

烤烟成熟期的氮素代谢研究进展

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摘要:烤烟是收获叶片的作物,烟叶品质形成与叶片衰老关系密切。为进一步生产开发优质烟叶,介绍了烟叶成熟期的氮素代谢、不同烟草品种的氮素代谢特性及其与品质形成和耐肥性的关系,并简述了衰老基因与防御基因表达的关系,旨在为生产优质烟叶提供参考。

关键词:成熟期;烤烟;氮素代谢;氨挥发;品质;防御

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叶片衰老代表了生长发育的最终阶段,以从营养吸收到营养再利用的转变为特征,是烟叶品质形成的关键时期。衰老过程中氮素的分解再转移、再利用是植物自身氮素运筹的重要环节^[1]。深入研究烟叶衰老过程中的生理生化变化和不同品质特色烟草品种的代谢特性,将为我国特色烟叶的开发工作奠定理论基础。本文综述了烟叶衰老过程中的氮素代谢,包括氨挥发、不同基因型烟草品种的氮素运筹差异以及衰老基因和防御基因表达的关系等国际热点问题的研究进展。

1 植物叶片衰老过程

单个叶片衰老是一个高度有序的降解过程,这一过程包括了大量有序事件的发生,如叶片蛋白质分解、光合作用能力下降、叶绿体解体、叶绿素流失以及分解产物撤离等,涉及一些相关基因的表达^[1-2]。

植物叶片衰老的一个最重要功能是将老叶的氮素进行循环再利用^[2],衰老和氮的再分配关系密切。叶片中的氮素约有75%在叶绿体内,其中核酮糖1,5-二磷酸羧化/加氧酶(Rubisco)最丰富,占叶肉细胞总氮的22%和还原态氮的35%,约占叶片中可溶性蛋白质的50%,因此它被视为最丰富的供再分配的氮源^[3]。这些降解成分必须被植物进行有效的再转移,以维持新生器官的生长^[4]。研究表明,Rubisco含量在叶片展开后立即下降,且在衰老过程中比其它许多蛋白质先行

降解^[5]。叶片进入衰老期后,蛋白水解酶活性显著增强,先由内肽酶起作用,将蛋白质水解成小肽,再由外肽酶起作用,将小肽彻底水解成氨基酸和胺类化合物,然后这些氨基酸和胺类化合物就被储存或运输。其中大部分被运输到生殖器官,而另一部分水解产生NH₃。一般来说,叶绿体中叶绿素的降解物仍保留在衰老叶片中,而与叶绿素降解相比,叶绿体中蛋白质先被降解,在转化成可运输的氨基酸或酰胺后,可通过韧皮部输送出去。衰老速率和叶片氮再转移与植株的氮营养状况有关,并依赖于源库关系^[1,6]。

谷物、番茄、拟南芥、烟草等作物主要以谷氨酰胺的形成输出氮素^[7-9]。随着叶片衰老,从烟草叶片中转移出去的氨基酸总量提高了5倍^[10]。除了有机态氮,硝酸根离子本身也能被再转移,在氮素缺乏条件下这种转移对维持作物的旺盛生长很重要^[11]。

2 叶片衰老调控的氮素代谢酶变化

烟草叶片自然衰老过程中,参与氮素最初吸收的酶如硝酸还原酶(NR)和质体型谷氨酰胺合成酶(GS2)基因表达随衰老而下降,同时谷氨酸脱氢酶(GDH)和胞质型谷氨酰胺合成酶(GS1)基因转录、蛋白质和酶活性随衰老而上升^[12]。GS1、GDH转录和酶活性升高被认为是叶片衰老标记。

NH₄⁺由谷氨酰胺合成酶和谷氨酸合成酶(GS/GOGAT)协同反应合成谷氨酰胺。GS是把无机氮同化为有机氮的关键酶,在植物的氮素运筹中处于中心地位^[13]。高等植物的GS有两个不同位点的同工酶GS1和GS2,其作用各异,叶绿体上的GS2将硝酸还原和光呼吸产生的NH₄⁺固定为谷酰胺^[14-15],在大多数植物中由单一的核基因编码;而细胞质中的GS1则将植物

