

乙烯响应因子（ERFs）在植物花青素合成中的调控作用

刘 菊，张会灵，张中华，赵亚男，张菊平

（河南科技大学园艺与植物保护学院，洛阳 471000）

摘要：花青素是一种天然色素，可以作为清除自由基的重要天然抗氧化剂，其富含的多种化合物在医疗保健方面十分重要。花青素影响果蔬成熟、口感、色泽，对植物的非生物和生物胁迫产生保护作用，因此优化花青素含量被视为许多园艺作物的育种目标。本文阐述了乙烯响应因子（ERFs）作为乙烯信号传递的次级转录因子响应植物激素信号并能产生反馈调节，以多种方式介导了乙烯调控植物花青素生物合成的过程。在作用方式上，ERFs 主要通过与转录因子互作、激活转录因子、与 MBW 形成调控复合物或直接激活结构基因启动子的方式调控植物花青素的生物合成。本文旨在为后续深入阐明 ERF 调控不同物种花青素生物合成的机制、探究果蔬成熟后期花青素快速积累与乙烯释放量增加之间存在的联系提供理论依据。

关键词：ERF；乙烯；花青素；转录因子

The Regulation of Ethylene Responsive Factors (ERFs) in Plant Anthocyanin Synthesis

LIU Ju, ZHANG Hui-ling, ZHANG Zhong-hua, ZHAO Ya-nan, ZHANG Ju-ping

(College of Horticulture and Plant Protection, Henan University of Science and Technology, Luoyang 471000)

Abstract: Anthocyanins, which are natural pigments and serve as important natural antioxidants scavenging free radicals, are rich in a variety of compounds that are important in health care. Anthocyanins affect the ripening, taste and color of fruits and vegetables, and prevent plants from abiotic and biotic stresses. Therefore, optimizing anthocyanin content is regarded as the breeding goal in many horticultural crops. As the secondary ethylene signaling transcription factors, ethylene response factors (ERFs) respond to plant hormone signaling and can result in feedback regulation, and these genes are known to modulate the process of ethylene regulating anthocyanin biosynthesis via various mechanisms. In terms of the molecular mode, ERFs in regulation of anthocyanin biosynthesis rely on the physical interaction with transcription factors, activating transcription factors, forming regulatory complexes with MBW or directly activating structural gene promoters. This study aims to provide a theoretical basis for further elucidating the mechanism of ERF regulating anthocyanin biosynthesis, and to explore the relationship between the rapid accumulation of anthocyanins and the increase of ethylene release in fruits and vegetables at the late ripening stage.

Key words: ERF; Ethylene; Anthocyanins; Transcription factors

花青素在人类健康保健以及植物抵抗生物和非生物胁迫方面发挥重要作用^[1-3]。除受外界环境及所需结构基因影响外，一些转录因子在花青素合成过程中发挥着重要调控作用。乙烯响应因子（Ethylene Responsive Factor, ERF）是 AP2/ERF 超家族的重要成员^[4]，响应激素、胁迫、果实成熟等信号并参与调控花青素合成^[5-7]。该综述叙述了 ERF 在植物花青素合成中的调控作用，重点在 ERF 介导乙烯调控花青素合成方面。乙

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第一作者研究方向为蔬菜分子育种，E-mail: lj103@stu.haust.edu.cn

通信作者：张会灵，研究方向为蔬菜分子育种，E-mail: lug109@163.com

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烯在果实成熟和色素积累方面发挥非常重要的作用，ERF 作为乙烯信号的次级转录因子与其关系密切，不仅响应乙烯信号还能反馈调控植物体内乙烯的产生^[8]。在方式上，ERF 转录因子主要通过促进 MYB 类转录因子转录、与 MYB 类转录因子互作、与 MBW 形成转录调控复合物或直接激活结构基因启动子的方式来影响植物花青素的生物合成。

