

中国百种杰出学术期刊  
中国精品科技期刊  
中国科协优秀期刊  
中国科学院优秀科技期刊  
新中国 60 年有影响力的期刊  
国家期刊奖

ISSN 1000-0933  
CN 11-2031/Q

# 生态学报

## Acta Ecologica Sinica

(Shengtai Xuebao)

第 31 卷 第 2 期  
Vol.31 No.2  
**2011**



中国生态学学会  
中国科学院生态环境研究中心  
科学出版社

主办  
出版



中国科学院科学出版基金资助出版

# 生态学报

(SHENGTAI XUEBAO)

第 31 卷 第 2 期      2011 年 1 月    (半月刊)

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# 植物蜡质及其与环境的关系

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**摘要:** 陆生植物的地上部分如叶、茎、花、果实等的表面覆盖着一层蜡质, 它是由一系列复杂化合物组成的具有三维微结构的疏水层, 在植物生长和发育过程中起着不可或缺的作用, 具有很好的生物学功能。作为植物与环境的第一接触面, 蜡质对外界环境因子的响应较敏感, 当植物受到外界不利环境因子胁迫时, 蜡质会改变自身晶体结构形态或化学组分构建防御机制以减少胁迫因子的作用, 有效地协调植物与环境的关系。综述了近年来国内外关于植物蜡质的研究进展, 在阐述蜡质层结构及其化学组分的基础上, 着重介绍植物与环境因子的作用, 包括非生物环境因子如水分、温度、光照、环境污染等以及植食性昆虫和病原菌等生物环境因子的作用。研究显示, 胁迫环境下植物蜡质化学组分的变化, 是由于不利环境因子的作用足以改变蜡质各产物的合成途径, 从而影响蜡质产物。植物蜡质利用各种生理、化学机制对胁迫环境因子的适应以及响应, 是植物适应各种生境的基础, 因此通过对植物蜡质与环境关系的研究为进一步解析植物与环境关系提供证据。

**关键词:** 植物蜡质; 化学组成; 生物环境; 非生物环境

## Plant wax and its response to environmental conditions: an overview

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**Abstract:** This paper reviews the current achievements on plant wax, and in particular on its interaction with the abiotic factors such as water, temperature, CO<sub>2</sub>, solar radiation and pollutants, as well as the biotic factors including phytophagous insects and pathogens. The wax coating occurs at the topmost surface layer of the aerial part in the organs (i. e., leaves, stems, petals and fruits) of terrestrial higher plants. This coating is made up of epicuticular and intracuticular waxes featured by a three-dimensional hydrophobic organic micro-structure. Aliphatic and cyclic compounds are measured to be the dominant organics present in wax coating. These organic compounds are demonstrated to vary with species, organs, or even different parts of an individual organ. The adaxial and abaxial parts of the individual leaves are reported to show different chemical composition in some plants. The leaves taken in different developmental stages are also found to be different in the wax chemical composition in some plants.

The wax plays a vital role on plant growth and development, and is believed to be most sensitive in response to the outside environmental conditions due to its formation in the most outside of the plant organs and its direct contact with the environments. This provides us a window to explore the interactions between plants and environments. In some arid regions, due to the absence of water, some plants are found to biosynthesize more hydrocarbons, aldehydes, and in particular the long-chained alkanes, but others are not. Enhanced solar radiation will result in the presence of thick wax coatings, and also the change in the chemical compositions. Temperature will cause the change not only in crystalline micro-structures but also in chemical compositions. The average chain length of normal alkanes is found to increase in some plants due to the elevated temperature. The wax content will increase in some plants but decrease in others when the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金重点资助项目(40930210)

收稿日期: 2009-12-11; 修订日期: 2010-09-13

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concentration is promoted.

The wax coating will also affect the biotic relationship. The difference in crystalline micro-structure of the wax coating will affect the adhesion and movement of the insects. The variation in the content of fatty acids, alkanes and cyclic compounds (in particular terpenoids and sterols) in the plant wax will affect the symbiosis of insects with the plants. The wax structure and chemical composition are also important factors to prevent the pathogenic bacteria from invasion into the plant organs.

It is thus notable that waxes would change the crystalline structure and chemical composition due to the presence of environmental stresses, including both the abiotic (i. e., water, temperature, CO<sub>2</sub>, solar radiation and pollutants) and biotic factors (i. e., phytophagous insects and pathogens) as shown herein. The environmental conditions will lead to a change in the metabolic pathway of the organic compound biosynthesis in wax coatings, which in turn causes the change in wax composition. The changes in both the physical structure and chemical composition constitutes the basis of the physiological or biochemical adaptation or response of the plant wax to the changing environmental conditions, and thus the basis of plant survival to deteriorating environments. On this point, the wax could be served as a potential record, in both modern plants or in the wax-bearing rocks, to decipher the relationship between plants and environments.

