



鱼类性别可塑性的分子机制*

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摘要: 鱼类性别具有高度的可塑性, 具体表现为天然性逆转、原发性逆转和次发性逆转。近年来, 一系列研究都证明鱼类性别可塑性与雌激素密切相关。一旦阻断性腺雌激素的合成, 无论是未分化还是已分化卵巢都将性逆转为精巢。鱼类的性别决定通路基因缺失诱导的性逆转也与雌激素相关。重要的是, 发现生殖细胞的可塑性依赖于 *foxl3* 和 *dmrt1* 的同时存在, 缺失其中一个都不能通过改变雌激素水平从而诱导性逆转。因此, *foxl3* 和 *dmrt1* 是生殖细胞响应雌激素的关键基因。另外, 表观遗传调控基因 *kdm6bb* 通过选择性剪接介导温度诱导的性逆转。这些研究增进了我们对鱼类性别可塑性分子机制的认识。

关键词: 雌激素; 性别可塑性; 生殖细胞; 体细胞; 鱼类

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Research progress on molecular mechanisms of sex plasticity in fish

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Abstract: Fish have a high plasticity in sex due to existing germline stem cells, which are manifested as natural sex reversal, primary sex reversal and secondary sex reversal. In recent years, a series of studies have shown that the sex plasticity in fish is closely related to estrogen. Once the synthesis of gonadal estrogen is blocked, both undifferentiated and differentiated ovaries will reverse to the testes. Mutation of the male sex determining genes induced sex reversal in fish species, which can be rescued by disruption of estrogen synthesis. Importantly, sex plasticity of germ cells depends on the coexistence of *foxl3* and *dmrt1*, and the absence of either cannot be rescued by altering estrogen levels. Therefore, *foxl3* and *dmrt1* are key genes in response to estrogen induction in germ cells. On the other hand, there has been great progress in the mechanism of fish sex plasticity regulated by epigenetics. For example, *kdm6bb* mediates temperature induced sex reversal through alternative splicing. These studies have promoted our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying sex plasticity in fish.

Key words: estrogen; sex plasticity; germ cell; somatic cell; fish

生殖是生物最基本的生命活动之一。生殖方式分为无性生殖和有性生殖两种。有性生殖是指由两性亲本分别产生精子和卵子, 这两者结合形

成受精卵再发育成为新个体的生殖方式。行有性生殖的生物具有雌、雄两种性别, 性别如何决定是最基础的生物学问题之一。相对于寿命有限的

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体细胞,生殖细胞被认为是“永生的”,是生物体内唯一能将遗传信息传递到下一代的细胞。雌、雄配子的产生都来自于原始生殖细胞(PGCs, primordial germ cells),它是有性生殖的基础。PGCs经过增殖(有丝分裂)、分化(减数分裂)产生可育配子的过程称为配子发生。雌性通过卵子发生产生成熟卵子,雄性通过精子发生产生成熟精子。决定PGCs走向卵子发生或精子发生过程中至关重要的一步就是生殖细胞的性别决定。性别决定分为遗传性别决定(GSD, genetic sex determination),以及环境性别决定(ESD, environmental sex determination)。传统的观点认为:①生殖细胞的性别取决于它所处的体细胞环境,精子发生在精巢进行,而卵子发生在卵巢进行;②雌、雄异体的鱼类一旦性腺分化为精巢或卵巢就不能诱导性逆转发生(Nagahama et al., 2021)。近年来,由于基因组测序技术、基因编辑等研究手段的进步,人们对鱼类性别决定与维持(可塑性)的分子机制的研究取得了一系列重要进展,打破传统的一些观点,增进了我们的认识。本文综述了环境性别决定(温度、雌激素)与鱼类性别可塑性、生殖细胞性别受体细胞环境的影响及新发现自主决定基因、以及生殖细胞表达因子对性别的维持等最新的研究进展。

1 鱼类性别的可塑性

表型可塑性(phenotypic plasticity)定义为同一基因型受环境的不同影响而产生的不同表型,是生物对环境的一种适应。性别可塑性(sexual plasticity)是生物体表型可塑性的一种表现,即在生活史上生物体性别能自发或因环境因素的改变而变为另一种性别。鱼类是自然界最大的脊椎动物类群,物种数超过3万种,鱼类性别由GSD或ESD、或两者共同决定,是研究表型可塑性的良好模型。由于进化上的原始性,很多低等脊椎动物的性染色体在形态上并没有显著差异,有的甚至缺乏性染色体(如实验室使用的斑马鱼品系),性别决定受环境因素(如激素、温度、盐度、密度、pH值和社会互动)的影响较大(Baroiller et al., 2001; Devlin et al., 2002)。本文重点介绍温度和激素对鱼类性别可塑性的影响。