1 花青素的合成及调控

色泽是园艺作物的重要性状，花青素是植物着色的主要色素之一。作为一种水溶性黄酮类色素，花青素广泛分布于植物的花瓣、果实、茎和叶中^[9]。花青素的稳定性受 pH 等多种因素影响，条件改变容易导致花青素发生构象的变化，产生不同颜色^[10]。花青素是一种天然色素，可以作为清除自由基的重要抗氧化剂，其具有许多与营养和健康相关的功能^[11,12]。作为一类重要的植物次生代谢产物，花青素在植物生长发育和抵抗环境胁迫方面也发挥着重要作用，如抵御 UV-B 光损伤^[13]、病原体感染^[3]、冷胁迫^[14]、和干旱^[15]，另外花青素的积累还有助于果实防御采后绿霉病^[16]。在自然界中发现的 550 多种花青素中，约 90%来自六种最常见的花青素：天竺葵色素(Pelargonidin)、矢车菊色素(Cyanidin)、飞燕草色素(Delphinidin)、芍药色素(Peonidin)、矮牵牛色素(Petunidin)和锦葵色素(Malvidin)这 6 种色素及其衍生物^[17]。

1.1 花青素合成途径及调控

花青素生物合成途径中，结构基因编码的一系列酶参与花青素的生物合成^[18]。苯丙氨酸(Phenylalanine)依次经过上游结构基因苯丙氨酸解氨酶(PAL, Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase)、肉桂酸羟化酶(C4H, Cinnamate 4-hydroxylase)、4-香豆酰-CoA 连接酶(4CL, 4-coumarate CoA ligase)的催化反应生成 4-香豆酰 CoA (4-coumaroyl-CoA)。4-香豆酰 CoA 在早期生物合成基因(EBGs, Early biosynthesis genes)查尔酮合成酶(CHS, Chalcone synthase)、查尔酮异构酶(CHI, Chalcone isomerase)、黄烷酮-3-羟基化酶(F3H, Flavanone 3-hydroxylase)催化下生成二氢黄酮醇(Dihydrokaempferol)，二氢黄酮醇在类黄酮 3'-羟基化酶(F3'H, Flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase)和类黄酮 3,5-羟化酶(F3'5'H, Flavonol 3'5'-hydroxylase)的催化作用下分别生成二氢栎皮酮(Dihydroquercetin)和二氢杨梅黄酮(Dihydromyricetin)。二氢黄酮醇、二氢栎皮酮和二氢杨梅黄酮分别在晚期生物合成基因(LBGs, Late biosynthesis genes)二氢黄酮醇-4-还原酶(DFR, Dihydroflavonol 4-reductase)、花青素合成酶(ANS, Anthocyanidin synthase)和类黄酮 3-O-葡萄糖基转移酶(UFGT, UDP-flavonoid 3-O-glucosyltransferase)作用下合成不同的有色花色苷(图 1)。除此之外，分别编码多酚氧化酶(PPO, Polyphenol oxidase)、MATE 家族的一种二级转运因子、H (+)-ATP 酶和谷胱甘肽 S-转移酶(GST, Glutathione S-transferase)的四个结构基因 Transparent Taste 10 (tt10)、Transparent Taste 12 (tt12)、Transparent Taste 13 (tt13) 和 Transparent Taste 19 (tt19) 以及修饰基因甲基转移酶(MT, Methyltransferase)、O-甲基转移酶(OMT, O-Methyltransferase)和花青素转移酶(AT, Anthocyanin transferase)也参与花青素的生物合成，这些蛋白质在花青素的修饰、运输和氧化中起着重要作用^[19-22]。

