



草原生产力形成与调控机制研究展望

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摘要 草原是全球最重要的陆地生态系统之一, 为全球1/3的人口提供食物、水以及其他各种生态系统服务, 同时草原在维持生物多样性和调节全球气候变化等方面具有非常重要的作用。当前, 由于过度利用和气候变化, 全球50%以上的草原面临持续退化的问题。在草原修复、保护以及可持续利用过程中, 生产力的提高和维持是草原生态系统经济生产和生态功能的基础, 因此, 厘清草原生产力的形成与调控机制, 是草学和生态学领域关注的重点。本文从草原第一性生产力的形成和维持、第一性向第二性生产力的转化、生产功能与碳汇功能的协同三个层次总结剖析草原生产力的形成与调控机制的研究进展。提出未来研究重点在于草原第一性和第二性生产力与碳汇功能之间的协同与权衡关系及其区域分异规律, 以解决草原生产力提升和生态可持续发展中的重大理论和技术问题。

关键词 草原生产力, 生态功能, 联网实验平台, 第一性生产力, 第二性生产力

世界草原约占全球冰盖以外陆地面积的41%。从草原类型分布来看, 包括美洲普列利(Prairie)和潘帕斯(Pampas)草原、非洲和大洋洲稀树草原(Savannah)、欧亚大陆草原(Eurasian Steppe)^[1]。当前, 由于气候变化和过度利用, 全球很多区域的草原面临持续退化问题^[2]。具体到中国, 由于长期的过度利用, 90%左右的草原发生了不同程度退化。因此, 研究草原生产与生态功能的协同对促进区域草原资源保护与可持续利用具有重要意义。草原生产力是生产功能和生态功能发挥的基石, 是植物-动物-微生物间物质循环和能量流动的原动力, 其内在关系网络是理解草原生产力形成、维持及调控机制的关键。

1 草原生产力形成与调控的关系网络

草原生产力包括第一性生产力(植物生产)和第二性生产力(动物生产)。在自然生态系统中, 草原第二性生产力由各级消费者所形成的动物产品的总量进行计算^[3]。但目前草原已成为全球家畜生产的重要基地, 养育了世界上约1/3的人口^[1,4], 草原第二性生产力中家畜生产的贡献已达90%以上, 昆虫和野生动物等其他动物的贡献率不足10%^[5]。因此, 草原生产力一般表述为以牧草产量和品质为主的第一性生产力和以家畜生产为主的第二性生产力^[3,5]。

草原生产力形成与稳定性维持涉及草原生物与非生物要素间的多维度相互作用, 包括生产者、消费者

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和分解者多营养级水平以及不同时空尺度的调控。第一性生产力的调节包括区域气候、植物群落结构、土壤养分、土壤微生物与家畜配置等环节,在牧场和区域尺度上,第一性和第二性生产力的转化受到放牧强度和放牧制度——如放牧季补饲和划区季节性轮牧等的调控,草原生产力与碳汇功能的协同与权衡受到不同管理措施和气候波动影响(图1)。植物群落结构以及多样性是影响草原生产力的关键因素之一^[6],一般情况下,植物多样性与初级生产力正相关^[7,8]。同时,土壤微生物通过直接和间接多种途径影响草原植物生长和群落构建^[9],植物通过根系生长、分泌物和凋落物等影响土壤性状和微生物群落组成,土壤微生物-植物的互动关系是草原生产力与稳定性维持的关键^[10]。植物群落组成及其营养品质与放牧家畜选择性采食直接影响家畜的生产性能与畜产品品质,进而调控第二性生产力^[11,12];家畜的选择性采食、践踏、粪尿返还反过来会重塑植物群落和土壤微生物组成,直接或间接地影响植物再生性与第一性生产力^[13-15]。第一性生产力与第二性生产力关系的长期失衡,即草畜矛盾,是引起草原退化的主要原因。因此,合理的生物群落结构及其互作构成的“土-草-畜”平衡是草原生产力形成与维持的核心。同时,在包括中国在内的世界各国实现碳中和以应对气候变化过程中,草原也是科学研究和政策关注的热点区域。本文将从草原第一性生产力的形成与调控、第一性生产力与第二性生产力协同、草原生产力与碳汇功能的协同与权衡关系等方面,进行现状总结和未来展望。