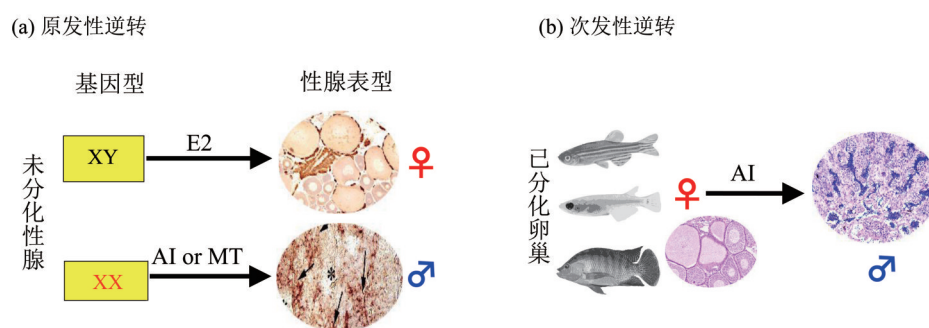
1.1 温度与性别可塑性

温度是环境因素中影响低等脊椎动物性别可塑性的一个重要因素,也是研究最为深入的方面。

红耳龟(*Trachemys scripta*)胚胎期孵化温度低(26 °C),性腺朝雄性发育;相反,胚胎期孵化温度高(32 °C),性腺则朝卵巢发育(Ge et al., 2017)。研究发现组蛋白H3第27位赖氨酸(H3K27)去甲基化酶Kdm6b在红耳龟未分化性腺中呈现温度依赖型二态性表达,Kdm6b能快速响应温度的变化。通过RNA干扰将产雄温度(MPT, male-producing temperature)胚胎Kdm6b敲低后发现,80%~87%的MPT胚胎出现雄性向雌性的性逆转(Ge et al., 2018)。在鱼类中,温度敏感期经历高温处理后,银汉鱼(*Menidia menidia*)、斑马鱼(*Danio rerio*)、日本青鳉(*Oryzias latipes*)、尼罗罗非鱼(*Oreochromis niloticus*)、黄颡鱼(*Tachysurus fulvidraco*)、半滑舌鳎(*Cynoglossus semilaevis*)、牙鲆(*Paralichthys olivaceus*)、牙汉鱼(*Odontesthes hatcheri*)、欧洲鲈鱼(*Dicentrarchus labrax*)、鲤(*Cyprinus carpio*)等鱼类的部分个体性腺也会朝精巢发育(Tabata, 1995; Sato et al., 2005; Navarro-Martín et al., 2011; Poonlaphdecha et al., 2013; Shao et al., 2014; Ribas et al., 2017; Castañeda-Cortés et al., 2019; Hattori et al., 2019; Xiong et al., 2020; Biswas et al., 2021; Geffroy et al., 2021; Yu et al., 2021)。然而,对于红鳍东方鲀(*Takifugu rubripes*)来说,低温则诱导雄性发育(Zhou et al., 2015, 2019)。DNA甲基化(DNA methylation)为DNA化学修饰的一种形式,能够在不改变DNA序列的前提下,改变遗传表现。在DNA甲基化转移酶(Dnmt, DNA methyltransferase)的作用下,在基因组CpG二核苷酸的胞嘧啶5号碳位共价键结合一个甲基基团。雌雄通路基因的DNA甲基化在温度诱导的性逆转中发生了改变,例如高温处理增加欧洲鲈鱼雌性个体雌激素合成酶芳香化酶编码基因*cyp19a1a*的DNA甲基化水平,*cyp19a1a*的表达下降,导致雌激素合成下降(Navarro-Martín et al., 2011),对于半滑舌鳎也有类似的报道(Shao et al., 2014)。重要的是,DNA甲基转移酶1(*dnmt1*)抑制剂5-azacytidine处理能诱导斑马鱼全雌性发育(Ribas et al., 2017)。但目前还未有报道某个DNA甲基化酶或去甲基化酶编码基因直接参与性别决定与分化的报道。最近在罗非鱼的研究表明,高温处理影响组蛋白赖氨酸脱甲基转移酶*kdm6bb*基因转录本的选择性剪接,产生两种转录本:tv1(不含第5内含子,有功能)和tv2(含有第5内含子,缺失功能)。高温条件下XX雌鱼中*kdm6bb*第5内含子的

外源雄激素处理能诱导鱼类未分化性腺发育为精巢, 但雄激素也是通过抑制内源雌激素的合成诱导性逆转(Bhandari et al., 2006)。因此, 一旦有性腺合成雌激素即发育为雌性, 没有雌激素合成即发育为雄性。此外, 采用TALEN和CRISPR/Cas9基因编辑技术在斑马鱼、日本青鲈和尼罗罗非鱼突变雌激素合成通路相关酶基因如 *cyp11a1*、*star2*、*cyp17a1* 和 *cyp19a1a*, 均会导致由雌向雄的性逆转(Zhou et al., 2021), 雌激素受体 *esr2a/2b* 双突变也会导致斑马鱼由雌向雄的性逆转(Lu et al., 2017), 提供了直接的遗传证据证明雌激素在鱼类雌性性别决定和卵巢分化中的重要作用。另外, 传统的观点认为, 雌雄异体的鱼类一旦性腺发育为精巢或者卵巢, 在整个生活周期中保持不变。然而, 采用法偈唑处理3月龄甚至成体雌性尼罗罗非鱼、日本青鲈、斑马鱼, 能诱导已分化卵巢逆转为有功能的精巢, 能产出可育的精子(Paul-Prasanth et al., 2013; Takatsu et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2014)。来源于卵巢生殖上皮中的一些卵原细胞(或生殖干细胞)转分化为精原细胞; 卵原细胞周围的滤泡细胞和退化的卵母细胞周围的体细胞颗粒细胞(granulosa cell)转分化为精巢组织的支持细胞(Sertoli cell); 卵巢组织的间质细胞(interstitial

