



放线菌中亮氨酸应答调控蛋白的生物学功能及其调控机理

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摘要: 放线菌是一类革兰氏阳性细菌, 可产生氨基酸等初级代谢产物和抗生素等次级代谢产物, 其广泛用于食品、医药、添加剂及化妆品行业。此外, 还有少数放线菌, 如分枝杆菌等, 是可以引起人和动植物病害的病原菌。亮氨酸应答调控蛋白(Leucine-responsive regulatory protein, Lrp)是一类在氨基酸代谢及其相关代谢过程中的重要转录调控子, 能够应答各种氨基酸, 参与调控微生物细胞的多个生理过程, 例如氨基酸代谢和转运、中心代谢、细菌的持久性和毒力等。本文总结了放线菌 Lrp 的生物学功能, 并综述了放线菌中不同种属 Lrp 以及天蓝色链霉菌和红色糖多孢菌 Lrp 调控机理的研究进展。

关键词: 放线菌, 初级代谢, 次级代谢, 亮氨酸应答调控蛋白

放线菌是一类主要以孢子繁殖和菌丝状生长的革兰氏阳性细菌。放线菌目包括放线菌亚目、链霉菌亚目(含链霉菌属)、链孢囊菌亚目、小单孢菌亚目、糖霉菌亚目、细链孢菌亚目、放线多孢菌亚目、动球菌亚目、假诺卡氏亚目(含糖多孢菌属)、弗兰克氏菌属亚目、棒杆菌亚目(含棒杆菌属和分枝杆菌属)、微球菌亚目和丙酸杆菌亚目。放线菌与人类的生活密切相关, 对人类的健康作出了突出的贡献。放线菌产生的次级代谢产物占到目前临床使用抗生素的三分之二^[1], 它们还是许多酶、维生素、氨基酸等的产生菌, 例如谷氨酸棒杆菌可产生

多种氨基酸^[2-3]。弗兰克氏菌属对非豆科植物的共生固氮具有重大作用^[4]。此外, 还有少数放线菌能引起人和动植物病害, 如结核分枝杆菌^[5]。

Lrp 最早被认为是影响分支氨基酸转运的基因座(*livR*)^[6]。亮氨酸(Leu)通过 IHB 调控蛋白影响 *ilvIH* (乙酰羟酸合成酶, 参与分支氨基酸的生物合成)和 *oppABCD* (参与多肽转运)操纵子的转录, 因此 IHB 被称为亮氨酸应答调控蛋白, 它参与氨基酸代谢和多肽的转运^[7]。Lrp 广泛存在于细菌和古细菌中, 可调控微生物细胞的代谢过程^[8]。AsnC 是第一个在大肠杆菌中发现的与 Lrp 相关的蛋白

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质,是天冬酰胺合成酶(AsnA)的一种特异性的转录激活因子^[9],因此,Lrp也被称为Lrp/AsnC家族蛋白^[10],它们也因在饥饿环境中的适应性潜能而被称为贫/富调控蛋白^[11]。

放线菌中最早被发现的Lrp/AsnC家族成员是结核分枝杆菌中的LrpA(Rv3291c)^[12],与大肠杆菌中的Lrp具有高度同源性^[11]。与大多数Lrp蛋白相似,LrpA的大小约18 kDa,包括两个功能域:一个是N端的螺旋-转角-螺旋DNA结合域,包含HTH结构,能够识别靶基因DNA;另一个是C端的氨基酸响应结构域(RAM),包含着 $\alpha\beta$ 三明治结构^[11]。近年来研究发现,Lrp可控制放线菌中多样的生理代谢过程,包括抗生素生物合成、菌丝体形态分化、氨基酸代谢、细菌持久性和毒力等。基因组测序表明放线菌中(如链霉菌、红色糖多孢菌、分枝杆菌)普遍分布Lrp/AsnC家族蛋白。例如,天蓝色链霉菌基因组中有9个Lrp/AsnC家族蛋白编码基因,阿维链霉菌基因组中有14个Lrp/AsnC家族蛋白编码基因,红色糖多孢菌基因组中有15个Lrp/AsnC家族蛋白编码基因。但目

