

DOI: 10.19663/j.issn2095-9869.20211129001

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顾梓鹏,任玉东,程芬,张晓雯,徐东,叶乃好,梁成伟.巨藻中谷胱甘肽S转移酶基因对细长聚球藻PCC7942耐镉性的影响.渔业科学进展,2023,44(2): 127–136

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巨藻中谷胱甘肽S转移酶基因 对细长聚球藻PCC7942耐镉性的影响^{*}

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摘要 谷胱甘肽S转移酶(glutathione S-transferase, GST)是一个较大的基因家族,在生物体生长发育和对环境变化响应中发挥重要的调控作用。本研究从巨藻(*Macrocystis pyrifera*)配子体中克隆了6个完整的GST基因(*mpgst1*、*mpgst2*、*mpgst3*、*mpgst4*、*mpgst5*和*mpgst6*)。随后将6个巨藻GST基因分别转化至细长聚球藻(*Synechococcus elongatus* PCC7942)中,提取细长聚球藻转化株基因组DNA作为模板进行PCR验证及测定转化株GST酶活进行基因功能验证,结果显示,6个*mpgst*基因都分别成功整合到细长聚球藻的基因组中,但只有含*mpgst1*、*mpgst4*和*mpgst6*基因的细长聚球藻转化株(MG1、MG4和MG6)具有耐镉性。在镉离子胁迫下,细长聚球藻转化株MG1、MG4和MG6的生长、光合色素含量和叶绿素荧光参数 F_v/F_m 值均显著高于野生株($P<0.05$)。本研究结果为进一步研究巨藻GST基因的抗重金属胁迫功能奠定了基础。

关键词 谷胱甘肽S转移酶基因; 转基因; 镉离子胁迫; 巨藻; 细长聚球藻PCC7942

中图分类号 Q78 **文献标识码** A **文章编号** 2095-9869(2023)02-0127-10

褐藻(Phaeophyta)具有重要的经济价值,在工农业生产中得到广泛应用(Khan *et al.*, 2009; Rassweiler *et al.*, 2018)。大多数褐藻生活在潮间带和潮下带,受盐度、温度和光照胁迫的波动水平影响(Hurd *et al.*, 2014)。巨藻(*Macrocystis pyrifera*)是褐藻中较为常见的一种,因其体积大和生长速度快的特点,长期以来被认为是最有希望用于生物量产的大型藻类物种之一(Barreiro *et al.*, 2021)。巨藻在潮下带形成了密集

的海藻床和海藻林,产生了大量的生物量,决定了生态系统的结构(Bolton, 2021)。巨藻分布广泛,暴露在各种环境条件下,能够适应各种非生物和生物胁迫(Shukla *et al.*, 2017; Wiencke *et al.*, 2012)。

随着现代工农业的快速发展和矿产资源的开发利用,生态环境,特别是水生环境中的重金属污染日益严重。虽然海水中适量的重金属元素不会对海洋生物产生有害影响,有些重金属甚至可以作为藻类正常

* 海南省热带海水养殖技术重点实验室开放基金(TMTOF202105)、国家自然科学基金(31770393)和泰山学者青年专家项目(tsqn202103136)共同资助。顾梓鹏, E-mail: gzp17712231677@163.com

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收稿日期: 2021-11-29, 收修改稿日期: 2021-12-29

生长和代谢所必需的微量营养物质,但当其含量过高时,就会对藻类造成伤害,产生污染(Maxwell *et al*, 2000; Jiang *et al*, 2003; Plekhanov *et al*, 2003)。目前,重金属对藻类的毒性已成为污染生态学的研究热点之一(Collén *et al*, 2003)。研究表明,高浓度的金属通过抑制生长、触发氧化损伤、影响基因表达以及破坏光合细胞和线粒体,从而对硅藻(Diatom)产生有害影响(Stauber *et al*, 1989; Cid *et al*, 1995; Rijstenbil *et al*, 2002; Herzi *et al*, 2013)。在各种金属中,镉(Cd)的毒性特别强,很容易在许多海洋生物中积累,为应优先关注的污染物之一(Blackmore, 1998; Olivier *et al*, 2002; Chakraborty *et al*, 2015; 徐莞媛等, 2020)。通常情况下,沉积物和开放海水中的 Cd 浓度很低(Blackmore, 1998),但由于泄漏或人为排放,在一些近海和河口地区 Cd 浓度会变高(Simpson, 1981; Villanueva *et al*, 1992)。Cd 可以通过与蛋白质中氨基酸的羟基进行非特异性结合,取代金属酶中的必需金属并造成细胞氧化损伤来发挥生物毒性(Mostofa *et al*, 2015)。虽然 Cd 在大型藻类中没有明确的代谢功能,但有研究证明,Cd 是威氏海链藻(*Thalassiosira weissflogii*)碳酸酐酶的辅助因子(Lane *et al*, 2000)。