cell, 雌激素生成细胞)转分化为精巢组织的莱氏细胞(Leydig cell, 雄激素生成细胞)(Paul-Prasanth et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2014)。这说明雌激素不仅对鱼类早期的性别决定与分化具有决定性作用, 而且对卵巢的终生维持也不可或缺。另外, 单独采用雌激素处理精巢已分化的雄鱼很难诱导性逆转。采用曲洛司坦(trilostane, 性类固醇通路3 β -HSD抑制剂)抑制雄激素的合成不能诱导1月龄XY尼罗罗非鱼性逆转, 但抑制雄激素合成的同时添加外源雌激素就能诱导1月龄XY尼罗罗非鱼性腺逆转为卵巢, 说明雌激素在鱼类卵巢诱导中起着重要作用, 而雄激素在精巢的维持中具有重要作用(Shi et al., 2017)。在牙鲆, 曲洛司坦联合雌激素处理精巢已分化个体导致精巢退化, 雄性通路基因下调, 雌性通路基因表达升高(Fan et al., 2019)。这种诱导已分化性腺性逆转称为次发性逆转(secondary sex reversal)(图1b)。因此, 鱼类性别可塑性与雌激素密切相关。值得一提的是, 在尼罗罗非鱼的研究发现, 雌激素单独处理YY鱼诱导性逆转率较低, 而雌激素联合曲洛司坦处理能极大地提高YY鱼的性逆转率(Li et al., 2022), 该方法在诱导小体鲟雄鱼性逆转中得到成功应用(刘佳南, 2024)。表明这是一种高效诱导雄鱼性逆转的新方法。



E2: 17 β -estradiol, 雌二醇; MT: 17 α -Methyltestosterone, 雄激素; AI: aromatase inhibitor, 芳香化酶抑制剂。

图1 雌激素和鱼类原发/次发性逆转

Fig. 1 Estrogen and primary/secondary sex reversal of fish

在鱼类, 由于第3轮基因组复制, 存在2个芳香化酶编码基因, 即 *cyp19a1a* 和 *cyp19a1b*, 两者分别在卵巢和脑中表达(Zhang et al., 2014)。通过基因编辑发现 *cyp19a1a* 突变体发生由雌向雄的性逆转, 而 *cyp19a1b* 突变体不改变性别, 说明 *cyp19a1a* 而非 *cyp19a1b* 参与鱼类性别分化和卵子发生过程。雌激素合成关键酶芳香化酶编码基因 *cyp19a1a* 的转录调控是研究的热点。在XX尼罗罗

非鱼性别决定关键时期, 转录因子 *foxl2*、*sfl* 与 *cyp19a1a* 表达于性腺相同的体细胞, *cyp19a1a* 的表达水平受到 Foxl2 和 Sfl 这两个蛋白的调控, Foxl2 可直接结合在 *cyp19a1a* 启动子上, 或与 Sfl 相互作用启动其转录, 从而升高雌激素水平, 促使性腺向卵巢分化(Wang et al., 2007)。相反, 在XY尼罗罗非鱼, Dmrt1 蛋白能直接结合到 *cyp19a1a* 的启动子抑制其转录, 下调雌激素的水