前已被文献报道的放线菌中Lrp/AsnC家族蛋白仅有10个,包括分枝杆菌中3个,棒杆菌中1个,链霉菌中4个和红色糖多孢菌中2个(表1)。

1 Lrp的研究进展

1.1 分枝杆菌中的亮氨酸应答调控子

结核分枝杆菌(*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*)是一种引起结核病的病原菌,研究发现结核分枝杆菌中存在亮氨酸应答调控子LrpA(Rv3291c),它位于sigF上游,可参与细菌在饥饿环境中的应激反应^[15],调控多个基因的表达,Lat是一种赖氨酸氨基转移酶,能够参与抗生素的合成,LrpA与lat启动子结合形成DNA-蛋白质复合体,促使lat的表达量提高42倍^[11]。偶发分枝杆菌(*Mycobacterium fortuitum*)是一种不需要形成结核而可以快速生长的分枝杆菌病原菌,将偶发分枝杆菌的MT13分离,细菌的毒力和持久性明显下降,而在突变株中插入LrpA,细菌的毒力和持久性得到恢复^[13,16]。表明LrpA在体内的持久性有可能被用作抗结核病的新型药物靶点^[14]。

表 1. 放线菌中 Lrp 的功能和配体
Table 1. Functions and ligands of Lrp in *Actinomycetes*

Lrp	Strains	Function of Lrp	Ligand	Reference
LrpA	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Virulence and persistence	Amino acids, vitamins	[11,13–16]
AldR	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	Feast/famine regulator		[17–18]
AldR	<i>Mycobacterium smegmatis</i>	Regulate alanine dehydrogenase		[19–20]
Lrp	<i>Corynebacterium glutamicum</i>	Amino acid production		[2,21–22]
SCO2140	<i>Streptomyces coelicolor</i>	Antibiotic biosynthesis and morphological differentiation		[23]
BkdR	<i>Streptomyces coelicolor</i>	Antibiotic production and morphogenesis		[24]
SCO3361	<i>Streptomyces coelicolor</i>	Actinorhodin biosynthesis and morphogenesis	Phenylalanine and cysteine	[25]
SSP_Lrp	<i>Streptomyces spiramyceticus</i>	Spiramycin and bitespiramycin biosynthesis		[26]
SACE_Lrp	<i>Saccharopolyspora erythraea</i>	Erythromycin biosynthesis	Lysine, arginine and histidine	[27]
SACE_5717	<i>Saccharopolyspora erythraea</i>	Erythromycin biosynthesis	Arginine, tyrosine and tryptophan	[28]

结核分枝杆菌中还发现另一个亮氨酸应答调控子 AldR(Rv2779c), 其是一种贫/富调控蛋白, 也被认为在病原体的潜伏/持续阶段中起重要作用^[29]。丙氨酸脱氢酶(Ald)是利用丙氨酸作为氮源的生长所需的酶, 它可以使丙氨酸通过氧化脱氨反应为细胞生长提供氮源, 研究发现 Rv2779c 还可以调控丙氨酸脱氢酶的表达^[19], 并且在耻垢分枝杆菌(*Mycobacterium smegmatis*)中也有相同的调控方式^[20], 推测在分枝杆菌中普遍存在 AldR 调控方式。本文就已报道的结核分枝杆菌中 Lrp, 总结了其调控模式图(图 1)。

1.2 谷氨酸棒状杆菌中的亮氨酸应答调控子

革兰氏阳性土壤细菌谷氨酸棒杆菌(*Corynebacterium glutamicum*)被用于工业生产各种氨基酸, 每年产生超过 2160000 t 谷氨酸和 1330000 t 赖氨酸^[2]。它也可被改造用于生产其他氨基酸, 例如丝氨酸^[30]、异亮氨酸^[31]和缬氨酸^[22,32-33]。有报道显示谷氨酸棒杆菌中 *brnE* 和 *brnF* 组成一个双组份的转运系统 BrnFE, 属于

