 1 qRT-PCR、基因克隆和载体构建引物序列

Table 1 Primer sequences for qRT-PCR, gene cloning and vector construction

引物名称 Primer name	引物序列(5'-3') Primer sequence(5'-3')
qRT-JrCHS1-F	CATTCCGAGGGCCTAGTGAC
qRT-JrCHS1-R	GATGGCCCCATCACTATCGG
qRT-JrCHS2-F	CATACCCTGACTACTACTTCCG
qRT-JrCHS2-R	GTGATTCCGAGCAGACG
qRT-JrCHS3-F	GCGAAGTAGGCTTGACAT
qRT-JrCHS3-R	AATATGGCGACTTGCTCTAA
qRT-JrCHS4-F	CACTCCCTCAAACATGCGTCT
qRT-JrCHS4-R	CTTGATTGCCTTCGATGCCG
qRT-18S-F	ATTGGTTGCGGATCAGGACT
qRT-18S-R	GCTCCAATGCAACATCAAGC
qRT-NtActin-F	AATGATCGGAATGGAAGCTG
qRT-NtActin-R	TGGTACCAACACTGAGGACA
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -F	CTTTGCAATTATGGAGTCCTTTG
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -R	GCCTCTGCTCGGTCTAGTT
JrCHS4-F	ATGGCGTCCATGGAGGA
JrCHS4-R	TTAGATATTGACACTGTGCAGCA
JrbHLHA1-F	ATGGCTGCACCGCCGAG
JrbHLHA1-R	TTAAGAGTCTGTGTGGGGGATG
JrbHLHA2-F	ATGGCTGCACCGCCAA
JrbHLHA2-R	CTAACAGTCATTGTGGGGTATG
JrEGL1a-F	ATGGCTAATGGCTGTCAAAC
JrEGL1a-R	TCAACACTTACAAGCAATTTC
JrEGL1b-F	ATGGAGGGGAGAATGCTAGAAAAC
JrEGL1b-R	TCAACACTTCCTAGTTGATCTGG

表1 (续) Table 1 (Continued)

引物名称 Primer name	引物序列(5'-3') Primer sequence(5'-3')
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -1381-F	TGGGCCCGCGCGCCGAATTCTTGCATTGAGTCCTTTG
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -1381-R	CCTCTAAAGCTTGGCTGCAGGCCTTGCTCGGTCTAGTT
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -pAbAi-F	AAATGATGAATTGAAAAGCTTCTTGCAATTATGGAGTCCTTTG
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -pAbAi-R	ATACAGAGCACATGCCTCGAGGCCTTGCTCGGTCTAGTT
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -LUC-F	ACTATAGGGCAATTGGTACCCCTTGCAATTATGGAGTCCTTTG
JrCHS4 <sub>pro</sub> -LUC-R	ATCGATAACCGTCGACCTCGAGGCCTTGCTCGGTCTAGTT
JrbHLHA1-AD-F	TACGACGTACCAGATTACGCTCATATGATGGCTCACCGCCAG
JrbHLHA1-AD-R	TCTACGATTCTGCAGCTGAGTTAAGAGTCTGTGTGGGGATG
JrbHLHA2-AD-F	TACGACGTACCAGATTACGCTCATATGATGGCTCACCGCCAA
JrbHLHA2-AD-R	TCTACGATTCTGCAGCTGAGCTAAGAGTCATTGTGGGTATG
JrEGL1a-AD-F	TACGACGTACCAGATTACGCTCATATGATGGCTAACACTACAAGCAATTTC
JrEGL1a-AD-R	TCTACGATTCTGCAGCTGAGCTAACACTTACAAGCAATTTC
JrEGL1b-AD-F	TACGACGTACCAGATTACGCTCATATGATGGAGGGAGAATGCTAGAAAAC
JrEGL1b-AD-R	TCTACGATTCTGCAGCTGAGCTAACACTTCCATGATCTCTGG
JrCHS4-2300-F	ACGGGGGACGAGCTCGTACCATGGCTCCATGGAGGA
JrCHS4-2300-R	GGTGTGACTCTAGAGGATCCGATATTGACACTGTGCAGCA
JrbHLHA2-2300-F	ACGGGGGACGAGCTCGTACCATGGCTGCACCGCCAA
JrbHLHA2-2300-R	GGTGTGACTCTAGAGGATCCAGAGTCATTGTGGGTATG

