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4种马尾藻附生菌群结构比较研究

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摘要: 海黍子(*Sargassum muticum*, SM)、鼠尾藻(*Sargassum thunbergii*, ST)、铜藻(*Sargassum horneri*, SH)和海蒿子(*Sargassum pallidum*, SP)是我国黄渤海常见的大型马尾藻属海藻, 研究以清子湾潮间带4种马尾藻为研究对象, 自然海水(W)作为对照, 利用16S rRNA基因扩增子高通量测序技术比较4种马尾藻类附生菌群的结构。研究结果表明, ST附生菌群多样性和物种丰富度最高, SH最低。NMDS(无度量多维标定法)和PERMANOVA分析表明4种马尾藻附生菌的群落结构与海水中微生物群落结构存在显著性差异($P<0.05$), 而不同马尾藻之间差异却不显著。LEfse分析共识别出18个Biomarkers, 其中W、SH、SM和ST样本分别有9、4、3和2个。变形菌门(Proteobacteria)、厚壁菌门(Firmicutes)和拟杆菌门(Bacteroidota)为4种马尾藻附生菌群的主要优势菌门, 相对丰度为80.39%—94.54%; 基于属水平和相对丰度前10ASVs的群落结构组成特征表明, 4种马尾藻附生菌群结构组成存在明显差异, 呈现出宿主特异性。利用Tax4Fun软件对4种马尾藻类附生菌群生态功能进行预测, 在一级功能水平上, 新陈代谢(Metabolism)、遗传信息处理(Genetic Information Processing)为主要功能; 在二级功能水平上, 共注释到44个二级代谢通路, 其中碳水化合物代谢(Carbohydrate metabolism)相对丰度最高。研究通过比较4种马尾藻附生菌群结构多样性, 为进一步深入了解马尾藻属的生态作用提供理论依据。

关键词: 附生菌群; 高通量测序; 多样性; 功能预测; 马尾藻

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马尾藻属(*Sargassum*)是隶属于棕色藻门Ochromyces、褐藻纲Phaeophyceae、墨角藻目Fucales、马尾藻科Sargassaceae的一类大型底栖海藻, 广泛分布于世界范围内温带和热带海域。马尾藻属种类繁多, 据AlgaeBase网站记录, 全球种类超过900种(包括亚种、变种和变型)。我国海域报道了131种马尾藻, 主要分布于黄海、东海和南海, 其物种多样性和地理分布呈现出“北少南多”的特点^[1]。其中, 我国黄海海域潮间带常见的马尾藻主要有鼠尾藻(*Sargassum thunbergii*)、海黍子(*S. muticum*)、海蒿子(*S. pallidum*)和铜藻(*S. horneri*)。

马尾藻作为海藻场的重要支撑种, 构建了独特的马尾藻场生境系统, 不仅为鱼类等海洋动物提供

了理想的栖息地、庇护所和索饵场, 维持较高的海洋生物多样性, 还具有营养盐调控(如吸收氮、磷和碳等生源要素)的生态功能, 对海洋生态系统的平衡和稳定发挥着重要作用^[2, 3]。此外, 马尾藻是一类具有极大开发价值的经济藻类, 藻体本身或提取物是食品、医药、工业和饲料等行业的重要原料^[4-6]。近年来, 在全球气候变化、海洋酸化等自然和人为多重因素影响下, 马尾藻资源面临一定程度的威胁, 开展马尾藻生态系统相关的基础研究、构建马尾藻资源修复技术及其生态工程应用是目前研究的热点^[2, 7-10]。

但是, 目前对于马尾藻的基础生态研究主要从宏观层面入手, 鲜有涉及微观生态层面。大型

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海藻及其表面附着的微生物形成了紧密的互利共生或者拮抗作用, 海藻的健康生长、代谢功能和物质循环等离不开微生物的作用, 而藻体周围形成的“藻际微环境”又为微生物提供了附着基质和营养供给^[11, 12]。如果缺乏考虑与藻际微生物的相互作用, 大型海藻在海洋生态系统中无法发挥最佳功能^[13]。研究表明, 大型海藻的种类、海藻的不同部位、生活史的不同阶段和健康状态等均会影响附着微生物的组成与结构, 呈现出宿主特异性(Host-specific)^[14–17]。

随着国家对马尾藻海藻场构建的重视, 以及微生物高通量测序技术的不断进步, 马尾藻附生菌群的相关研究也在逐步深入开展^[18–24], 而目前大部分的研究主要集中在某一种马尾藻或者大空间尺度不同种类马尾藻附生菌群结构的比较, 鲜有对同一生态位不同马尾藻之间附生菌群多样性的比较研究。基于前期课题组对靖子湾潮间带海藻资源调查结果, 我们发现该区域生长有黄海海域分布的4种优势马尾藻, 包括铜藻、海蒿子、海黍子和鼠尾藻, 4种近缘藻类生态位重叠, 其附生菌群是否存在差异有待于研究。本研究利用高通量测序对4种马尾藻的附生菌群多样性、群落结构组成和生态功能展开分析, 旨在为深入了解马尾藻的生态作用提供理论依据。