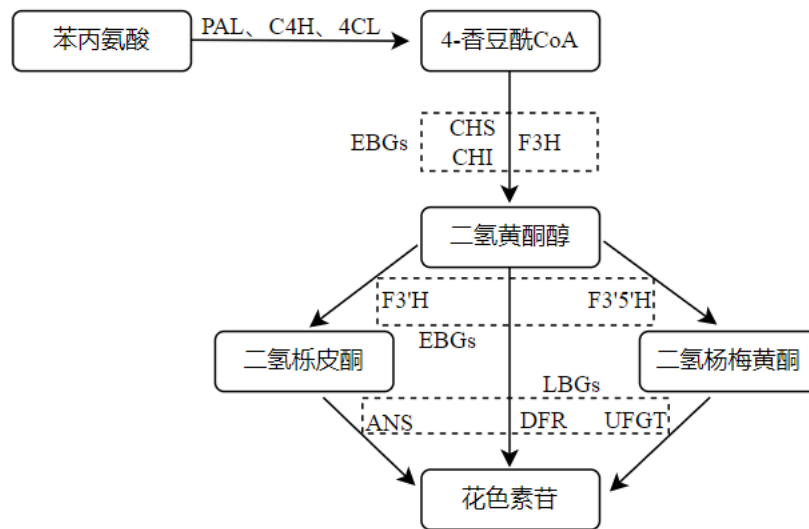


图 1 花青素生物合成路径图

Fig.1 Pathway diagram of anthocyanin biosynthesis

这些结构基因主要由 MYB 家族、bHLH 家族和 WD40 蛋白组成的 MBW 转录复合物共同调节^[23]。其中 MYB 中的 R2R3-MYB 在调控途径中发挥着关键作用，它可以直接调节相关基因的表达并促进花青素积累^[24,25]。如 MYB 类转录因子 MdMYB114 可以通过与 bHLH3 和 WD40 相互作用促进苹果果实着色^[26]，卵叶牡丹 R2R3-MYB 转录因子 PqMYB113 能激活 *PqDFR* 和 *PqANS* 启动子，正调控拟南芥和烟草中花青素的积累^[27]。LvMYB5 通过激活 *ANS* 基因启动子，增强结构基因的表达促进百合中花青素合成^[28]。MYB 转录因子 BrMYBL2.1 通过抑制 MYB-bHLH-WD40 复合物活性负调控白菜花青素的生物合成^[29]。除了 MBW 复合物，其他转录因子也影响花青素的生物合成，例如梨中的 *PyERF3* 和 *PyWRKW26*，桃中的 *PpNAC1*，以及甘薯中的 *IbNAC56*，它们直接或间接地与 MBW 复合物相互作用，以调节花青素的生物合成^[30-33]。另外，miRNA 也会影响花青素生物合成，如 miRNA 通过其靶基因影响荔枝花青素的生物合成^[34]，miRNA 通过调控相关靶基因影响花生花斑种皮花青素积累^[35]。

1.2 环境因素影响花青素的合成

植物激素等内部因素以及光照、温度、干旱等外部因素都能影响靶基因的转录激活和花青素的生物合成、积累和运输。如 ERF38 转录因子促进干旱条件下苹果花青素的生物合成^[5]，在强光和低温胁迫下，HUA2 (Enhancer of AG-4 2) 与 PAP1 (Production of Anthocyanin Pigment 1) 和 PAP2 (Production of Anthocyanin Pigment 2) 相结合促进花青素积累^[23]，被磷酸化的 MYB75 参与光照诱导拟南芥花青素的积累^[36]，红光处理提高了蓝莓愈伤组织中花青素的合成^[37]。夜间低温提高了葡萄果实花青素的生物合成能力^[38]，却抑制草莓果实花青素积累^[39]。另外，植物激素水平通常会影响基因的表达以及植物体内的生理代谢过程从而参与果实成熟和着色，如脱落酸处理显著增强了葡萄中总花色素积累量和速率^[40]。不同物种中花青素合成受外界信号的反应也有所不同，乙烯增强梨中 *PpERF105* 对花青素合成负调节因子 *PpMYB140* 的激活作用从而抑制花青素的生物合成^[41]，但在苹果中乙烯会增强花青素合成正调节因子 *MdMYB1* 的表达水平，显著诱导花

青素合成及果实着色^[8]。花色苷的生物合成受多种因素影响,不同植物品种的花青素代谢合成途径和相关基因转录对不同因素的响应方式不同,因此植物花色苷的调控机制复杂多样。