片段插入至植物表达载体 pCAMBIA1381-GUS, 分别转入农杆菌 GV3101-pSoup 感受态细胞(北京庄盟国际生物科技有限公司, 北京), 瞬时转化本氏烟草叶片, 进行 GUS 染色和 GUS 蛋白定量分析<sup>[18]</sup>。

### 1.6 酵母单杂交(Y1H)

将红瓢核桃 *JrCHS4* 启动子片段插入至 pAbAi 载体, 从红瓢核桃 cDNA 中克隆 *JrbHLHs* 转录因子编码序列插入至 pGADT7 载体。使用经典酵母转化试剂盒(北京酷来搏科技有限公司, 北京)进行酵母感受态的制备与转化, 以 pGADT7 为阴性对照, 将含有 *JrbHLHs*-AD 重组质粒的 Y1HGold(含 RW-*JrCHS4<sub>pro</sub>*-pAbAi 重组质粒)菌株点至 AbA 浓度梯度的固体 SD/-Leu 培养基平板上于 29 °C 培养箱培养 2~4 d 后观察互作情况。

### 1.7 双荧光素酶报告基因检测(LUC)

将分别带有 *JrCHS4<sub>pro</sub>*-LUC、*JrbHLHA2-2300* 重组质粒的农杆菌菌液按 1:9 的体积比混合, 注射本氏烟草叶片, 使用 Dual-Luciferase® Reporter Assay System 试剂盒(普洛麦格生物技术有限公司, 北京)测定萤火虫荧光素酶 LUC 和海肾萤光素酶 REN 酶活性, 计算 LUC/REN 比值<sup>[19]</sup>。

