

不同发育时期桑葚中质地和木质素变化规律及其转录组分析

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摘要:【目的】研究桑葚成熟过程中质地、木质素等指标的变化, 分析其转录组变化, 揭示调控桑葚成熟软化的关键因子。【方法】测定3个发育时期桑葚的质地和木质素含量等指标, 通过转录组测序, 采用冗余分析方法, 分析木质素含量、质地与木质素合成相关基因之间的相互关系。【结果】随着桑葚成熟, 其硬度、胶黏性和咀嚼性逐渐下降, 弹性逐渐增高, 但内聚性没有显著变化。黏附性在绿果期和红果期无显著差异, 其他发育时期之间差异显著; 木质素含量显著降低。转录组测序共鉴定到10 207个差异基因。KEGG代谢途径富集分析发现, 在45个涉及木质素合成通路的差异表达基因中, 24个基因下调表达且表达量与木质素含量变化趋势一致。【结论】PAL、C4H、4CL、CCR、POD、CCoAOMT等调控木质素合成参与桑葚成熟软化进程, 研究结果可为桑葚成熟与保鲜、口感改善等提供理论参考。

关键词: 桑葚; 转录组; 果实软化; 木质素

中图分类号: S663.2

文献标志码: A

文章编号: 1009-9980(2025)08-1744-13

Changes in texture and lignin during different developmental stages of mulberries and transcriptome analysis

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Abstract: 【Objective】Mulberry (*Fructus mori*), as a typical climacteric fruit, has been extensively studied in areas such as health product development, fruit wine fermentation, analysis of nutritional indicators, identification of aroma components, and postharvest preservation. With the advancement and cost reduction of high-throughput sequencing technologies, transcriptomics and metabolomics have been applied to explore the molecular mechanisms of mulberry ripening and softening. However, there are no reports on the correlation between texture, lignin, and key genes in related pathways during the ripening process of the berry. This study aimed to investigate the changes in texture, lignin, and other indicators during mulberry ripening and softening, analyze transcriptomic data, and identify key factors influencing the ripening and softening process of the berry. 【Methods】The new mulberry variety Anshen was used as the test material. The berries were collected at three developmental stages: 20 days after flowering (MGF), 35 days after flowering (MRF), and 45 days after flowering (MBF). The texture indicators (hardness, adhesiveness, cohesiveness, elasticity, gumminess, and chewiness) were measured using a texture analyzer, lignin content was determined using the concentrated sulfuric acid method, and transcriptome sequencing was performed. The QRT-PCR experiments were conducted, and redundancy

收稿日期: 2025-02-25 接受日期: 2025-05-04

基金项目: 河北省科技厅项目(16226322D); 河北省教育厅科学研究项目(ZC2023022); 承德医学院校级青年基金(202013); 承德医学院基本科研业务费项目(KY202405)

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analysis (RDA) was used to analyze the correlation between lignin, berry texture, and lignin biosynthesis-related genes, as well as to evaluate the relationships among various factors. 【Results】As the berries ripened and softened, their hardness gradually decreased, ranging from 3.00 to 50.64 N, while elasticity gradually increased, ranging from 1.86 to 4.41 mm. The gumminess and chewiness gradually decreased, with no significant difference in chewiness between the green berry and red berry stages, but both were 4.19 times and 3.41 times higher, respectively, than those at the black berry stage, showing significant differences compared with the black fruit stage. The cohesiveness showed no significant change. The adhesiveness showed no significant difference between the green berry and red berry stages, but significant differences were observed among other developmental stages. The lignin content decreased significantly. The transcriptome sequencing identified 51 895 Unigenes, of them 35 395 were successfully annotated in databases such as the GO, KEGG, KOG, NR, NT and SwissProt. A total of 10 207 differentially expressed genes were identified, with more upregulated genes than downregulated ones. The KEGG pathway enrichment analysis revealed that the lignin biosynthesis pathway contained 45 differentially expressed genes, classified into three expression patterns: gradually upregulated (2 genes), upregulated first and then downregulated (19 genes), and gradually downregulated (24 genes). The third expression pattern was consistent with the trends in lignin content and texture quality indicators. The twenty-four differentially expressed genes were identified in the lignin biosynthesis pathway, and 10 were randomly selected for qRT-PCR experiments, confirming the reliability of the sequencing results. The redundancy analysis showed that lignin content had the highest positive correlation with fruit chewiness, followed by gumminess and hardness, with lignin contributing similarly to all three. The lignin content showed the smallest negative correlation with the berry adhesiveness, followed by the elasticity and cohesiveness. The *CCR* had the greatest influence on the lignin synthesis, followed by the *CCoAOMT1*, *CCoAOMT2*, *PAL3*, *C3H* and *4CL2*, all of them positively contributed to the lignin synthesis. The *4CL2* had the greatest influence on berry hardness and gumminess, followed by the *POD13*, *CCoAOMT1*, *CCoAOMT2*, *PAL3*, *C3H*. *CAD2* and *POD12* negatively contributed to changes in berry hardness, gumminess and chewiness, while the *CAD2* positively contributed to changes in berry cohesiveness, adhesiveness and Springiness, followed by the *CAD1*, *POD12* and *POD15*. The RDA results were consistent with the aforementioned gene expression patterns, confirming the reliability of the findings. 【Conclusion】Based on the physiological indicators and transcriptomic data, it was inferred that the key genes in the lignin biosynthesis pathway, such as the *PAL*, *C4H*, *4CL*, *CCR*, *POD* and *CCoAOMT*, would regulate lignin synthesis and participate in the ripening and softening process of the berries. These findings would provide theoretical references for improving mulberry ripening, preservation, and flavor.