平, 性腺向精巢分化(Wang et al., 2010)。遗传学证据也证明, *foxl2*突变导致XX尼罗罗非鱼早期不表达 *cyp19a1a*, 性腺发育为精巢(Zhang et al., 2017), 而 *dmrt1* 突变激活XY尼罗罗非鱼早期 *cyp19a1a* 的表达, 性腺发育为卵巢(Dai et al., 2021)。斑马鱼 *foxl2a/2b* 突变也导致全雄性发育, 雌激素水平降低(Yang et al., 2017); 而斑马鱼和日本青鳉 *dmrt1* 的突变导致卵巢发育, 雌激素水平升高(Masuyama et al., 2012; Webster et al., 2017)。因此, 转录因子 Foxl2 和 Dmrt1 在体细胞拮抗性调控雌激素的合成决定鱼类性别。这一观点在包括黄鳝、斑马鱼、波纹唇鱼(*Cheilinus undulatus*)、牙鲆等多种鱼类中得到证实(Fan et al., 2019; Yan et al., 2021; Ji et al., 2022; Gan et al., 2023)。值得一提的是, *Foxl2* 和 *Dmrt1* 对小鼠(*Mus musculus*)性别维持也具有重要作用。在XX小鼠, 条件性敲除颗粒细胞 *Foxl2* 基因导致雄性特异性基因 *Sox9* 上调, 卵巢颗粒细胞和鞘膜细胞向精巢 Sertoli 细胞和 Leydig 细胞转分化, 雌激素水平下降, 雄激素水平上升(Uhlenhaut et al., 2009)。相反, 在XY小鼠, 条件性敲除 Sertoli 细胞 *Dmrt1* 基因能激活 *Foxl2* 的表达, Sertoli 细胞向颗粒细胞转分化, 雌激素生成(Matson et al., 2011)。表明脊椎动物性别在分化后仍具有可塑性, 这种可塑性是由转录因子 *Dmrt1* 和 *Foxl2* 终生表达来维持。此外, 性别决定主效基因(master sex determining gene)也能通过影响雌激素的合成决定鱼类性别。在XY虹鳟, 性腺发育早期表达 *foxl2* 的情况下, sdY 蛋白从细胞质转移到细胞核, 形成 sdY/Foxl2 复合物, 从而阻止 Foxl2 激活的 *cyp19a1a* 的转录(Bertho et al., 2018)。生长因子如 TGF- β 家族成员在鱼类性别决定中发挥作用, 如尼罗罗非鱼 *amhy*、日本青鳉 *gsdf*、牙鲆 *amhy* 等(Zhang et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2022; Yamaguchi et al., 2023)。在XY尼罗罗非鱼, *Amhy* 通过结合二型受体 *Amhr2*, 激活一型受体 *Alk*, 再引起 R-Smad(Smad1/5/8)的磷酸化, 进而引起 Co-Smad(smad4)的磷酸化, 从而抑制 *cyp19a1a* 的转录(Liu et al., 2022)。值得注意的是, 这些生长因子通过直接或间接抑制雌激素的合成决定性别, 因为阻断雌激素的合成或突变 *cyp19a1a* 能回救这些生长因子缺失引起的性逆转, 如尼罗罗非鱼 *amhy/cyp19a1a* 双突变体性腺最终发育为精巢(Liu et al., 2022), 这也说明他们在性别维持中不起作用。

2 鱼类生殖细胞性别可塑性

性腺由体细胞和生殖细胞组成, 性别决定包括体细胞性别决定和生殖细胞性别决定。体细胞对生殖细胞的分化有决定性作用, 反之, 生殖细胞在性别分化、维持中也发挥重要作用。两者相互影响, 共同完成性别决定与分化, 形成有功能的性腺。鱼类性别表现出高度的可塑性, 可能与存在生殖干细胞相关。生殖干细胞作为成体干细胞的一种, 具有自我更新能力和分化的能力, 在维持自身数量的同时, 不断产生分化的精/卵原细胞, 经过减数分裂形成配子。众所周知, 与哺乳动物不同, 多数鱼类周而复始地产生大量的卵子, 这很可能是因为卵巢中存在卵原干细胞和不断进行有丝分裂的卵原细胞(Nakamura et al., 2010)。日本科学家将卵原细胞分为单个卵原细胞Gs(干细胞, 表达 *nanos2*)、有丝分裂的卵原细胞(*gcys mitotic*)和减数分裂的卵原细胞(*gcys meiotic*)。

2.1 生殖细胞性别受体细胞环境影响

传统的观点认为“生殖细胞的命运主要依赖于其所处的体细胞环境, 而不是取决于自身的遗传信息”。生殖细胞移植实验提供了直接的证据证明鱼类生殖细胞具有高度的可塑性, 且分化的方向主要受其所处的体细胞环境决定。移植XY日本青鳉体细胞进入XX胚胎中能够诱导XX胚胎性腺雄性化并起始精子发生(Shinomiya et al., 2002)。通过建立生殖细胞 GFP 标记的虹鳟模型, 利用流式细胞仪筛选出精巢的生殖细胞, 将其移植到卵巢中进行卵子发生产生卵子, 移植到精巢中进行精子发生产生精子(Okutsu et al., 2006)。同样, 成熟卵巢来源的生殖细胞能够定植在雄性或雌性幼鱼的生殖嵴并根据体细胞环境分化形成精子或者卵子(Yoshizaki et al., 2010)。在斑马鱼和金鱼(*Carassius auratus*)中也得到类似的结果(Wong et al., 2011; Goto et al., 2012)。这些研究表明: 精原细胞和卵原细胞/卵原干细胞能转分化为相反的细胞类型, 具有很强的可塑性。鱼类性腺即使在成年期仍然保留有很大程度的可塑性, 这可能是由于性腺中存在表达 *nanos2* 的生殖干细胞(单个卵原细胞)(Nakamura et al., 2010)。基于生殖细胞可塑性的机理, 开发了水产遗传育种中的借腹生子技术, 将虹鳟鱼精原细胞移植到三倍体不育樱鳊(*Oncorhynchus masou*)受体, 产出了虹鳟鱼的后代(Okutsu et al., 2007)。分离纯化基因编辑后的稀有鮡鲫精原干细胞植入到剔除内源生殖细胞的斑马