2 草原第一性生产力形成与调控机制

草原第一性生产力往往受到植物多样性、资源有效性以及气候变化的影响。过去几十年的实证和理论研究表明,植物物种数量越多,短期内生态系统的生产力越高,并能长期维持较高的生产力水平^[16,17]。植物多样性对生态系统生产力的正作用主要归功于生物多样性效应,如选择效应和补偿效应^[18]。选择效应指高多样性群落具有更高的机会包含竞争力强的物种,这些优势物种能提高群落整体的生产力,补偿效应来源于物种间生态位分化或存在正的种间作用,从而让物种在生物多样性高的群落中表现得更好。随着多样性和生产力关系研究的深入,当前,植物功能性状是理解第一性生产力的形成和维持机制的重点之一。植物功能性状是植物对外界环境变化长期响应与适应后呈现出可

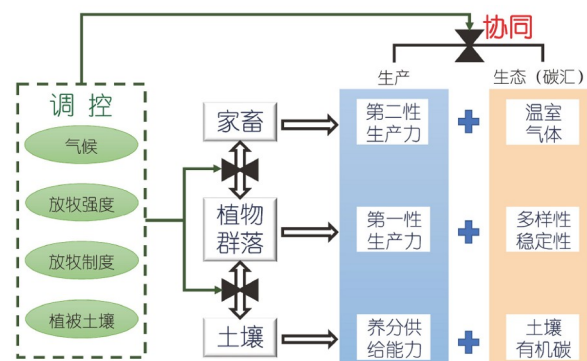


图1 (网络版彩色)草原生产力形成与调控的关系网络

Figure 1 (Color online) The network of grassland productivity formation and regulation

量度的特征,通常指与植物生长、繁殖、存活或与资源获得、利用密切相关的性状^[19,20]。生态系统中很多植物种具有相似的形态、生理及生态特征,植物群落功能性状多样性同时包含种间性状差异和种内性状变异^[21]。最近的研究发现草地植物多样性对群落增产的影响随时间的推移而增强,物种水平的增产效应的时间变化趋势由植物功能性状塑造^[22]。草地生产力的稳定性关系到生态系统能否长期可持续地维持功能和服务,生物多样性对生态系统稳定性的正作用可以由物种异步性和物种稳定性来解释^[23]。物种异步性指群落中不同物种的时间动态变化的不同步性,物种稳定性指种群水平的平均稳定性,从而增强生态系统的稳定性。近年来的研究发现,草地植物物种丰富度不仅能够提高生态系统的生产力稳定性,还可以随着时间的推移而加强物种丰富度-稳定性关系^[24]。

草地生态系统生产力普遍受到可利用资源和气候变化的限制^[25]。通过调控资源有效性能够达到提高生产力的目的。在干旱半干旱草地,水分是植物生长的主要限制因子,湿润年份或者增加灌溉能够显著提高草地初级生产力^[26]。在全球尺度上,降水的变化表现为总降水量增加与降水极端性增强^[27]。总降水量的增加在一定程度上能够缓解植被的水分限制而增加生产力。然而,在降水变率增强的降水模式下,草地植被将经历更长的持续无雨期,使植被生长面临更严峻的挑战。持续干旱会抑制植被的光合作用,直接降低草地生态系统的初级生产力^[28]。适当的养分添加(如氮或磷)能够提高草地的生产力,但存在降低植物多样性的风险^[29]。随着施肥量的不断提高,生产力将趋于稳定^[30]。随着化石燃料燃烧和氮肥的持续使用,大气氮沉降量不断增

