

嗜肺军团菌效应蛋白之间的调控机制

康丽娜^{1,2} 黄诗晴¹ 陈涛涛^{1,2} 欧阳松应^{1,2*}

(¹福建师范大学生命科学学院, 福州 350117; ²福建师范大学南方生物医学研究中心, 福州 350117)

摘要 嗜肺军团菌(*Legionella pneumophila*)是一种革兰氏阴性致病菌, 它可以引起人类军团病。嗜肺军团菌的Dot/Icm分泌系统在其致病过程中至关重要, 其向宿主细胞内转运约330种效应蛋白, 通过修饰细胞调节因子、抑制细胞凋亡等一系列措施操纵宿主细胞的多种生命活动, 以完成自身的增殖与侵染。为避免对宿主生理造成不必要的破坏, 嗜肺军团菌已进化出复杂而精细的调控机制来平衡嗜肺军团菌毒力与宿主细胞的稳态, 以确保嗜肺军团菌在宿主细胞内的生存。军团菌效应蛋白的功能及分子机制的研究近几年取得突破性进展, 嗜肺军团菌效应蛋白之间的作用机理也成为我们进一步研究的热点。该文主要对嗜肺军团菌的致病机制及其效应蛋白间的调控机制进行了综述, 为进一步了解嗜肺军团菌致病机制提供了一定的参考。

关键词 嗜肺军团菌; Dot/Icm分泌系统; 效应蛋白; 相互作用

Regulatory Mechanism Between Effector Proteins of *Legionella pneumophila*

KANG Lina^{1,2}, HUANG Shiqing¹, CHEN Taotao^{1,2}, OUYANG Songying^{1,2*}

(¹College of Life Sciences, Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou 350117, China;

²FJNU Biomedical Research Center of South Fuzhou 350117, China)

Abstract *Legionella pneumophila* is a Gram-negative bacterium that causes Legionnaires' disease in humans. The Dot/Icm secretion system is very important to the *L. pneumophila* pathogenesis, which transports about 330 effector proteins into host cells to manipulate various host cellular processes by modifying cell regulatory factors and inhibiting cell apoptosis, thus promoting its proliferation and infection. In order to avoid unnecessary damage to the host physiology, *L. pneumophila* has evolved a complicated and precise regulatory mechanism to balance the virulence of *L. pneumophila* and host homeostasis, so as to ensure the survival of *L. pneumophila* in the host cell. In recent years, breakthrough has been made in the study of the function and molecular mechanism of *Legionella* effector proteins, and the mechanism of action between *Legionella* effector proteins has become a hot topic for further study. In this paper, the pathogenesis and the regulation mechanism between effector proteins of *L. pneumophila* were reviewed, providing some references for further understanding of the pathogenic mechanism of *L. pneumophila*.

Keywords *Legionella pneumophila*; Dot/Icm secretion system; effector proteins; interaction

1 嗜肺军团菌简介

嗜肺军团菌(*Legionella pneumophila*)是一种广泛存在于天然淡水环境或人工水域中的兼性胞内致

病菌, 它可以入侵阿米巴原虫和人体的巨噬细胞, 是引起军团菌肺炎的重要病原体。1977年嗜肺军团菌首次于美国费城被发现, 至今, 已有50多种军团菌被

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*通信作者。Tel: 0591-22868199, E-mail: ouyangsy@fjnu.edu.cn

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*Corresponding author. Tel: +86-591-22868199, E-mail: ouyangsy@fjnu.edu.cn

鉴定出来,其中至少有24种致病军团菌会导致人类疾病。军团菌最常见的传播方式为吸入污染的气溶胶(水喷雾、喷气)^[1],其潜伏期为2~10天(某些疫情中记录到的潜伏期高达16天),可诱使病人患上进行性肺炎,并使其出现呼吸衰竭、休克及多器官衰竭的症状进而导致其死亡^[2]。

