

A C2H2 transcription factor CsCreA regulates vegetative growth, stress responses, conidial development, and pathogenicity of *Colletotrichum siamense*

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Abstract: [Background] *Colletotrichum siamense* is one of the major pathogens infecting rubber trees, causing serious economic losses annually. CreA plays a crucial role in regulating fungal growth and development. [Objective] To identify the homolog of CreA, CsCreA, in *C. siamense* and analyze its biological functions. [Methods] The knockout mutant Δ CscreA and its complementation strain were constructed by homologous recombination. The roles of CsCreA in vegetative growth, stress responses, conidial production and germination, and pathogenicity of *C. siamense* were characterized. [Results] CscreA encoded a protein composed of 386 amino acid residues and containing two typical C2H2 zinc finger domains. Compared with the wild-type strain, Δ CscreA exhibited slow growth, increased sensitivity to H₂O₂ and Congo red, decreased sensitivity to KCl, significantly reduced conidial production and germination rate, and weakened pathogenicity. [Conclusion] The transcription factor CsCreA is involved in regulating the vegetative growth, stress responses, conidial production and germination, and pathogenicity of *C. siamense*.

Keywords: rubber anthracnose; *Colletotrichum siamense*; C2H2-type transcription factor; biological function

根据联合国粮农组织统计数据表明，各种病害给天然橡胶造成的损失占橡胶总产量的25%以上^[1-2]。橡胶树病害大约有90多种，主要有炭疽病、白粉病、棒孢霉落叶病、南美叶枯病、叶斑病和死皮病等，其中炭疽病是影响橡胶树生长及产胶最主要的真菌病害之一^[3]。炭疽病作为全球农业生产中常见的真菌病害之一，对农作物造成巨大经济损失，其中邪罗炭疽菌(*Colletotrichum siamense*)感染橡胶树使其出现橡胶炭疽病，最主要的病原菌之一^[4]。炭疽病十分常见，除了在橡胶树和茶树等经济作物上形成之外，在芒果、草莓和辣椒等水果蔬菜也时常发生^[5]。其强大的适应性和致病力，很大程度上归功于其复杂的基因调控网络，尤其是转录因子在调控其致病性、生长发育以及

逆境响应中的核心作用^[6]。

转录因子，作为真核生物基因表达调控的关键分子，通过特定结合的DNA序列调控位于下游的基因在转录过程中的活性^[7]。在病原真菌中，转录因子参与了菌丝生长、分生孢子形成及致病因子合成的整个过程，对病原菌的适应性和致病性具有决定性影响^[8]。CreA(Cre1)转录因子最早在黑曲霉(*Aspergillus niger*)中被发现，CreA作为一个负调控因子，参与了碳源代谢的调节，特别是在碳源竞争抑制中发挥作用^[9]。CreA能够识别并结合到含有特定顺式作用元件(Creb)的DNA序列上，从而抑制那些在不利碳源条件下才能有效利用的代谢途径的基因表达^[10-11]。CreA在黄曲霉(*Aspergillus flavus*)中不仅在碳代谢调控中起作用，而且在真菌的

