

固氮蓝藻高光放氢突变种的筛选 和放氢特点*

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提 要

作者以前报道过几种快速生长的固氮蓝藻在某种条件下能好气光放氢, 其速度可以达到光合放氧速度的10—15%, 但这种活性只有在无积累氢气的流动气相下或在短时间内发生。本文报道用亚硝基胍诱变所得到的 *Anabaena* spp. Strain CA 的高光放氢突变种——N9A 和 18A——的筛选和氢代谢特点。在达生长饱和和光照以后, 野生型的光放氢活性与光照强度的增加成正相关, 而其吸氢活性则与之成负相关, 显示高光照强度可能抑制吸氢酶的活性。无论在什么光强下, 均测不到两个突变种的吸氢活性, 暗示在突变种中, 吸氢酶或有关系统受损伤。把细胞固相化在琼脂上, 在密闭系统中, 高光强下培养50个小时, 两个突变种光释放和积累的氢分别为野生型的2倍(N9A)和6倍(18A), 后者等于氢占气相(1%CO₂的空气)的1.8%。两个突变种在生长速度、叶绿素含量、乙炔还原活性以及光合放氧方面与野生型无明显不同。当以含50—100nM的镍离子的培养基培养时, 野生型的好气净产氢活性完全丢失, 其吸氢活性却增加约10倍。培养基中镍离子的存在, 对两个突变种的高光放氢活性则毫无影响, 而且在此情况下, 仍测不出其吸氢活性。

实验结果表明, 这两个突变种系吸氢酶缺陷型突变种。

在生物转化太阳能制氢以作为未来能源的研究中, 丝状有异形胞蓝藻被视为最有希望的生物之一, 因为它放出的氢是来源于水的, 而且催化光放氢的固氮酶(Nitrogenase)被保护在异形胞(heterocyst)中^{[1], [4]}。然而, 就在异形胞中, 也并存着催化吸氢的氢酶(uptake hydrogenase), 它循环利用固氮酶所释放的氢, 使净产氢量大大降低^[2]。因此, 在当今生物光放氢的研究中, 学者们认为, 选育生长快、固氮酶活性高而吸氢酶活性低的优良藻种和诱变吸氢酶活性降低乃至缺陷型的高光放氢固氮蓝藻突变种, 是今后应注意的工作^[3, 8]。

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不久前,作者曾报道了两种生长快并具高光放氢活性的固氮蓝藻 *Anabaena* spp. Strains CA 和 IF^[12]。继而发现,固氮蓝藻的净光放氢活性是严格依赖于藻类生长培养基中的镍离子含量的^[13]。本文报道固氮蓝藻 *Anabaena* spp. Strain CA 的两个高光放氢突变的分离及其光放氢特点,这两个突变种均能够在正常大气条件下,随着细胞量的增加,连续不断地进行较高的氢释放和积累;在密闭系统中,将细胞固定在琼脂培养基上,所放出的氢气量可高达总气相(1%CO₂的空气)的1.8%,而且突变种的这种高光放氢活性是完全不受培养基中镍离子的影响的,从整细胞生理特点上来看,这种突变种应属于吸氢酶缺陷型突变种。

材 料 和 方 法

生物材料 本实验所用藻种为 *Anabaena* spp. Strain CA, (ATCC 33047); 是一种海生、喜温、生长快、有异形胞的固氮蓝藻^[10]。

培养条件 藻种培养在含 20 毫升无氮培养基 ASP-2 的硬质玻璃培养管中(22 × 175mm), 培养基含氯化钠量修改为 5 克/升。生物生长量的测定, 采用配有滤光片(660nm)的光电比色计, 比浊法进行。异形胞在藻丝体中所占的比例, 是在普通显微镜下, 计数至少 10 条藻丝(大约 1,000 个细胞)统计出来的。干重的测定是用 Bottomlay 和 Van Baalen^[4] 的方法进行的。培养管置于 39℃ 的玻璃恒温(39℃)培养箱中, 两侧各以 4 支 F48T12/CW/1500 日光灯做光源, 灯管距培养箱的距离是 7.5 厘米, 表面光强为 400 $\mu\text{E}/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec}$ 。(需要时, 加铜丝网改变光强)。培养物连续照光, 并通以含约 1% 的二氧化碳的过滤空气。整个培养保持无菌条件(划平板检测)。