嗜肺军团菌在细胞内的生长严格依赖于其特殊的Dot/Icm分泌系统,其通过该分泌系统向宿主细胞内输送效应蛋白,挟持内质网与高尔基体之间的囊泡运输,干扰宿主细胞的信号转导途径,为其生长提供最适宜的环境^[3]。嗜肺军团菌利用Dot/Icm IV型系统分泌近330种效应蛋白至宿主细胞中,这些效应蛋白介导多种蛋白质翻译后修饰(post-translational modifications, PTMs),如磷酸化^[4]、糖基化、乙酰化、腺苷化、ADP-核糖基化和泛素化修饰等,调控宿主囊泡运输、细胞凋亡、脂质代谢和蛋白质合成等。嗜肺军团菌会产生一些酶(如:肽基脯氨酰基异构酶、磷酸酯酶、DNA酶、蛋白水解酶等)以及毒素(如:内毒素、细胞毒素和溶血素),这些酶或毒素会造成宿主细胞的功能损伤^[5]。嗜肺军团菌产生的这些致病物质还可对抗宿主的免疫杀伤功能,使其在吞噬囊泡中存活并增殖,导致宿主细胞的死亡。嗜肺军团菌内毒素除引起高热、低血压、弥散性血管内凝血、内毒素休克等革兰阴性内毒素共同的生理病理反应外,还可以通过激活补体系统,促进嗜肺军团菌进入单核巨噬细胞内^[6]。此外,菌毛的黏附作用和微荚膜的抗吞噬作用也参与嗜肺军团菌感染细胞的致病过程。

1.1 嗜肺军团菌IVB分泌系统

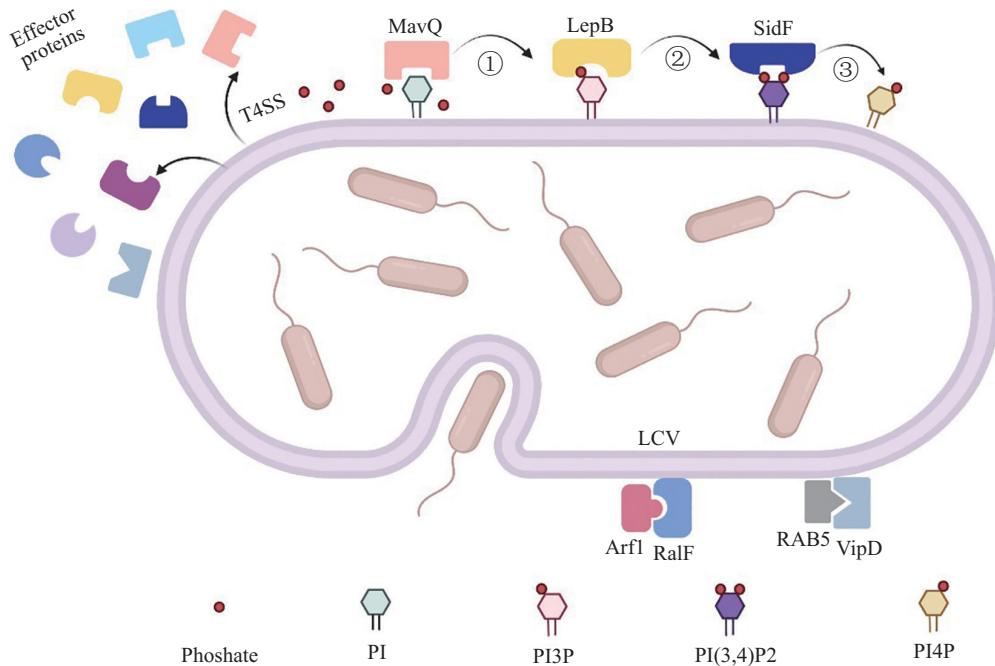
研究表明,嗜肺军团菌的IV型分泌系统在感染巨噬细胞的过程中发挥了重要作用,IV型分泌系统含有一个65 Kb毒力岛基因座^[7],可分为IVA型和IVB型。IVA型分泌系统是嗜肺军团菌在巨噬细胞和阿米巴原虫内生长所必需的,也可能与细菌在低温下感染宿主细胞有关^[8];IVB型分泌系统,也称Dot/Icm分泌系统,是一种由27种蛋白质组成的复杂的蛋白质传递装置,而Dot/Icm分泌系统是嗜肺军团菌中分泌重要致病因子的关键组成部分。截至目前,人们至少已经在嗜肺军团菌中发现了7种不同的分泌系统^[9]。在嗜肺军团菌的分泌系统中,I型分泌系统(T1SS)和IX型分泌系统(T9SS)与细菌的营养摄取和毒性有关;II型分泌系统(T2SS)位于内膜上,参与底物运输;III型分

泌系统(T3SS)、IV型分泌系统(T4SS)以及VI型分泌系统(T6SS)主要参与效应蛋白的转运;V型分泌系统(T5SS)参与细菌的黏附和生物膜的形成^[10];而嗜肺军团菌的致病性则依赖于其Dot/Icm分泌系统。将其细胞器转运缺陷基因*dotA*(defective orange trafficking gene A)敲除后,嗜肺军团菌则无法在宿主细胞内生长复制^[11]。