1 材料与方法

1.1 样本采集

2023年3月3日, 在山东省靖子湾潮间带($37^{\circ}33'19''N, 122^{\circ}7'10''E$)采集海黍子(*S. muticum*, 缩写为SM)、海蒿子(*S. pallidum*, SP)、鼠尾藻(*S. thunbergii*, ST)和铜藻(*S. horneri*, SH)4种马尾藻, 在采集过程中保持马尾藻藻体结构的完整性, 包括固着器、主枝、叶和气囊。藻体经无菌海水冲洗, 以去除表面游离微生物, 用无菌棉签擦拭藻体表面获取大型藻类附生菌群。同时, 采集海藻周围海水(W)1000 mL用于实验对照, 海水经直径为0.22 μm的微孔滤膜抽滤, 获得海水微生物样本。本研究中藻类和海水样本1式3份, 所有样本经液氮速冻后置于-80°C超低温冰箱保存。

1.2 DNA提取、16S rRNA基因扩增和高通量测序

使用CTAB法(Cetyltrimethylammonium Bromide)提取4种马尾藻和海水样本的基因组DNA。使用细菌通用引物338F (5'-ACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG-3')和806R (5'-GGACTTACHVGGGTWTCTAAT-3')扩增细菌16S rRNA基因V3—V4高变区域(Hypervariable Regions)。扩增体系为30 μL, 包

括15 μL的Phusion® High-Fidelity PCR Master Mix (New England Biolabs)、0.25 μL正向和反向引物(0.2 μmol/L)、10 μL的基因组DNA模板(1 ng/μL)和4.5 μL的ddH₂O。PCR扩增条件为: 98°C预变性1min; 98°C变性10s, 50°C退火30s, 72°C延伸30s, 共30个循环; 最后72°C延伸5min。PCR产物经2%琼脂糖凝胶电泳检测合格后使用TianGen通用型DNA纯化回收试剂盒回收产物。使用NEB Next® Ultra™ II FS DNA Library Prep Kit建库试剂盒(New England Biolabs)构建文库, 经过Qubit和Q-PCR定量和检测合格后采用北京诺禾致源科技股份有限公司的NovaSeq6000测序平台进行PE250测序。

在测序结束后, 截去Barcode序列和引物序列后使用FLASH软件(V. 1.2.11)进行双端序列拼接^[25]。经flasp软件(V. 0.23.1)进行数据质控后^[26], 序列与Sliva物种注释数据库对比检测去除嵌合体序列, 获得有效数据(Effective Tags)。使用QIIME2软件(V. QIIME2-202006)中的DADA2模块对有效数据序列进行降噪, 并过滤掉丰度小于5的序列, 获得ASVs (Amplicon Sequence Variants, 扩增序列变异)及特征表^[27]。使用QIIME2软件中的classify-sklearn模块将得到的ASVs与Sliva 138.1数据库比对得到每个ASV的物种注释信息, 并将确定为叶绿体(Chloroplasts)、线粒体(Mitochondria)和真核生物(Eukaryotes)的序列删除。各样本数据经均一化处理后用于后续分析。

1.3 测序数据处理

本研究利用QIIME2计算马尾藻附生菌群的α多样性指数(包括Shannon指数和Chao1指数)。利用R软件(V. 2.15.3)进行β多样性数据分析, 基于Bray-Curtis距离矩阵进行无度量多维标定法分析(Non-Metric Multi-Dimensional Scaling, NMDS), 对4种马尾藻附生菌群结构差异可视化, 并通过置换多元方差分析(Permutational multivariate analysis of variance, PERMANOVA)分析组间群落结构差异性是否显著。4种马尾藻组间微生物显著差异物种由LEfSe软件完成, LDA Score阈值默认为4.0^[28]; 并通过MetaStat方法进一步分析不同马尾藻组间在科水平上的物种显著性差异。利用Tax4Fun软件对马尾藻附生菌群进行功能预测。微生物群落Venn图、相对丰度环状图和NMDS分析图在微科盟-生科云在线平台(<https://www.bioincloud.tech/>)绘制。

2 结果

2.1 四种马尾藻附生菌群结构多样性分析

利用16S rRNA高通量测序技术, 4种马尾藻和

对照组海水的15个样本共获得1925625条序列, 经过拼接、质控、过滤嵌合体序列之后获得1672824条高质量序列, 每个样本有效序列数目为 111521.6 ± 15935.17 。各样本的测序覆盖度均超过99.50%, 说明测序深度能够很大程度上反映各样本微生物的真实情况。经过物种注释, 15个样本共获得8793ASVs, 其中对照组海水样本ASVs总数目和特有ASVs均最多, 4种马尾藻中ST样本ASVs数目最多, SH样本最少(图 1c)。微生物群落的多样性和物种丰富度通过Shannon指数和Chao1指数来表征(图 1a—b)。海水样本微生物群落多样性和丰富度明显高于4种马尾藻, SH和SM样本的Shannon指数均显著小于ST ($P < 0.05$), SP和ST样本的Chao1指数显著大于SH ($P < 0.05$), 说明SH样本的微生物群落多样性和丰度均最低。