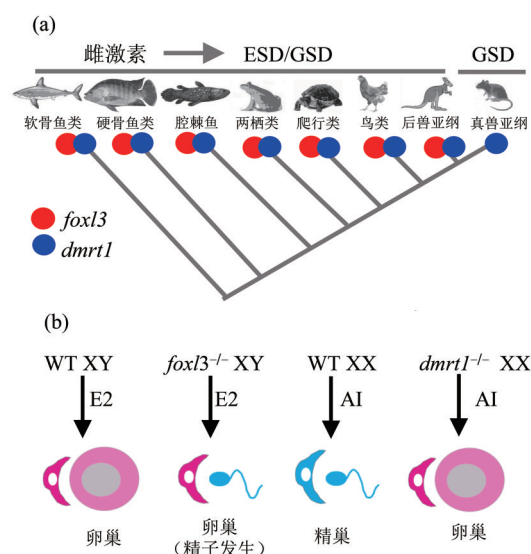
鱼鱼苗性腺中, 产出稀有鮡鲫的基因编辑配子及其后代鱼苗, 实现了跨亚物种基因编辑配子的“借腹生殖”(Zhang et al., 2022)。该技术在未来水产育种中有巨大的应用前景, 特别是种质资源保存、珍稀濒危鱼类保护、苗种高效繁育、性控育种等方面。

自从20世纪90年代哺乳动物和小鼠的性别决定主效基因 SRY/Sry 被发现以来(Koopman et al., 1990; Sinclair et al., 1990), 哺乳类性别决定的分子机制研究取得了重要进展。近年来, 随着三代测序技术(PacBio、Nanopore 和 Hi-C)和基因编辑的不断进步, 科学家们鉴定了100多种脊椎动物的性别决定基因(Pan et al., 2021; Kitano et al., 2024)。值得注意的是, 尽管脊椎动物的性别决定基因多种多样, 但在性腺发育过程中, 最先表现出性别差异(分子差异)的都是体细胞, 这些性别决定基因主要表达于性腺体细胞, 而非生殖细胞。如, 有72种硬骨鱼类的性别决定基因属于TGF- β 超家族成员(*amhy*、*amhr2y*、*gsdfy*、*gdf6y*、*bmpr1bby*) (Kitano et al., 2024), 它们主要表达在性腺体细胞。在尼罗罗非鱼, *amhy*表达于性腺体细胞, 突变*amhy*导致XY尼罗罗非鱼性逆转为雌鱼, 且能产出正常的卵子(Li et al., 2015)。除性别决定基因外, 体细胞表达的性别决定通路下游基因也能决定生殖细胞分化的方向。在日本青鲷和尼罗罗非鱼中, *gsdf*在生殖细胞周围的体细胞中表达, 但雄性显著高于雌性, *gsdf*突变导致XY鱼性逆转为雌鱼(Imai et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2016; Jiang et al., 2016)。因此, 这些结果也都支持“生殖细胞的命运主要受其所处的体细胞环境决定”这一主流观点。然而, 即使在哺乳类, 体细胞表达的性别决定信号通过何种机制调控生殖细胞分化为精子或卵子仍知之甚少。无脊椎动物果蝇中的研究表明雄性体细胞特异表达JAK/STAT配体, 从而激活生殖细胞JAK/STAT信号通路, 从而决定生殖细胞命运(Wawersik et al., 2005)。最近, 在一种短命的非洲鲈鱼(绿松石鲈鱼, *Nothobranchius furzeri*)中的研究表明, 体细胞表达的性别决定基因*gdf6y*通过抑制生殖细胞*foxl3*和*id*的表达从而决定雄性性别(Richter et al., 2023)。

2.2 生殖细胞性别的自主决定

在无脊椎动物, 果蝇原始生殖细胞表达的*sxl*是决定其向卵子还是精子发生的关键基因(Hashiyama et al., 2011)。近年来由于基因编辑技

术的快速发展, 脊椎动物性别决定的研究取得了前所未有的新突破, 发现在特定条件下生殖细胞的命运可以自主决定, 不受体细胞环境的影响。例如, *foxl3*是*foxl2*的同源基因, *foxl3*特异表达于日本青鲷和尼罗罗非鱼卵巢卵原细胞, *foxl3*突变导致在卵巢环境进行精子发生, 并产生了可育的精子(Nishimura et al., 2015; Dai et al., 2021)。这挑战了传统的生殖细胞性别取决于体细胞环境的观点, 表明*foxl3*是鱼类雌性生殖细胞性别自主决定的关键因子。在实验室品系的斑马鱼中, *foxl3*(也叫*foxl2l1*)突变导致全部个体性腺发育为精巢(Liu et al., 2022)。系统演化分析表明*foxl3*存在于除人和小鼠等真兽亚纲以外的所有脊椎动物基因组中(Geraldo et al., 2013)(图2a)。有趣的是, 人和真兽亚纲哺乳动物在母体的子宫内发育, 其性别几乎不受雌激素的影响, 而真兽亚纲以外的脊椎动物的性别都不同程度受到雌激素的影响, 暗示雌激素在卵巢分化的作用和*foxl3*的存在密切相关。重要的是, 无论XX还是XY尼罗罗非鱼和XX日本青鲷*foxl3*突变体, 添加外源雌激素也不能诱导XY或XX生殖细胞进入卵子发生(Nishimura et al., 2015; Dai et al., 2021), 表明*foxl3*是雌激素诱导鱼类生殖细胞进入卵子发生的下游必需基因(图2b)。



