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不同食性野生鸟类肠道微生物研究进展

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摘要:肠道微生物是庞大而多样的微生物群落,通过促进营养摄取、宿主防御、免疫调节等,在维持机体健康方面起着至关重要的作用。宿主外部或内部环境的任何变化都会影响肠道微生物的组成,鸟类具有复杂的生活史和多样化的食性,飞翔生活使它们的生理活动面临更大的选择性压力,导致肠道微生物菌群的变化更加复杂。近年来,随着基因测序技术的发展以及对鸟类肠道微生物研究的日益重视,导致了鸟类肠道微生物研究呈指数增长。但目前的研究主要以家禽为主,野生鸟类肠道微生物报道则相对较少。野生鸟类肠道微生物结构变化及其维持机制等的研究仍处于起步阶段,有较大的研究空间。从植食性、肉食性、杂食性三种食性的鸟类肠道微生物组成及特点、影响因素等方面对前人的文献进行了全面梳理,以为野生鸟类肠道微生物研究提供参考。总的来说,植食性鸟类肠道微生物多样性最低,以高丰度的变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)、厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)为主;而杂食性鸟类肠道微生物多样性最高。遗传、生活史特征、人类活动、城市化、圈养行为等对鸟类肠道微生物的组成具有显著性的影响。

关键词:肠道微生物;野生鸟类;食物组成;影响因素

Research advances in the intestinal microbes in wild birds with different feeding habits

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Abstract: The intestinal microbes are huge and diverse microbial communities, which play key roles in maintaining organism health through promoting nutrient uptake, defense, and immune regulation. However, any change in the intrinsic and extrinsic factors can affect the composition of gut microbiota, especially the food composition. The feeding habits of birds vary wildly, from fruit, seeds, foliage to carrion and capturing live animals. Bird life-history traits are diverse, such as migratory behavior, flight capacity, diet, mating systems, longevity and physiology, all of which may affect gut microbes. With the development of gene sequencing technology, and the increasing attention to intestinal microbes, intestinal bacterial diversity of birds has received some attention. However, publications are dominated by the studies of domestic poultry. The structure changes and maintenance mechanism, and the influencing factors of gut microbes in wild birds remain less studied. Here, we review current knowledge of the intestinal microbes in wild birds, to better understand the dynamics of wild bird gut microbiota, and will contribute to the future study of avian microbiology. In general, among the wild birds with different feeding habits, herbivorous birds have the lowest intestinal bacterial diversity, with high abundance of *Proteobacteria* and *Firmicutes*; and omnivorous birds have the highest intestines bacterial diversity. Genetics, life-history, human activities, urbanization, captive behaviors, etc. have significant effects on the bacterial diversity of wilds bird gut microbes.

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Key Words: gut microbiota; wild birds; diet; influencing factors

肠道微生物是动物机体内最重要的“微生物器官”,参与个体的营养吸收、代谢调节及免疫功能,在维持生物体健康和适应性进化等方面均发挥着至关重要的作用^[1-3]。鸟类是生态系统重要的指示生物,具有丰富的物种多样性和遗传多样性。近年来,随着分子生物学技术的发展以及对鸟类种群的日益重视,对于鸟类肠道微生物组成及功能等的研究也呈指数增长^[4-5]。然而,受到野外条件下取样困难、DNA 提取量低等因素的限制,研究主要以家禽的研究为主,对于野生鸟类肠道微生物的研究报道则相对较少^[3,6-7]。

复杂的生活史特征、多样化的食性、交配系统、生理特征、飞翔生活、长距离迁徙等使鸟类的生理活动面临更强的选择性压力,使其肠道微生物菌群的变化更加复杂。鸟类肠道微生物组成及多样性受物种、环境、生活史阶段、消化道区域等多种因素的影响^[1,4,7-8],特别是食物组成对鸟类肠道微生物的形成具有极其重要的作用^[9]。鸟类的食性复杂,如森林鸟类根据食性可分为食果鸟、食蜜鸟、食谷鸟、食虫鸟、食肉鸟、杂食鸟等类群^[10]。其中,食果鸟、食谷鸟、食蜜鸟等均以植物性食物为食;食虫鸟、食肉鸟、食腐鸟等均以肉食性食物为主要食物来源。而海洋及湿地中的鸟类多为肉食性或杂食性饮食^[11]。复杂的食物组成导致鸟类肠道微生物更加复杂多样。