基于Bray-Curtis距离对马尾藻样本开展NMDS分析, 结果显示除SH样本分布比较离散外, 其他种类样本明显聚集, 同时马尾藻样本与海水样本距离较远, 说明马尾藻附生菌群与海水游离菌群存在明显差异(图 1d)。PERMANOVA分析进一步比较4种马尾藻组间微生物群落结构差异性是否显著, 结果显示不同组间P值均大于0.05, 说明组间微生物群

落不存在显著性差异($P > 0.05$)。

2.2 四种马尾藻群落结构组成

通过与Sliva数据库对比和物种注释, 马尾藻和海水样本共检测出58个门、123个纲、311个目、513个科和1015个属的微生物种类。在门水平上, 4种马尾藻和海水样本微生物群落结构组成相似, 变形菌门(Proteobacteria)、厚壁菌门(Firmicutes)和拟杆菌门(Bacteroidota)为主要优势菌门, 相对丰度为80.39%—94.54% (图 2a)。蓝细菌门(Cyanobacteria)、放线菌门(Actinobacteriota)、弯曲杆菌门(Campylobacterota)、疣微菌门(Verrucomicrobiota)、酸杆菌门(Acidobacteriota)和泉古菌门(Crenarchaeota)在部分样本中相对丰度>1%。酸杆菌门、绿湾菌门(Chloroflexi)和泉古菌门在海水样本中富集, 相对丰度分别为2.20%、0.80%和1.74%, 而SM和SP样本没有检测出酸杆菌门和泉古菌门, SP和SH没有检测出绿湾菌门, 相对丰度均为0。

在属水平上, 4种马尾藻和海水样本微生物群落结构组成存在明显差异, 呈现出宿主特异性(图 2b)。*Yoonia-Loktanella*(2.46%—12.10%)、*Rikenellaceae_RC9_gut_group*(2.54%—7.02%)和*UCG-005*(2.84%—7.96%)为4种马尾藻样本优势菌属。不同马尾藻绝

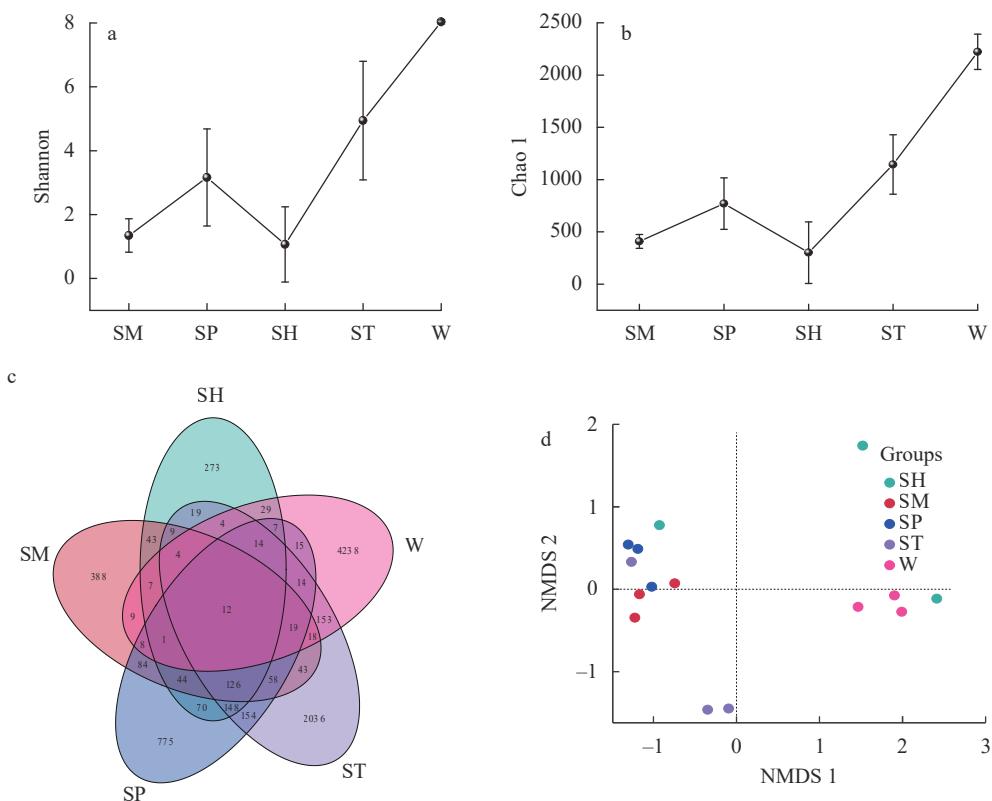


图1 四种马尾藻附生菌群 α 多样性(a—b), 韦恩图(c)及基于Bray-Curtis距离的NMDS分析(d)

Fig. 1 Alpha diversity indices (a-b), Venn diagram (c) of epiphytic microbial community on four gulfweeds and NMDS analysis based on Bray-Curtis distances (d)