LIV-E 转运蛋白家族, 能够特异性地转运支链氨基酸和甲硫氨酸^[2,34], *lrp* 与 *brnFE* 符合排布在相邻位置且转录方向相反的特点。当 *lrp* 基因缺失后, *brnFE* 也不能正常转录, 进一步通过凝胶迁移实验(electrophoretic mobility shift assays, EMSAs)和 DNA 酶 I 足迹法(DNase I footprinting)分析, 确定 Lrp 能够与 *lrp-brnF* 的间隔区域结合, 表明 *brnFE* 启动子的表达受 Lrp 调控, 并且同时过表达 *lrp* 和 *brnFE* 可大幅度提高异亮氨酸的产量^[2-3,21]。除此之外, 利用 Lrp 调控 *brnFE* 改变胞内的分支氨基酸和甲硫氨酸浓度的特征, 谷氨酸棒杆菌的 Lrp 还被开发为生物传感器, 用于监测胞内效应氨基酸的浓度, 有效地将胞内氨基酸浓度的变化转化为荧光信号输出^[34-36]。

1.3 链霉菌中的亮氨酸应答调控子

在链霉菌的模式菌株——天蓝色链霉菌(*Streptomyces coelicolor*)中已发现 3 个 Lrp 家族成员, 它们分别是 BkdR、SCO2140 和 SCO3361。其中 BkdR 具有调控相邻 *bkd* 操纵子表达的作用,

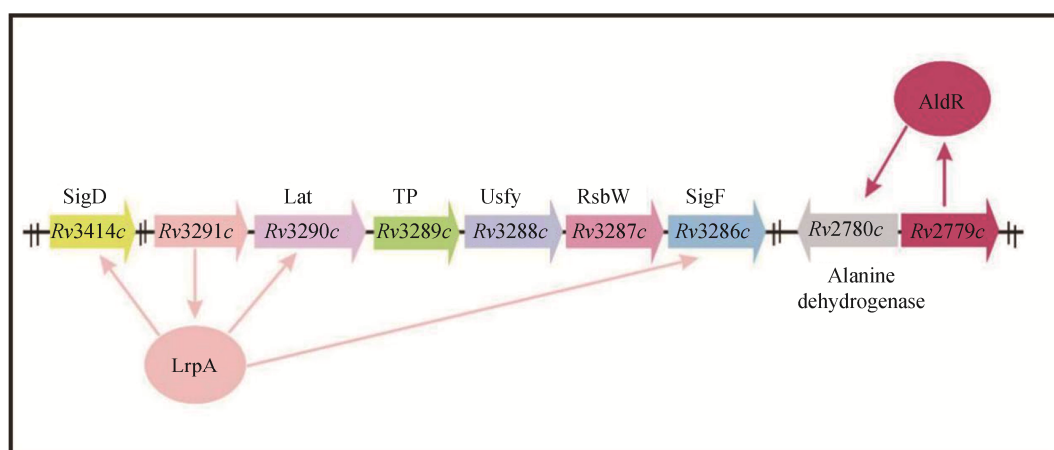


图 1. 结核分枝杆菌中亮氨酸应答调控子调控模式

Figure 1. Regulatory mode of Lrp in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Rv3414c: ECF subfamily sigma subunit; Rv3290c: lysine aminotransferase; Rv3289c: a possible transmembrane protein; Rv3288c: hypothetical protein; Rv3287c: antisigma B factor; Rv3286c: ECF subfamily sigma subunit; Rv2780c: alanine dehydrogenase.

当敲除 *bkdR* 后, 其突变株基本失去了产孢子和放线紫红素能力, 暗示 BkdR 具有全局性的调控作用, 但是该研究中并没有 BkdR 蛋白体外功能的验证^[24]。而在阿维链霉菌(*S. avermitilis*)中也仅仅对 *bkd* 操纵子进行了体内缺失分析, 但遗憾的是没有对 *bkd* 操纵子调控方面的研究^[37]。Yu 等还发现了天蓝色链霉菌中另一个 Lrp 蛋白 SCO2140, 它不仅能够调控菌丝体的生长, 而且还会导致放线紫红素以及钙依赖抗生素产量的下降, 但是 SCO2140 缺少典型的 DNA 结合域^[23]。