Key words: Mulberry; Transcriptome; Fruit softening; Lignin

质地作为衡量果实品质的一个重要因素,不仅影响果实口感和消费者选择,而且对后期果实贮藏和运输有较大影响,决定果树产业的发展。引起果实质地变化的外部因素主要有温度、机械伤害、光照等,内部因素主要有基因、酶、转录因子、激素等。果实的质地变化通常表现为软化、硬化、糊状、粉状和脆性等,软化是成熟新鲜果实最显著且不可逆转的特征之一,也有一些果实如番木瓜、枇杷和梨等在收获后质地硬化^[1]。果实组织的渗透状态和细胞壁结

构重塑可能是质地变化的主要原因,质地变化过程涉及多种细胞壁降解酶、修饰酶的活性变化^[2]。桃果实采后成熟过程中多聚半乳糖醛酸酶(PG)活性升高,且PG活性越高,软化越快^[3];芒果的软化过程中伴随着细胞壁果胶酶(PE)活性的持续升高,说明PE在控制芒果软化过程中起主要作用^[4]。木聚糖酶基因与草莓果实软化相关^[5],其在木瓜成熟和软化过程中起主要作用^[6]。植物激素乙烯抑制猕猴桃Ade-miR164及其前体miRNA(Ade-MIR164b)的表

达,且转录因子 AdNAC6、AdNAC7(均为 miR164 的预测靶标)表达量升高,AdNAC6 和 AdNAC7 蛋白作为转录激活因子,并与乙烯合成酶基因的启动子结合^[7];ABA 则通过调控乙烯合成酶和信号蛋白基因(*ACS1*、*ACO1*、*ETR2*、*ERF2*)的表达,进而影响芒果、桃果实成熟与软化进程^[4-8]。果实质地变化受多基因协同调控,分别沉默细胞壁修饰基因如 *SIPG2a*、*SIPME2*、*SITBG4*、*SICEL2*、*SIEXP1*,番茄果实质地只有轻微或无变化^[9];而同时沉默 *SIPG2a*、*SIEXP1* 基因,其果实整个成熟期显著变硬^[10]。

果实质地与木质素含量之间存在较强的关联性。对于大多数果实来说,木质素含量会随着果实成熟软化逐渐降低,胁迫状态下则会导致木质素含量升高。光氧化胁迫与高温协同作用,刺激苹果果实引发多种防御机制,导致木质素含量升高、组织的生理生化 and 形态改变,形成高硬度果肉^[11]。木质素生物合成涉及一系列限速酶、关键酶,包括 PAL、COMT、4CL、CAD、CCR 和 POD 等,CCR 是木质素单体形成的关键酶,III 类 POD 在木质素的聚合化过程中起着重要作用^[12]。转录因子通过调控木质素合成重要基因的功能,促进或抑制木质素合成,改变果实质地^[13]。杨树 ERF139 抑制维管束射线形成和加快木质素积累,次生细胞壁合成、盐和干旱胁迫响应基因是其潜在靶基因^[14]。PbrMYB4 通过结合启动子区域的 AC-I 元件激活 *Pbr4CL1* 基因表达,显著提高梨果实木质素含量且木质部和木纤维细胞壁增厚,沉默该基因则降低木质素含量^[15]。葡萄 *VibZIP14* 转录因子与 *VICOMT* 基因启动子区域的 G-box 结合,直接激活该基因表达,参与木质素合成^[16]。

桑葚作为一种呼吸跃变型水果,在成熟后期,果实质地发生剧烈变化,表现为口感软化且伴随着果色、黄酮类物质含量的改变。截至目前,关于桑葚的研究大多数聚焦于成分分析、发酵、采后贮藏等方面,未见其质地、木质素变化及影响二者的分子机制报道。结合其他果实研究成果,推测木质素参与桑葚成熟过程中的质地变化,较多木质素不利于桑葚口感的形成。高通量测序具有成本低、数据量大等优点,有助于揭示果实质地变化的潜在分子机制。转录组测序结果表明,不同品种西瓜间的质地差异可能主要与果胶、纤维素、半纤维素有关,另外激素、转录因子、过氧化物酶等相关基因也可能参与质地变化进程^[17]。基于转录组的加权基因共表达网络分析发现,

PAL、*HCT*、*4CL2*、*C4H* 等 11 个基因是柚子果实细胞粒化过程中最显著的差异表达基因^[18];不同质地的刺梨与柑橘果实转录组测序数据均鉴定到木质素合成通路基因^[19-20]。笔者在本研究中以 3 个不同发育阶段的桑葚为试验材料,通过测定果实的质地变化及木质素含量,结合转录组测序鉴定的差异表达基因,分析桑葚果实质地变化的生理与潜在的分子机制,为解析桑葚成熟过程中的质地软化机制提供参考。

1 材料和方法

1.1 材料

果桑品种为安葚,桑树种植于承德医学院蚕桑科技园。2018 年 6—7 月收集桑葚,分别于开花后 20 d(绿果期, Mulberry Green Fruits, MGF)、35 d(红果期, Mulberry Red Fruits, MRF)、45 d(黑果期, 八至九成熟, Mulberry Black Fruits, MBF)采集大小一致、无病虫害果实(图 1),每个时期取 3 个生物学重复,每个重复采集 30 个果实,清理表面后迅速投入液氮中,于 -80 °C 保存。转录组测序工作由北京康普森生物公司完成。

1.2 果实质地及木质素含量的测定

果实质地特性指标(硬度、黏附性、内聚性、弹性、胶黏性、咀嚼性)用装有直径 5 mm 探头的质构仪(TMS-PRO, 美国 FTC 公司)测定^[21];木质素采用浓硫酸法测定^[22]。

1.3 总 RNA 提取、文库制备及转录组测序

使用 RNeasy Pure Plant Kit(天根,北京)提取桑葚的总 RNA,同时利用 Nano Drop 和 Agilent 2100 评估其纯度、浓度和完整性。提取总 RNA 后,用带有 Oligo(dT)的磁珠富集真核生物 mRNA,随后使用 PrimeScript™ II First cDNA 合成试剂盒(TaKaRa, 美国)合成第一链 cDNA,并使用随机引物合成第二条 cDNA 链,然后经过 QiaQuick PCR 试剂盒纯化之后做末端修复并连接测序接头,在 Illumina HiSeq 2500 上测序。对获得的数据经过质控过滤,得到 clean reads,将 clean reads 从头组装成 Unigene。