**Key Words:** plant wax; wax composition; biotic environment; abiotic environment

植物蜡质是指覆盖在植物表皮细胞外的一层由亲脂性化合物构成的疏水层,一般呈绿灰色、灰白色霜状,或无色光滑型,植物的叶、茎、花以及果实等器官和组织的表面均有蜡质覆盖。蜡质具有特殊的微晶体形态以及复杂的化学组分,前人的研究表明,植物蜡质具有很好的生态学功能,为植物适应不同生境提供保证,而蜡质的物理和化学属性是其生态学功能得以实现的基础。近年来,随着植物化学、分子遗传学等相关学科的发展和渗透,植物蜡质的研究也得到进一步深入,其生态学功能也得到重新评估。本文在对植物蜡质晶体结构形态及其化学组成等进行介绍的基础上,结合国内外关于蜡质与各种胁迫环境因子作用的最新进展,从蜡质的晶体形态以及化学组分的变化来阐述植物蜡质在不同生境下的表现。

## 1 植物蜡质概述

### 1.1 蜡质物理结构

植物蜡质层由位于角质层外的外层蜡质和深嵌在角质层中,连接表皮和细胞壁的内层蜡质两部分构成(图1)<sup>[1]</sup>,外蜡质层是可以进行自我组装的晶体微结构,若被外力或有机溶剂去除,可在短时间内重生,而内层蜡质则多处于无定形态<sup>[1-2]</sup>。外层蜡质的形态呈现多样性,利用扫描电镜发现,其高度一般在0.2—100 $\mu\text{m}$ 之间,呈柱状、棒状、筒状、伞状等<sup>[3]</sup>,Koch等<sup>[4]</sup>借助原子力显微镜(AFM),首次观察到蜡质超微晶体结构的分子组成。蜡质晶体的微结构形态会表现出一定的不稳定性,外界环境因子以及自身生理机制的作用均会引起蜡质形态的改变,如温度、光照、湿度等环境参数的变化<sup>[5]</sup>以及叶片的成熟度差异<sup>[6]</sup>。

### 1.2 蜡质化学组分

二氯甲烷、三氯甲烷、甲醇等有机溶剂能有效提取蜡质中的化学物质,蜡质的化学组分主要有脂肪族化合物和环状化合物两类,其中脂肪族化合物是含有正构、异构或反异构的一系列呈链状的同系物,据官能团差异,分为烃类、酸类、醇类、酮类、醛类以及酯类等,除酯类的碳数可达到60以上,其余组分的碳数范围一般在16到36之间,具有奇偶优势抑或偶奇优势(表1),环状化合物则有萜类、黄酮类等<sup>[3,7-9]</sup>,某些环状化合物也

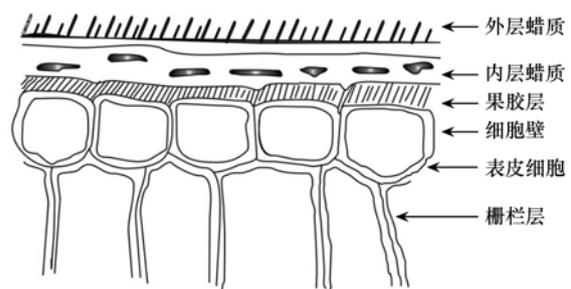


图1 植物表皮示意图<sup>[1]</sup>

Fig. 1 Diagrammatic representation of the plant cuticular<sup>[1]</sup>

被归为植物次生代谢产物范畴。随着蜡质突变体分离和鉴定等现代遗传分析技术的发展<sup>[10]</sup>,植物蜡质各化学组分合成途径的研究也取得较大进展<sup>[11]</sup>,其中拟南芥 *Arabidopsis thaliana* 因具有典型的蜡质层结构和组分,且有较多突变体 *eceriferum* (*cer*),是研究表皮蜡质生物学的模式植物<sup>[12]</sup>。研究发现,植物蜡质的合成始于植物表皮细胞中的特长链脂肪酸(very long chain fatty acid, 即 VLCFA),它在各种复合酶的参与下,通过酰基还原途径和脱羧途径合成各种蜡质组分(图 2),以拟南芥为例,其茎中醛、二级醇、烷烃、酮等约 80% 的蜡质组分通过脱羧途径合成,而一级醇、蜡酯等约 20% 的蜡质组分由酰基还原途径产生<sup>[13-14]</sup>,各组分由 ABC 转运蛋白(ATP binding cassette transporter)输出细胞质膜,再经脂转运蛋白(LTP, lipid transfer protein)运输至植物蜡质层<sup>[15]</sup>。