对优势菌属存在差异,例如:*Yoonia-Loktanella*为SM和SH样本绝对优势菌属,相对丰度分别为12.10%和11.71%;SP和ST样本的绝对优势菌属分别为*UCG-005*(7.96%)和*Rikenellaceae_RC9_gut_group*(6.63%)。此外,某些菌属呈现出宿主特异性,*Acaryochloris_MBIC11017*和气微菌属(*Aeromicrobium*)为SM和SP样本特有菌属,*Clade_Ia*(SAR11)为SH和W样本特有菌属,相对丰度高达10.31%和13.42%;寡养单胞菌属(*Stenotrophomonas*)为ST样本特有菌属(2.65%)。

为了进一步探究不同种类马尾藻附生菌群的结构组成,选择相对丰度前10的ASVs进行分析(表1)。4种马尾藻样本相对丰度前10ASVs在物种间缺乏普遍性,呈现出一定的宿主特异性。除了ASV7在SM、SP和ST样本中的相对丰度均为前10外,其他ASVs基本为宿主特有。基于科水平组成上也存在明显差异,例如:SM样本相对丰度前10ASVs主要隶属于红杆菌科(Rhodobacteraceae)、黄杆菌科(Flavobacteriaceae)、根瘤菌科(Rhizobiaceae)等,而红杆菌科、*Clade_I*、硫发菌科(Thiotrichaceae)等在SH样本中富集。

2.3 组间差异性分析

为了进一步揭示4种马尾藻样本微生物群落结构组成差异,利用LEfSe统计具有显著性差异的生物标志物(Biomarkers;图3)。本研究共识别出18个Biomarkers,其中W、SH、SM和ST样本分别有9、

4、3和2个Biomarkers。海水中游离菌群结构与马尾藻附生菌群结构存在明显差异,导致海水样本的Biomarkers数量最多。SH样本中富含Peptostreptococcales-Tissierellales和疣微菌纲Verrucomicrobiae(疣微菌目Verrucomicrobiales和红豆杉科Rubritaceae);SM样本中的蓝细菌纲Cyanobacteriia(蓝细菌目Cyanobacteriales和异球藻科Xenococceaceae)相对丰度显著高于其他样本组;而ST样本富含颗粒状球菌科(Granulosicoccaceae)。基于科水平的MetaStat分析显示4种马尾藻样本组间微生物群落差异物种主要集中在SM与其他3种马尾藻样本,SM-SH、SM-SP和SM-ST分别有15个、29个和28个科的物种相对丰度存在显著性差异($P<0.05$)。

2.4 功能预测

为了探究马尾藻藻际微生物潜在的生态功能,本研究利用Tax4Fun软件进行功能预测。在一级功能水平上,4种马尾藻样本共涉及6类生物代谢通路,主要包括代谢(Metabolism, 相对丰度为45.47%—46.84%)、遗传信息处理(Genetic information processing, 21.47%—23.86%)、环境信息处理(Environmental information processing, 11.82%—13.76%)和细胞过程(Cellular processes, 7.63%—8.28%)。代谢在所有样本中为最主要功能,其次为遗传信息处理。此外,4种马尾藻样本间在一级功能水平预测的基因丰度没有显著性差异($P>0.05$)。在二级功能