2 ERF 转录因子在植物花青素合成中的调控作用

超家族 AP2/ERF 成员包含一个共同的 DNA 结合域 AP2 域,根据该区域拷贝数的差异,AP2/ERF 通常可分为四个家族即 AP2、ERF、RAV 和 Soloist^[4,42]。大多数 AP2/ERF 蛋白能与含有 GCC-box 的启动子结合,但不同组别的成员激活程度不同^[43]。乙烯响应因子(ERF)家族是 AP2/ERF 超家族中的重要成员,ERF 成员以单个 AP2 结构域为特征^[4,44]。除了与含有 GCC-box 的启动子结合外,ERF 蛋白还可以与烟草中的 VWRE(血管损伤反应元件, GAAATTTC)和 CE1(偶联元件, CACCG)结合^[45,46]。

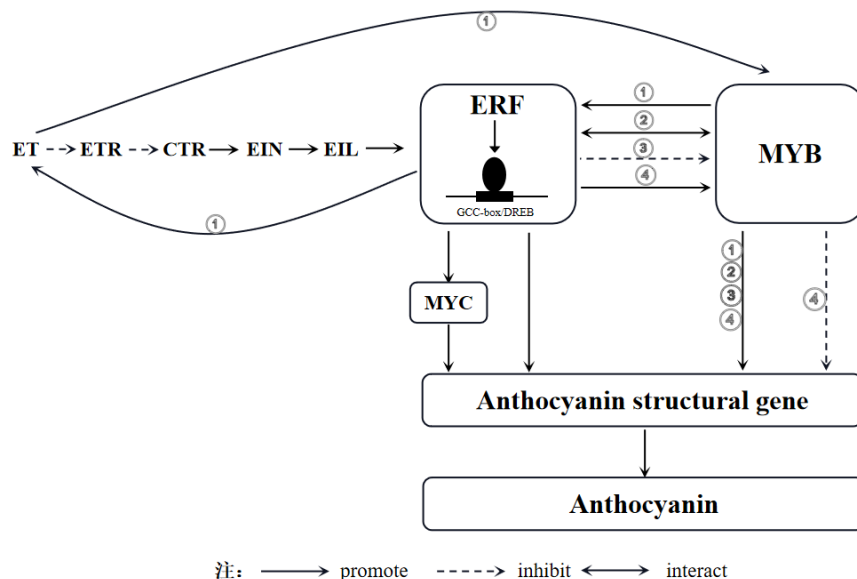
ERF 在植物生长中起着重要作用,参与调节植物对激素、胁迫、果实成熟的反应并调控花青素合成^[5-7]。如热诱导基因乙烯响应因子 *LIERF110* 的过量表达会降低百合的耐热性^[47], *OsBIERF3* 对水稻瘟病菌和水稻白叶枯病菌的免疫起正调控作用,但对水稻的抗冷胁迫起负调控作用^[48]。ERF 对果实成熟有重要调节作用,如 *PpERF4* 通过直接结合目的基因启动子增强其活性,促进了桃果实成熟^[6]。*DkERF8/16/19* 能够激活与柿子软化相关的细胞壁降解酶 *DkXTH9*(木葡聚糖内糖基转移酶/水解酶),加速柿子的软化过程^[49]。还有研究表明 *AtERF4* 和 *AtERF8* 双突变体可以降低光诱导的拟南芥花青素产生的速率和程度^[50]。植物生长发育过程中不可或缺的已知植物激素,如茉莉酸、脱落酸、乙烯和生长素,可以刺激 ERF 的表达,并参与调节植物的各种过程,调节花青素的生物合成、防御和应激反应^[18,43,51]。作为植物激素信号的关键调节器,ERF 不仅参与响应植物激素信号还可以反馈调节植物激素的生物合成,在植物激素信号转导过程中发挥重要作用^[43,52]。