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体各器官间的氮素合成为谷酰胺运输^[16]。在大多数植物中,GS1由多基因家族编码。基因表达分析和细胞组织化学研究结果表明,GS不仅在亚细胞水平上,在组织水平上分布也有所不同:GS1主要存在于维管束(大多在韧皮部)中,而GS2主要存在于进行光合的细胞中。由源到库的转变是影响GS表达的主要因素。

叶片衰老后的氮转移,GS1是关键^[17]。GS1在衰老早期表达,把氨同化为谷氨酰胺并在植物体内进行运输和再分配^[18]。在烟草中初步认为有两种GS1同工酶基因Gln1-3和Gln1-5。对烟草衰老叶片的免疫定位分析表明,随着叶片衰老,叶肉胞质中的GS1增加,而韧皮部伴随细胞中的GS1含量明显下降,转移至叶肉,GS1的增加是Gln1-3基因诱导的结果^[19]。尽管老叶中GS1诱导和叶绿体部分降解,GS2比GS1在烟草叶片中仍占优势(老叶中75%:25%,新叶中95%:5%)^[1]。Gln1-3基因也在烟草根和花细胞质中转录,Gln1-5基因在茎中高水平转录,在根和花中低水平转录^[20]。叶片韧皮部GS1可能受NH₄⁺调节,因为叶衰老时蛋白降解后产生NH₄⁺诱导韧皮部GS1活性增加。

谷氨酸脱氢酶(GDH)具有脱氨和合成氨的双重功能。GDH活性在叶片衰老过程中活性升高,在衰老晚期表达,一般认为起解除氨毒的作用^[1,21],其生理功能是合成谷氨酸用于衰老叶片氮素的转运^[22],但缺乏相关证据支持。在萌发的种子和衰老叶片中,由于需要把氨基酸转化为低C/N比率的运输成份,GDH可能倾向于脱氨^[23]。当烟草叶片氮素再转移效率最高时,GDH基因的转录和酶活性非常低,而当氮素再转移受阻或叶片NH₄⁺积累时GDH活性受到高度诱导,因而GDH在烟叶氮素再转移过程中并不起直接作用^[24]。当矿质态氮素含量低时,在烟叶韧皮部伴随细胞的线粒体中GDH活性升高;当NH₄⁺的浓度高于特定的阈值时,GDH还会在韧皮部伴随细胞的溶质受到诱导^[25]。研究表明,烟草GDH在叶片衰老过程中的主要作用是脱氨^[10,26-27]。当GS被抑制过表达GDH基因的转基因烟草叶片在NH₄⁺存在时并没有合成谷氨酸;而当NH₄⁺和谷氨酸同时存在并分别供给^{[15]N}谷氨酸和¹⁵NH₄⁺时,由GDH催化谷氨酸脱去的NH₄⁺会被GS重新同化^[28]。因此,GDH在维持C/N平衡方面起着重要作用。

3 叶片衰老期间的氨挥发

氮素除了可进行循环再利用外,还可能通过

氨气的形式挥发到大气中。对小麦、油菜、水稻等作物的研究^[29-30]表明,成熟期是氮素挥发损失的重要时期,叶片衰老期间氨挥发速率最高^[31]。这是因为衰老过程中蛋白质降解形成大量的NH₄⁺,由于叶片衰老时GS活性较低,因此这部分NH₃难以再被固定,为了避免氨害积累,必须从叶片中散失掉^[32]。