为了更好的了解不同食性野生鸟类肠道微生物特点,在本研究中,将分别从植食性鸟类、肉食性鸟类和杂食性鸟类的角度出发,对前人的文献进行全面梳理,分析不同食性的鸟类肠道微生物的组成、特点、影响因素及鸟类肠道微生物研究方法,以为野生鸟类肠道微生物研究提供参考。

1 野生鸟类肠道微生物与食性关系

1.1 植食性鸟类的肠道微生物研究现状

目前,关于植食性鸟类肠道微生物研究主要集中于鸚面鸚鵡(*Strigops habroptilus*)^[12]、北非橙簇花蜜鸟(*Cinnyris osea*)^[13]、麝雉(*Opisthocomus hoazin*)^[14]、安氏蜂鸟(*Calypte anna*)^[15]等种群。

植食性鸟类食物组成较为单一,肠道微生物多样性相对较低,以高丰富度的变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)和厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)为主。此外,在以烟草花蜜为食的北非橙簇花蜜鸟^[13]和安氏蜂鸟^[15]粪便样品中均发现了低丰度的放线菌门(*Actinobacteria*)细菌。

食物组成对植食性鸟类肠道微生物菌群具有重要影响,外源性增加北非橙簇花蜜鸟食物中尼古丁和新烟碱等毒性物质浓度后,其肠道微生物中尼古丁及新烟碱降解菌属的细菌丰度显著升高^[13]。麝雉具有与反刍动物相似的前肠发酵结构,其肠道内形成与食物消化作用相关的微生物群落,前肠以拟杆菌门(*Bacteroidetes*)和螺旋体门(*Spirochaetes*)为主,用于消化纤维素类食物,后肠中以消化蛋白质的变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)与厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)为主^[14]。

作为新西兰特有的濒临灭绝的植食性鸟类,鸚面鸚鵡肠道微生物组成受到广泛关注,研究发现,鸚面鸚鵡肠道微生物以费格森埃希菌(*Escherichia fergusonii*)为主,其分离株具有广泛的碳水化合物代谢基因,能够代谢肠道内多种营养物质;该菌株与其他肠道微生物间几乎无关联,在不同的环境条件下,均保持鸚面鸚鵡稳定的肠道生态系统^[12,16-17]。为了降低人工喂养的雏鸟的死亡率,养护人员将冷冻的健康成年鸚面鸚鵡粪便悬浮液喂养给圈养的雏鸟。然而,测定发现,冷冻减少了粪便悬浮液中 99.86% 的菌群丰富,采用冷冻成鸟粪便补充雏鸟肠道微生物丰度的方法是需要进一步考虑的^[18]。

1.2 肉食性鸟类的肠道微生物研究现状

关于肉食性鸟类肠道微生物的研究目前主要集中于王企鹅(*Aptenodytes patagonicus*)^[19]、纹颊企鹅(*Pygoscelis antarctica*)、白眉企鹅(*Pygoscelis papua*)^[20-21]、小企鹅(*Eudyptula minor*)、短尾鹲(*Ardenna tenuirostris*)^[22]、家燕(*Hirundo rustica*)^[23-24]、黑头美洲鸺(*Coragyps atratus*)、红头美洲鸺(*Cathartes aura*)^[25-26]及部分水鸟^[27-28]。

肉食性鸟类肠道微生物组成中优势菌集中于厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)和变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)。此外,在黑头美洲鹭、红头美洲鹭、小企鵝、王企鵝、红颈滨鹬(*Calidris ruficollis*)等肉食性鸟类肠道内发现较高含量的梭杆菌(*Fusobacteria*)。