2.1 ERF 转录因子调控乙烯介导的花青素积累

乙烯是植物生长、发育、衰老和抗逆性的重要激素组^[43],对果实成熟和发育期间的颜色调控不可或缺,能调节葡萄、兰花、蓝莓等多种植物体中花青素的生物合成^[53-55]。乙烯在果实中受两条途径调节:生物合成途径和信号转导途径。乙烯生物合成包括两个关键步骤:ACC 合成酶(ACS, ACC synthase)将 S-腺苷甲硫氨酸(SAM, S-adenosylmethionine)转化为 1-氨基环丙烷 1-羧酸(ACC, 1-Aminocyclopropanecarboxylic Acid),然后通过 ACC 氧化酶(ACO, ACC oxidase)从 ACC 中形成乙烯^[56]。在乙烯信号转导途径中,乙烯首先与受体结合,使乙烯信号途径的负调控因子 CTR1(Constitutive Triple Response 1)失活,导致 CTR1 无法磷酸化下游的正调控因子 EIN2(Ethylene Insensitive 2),去磷酸化的 EIN2 可以稳定下游乙烯信号途径的初级转录因子 EIN3/EIL(Ethylene Insensitive 3-Like/Ethylene Insensitive 3)并促进其积累^[57-59]。在 EIN3/EIL 下游,乙烯反应因子(ERF)作为触发乙烯信号传递的二级转录因子,可以专一地与乙烯反应基因启动子的脱水反应元件(DRE, Dehydration Responsive Element)基序或 GCC-box 结合^[52,60,61],最终诱导乙烯反应。植物组织中产生的乙烯量与 ACS 和 ACO 活性呈正相关, GCC-box 通常出现在许多植物的 ACS 和 ACO 启动子中,而大多数 AP2/ERF 蛋白能与含有 GCC-box 的启动子结合,因此表达 ERF 基因,如 *TERF2/LeERF2*、*MaERF9* 可以增强 ACS 和 ACO 的活性,从而加速乙烯生物合成和信号转导^[52,62]。除了正反馈基因外,有部分 ERF 转录因子还表现为 ACS 和 ACO 活性的阻遏物,以阻止乙烯生物合成,包括 *AtERF11* 和 *MaERF11*^[62,63]。因此,ERF 不仅响应乙烯信号转导,还可以反馈调节植物组织中乙烯的合成^[52]。

乙烯对花青素生物合成的调节作用因植物种类而异,例如乙烯通过抑制 *SIAN2-like* 基因转录抑制花青素的生物合成^[64],但合适的乙烯处理却可以提高葡萄中花青素含量^[65]。果蔬成熟后期通常伴随着乙烯合成释放量增加以及花青素大量积累导致果实着色,在探究两者之间存在的某种联系时发现一些 ERF 转录因子在乙烯调控花青素合成过程中发挥着重要作用,如图 2 所示。我们普遍认为乙烯促使苹果积累花青素,近年来的一些研究有助于我们探究其调控机制。乙烯通过促进 *MdMYB1* 和花青素合成关键基因的转录,加速了花青素积累,同时 *MdMYB1* 诱导乙烯响应因子 *MdERF3* 的转录来进一步加强乙烯介导的花青素积累和苹果果实着色^[8]。研究发现乙烯和茉莉酸都能促进花青素的合成,并增强 *MdERF1B* 和 *MdMYC2* 的表达水平。*MdERF1B* 介导乙烯调控的花青素合成途径中,乙烯提高了 *MdERF1B* 的转录活性,促进 *MdERF1B* 结合 *MdMYC2* 启动子增强其表达,进而激活花青素结构基因转录、促进花青素积累。*MdERF1B* 介导的茉莉酸调控花青素合成途径中,茉莉酸信号通路抑制剂 *MdJAZ5/10* 与 *MdERF1B* 蛋白互作显著降低了 *MdERF1B* 对 *MdMYC2* 启动子的激活,导致 *MdMYC2* 表达水平降低及产生花青素的相关基因水平下调,从而抑制花青素积累。当茉莉酸含量升高时,*MdJAZ5/10* 被抑制,促进 *MdERF1B* 对 *MdMYC2* 启动子的激活,导致 *MdMYC2* 基因表达水平及花青素生物合成相关基因的上调^[66]。乙烯途径中的调控蛋白 *MdERF1B* 与 *MdMYB9*、*MdMYB11* 蛋白互作,此外 *MdERF1B* 通过结合 *MdMYB9* 和 *MdMYB11* 的启动子激活了 *MdMYB9* 和 *MdMYB11* 的转录,从而上调花青素合成结构基因 *ANS* 的活性促进花青素的生物合成^[67]。有研究发现乙烯处理促进花青素积累和 *ERF5* 基因强烈表达,凝胶迁移实验和双荧光素酶实验分析表明 *ERF5* 能结合 *MYBA* 和 *F3H* 启动子提高其表达水平,实现乙烯对“紫金”桑葚花青素积累的积极调节^[68]。