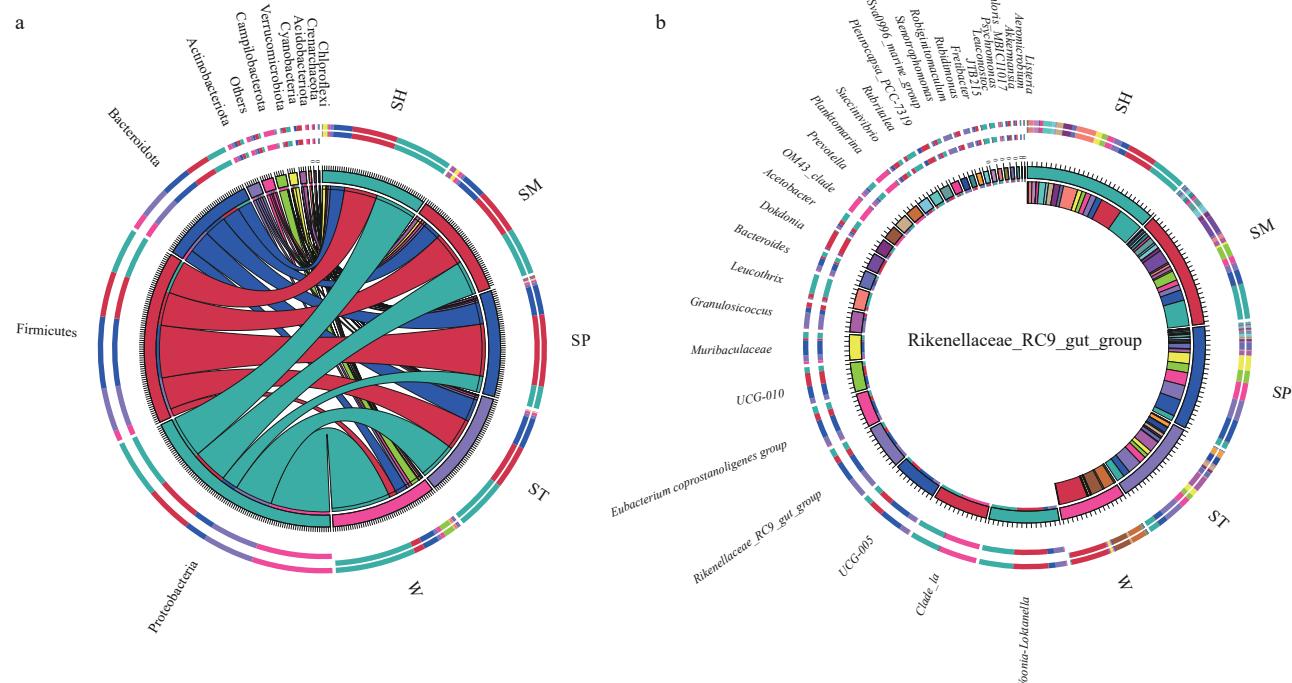


图2 基于门(a)和属(b)水平的微生物群落结构组成

Fig. 2 The composition of the microbial community at the level of phylum (a) and genus (b)

水平上, 共注释到44个二级代谢通路(图4)。碳水化合物代谢(Carbohydrate metabolism)在所有样本组中相对丰度均为最高, 达到10.71%—11.13%。此外, 膜转运(Membrane transport)、氨基酸代谢(Amino acid metabolism)、复制和修复(Replication and repair)也为主要功能。在二级代谢通路中, SM-SP、SM-SH和SM-ST分别有8个、4个和3个生物代谢通路存在显著性差异($P<0.05$)。

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表1 四种马尾藻样本相对丰度前10的ASVs及其分类关系

Tab. 1 Abundance percentage and taxonomic affiliations of the 10 most abundant ASVs of four gulfweed sample groups

| 样本组 Sample group | ASV | 相对丰度 Relative abundance (%) | 门 Phylum | 纲 Class | 目 Order | 科 Family |
|---------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| SM | ASV7 | 8.04 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV24 | 6.41 | Bacteroidota | Bacteroidia | Flavobacteriales | Flavobacteriaceae |
| | ASV12 | 4.17 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV25 | 2.81 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV14 | 2.09 | Cyanobacteria | Cyanobacteriia | Cyanobacterales | Xenococcaceae |
| | ASV28 | 2.09 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Aeromonadales | Succinivibrionaceae |
| | ASV41 | 1.52 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhizobiales | Rhizobiaceae |
| | ASV53 | 1.33 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Thiotrichales | Thiotrichaceae |
| | ASV61 | 1.29 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhizobiales | Rhizobiaceae |
| | ASV44 | 1.06 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Caulobacterales | Hypomonadaceae |
| SP | ASV7 | 1.78 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV46 | 1.33 | Firmicutes | Clostridia | Oscillospirales | Eubacterium_coprostanoligenes_group |
| | ASV31 | 1.10 | Bacteroidota | Bacteroidia | Bacteroidales | Rikenellaceae |
| | ASV81 | 1.06 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Enterobacterales | Enterobacteriaceae |
| | ASV59 | 1.06 | Bacteroidota | Bacteroidia | Bacteroidales | Muribaculaceae |
| | ASV54 | 0.91 | Bacteroidota | Bacteroidia | Bacteroidales | Rikenellaceae |
| | ASV28 | 0.87 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Aeromonadales | Succinivibrionaceae |
| | ASV13 | 0.83 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Granulosicoccales | Granulosicoccaceae |
| | ASV14 | 0.80 | Cyanobacteria | Cyanobacteriia | Cyanobacterales | Xenococcaceae |
| | ASV42 | 0.80 | Bacteroidota | Bacteroidia | Bacteroidales | Muribaculaceae |
| SH | ASV177 | 11.53 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV3 | 10.31 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | SAR11_clade | Clade_I |
| | ASV570 | 5.65 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Thiotrichales | Thiotrichaceae |
| | ASV498 | 3.07 | Verrucomicrobiota | Verrucomicrobiae | Verrucomicrobiales | Rubritaleaceae |
| | ASV925 | 2.84 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Acetobacterales | Acetobacteraceae |
| | ASV1428 | 1.78 | Firmicutes | Clostridia | Peptostreptococcales | Peptostreptococcales |
| | ASV1468 | 1.67 | Firmicutes | Bacilli | Tissierellales | Tissierellales |
| | ASV28 | 1.29 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Aeromonadales | Succinivibrionaceae |
| | ASV1652 | 1.25 | Actinobacteriota | Acidimicrobia | Microtrichales | Microtrichaceae |
| | ASV2318 | 1.10 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Thiotrichales | Thiotrichaceae |
| ST | ASV32 | 3.26 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV13 | 3.15 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Granulosicoccales | Granulosicoccaceae |
| | ASV67 | 1.55 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Xanthomonadales | Xanthomonadaceae |
| | ASV57 | 1.37 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV128 | 1.10 | Proteobacteria | Gammaproteobacteria | Xanthomonadales | Xanthomonadaceae |
| | ASV38 | 1.06 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV73 | 1.02 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV139 | 0.87 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Sphingomonadales | Sphingomonadaceae |
| | ASV7 | 0.68 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |
| | ASV12 | 0.57 | Proteobacteria | Alphaproteobacteria | Rhodobacterales | Rhodobacteraceae |