嗜肺军团菌Dot/Icm型分泌系统具有一种特殊结构,它能够跨越细菌内膜、外膜,将毒力蛋白运输到宿主细胞内。嗜肺军团菌的Dot/Icm分泌系统主要由核心跨膜通道蛋白复合体与Dot/Icm型偶联蛋白复合体构成,主要的核心跨膜复合体由DotC、DotD、DotF、DotG和DotH 5种蛋白质组成^[12],其中DotF、DotG为军团菌的内膜蛋白,DotC、DotD和DotH为军团菌的外膜蛋白^[12-13],且DotH蛋白自身不能镶嵌在外膜上,需要DotC和DotD的协助^[14]。Dot/Icm型偶联蛋白复合物包括DotL、DotM、DotN、IcmS和IcmW等5种蛋白^[15]。其中DotL是内膜蛋白,含有一个ATPase结构域和C末端结构域(C terminal domain, CTD),其C末端结构域延伸可与DotN、IcmS和LvgA相互作用^[16]。DotM是内膜蛋白,可通过识别一个C-端富含酸性谷氨酸的区域与IcmS-IcmW转运的效应器结合^[17]。嗜肺军团菌缺失*dotL*、*dotM*中的任何一个基因,都会使其不能在培养基中存活下来。DotN富含半胱氨酸,能和DotM一起与DotL相互作用以稳定DotL;IcmS与IcmW能形成同源二聚体,从而调控效应蛋白向宿主细胞内的分泌^[18];此外,IcmS-IcmW复合物将LvgA招募至DotL后,它们组装成独特的T4CP(type IV coupling protein)^[19]。T4CP能与其他蛋白质一起形成IV型偶联复合物T4CC(type IV coupling complex),发挥募集底物并将其输送到分泌通道的功能^[20-21]。

1.2 含军团菌液泡(Legionella-containing vacuole, LCV)的形成

嗜肺军团菌在进入宿主细胞的细胞质后,通过逃避宿主细胞的内体运输途径,避免被细胞内容酶体降解,并形成LCV。LCV为军团菌提供理想的复制环境。LCV的形成依赖于嗜肺军团菌IV型分泌系统分泌的众多效应蛋白,其介导了多种蛋白的翻译后修饰,将修饰基团连接在靶蛋白上或去除靶蛋白上的修饰基团,以其独特的生化活性操纵着宿主细胞的许多生理过程。嗜肺军团菌能够招募由宿主细



① MavQ募集PI并将其转化为PI3P; ② LepB将PI3P磷酸化为PI(3,4)P2; ③ SidF将PI(3,4)P2水解为PI4P。

① MavQ recruits PI and converts it into PI3P; ② LepB phosphorylates PI3P to PI(3,4)P2; ③ SidF hydrolyzes PI(3,4)P2 to PI4P.

图1 军团菌LCV上磷酸肌醇的转换

Fig.1 Phosphoinositol conversion on *Legionella* LCV

胞内质网^[22]、高尔基体分泌的囊泡^[23],甚至脂滴^[24-25],以形成LCV及促进LCV的成熟。这一过程与宿主细胞的鸟苷三磷酸酶(GTPase)蛋白功能密切相关,军团菌通过Dot/Icm分泌系统分泌的效应蛋白挟持宿主细胞中与囊泡运输相关的GTPase蛋白^[26]。例如,效应蛋白RalF作为鸟苷酸交换因子招募宿主Arf1(ADP-ribosylation factor 1)至LCV并使其活化^[27];效应蛋白VipD与宿主内体调节因子RAB5(Ras-related protein Rab-5)结合,激活VipD的磷脂酶A1活性,去除LCV上的磷脂酰肌醇-3-磷酸(phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate, PI3P),进而阻断军团菌LCV与宿主溶酶体的融合^[28]。另外,LCV的形成与其膜上的磷酸肌醇脂质的组成有关^[29]。嗜肺军团菌的多个效应蛋白参与LCV膜上脂质动态的调控,例如效应蛋白MavQ具有特异的磷脂酰肌醇-3-激酶活性,可以特异性地将磷脂酰肌醇(phosphatidylinositol, PI)转化为PI3P;PI3P作为LepB的底物,被磷酸化产生磷脂酰肌醇-3,4-二磷酸[phosphatidylinositol 3,4-bisphosphate, PI(3,4)P2],随后PI(3,4)P2再被效应蛋白SidF水解成为磷脂酰肌醇-4-磷酸(phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate, PI4P),在嗜肺军团菌LCV膜上形成由PI产生PI4P的“三级级联反应”^[30],完成内体与质膜之间的融合(图1)。