表 1 蜡质层中的脂肪族化合物

Table 1 Aliphatic compounds of plant cuticular waxes

名称 Name	化学通式 Structure	奇偶优势 Predominance	链长 Carbon length
脂肪酸 Fatty acids	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{COOH}$	偶	$\text{C}_{16}-\text{C}_{32}$
烷烃 Alkanes	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CH}_3$	奇	$\text{C}_{21}-\text{C}_{35}$
一级醇 Primary alcohols	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$	偶	$\text{C}_{22}-\text{C}_{40}$
二级醇 Secondary alcohols	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CHOH}-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{CH}_3$	奇	$\text{C}_{21}-\text{C}_{35}$
醛类 Aldehydes	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CHO}$	偶	$\text{C}_{22}-\text{C}_{36}$
酮类 Ketones	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{CH}_3$	奇	$\text{C}_{21}-\text{C}_{35}$
$\beta$ -二酮类 $\beta$ -Diketones	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CO}-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{CH}_3$	偶	$\text{C}_{22}-\text{C}_{36}$
酯类 Wax esters	$\text{CH}_3-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{CO}-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{CH}_3$	偶	$\text{C}_{34}-\text{C}_{62}$

植物蜡质组分的分布存在明显的种属差异,即不同种植物的蜡质提取物在含量、组分上有较大差别,例如欧洲紫杉 *Taxus baccata* 提取的蜡质组分主要有长链脂肪酸(21%)、链烷二醇(19%)以及少量醛类、一级醇、烃类等<sup>[16]</sup>;猪笼草 *Nepenthes* 蜡质组分中链烷醇以及一级醇的含量则较高<sup>[17]</sup>,而柳属植物 *Salix* 的蜡质组分则以一级醇、脂肪酸、醛等为主<sup>[18]</sup>。植物蜡质化学组分的差异不仅体现在种属间,同一植株的不同器官,如拟南芥的茎和叶,两者蜡质中所提取的烃类组分无论是链长、主峰碳还是含量,都有明显差异<sup>[19]</sup>。近年来,有关植物叶片内外层蜡质中化学组分的研究也逐渐深入,在对不同种植物桂樱 *Prunus laurocerasus*<sup>[2]</sup>、女贞 *Ligustrum vulgare*<sup>[20]</sup>、玫瑰 *Rosa canina*<sup>[21]</sup> 的研究中发现,外层蜡质易合成脂肪族化合物,且链长较内层蜡质长,而内层蜡质则易合成萜类,表明内外层蜡质中的化学组分也存在差异性分布。另有学者发现,同一叶片不同面,即近轴面和远轴面所提取的蜡质化学组分也有较大差异<sup>[22]</sup>。植物叶片蜡质提取物会因叶片成熟度的不同而有差异,例如槭树科的两种植物 *Acer argutum* 和 *Acer carpinifolium*,它们新、老叶片合成的蜡质产物在含量和组成上会有较大差异<sup>[23]</sup>,说明植物自身生理作用对蜡质产物分布也有较大影响。

## 2 植物蜡质与环境的关系

植物在长期演化过程中会遭受各种不利环境因子的作用,如水分多寡、温度高低、环境污染等非生物环境因子以及植食性昆虫、病原菌等生物因子的胁迫作用。然而植物对环境胁迫并不总是处于被动状态,而是通过各种生理机制来避免和适应环境因子的作用,例如在高温时控制蒸腾作用速率以保持叶片温度。作为植物

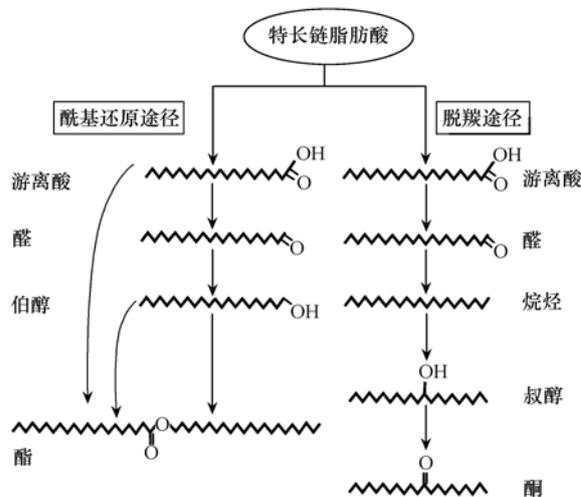


图 2 拟南芥茎蜡质合成的代谢途径

Fig. 2 Metabolic Pathways for wax biosynthesis in *Arabidopsis thaliana* stems

与外界环境第一接触面的蜡质,对环境响应敏感,能够通过调节自身生理机制来抵御外界胁迫作用,如改变蜡质晶体结构,调节蜡质产物的合成等,具有很好的生态学功能,在植物的生长发育过程中起着不可或缺的作用。其中,植物叶片因与外界环境具有较大的接触面积,是对环境胁迫最为敏感的器官之一,其蜡质晶体结构以及化学组分的变化相对较明显,易观测,因此下文中如未特别指出,均以植物叶片蜡质为研究对象,来阐述不同环境因子对植物的胁迫作用。