1.4 桑葚转录组木质素合成相关基因的表达分析

使用 RSEM(v.1.3.0)软件将基因表达归一化为 RPKM 值,采用 DESeq(v1.20.0)软件以 $\log_2(\text{Fold-Change}) \geq 1$ & $P_{\text{adj}} \leq 0.05$ 为标准,对 Unigene 表达进行差异分析,筛选出显著差异表达的基因(DEGs)。通过对差异基因 KEGG 代谢途径的分析,筛选



图 1 桑葚果实不同成熟时期

Fig. 1 The different development phases of mulberry fruits

与木质素合成代谢途径相关的基因,利用 TBtools 软件绘制热图。

1.5 qRT-PCR验证

选择木质素合成通路中的 10 个基因(*C4H2*、*C4H7*、*PAL1*、*PAL3*、*4CL2*、*POD2*、*POD6*、*POD14*、*CCR1*、*CCoAOMT2*),以桑树 *Ribosomal protein L 15* 为内参基因,使用 Primer Premier5.0 软件设计特异性引物(表 1)。每个反应体系为 10 μ L,包含 SYBR Green Master Mix 5 μ L、正、反向引物各 0.2 μ L,cD-NA 0.5 μ L,ddH₂O 4.1 μ L。扩增反应用荧光定量 PCR 仪(伯乐 CFX96,美国)进行,扩增条件如下: 95 $^{\circ}$ C 1 min,95 $^{\circ}$ C 10 s,50 $^{\circ}$ C 30 s,循环 40 次,熔解曲

线采用仪器默认程序收集。每个样品 3 次生物学重复,3 次技术重复,使用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$ 方法进行相对定量计算。差异显著性分析使用 IBM SPSS 23.0 软件($P<0.05$)。

1.6 木质素与果实质地相关性分析

冗余分析(RDA)使用 CANOCO 5.0 软件完成。

2 结果与分析

2.1 不同成熟期桑葚木质素含量及质地的变化

对绿果期(MGF)、红果期(MRF)和黑果期(MBF)3 个时期桑葚的木质素含量及质地进行比较。结果(表 2)表明,桑葚木质素含量从绿果期至

表 1 用于 qRT-PCR 验证的引物序列

Table 1 Primer sequences of qRT-PCR

引物名称 Primer name	正向引物(5'-3') Forward primer (5'-3')	反向引物(5'-3') Reverse primer (5'-3')
<i>C4H2</i>	AGCGAAATCTCGTGGTCGTATC	CACCATATCCTGGCCCTTCC
<i>C4H7</i>	TGACCGACCTGGCGAAGAAA	GCTCAGGCGATGATACGACCAC
<i>PAL1</i>	AACGGAATCTTGCCACACATTG	GGTGATGTTGTTGTTGAGGAGC
<i>PAL3</i>	ACAAGAGCAGCCCTATTGGTTA	CGATGTAGGACAACGGGACGAGG
<i>4CL2</i>	GGGGAGGTATGATGTTTCGGAC	CATCGACTATCGGATTATGGACCA
<i>POD2</i>	AAAGATAACCGACGGGAGC	TTCACACCCCCATTIATTGTTCCAT
<i>POD6</i>	GCCGAAGTGGAGCGAGTA	GAAGTGGGAGGAGGGATGA
<i>POD14</i>	AGCCTCCTTCGCCTTCAT	TTGTTTCCACCTGCTTCCTT
<i>CCR1</i>	GTTGACAGTGCTGCTTTGCC	CTGGGTTTCTGACGGTTTCCT
<i>CCoAOMT2</i>	GGATGCGGACAAGGGTAA	CTTCTGGCAAAGCAACAAAT
<i>Ribosomal protein L15</i>	GGCTATGTGATTACCGTGTT	TTGGTCCAGTATGAGTTGAGAA

黑果期显著降低,其中绿果期的木质素含量是黑果期的3倍。桑葚硬度随着果实成熟呈逐渐下降趋势,各发育时期差异显著,绿果期硬度分别为红果期和黑果期的1.85倍和7.70倍。桑葚弹性随果实成熟度增加逐渐升高,各发育时期之间差异显著。胶黏性和咀嚼性均随着果实成熟而逐渐下降,变化规律与果实木质素含量和硬度趋势一致,其中果实咀嚼性从绿果期到红果期无显著差异,分别是黑果期的4.19倍和3.41倍,均与黑果期差异显著。果实的黏附性在绿果期 and 红果期无显著差异,其他发育时期之间差异显著。果实的内聚性随着果实的成熟没有显著变化。

表 2 不同成熟期桑葚果实质地特征参数比较
Table 2 Comparison of texture parameters detected from mulberry during different development phases

时期 Stage	w(木质素) Lignin content/ (mg·g ⁻¹)	硬度 Hardness/N	黏附性 Adhesiveness/mJ	内聚性 Cohesiveness	弹性 Springiness/mm	胶黏性 Gumminess/N	咀嚼性 Chewiness/mJ
绿果期 MGF	157.88±15.47 a	41.26±7.53 a	0.06±0.01 b	0.19±0.04 ab	2.31±0.28 c	7.90±1.79 a	18.31±4.95 a
红果期 MRF	120.51±3.42 b	22.32±8.01 b	0.08±0.18 b	0.24±0.07 a	2.91±0.31 b	5.00±1.48 b	14.89±5.89 a
黑果期 MBF	51.95±4.38 c	5.36±2.36 c	0.16±0.05 a	0.24±0.09 a	3.30±0.62 a	1.26±0.65 c	4.37±2.79 b

注:不同小写字母表示差异显著(P<0.05)。Note: Different small letters significant difference at P<0.05.