目前,肉食性鸟类肠道微生物的研究集中在两方面内容。一是关于肠道微生物的组成与功效的研究。以腐肉为食的黑头美洲鹭和红头美洲鹭肠道微生物组成和结构异常稳定,以梭菌(*Clostridia*)和梭杆菌(*Fusobacteria*)为主要类群,此外,其肠道内也发现了斯特菌抗性细菌等有益微生物基因以及噬菌体、蛭型轮虫等基因,体现了其肠道微生物对极端饮食的适应^[25-26]。与以野生猎物为食的种群相比,采食牲畜腐肉的赤鸢(*Milvus milvus*)种群肠道微生物中沙门氏菌(*Salmonella sp.*)感染率升高^[29]。家燕是重要的食虫益鸟,在家燕种群中,同巢雏鸟之间、配偶对之间肠道微生物相似性较高,且雏鸟的微生物多样性高于成鸟^[24];肠道微生物组成与种群“平均肠道微生物”差异较大的成年个体往往具有较低的生存率^[23];种群水平上,具有相似肠道微生物组成的个体,对植物血凝素诱导的免疫反应的相似度较高^[30]。

另一方面研究主要集中于生长、发育、换羽、迁徙等生活史过程对鸟类肠道微生物结构的影响^[7]。黑腹滨鹬(*Calidris alpina*)、半蹼滨鹬(*Calidris pusilla*)雏鸟出雏前胚胎中微生物数量极少,出雏后肠道微生物发生快速定植,推断胚胎的内脏很可能没有微生物存在,肠道微生物很可能是通过环境接种而建立的^[31]。短尾鹳发育过程中,肠道微生物群相对较稳定,而小企鵝肠道微生物组成存在显著的波动,厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)和拟杆菌门(*Bacteroidetes*)细菌丰度呈显著上升趋势,这两种海鸟的成鸟与雏鸟间肠道微生物区系相似性均较低^[22]。换羽禁食期间,王企鵝肠道微生物中梭杆菌门(*Fusobacteria*)丰富度增加,变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)和拟杆菌门(*Bacteroidetes*)的丰富度下降;小企鵝肠道中厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)丰富度下降,拟杆菌门(*Bacteroidetes*)丰富度增加^[19];白眉企鵝细菌多样性显著增加,不同种群形成不同的细菌群落,肠道微生物的变化受鸟种的影响较大^[20]。通过细胞培养法培养隐鹳(*Geronticus eremita*)微生物样本,显示微生物的定植具有明显的组织趋向性,不同组织间微生物群落差异显著^[32]。对红颈滨鹬和弯嘴滨鹬(*Calidris ferruginea*)等迁徙水鸟的研究发现,迁徙个体肠道内放线菌(*Actinobacteria*)丰度始终高于未迁徙个体,特别是棒状杆菌属(*Corynebacterium*)细菌,其在迁徙个体肠道内丰富度显著提高^[33]。

1.3 杂食性鸟类的肠道微生物研究现状

目前,对杂食性鸟类肠道微生物的研究多集中于雀形目鸟类^[7,34-35]、雁形目鸟类^[36-37]以及红嘴山鸦(*Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*)^[38]、翻石鹬(*Arenaria interpres*)^[27]等种群。

杂食性鸟类的食物组成多样,部分种群食性随季节发生改变,其肠道微生物组成也相对复杂,以厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)、变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)、拟杆菌门(*Bacteroidetes*)、放线菌门(*Actinobacteria*)细菌为主^[7]。在大山雀(*Parus major*)^[39]、加拿大黑雁(*Branta canadensis*)^[40]、白冠带鹀(*Zonotrichia leucophrys*)^[41]、针尾鸭(*Anas acuta*)、绿眉鸭(*A. americana*)、琵嘴鸭(*A. clypeata*)、绿头鸭(*A. platyrhynchos*)^[42]等的肠道内发现了丰富度大于1%的软壁菌门(*Tenericutes*)。在斑头雁(*Anser indicus*)^[43]、白头鹤(*Grus monachac*)^[44]、针尾鸭^[42]中发现了丰富度大于1%的梭杆菌门(*Fusobacteria*)细菌。