### 1.8 烟草叶片瞬时表达分析

将带有 *JrCHS4-2300* 重组质粒的农杆菌菌液注

射至大叶烟草叶片, 其间仔细观察叶片的颜色变化情况, 后采集经注射的烟草叶片于液氮速冻研磨后进行总花青素含量的测定与分析<sup>[20]</sup>。

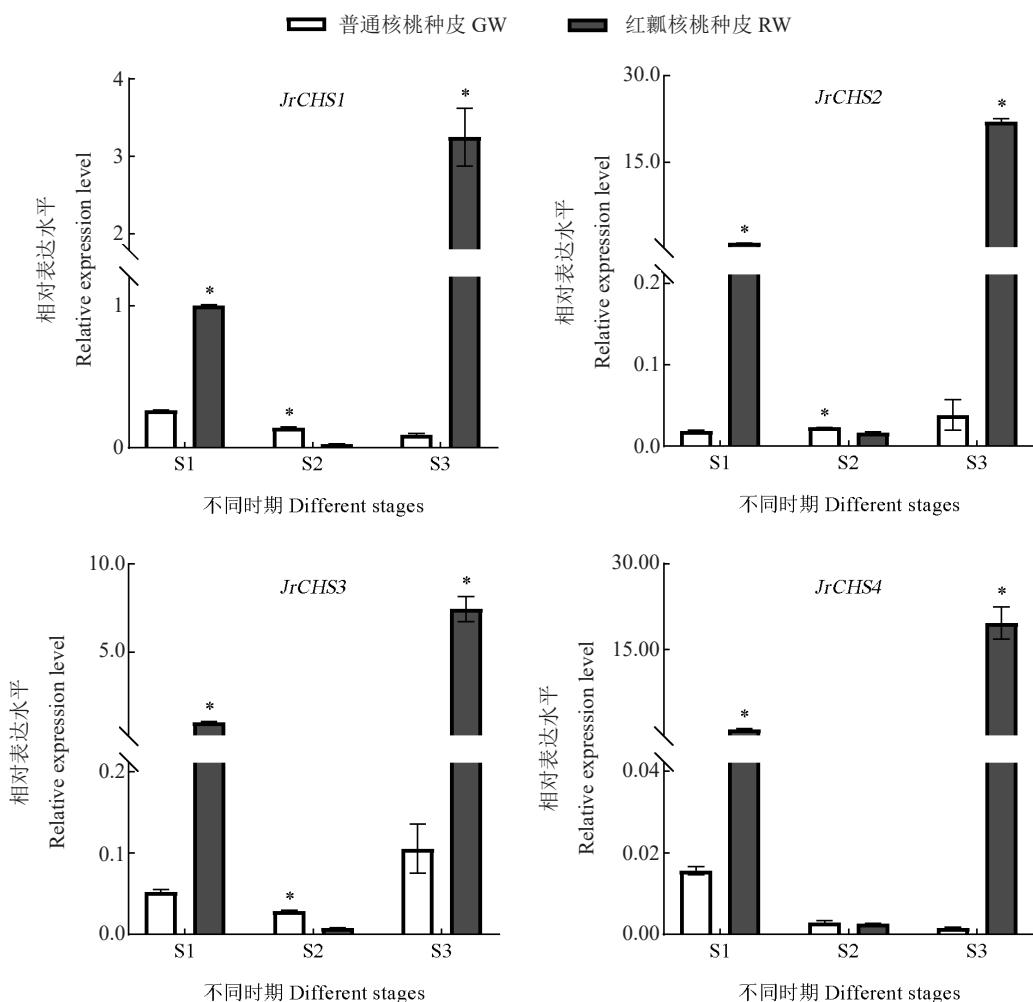
### 1.9 数据分析

采用 Microsoft Excel 2019 软件进行试验数据整理; 采用 SPSS 21.0 软件进行试验数据统计分析; 采用 Adobe Photoshop 2021、GraphPad Prism 8 软件绘图。

## 2 结果与分析

### 2.1 红瓢核桃不同发育时期种皮 *CHSs* 的表达分析

课题组前期根据核桃基因组数据筛选 *CHS* 家族, 通过功能注释分析筛选到了 4 个可能与花青素合成相关的 *CHSs*<sup>[9]</sup>。利用 qRT-PCR 检测 *CHSs* 基因在 2 种核桃不同发育时期种皮中的表达模式, 结果表明花后 60、120 d 时 4 个 *CHSs* 基因在红瓢核桃种皮中的表达量均显著高于在普通核桃种皮中的表达量, 其中 *JrCHS4*(gene35863, XM\_018966498.2) 在 2 种核桃种皮中的表达量差异最大, 分别约为 66.04、11 970.93 倍; 花后 90 d 时除 *JrCHS4* 在 2 种核桃种皮中的表达量基本相同外, 其他 3 个 *JrCHSs* 在红瓢核桃种皮中的表达量均显著低于在普通核桃种皮中的表达量(图 1)。因此, 推测 *JrCHS4* 可能是红瓢核桃种皮花青素合成的关键基因。



S1、S2、S3: 花后 60、90、120 d。表达量平均值±SE 为 3 次试验重复, 内参基因为 *Jr18S*。\*表示两个不同样本间的差异显著性( $p \leq 0.05$ )。下同。

S1, S2, S3: 60, 90 and 120 days after flowering. The average expression level ± SE is three experimental replicates and the internal reference gene is *Jr18S*. \* indicates the significant difference between two different samples ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). The same below.

图 1 *JrCHSs* 基因在不同颜色核桃种皮各发育时期的 qRT-PCR 表达分析

**Fig. 1 qRT-PCR expression analysis of *JrCHSs* gene in different developmental stages of walnut seed coat with different colors**

## 2.2 红瓢核桃*JrCHS4*启动子的克隆及启动子活性分析

为了研究 *CHS4* 基因在红瓢核桃和普通核桃种皮发育中表达趋势的不同是否与其启动子有关, 对 2 种核桃的 *CHS4* 启动子序列进行了克隆。通过序列比对, *GW-JrCHS4* 启动子与 *RW-JrCHS4* 启动子具有 98.50% 的同源性(图 2)。红瓢核桃 *JrCHS4* 启动子含有许多响应激素如脱落酸、乙烯、赤霉素以及与逆境胁迫相关的顺式作用元件, 如 ABRE、MYC、ERE、GARE、MYB1AT 等, 与普通核桃 *JrCHS4* 启动子相比, 缺失了 1 个 MYB 结合位点 MYB1AT, 插入了 1 个 bHLH 结合位点 MYCCONSENSUSAT(表

2)。

GUS 染色结果表明, *RW-JrCHS4* 启动子诱导产生的蓝色深于 *GW-JrCHS4* 启动子诱导产生的蓝色(图 3-A)。GUS 蛋白定量结果显示, *RW-JrCHS4* 启动子活性显著高于 *GW-JrCHS4* 启动子活性, 约是 *GW-JrCHS4* 启动子活性的 1.17 倍, 与上述 GUS 染色结果相一致(图 3-B)。

## 2.3 红瓢核桃*JrCHS4*启动子上游 bHLH 转录因子的筛选及验证

为了探究 *JrCHS4* 启动子与 4 个花青素合成相关的 bHLH 转录因子 *JrbHLHA1*、*JrbHLHA2*、*JrEGL1a*、*JrEGL1b* 的调控关系, 进行了酵母单杂交

红框表示 MYB 结合位点 MYB1AT; 蓝框表示 bHLH 结合位点 MYCCONSENSUSAT。

The red box represents the MYB binding site MYB1AT; The blue box represents the bHLH binding site MYCSENSUSAT.