2.2 桑葚转录组测序数据分析

对3个不同时期桑葚样品进行高通量转录组测序(表3),共获得73.39 Gb clean data,每个样品平均clean data为8.16 Gb,各样品Q20碱基百分比在97.61%~97.91%之间(>97%),Q30碱基百分比在93.60%~94.13%之间(>93%),GC含量在45.63%~46.41%(>45%),测序错误率均在0.02%左右,表明整体测序过滤质量良好,可用于后续的转录组分析。总计获得51 895个Unigenes,总长度约为60 533 758 bp,N50长度为1885 bp,序列平均长度为1166 bp,Unigenes长度在300~400 bp区间的数量最多,为10 609个,占比20.44%(图2),生成的转录组数据可以满足后续试验要求。

2.3 不同成熟期桑葚差异表达基因分析与功能注释

3个发育时期桑葚共表达的Unigene有36 385个,绿果期和黑果期特有表达Unigene均为5343个,而红果期特有表达Unigene为3189个(图3-A)。采

用DESeq 2软件以|log₂(FoldChange)| ≥1 & FDR ≤ 0.05为筛选条件对不同发育时期基因Unigene表达进行差异分析,筛选差异表达基因(DEGs)。结果表明,3个比较组共有10 207个DEGs,红果期相较于绿果期,黑果期相较于绿果期,黑果期相较于红果期,共有656个共表达的DEGs(图3-B)。通过比较绿果期和红果期DEGs,共获得8572个DEGs,其中上调基因有4353个、下调基因4219个;比较绿果期和黑果期的DEGs,共获得1900个DEGs,其中上调基因有1140个、下调基因760个;比较红果期和黑果期的DEGs,共获得6716个DEGs,其中上下调基因分别有3599个、3117个。3个比较组中上调DEGs数目均多于下调DEGs数目,且DEGs最多的是绿果期和红果期的比较组(图3-B~D)。

2.4 与木质素合成相关基因的表达分析

通过对3个发育时期桑葚中与木质素相关的DEGs进行筛选,共鉴定到45个DEGs(图4),并对其

表 3 9个样本转录组数据质控
Table 3 Summary of 9 samples sequencing data quality

样品 Sample	原始 reads Raw reads	有效 reads Clean reads	错误率 Error rate/%	Q20/%	Q30/%	GC/%
MGF_1	27 123 198	27 117 774	0.02	97.85	94.01	46.36
MGF_2	26 289 487	26 284 230	0.02	97.77	93.86	46.02
MGF_3	24 039 766	24 034 959	0.02	97.66	93.60	45.65
MRF_1	25 766 750	25 761 598	0.02	97.81	93.91	46.14
MRF_2	31 619 304	31 612 981	0.02	97.76	93.82	46.20
MRF_3	31 982 535	31 976 140	0.02	97.77	93.76	46.25
MBF_1	35 330 457	35 323 392	0.02	97.61	93.24	46.41
MBF_2	34 690 098	34 683 161	0.02	97.91	94.13	46.22
MBF_3	25 875 040	25 869 866	0.02	97.64	93.64	45.63

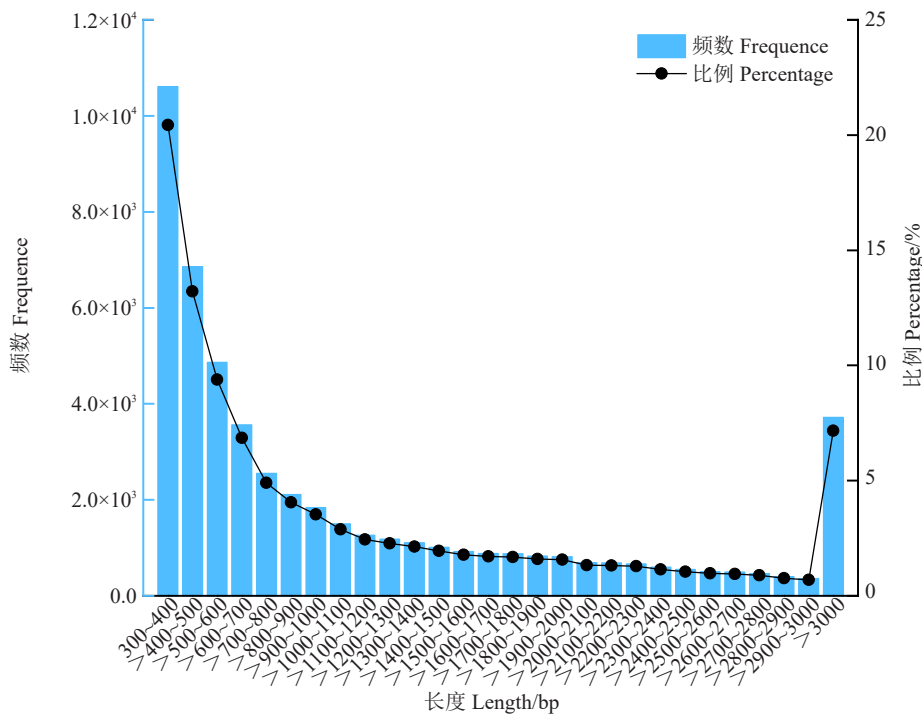
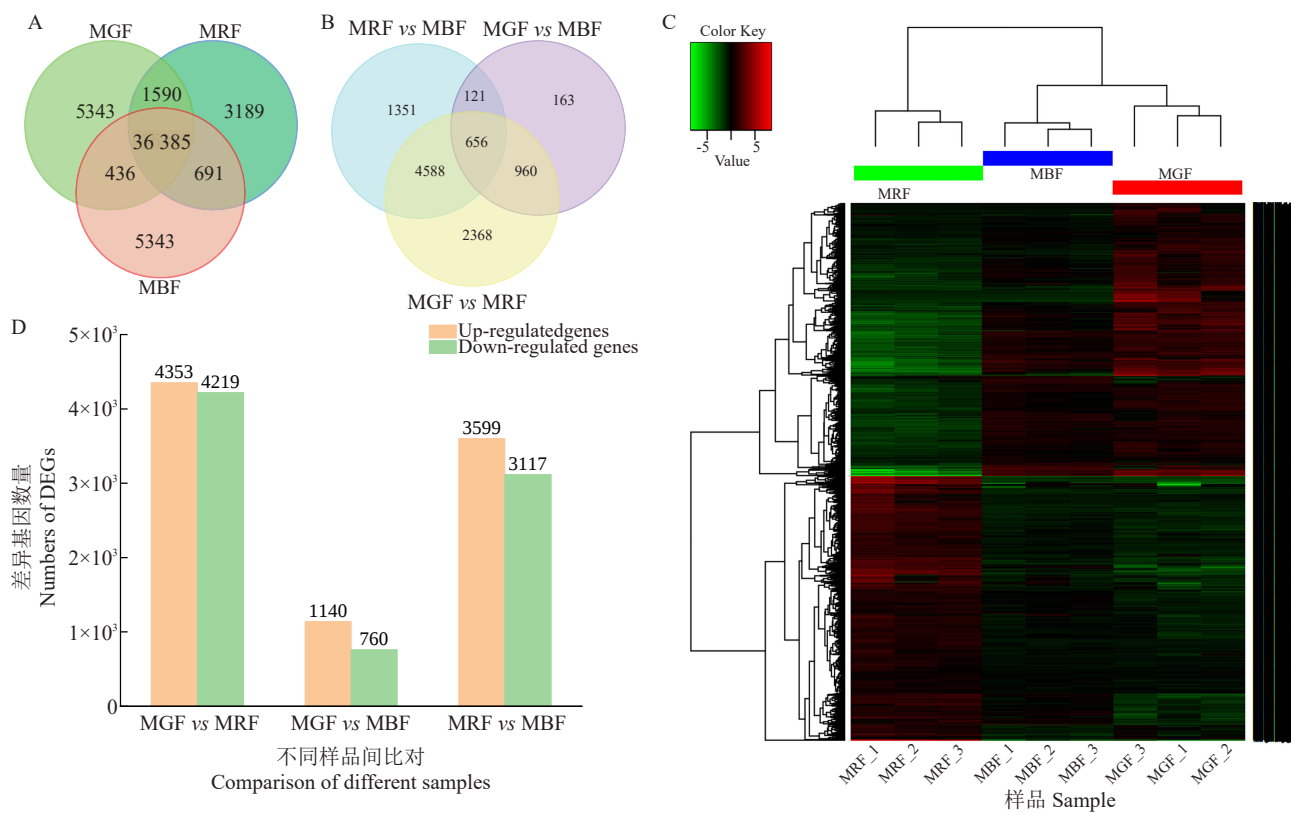