2 军团菌效应蛋白间的调控机制

一般来说,病原体效应蛋白直接针对宿主因子,通过调节效应蛋白的表达或改变效应蛋白的转运效率来调控细胞的生命活动。这些效应蛋白在宿主细胞内执行各种功能,然而其在宿主细胞内的功能调控极为复杂,可以直接影响和调节彼此的功能,有助于维持宿主细胞扰动与胞内病原体复制生存的平衡^[31]。这类具有调节效应蛋白功能活性的效应蛋白,被称为元效应蛋白(metaeffector)^[32]。在嗜肺军团菌分泌的330多个效应蛋白中也发现了这类元效应蛋白(表1),元效应蛋白通过靶向和调节其他效应蛋白的功能而发挥作用,有助于平衡嗜肺军团菌毒力与被侵染细胞的稳态,以确保嗜肺军团菌能够在宿主细胞内生存。目前,元效应蛋白对效应蛋白的调节作用主要涉及拮抗及协同机制。

2.1 效应蛋白间的拮抗机制

为避免对宿主生理造成不必要的破坏,嗜肺军团菌通过元效应蛋白拮抗调节其他效应蛋白的活性来精确控制其毒力。元效应蛋白通过直接修饰、去修饰及直接结合来拮抗靶效应蛋白的功能。

2.1.1 翻译后修饰介导的拮抗作用 元效应蛋白介导靶效应蛋白的翻译后修饰,以调控效应蛋白

表1 嗜肺军团菌的元效应蛋白-效应蛋白

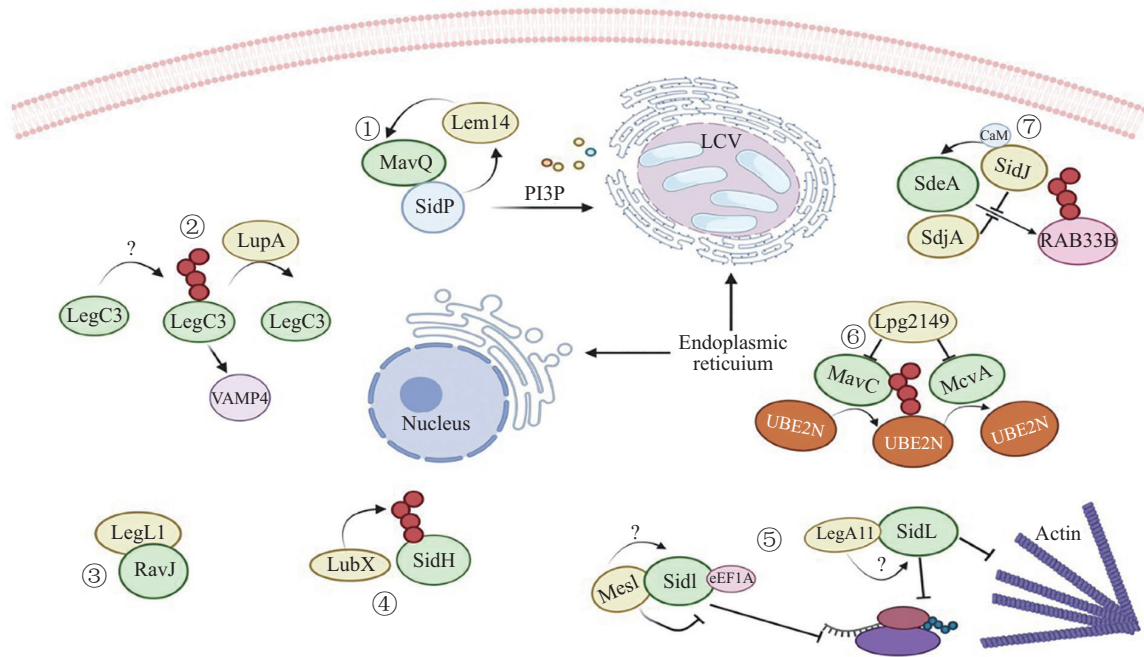
Table 1 The known metaeffector-effector pairs of <i>L. pneumophila</i>					
元效应蛋白 Metaeffector	基因号 Gene ID	活性 Activity	效应蛋白 Effector	基因号 Gene ID	活性 Activity
LegA11/AnkJ	Lpg0437	Unknown	SidL/Ceg14	Lpg0436	Translation inhibitor
LegL1	Lpg0945	Competitive factor	RavJ	Lpg0944	Transglutaminase
Lem14	Lpg1851	Synergistic with SidP	MavQ	Lpg2975	PIP kinase
Lpg2149	Lpg2149	Unknown	MavC	Lpg2147	Deubiquitinase
LubX	Lpg2830	E3 ubiquitin ligase	MvcA	Lpg2148	
LupA	Lpg1148	Deubiquitinase	SidH	Lpg2829	SdhA homolog
			LegC3	Lpg1701	Glutamine (Q)-SNARE-like protein
MavE	Lpg2344	Unknown	LegC7	Lpg2298	SNARE-like protein
MesI	Lpg2505	Unknown	SidI/Ceg32	Lpg2504	Mannosyltransferase
SdbC	Lpg2391	Lipase	SdbB	Lpg2482	Lipase
SidJ	Lpg2155	Calmodulindependent transglutamylase	SidE	Lpg0234	Ubiquitin ligases
			SdeA	Lpg2157	
			SdeB	Lpg2156	
			SdeC	Lpg2153	
SidP	Lpg0130	PI3P phosphatase	MavQ	Lpg2975	PIP kinase
DupA	Lpg2154	Deubiquitinase	DupB	Lpg2509	Deubiquitinase
AnkX	Lpg0695	Deadenylase	Lem3	Lpg0696	Deadenylation
RomA	Lpg1683	Methylase	LphD	Lpg2163	Deacetylase
SidC	Lpg2511	Ubiquitination	SdcA	Lpg2510	Ubiquitination