在叶片质外体溶液中存在一定浓度的NH₄⁺,维持叶片质外体空气间隙一定浓度的气体NH₃。这一浓度称为气孔氨气补偿点(χ_s),通常在0.1~20 nmol·mol⁻¹空气浓度范围内,田间及控制条件下农作物的氨气补偿点一般在1~6 nmol·mol⁻¹^[33]。氨气补偿点随氮营养水平^[34]、植物发育阶段^[35]和GS活性^[36]的变化而变化。对烟叶的氨挥发研究很少,据最近研究^[37],未打顶的烟叶氨气补偿点在0.09~30.76 nmol·mol⁻¹,随着衰老而上升,因此烟叶中也存在着氨的挥发损失。

叶片GS活性对植物叶片NH₄⁺浓度有显著影响^[36]。GS对NH₄⁺具有高亲和力(K_m≈5×10⁻⁶ mol·L⁻¹),可催化低浓度的NH₄⁺与谷氨酸的结合,并确保硝酸还原产生的NH₄⁺被及时同化,避免积累高浓度的氨。GS活性低的基因型氨挥发量比较高^[36,38-39]。据测定,烟叶衰老期间GS活性下降幅度与 χ_s 升幅密切相关,品种间差异明显^[40]。

4 不同烤烟品种叶片衰老期氮素代谢特性

虽然施氮肥能够推迟衰老并增加叶片含氮量,但有研究认为作物叶片的衰老速率主要由基因型决定的^[41]。生产实践和科学实验都表明,不同的烤烟品种具有不同的衰老(落黄)特性。例如,中烟90为早熟烤烟品种,田间落黄快,原烟颜色偏淡^[42-43]。NC89曾是我国黄淮烟区长期种植的烤烟品种,浓香型风格突出,但叶片落黄较慢,原烟颜色多桔黄。在同样施肥情况下,尽管中烟90叶片氮素状况(总氮和可溶性蛋白)低,但比NC89氨气补偿点升幅大,绝对值也高,叶片总氮相对含量减少的幅度大;并且中烟90GS活性下降幅度比NC89大;中烟90GDH活性明显高于NC89^[40]。造成这些差别的原因是氮素再转移与叶片衰老程度密切相关^[44],而叶片衰老和氮素再转移速率与植株氮素状况有关^[1]。迟衰会造成氮素再转移的效率低,从而留在残余器官的氮素更多;而衰老快的叶片氮素再转移的效率也高。

品种是提高烟叶产量和质量的基础,与烟叶

香气有关的化学成分,如挥发油、树脂、脂肪酸、有机酸、类胡萝卜素等均与品种的遗传有密切关系。烟叶香气的浓淡与烟叶氮化物原始含量有一定关系,含氮化合物较多的烟叶调制后香气浓度较高^[45]。不同衰老特性的烤烟品种具有不同的品质。不同基因型烤烟叶片致香物质含量存在差异,中、上部叶的致香物质总量均表现为 NC89 > K326; NC89 上部与中部叶中类胡萝卜素类致香物质含量明显高于其它品种^[46]。对不同品质的烤烟品种的成苗期叶片叶绿素含量的数理统计结果表明,品种间叶绿素含量差异达到 1% 显著水平,认为成苗期叶片叶绿素含量的多少与品种品质的优劣有极强的相关性^[47]。这是因为叶绿素含量可以作为叶片氮浓度的指标^[48],叶色的深浅可作为衡量植株体内氮素代谢水平高低的标志,也是反映植物代谢类型的良好指标,叶色深的植株为以氮素代谢即扩大型代谢为主,叶色浅的植株以碳代谢即以贮藏型代谢为主。据报道^[49],中烟 90 叶片中叶绿素含量前期低,烟叶成熟期叶绿素降解速度高于 K326 和 NC89,使其物质积累低于其它品种;中烟 90 前期碳素积累代谢较强,后期相对较弱,其碳氮代谢协调程度不如 K326 和 NC89,因而造成烤后烟叶香味必然次于 K326 和 NC89 的结果。通过比较 10 个不同的烤烟品种的烟碱含量,中烟 90 较低^[50]。