图 2 红瓢核桃和普通核桃种皮中 *JrCHS4* 启动子序列比对

**Fig. 2** Comparison of *JrCHS4* promoter sequences between red walnut and normal walnut seed coats

表 2 JrCHS4 基因启动子关键顺式作用元件分析

**Table 2** Pivotal *cis*-acting elements analysis of *JrCHS4* gene promoter

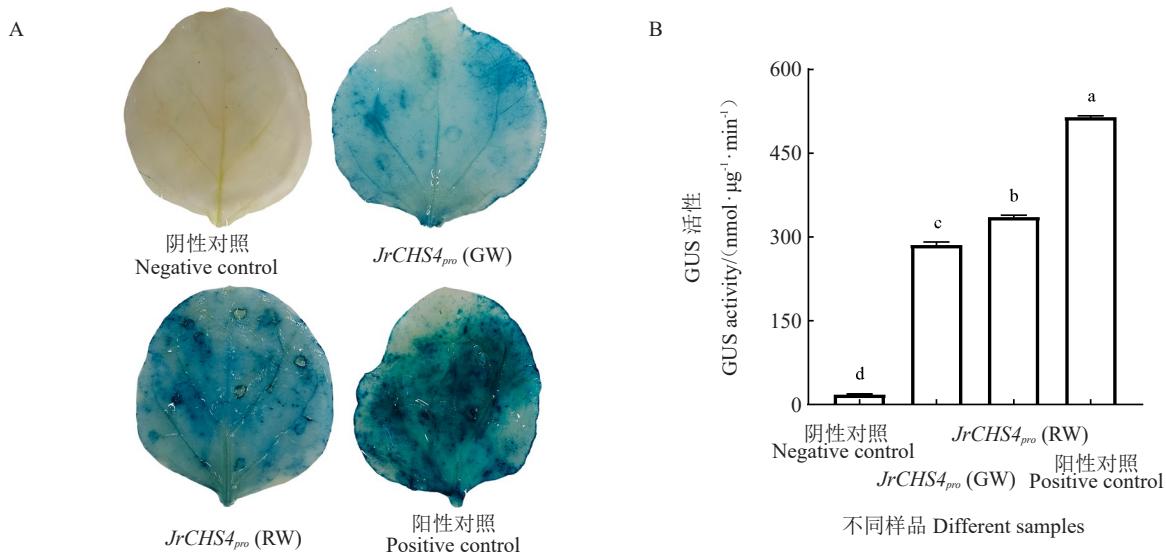
顺式作用元件 <i>Cis</i> -acting element	功能 Function	顺式作用元件数量 Number of <i>cis</i> -acting elements	
		GW	RW
ABRE	脱落酸响应元件 Abscisic acid responsive element	3	3
ERE	乙烯响应元件 Ethylene-responsive element	2	2
GARE	赤霉素响应元件 Gibberellin-responsive element	5	5
MBS	MYB转录因子结合位点;逆境胁迫响应元件 MYB transcription factor binding site; Adversity stress responsive element	8	7
MYC	bHLH转录因子结合位点 bHLH transcription factor binding site	8	9

试验。结果显示,抑制*JrCHS4*启动子自身表达的最佳AbA质量浓度为150 ng·mL<sup>-1</sup>,且仅JrbHLHA2-AD+*JrCHS4<sub>pro</sub>*在此AbA质量浓度的SD/-Leu筛选培养基上能够正常生长,其他组合均无法生长(图4-A)。LUC试验进一步验证了JrbHLHA2能够显著激活*JrCHS4*基因启动子的活性,其LUC/REN比值约是对照LUC/REN比值的2.45倍(图4-B)。以上