的毒力。SidE家族包括效应蛋白SidE(Lpg0234)、SdeA(Lpg2157)、SdeB(Lpg2156)、SdeC(Lpg2153),催化不依赖于ATP的非经典的泛素化修饰来调节细菌感染。SidE家族效应蛋白mART(momo-ADP-ribosyltransferase)结构域具有ADP-核糖基转移酶活性,可利用核苷酸辅助因子NAD⁺,将ADP-核糖基共价连接到Ub的第42位Arg上,形成ADPR-Ub^[34];ADPR-Ub则被具有磷酸二酯酶活性的PDE结构域切割,释放出ADP并将PR-Ub转移至底物[如宿主内质网相关蛋白RAB33B(Ras-related protein Rab-33B)及RTN4(Reticulon-4)]上进行核糖-泛素化修饰(PR-ubiquitination)^[35],干扰宿主内质网的稳态,诱导宿主细胞死亡。而效应蛋白SidJ作为一种钙调素依赖性谷氨酰转移酶,通过谷氨酰化SidE家族蛋白如SdeA的活性位点第860位谷氨酸使其失活^[36]。效应蛋白SidJ(Lpg2155)对效应蛋白SidE家族的拮抗作用有利于维持宿主细胞内质网稳态。在无SidJ的情况下,SdeA不能离开LCV表面,SidJ对于SidE家族的延迟

易位使得SidE效应蛋白功能的精确调控成为可能^[37](图2)。

效应蛋白LubX(Lpg2830)具有两个与真核U-box相似的结构域,还具有E3泛素连接酶活性,它与泛素结合酶UbcH5a或UbcH5c E2酶结合,能够泛素化修饰效应蛋白SidH(Lpg2829),促进SidH的降解,从而抑制SidH的功能^[32],宿主细胞内SidH的功能尚不清楚,但SidH是嗜肺军团菌效应蛋白SdhA的类似蛋白。SdhA通过维持LCV的完整性以促进嗜肺军团菌在细胞内复制^[38-39]。因此,在军团菌感染细胞早期,SidH可能有助于维持LCV完整性(图2)。

效应蛋白LupA(Lpg1148)是一种特异性去泛素蛋白酶(deubiquitinase, DUB),介导效应蛋白LegC3(Lpg1701)去泛素化修饰。LegC3效应蛋白的功能与谷氨酰胺(Q)-SNARE蛋白类似。军团菌感染细胞时,LegC3特异性地与精氨酸(R)-SNARE囊泡相关的膜蛋白4(vesicle-associated membrane protein 4, VAMP4)形成复合物并转移至LCV上,从而促进军团



① MavQ与SidP共同调节LCV上磷脂酰肌醇的转换；② LegC3被未知蛋白泛素化修饰后，LupA对LegC3进行去泛素化修饰，促进LegC3与VAMP4结合，以避免LegC3被溶酶体降解；③ LegL1与RavJ可以在胞内直接结合；④ LubX泛素化修饰SidH并抑制SidH的功能；⑤ MesI与SidI、LegA11与SidL直接结合并抑制蛋白质的翻译，但尚不清楚MesI与SidI、LegA11与SidL之间的作用机制；⑥ Lpg2149可直接与MavC、MvcA结合，并抑制MvcA的泛素脱酰胺活性；⑦ SidJ蛋白可以通过钙调依赖性谷氨酰转移酶的功能抑制SdeA的活性。