谷胱甘肽 S 转移酶(glutathione S-transferase, GSTs, EC2.5.1.18)普遍存在于所有生物体中,是由一个大的基因家族编码的多功能蛋白(Han *et al*, 2018)。GSTs 主要通过催化还原型谷胱甘肽(glutathione, GSH)与广泛的疏水和亲电底物结合来解毒外来物质(Frova, 2003)。除了其解毒功能外,GSTs 还在其他生理和发育过程中发挥重要作用,包括次级代谢、信号转导、抗紫外线辐射、抗氧化损伤及对重金属的解毒作用(Dixon *et al*, 2010; Edwards *et al*, 2011; Sharma *et al*, 2004)。目前,关于 GSTs 对重金属解毒作用的研究较多,研究表明 GST 酶活的增加与重金属耐受性的提高呈正相关,说明 GSTs 在提高植物重金属耐受性方面发挥了重要作用(Canado *et al*, 2005; Darko *et al*, 2004; Dawood *et al*, 2012)。例如,有报道称,南极冰藻(*Chlamydomonas* sp. ICE-L)在 Cd 胁迫下,GST 酶活增加(Contreras-Porcia *et al*, 2011)。

由于目前大型藻类缺乏稳定的遗传转化操作系统,利用大型藻类验证功能尚不明确的基因和蛋白存在较大的困难。本研究克隆巨藻的 GST 基因,将其构建到细长聚球藻(*Synechococcus elongatus* PCC7942)的表达载体中并在细长聚球藻中表达,旨在研究巨藻 GST 在 Cd²⁺耐受中所发挥的作用。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验材料培养

巨藻配子体由中国水产科学研究院黄海水产研究所提供。使用前,所有样品用过滤海水进行冲洗,去除可见的附生异物。然后将样品在 10℃ 的无菌海水中培养 24 h。

细长聚球藻 PCC7942 来自 GeneArtTM 聚球藻蛋白表达试剂盒(ThermoFisher Scientific, 美国),并在 Blue-Green (BG11)培养基中培养 7 d, 培养温度为 (25±2)℃, 光照强度为 100 μmol photons/(m²·s)。

1.2 RNA 的提取和 cDNA 的合成

取 100 mg 巨藻配子体样品,将水分吸干,用液氮冷冻处理后进行研磨。采用 E.Z.N.A. 植物 RNA 提取试剂盒(Omega, 美国)进行 RNA 的提取。使用 2% 琼脂糖凝胶电泳和 NanoDrop 2000 (ThermoFisher Scientific, 美国)分别检测 RNA 的完整性和浓度。

使用 *Evo M-MLV Plus* 第一链 cDNA 合成试剂盒(艾科瑞, 中国)反转录 RNA, 合成 cDNA。

1.3 巨藻 GST 基因 cDNA 的克隆

根据巨藻转录组序列(国家基因库登录号 CNP0001061)选取 6 个 GST 基因的 cDNA 序列,设计两端含有酶切位点的基因特异性引物(睿博, 中国)(表 1)用于构建表达载体。以 cDNA 为模板,添加 2×Pro Taq Master Mix(含染料)(艾科瑞, 中国)扩增 GST 基因。PCR 反应条件: 94℃ 预变性 30 s; 98℃ 变性 10 s, 62℃ 退火 30 s, 72℃ 延伸 1 min, 扩增 30 个循环, 最后 72℃ 延伸 2 min。对 PCR 产物进行测序。

1.4 巨藻 GST 基因在细长聚球藻中的异源表达

为了研究巨藻 GST 基因的功能,根据 GeneArtTM 聚球藻蛋白表达试剂盒(ThermoFisher Scientific, 美国)的操作说明,构建分别含有 6 个巨藻 GST 基因(*mpgst1~mpgst6*)的重组表达载体,转化至细长聚球藻细胞,并将含 *mpgst1~mpgst6* 的转化株分别命名为 MG1~MG6。

使用 E.Z.N.A. HP 植物 DNA 提取试剂盒(Omega, 美国)提取转化株的基因组 DNA。以基因组 DNA 为模板,添加特异性引物(表 1), 使用 2×Pro Taq Master Mix(含染料)(艾科瑞, 中国)扩增靶基因。然后对 PCR 产物进行测序验证。