加,有利于植物生长,提高植物生产力,同时改变植物物种组成,降低杂类草的比例^[31]。

另外,最近的研究发现,土壤微生物和植物的互作能够显著影响草地生产力及其稳定性。例如,丛枝菌根真菌维持了次优势种的丰度,进而提高植物多样性、增强草地植物群落稳定性,有助于缓解氮沉降对草地生态系统功能和组成的不利影响^[32]。大尺度原位调查试验表明,丛枝菌根真菌的多样性与草地生产力的时间稳定性存在显著正相关关系^[33,34]。盆栽微宇宙试验表明,增加土壤微生物多样性后,植物多样性和平均生产力增加,生产力的变异性减弱,进而提高了草地生产力的时间稳定性^[35]。全球尺度的调查研究发现,腐生真菌多样性与植物生产力对极端干旱的抵抗力显著相关,植物病原真菌多样性与植物生产力的恢复呈负相关关系^[36]。这些研究从不同尺度在不同的生态系统中,均发现土壤特定微生物功能类群多样性对植物生产力稳定性的重要作用。然而,土壤微生物多样性较高,其他功能类群如腐生菌、致病菌、固氮菌、溶磷菌等及其互作对生态系统生产力维持的作用机制研究还较少,这制约着我们对草地生产力变化的整体认识。

基于上述分析,合理的植物功能性状搭配、养分管理和微生物调控是退化草地恢复的重要措施^[37]。免耕补播可以在不扰动或少扰动原生植被的前提下,通过补播适宜的优良草种,提高退化草原生产力和物种多样性^[37]。合理的植物功能性状搭配不仅能够缩短草原自然恢复进程,而且改善植物群落结构,可快速恢复草原生态系统多功能性和稳定性^[38,39]。补播物种与原生物种对光照和养分等的竞争作用遵循“空斑”原则,禾本科植物需要大光空斑,而豆科植物需要小光空斑^[37,39]。补播后施肥可有效补充退化草原土壤养分,降低物种对限制资源的竞争强度,从而提高草原生产力^[40~42]。施肥不仅会直接影响地上植物群落多样性和生产力,也会通过改变土壤微生物间接影响植物群落多样性和生产力^[10,43,44]。另外,菌肥添加能够增加土壤中固氮、溶磷等有益功能微生物数量,提高土壤养分,进而影响植物群落多样性和第一性生产力^[10]。因此,协同“土-草”关系是调控草原第一性生产力的关键。

3 草原第一性生产力与第二性生产力协同

协同“草-畜”关系是第一性生产力向第二性生产力转化的重要内容。放牧作为草原利用最主要的方式,显

著影响植物功能性状、土壤理化性质、土壤微生物组成和草原第一性生产力^[45~47]。关于放牧如何影响草原第一性生产力,国际学界提出了一系列理论和假说,如放牧优化理论和中度干扰假说认为草地第一性生产力在中等放牧强度下达到最高^[48,49],丰富了对放牧与草原第一性生产力关系的理解。这些理论在一些草原生态系统得到了验证,表现为轻度或中度放牧通过维持植物多样性提高第一性生产力,而重度放牧导致的高强度干扰压力显著降低草原生产力^[47,50]。

选择性采食可能是影响草原第一性生产力与第二性生产力协同的关键因素。一方面,在轻度和适度放牧条件下,较高的选择性采食率有助于维持草原第一性生产力^[12];而长期重度放牧下因选择性采食机会减少导致植物群落高度和比叶面积下降,进而降低第一性生产力^[51]。同时,草原植物的营养供给与家畜需求之间存在差异,当放牧无法满足家畜营养需要时,会制约草原第二性生产力^[11]。另一方面,为躲避家畜采食,植物通过发育芒、刺或植物表皮覆盖毛或包被着蜡质或硅质等降低植物的适口性^[52]。此外,植物也会通过减少营养枝与生殖枝的数量和叶片数、缩小叶面积和叶片垂直角度等方式减少植物被家畜采食的可能。高大植物被中型和矮小植物取代,枝条由直立型转变为匍匐型或平卧型,高度逐步降低,层次减少,结构简单化。具有长期放牧历史的草原,不仅植物枝条在空间的位置配置发生了改变,也使矮小、平卧或匍匐的植物被家畜采食的数量和比例大大减少,提高牧草植物的避牧能力。