① MavQ and SidP co-regulate the conversion of phosphatidylinositol on LCV; ② after LegC3 is modified by ubiquitination of an unknown protein, LegC3 is deubiquitinated by LupA, promoting LegC3 bound to VAMP4 to avoid lysosomal degradation; ③ LegL1 and RavJ can bind directly in the cell; ④ LubX ubiquitination modifies SidH and inhibits SidH function; ⑤ effectors MesI/SidI and LegA11/SidL inhibit protein translation by direct interaction, but the interaction mechanisms of effectors MesI/SidI and LegA11/SidL remain unclear; ⑥ Lpg2149 can directly bind to MavC and MvcA, and inhibit the ubiquitin deamidation activity of MvcA; ⑦ SidJ protein can inhibit SdeA activity through calmodulation-dependent glutamyltransferase function.

图2 效应蛋白在宿主细胞内的作用模式(根据参考文献[33]修改)

Fig.2 Action mode of effector proteins in host cells (modified from the reference [33])

菌在细胞内的增殖^[30]。SNARE蛋白分为Qa-、Qb-、Qc-和R-SNARE四个亚家族，当蛋白脂质体重组时，这些蛋白与含有VAMP4的脂质体紧密结合，形成稳定的类似于SNARE的复合物^[40]。效应蛋白LegC3选择性地与R-SNARE VAMP4相互作用，并与VAMP4的囊泡融合到LCV上，从而促进其扩张^[41]。因此，LupA对LegC3的去泛素化作用，使其避免被宿主溶酶体降解^[41-42](图2)。

2.1.2 去修饰介导的拮抗作用 某些元效应蛋白作为与靶效应蛋白功能相反的酶，介导靶效应蛋白底物的去修饰，以达到拮抗作用。如上述提到的嗜肺军团菌SidE家族蛋白介导的宿主细胞中多个靶蛋白的非典型泛素化修饰能够被具有去泛素化酶活性的DupA和DupB识别并切割^[43-45]，使PR-Ub分子从修饰后的底物上释放。嗜肺军团菌也通过类似的机制调控宿主细胞的能量代谢。如，效应蛋白Ceg3(Lpg0080)具有ADP核糖基(ADP-ribosylation,

ADPr)转移酶活性，它会修饰线粒体内膜上ATP/ADP转位酶(adenine nucleotide translocators, ANTs)中的精氨酸的残基，导致ANTs功能失活，无法完成线粒体内膜上的ADP/ATP交换过程，且ANTs失活会干扰线粒体呼吸^[46-47]。而效应蛋白Lpg0081具有ADPr水解酶(ADP-ribosyl-arginine hydrolases, ARHs)活性，可以从被修饰的ANTs中去除ADPr，从而调节Ceg3介导的线粒体活性下调的现象，使线粒体正常发生ADP/ATP的交换^[48]。

此外，在嗜肺军团菌操纵宿主囊泡转运过程中，其效应蛋白AnkX(Lpg0695)具有磷酸胆碱(phosphocholine, PC)转移酶活性，可将一个磷酸胆碱基团添加至宿主细胞蛋白RAB1^[49]，破坏宿主细胞内吞循环，而效应蛋白Lem3(Lpg0696)能够去除该修饰作用。效应蛋白SidM作为腺苷酸转移酶将AMP部分添加到RAB1上使其处于持续激活状态，而效应蛋白SidD则能去除这种修饰作用^[50-51]。RAB1是宿