本实验室研究发现另一个天蓝色链霉菌中的 Lrp 蛋白 SCO3361, 它通过直接激活放线紫红素的正调控子 ActII-ORF4^[38], 来提高放线紫红素的产量; 并同时通过直接调控 *amfC*^[39]以及间接调控 *whiB*^[40]和 *ssgB*^[41], 影响菌株的形态分化。SCO3361 在抑制自身的同时还可以激活其临近编码赖氨酸外排蛋白的基因 *SCO3362*, 并且特异性应答苯丙氨酸(Phe)和半胱氨酸(Cys)^[25]。SCO3361 与已发现红色糖多孢菌中的 SACE_Lrp 具有高度的同源性, 且它们可以相互结合到彼此的启动子区, 表明它们之间存在相互调控^[25,27]。链霉菌和红色糖多孢菌中广泛分布着 SCO3361 的同源蛋白(图 2), 这暗示放线菌 Lrp 对抗生素生物合成具有普适性的调控作用。该研究成果一经发表就获得英国皇家科学院院士 Keith F. Chater 教授推荐, 作为 F1000Prime 推荐论文 (<https://f1000.com/prime/727702556>)。

最近, Lu 等在螺旋链霉菌(*Streptomyces spiramyceticus*)中也发现了 Lrp 家族蛋白 SSP_Lrp, 它负调控螺旋霉素和可利霉素的生物合成, 通过实验发现敲除 SSP_Lrp 的 L-Leu 结合结构域, 即可提高这两种抗生素的产量^[26]。

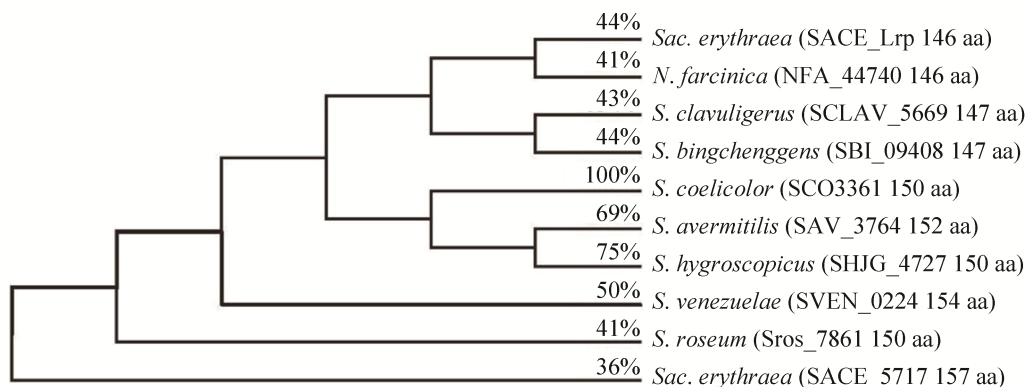
1.4 红色糖多孢菌中的亮氨酸应答调控子

近年来, 本实验室在研究红色糖多孢菌(*Saccharopolyspora erythraea*)的 Lrp 方面取得了一定进展, 已经对红色糖多孢菌中 SACE_Lrp 和 SACE_5717 进行深入研究。SACE_Lrp 对红霉素生物合成具有负调控作用, 而且 SACE_Lrp 对分支氨基酸转运等代谢过程具有调控作用, 对精氨酸(Arg)、赖氨酸(Lys)和组氨酸(His)三种氨基酸有特异性的应答作用。通过在红霉素工业高产菌株中缺失 *SACE_Lrp* 并过表达靶基因 *SACE_5387*、*SACE_5386*, 添加调控底物缬氨酸(Val), 在摇瓶发酵中可将红霉素产量提高 48%, 在发酵罐水平下可将产量提高到 41%^[27]。这是第一例对放线菌 Lrp 调控抗生素生物合成的分子机理进行深入研究的报道, 为工业上提高其他放线菌次级代谢产物的产量提供了新的方法。近期研究发现, SACE_5717 对红霉素生物合成也具有负调控作用, 并且它可以特异性应答精氨酸(Arg)、色氨酸(Trp)和酪氨酸(Tyr), 通过基因转录和 EMSA 分析, 发现 SACE_5717 可以直接抑制自身和其临近的编码赖氨酸外排蛋白基因 *SACE_5716* 的转录, 并证实 *SACE_5716* 可以外排赖氨酸(Lys)、组氨酸(His)、苏氨酸(Thr)和甘氨酸(Gly), 另外这四种氨基酸可以影响红霉素产量, 但是其作用机理并不清楚^[28]。在红霉素工业高产菌株中缺失 *SACE_5717*, 并过表达其靶基因 *SACE_5716*, 在摇瓶发酵情况下, 可将红霉素产量提高 36%, 在发酵罐水平上, 能将产量提高到 41%^[28]。这与本实验室之前发现的 Lrp 的功能有所不同, 虽然它们都可以调控抗生素的生物合成, 但 SCO3361 还可以调控菌丝体的形态分化, SACE_Lrp 是通过调控其临近基因对分支氨基酸内运来调控红霉素的生物合成, 而 SACE_5717 却是