突变种的筛选 基本上参照 Gotto 等所报道的方法进行^[7], 亚硝基胍作为诱变剂, 使用浓度为 40 微克/毫升, 处理过的细胞铺在以含有 100 nM 的氯化镍(NiCl₂ · 6H₂O) 的 ASP-2 无氮培养基所制成的琼脂平板上。将铺好平板的培养皿置入充有 1%CO₂ 空气的密封玻璃罐中, 置于 39℃, 光下培养, 大约一个星期之后, 挑选幸存细胞长出的藻群落, 并分别再制平板, 如此反复挑选、制板, 直至分纯; 然后, 挑选纯化群落接入含同样培养基的培养管中, 进行液体培养, 待细胞生长到一定浓度(大约 T = 60%, 相当于 0.12 毫克干重/毫升), 分别取 2 毫升液体培养物, 置入预先消毒好的 7 毫升带橡皮塞的密封管中(管中气相为含 1%CO₂ 的空气), 置于 39℃ 具光摇床上培养, 尔后随时抽样用气相色谱法检测氢气的形成, 筛选出产氢管号, 进一步接种、分离, 培养至稳定。

乙炔还原分析 所用方法见过去所述^[6]。乙烯的生成是从 7 毫升反应管(生物样品 2 毫升, 乙炔量占气相的 10%), 抽取 0.2 毫升气相样品注入 Antek Model 464 IPC 气相色谱仪, 柱体积为 183 × 0.32(厘米), 担体为 Chromosorb 104, 柱温 50℃, 以氦气作载气。

氢的测定 用极谱氢电极法测定^[12], 将 5331 型电极插入体积为 1.8 毫升具有恒温水套的电极槽, 电极槽内含物用一个小的磁力搅拌棒连续搅拌, 电极信号用 150 B 型微电流计放大, 并接自动记录仪。作用光是由具 Day-DAK 500 瓦灯泡的幻灯机提供的, 中间隔以 34-01-2 滤热透光片; 灯泡电压固定在 100 伏; 电极槽表面的人射光强(1200 $\mu\text{E}/$

m² · sec) 用铜丝网衰减变化。累积光产氢是用 8500 型气相色谱仪测定的, 热导池检测器, Sherocarb 作为担体, 柱体积为 213×0.33 (厘米), 柱温 37℃, 以氮气作为载气^[12]。

结果和讨论

我们用化学诱变法, 诱变有异形胞固氮蓝藻 *Anabaena* spp. strain CA, 获得了两株具有高光放氢活性而无吸氢酶活性的突变种: N9A 和 18A。在生长速度、叶绿素 a 的含量、固氮酶活性(乙炔还原)和光合作用(光合放氧)等方面, 两株突变种与其野生型并无多大差别(表 1)。但它们的光放氢活性却有着明显的不同。图 1 显示, 突变种达到最高好气下光放氢活性时所需要的生长光强远比野生型为低, 但就其乙炔还原活性而言, 突变种和野生型对光强的依赖性却呈现一致的关系。

表 1 无氮培养基中生长的野生型 *Anabaena* spp. CA 及其高光放氢突变种 18A 和 N9A 的某些特征

Tab. 1 Characteristics of parent strain *Anabaena* spp. strain CA and its mutants, 18A and N9A, grown under nitrogen-fixing conditions.