在乙烯响应因子 *ERF* 作用下乙烯促进苹果、桑葚花青素积累但对梨花青素生物合成表现出明显的抑制效果,这体现出不同物种对乙烯反应的差异性。乙烯诱导的 *PpERF105* 通过激活负调控转录因子 *PpMYB140* 的转录,导致形成 MBW 复合物,该复合物下调花青素生物合成相关基因的表达抑制了梨中花青素生物合成。另外乙烯信号通路抑制正调控转录因子 *PpMYB10* 和 *PpMYB114* 的表达,导致花青素生物合成减少^[41]。乙烯还可以通过转录因子 *ERF* 直接抑制 *PpMYB10* 和 *PpMYB114* 的表达,最终抑制红梨中花青素的生物合成,花青素生物合成途径被抑制导致黄酮/异黄酮和花青素生物合成途径所需的相同的前体(黄烷酮)的积累,从而黄酮/异黄酮生物合成提供丰富的前体。因此,在乙烯存在的情况下,茉莉酸诱导了黄酮/异黄酮的生物合成和梨果实的深黄色^[69]。



注：图中 ①②③④ 代表了转录因子 ERF 介导乙烯调控花青素合成时，与 MYB 共同作用的多种调控通路。① 通路代表着乙烯通过激活 MYB 类转录因子转录加速了结构基因转录和花青素积累，同时 MYB 转录因子激活乙烯响应因子 ERF 的转录来调控乙烯生成，进一步加强乙烯介导的花青素积累。② 通路代表着乙烯响应因子 ERF 与 MYB 转录因子蛋白互动后通过上调花青素合成相关结构基因活性促进花青素合成。③ 通路代表着乙烯响应因子 ERF 通过抑制 MYB 类花青素合成正调控因子的表达阻碍花青素生物合成。④ 通路代表着乙烯响应因子 ERF 通过激活 MYB 类花青素合成正调控/负调控转录因子转录，促进/抑制花青素生物合成结构基因表达，从而促进/抑制花青素积累。

Note: In the figure, ①②③④ represent multiple regulatory pathways in which ERF and MYB act together when the transcription factor ERF mediates ethylene to regulate anthocyanin synthesis. ① The pathway represents that ethylene accelerates the transcription of structural genes and anthocyanin accumulation by activating the transcription of MYB transcription factors. At the same time, MYB transcription factors regulate ethylene production by activating the transcription of ethylene response factor ERF, which further enhances the ethylene mediated anthocyanin accumulation. ② The pathway represents that the interaction between ethylene response factor ERF and MYB transcription factor protein promotes anthocyanin synthesis by upregulating the activity of structural genes related to anthocyanin synthesis. ③ The pathway represents that the ethylene responsive factor ERF inhibits anthocyanin biosynthesis by inhibiting the expression of positive regulators of MYB anthocyanin synthesis. ④ The pathway represents that ethylene response factor ERF promotes/inhibits anthocyanin accumulation by activating MYB anthocyanin synthesis positive/negative regulation of transcription factor transcription, promoting/inhibiting the expression of anthocyanin biosynthetic structural genes

图 2 转录因子 ERF 参与乙烯调控花青素合成的方式

Fig.2 The transcription factor ERF participates in the way that ethylene regulates anthocyanin synthesis