结果表明, JrbHLHA2 转录因子可以与 *JrCHS4* 的启动子特异性结合并激活其表达。

## 2.4 烟草叶片中过表达红瓤核桃 *JrCHS4* 促进花青素积累

为了验证*JrCHS4*在花青素生物合成与积累中发挥的功能与作用,将*JrCHS4*构建植物表达载体并瞬时转化至大叶烟草叶片,转化后7 d左右观察发

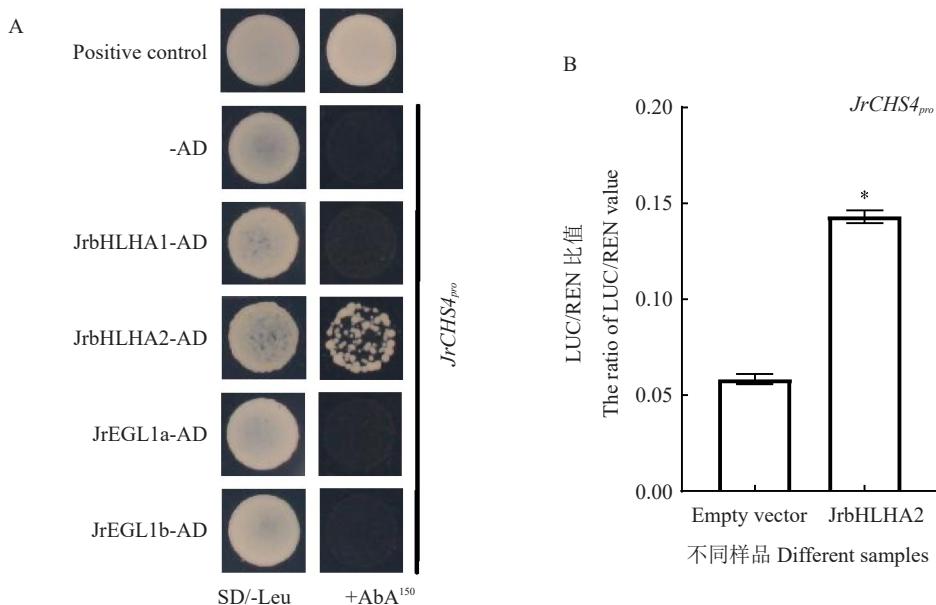


A. *JrCHS4* 启动子瞬时表达 GUS 染色结果; B. *JrCHS4* 启动子 GUS 蛋白定量结果。不同小写字母表示不同样本间的差异显著性( $p \leq 0.05$ )。

A. GUS staining results of transient expression of *JrCHS4* promoter; B. GUS protein quantification results of *JrCHS4* promoter. Different small letters indicate the significant difference between different samples ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

图 3 红瓢核桃和普通核桃种皮中 *JrCHS4* 启动子 GUS 活性分析

Fig. 3 GUS activity analysis of *JrCHS4* promoter in red walnut and normal walnut seed coats



A. 基于 JrbHLHA2 对 *JrCHS4* 启动子调控作用的 Y1H 分析; B. 基于 JrbHLHA2 对 *JrCHS4* 启动子调控作用的 LUC 验证。

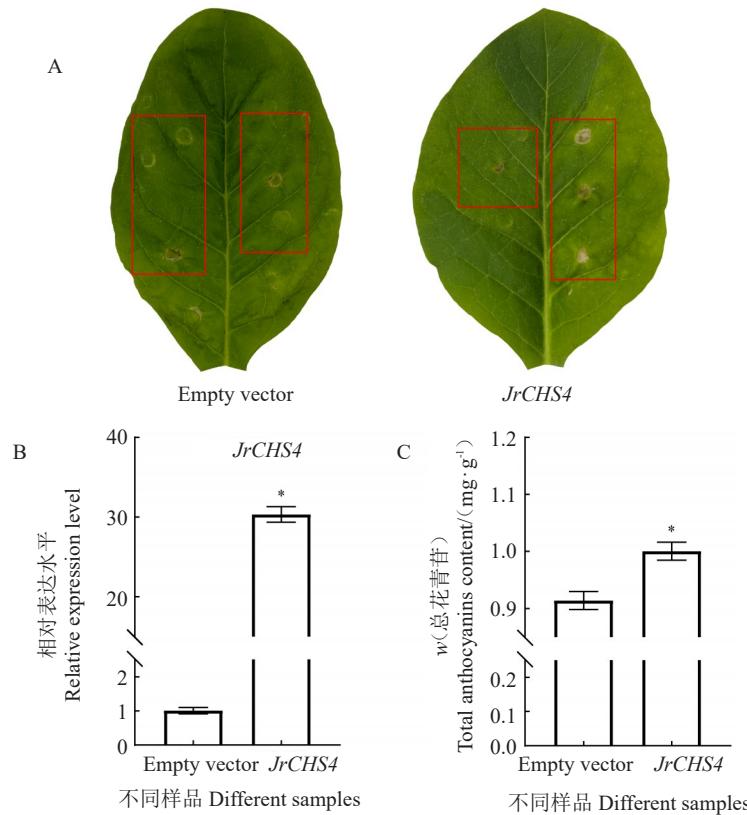
A. Y1H assay of the regulatory effect of JrbHLHA2 on *JrCHS4* promoter; B. LUC verification of the regulatory effect of JrbHLHA2 on *JrCHS4* promoter.