当前,对畜产品需求的增加推动了全球放牧强度的增加^[53],这不仅使植物物种的可利用性、干物质比例发生了改变^[54],同时牧草营养品质也受到影响,从而导致家畜对干物质的采食量减少,进而影响家畜增重^[55]。持续过度放牧增加裸露地面和斑块面积,提高土壤侵蚀风险,降低草原生产力。中等放牧强度下,竞争排斥减少,植物群落补偿生长增加,植物物种多样性和地上净初级生产力最大化。高强度放牧下,资源压力加剧,植物多样性和群落生产力降低^[56]。同时,随着载畜率的增加,家畜采食加大能量消耗,使得单位面积家畜增重、肉品质、泌乳量等生产力下降^[57]。当超载放牧或者草地为家畜提供的养分不充足时,对家畜进行适当补饲能够显著提升家畜的生产性能。例如,有研究表明,放牧补饲能够显著影响荒漠草原肉羊的觅食行为,提高采食效率,提高肉羊的生长性能^[58],因此,补饲可

以实现第一性生产力和第二性生产力协同,但这需要深入研究.

4 草原生产力与碳汇功能的协同与权衡关系

全球气候变化改变降雨、温度和辐射的空间格局和时间分配,严重影响草原初级生产力和碳汇功能^[59].国内外不少学者开展了降雨变化和温度升高等气候变化对草原碳循环过程和碳汇功能影响的控制实验研究.降雨是影响草原生产力和碳汇功能的重要环境因素^[60,61],全球尺度的数据整合分析发现,年际间降雨波动对生产力的影响因年均降雨量的不同而变化,在年均降雨小于300 mm时,降雨波动对植物地上部分生产力产生正作用,而高于300 mm时,产生负作用^[61].极端降雨研究发现,如果暴雨发生在美洲半干旱矮草草原生长季中期,植物地上净初级生产力(aboveground net primary productivity, ANPP)的提升高于生长季前期和后期^[62],随极端降雨持续时间和大小的增加,与ANPP呈线性增加关系,但是不同放牧强度下,极端降雨事件的发生却没有使ANPP呈现出显著的不同^[62].表明气候波动对生产力和碳汇功能的影响还受到管理措施的显著影响.

放牧、补播和施肥均可以通过改变草原生产力从而深刻影响草原的碳汇功能.放牧采食、践踏和粪尿返还等过程直接影响群落组成和植物生长,改变草原初级生产力和碳汇功能.中度干扰假说支持的适度放牧可提高草原物种多样性和丰度,增加植物群落的稳定性、第一性生产力和草原碳汇;而过度放牧会限制植物更新和生长,显著降低草原碳汇^[7,63].家畜通过肠道发酵产生和排放大量的甲烷^[64].另外,放牧也可以通过影响凋落物的积累和降解,从而影响土壤有机碳的组成和积累^[65].大尺度模型研究发现,过去十年中,全球放牧草原的碳排放(碳源)可以被不放牧草原的碳汇所抵消^[66].

施肥和补播等管理措施被认为是有效提高放牧生态系统生产力和碳汇功能的有效手段.在长期放牧的系统中,资源保守型的多年生物种可能会被资源获取型一/二年生物种所取代,进而减少地下净初级生产力(belowground net primary productivity, BNPP)^[67],水分添加会增加BNPP,但是氮添加会减少BNPP,但也有研究指出资源添加不会影响BNPP^[68].美洲普列里草原多年实验发现,氮添加和植物丰度增加都能提高草原初级生产力,但是氮添加对土壤有机碳(soil organic car-

bon, SOC)变化影响复杂,当植物丰富度足够高时SOC增加,而当植物丰富度减少时SOC降低^[69].生态系统中氮磷的限制会导致植物的碳吸收下降,同时,微生物为了获取养分而加速有机质分解,进而导致碳汇功能下降^[59].另外,作为甲烷排放的重要贡献者,草食家畜生产性能与甲烷排放密切相关.改善奶牛的粗饲料品质合理搭配精粗比能实现家畜生产性能提高和甲烷产生量降低的双重效果^[60].制定合理的放牧补饲措施对家畜生产性能的提高以及降低甲烷排放十分必要,也是目前多数国家实现草畜系统碳中和的重要内容.