图 2 Unigene 长度分布
Fig. 2 Length distribution of Unigene



A. 不同发育阶段 Unigene 维恩图;B. 不同发育阶段 DEGs 维恩图;C. DEGs 的表达模式;D. DEGs 统计图。

A. Venn diagram of Unigene detected from different samples; B. Venn diagram of DEGs among different development stages; C. Expression pattern of DEGs; D. DEGs statistics.

图 3 韦恩图及 DEGs 表达模式
Fig. 3 Venn diagram and expression pattern of DEG

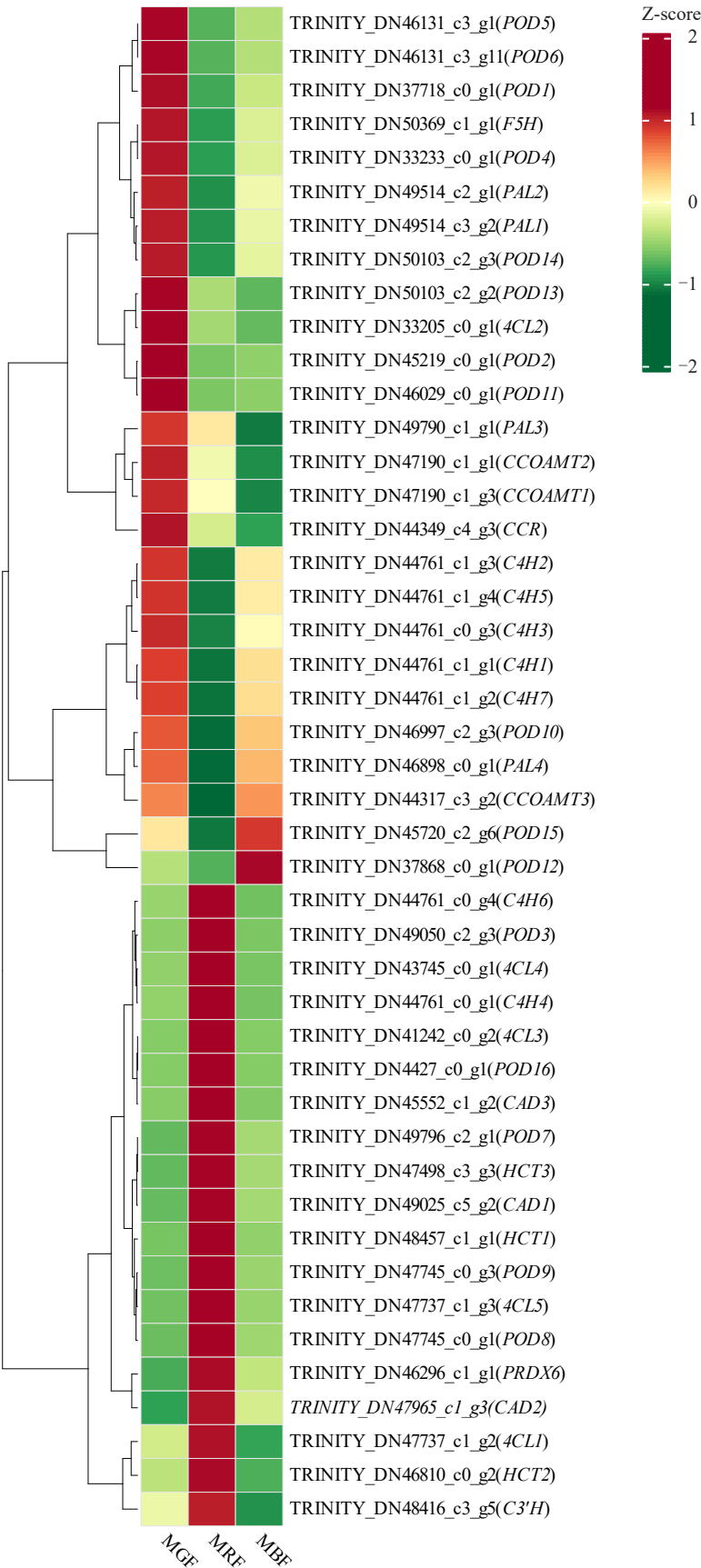


图 4 桑葚木质素合成相关差异基因的聚类热图

Fig. 4 Clustering and heatmap of DEGs related to lignin biosynthesis in mulberry

FPKM值绘制热图分析。45个DEGs可以聚类为3种表达模式,2个候选DEGs [*TRINITY_DN45720_c2_g6* (*POD15*)、*TRINITY_DN37868_c0_g1* (*POD12*)]表达呈逐渐上调趋势,即桑葚成熟过程中2个基因的FPKM值逐渐升高。19个候选DEGs表现为在红果期高表达,在绿果期和黑果期低表达,FPKM值总体表现为先上调后下调的趋势。24个候选DEGs在绿果期高表达,在红果期和黑果期表现为低表达,整个发育时期表现为下调趋势,即桑葚转色期时低表达,与桑葚果实发育过程中3个时期的木质素含量和质地指标变化趋势相一致。

对苯丙烷代谢通路分析发现(图5),上游木质素合成通路中鉴定出4个苯丙氨酸解氨酶(*PAL1*、*PAL2*、*PAL3*、*PAL4*)DEGs、5个肉桂酸-4-羟化酶(*C4H1*、*C4H2*、*C4H3*、*C4H5*、*C4H7*)DEGs、1个4-香豆酸辅酶-A-连接酶(*4CL2*)DEGs、1个阿魏-5-羟化酶(*F5H*)DEGs、3个咖啡酰辅酶A 3-*O*-甲基转移酶(*CCoAOMT1*、*CCoAOMT2*、*CCoAOMT3*)DEGs、1个肉桂酰辅酶A还原酶(*CCR*)DEGs,共计15个DEGs,且均显著下调,与木质素含量和质地品质指标变化趋势相一致。