## 2.1 植物蜡质与非生物环境的关系

### 2.1.1 蜡质与水分

蜡质最重要的生态学功能之一是维持水分平衡、防止水分流失,蜡质由一系列疏水物质组成,在植物表面形成一层防止非气孔水分流失的蜡被,减少其渗透性,经去蜡质处理的叶片, $P$ 值( $P$ 为渗透系数, $P = P(\text{MX})/P(\text{CM})$ , $P(\text{MX})$ 为去蜡质处理后叶片的渗透系数, $P(\text{CM})$ 为完整表皮膜的渗透系数)增加了10—1300倍<sup>[24]</sup>。然而,目前对于蜡质层防水机理的研究尚未有统一结论,有研究发现角质层的厚度、合成蜡质含量的多寡影响植物叶片表皮水分流失<sup>[25-26]</sup>,另有研究发现蜡质的含量与防止水分流失之间并无直接关系<sup>[27]</sup>,而对同种植物玉米 *Zea mays* 的研究则有相异结果, Premachandra 等<sup>[28]</sup>的研究结果显示植物蜡质含量和其耐旱能力成正比,而 Ristic 等<sup>[29]</sup>的研究结果则相反,因此仅凭蜡质含量并不能权衡植物抗旱能力,还需考虑蜡质的晶体及其化学组成等生物化学性质。有研究发现,蜡质中的烃类组分是最有效的保水组分,其次为醇类、醛类、蜡酯等脂肪族类化合物<sup>[30]</sup>, Vogg 等<sup>[31]</sup>还发现,内层蜡质中的脂肪族类化合物在防止水分蒸腾上扮演重要角色,环状组分如三萜类化合物的保水性则相对较弱。

水分过多、过少都会对植物生长造成影响,水分胁迫是影响植物生长发育的主要逆境因子之一,植物蜡质与水分关系的研究得到广泛关注。Bondada 等<sup>[32]</sup>对不同水分条件生长的棉花 *Gossypium hirsutum* 作了对比研究,发现受干旱胁迫处理的棉花叶、苞以及铃等器官的烃类和醛类组分含量增加,且更易合成长链正构烷烃组分。Kim 等<sup>[33]</sup>观察了18种芝麻 *Sesamum indicum* 缺水下蜡质的变化,与棉花类似,芝麻蜡质中的烃类和醛类组分含量也有所增加,然各组分的链长未发生变化,而因研究对象存在品种差异,蜡质含量的变化有不一致性。此外, Koch 等<sup>[34]</sup>发现甘蓝 *Brassica oleracea* 叶片在遭受干旱胁迫时,其蜡质组分中烃类组分也会增加,然而值得注意的是,并不是所有植物在干旱胁迫时表现为烃类组分的增加,如以叔醇为主成分的旱金莲 *Tropaeolum majus*,其叶片蜡质中的烃类组分在低水分条件下,无论是含量还是链长均并未发生明显变化,由此可见,植物种类差异可导致其蜡质化学组分在遭受水分胁迫时的差异表现。

### 2.1.2 蜡质与太阳辐射

与其它太阳辐射相比,太阳紫外辐射虽只占太阳辐射总量的7%左右,但对全球生态系统的影响较大,已成为近期研究的热点。近年来,臭氧层变薄导致更多的紫外辐射到达地表,紫外辐射的增强必将对地球生物尤其是以光为能源的植物造成很大影响<sup>[35]</sup>。生长于较强太阳辐射(如沙漠、高山地区)下的植物,一般都具有较厚的蜡质层,叶片表面多呈绿灰色,且有霜状物质,是植物合成较多表层蜡质以减少太阳辐射的伤害<sup>[36]</sup>。一些研究表明,表皮蜡质层较厚的植物可反射约20%—80%的太阳辐射,而表面无绿灰色覆盖的植物,反射率通常小于10%,叶片去蜡质处理后,反射率会大大降低<sup>[8,37]</sup>,经去蜡质处理的石莲 *Cotyledon orbiculata* 更易遭受光抑制作用,而未经处理的叶片其表层蜡质可以反射约60%的入射光,从而有效减少进入叶片内部的光量<sup>[38]</sup>。Holmes 等<sup>[35]</sup>的研究结果表明,植物的蜡质层也是紫外辐射的有效“反射器”,有蜡质覆盖的叶片具有明显的反射性,特别是对波长为300nm的紫外辐射以及波长为680nm的可见光,同样经过去蜡质处理后,叶片对紫外辐射和可见光的反射率都有所降低,而前者反射率的变化幅度大于后者,说明蜡质对紫外辐射的反射作用强于可见光。蜡质晶体结构形态、疏密度的差异对光线的反射率也有区别,如呈丝状形态且晶体较密集的蜡质对紫外辐射的反射率较高<sup>[39]</sup>。