通过调控其临近基因对氨基酸的外排来调控红霉素的生物合成, 这也暗示着在其他产抗生素的放线菌

中 Lrp 同源蛋白行使着不同的功能。基于以上研究, 我们绘制了红色糖多孢菌中 Lrp 的调控网络(图 3)。

(A)



(B)

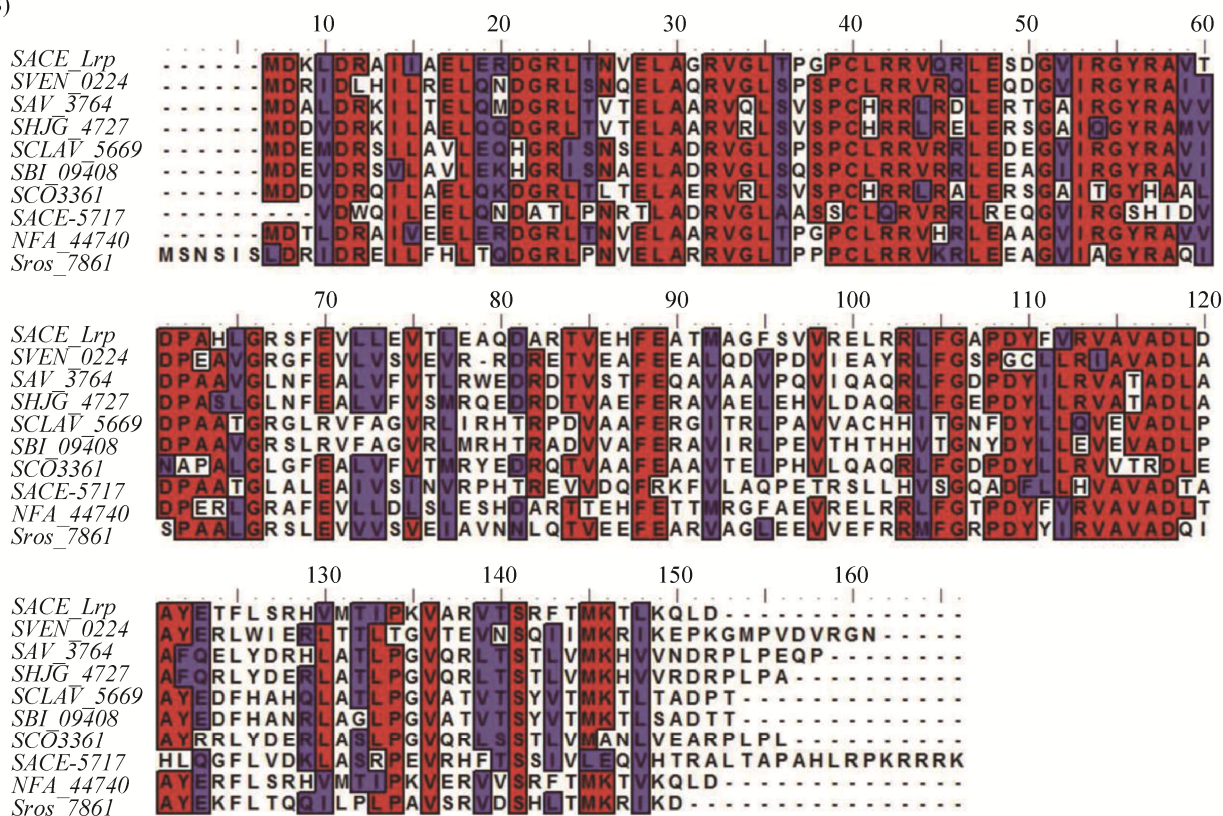


图 2. 链霉菌和红色糖多孢菌中 SCO3361 的同源蛋白

Figure 2. Homologous proteins of SCO3361 in *Streptomyces* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*. A: phylogenetic tree of SCO3361 homologous proteins in *Streptomyces* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*; B: Amino acid sequence alignment of SCO3361 homologous proteins in *Streptomyces* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* (*Saccharopolyspora erythraea* SACE_Lrp, *Streptomyces venezuelae* SVEN_0224, *Streptomyces avermitilis* SAV_3764, *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* SHJG_4727, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* SCLAV_5669, *Streptomyces bingchenggens* SBI_09408, *Streptomyces coelicolor* SCO3361, *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* SACE_5717, *Nocardia farcinica* NFA_44740, *Streptomyces roseum* Sros_7861).