下游代谢物木质素(lignin)、紫丁香基木质素(syringyl lignin)、对羟基苯酚木质素(*p*-Hydroxyphenyl lignin)、愈创木酚木质素(Guaiacyl lignin)和5-羟基愈创木酚木质素(5-Hydroxyguaiacyl lignin)等合成通路中鉴定到16个DEGs,其中9个过氧化氢酶(*POD1*、*POD2*、*POD4*、*POD5*、*POD6*、*POD10*、*POD11*、*POD13*、*POD14*)DEGs在绿果期高表达,在转色期低表达,并且和木质素含量和质地品质指标变化趋势相一致。综合上述结果,筛选出上下游木质素合成通路中24个DEGs(*PAL1*、*PAL2*、*PAL3*、*PAL4*、*C4H1*、*C4H2*、*C4H3*、*C4H5*、*C4H7*、*4CL2*、*F5H*、*CCoAOMT1*、*CCoAOMT2*、*CCoAOMT3*、*CCR*、*POD1*、*POD2*、*POD4*、*POD5*、*POD6*、*POD10*、*POD11*、*POD13*、*POD14*),推测其可能是桑葚成熟过程中参与果实软化进程的重要基因。

2.5 差异表达基因的qRT-PCR验证

从木质素上下游合成通路中的24个DEGs中随机选择10个木质素合成途径的关键DEGs进行qRT-PCR试验验证(图6)。随着桑葚果实的成熟,*C4H7*、*CCR*、*PAL1*、*PAL3*、*POD2*、*POD14*、*CCoAOMT2*等7个基因的荧光定量检测结果与转录组数据一致且均下调表达,特别是绿果期表达量均高于红果期,

推测这7个基因可能负调控桑葚成熟软化进程。虽然*4CL2*、*C4H2*、*POD6*等基因的qRT-PCR检测表达量与转录组数据的变化倍数存在部分差异,但是基因表达水平的趋势是一致的,说明转录组分析可靠。

2.6 果实质地变软的关键因素分析

通过RDA分析木质素与6种果实质地特性的关系,结果(图7-A)表明,木质素与果实咀嚼性呈现极显著的正相关性,其次为胶黏性和硬度,其中木质素与三者的相关性基本一致;而木质素与果实的黏附性、弹性和内聚性呈负相关。通过RDA分别分析了木质素和果实质地特性与木质素合成代谢相关基因相关性,结果(图7-B、C)表明,*CCR*对木质素的生成影响最大,其次为*CCoAOMT1*、*CCoAOMT2*、*PAL3*、*C3H*和*4CL2*等,*POD12*和*CAD2*等基因对木质素的生成无显著关联。*4CL2*对果实硬度和胶黏性变化影响最大,其次为*POD13*、*CCoAOMT1*、*CCoAOMT2*、*PAL3*、*C3H*。*CCoAOMT1*对果实的咀嚼性影响最大,其次为*CCoAOMT2*、*PAL3*、*C3H*。*POD12*与果实硬度、胶黏性、咀嚼性无显著关联。*CAD2*对果实弹性、粘附性和内聚性变化影响最大,其次为*CAD1*、*POD12*、*POD15*。RDA分析结果与前述中基因表达模式趋势一致,证明了试验结果的可靠性。