表1 本研究使用的引物序列
Tab.1 Primer sequences used in this study

引物 Primer	序列 Sequence (5'~3')	酶切位点 Restriction site
G1-F	CCCA <u>AAGCTT</u> ATGGCTCCGTGTT	Hind III
G1-R	CGCG <u>GATCC</u> GGCCTCGAAGCGTA	BamH I
G2-F	CCGG <u>GAATT</u> CATGGCTTCCACCA	EcoR I
G2-R	CGGG <u>GTACC</u> CTTGCTGCTGAT	Kpn I
G3-F	CCGG <u>GAATT</u> CATGCCGATTGGT	EcoR I
G3-R	CGGG <u>GTACC</u> GGAGCTGTAGTTC	Kpn I
G4-F	CCGG <u>GAATT</u> CATGGCCCCGTATT	EcoR I
G4-R	CGGG <u>GTACC</u> GGCCTTGGAAAGCGTA	Kpn I
G5-F	CCC <u>AAGCTT</u> TATGAGCCCCAAGCTT	Hind III
G5-R	CGCG <u>GATCC</u> TGCCCTGACTCCA	BamH I
G6-F	CCGG <u>GAATT</u> CATGGCTCCGTATT	EcoR I
G6-R	CGGG <u>GTACC</u> CTAGGCCTTGGATG	Kpn I

注: 限制性内切酶作用位点用下划线标出。

Note: The restriction endonuclease action sites are underlined.

1.5 转化株酶活的测定

取培养至对数期的细长聚球藻藻液, 用 GST 检测试剂盒(科铭, 中国)分析转化株的 GST 酶活性, 以不含酶提取物的混合液作为对照。

1.6 Cd²⁺胁迫下细长聚球藻生理指标的变化

将野生株和转化株用 BG11 培养基培养至对数期, 稀释藻液, 使得每个样品 750 nm 处吸光度值($OD_{750\text{ nm}}$)为 0.01。然后加入 CdCl₂ 溶液, 使得每个样品中 Cd²⁺的浓度为 0.2 mg/L, 将等量的处理后的藻液加入到多孔板中(包括未添加 Cd²⁺的对照样品), 所有处理重复 3 次。将多孔板置于恒温培养箱中观察细长聚球藻的生长情况, 筛选出有抗性的转化株, 培养温度为(25±2)℃, 光照强度为 100 μmol photons/(m²·s)。

将藻液转移至三角瓶中并重复之前的胁迫处理, 然后在恒温培养箱中培养, 检测 Cd²⁺胁迫下细长聚球藻的生长、光合色素含量和叶绿素荧光参数。用分光光度计每隔 2 d 检测细长聚球藻的 OD_{750 nm} 值, 持续 12 d, 测定其生长情况。按照肖丽等(2008)和 Wang 等(2020)提到的方法, 在培养第 12 天时从细长聚球藻中提取色素, 并按照 Lichtenthaler 等(2001)提出的方法计算叶绿素 a (Chlorophyll a, Chl-a) 和类胡萝卜素 (Carotenoid, Car) 的含量。使用 Maxi-Imaging-PAM (Walz, 德国) 测量了光系统 II (photosystem II complex, PS II) 的最大量子产率(F_v/F_m), 采用 Zhang 等(2021)的方法进行叶绿素荧光参数测定前藻液的处理。最大量子产率(F_v/F_m)的计算遵循 Genty 等(1989)中的方法。所有实验均重复进行 3 次。

1.7 数据统计分析

采用 SPSS 软件中单因素方差分析(one-way ANOVA)和双因素方差分析(two-way ANOVA)来分析实验处理组和对照组之间的差异显著性。使用 R(3.5.3) 和 Adobe Illustrator CS6 软件来绘制和修改图形。 $P<0.05$ 表示存在显著差异(Zar, 1996)。

2 结果与分析

2.1 巨藻 GST 基因克隆

采用 RT-PCR 方法从巨藻中克隆出 6 个 GST 基因的 cDNA, 琼脂糖凝胶电泳的检测结果如图 1 所示。结果显示, *mpgst3* 基因大小约 800 bp, 其余 5 个基因片段的大小约为 700 bp, 与目的基因的大小大致相同。这 6 个 *mpgst* 的 cDNA 序列已储存到 GenBank 中, 登录号为 OL362284~OL362289。

2.2 转 *mpgst* 细长聚球藻阳性克隆子鉴定及 GST 酶活性测定

本研究选择细长聚球藻 PCC7942 来验证巨藻 GST 基因功能。对细长聚球藻转化株进行基因组 DNA 的提取, 以基因组 DNA 为模板进行 PCR 验证。琼脂糖凝胶电泳结果显示(图 2), 所有转化株都检测到阳性 PCR 产物, 并且经过测序分析, 其序列没有错误, 表明 *mpgst* 已成功整合到细长聚球藻基因组中。

为了进一步证实 *mpgst* 的异源表达, 测定了生长至对数期的野生株和转化株的 GST 酶活性, 结果如图 3 所示。除 MG6 外, 其他转化株的酶活性与野生