图 4 JrbHLHA2 对 *JrCHS4* 启动子的调控作用分析

Fig. 4 Analysis of the regulatory effect of JrbHLHA2 on *JrCHS4* promoter

现,瞬时转化 *JrCHS4* 的烟草叶片与对照相比,绿色变浅,呈现轻微的红色(图 5-A)。其中,*JrCHS4* 在瞬时转化 *JrCHS4* 烟草叶片中的表达量约是在对照烟草叶片中的 30.07 倍(图 5-B)。对瞬转烟草叶片

测定总花青素含量的结果显示,瞬时转化 *JrCHS4* 烟草叶片的总花青素含量显著高于对照烟草叶片,约是对照烟草叶片的 1.09 倍(图 5-C)。以上结果表明,*JrCHS4* 能够促进花青苷的生物合成与积累。



A. 瞬时转化烟草叶片表型;B. 瞬时转化烟草叶片中 *JrCHS4* 的表达水平;C. 瞬时转化烟草叶片总花青素含量。

A. Phenotypes of transiently transformed tobacco leaves; B. Expression levels of *JrCHS4* in transiently transformed tobacco leaves; C. Total anthocyanins content in transiently transformed tobacco leaves.

图 5 *JrCHS4* 瞬时转化烟草叶片表型与总花青素含量分析

Fig. 5 Analysis of phenotypes and total anthocyanins content in *JrCHS4* transiently transformed tobacco leaves

### 3 讨 论

花青苷是重要的天然抗氧化剂,在清除人体自由基、改善血糖平衡、预防心脑血管疾病等方面有着积极的作用<sup>[21]</sup>;花青苷在红瓢核桃种皮中积累不仅提高了核桃的营养价值,也丰富了种仁的外观品质,市场前景广阔,但其呈色机制目前尚不清楚,限制了核桃的色泽品质改良。因此,探究红瓢核桃种皮着色机制、挖掘关键调控基因,对培育优质红瓢核桃新品种具有重要的理论意义和应用价值。

查尔酮合成酶是花青苷合成通路的第一个限速酶,决定着花青苷合成的种类及含量<sup>[22]</sup>。笔者课题组前期基于转录组数据,首先进行基因功能注释筛选出了17个注释为“Chalcone synthetase”的基因,后又通过构建核桃CHSs基因表达图谱筛选获得了4个具有显著差异表达的*JrCHSs*基因*JrCHS1~JrCHS4*,且表达量与花青苷含量呈正相关<sup>[9]</sup>。笔者以前期获得的4个与花青苷合成相关的*JrCHSs*基因为研究对

象,通过qRT-PCR发现,花后60、120 d时*JrCHS4*在红瓢核桃种皮中的表达量显著高于普通核桃种皮且表达量差异最大,分别约为66.04、11 970.93倍,该结果与*MaCHS2*基因在红皮香蕉各组织中的表达量高于天宝香蕉各组织<sup>[23]</sup>、*PeCHS*基因在紫色西番莲果皮中的表达量明显高于黄色西番莲果皮<sup>[24]</sup>和*IbCHS1*基因在紫肉甘薯中的表达量高于黄肉、白肉甘薯<sup>[25]</sup>等研究结果一致,表明*JrCHS4*可能是红瓢核桃种皮花青苷合成的关键基因。