特 征 Characters	品 系 Strains		
	CA	18A	N9A
细胞加倍时间(小时) Generation time	4.6	5.0	5.2
叶绿素 a (占干重百分比) Chlorophyll a (per cent of dry weight)	0.85	0.80	0.82
乙烯生成量(固氮酶活性) C ₂ H ₄ Formed (μl/mg dry weight · h)	38	29	28
光合作用(放氧活性) Photosynthesis (O ₂ , μl/mg dry weight)	220	204	209
光放氢 + Ni ²⁺ (100nM) H ₂ photoproduction - Ni ²⁺ (μl H ₂ /mg dry weight) · h	0 30	30 29	30 30
暗吸氢 + Ni ²⁺ (100nM) H ₂ uptake - Ni ²⁺ (in the dark)	10 1	0 0	0 0

野生型在好气条件下的光放氢活性是严格依赖于所用的生长光强的^[12]。那么, 突变种和野生型在光放氢方面对光强依赖性的差异, 应该用吸氢酶活性的不同来解释。图 1b 表明, 突变种和野生型的暗吸氢活性对生长光强的依赖性。野生型的暗吸氢活性是与其生长光强有密切关系的, 强光下 (400μE/m² · sec) 生长的野生型固氮蓝藻, 其需氧的氢吸收活性大大受到抑制。但无论在什么光强下生长, 却始终测不出两株突变种有任何吸氢活性。生长培养基中的镍离子是蓝藻吸氢活性的一个关键性调节因子, 如果吸氢酶的基因是完整无缺的, 在生长培养基中有镍离子存在时, 蓝藻吸氢酶活性将会数倍乃至上百倍的增加^[13]。因此, 生物生长培养基中存在的镍离子对其吸氢活性的影响有无和大小, 可以作为鉴定该生物是否含有吸氢酶(或其电子传递链受损伤)的一个重要手段。两株突变种的好气光放氢活性对生长培养基中的镍离子是不敏感的(表 1)。在以含 1% 二氧化碳的空气作气相的密闭系统中, 生长培养基中无论有无镍离子, 两株突变种均能随着藻体的生

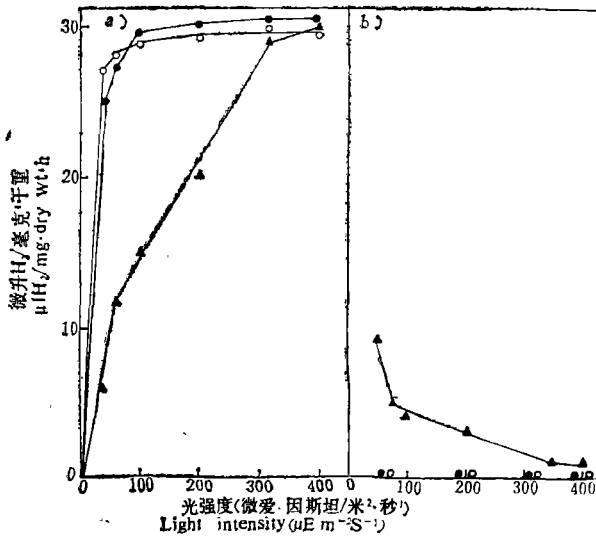


图1 *Anabaena* Strain CA 野生型及其两个突变种 18A 和 N9A 在好气条件下的光放氢 (a) 和暗吸氢 (b) 作用与生长所用光强的关系。生长培养基未加 Ni^{++} , 测定时细胞浓度为干重 0.15mg/ml, 从培养管直接移入电极槽。野生型 CA ▲—▲, 突变种 18A ○—○, 突变种 N9A ●—●。

(图左边: 微升 H_2 /毫克·干重应为微升 H_2 /毫克·干重·小时)

Fig. 1a, b. Net aerobic hydrogen production in the light (a) and hydrogen uptake in the dark (b) in *Anabaena* strain CA and two of its mutants as a function of the light intensity used for growth. The cultures were grown without added Ni^{++} . The growth bath was illuminated by F48T12/CW/1500 lamps and the intensity controlled by screens inserted between the lamps and the growth tubes. Cells, 0.15mg dry wt/ml, were removed from the growth tubes and immediately placed in the hydrogen electrode chamber and gassed with 1% CO_2 -in-air for 2 min to eliminate the background level of hydrogen always present in cultures. Symbols represent: wildtype CA (▲—▲), mutant 18A (○—○), mutant N9A (●—●). Rates were calculated from the slopes of the first three minutes of the recordings.