研究表明,植物角质层中的类黄酮等植物次级代谢产物因具有酚类官能团,可以吸收由于紫外辐射形成的自由基,有效防止紫外辐射对植物的伤害<sup>[40-41]</sup>。在对几株不同品种豌豆 *Pisum sativum* 的研究中发现,无论

是蜡质含量、化学组成还是化合物的链长均在过多紫外辐射作用下发生改变,然而值得注意的是,在正常生长条件下合成较多蜡质的品种,经紫外辐射作用后,蜡质含量降低,而原本蜡质含量较低的品种则合成较多的蜡质<sup>[42]</sup>。紫外辐射作用后的烟草 *Nicotiana tabacum* 和糖枫 *Acer saccharum* 也呈现不同变化,前者表皮蜡质中正构烷烃的含量随所受紫外辐射量的增强而较少,支链烷烃和脂肪酸的含量则增加,后者蜡质中的烷烃含量随紫外辐射增强量而增加<sup>[43-44]</sup>。有学者认为,紫外辐射可以影响植物蜡质的合成,从而改变蜡质的化学组分及其含量,而且对近轴面蜡质的改变作用多于远轴面<sup>[45]</sup>。然而不同植物对紫外辐射的敏感性有差异,导致不同植物遭受紫外辐射胁迫后的表现各异<sup>[46]</sup>,此外由于上述研究多是建立在模拟实验基础上,实验过程中紫外辐射使用量的差异也是原因之一。

### 2.1.3 蜡质与温度

Nordby 等<sup>[47]</sup>发现经氯仿或正己烷去除表皮蜡质的葡萄柚 *Citrus paradisi* 果实,更易遭受低温冻伤,说明蜡质层在一定程度上可以使植物免受低温胁迫作用。温度的变化能够诱导植物蜡质晶体结构的重组,Armstrong 等<sup>[48]</sup>发现,蜡质晶体结构形态虽温度的变化发生重组,当温度较高时,晶体形态多为水平方向,如板状、片状;温度较低时,蜡质形态多呈垂直方向,如棒状、管状等。改变植物生长时的温度会影响其蜡质化学组分的分布,例如在 *Citrus aurantium* 的生长过程中,白天温度升高,蜡质中的烷烃、伯醇、酸、酯等组分的含量会降低,而夜晚温度升高,烷烃、酸、伯醇的含量则升高<sup>[49]</sup>。Sheperd 等<sup>[50]</sup>发现生长于室外的羽衣甘蓝 *Brassica oleracea* 和瑞典甘蓝 *Brassica napus* 较室内的多合成正构烷烃、一级醇、长链酯等,而合成的醛类、二酮以及二级醇则较少,而室、内外温度的差异很可能是造成蜡质化学组分发生转化的原因,因为在较高温度下,醛类易于向一级醇转化。对比里牛斯、阿尔卑斯以及加利福尼亚等地区桧属植物正构烷烃的研究发现,生长区的温度影响正构烷烃的平均链长,在温度较高的地区,蜡质相对合成较长链的正构烷烃<sup>[51]</sup>。Sheperd 等<sup>[52]</sup>认为,温度与其它环境因子如光照、湿度等共同作用会影响植物蜡质的生物合成过程,改变脱羧途径和酰基还原途径的产物及其链长。一般高光照/低温下,植物会合成更多的脱羧途径产物,然而因为植物蜡质合成过程的复杂性,不同合成阶段对环境因子的响应和敏感程度的不同,而植物种属以及自身生理的差异也会造成不同植物的差异表现。

### 2.1.4 蜡质与 CO<sub>2</sub>

CO<sub>2</sub>是植物进行光合作用的主要反应原料之一,植物进行光合作用的 CO<sub>2</sub>最适浓度一般在 1000 μmol/mol 左右,但目前大气中的 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度还未达到此指标,因此大气中 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度的升高可以加快植物光合作用速率,C3、C4 植物 CO<sub>2</sub>补偿点和饱和点的差异,因此两者对 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度升高的敏感性也不同,相比之下,C4 植物 CO<sub>2</sub>补偿点和饱和点都较低,可利用较低的 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度进行光合作用,故 C4 植物对 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度升高的反应敏感度较 C3 植物弱些,高浓度 CO<sub>2</sub>使植物叶片气孔变小或关闭,植物蒸腾作用减弱,植物水分利用率提高<sup>[53-54]</sup>。