2.2 ERF 转录因子通过多种方式调控花青素生物合成

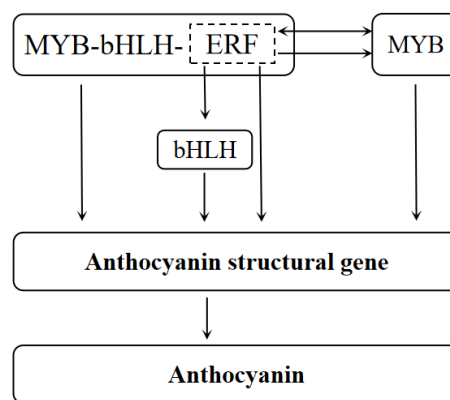
在作用方式上，ERF 转录因子通过与 MYB 类转录因子蛋白互作、激活 MYB 类转录因子、与 MBW 形成转录调控复合物来影响结构基因启动子活性或直接激活结构基因启动子来发挥作用调控花青素合成，如图 3 所示。

2.2.1 ERF 转录因子通过 MYB 类转录因子调节花青素生物合成 酵母双杂和双分子荧光互补分析表明苹果中 MdERF78 与 MdMYB1 蛋白互作，双荧光素酶和 GUS 染色等实验证明 MdERF78 通过增强 MdMYB1 对 *MdDFR*、*MdUGT*、*MdGSTF12* 启动子的转录活性，在 ALA (5-aminolevulinic acid) 诱导的花青素积累中发挥着积极作用^[70]。过表达 *MdERF1B* 的苹果愈伤组织中花青素水平显著升高，通过酵母双杂交、双分子荧光互补和双荧光素酶等实验证明了 MdERF1B 与 MdMYB9、MdMYB11 蛋白相互作用，并能够激活 *MdMYB9* 和 *MdMYB11* 的启动子，提高其表达水平对花青素合成起到正向调控作用^[67]。苹果中，MdERF38 与花色素苷生物合成的正调控转录因子 MdMYB1 蛋白互作，并且 MdERF38 通过提高 MdMYB1 的转录活性增强其表

达,促进了 *MdMYB1* 与 *MdDFR*、*MdUFGT* 启动子的结合从而加速苹果花青素积累^[5]。另外, *MdMYB1* 能结合 *MdERF3* 启动子激活其转录,通过 *MdERF3* 依赖的途径促进乙烯的生物合成,从而增强了乙烯途径对激活 *MdMYB1* 自身转录活性的促进作用,进而加速花青素生物合成^[8]。梨中, *Pp4ERF24* 和 *Pp12ERF96* 分别与 *PpMYB114* 蛋白互作而作为辅助因子,促进 *PpMYB114* 与 *PpbHLH3* 之间的相互作用,从而增强 *PpMYB114* 对 *PpUFGT* 启动子的激活作用,诱导红枣酥梨花青素的积累^[71]。

2.2.2 ERF 转录因子与 MBW 转录因子形成复合物调控花青素合成 作为伴侣, *bHLH* 可以与 *MYB* 相互作用,调节花青素的生物合成。例如, *MYBA1* 和 *MYB113* 与 *bHLH* 互作,以调节马铃薯中的花青素生物合成^[72], *AcMYBF110-AcbHLH1-AcWDR1* 复合物直接作用于花青素合成基因的启动子来调控猕猴桃果实中花青素的生物合成^[73]。ERF 转录因子除促进 *MYB* 类转录因子发挥作用外,它们也可以直接或间接地与 *MBW* 复合物相互作用,以调节花青素的生物合成。如 *PyERF3* 与 *PyMYB114* 相互作用,并与 *bHLH3* 形成新的转录调控复合物 *PyERF3-PyMYB114-PybHLH3*, *PyERF3-PyMYB114-PybHLH3* 分别与 *PyDFR*、*PyANS* 和 *PyUFGT* 的启动子结合,激活其转录进而调控梨花青素的生物合成^[31]。转录因子 *IbERF71* 与 *IbMYB340*、*IbbHLH2* 形成一种新的复合物 *IbERF71-IbMYB340-IbbHLH2*,其通过增强紫色肉质甘薯中 *IbANS1* 的转录活性来调节花青素的生物合成^[74]。