长持续不断地保持高光放氢活性。相反,在同样条件下,即使生长培养基中不加镍离子,野生型的光放氢作用亦只能维持数小时,继而停止并转入吸氢;而加镍离子培养的野生型则测不出任何光放氢活性(图2),实验持续10小时,两株突变种的产氢量是为不加镍培养的野生型的3倍。由于在这种液体培养中,生长速度接近最大,造成每单位细胞所接受的有效光强逐渐降低,这应该是随时间的推移,突变种光放氢作用也略有下降的合理解释。因此,我们将细胞固相化在琼脂上,使维持在较低的生长速度,而减少细胞增生对有效光强的过份影响,再测定其光放氢活性(图3)。显然,在固相化的密闭系统中,两株突变种的光放氢活性彼此不同,而与野生型相比,就有更大的差异。突变种 18A 在 50 小时内,光释放和积累的氢可高达整个气相(1% CO_2 的空气)的 1.8%, N9A 则占约 0.8%,所放出的氢量分别为野生型的 6 倍和 2 倍。野生型自 20 小时之后,净产氢趋于停止。两个突变种之间的差异与藻株在固相化琼脂上的生长适应性有关(数据未列)。

将突变种 N9A 和 18A 与其野生型 *Anabaena* spp. Strain CA 在不同条件下做对比研究的结果表明:在野生型中明显地存在着吸氢酶,除了早已报道的镍离子之外,这种吸氢酶

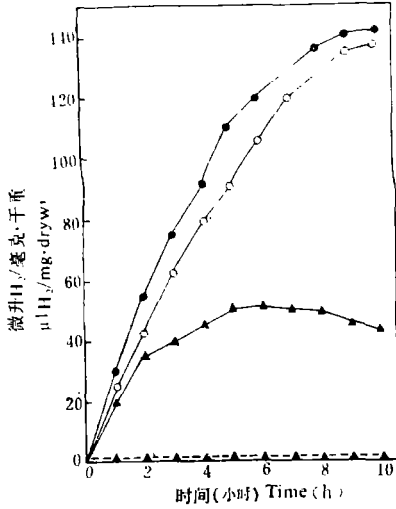


图2 密闭系统中，液体培养物的光放氢作用。255 ml 烧瓶中含培养物 20 ml，细胞起始浓度为干重 0.08—0.10 mg/ml，气相为 1%CO₂ 的空气，39℃摇床培养，底部照明，光强 350 μE/m²·s。野生型 CA，细胞生长时加 100 nM Ni²⁺ (▲...▲)，不加 Ni²⁺ (▲—▲)；突变种 18A，细胞生长时加 100 nM Ni²⁺ 或不加 (○—○)；突变种 N9A，细胞生长时加 100 nM Ni²⁺ 或不加 (●—●)。

Fig. 2 Net hydrogen production in the light in liquid cultures in closed flasks. Cells, 20 ml at 0.08 to 0.10 mg dry wt/ml initial cell density, grown under F48 T12/CW/1500 fluorescent lamps were transferred from the growth tubes to screw cap flasks of 255 ml capacity and incubated at 39°C with shaking. The shaking bath was lighted from below by six F48 T12/CW/HO lamps, 350 μE m⁻²s⁻¹. The screw cap contained a 1 mm hole through which samples were removed for estimation of H₂. Carbon dioxide was periodically added via a syringe to maintain the gas phase in the flask at 0.5 to 1.0%. Symbols represent: wildtype CA grown without 100 nM Ni²⁺ (▲—▲) or with 100 nM Ni²⁺ (▲...▲), mutant 18A grown with or without 100 nM Ni²⁺ (○—○), mutant N9A grown with or without 100 nM Ni²⁺ (●—●). The total increase in O₂ level in the flasks was approximately 1% of air oxygen. The cell density after 10h in the closed flasks was 0.30 to 0.34 mg dry wt/ml.