本研究结果表明,红瓢核桃不同时期种皮*JrCHSs*的表达量受到了果实发育的影响,在花后60 d和120 d时表达量较高,而在花后90 d时表达量显著降低。在红瓢核桃种皮颜色形成过程中,花后60 d是花青苷积累的关键时期,花青苷大量合成,因此4个*JrCHSs*基因在花后60 d红瓢核桃种皮中的表达量较高;在花后90 d时,红瓢核桃种皮花青苷合成速度减慢,此时4个*JrCHSs*基因在红瓢核桃种皮中便保持了较低的表达水平;花后120 d时,核桃果

实在发育成熟时期通常伴随有含水量降低现象,推测可能诱导了红瓢核桃种皮中的花青素再次大量合成,因此4个JrCHSs基因在红瓢核桃种皮中的表达量又再一次升高。

根据PLACE数据库,2种核桃JrCHS4启动子中均含有ABA相关的ABRE元件、乙烯相关的ERE元件、赤霉素相关的GARE元件<sup>[26-28]</sup>,以及MYB、bHLH转录因子的结合位点<sup>[29]</sup>。根据顺式作用元件分析结果推测,JrCHS4基因可能参与激素信号转导以及逆境胁迫响应等生物学过程,并受到MYB和bHLH转录因子的调控。根据前人研究,MYB和bHLH是影响花青素生物合成的关键转录因子,如彭亚丽等<sup>[30]</sup>阐述了MYB转录因子在蔬菜花青素合成中的激活作用与抑制作用;荔枝中与LcMYB1起协同作用的LcbHLH1、LcbHLH3能够调控荔枝花青素生物合成的晚期结构基因,进而调控荔枝中花青素的合成与积累<sup>[31]</sup>;过表达MdMYC2的转基因苹果愈伤组织中能够积累更多的花青素且显著提升MdCHS、MdDFR等花青素生物合成相关基因的表达水平<sup>[32]</sup>。而笔者在本研究中发现与GW-JrCHS4启动子相比,RW-JrCHS4启动子缺失了1个MYB结合位点MYB1AT,插入了1个bHLH结合位点MYC-CONSENSUSAT,推测bHLH结合位点MYCCONSENSUSAT的插入可能会导致bHLH转录因子对JrCHS4启动子结合作用的差异,进而影响bHLH转录因子对JrCHS4的调控,从而影响红瓢核桃种皮花青素的积累,同样MYB结合位点MYB1AT的缺失也将会影响MYB转录因子对JrCHS4的调控,具体影响将会在之后的研究中继续进行深入探索。

前人研究表明,bHLH是花青素合成通路结构基因的主要调控因子之一<sup>[33]</sup>,探究JrCHS4与上游JrbHLHs的调控关系能够为解析红瓢核桃种皮花青素生物合分子机制提供数据支撑。通过酵母单杂交试验表明JrbHLHA2能够特异地结合到JrCHS4的启动子上,通过LUC试验证明JrbHLHA2能够提高JrCHS4启动子的启动活性。在蓝莓中,酵母单杂交试验表明,3个花青素生物合成VcbHLHs(VcAN1、VcbHLH1-1和VcbHLH1-2)可特异性结合VcCHS21启动子的G-box序列(CACGTG)进而调控VcCHS21的表达<sup>[34]</sup>,说明bHLH转录因子对CHS在花青素合成中的调节作用具有普遍性。

瞬时转化烟草叶片是验证果树花青素合成相关

基因功能的常用方法,在苹果<sup>[35]</sup>、梨<sup>[36]</sup>等物种中应用广泛。为了进一步研究JrCHS4在花青素合成中的作用,将JrCHS4的过表达载体瞬时转化烟草叶片,结果表明过表达JrCHS4显著提高了烟草叶片花青素含量,与马铃薯StCHS4、StCHS5<sup>[37]</sup>瞬时转化烟草叶片能够提高花青素含量的结果一致,表明JrCHS4能够促进花青素的生物合成与积累。

## 4 结 论

探究了JrbHLHA2靶向JrCHS4调控花青素合成的分子机制。红瓢核桃JrCHS4在种皮发育过程中持续高表达,且启动子活性高于GW-JrCHS4启动子。JrbHLHA2能够直接结合RW-JrCHS4启动子并促进其上调表达,JrCHS4过表达烟草叶片能够促进花青素的积累。推测JrbHLHA2靶向JrCHS4启动子促进了红瓢核桃花青素的积累,这对红瓢核桃的改良育种提供了一定的理论依据。

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