杂食性鸟类肠道微生物的研究主要集中于三方面内容。首先是人类活动对鸟类肠道微生物的影响。在加拉帕戈斯群岛达尔文雀的研究中发现,人类活动地点内的中地雀(*Geospiza fortis*)肠道微生物多样性降低,与小地雀(*Geospiza fuliginosa*)之间微生物多样性差异增加^[45]。白冠带鹀肠道微生物多样性与城市环境中的树木覆盖度、防水能力等相关,城市环境中雄性白冠带鹀肠道微生物多样性显著增加^[41]。而在家麻雀(*Passer domesticus*)的研究中发现,城市化显著改变了家麻雀肠道微生物的组成,城市环境中的家麻雀肠道内含有更多来自变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)的纲级和目级微生物,这些微生物与哺乳动物肠道内多种疾病有关^[35]。

其次,宿主遗传、发育过程、不同肠道区域、食物组成等对鸟类肠道微生物群落结构具有显著性影响。寄生于喜鹊(*Pica pica*)巢中的大斑凤头鹀(*Clamator glandarius*)雏鸟肠道微生物结构与巢内喜鹊雏鸟显著不同,其肠道中含有喜鹊雏鸟与大斑凤头鹀亲鸟的混合微生物种群^[46]。寄生于其它繁殖巢的斑胸草雀

(*Taeniopygia guttata*) 雏鸟肠道微生物与养父母肠道微生物群落结构相似度更高,而人工喂养的斑胸草雀雏鸟肠道微生物的多样性较低,表明了鸟类双亲在塑造雏鸟肠道生物多样性中的重要性^[47]。野生家麻雀雏鸟肠道微生物组成随日龄的增加发生变化,在雏鸟第九天左右,肠腔内变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)的丰富度下降,厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)丰富度增加^[48]。采用抗生素处理后,家麻雀雏鸟的生长速度和食物转化效率提高^[49]。斑头雁成鸟泄殖腔微生物组成及多样性均显著高于雏鸟,成鸟与雏鸟间微生物结构显著不同^[50]。在加拿大黑雁的研究中发现,同一个体内不同肠道区域微生物区系在丰富度、组成上显著不同,结肠内微生物丰度最高;不同个体间结肠微生物群落相似性最高,反映了消化道下游微生物群落的物理混合,这也是肠道内不同微生物家族共存的主要原因之一^[40]。长江中下游流域越冬的白额雁(*Anser albifrons*)、豆雁(*Anser fabalis*)、鸿雁(*Anser cygnoides*)的肠道微生物多样性、群落结构、微生物分子生态网络的结构等均存在显著差异,但不同个体肠道微生物中均存在大量参与物质和能量代谢的基因^[51]。

此外,一些驯化鸟类的肠道微生物正在得到越来越多的关注^[52]。野生西方松鸡(*Tetrao urogallus*)肠道微生物以互养菌门(*Synergistetes*)、放线菌门(*Actinobacteria*)及梭菌目(*Clostridiales*)为主,但圈养的个体以 γ -变形菌纲(*Gammaproteobacteria*)细菌为主。人工饲养的斑头雁肠道微生物中拟杆菌门(*Bacteroidetes*)丰富度增加,肠道内与碳水化合物转运和代谢、能量代谢、辅酶转运等功能相关的微生物基因浓度显著升高^[43]。鸿雁是一种重要的经济型鸟类,与野生种群相比,养殖鸿雁肠道微生物中梭菌(*Clostridium*)丰富度降低,SMB53、肠球菌(*Enterococcus*)、类芽孢杆菌(*Paenibacillus*)丰富度升高^[53];其血液宏基因组和肠道宏基因组在糖酵解/糖异生、丙酸代谢、柠檬酸循环、淀粉和蔗糖代谢等功能基因上存在广泛的富集共享^[3]。

2 研究方法

野外条件下样品获取困难是导致野生鸟类肠道微生物研究较少的主要原因之一^[6]。鸟类肠道微生物样品获取方法包括致死性采样和非致死性采样两种。致死性采样是指通过解剖,获取鸟类不同肠道组织内容物,测定其微生物的组成。该方法可以准确反映鸟类不同肠道区域微生物的组成。但基于对鸟类种群保护的策略,致死性采样仅用于实验室条件下样品的获取。如在鹌鹑(*Coturnix japonica*)的研究中,通过解剖获得肠道内容物,分析其肠道微生物组成,并探究肠道微生物组成与宿主压力应激反应间的关系^[54]。