3 讨 论

桑葚果实在发育前期表现为口感硬、味道差等特点,成熟期口感硬度则显著降低且风味浓郁。果实质地的评价通常采用感官评价、仪器测定两种方式。感官评价比较主观,能真正反映人对果实质地的感觉信息,仪器测量可量化、客观、数据重现性较好,理想情况下,感官评价与仪器测量相结合是识别和评价果实质地的最佳方法。围绕果实质地形成及影响因素,已有大量的报道,这一过程涉及多种物质的转化、多个基因的表达与沉默等,其生理与分子机制较复杂。高通量测序技术的特点为解析果实质地形成的分子机制提供了新的途径和视角。

木质素是细胞壁的重要组成部分之一,为细胞壁提供刚性支撑,是引起果实质地变化的主要因素之一^[23-24]。Wang等^[25]研究发现,随着甜瓜木质素含量增加,其愈伤组织的硬度随之增大,而内聚性和弹性随之减小,这与本研究中桑葚木质素含量与果实硬度呈正相关、与果实内聚性和弹性呈负相关的结

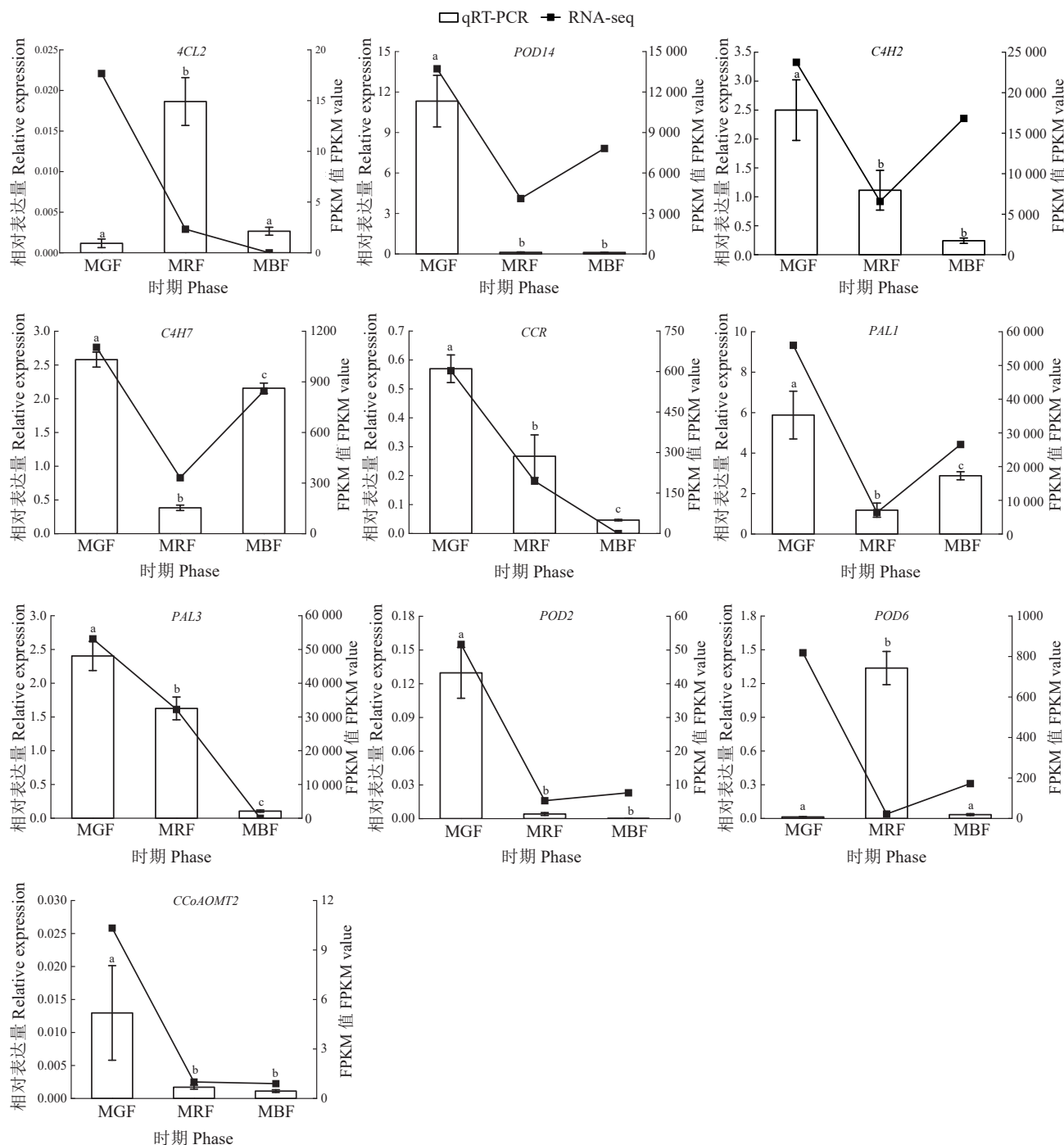
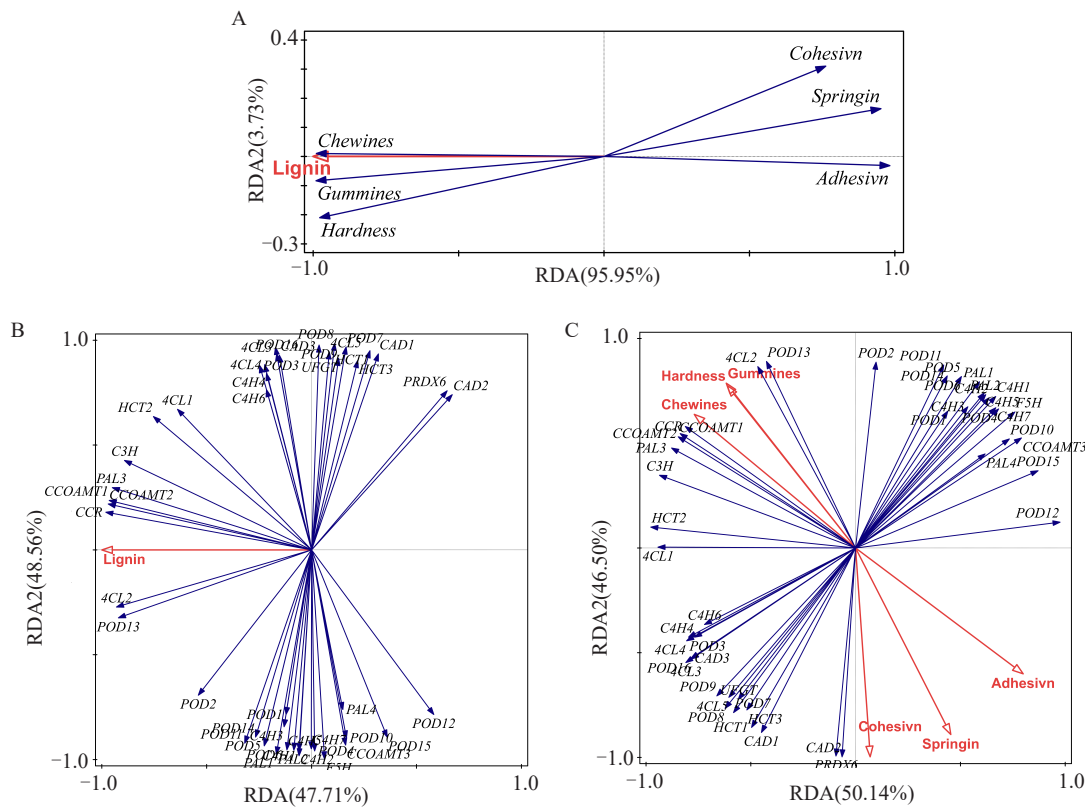