2.2.3 ERF 转录因子激活结构基因启动子调控花青素生物合成 ERF 转录因子不仅通过 *MYB* 类转录因子发挥作用以调控花青素生物合成,还可以直接激活结构基因的启动子调控花青素生物合成。研究发现,梨中瞬时过表达 *PbERF22* 显著上调了结构基因 *PbCHS*、*PbDFR*、*PbANS*、*PbUFGT* 的表达水平,进一步通过双荧光素酶实验发现 *PbERF22* 可以显著激活 *PbUFGT* 的启动子,同时 *PbERF22* 也可促进调节基因 *PbMYB10*、*PbMYB10b*、*PbbHLH3* 的表达,该基因通过增强 *PbMYB10*、*PbMYB10b* 以及复合物 *MYB10-bHLH3*、*MYB10b-bHLH3* 对 *PbUFGT* 启动子的激活作用来促进早熟梨中花青素的生物合成^[18]。胡萝卜中, *DcERF1* 能够与 *DcPAL3* 启动子区域的顺式元件 *GCC-box* 同源物结合,激活 *DcPAL3* 启动子并上调其活性,促进花青素生物合成^[7]。苹果中,酵母单杂交和双荧光素酶实验显示, *MdERF78* 直接结合 *MdF3H* 和 *MdANS* 启动子并激活基因表达,证明了 *MdERF78* 在 *ALA* 诱导的花青素积累中发挥正向作用^[70]。还有研究表明 *MdERF109* 通过直接结合花青素结构基因 *MdCHS*、*MdUFGT* 以及调节基因 *MdbHLH3* 启动子并激活其转录,促进了光诱导的花青素生物合成^[75]。



注: ————— promote <—> interact

图3 转录因子 ERF 调控花青素合成的作用方式

Fig.3 Mode of action of transcription factor ERF in the regulation of anthocyanin synthesis

3 展望

花青素在植物体内的合成途径已研究的较为清楚，近年来有大量的研究在阐述其调控机制，但花青素的生物合成受多种因素影响，导致不同植物花青素的合成代谢途径以及不同情况下花青素相关基因的表达水平存在差异，因此植物花青素的调控机制十分复杂，仍需科研工作者继续深入探究。研究各种转录因子调控植物花青素的合成机制，是近年来科学前沿尤为关注的热点。作为乙烯信号传递的次级转录因子，ERF 与乙烯等激素的合成和释放密切相关，果实成熟后期出现乙烯水平波动以及花青素大量积累的现象引起广泛关注，研究 ERF 转录因子则被视为探明这一现象的突破口。

因此有些问题值得我们今后深入研究：（1）有研究表明，乙烯水平上升能诱导乙烯响应因子 ERF 表达进而调控花青素的生物合成，花青素合成相关的转录因子可通过激活 ERF 调控乙烯产生。因此我们思考其它与花青素合成相关的转录因子是否也能激活 ERF，从而通过调控 ERF 来影响乙烯合成？（2）ERF 转录因子在调控花青素合成过程中多见于对 MYB 类转录因子的激活、或与 MYB、bHLH 形成转录调控复合物，而 MYB、bHLH、WD40 总是联系密切，我们有理由提出疑问花青素合成过程中 ERF 转录因子与 WD40 是否存在某种联系？（3）为什么 ERF 转录因子调控不同植物中花青素合成的作用机制存在明显差异？

研究 ERF 转录因子在不同物种中花青素的调控机制、以及其通过调控花青素合成来影响果蔬成熟和抵御胁迫具有更加实践性的意义，期待今后随着研究的深入可以不断阐明完善以 ERF 转录因子为中心的花青素合成调控网络，以丰富完善富含花青素的育种资源。

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