株均有显著差异($P<0.05$)，而 MG6 的酶活性也略有上升($P>0.05$)。转化株酶活性的增加进一步证实了巨藻 GST 基因在细长聚球藻中成功表达，为后续检测生理指标提供了依据。

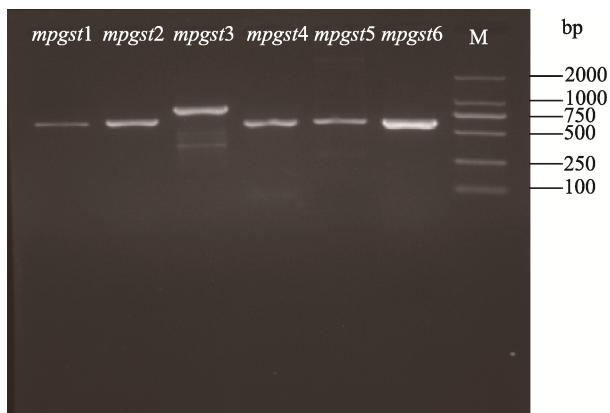


图 1 巨藻 GST 基因的 PCR 扩增

Fig.1 PCR amplification of the GST genes of *M. pyrifera*
M: DL2000 DNA Marker

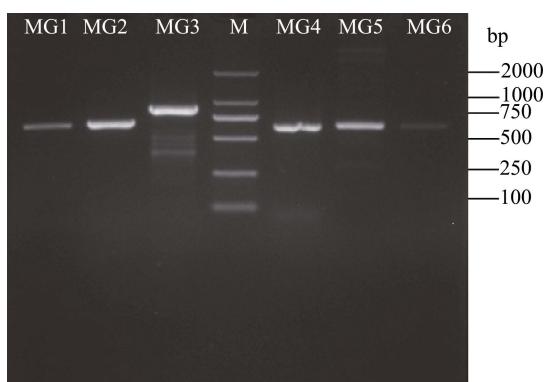


图 2 *mpbst* 的转基因验证
Fig.2 Transgenic verification of *mpbst*

MG1~MG6 表示分别以转化株 MG1~MG6 基因组 DNA 为模板扩增得到 *mpbst*，M 表示 DL2000 DNA 标记。

MG1~MG6 represent the *mpbst* amplified by using genomic DNA of transformed strains MG1~MG6 as the template, respectively. M represents the DL2000 DNA Marker.

2.3 Cd²⁺ 胁迫下转化株的生理指标分析

经过几天的观察，MG1、MG4、MG6 在 Cd²⁺ 胁迫下正常生长，而野生株和 MG2、MG3、MG5 不能生长(图 4)。这证明 *mpbst1*、*mpbst4*、*mpbst6* 能够改善 Cd²⁺ 对细长聚球藻的不良影响，然而其他 3 个基因未表现出相应的抗性。为了进一步验证巨藻 GST 基因对 Cd²⁺ 的耐受性，选择 MG1、MG4、MG6 及野生株的生长、光合色素、光合参数等生理指标进行进一步分析。

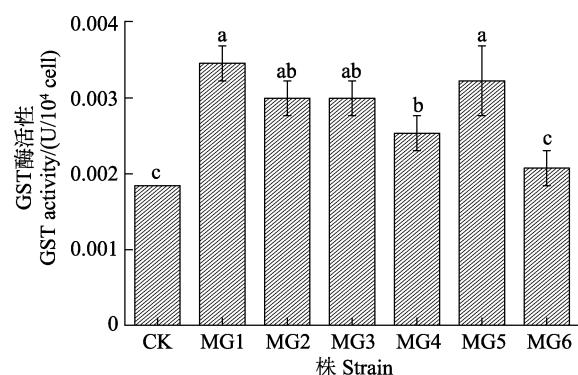


图 3 转基因细长聚球藻的 GST 酶活性

Fig.3 GST activity of genetically modified *S. elongatus* PCC7942

CK 表示野生株，MG1~MG6 表示含有 *mpbst* 的转化株。误差条表示标准差(SD)， $n=3$ ，具有不同字母上标的数据间差异显著($P<0.05$)，下同。

CK represents the wild strain, MG1~MG6 represent the transformed strains containing *mpbst*.

The error bars indicate standard deviations (SD), $n=3$. Bar of each column with different small letters mean significant difference ($P<0.05$). The same as below.