目前关于单一 CO<sub>2</sub>对蜡质作用的报道还鲜见,多为与水分、温度、紫外辐射以及臭氧等其它环境因子综合作用的研究<sup>[55]</sup>。有报道称,高浓度 CO<sub>2</sub>还可以有效抵消高温和紫外辐射对大豆 *Glycine max* 的伤害,因此需全面评价 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度升高带来的影响<sup>[56]</sup>。Graham 等观察了隶属于 CAM 植物的龙舌兰 *Agave deserti* 在不同 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度下叶片的变化,发现植物表皮蜡质的含量随着 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度的倍增减少了 40%<sup>[57]</sup>。Tipping 和 Murray 以黍属的 3 种植物 *Panicum trichanthum*, *Panicum antidotale*, *Panicum decipiens* 分别代表 C3、C4 以及 C3/C4 中间型植物,发现高浓度 CO<sub>2</sub>作用下,3 种植物的蜡质含量均增加,而 C4 植物和 C3/C4 中间型植物较 C3 植物表现更明显<sup>[58]</sup>。作为全球气候变化重要表现之一的 O<sub>3</sub>和 CO<sub>2</sub>浓度的变化,也是当前植物生态学研究的重点,有研究表明,植物表皮蜡质可作为 O<sub>3</sub>和 CO<sub>2</sub>作用的敏感指标,因为植物表皮蜡质在较高浓度 O<sub>3</sub>和 CO<sub>2</sub>共同作用下会发生退化,即表皮蜡质的晶体结构转变为无定形态从而阻塞叶片表皮气孔,然而对于单独 CO<sub>2</sub>作用是否引起这样的退化还不得而知<sup>[59]</sup>。Percy 等<sup>[60]</sup>的研究结果却表明,单独 O<sub>3</sub>、CO<sub>2</sub>的作用都会引起杨木 *Populus tremuloides* 表皮蜡质含量的增加,但两者共同作用对蜡质含量的影响则有抵消作用。由于实验条件不同,研究结果大相径庭,主要是因为植物蜡质对不同浓度 CO<sub>2</sub>的敏感程度和对其它生态因子的需求存在种间差异。

### 2.1.5 蜡质与环境污染

环境污染(包括硫化物、重金属、酸沉降等)已成为全球研究热点,不仅直接影响人类的生存和发展,而且对其它生物也带来伤害。环境污染下的植物,表皮蜡质的晶体结构形态、蜡质层厚度以及各组分等均会发生改变<sup>[61-62]</sup>,以樟子松 *Pinus sylvestris* 为例,高浓度 SO<sub>2</sub> 作用下,其松针表皮蜡质的晶体结构会由管状结构逐渐变厚,转变成融合的无定形态<sup>[63]</sup>,经污染的欧洲冷杉 *Abies alba*,其蜡质晶体逐渐衰变成无定形态,并覆盖气孔以扰乱正常气体交换<sup>[64]</sup>。据此,有学者提出利用蜡质晶体结构形态的变化来作为环境污染的指标,以挪威云杉 *Picea abies* 针叶指示当地的污染情况<sup>[65]</sup>。有研究发现,环境污染还可以改变植物蜡质的合成,从而影响蜡质的化学组分,在硫和重金属污染的作用下,其表皮蜡质中的叔醇、脂肪酸的含量增加,嫩叶更易受到污染物胁迫而改变蜡质结构和化学组分,此外硫酸对松针表面的破坏作用大于重金属<sup>[66]</sup>。酸沉降是影响植物蜡质变化的重要污染物之一,可以改变蜡质结构和化学组分,主要在于蜡质生物合成中所需的各种酶对酸环境的敏感,特别是 pH 值介于 5—5.5 的酸性沉降,从而影响了蜡质的生物合成过程,改变各组分的含量和链长<sup>[52,67]</sup>。Furlan 等<sup>[68]</sup>分别对比了在多污染区和少污染区生长的番石榴 *Psidium guajava* 叶片蜡质的研究,他们发现:在扫描电镜下可以观测到叶片表面附着污染物颗粒,两组实验中可提取蜡质含量未发生变化,但正构烷烃含量有明显变化,其中低碳数(C<sub>19</sub>—C<sub>23</sub>)正构烷烃的含量增加,而高碳数(C<sub>24</sub>—C<sub>31</sub>)正构烷烃的含量则减少,即蜡质合成更多的短链烃类组分。