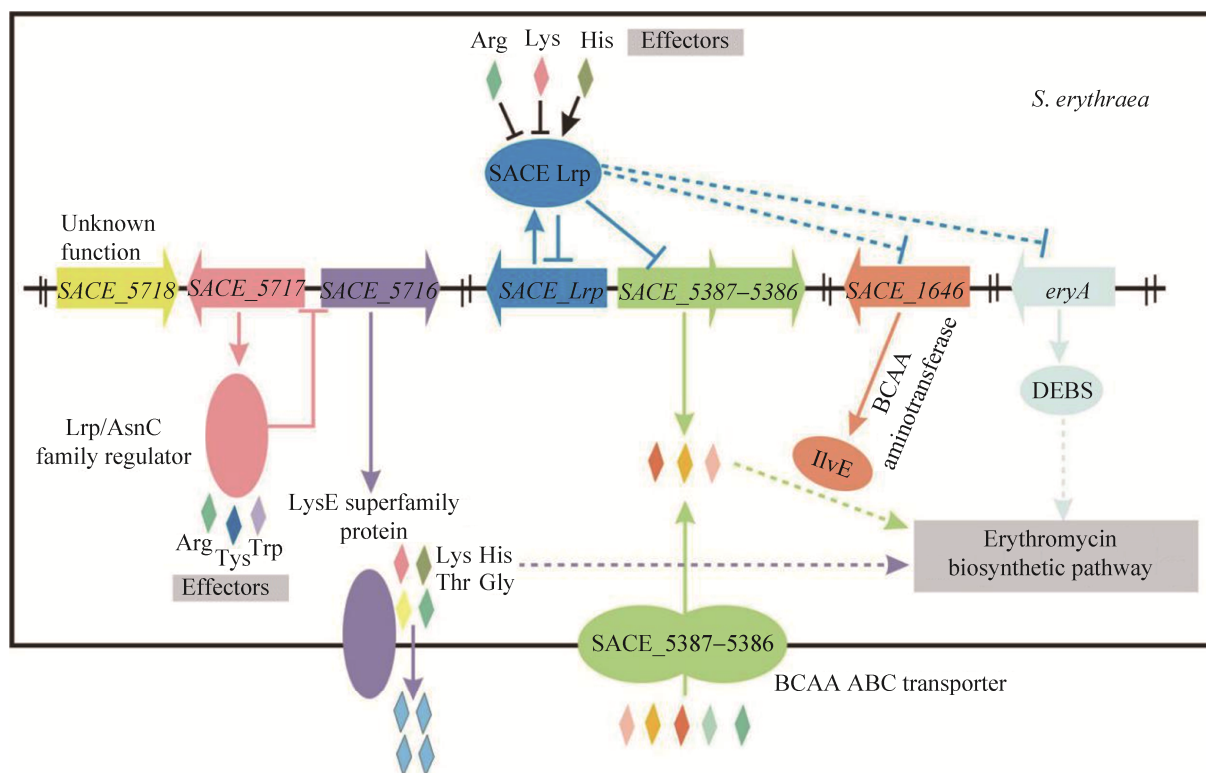


图 3. 红色糖多孢菌中亮氨酸应答调控子的调控网络

Figure 3. Regulatory network of Lrp in *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*.