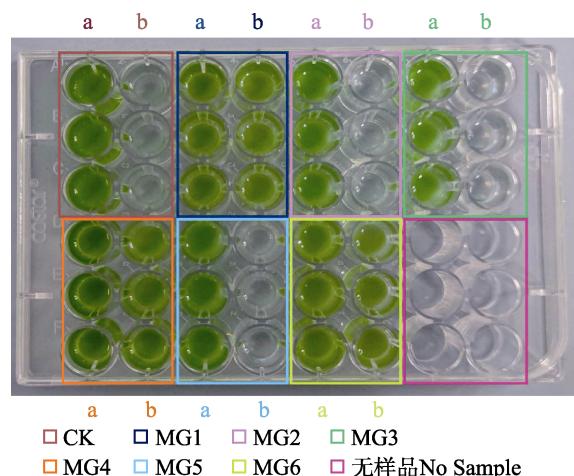


图 4 Cd²⁺ 胁迫下细长聚球藻的多孔板培养实验
Fig.4 Multi-well plate culture experiment of *S. elongatus* PCC7942 under Cd²⁺ stress

a: 正常生长的细长聚球藻；

b: 加入 0.2 mg/L Cd²⁺ 的细长聚球藻

a: Normally growing *S. elongatus* PCC7942;

b: *S. elongatus* PCC7942 with 0.2 mg/L Cd²⁺ added

2.4 Cd²⁺ 胁迫下生物量分析

本研究中，除对照组外，所有转化株的吸光度值一直随时间增长，且 6 d 后转化株吸光度值的增长速度普遍提高，而 CK 的吸光度值在缓慢增长 8 d 后开始出现下降(图 5)。结果显示，Cd²⁺ 对野生株具有很强的毒性，而对 MG1、MG4 和 MG6 转化株的毒性

不受暴露时间的影响。MG4生长最好($P<0.05$),这与其表现出的较高的GST酶活性相吻合(图3),虽然MG1的酶活最高,但MG1的其他生理指标却不是最好,这可能与每一种GST酶的作用机制不同有关。

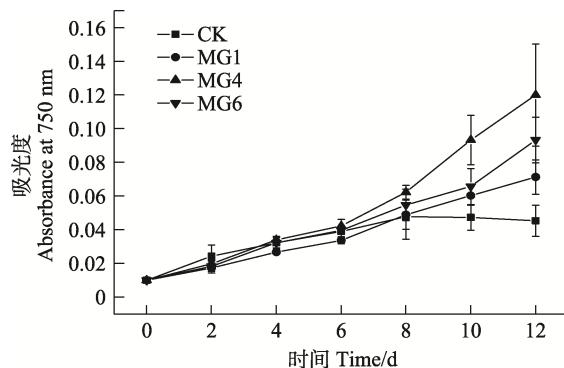


图5 野生型和转基因细长聚球藻PCC7942在Cd²⁺胁迫下的生长曲线

Fig.5 The growth curves of wild-type and transformed *S. elongatus* PCC7942 under Cd²⁺ stress

2.5 Cd²⁺胁迫下光合色素含量分析

叶绿素a(Chl-a)是主要的光合色素,Chl-a含量的降低会直接导致光合效率的降低。图6为正常培养和Cd²⁺胁迫处理下第12天野生株和转化株Chl-a含量的变化。从图6可以看出,Cd²⁺处理后,对照组中Chl-a含量下降最为明显,藻体几乎不含Chl-a($P<0.05$),但所有转化株在处理前后的Chl-a含量差异不显著($P>0.05$),这与之前生物量(图5)及GST酶活性(图4)的测量所表现出的结果相吻合。转化株MG6的Chl-a含量最高,但都相对于野生株而言显著降低,这可能是因为转化株获得了外源基因,影响了细胞内的代谢,具体原因需要进一步实验进行验证。

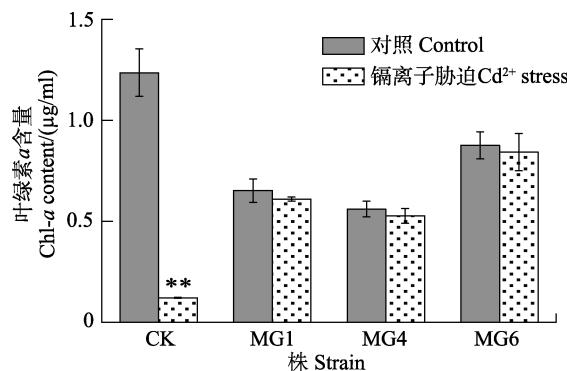


图6 Cd²⁺胁迫下野生型和转基因细长聚球藻叶绿素a含量

Fig.6 The chlorophyll a content of wild-type and transformed *S. elongatus* PCC7942 under Cd²⁺ stress

有星号上标的2组数据间差异显著($P<0.05$),下同。

There was a significant difference between the two groups with asterisks ($P < 0.05$). The same as below.