图6 qRT-PCR验证10个差异基因的表达情况

Fig. 6 Expression levels of 10 DEGs were determined by qRT-PCR

果相一致,推测桑葚的成熟软化与木质素含量降低存在关联性。木质素的合成主要是通过苯丙烷途径,其中 *PAL*、*C4H*、*4CL*、*CCR*、*POD*、*CCoAOMT* 等基因是木质素合成途径关键调控基因,且这些基因表达量与木质素合成量呈正相关^[26-27]。笔者在本研究中鉴定获得木质素合成通路中的45个DEGs,其中24个DEGs的表达量与木质素合成含量变化趋势

一致, *C4H7*、*CCR*、*PAL1*、*PAL3*、*POD2*、*POD14*、*CCoAOMT2*等7个基因可能协作调控桑葚成熟软化进程。*PAL*是木质素生物合成途径关键限速基因, Korth等^[28]研究表明,在烟草中过表达 *PAL* 基因, *PAL* 酶活性和木质素含量均显著升高;Cai等^[27]在低温储藏枇杷试验中发现, *PAL* 表达量与木质素含量呈正相关。本研究结果表明, *PAL1*、*PAL2*、*PAL3*、*PAL4*等



A. 木质素含量与果实质地特性相关性;B. 木质素含量与木质素合成代谢相关基因相关性;C. 果实质地特性与木质素合成代谢相关基因相关性;横纵坐标分别表示在整体解释量中的重要值。

A. The correlation between lignin content and texture quality; B. Lignin content and genes related to lignin synthetic metabolism; C. Fruit texture quality and genes related to lignin synthetic metabolism. The horizontal and vertical coordinates represent the importance value in the overall interpretation volume.

图 7 RDA 分析影响质地的主要因子

Fig. 7 The main factors that affected texture was identified by RDA

4 个基因 *PAL* 表达量与木质素含量呈正相关,其中 *PAL1* 对木质素的合成及硬度软化影响最大且呈正相关,推测 *PAL* 可能是参与调控木质素合成的重要基因。*C4H* 是一类细胞色素 *P450* 基因,主要功能为调控细胞结构。Sewalt 等^[29]研究发现,在烟草中抑制 *C4H* 基因表达,其细胞构成发生变化且木质素含量出现下降,*C4H* 表达量与木质素含量呈正相关。桑葚 *C4H1*、*C4H2*、*C4H3*、*C4H5*、*C4H7* 等 5 个基因表达量与木质素含量呈正相关,表明 *C4H* 基因对桑葚软化过程发挥重要作用。*CCR*、*CCoAOMT* 对木质素生成也有较大影响。*CCR* 是木质素生物合成单信号通路中的第一个固定酶,研究发现在转基因杨树^[30]、玉米^[31]中 *CCR* 的活性降低,木质素含量显著下降。桑葚 *CCR* 基因在木质素的生成中表现为正相关,且随着桑葚的成熟,*CCR* 表达量随之降低。*CCoAOMT* 基因在木质素合成及组分构成中起到重

要的调控作用,在亚麻植物研究中发现,抑制 *CCoAOMT* 基因的表达,木质素含量显著降低,同时植株形态表现为畸形^[32]。桑葚转录组数据中共筛选到 3 个 *CCoAOMT* 差异表达基因, *CCoAOMT1* 和 *CCoAOMT2* 与木质素的合成呈正相关。这些结果对桑葚的质地评价具有参考意义,为优质遗传资源的有效选择和精确定位育种方法的建立提供了依据。

4 结 论

通过质地、木质素测定分析,发现桑葚果实成熟过程中的硬度等质地指标在不同的发育时期呈现不同特征,即硬度、胶黏性和咀嚼性逐渐下降,弹性逐渐升高,黏附性在成熟期显著变化,内聚性无显著变化;木质素含量逐渐降低。转录组测序数据中共鉴定到 45 个木质素合成相关的差异表达基因。21 个差异基因表达量与木质素合成含量变化趋势一致且

均下调表达。RDA 分析表明不同的基因与质地指标、木质素合成等的相关性不一致,说明桑葚质地形成、木质素合成是由多因素、多基因参与调控的生长发育进程,本研究结论为后续开展相关的分子机制探讨奠定了理论基础。

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