3 讨论

马尾藻作为海藻场的重要支撑种,在生境营造、资源修复、饵料场形成、碳汇功能等方面发挥着重要作用,具有重大的经济和生态价值。藻际微生物对于马尾藻生态功能的发挥扮演着重要角色。本研究借助高通量测序技术对我国黄海海域典型的4种马尾藻(海蒿子、海黍子、铜藻和鼠尾藻)和对照组海水样本进行了测序和数据分析,发现所有样本的微生物群落具有较高的丰富度、多样性和宿主特异性。与马尾藻样本相比,海水的游离微生物群落具有更高的多样性和丰富度,这与Lemay等^[17]、James等^[29]和Weigel等^[30]报道相似。NMDS分析显示马尾藻样本附生菌群结构与海水游离微生物存在明显差别,马尾藻与海水样本仅有12ASVs,占比仅为0.136%。藻际微生物与游离微生物群落结构差异可能是由于两种环境介质之间的理化因子差异造成的,海水的营养物质浓度相

对比较低,而藻类可以为附着微生物提供有机碳和营养物质,海藻表面形态和分泌的化学物质又为微生物附着和定殖提供了微生境选择性,使海水中部分游离的稀有微生物定殖于藻体表面后成为丰富微生物^[31]。

β 多样性分析结果表明同一生态位分布的4种马尾藻附生菌群结构差异不显著。研究表明,海藻表面附生菌群结构容易受到地理格局、环境理化因子、宿主等因素的影响^[16, 32, 33],4种马尾藻分布在同一生态位,所处的海洋环境相同,使其暴露在相同的微生物源群中。Lemay等^[34]研究发现生活在同一海域的8种海带附生菌群结构相似,共享比例达到37%。Moeller等^[35]发现共同区域栖居黑猩猩和大猩猩肠道菌群结构相似性比不同区域的高53%,表明环境因素显著改变了OTUs在最丰富微生物分支的分布。

4种马尾藻微生物群落结构也存在差异,可能是由于宿主形态和藻体含有的生物化学物质差异导致的。多项研究表明,宿主的形态会影响其表面附生菌群的结构,即使同一株海藻的不同生长部位微生物群落结构也会有差异,藻体形态复杂性会增加微生物群落的丰富度^[17, 24, 36]。通过形态结构比较发现,鼠尾藻为细分枝,叶丝状、短小,轮生;海黍子和海蒿子初生分枝为粗分枝而次生分枝为细

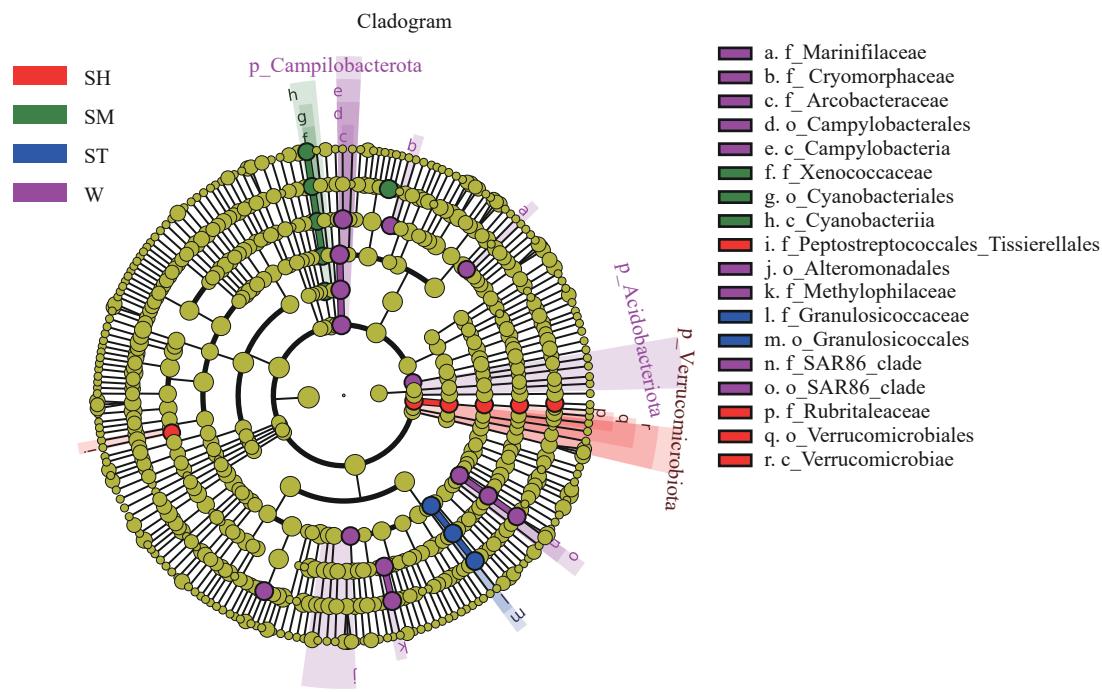


图3 LEfSe分析的进化分支图

Fig. 3 The cladogram of LEfSe analysis

对显著差异的分类单元节点填色,黄色节点代表组间差异不显著,每个节点的直径代表每个分类单元的相对丰度
Significantly discriminant taxon nodes are coloured. Yellow nodes represent non-significant differences in groups. Diameter of each node represents the relative abundance of each taxon