2 展望

在放线菌复杂的基因调控网络中, Lrp 是非常重要的成员, 在氨基酸代谢、中心代谢、物质转运等方面发挥着非常重要的作用。根据我们构建的放线菌 Lrp 系统发育树(图 4), 可以看出同样是产抗生素放线菌中的 Lrp, 却分布在不同的分支上, 暗示这些 Lrp 的功能存在差异性, 为以后研究放线菌中 Lrp 提供一个新的视角。因此, 研究放线菌中 Lrp 的功能, 不仅对深入研究放线菌基因调控具有理论指导意义, 而且在氨基酸或抗生素的工业生产方面也有实际应用价值。

现在对 Lrp 的研究已经取得了一些进展, 人

们已经了解到 Lrp 不仅是微生物代谢的重要调控子, 而且还可以应答各种氨基酸, 在产抗生素放线菌(链霉菌和红色糖多孢菌)中有报道 Lrp 均可应答不同的氨基酸^[25,27-28], 且应答的氨基酸具有多样性, 但其具体原因并不清楚。目前关于放线菌 Lrp 的研究, 还有诸多问题尚未得到解答。如氨基酸作为配体或前体, 甚至是信号分子, 是如何参与抗生素的生物合成? Lrp 直接调控的下游靶点是否存在共性, 且下游靶点如何调控抗生素的生物合成? Lrp 是单独发挥调控功能还是与其他调控子进行协同调控? 这些都有待进一步去探究。随着放线菌中 Lrp 研究的进一步深入, 将使人们更加清晰地认识 Lrp 作用的分子调控机制, 也有助于揭示 Lrp 更多的生物学功能。

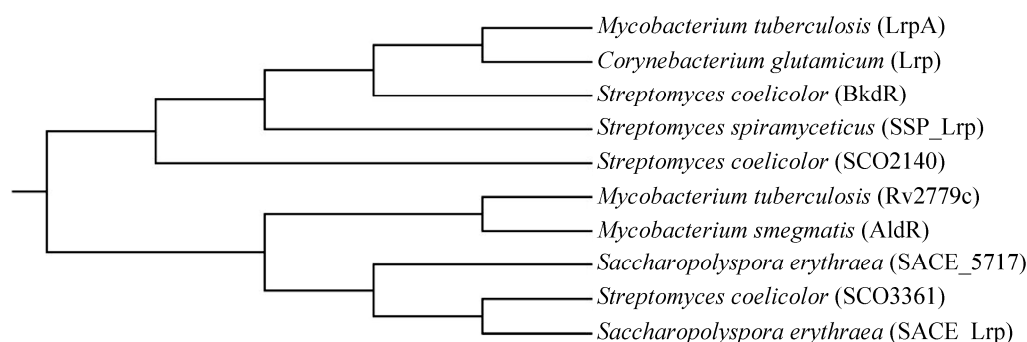


图4 放线菌中亮氨酸应答调控子的进化树分析

Figure 4. Phylogenetic tree analysis of Lrp in actinomycetes. *Streptomyces spiramyceticus* SSP_Lrp (GenBank accession number: MH460452); *Streptomyces coelicolor* SCO2140 (GenBank accession number: NP_626396); *Streptomyces coelicolor* BkdR (GenBank accession number: NP_628020); *Streptomyces coelicolor* SCO3361 (GenBank accession number: NP_627569); *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* LrpA (GenBank accession number: NP_217808); *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Rv2779c (GenBank accession number: NP_217295); *Corynebacterium glutamicum* Lrp (GenBank accession number: AAM46687); *Mycobacterium smegmatis* AldR (GenBank accession number: YP_886997); *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* SACE_5717 (GenBank accession number: CAM04902); *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* SACE_Lrp (GenBank accession number: CAM04626).

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Biological function and regulation mechanism of Leucine-responsive regulatory proteins in actinomycetes

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Abstract: *Actinomycetes* are a class of Gram-positive bacteria that can produce primary metabolites such as amino acids and secondary metabolites such as antibiotics. *Actinomycetes* are widely used in food, pharmaceutical, additive and cosmetic industries. In addition, a few *actinomycetes*, such as *Mycobacterium*, are pathogen that can cause human, animal and plant diseases. Leucine-responsive regulatory protein (Lrp) is a category of global transcriptional regulator involved in amino acid metabolism and its relevant metabolic processes. They are capable of responding to a variety of amino acids and participating in the regulation of multiple physiological processes in microbial cells, such as amino acid metabolism and transport, central metabolism, bacterial persistence and virulence, *etc.* This paper summarizes the biological functions of Lrp in *actinomycetes*, and reviews the research advance of regulatory mechanism of Lrp from different *actinomycetes*, especially Lrp from *Streptomyces coelicolor* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* studied.

Keywords: *Actinomycetes*, primary metabolism, secondary metabolism, Leucine-responsive regulatory protein

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