5 未来研究展望

草原是由生产者、消费者和分解者构成的多维度复杂系统,“土壤微生物-植物-家畜”生物群落及其内在关系变化决定草原生产力,利用不同管理措施调控生物群落与土壤环境,实现最优草原生产力与生态功能的协同,是退化草原生态治理与草牧业高质量发展亟需解决的重大基础科学问题.解析该科学问题,需从多维度相互作用及其调控入手,应包括最优草原生产力植物群落和土壤微生物群落组成,植物群落生产力和土壤微生物互作,家畜生产与植物生产互作以及草原植物与家畜生产和碳汇功能的权衡与协同(图2).然而,目前开展的一些研究多为单一维度,缺乏系统网络研究和不同草原类型间比较.联网实验是统一设计,具有相同的实验处理和测定指标,方便进行区域和全球尺度的研究,获得普适性规律.因此,应利用长期的放牧

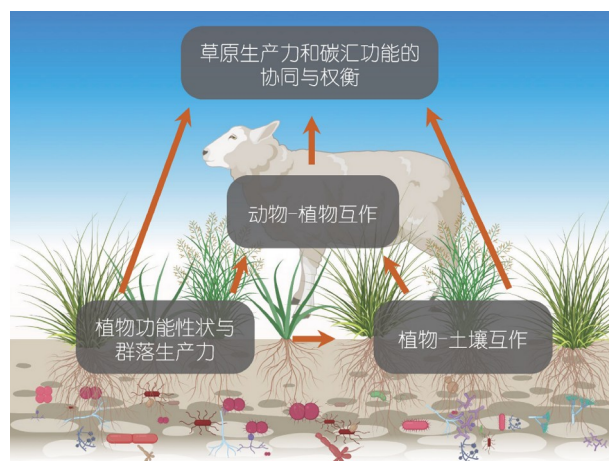


图2 (网络版彩色)草原生产力形成与调控的研究框架.使用BioRender制作

Figure 2 (Color online) The research framework of grassland productivity formation and regulation. Created with BioRender.com

联网实验平台对“土壤微生物-植物-家畜”生物群落调控及其内在关系变化进行研究,在区域尺度上更加准确阐释草原生产力的形成与调控机制。

首先,应明晰不同管理措施下草原优势植物功能性状与群落生产力形成机制。草原第一性生产构成主要由优势种和群落结构决定,丰富的种库和植物功能性状是构成最优草原生产力的基础。应将目光聚焦于功能性状及群落构建、功能性状与生产潜力、功能性状与生产力稳定性以及化学计量性状及牧草品质等部分,阐明代表性草原群落功能性状及组合与植物生产潜力的关系。同时,需要解析不同类型草原植物功能性状对放牧家畜、放牧强度的响应,探索植物对长期放牧和施肥的适应策略,揭示不同管理措施下植物功能性状变异与第一性生产力稳定性的关系。

其次,为了提升草原生产力和生态可持续发展,亟需研究退化草原生产力提升的植物-微生物互作机制。补播种或优势种可以快速提高牧草产量的地上过程,同时,外源养分输入与微生物驱动是影响草原生产力的地下过程,因此,为了解析植物-土壤互作影响草原生产力的机制,一方面需要阐明不同植物物种配比补播、施肥种类和持续时间对土壤养分、微生物群落组成和植物多样性的影响过程,另一方面需要研究土壤微生物群落组成与多样性对退化草原生产力提升的作用机制。

再次,影响草原生产力的植物-动物互作机制是第三个研究重点。草原第一性生产力因植物的补偿性生长而出现峰值,但第二性生产力在保持一定水平后会逐渐下降。放牧季补饲不仅可以平衡放牧家畜营养需

要,同时也对第一性和第二性生产力及甲烷排放产生显著影响。然而,家畜种类和放牧强度对不同草原类型第一性生产力与第二性的协同机制尚不清楚。因此,需要研究不同放牧强度下选择性采食、践踏和粪尿返还等家畜放牧行为如何影响第一性生产力的稳定性,阐明第一性生产力稳定性维持的放牧行为机制,揭示放牧季补饲对家畜生产性能的影响机制,解析第一性和第二性生产力协同的作用过程。