主细胞内膜运输的关键调节因子,嗜肺军团菌通过AnkX/Lem3、SidM/SidD维持RAB1功能,从而保障在嗜肺军团菌侵染过程中宿主内膜转运的正常进行。

2.1.3 直接相互作用介导的拮抗作用 除了通过修饰或去修饰作用外,某些元效应蛋白还可以通过直接结合形成复合物的方式抑制靶效应蛋白的功能。嗜肺军团菌效应蛋白SidI(Lpg2504)能够抑制宿主细胞的蛋白质翻译,有助于激活嗜肺军团菌感染宿主细胞的热休克反应,但对宿主蛋白质翻译的过度抑制则会引起细胞的死亡,将不利于菌体在宿主细胞内的复制。SidI具有GDP-甘露糖依赖的糖基水解酶活性及甘露糖基转移酶活性。SidI的结构(PDB: 8JHU)显示, SidI具有一个tRNA-mimicry结构域,且可靶向宿主翻译过程的核糖体。在胞质中GDP-甘露糖存在的情况下, SidI甘露糖基化核糖体导致翻译延伸受到抑制,胞质中核糖体异常积累,从而导致丝裂原活化蛋白激酶MAP3K20(mitogen-activated protein kinase 20)的募集和激活,进而磷酸化并激活蛋白激酶p38^[52],使蛋白激活转录因子3(protein activating transcription factor 3, ATF3)从细胞质易位至细胞核并积累,诱导细胞死亡基因的转录与表达,使细胞死亡^[53]。研究发现,效应蛋白MesI可以直接与SidI结合形成稳定复合物,从而抑制效应蛋白SidI的毒性^[54],敲除*MesI*基因则使嗜肺军团菌在宿主细胞中的复制异常^[55]。MesI在N-端和C-端结合SidI,但不影响SidI与底物eEF1A(eukaryotic translation elongation factor 1A)之间的相互作用,虽然MesI中与SidI末端结合的区域尚未确定,但MesI的晶体结构显示, MesI的 $\alpha 6/\alpha 7$ 、 $\alpha 8/\alpha 9$ 和 $\alpha 10/\alpha 11$ 螺旋对中存在四肽重复(tetratricopeptide repeat, TPR)片段,其可形成凹槽使SidI结合在其中并发挥作用^[56]。确定结合位点也许可以揭示MesI抑制SidI毒性的分子机制,以及MesI是否参与SidI所介导的热休克反应(图2)。

LegA11(Lpg0436)是一种功能未知的效应蛋白,它可以结合Ceg14/SidL(Lpg0437)并抑制其毒性。当SidL在真核细胞中异位表达时, SidL能够抑制肌动蛋白(Actin)在胞内的聚合^[57]。LegA11的N-端区域包含锚蛋白重复序列(PDB: 4ZHB),通常参与蛋白-蛋白相互作用^[58],可以直接结合效应蛋白SidL并抑制宿主细胞蛋白质的合成^[59](图2)。

效应蛋白Lpg2149会与效应蛋白MavC(Lpg2147)、MvcA(Lpg2148)直接作用,抑制MavC与MvcA的活性。

MvcA是MavC的同源蛋白(具有65%相似性),能使泛素分子的第40位谷氨酰胺脱酰胺化,将Ub分子共价连接至泛素结合酶UBE2N(ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme E2N),抑制UBE2N的活性进而抑制宿主细胞的免疫反应^[60]。Lpg2149通过与效应蛋白MavC和MvcA直接相互作用形成稳定复合物,抑制MacV与MvcA的泛素脱酰胺活性,进而抑制NF- κ B信号通路。Lpg2149通过其凹面直接与MvcA的尾部区域和活性位点结合,在空间上阻断效应蛋白MvcA的泛素脱酰胺活性^[61](图2)。

此外,效应蛋白SidP(Lpg0130)具有磷脂酰肌醇(phosphatidylinositol, PI)磷酸酶活性,其在体外可特异性地将磷脂酰肌醇-3,5-二磷酸[phosphatidylinositol 3,5-bisphosphate, PI(3,5)P₂]水解为磷脂酰肌醇-5-磷酸(phosphatidylinositol 5-phosphate, PI5P)以及将PI3P水解为PI^[62]。SidP的磷脂酰肌醇磷酸酶活性对于降低其同源效应蛋白MavQ的毒性是必不可少的, MavQ是一种磷酸肌醇激酶,与SidP一起可以调节宿主细胞内磷酸肌醇的代谢。此外, SidP通过其C-端结构域与效应蛋白MavQ(Lpg2975)直接结合,促进由MavQ引起的内质网时空振荡,其参与调节宿主内质网膜上的PI3P组成,可推动宿主内质网膜的重塑^[63]。有趣的是,当与效应蛋白Lem14一起表达时, SidP对酵母是有毒的,但Lem14与SidP在PIP代谢中的作用尚不清楚^[36]。MavQ与SidP以及Lem14协同作用,共同调控了宿主PIP的代谢^[64](图2)。