类胡萝卜素(Car)是最重要的捕光色素之一。图7为正常培养和Cd²⁺胁迫处理下第12天野生株和转化株Car含量的变化。从图7可以看出,Cd²⁺处理后,大部分细长聚球藻的Car含量下降,以对照组表现最明显,藻体几乎不含Car($P<0.05$),这与之前测定的生物量(图7)和Chl-a含量(图8)的结果一致。

2.6 Cd²⁺胁迫下叶绿素荧光参数(F_v/F_m)分析

叶绿素荧光参数(F_v/F_m)与光合作用密切相关,是判断胁迫对植物光合作用影响的真实指标(冯力霞,2006)。图8为野生株和转化株在正常培养和Cd²⁺胁迫处理下第12天 F_v/F_m 的变化。如图8所示,Cd²⁺处理后,细长聚球藻的 F_v/F_m 均明显下降($P<0.05$),对照组最为明显, F_v/F_m 为0,藻类已经不显荧光,几乎死亡。这与之前对生物量(图5)及色素含量(图6和图7)的测量结果一致。此外,MG6的 F_v/F_m 与Chl-a含量变化趋势相同,数值较高且Cd²⁺胁迫前后差异不大,生长效果较好。光合参数与光合色素含量的结果高度一致。

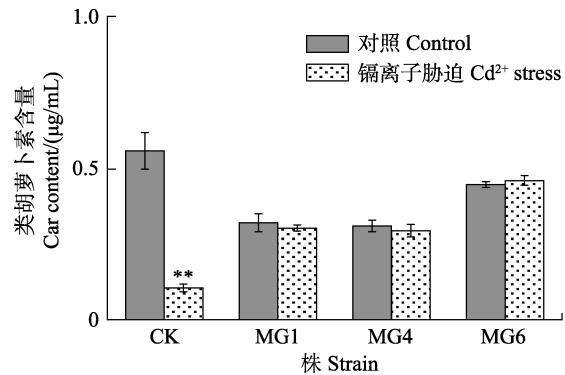


图7 Cd²⁺胁迫下野生型和转基因细长聚球藻PCC7942的类胡萝卜素含量

Fig.7 The carotenoid content of the wild-type and transformed *S. elongatus* PCC7942 under Cd²⁺ stress

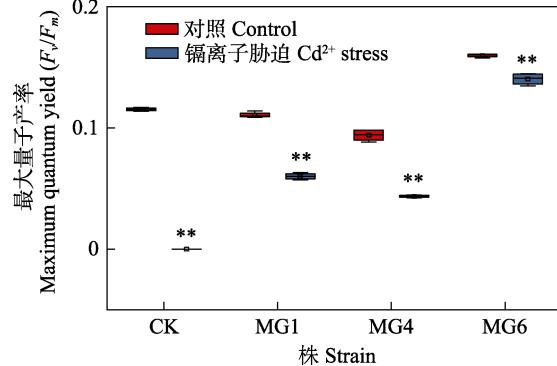


图8 Cd²⁺胁迫下野生型和转基因细长聚球藻的最大量子产率(F_v/F_m)

Fig.8 The maximum quantum yield (F_v/F_m) of wild-type and transformed *S. elongatus* PCC7942 under Cd²⁺ stress

3 讨论

对于海洋藻类来说, 非生物胁迫可能是来自光过量或不足、紫外线辐射、温度不适宜、营养限制、厌氧条件、盐度不适宜、干燥或者无机碳的限制(Davison et al, 1996)。此外, 还来源于接触汞、镉、铅和铜等重金属物质(Collén et al, 2003)。在高等植物中, Cd^{2+} 通过和硫醇基团之间的反应, 干扰生长、光合作用、离子和水的运输, 以及降低酶活性(Prasad, 1995)。虽然 Cd^{2+} 可能不是大型藻类生长所必需的, 但它很容易被吸收, 研究表明, 江蓠(*Gracilaria tenuistipitata*)在光照条件下增强了对 Cd^{2+} 的吸收(Hu et al, 1996)。相比其他金属离子, Cd^{2+} 不会直接影响植物的光合作用, 而是干扰植物的其他代谢过程, 具有更广泛的毒性作用, 引起氧化应激。谷胱甘肽转移酶(GSTs)是一类具有多种功能的超家族蛋白, 植物 GSTs 根据其免疫交叉反应性、蛋白序列相似性、基因结构、底物特异性和特异性残基的保守性可分为 14 类。由于其功能和种类的多样性, 在多种外源性和内源性化合物的细胞解毒过程中发挥着重要作用。GST 既具有过氧化物酶的活性, 同时, 可以直接清除分子结构里带有亲电基团的化合物(孙小雨等, 2021)。因此, 研究 GST 有助于阐明植物生长和抵御胁迫的分子机制, 对提高胁迫条件下植物的生存能力具有实际意义(梁志乐等, 2019)。