最后,随着放牧强度的增加,草原生产力与碳汇功能均呈先上升后下降的趋势,但二者并不同步,当碳汇功能开始下降时,草原生产力与碳汇功能由协同转变为权衡关系。生产力和碳汇功能协同与权衡转化的临界阈值(critical threshold)随草原类型的不同而变化。因此,需要研究不同草原管理措施对第一性生产力和土壤碳库组分的影响,阐明土壤有机碳库稳定性维持的生物及物理-化学保护机制,定量分析气候波动和放牧对草原第一性生产力和碳汇功能的贡献,进而揭示生产力与碳汇功能之间的协同与权衡关系及其区域分异规律。

6 小结

总体而言,厘清草原生产力的形成与调控机制是草学领域关注的重点,随着多学科交叉技术的发展,综合采用草学、畜牧学、植物学、土壤学、生物化学、生态学等手段,阐明草原生产力形成与调控的“土壤微生物-植物-家畜”生物群落及其内在关系,将有助于解决草原生产力提升和生态可持续发展中的重大理论和技术问题。

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Summary for “草原生产力形成与调控机制研究展望”

Formation and regulation mechanisms of grassland productivity: A review

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Grasslands cover approximately 40% of the global land area (excluding the Antarctic and Greenland), playing a fundamental role in supporting food, water, and other ecological services for one-third of the global population. However, grassland ecosystems have suffered from severe degradation due to overgrazing and climate change, constraining their sustainable production. In China, grasslands are the second largest terrestrial biome, approximately 90% of which is degraded. Improving grassland productivity and its stability are among the top challenges nowadays. Here, we review the mechanisms of grassland productivity formation and regulation at four levels: the dependence of grassland community productivity on plant diversity, plant-soil interactions regulating primary productivity, the transition from primary to secondary productivity, and the trade-off between production functions and carbon sink functions.

The stability of grassland primary productivity involves multi-dimensional interactions between biotic and abiotic factors, including plant community structure, soil microorganisms, climate change, soil nutrients, etc. Increasing evidence shows that high biodiversity can benefit ecosystem primary productivity and stability. However, the relationship between biodiversity and productivity is largely constrained by abiotic resources and climate change. In temperate grasslands, water and nitrogen are the two primary limiting factors. Under climate change, precipitation variability and nitrogen deposition have significantly increased, whose effects are vital to consider in water and nutrient management. Additionally, recent evidence shows that the interactions between soil microorganisms and plants can significantly impact primary productivity and stability. The transition from primary to secondary productivity is influenced by grazing intensity and supplementary feeding during the grazing season. The grazing optimization hypothesis postulates that the primary productivity peaks at the medium grazing intensity. However, the optimal points for the primary production is not necessarily that for carbon sinks. The trade-off between grassland productivity and carbon sink functionality are affected by different management measures and climate fluctuations because of large spatial and temporal heterogeneity. Currently, multidimensional and multisite networks are still lacking, suppressing the understanding of mechanisms that regulate grassland productivity on large scales. Therefore, we summarize the following research opportunities in the future.

First, plant community structure is among the top factors determining grassland productivity and stability. Yet the community structure, which maintains relatively high productivity and stability, is region-dependent. Revealing the spatial pattern of optimal community structures in different grassland ecosystems would be necessary. On top of that, exploring techniques of reseeded and fertilization to enhance primary productivity through plant-microbe interactions would facilitate grassland restoration. Additionally, grazing is the most common grassland management practice, affecting multitrophic biodiversity and productivity. It is critical to clarify the role of grazing in maintaining the stability of grassland productivity through plant-animal interactions. Meanwhile, livestock produces approximately 14.5% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂-equivalent), whereas grassland vegetation and soils are vital carbon reservoirs and sinks. In the era of climate change, studying the synergetic mechanisms of grassland productivity and carbon sink potential is a critical issue. To achieve the research goals, interdisciplinary approaches that integrate grassland science, animal husbandry, biochemistry, genomics, ecology, and other related disciplines are vital in studying the mechanisms of grassland productivity in response to climate change and management.

grassland productivity, ecological functions, field experimental network, primary productivity, secondary productivity

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