烟草品种衰老特性与耐肥特性存在某种关系。中烟 90 是生产实践证明耐肥性强的烤烟品种^[42],NC89 为耐肥性较弱的烤烟品种。作物耐肥性的本质是对肥料敏感性的不同,耐肥品种对肥料不太敏感,而不耐肥品种对肥料敏感。这一特性可能决定了衰老叶片中最终的氮素含量和相关酶活性。有研究认为,烤烟品种的耐肥本质是肥料利用率的不同,N、P、K 肥利用率均以耐肥性弱的品种高于耐肥性强的品种^[51]。中烟 90 硝酸还原酶活性较低,叶绿素含量、根系总吸收面积、氮含量也较低;红花大金元等品种对氮素的反应较敏感,硝酸还原酶活性明显高于其它基因型,叶绿素含量、根系总吸收面积、总氮含量也较其它基因型高^[52]。虽然对烟草品种衰老特性与耐肥特性的关系有了一定了解,仍需要做深入研究。

5 烟叶衰老与防御

植物在衰老过程中会引起机会性病原菌的感染,比较典型的是后熟果实链格孢菌和炭疽病菌能够感知寄主成熟过程中组织 pH 和氨浓度的上升,甚至主动分泌氨导致寄主组织的碱化从而诱导其从活体寄生到腐生的转变^[53-55]。有报道指

出^[56],一定浓度的外部氨可以诱导烟草赤星病菌侵染结构的分化,引起病原菌和寄主的亲和性互作,提高抗病品种净叶黄的敏感性。

病原菌的侵染诱导寄主表达衰老相关基因,这一生理过程与自然衰老相似。植物的衰老相关基因和防御相关基因之间存在重叠(overlap),在自然衰老和病原菌致病过程中植物用相似的机制来挽存氮素。这是当前国际研究的热点之一。病原菌(CMV、TEV、PVY、野火病菌)的侵染会引起烟草参与基本氮素同化基因 GS2 和硝酸还原酶基因下调表达,而参与氮素再转移的 GDH 基因和 GS1 基因这两个衰老标记上调表达^[57]。但在病原菌侵染过程中会促进寄主有机氮再转移的原因,寄主 GDH 和 GS1 究竟服务于病原菌还是寄主,这一点仍不明确。在油菜和 *Leptosperma maculans* 互作过程中当寄主开始转移氮素时病原菌的死体营养阶段也开始了^[58]。据报道^[59],炭疽病菌促进菜豆的氮素代谢要依赖于病原菌的致病性,虽然致病菌和非致病突变体都诱导寄主 GS1 的表达,并伴随着苯丙氨酸解氨酶(PAL3)和查尔酮合成酶(CHS)基因的表达,但致病菌侵染的叶片中 GS1 同工酶含量更高;并且致病菌和非致病菌的侵染都会引起菜豆谷氨酰胺含量升高,表明即使发病过程受到抑制,氮素的再转移仍然能够被诱导,因此油菜炭疽病菌促进的寄主的氮素转移依赖于真菌的致病性。而在拟南芥和烟草普通花叶病毒、葡萄和卷叶病毒互作的研究中发现衰老相关基因(SAGs)在亲和性互作中表达^[60]。因此,侵染诱导的寄主氮素再转移可能与病原菌死体营养阶段的启动有关。

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Research Progress of Nitrogen Metabolism During Flue-cured Tobacco Maturity

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Abstract: For flue-cured tobacco species of which the leaves are objective products, leaf quality development is closely related with mature period. For further production and development of tobacco leaves, the nitrogen metabolism, relationships between its characteristics, the leaves quality development and the tolerance to fertilizer in different tobacco cultivars were reviewed. The relationship between leaves senescence and defense against pathogens were also introduced, so as to provide basis for producing high quality tobacco leaves.

Keywords: mature period; flue-cured tobacco; nitrogen metabolism; ammonia emission; leaf quality; defense