(a) *foxl3* 在除真兽亚纲以外的脊椎动物存在, 而 *dmrt1* 存在于所有脊椎动物; (b) 雌激素处理不能诱导 *foxl3* 缺失的 XY 个体性逆转, 同样, 阻断雌激素不能诱导 *dmrt1* 缺失的 XX 个体性逆转。

图2 *foxl3* 和 *dmrt1* 是响应雌激素诱导性别分化的关键基因
Fig. 2 *foxl3* and *dmrt1* are key genes in response to estrogen-induced sex differentiation

雌、雄性别决定通路基因之间的拮抗作用是性别可塑性的基础, 当雌性通路某一基因缺失时, 对应的雄性通路基因随之发挥作用, 反之亦然。尼罗罗非鱼中的研究发现, *foxl3* 缺失的生殖细胞激活了 *dmrt1* 的表达, 突变 *dmrt1* 能够回救 *foxl3* 缺失引起的生殖细胞性逆转, 这表明 *dmrt1* 在生殖细胞的升高从而拮抗雌激素环境的诱导 (Dai et al., 2021)。揭示了生殖细胞的可塑性依赖 *dmrt1* 和 *foxl3* 的同时存在, 缺失任何一个都不能通过改变雌激素水平进行回救。另外, *dmrt1* 突变的斑马鱼、日本青鳉和尼罗罗非鱼, 性腺发育为卵巢 (Masuyama et al., 2012; Jiang et al., 2016; Webster et al., 2017), 而法倔啞处理的 *dmrt1* 单突变体、*dmrt1/cyp19a1a* 双突变体、*dmrt1/cyp19a1a/cyp19a1b* 三突变体的斑马鱼和尼罗罗非鱼性腺仍然发育为卵巢, 但卵母细胞不能进入卵黄发生 (Wu et al., 2020; Qi et al., 2024)。同样, 在金钱鱼 (*Scatophagus argus*), XX 个体缺乏正常的 *dmrt1* 拷贝基因, 抑制雌激素的合成也不能诱导 XX 个体发生性逆转 (Mustapha et al., 2021)。在红耳龟, 当 *Dmrt1* 敲降后, 雄性温度处理下也不能诱导精巢发育 (Ge et al., 2017)。同样, 在鸡中的研究表明,

Dmrt1 杂合突变 ($ZZ^{Dmrt1+/-}$) 导致 ZZ 个体性腺发育为卵巢, 而法倔啞处理能够将正常 ZW 个体性腺逆转为精巢, 但不能将缺少功能性 *Dmrt1* 拷贝的 Z^{Dmrt1} -W 个体性腺回救为精巢 (Ioannidis et al., 2021)。然而, *dmrt1/foxl2* 双突变的尼罗罗非鱼性腺发育为缺失生殖细胞的精巢 (Qi et al., 2024)。因此, *dmrt1* 在体细胞和生殖细胞分别和 *foxl2*、*foxl3* 拮抗从而决定尼罗罗非鱼性别。在斑马鱼中, 生殖细胞表达的 *fancl*、*bmp15*、*nobox*、*figla*、*sycp3* 缺失导致全部发育为雄性 (Rodríguez-Mari et al., 2010; Dranow et al., 2016; Qin et al., 2018, 2022; Pan et al., 2022)。而 *dmrt1/nobox*、*dmrt1/figla*、*dmrt1/bmp15* 双突变性腺发育为卵巢 (Romano et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2023)。这也说明 *dmrt1* 缺失的遗传背景下, 这些雌性生殖细胞发育关键基因不是必需的。但 *dmrt1/fancl* 双突变性腺为不发育的精巢, 缺失生殖细胞, 提出了 *dmrt1* 抑制 *fancl* 的表达从而决定斑马鱼雄性性别的观点 (Ruan et al., 2024)。上述研究表明: ① 卵母细胞可以不依赖于雌激素而存在; ② *dmrt1* 是雄性生殖细胞性别决定的关键因子 (图 3)。