2.2 效应蛋白间的协同作用机制

目前,有学者提出“协同效应蛋白(para-effectors)”的假说,这种协同效应蛋白会对同一个底物进行不同的修饰作用,有利于充分发挥其生理功能。这些效应蛋白一起作为“协同效应蛋白”来发挥作用,具有高度的相互依赖性,有助于微调宿主细胞的基因表达并促进细菌在细胞内的复制^[65]。例如,效应蛋白RomA(Lpg1683)被鉴定为一种甲基转移酶,可以甲基化宿主细胞组蛋白H3的第14位赖氨酸(H3K14me₃),以抑制宿主的免疫反应^[66],而在宿主细胞中组蛋白H3的第14位赖氨酸则被HBO1(又称KAT7)组蛋白乙酰转移酶乙酰化修饰^[67-68],这将增强效应蛋白RomA的功能。有意思的是,嗜肺军团菌分泌的效应蛋白LphD(Lpg2163)作为一种Zn²⁺依赖性组蛋白去乙酰化酶,可特异性靶向组蛋白H3,并对其第14位赖氨酸进行去乙酰化修饰,使RomA更好

地在H3K14上进行甲基化修饰,与效应蛋白RomA协同作用行使功能,以调控宿主细胞的基因表达和转录^[66,69]。

此外,效应蛋白SidF具有PI3P酶活性,在军团菌感染宿主细胞早期定位于LCV膜上,能够利用ATP催化PI3P生成PI4P,以促进效应蛋白SidC在LCV上的富集^[70]。SidC(Lpg2511)及其同源蛋白SdcA(Lpg2510)具有泛素连接酶活性,含有保守的Cys-His-Asp催化三联体^[70],可催化底物RAB10产生K11和K33类型的多泛素链,使位于LCV膜上的RAB10不被降解,进而促进LCV招募宿主内质网来源的囊泡^[71],SidF与SidC协同发挥作用以避免LCV被胞内溶酶体吞噬降解。

3 总结与展望

在病原菌与宿主的长期“博弈”过程中,病原菌会进化出多种“自救”方式干预宿主细胞的免疫系统,达到增强感染效率和逃避宿主免疫系统“监视”的目的来完成自身的繁殖。效应蛋白作为病原菌毒力的重要体现,它们之间的相互调控作用不仅有利于增加病原菌的毒力,而且对维持宿主细胞稳态至关重要。效应蛋白-效应蛋白间的调节也是细胞内病原体入侵的共同特征,它反映了病原菌在每个复制周期中必须维持宿主细胞生命活动和其在体内生存之间的微妙平衡。

近年来报道的嗜肺军团菌效应蛋白的相关研究为我们深入探索病原菌致病机制提供了参考。在对嗜肺军团菌效应蛋白功能进行探究的过程中,科学家们发现了效应蛋白SidE家族调控非经典泛素化途径的经典范例^[60]。效应蛋白SidJ通过谷氨酰化修饰SidE家族蛋白的活性位点从而抑制SidE家族蛋白的功能^[44],DupA/B蛋白能特异性去泛素化由SidE家族蛋白催化形成的PR-泛素化底物^[45]。虽然各个效应蛋白的分子机制存在差异,但一个显著的特点是,效应蛋白之间相互调控。例如,效应蛋白LubX能够靶向军团菌中另一个效应蛋白SidH,在感染后期对SidH进行时间上的精准调控^[32]。MavC通过转氨酶活性将Ub以异肽键的方式连接在UBE2N的K92及K94位残基上,进而抑制宿主免疫信号的激活^[60],MvcA针对MavC的底物进行去泛素化修饰,在感染后期维持宿主细胞的正常生理活动^[61]。LegA11可以直接结合SidL,并抑制SidL在宿主细胞内的功

能^[59]。效应蛋白MesI可以直接与SidI结合形成稳定复合物,从而抑制效应蛋白SidI的毒性^[55]。尽管嗜肺军团菌效应蛋白的功能及分子机制的研究近几年取得了突破性进展,但嗜肺军团菌的庞大效应蛋白系统中的其他重要效应蛋白所发挥的功能及效应蛋白之间的作用机理等都将成为我们进一步研究的课题。例如,一些与泛素化调节相关的效应蛋白具体的分子作用机制有待进一步解析,除已发现的MavC及SidE家族蛋白以外,是否还存在其他效应蛋白可调控不同方式的非经典泛素化途径?它们是通过何种方式来发挥作用的?在时间和空间上是否也存在一定的联系?这些问题的解决有利于了解嗜肺军团菌感染与宿主天然免疫反应相关的机制,进一步的研究无疑将揭示宿主-病原体共同进化涉及到的其他机制,并为开发病原体感染疗法提供基础。此外,对嗜肺军团菌治病机制的阐明,可为胞内致病菌如结核分枝杆菌、伤寒沙门菌等感染宿主引发的先天免疫防御提供重要的启示。

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