## 2.2 植物蜡质与生物环境的关系

### 2.2.1 蜡质与植食性昆虫

植物蜡质的物理结构影响昆虫的附着和移动,Eigenbrode 概括了蜡质在植物不同位置形成光滑表面的各种生态学功能,包括方便食虫植物捕食猎物,如猪笼草 *Nepenthes distillatoria* 捕虫囊表面的蜡质;防止昆虫偷食花蜜,如花茎上的蜡质;减少植食性昆虫的附着,如叶片或茎上的蜡质<sup>[69]</sup>。昆虫对桉树 *Eucalyptus globulus* 新老叶片的选择有差别,呈绿灰色的植物新叶因具有较多的蜡质晶体结构具有抗虫性,老叶因蜡质晶体结构数量减少而感虫,去蜡质处理后的叶片感虫<sup>[70]</sup>。在对甘蓝 *Brassica oleracea* 两种基因型(抗虫和感虫)的研究中发现,抗虫基因型叶片光滑,而感虫基因型叶片的蜡质则较多<sup>[71]</sup>,由此发现,感虫与否与蜡质层的含量不存在直接关系,因此仅凭植物蜡质的物理属性如含量的多寡、光滑程度来判断植物抗虫与否不够准确,需进一步考虑蜡质的化学组分。

蜡质的化学组分在植物和昆虫的长期协同关系中扮演重要角色,影响植食性昆虫的取食,主要包括诱导和阻止作用。脂肪族类组分与昆虫关系的研究较广泛,甘蓝 *Brassica oleracea* 抗蛾基因型与其感蛾基因型蜡质的化学组分对比结果表明,C<sub>14</sub>脂肪酸以及 C<sub>24</sub>、C<sub>25</sub>、C<sub>26</sub>脂肪醇是小菜蛾 *Plutella xylostella* 幼虫取食的抑制剂,而 14-C<sub>29</sub>醇、15-C<sub>29</sub>醇、15-C<sub>29</sub>醇、14,15-C<sub>29</sub>二醇以及 C<sub>30</sub>脂肪醇则被认为是 *P. xylostella* 取食的刺激剂<sup>[71]</sup>。而芝麻 *Sorghum bicolor* 中检测到的短链烃类和酯类组分可以有效抑制蝗虫的取食<sup>[72]</sup>。覆盆子 *Rubus idaeus* 表皮蜡质中不同碳链长的脂肪酸也是影响蚜虫 *Amphorophora idaei* 取食的主要因素,感蚜品种中 C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>16</sub>脂肪酸以及 C<sub>28</sub>、C<sub>30</sub>脂肪酸的含量高,而抗蚜品种中 C<sub>18</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>脂肪酸的含量则相对较高<sup>[73]</sup>。此外环状化合物如香树精、甾醇等萜类化合物也在植食性昆虫取食过程中发挥作用<sup>[74]</sup>,蜡质中的许多化合物具有挥发性,如萜类等,植物被植食性昆虫取食后,会释放挥发性物质以吸引植食性昆虫的天敌,对植物有间接保护作用,这也是植物化感作用研究的重点之一<sup>[41,75]</sup>。

### 2.2.2 植物与病原菌

湿度是影响病原菌入侵寄主的主要因素之一,高湿度的叶片有利于真菌孢子的萌发和细菌的繁殖,而植物表皮蜡质为疏水层,不利于病菌的停滞,有效减少病原菌的侵染。有研究表明,植物种皮蜡质含量与其抗病性有一定关系,如玉米 *Z. mays* 抗病品种种皮的蜡质含量明显多于感病品种<sup>[76]</sup>,木薯 *Manihot esculenta* 抗菌品种叶片的蜡质含量高于感菌品种,而且前者蜡质中的三萜类化合物的含量也高于后者<sup>[77]</sup>。蜡质的某些化学组分是病原菌的抑制剂,例如酸橙 *Secale cereale* 蜡质中的 C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>饱和、不饱和和脂肪酸组分可以有效防止真

菌引起的枯萎病,苹果叶片蜡质中提取的酸性组分对苹果霉菌有毒等<sup>[36]</sup>。

真菌入侵植物,除直接从气孔进入外,更多的是产生入侵附着胞以进入植物内部<sup>[78]</sup>。植物蜡质影响附着胞的形成,抑制或者刺激孢子的萌发,这也是植物蜡质与病原菌作用的重要方式之一。去蜡质处理的大麦属植物 *Hordeum chilense* 叶片有更多的附着胞生成,更易受到锈菌胁迫作用<sup>[79]</sup>。也有报道认为蜡质可以刺激附着胞的生成,如鳄梨 *Persea americana* 果实蜡质中的脂肪醇诱导菌丝的萌芽以及附着胞的形成<sup>[80]</sup>,大麦 *Hordium vulgare* 蜡质中的 C<sub>26</sub>醛也可以诱导真菌 *Blumeria graminis* 附着胞的分化<sup>[81]</sup>,豌豆 *Pisum sativum* 近轴面和远轴面具有不同的附着胞发生率,研究发现,约有 80% 的孢子可以在近轴面萌芽,并分化约 70% 的附着胞;而远轴面孢子萌芽率为 57%,附着胞发生率为 49%,化学组分的差异很可能造成叶片不同面孢子萌芽率差异的原因<sup>[22]</sup>。