由于细长聚球藻 PCC7942 易于培养, 基因组较小, 易于通过自然转化或接合转移进行基因操作(Atsumi et al, 2009; Ducat et al, 2011; Min et al, 2000)。本研究中, 选择细长聚球藻来验证巨藻 GST 的功能。金属离子对藻类细胞生长的影响因其浓度的不同而有所差异。用不同浓度的 Cd^{2+} 处理小球藻(*Chlorella vulgaris*)时, 0.5 mg/L 浓度的 Cd^{2+} 使藻的生长提高了 7%, 而更高的 Cd^{2+} 浓度则降低了藻的生长(El-Nagga et al, 2014)。本研究中, 预实验确定 0.2 mg/L 的实验浓度作为能使野生株死亡但使部分转化株正常生长的 Cd^{2+} 浓度, 之后筛选出具有抗性的转化株 MG1、MG4、MG6 进行后续实验。预实验中部分转化株不具有抗性, 可能是因为转入的这些巨藻 GST 基因属于不同的 GST 基因家族从而具有不同的生物学功能。金属胁迫下藻类 GST 酶活性的增加通常伴随着生长的差异。用 Cd^{2+} 胁迫处理南极冰藻(*Chlamydomonas* sp. ICE-L), 其 GST 酶活性增加, 生长曲线发生相应的变化(Ding et al, 2005)。本研究分别测定了细长聚球藻的 GST 酶活性和 $\text{OD}_{750 \text{ nm}}$ 值的

变化, 以检测转化株对 Cd^{2+} 的耐受性。结果表明, 转化株的 GST 酶活性均高于野生株, 这也解释了为什么 Cd^{2+} 处理后野生株的生长在第 8 天开始下降, 而转化株的生长则呈稳定上升趋势。然而, 野生株在 Cd^{2+} 处理初期生长缓慢上升, 可能与 Cd^{2+} 作为辅助因子的作用有关, 具体的内在调控机制还需要进一步研究。

叶绿素 *a* (Chl-*a*)和类胡萝卜素(Car)是大型海藻光合作用的主要色素, Chl-*a* 含量的变化是衡量藻细胞生理状况的重要指标, Car 作为一种重要捕光色素的同时也发挥着抗氧化剂的作用。较低的重金属浓度可促进色素含量的增加, 而较高的重金属浓度会抑制叶绿素的合成, 导致叶绿素含量降低、光合效率降低(Brown et al, 2003)。朱喜锋(2010)研究表明, Cd^{2+} 通过损害光合作用器官和结合生物大分子的活性位点(如 Cd^{2+} 取代叶绿素分子中心的 Mg^{2+} 从而破坏叶绿素结构)来影响光合作用。对江蓠进行了高浓度的 Cd^{2+} 处理, 发现胁迫处理下江蓠的 Chl-*a* 含量明显低于对照组, 但 Car 含量略高于对照组(Collén et al, 2003)。本研究中, 测量了 Cd^{2+} 处理下转化株和野生株的 Chl-*a* 及 Car 含量, 并分别设置了转化株的对照组(未添加 Cd^{2+}), 发现野生株的色素含量在处理前后差异显著, 其处理组几乎不含色素, 接近死亡, 而转化株生长正常, 这与生长曲线所表现出的结果一致。

PS II 最大光能转化效率(F_v/F_m)又称 PS II 的光化学最大量子产率, 是暗适应下 PS II 的最大光化学效率, 反映了光合自养生物潜在的最大光合作用能力, 常作为植物光合性能是否受损的敏感性指标(Kuma et al, 2014)。1 mmol/L 的 Cd^{2+} 可在短期(0.5~2 h)内迅速降低蛋白核小球藻 S-39 (*Chlorella pyrenoidosa* Chick S-39)的光合放氧速率和 F_v/F_m 值, 使 PS II 光合电子传递过程受到抑制(Plekhanov et al, 2003)。本研究在 Cd^{2+} 处理下测量转化株和野生株的 F_v/F_m 值, 结果与 Chl-*a* 的测定结果基本一致。在 Cd^{2+} 胁迫下, 野生株不显叶绿素荧光, 而转化株正常生长, 进一步验证了巨藻 GST 在提高 Cd^{2+} 的耐受性中的作用。

4 结论

本研究从巨藻中获得 6 个谷胱甘肽 S 转移酶(GST)基因, 并且将其构建到细长聚球藻表达载体, 成功将巨藻的 *gst* 基因转化到细长聚球藻中, 在细长聚球藻 PCC7942 中验证了它们的功能。结果表明, 虽然在 6 个转化株中 GST 酶活性都增加, 但有 3 个 *mpgst* 基因显著提高了细长聚球藻对 Cd^{2+} 胁迫的耐受性, 说明巨藻中不同的 GST 具有不同的功能。本研