泄殖腔拭子、粪便等非致死性样本是目前鸟类肠道微生物研究的主要样本来源^[1, 4, 7, 9]。如 Corl 等^[55]采用无菌拭子采集获得苍鹭(*Tyto alba*)泄殖腔内微生物样本。Teyssier 等采用无菌磷酸盐缓冲液冲洗获得家麻雀泄殖腔微生物样本^[8]。Fu 等直接在白头鹤活动地收集新鲜粪便,分析其肠道微生物组成^[56]。非致死性样本获取方法简单,对鸟类个体伤害较小,目前被越来越多的用于野生鸟类肠道微生物研究。但粪便、泄殖腔拭子只能反映鸟类大肠内微生物组成,对个体不同肠道区域微生物组成的反映较差^[9]。

野外条件下,样本的保存同样是限制鸟类肠道微生物研究的重要因素。为了更准确的反映鸟类肠道微生物的组成,研究者通常采用 -80°C 液氮或 -20°C 冰箱保存鸟类粪便或泄殖腔拭子样本^[7, 55]。但液氮或冰箱储存条件增加了野外条件下的工作难度。近年来,乙醇保存的方法逐渐兴起,Bodawatta 等通过实验证明,乙醇保存样本中细菌群落组成与新鲜样品无显著性差异,证明该方法确实可行^[57]。

此外,基因组 DNA 的提取和扩增是进行肠道微生物测定的前提。对于小型鸟类,粪便样品体积较小, DNA 的提取量较低,提高 PCR 准确度及深度对于提高测序精确度具有重要意义。Davidson 等采用滤纸片吸附大山雀新鲜粪便样本中的尿液,降低尿素对 DNA 扩增的抑制作用,增加基因扩增深度^[58]; Luis Viquez-R 等采用 PNA-DNA 夹方法,抑制加岛嘲鸫(*Mimus parvulus*)线粒体 DNA 或饮食中叶绿体 DNA 的 PCR 扩增,增加样品扩增序列的精确度^[59]。

16S rRNA 基因测序技术是目前常用的肠道微生物多样性分析方法^[5, 7]。该方法测定准确度较高,成本相对较低,被广泛应用于鸟类肠道微生物研究^[3, 49, 53]。宏基因组测序技术通过对样品中的全基因组 DNA 进行高通量测序,分析样本中微生物的群落结构、基因功能、代谢网络等信息。目前,该技术也被应用于鸟类肠道

微生物分析。如 Wang 等通过宏基因组测序技术,分析野生及人工养殖的斑头雁肠道微生物群落结构及基因功能^[43]。肠道微生物的培养同样是分析鸟类肠道微生物组成的重要手段,Lobato 等以无菌拭子收集非洲圣多美岛的绿棕鸫(*Turdus olivaceofuscus*)及相邻加蓬大陆的非洲鸫(*Turdus olivaceofuscus*)泄殖腔内微生物样本,采用不同培养基培养后,发现两者在细菌组成上差异较大,鉴别的 14 个细菌类群中,仅 5 种共享,且绿棕鸫种群具有更高丰度的格兰仕阴性细菌^[60]。

3 总结与展望

近年来,随着基因测序技术的发展及肠道微生物研究方法的逐渐完善,野生鸟类肠道微生物相关研究显著增加,人们对野生鸟类肠道微生物的组成、结构特征及影响因素有了一定的了解,但目前的研究结果多为描述性研究,缺乏深入作用机制探究。

作为机体内最庞大、最复杂的微生态系统,肠道微生物与动物代谢、免疫防御等息息相关。Hologenome 理论认为,微生物群落与其宿主生物体一起进化,在环境胁迫时,有助于提高宿主的生存、表型可塑性和生殖性能等适应参数。鸟类复杂的生活史、食性、婚配体制、飞翔生活等使其面临较强的选择性压力,在这些压力条件下,鸟类肠道微生物会发生怎样的调整?其调整的策略及生理机制又是怎样?在面临全球气候变暖的大背景下,野生鸟类肠道微生物又会发生怎样的变化,以提高个体的适应能力?这些变化对宿主的生存又产生怎样的影响?这都需要人们深入探究。

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