### 3 结语

植物蜡质生物合成的调节,不仅取决于生长阶段、组织类型等内源因素,也取决于光照、温度、水分等外源因素。植物对环境的胁迫不是处于被动状态,会构建自身防御系统,如改变其蜡质的晶体结构或化学合成以减少、减轻外界不利环境因子的胁迫,包括全球气候问题:UV-B 辐射增加、CO<sub>2</sub>浓度升高等。植物对不同环境信号的响应程度不同,不同植物对同一环境信号的响应也有差异。

在对蜡质与环境关系的研究中发现,环境因子的变化在很大程度上影响了蜡质合成的生物化学过程,从而改变蜡质各组分的分布和含量,这是与分子生物学息息相关的内容。目前蜡质合成和分泌过程的研究取得较大进步,已从拟南芥、玉米等植物中克隆出与蜡质合成有关的多个基因,可以诠释部分蜡质合成途径,然而各环境因子是如何影响和作用于蜡质合成过程的相关报道还较少见,较多停留在假说、推断上,仍未深入到基因水平探讨作用机理。

植物蜡质对环境因子响应过程中的许多实验是在实验模拟情况下进行的,并不能完全代表自然状态下的结果。

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★《生态学报》2009 年在核心版的 1964 种科技期刊排序中总被引频次 11764 次,全国排名第 1;影响因子 1.812,全国排名第 14;第 1—9 届连续 9 年入围中国百种杰出学术期刊;中国精品科技期刊

编辑部主任:孔红梅

执行编辑:刘天星 段 靖

生态学报  
(SHENGTAI XUEBAO)  
(半月刊 1981 年 3 月创刊)  
第 31 卷 第 2 期 (2011 年 1 月)

ACTA ECOLOGICA SINICA  
(Semimonthly, Started in 1981)  
Vol. 31 No. 2 2011

**编 辑** 《生态学报》编辑部  
地址:北京海淀区双清路 18 号  
邮政编码:100085  
电话:(010)62941099  
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中国科学院生态环境研究中心  
地址:北京海淀区双清路 18 号  
邮政编码:100085

**出 版** 科 学 出 版 社  
地址:北京东黄城根北街 16 号  
邮政编码:100717

**印 刷** 北京北林印刷厂  
**发 行** 科 学 出 版 社  
地址:东黄城根北街 16 号  
邮政编码:100717  
电话:(010)64034563  
E-mail:journal@cspg.net

**订 购** 全国各地邮局  
**国外发行** 中国国际图书贸易总公司  
地址:北京 399 信箱  
邮政编码:100044

**广告经营** 京海工商广字第 8013 号  
**许 可 证**

**Edited** by Editorial board of  
ACTA ECOLOGICA SINICA  
Add:18, Shuangqing Street, Haidian, Beijing 100085, China  
Tel:(010)62941099  
www.ecologica.cn  
Shengtaixuebao@rcees.ac.cn

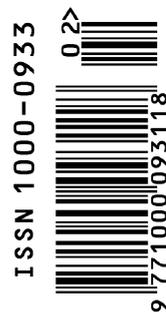
**Editor-in-chief** FENG Zong-Wei  
**Supervised** by China Association for Science and Technology  
**Sponsored** by Ecological Society of China  
Research Center for Eco-environmental Sciences, CAS  
Add:18, Shuangqing Street, Haidian, Beijing 100085, China

**Published** by Science Press  
Add:16 Donghuangchenggen North Street,  
Beijing 100717, China

**Printed** by Beijing Bei Lin Printing House,  
Beijing 100083, China

**Distributed** by Science Press  
Add:16 Donghuangchenggen North  
Street, Beijing 100717, China  
Tel:(010)64034563  
E-mail:journal@cspg.net

**Domestic** All Local Post Offices in China  
**Foreign** China International Book Trading  
Corporation  
Add:P. O. Box 399 Beijing 100044, China



ISSN 1000-0933  
CN 11-2031/Q

国内外公开发行

国内邮发代号 82-7

国外发行代号 M670

定价 70.00 元