究初步探索了巨藻中GSTs的生理功能,为今后镉污染条件下藻类耐受品系的培养奠定了理论基础。

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(编辑 冯小花)

Effects of the Glutathione S-Transferase Gene Extracted from Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) on the Cadmium Tolerance of *Synechococcus elongatus* PCC7942

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Abstract Giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*, Laminariales), has long been considered one of the most promising macroalgal species for biomass production because of its large size, rapid growth rate, and dynamic life history strategies. Brown seaweeds are economically important and commonly used for agricultural and industrial purposes. Intertidal and subtidal habitats, which most brown algae inhabit, are shaped by fluctuating levels of salinity-, temperature-, and light-related stresses. The responses of brown algae to abiotic stress have been comparatively well studied. With the rapid development of modern industry and agriculture as well as the exploitation of mineral resources, the pollution of ecological environments, particularly heavy-metal contamination of water, is becoming increasingly serious. Natural quantities of heavy metals in seawater do not adversely affect marine life, and some heavy metals even serve as trace nutrients essential for the normal growth and metabolism of algae. However, at excess concentrations, heavy metals act as pollutants and harm algae, and the magnitude of their impact varies depending on the degree of pollution. High metal concentrations negatively affect diatoms by inhibiting growth, triggering oxidative damage, modifying gene expression, damaging photosynthetic cells and mitochondria, and disrupting various cellular processes. Among the various metals, cadmium is particularly toxic and can easily accumulate in many marine organisms. Usually, cadmium concentrations in the sediment and open seawater are low, although these values may increase in some offshore and estuarine areas due to leakage or anthropogenic emissions. Glutathione S-transferase (GST) is a phase II enzyme in cells that catalyzes the formation of chelates between reduced glutathione and metal ions as well as the binding of sulfur atoms of reduced glutathione to phase I electrophilic groups, thereby reducing the levels of intracellular toxic substances, such as reactive oxygen species, and accelerating their exogenous release. GST belongs to a large gene family that plays important regulatory roles in growth, development, and responses to environmental fluctuations. Owing to the lack of a stable genetic operating system in *M. pyrifera*, the functions of some genes and proteins remain unclear. To date, there has been no successful genetic transformation of *M. pyrifera*. *Synechococcus elongatus* PCC7942 is easy to culture, has a small genome size, and can easily be genetically manipulated through natural

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transformation or conjugation with *Escherichia coli*, making it a good protein expression system for studying prokaryotic circadian rhythms, nutrient regulation, environmental responses, and lipid metabolism. In the present study, *S. elongatus* PCC7942 was selected to verify the functions of the GST gene in *M. pyrifera* under Cd stress. Total RNA was extracted from *M. pyrifera* gametophytes frozen in liquid nitrogen and reverse-transcribed to cDNA. Gene-specific primers containing enzyme restriction sites at both ends were designed to construct an expression vector based on the transcriptome sequence of *M. pyrifera* (accession number CNP0001061 in China National GenBank). Six complete GST genes (*mpgst1*, *mpgst2*, *mpgst3*, *mpgst4*, *mpgst5*, and *mpgst6*) were cloned using RT-PCR. Subsequently, the six MPGST genes were transformed into *S. elongatus* PCC7942, and the transformed strains containing *mpgst1–mpgst6* were labelled MG1–MG6, respectively. Transformation was verified by genomic DNA extraction and GST enzyme activity assays. In this study, 0.2 mg/L was determined as the Cd²⁺ concentration that was lethal to the wild strain but enabled normal growth of some transformed strains. Some of the transformed strains did not exhibit resistance, which may be due to differences in the GST gene sequences of *M. pyrifera* or because they may belong to different GST gene families, serving different functions. The selected resistant transformed strains MG1, MG4, and MG6 were tested for growth, photosynthetic pigment content, and photosynthetic parameters at 0.2 mg/L cadmium ion stress to verify their functions. The transformed strains showed an upward trend of light absorbance, but most of the wild type strains died. Furthermore, the transformed strains presented values for photosynthetic pigment content and photosynthetic parameters even under stress, but the wild strain died, which was consistent with the growth curve. In particular, the carotenoid content of MG6 slightly increased following Cd²⁺ stress, indicating elevated antioxidant activity. However, differences in the physiological indices of different genes before and after stress may be related to their specific mechanisms of action, which warrants further study. Our findings laid a foundation for further research into the stress resistance function of GST genes in *M. pyrifera* and for the future breeding of pollution-tolerant algal strains.

Key words Glutathione S-transferase genes; Transgenesis; Cadmium ion stress; *Macrocystis pyrifera*; *Synechococcus elongatus* PCC7942