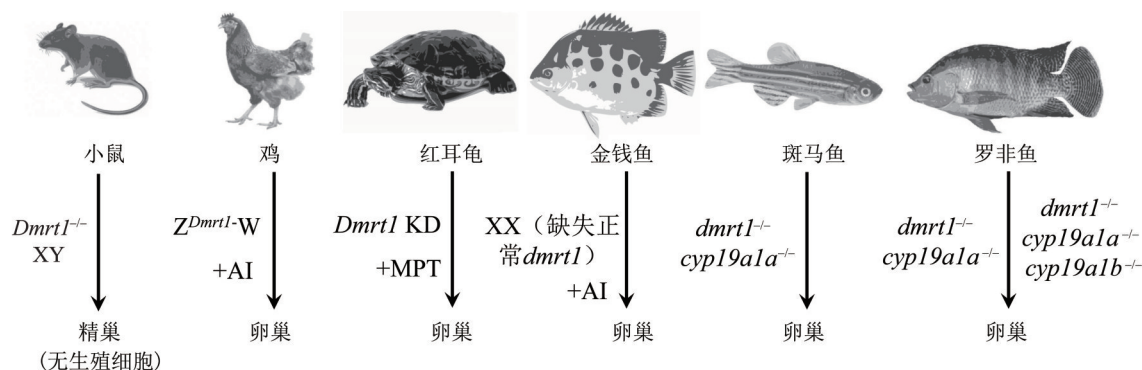


图 3 *Dmrt1* 是脊椎动物精巢发育的关键基因

Fig. 3 *Dmrt1* is the key gene for testis development in vertebrates

2.3 雌雄生殖细胞减数分裂起始与性别决定

雌、雄生殖细胞减数分裂起始时间的差异现象在脊椎动物普遍存在, 雌性通常早于雄性。哺乳动物生殖细胞进入减数分裂的时间决定了性腺是向精巢或卵巢方向发育。如果减数分裂发生在胚胎期, 生殖细胞朝卵子发育; 减数分裂推迟到出生后, 生殖细胞朝精子发育, 而决定减数分裂的关键因子为视黄酸 (RA, retinoic acid)。在雌性, 早期性腺表达 RA 合成酶, 诱导 *Stra8* 的表达, 启动减数分裂; 而在雄性, RA 降解酶 *Cyp26b1* 表达,

降解 RA 的合成, 减数分裂推迟到出生后。同时条件性敲除生殖细胞表达的 *Smad4* 和 RA 的靶基因 *Stra8* 导致在小鼠卵巢环境中生殖细胞的雄性化 (Wu et al., 2016)。虽然 *Stra8* 在大多数鱼类丢失 (Dong et al., 2013), 但鱼类减数分裂的调控特别是其在性别分化中的作用仍有待阐明。在日本青鳉, 突变 RA 降解酶编码基因 *cyp26a1* 导致 XY 性腺出现卵母细胞 (Adolfi et al., 2021), 表明 RA 同样在生殖细胞性别分化中发挥重要作用。Rec8 在哺乳动物生殖细胞减数分裂中具有重要作用

(Koubova et al., 2014)。由于鱼类第 3 轮基因组复制, 鱼类普遍存在两个 *rec8* 基因, 即 *rec8a* 和 *rec8b*。最近在日本青鳉中的研究表明, 突变减数分裂起始的关键基因 *rec8a* 导致 XX 雌鱼生殖细胞雄性化, 在卵巢环境进入精子发生, 而不影响 XY 雄鱼精子发生, 这表明鱼类雌雄生殖细胞减数分裂是由特定的基因控制的(Kikuchi et al., 2020)。这与 *foxl3* 缺失的表型相似, 且 Foxl3 蛋白能直接结合到 *rec8a* 的启动子调控其转录(Kikuchi et al., 2019)。此外, 在小鼠中, *Fbxo47* 特异性表达于精母细胞中, 且突变 *Fbxo47* 导致睾丸中联合复合体形成异常, 减数分裂停滞, 精细胞形成失败, 雄性小鼠不育(Tanno et al., 2022)。日本青鳉 *fbxo47* 突变导致在卵巢中进行精子发生, 表达精细胞标记基因, 且 Foxl3 能直接结合到 *fbxo47* 启动子(Kikuchi et al., 2020)。这些研究表明 *foxl3* 通过调控减数分裂相关基因 *rec8a* 和 *fbxo47* 影响生殖细胞的性别决定。然而, *rec8a* 和 *fbxo47* 在其他鱼类是否影响生殖细胞的命运还有待研究。最近的研究表明, 条件性删除小鼠 *Dmrt1* 导致精原细胞提前起始减数分裂进入精母细胞, 因此, *Dmrt1* 通过抑制 *Stra8*、激活精原细胞分化因子 *Sohlh1* 的表达决定了雄性生殖细胞是选择进入有丝分裂还是精原细胞分化或减数分裂(Matson et al., 2010)。*dmrt1* 和 *foxl3* 在鱼类拮抗性决定生殖细胞的命运, 因此, *dmrt1* 和 *foxl3* 是否通过抑制减数分裂相关基因决定向精巢发育值得深入研究。