分枝; 铜藻的藻体呈树状, 为粗分枝^[37]。鼠尾藻附生菌群多样性和丰富度最高, 而铜藻最低, 与Lemay等^[17]研究结果一致。此外, 马尾藻含有的生物化学物质也可能影响其附生菌群结构^[38]。4种马尾藻富含褐藻胶、岩藻黄素、褐藻多酚等活性成分, 但是每种马尾藻的营养组成存在较大差异, 所产生的多糖类物质具有多样化和物种特异性^[39—41], 而多糖类物质又是细胞壁的主要成分, 细胞壁多糖能够吸引或排斥部分微生物定殖, 进一步影响微生物群落结构组成。

3.2 马尾藻附生菌群潜在的生态功能

4种马尾藻附生菌群结构组成在低分类阶元(属水平和ASV水平)呈现出明显的宿主特异性, 相对丰度前10ASVs在不同马尾藻样本间的分布也进一步揭示了种群结构组成的差异性, 而这些优势ASVs所隶属的菌科(如红杆菌科、黄杆菌科、硫发菌科、生丝单胞菌科、根瘤菌科、理研菌科、颗粒状球菌科等)在海洋生态系统中发挥着重要作用。例如: 红杆菌科普遍存在于大型海藻表面, 参与碳和硫的循环, 产生独特的抗菌物质和次级代谢产物, 具有一定的解毒能力; 根瘤菌科某些种类不仅能够参与氮循环, 而且还能降解海洋环境中某些难降解的化合物; 硫发菌科参与海洋硫元素循环; 理研菌科参与碳水化合物代谢, 包括对纤维素、聚糖和寡糖的降解; 生丝单胞菌科能够诱导和刺激海

藻孢子形态变化和沉降, 还具有抗菌活性^[42—45]。此外, 红杆菌科和黄杆菌科的某些种类又是条件致病菌, 一旦环境恶化, 会导致海带等经济藻类病害发生^[46]。

除了上述优势菌科在海洋生态系统中发挥着重要作用外, 本研究还利用Tax4Fun功能预测软件挖掘马尾藻附生菌群潜在的生态功能, 结果表明4种马尾藻附生菌群的功能趋于一致性。研究表明藻类相关的微生物菌株具有高度的生态等效性, 并且微生物群落结构组成可能是根据功能而不是根据藻类的系统发育关系驱动^[38]。在一级功能水平上, 代谢为最主要的生物代谢通路, 其次是遗传信息处理, 这与Ahmed等^[32]报道一致。在二级功能水平上, 碳水化合物代谢在所有藻类样本相对丰度最高, Li等^[47]利用FAPROTAX软件预测发现大型海藻附着基上微生物群落与碳代谢相关性最大, 我们前期研究结果也表明碳水化合物代谢为大型海藻附生菌群潜在的生态功能^[45]。微生物通过碳代谢能够维持环境中碳循环的稳定, 这也是藻类附着的基础; 随着藻类的定殖和生长, 通过光合作用固碳, 成为初级碳生产者; 此外, 海藻表面形成的微生物膜通过吸收渗出的溶解碳和坏死组织的降解, 又将这些含碳化合物转化为可被藻类重复利用的形式。

4 结论

本研究通过高通量测序技术比较了4种马尾藻附生菌群的结构, 发现马尾藻附生菌群结构与海水游离微生物群落差异明显, 而4种马尾藻样本组间差异不显著。马尾藻附生菌群结构组成呈现出宿主特异性, 尤其是相对丰度较高的优势类群。由于大型海藻附生菌群结构容易受到地理格局、海洋环境、海藻生活史不同阶段和取样部位等时间空间因素的影响, 本研究仅比较了同一生态位分布的4种马尾藻附生菌群, 为了深入了解马尾藻附生菌群结构特征, 在今后的研究中应综合考虑上述因素。

大型海藻碳汇是目前研究的热点, 通过挖掘海藻附生菌群的生态功能有助于深入了解海藻的生态习性, 为马尾藻场修复提供理论依据, 助力蓝碳事业研究工作。鉴于扩增子高通量测序功能预测的局限性, 宏基因组、宏转录组、蛋白质组学、代谢组学等多组学技术联合运用, 以及分离鉴定培养碳循环相关微生物等方法相结合在今后可进一步应用于大型海藻附生菌群生态功能的研究。

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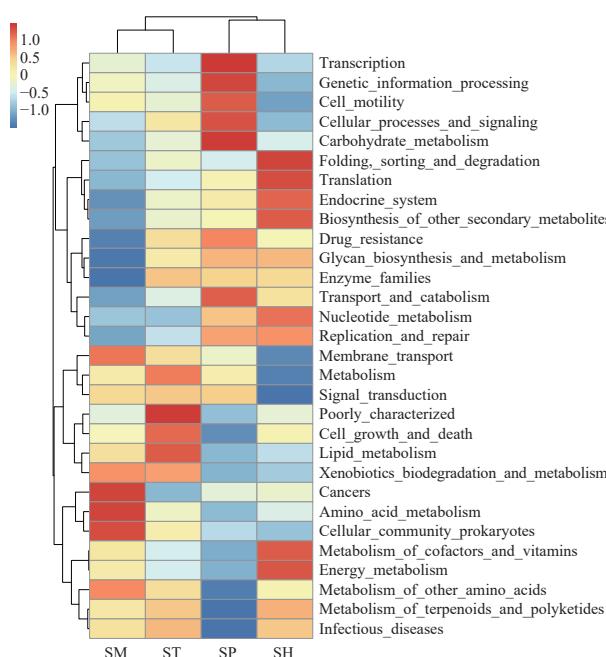


图4 第2水平上的Tax4Fun功能注释聚类热图

Fig. 4 Cluster heatmap of annotated function by Tax4Fun at the second level

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COMPARISON OF EPIPHYTIC MICROBIAL COMMUNITIES ON FOUR SPECIES OF *SARGASSUM*

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Abstract: The macroalgae, including *Sargassum muticum* (labeled as SM), *Sargassum thunbergii* (ST), *Sargassum horneri* (SH) and *Sargassum pallidum* (SP), are common *Sargassum* species distributed in the intertidal zone of Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea in China. These *Sargassum* species serve as essential components of seaweed beds, creating an optimal habitat for marine life, playing an important role in the conservation of fishery resources, marine eutrophication, and improvement of the ecological environment in coastal waters. The close interactions between macroalgae and their epiphytic microorganisms have a significant impact on the growth and development of the host macroalgae. Consequently, describing the microbial diversity associated with *Sargassum* species is an essential step towards a comprehensive understanding of gulfweed ecosystem dynamics. Previous studies primarily focused on individual *Sargassum* species, leaving a notable gap in the comparison of microbial diversity among closely related sympatric host species. In this study, the epiphytic microbial communities on four sympatric *Sargassum* species (SM, ST, SH, and SP) and the overlaying seawater (labeled as W) were investigated by high-throughput sequencing of 16S rRNA for the first time. The results showed that a total of 8793 ASVs were obtained from 15 samples, only 12 ASVs were shared between macroalgae and water sample groups. ST displayed the highest number unique ASVs among *Sargassum* groups. The alpha diversity analyses showed that the microbial richness and diversity were obviously higher in water than that in macroalgae. Comparing the *Sargassum* groups, ST displayed the highest Shannon and Chao 1 values. The NMDS analysis showed that replicates exhibited high similarity, except for the SH group, as the microbial communities in macroalgae and water groups formed clear separate clusters. Further PERMANOVA analysis confirmed no significant differences between *Sargassum* groups ($P>0.05$). The composition of microbial communities on macroalgae were assessed at both the phylum and genus levels. Dominant phyla included Proteobacteria, Bacteroidota and Firmicutes varied from 80.39% to 94.54%. At genus level, the microbial communities differed between macroalgae and water samples, with common predominant genera across all sample groups, such as *Yoonia-Loktanella* (from 2.46% to 12.10%), *Rikenellaceae_RC9_gut_group* (2.54% to 7.02%) and *UCG-005* (2.84% to 7.96%). Some genera presented the host-specificity character, e.g. *Acaryochloris_MBIC11017*, *Aeromicrobium* and *Stenotrophomonas* were unique in SM, SP, and ST, respectively. The distribution and abundance percentage of the 10 most abundant ASVs in the four *Sargassum* groups were more distinct. LEfSe was used to discover and interpret the high taxa biomarkers, resulting in the identification of 18 biomarkers, including 9 of W, 4 of SH, 3 of SM and 2 of ST. MetaStat analysis showed that the microbial community differences among the four *Sargassum* groups were mainly concentrated in SM and the other three *Sargassum* groups. The metagenome function prediction of macroalgae was carried out using Tax4Fun software, predicting six primary level biological functional pathways. These pathways mainly included metabolism, genetic information processing, environmental information processing and cellular processes, with metabolism being the prominent common function in *Sargassum* groups. A total of 44 ecological functions were summarized at level 2, and Carbohydrate metabolism (10.71% to 11.13%) was the highest in abundance in all sample groups. This study provides valuable theoretical basis for further understanding the ecological effects of *Sargassum* by comparing the epiphytic microbial communities on four species of *Sargassum*.

Key words: Epiphytic microbial community; High-throughput sequencing; Diversity; Function prediction; *Sargassum*