2.4 生殖细胞对性别的维持作用

生殖细胞对性腺体细胞性别分化与维持同样存在重要作用。通过敲降生殖细胞必需因子 *dnd* 或药物(busulfan, 白消安)处理去除斑马鱼幼鱼性腺生殖细胞将导致其发育为雄性(Slanchev et al., 2005)。卵母细胞对于成年斑马鱼雌性性别维持也是必要的, 通过 NTR-Mtz 系统去除成年雌性斑马鱼卵巢中卵母细胞, 但保留生殖干细胞会导致其性逆转为可育的雄性, 说明生殖细胞分泌的因子对维持体细胞性别具有重要作用。进一步的研究发现, 缺失卵母细胞中产生的因子 *bmp15* 后, 斑马鱼性腺首先仍发育为含有卵母细胞的精卵巢。但在后续分化过程中, 卵母细胞逐步凋亡, 性腺转分化为精巢。卵母细胞产生的 *bmp15* 可能通过旁分泌的方式进入颗粒细胞, 结合颗粒细胞中表达的 *bmp* 受体调节颗粒细胞中雌激素合成酶 *cyp19a1a* 表达, 保证颗粒细胞存活, 维持雌性发

育的作用(Dranow et al., 2016)。此外, 敲降生殖细胞迁移关键基因 *cxcr4* 导致日本青鳉性腺生殖细胞缺失, 缺失生殖细胞的日本青鳉无论其基因型为 XX 或 XY 型, 都具有较高的血清雄激素和较低的血清雌激素水平。最终缺失生殖细胞的性腺都将发育为表达雄性特异基因 *cyp11c1* 和 *dmrt1* 的空管状精巢(Kurokawa et al., 2007)。此外, XY 日本青鳉 *amhr2* 和 *gsdf* 突变体由雄向雌的性逆转是由于过度增殖的生殖细胞导致的(Morinaga et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2016)。通过基因编辑的方法, 将 XX 日本青鳉中生殖细胞限制在不同发育阶段, 具体来说, 包括 *figla* 突变体中对应的卵泡发生前的生殖细胞; *meioC* 突变体中对应的减数分裂前生殖细胞以及 *dazl* 突变体中对应的较原始的 PGCs 样生殖细胞。发现这些阶段的生殖细胞都有内在的雌性化作用, 能够诱导 XX 卵巢体细胞表达雌性特异基因, 并产生卵巢腔结构(Nishimura et al., 2018)。这些证据证实, 日本青鳉生殖细胞有内在的雌性化作用, 而不受其所处的配子发生阶段的影响。然而, 并不是所有硬骨鱼类雌性性腺分化都依赖于生殖细胞的存在。泥鳅(*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)、金鱼、大西洋鲑(*Salmo salar*)和绿松石鲱鱼中研究表明, 去除生殖细胞后, 性别分化过程和第二性征发育不受影响(Fujimoto et al., 2010; Goto et al., 2012; Wargelius et al., 2016; Abe et al., 2024)。这些结果表明, 在硬骨鱼类中, 至少存在两种卵巢分化模式。在一种模式中, 卵巢体细胞的分化依赖生殖细胞提供的信号; 而另一种模式中, 卵巢体细胞不依赖于生殖细胞, 自主分化形成雌性特异细胞表达并维持雌性特异基因。

3 展 望

由于许多养殖鱼类存在生长的性二态现象, 例如罗非鱼、黄颡鱼、乌鳢(*Channa argus*)等鱼类雄性比雌性生长快, 而半滑舌鳎、南方鲇等鱼类雌性比雄性生长快。此外, 某些鱼的性腺或雌性配子有重要的经济价值, 如鲟鱼的卵子(即鱼子酱)、红鳍东方鲀的精巢等。因此, 国内外在水产养殖业中均在研究和发展鱼类性别控制(sex control)技术, 开展单性化育种和养殖。尽管近年来基因组测序、重测序、基因编辑等技术的发展, 鱼类性别可塑性分子机制的研究取得了重要进展, 增进了我们对鱼类性别决定及性别可塑性的认识, 也在水产养殖中开发了性逆转诱导技术及分子标记

辅助育种技术, 如建立了全雌鳊(Liu et al, 2021)、南方鲇生产技术, 全雄罗非鱼、黄颡鱼生产技术。但仍有一些问题亟待阐明, 例如: ① TGF- β 信号通路成员在鱼类性别决定中具有普适性, 广泛招募用于性别决定, 其激活的下游信号通路是什么? ② 为什么鱼类的性别受雌激素调控? 雌激素决定雌性性别的靶基因是什么? ③ 体细胞通过何种机制影响生殖细胞的性别决定? ④ *foxl3* 和 *dmrt1* 决

定鱼类生殖细胞性别的靶基因是什么? ⑤ 表观遗传调控鱼类性别可塑性的分子机制是什么? 特别是 DNA 甲基化、非编码 RNA 如 microRNA 和 lncRNA 是否参与鱼类性别可塑性? 这些问题的阐明将有助于我们更好地理解脊椎动物性别可塑性的分子机制, 也有助于我们开发新的性别控制方法实现养殖鱼类性控育种, 提高水产养殖的效益。

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