的活性是与细胞生长的光照强度呈负相关的，这就是短时间内，野生型在好气条件下的净光放氢作用与生长的光照强度成正相关的重要因子之一。在空气条件下能随细胞的生长持续高光放氢的突变种 N9A 和 18A 中，始终测不出吸氢酶的活性，这种吸氢活性的丢失，显示这两个突变种可能就是吸氢酶缺陷型突变种。曾有人报道分子氢的存在可能干扰光系统 I 和 II 之间的电子传递^[1]，但在我们的实验中，即使培养物气相中含有相当比例

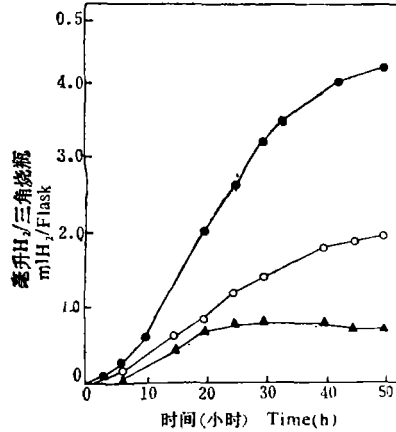


图3 固相化在琼脂上的细胞的光放氢作用。10 ml 液体培养物（细胞浓度为干重 0.14 mg/ml）与 10 ml 含 3% 琼脂的无氮培养基在 42℃ 均匀混和，并铺入 255 ml 烧瓶中使固相化。密封烧瓶（气相为含约 1% CO₂ 的空气），保温并测定（同前）。野生型 CA (▲—▲)；突变种 18A (●—●)，突变种 N9A (○—○)。

Fig. 3 Net hydrogen production in the light by cells immobilized in agar. The growth and incubation conditions were the same as given in Fig. 2. Ten ml of liquid culture at a cell density of 0.14 mg dry wt/ml was mixed with 10 ml of growth medium containing 3% water washed agar held at 42°C and the mixture immediately added to a 255 ml screw cap flask and allowed to solidify. The gas phase in flask was maintained at 0.5 to 1.0% CO₂. Symbols represent: wildtype CA (▲—▲), mutant 18A (●—●), mutant N9A (○—○). The 50h point on the curve for mutant 18A represented 1.8% H₂ in the gas phase. The increase in O₂ level in the flasks was approximately 2% of air oxygen level. The generation times, calculated from the increase in chlorophyll a per unit area, were 12h for CA, 11h for 18A and 13h for N9A.

的氢,也未见到氢对其代谢的抑制作用。

在以往的固氮蓝藻光放氢研究中,几乎绝大多数实验都是在严格厌气条件下(氩气下)进行的,即使在空气条件下,也要在气相中加入一氧化碳(CO),用以抑制吸氢酶的活性和固氮酶的固氮作用^[5],有的甚至加光合作用抑制剂 DCMU 来抑制光放氧(氩气条件下,中断吸氢反应中的电子受体)从而提高净产氢(事实上是抑制吸氢)作为一个重要措施^[9]。不言而喻,上述几种方法均迫使藻体停止生长,致使光放氢作用不能持续。本文所报道的突变种 N9A 和 18A,能在正常空气条件下,随着藻体的生长,保持有高光放氢活性,这将使我们既能连续地得到所放出的氢气,同时还可以得到生物干物质。

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THE PHENOTYPIC HUP⁻MUTANTS OF THE NITROGEN-FIXING BLUE-GREEN ALGA (CYANOBACTERIUM), *ANABAENA* SPP. STRAIN CA

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Abstract

We have previously reported that a significant rate, 10 to 15% as that of photosynthetic oxygen evolution, of aerobic hydrogen production had been observed in several rapidly-growing nitrogen-fixing strains of blue-algae (Cyanobacteria) under flow system. The continuously high aerobic hydrogen photoproduction mutants (Designated N9A and 18A, meaning the mutagenesis being performed on Nov. 9 and 18, at Am. 1982) of *Anabaena* spp. Strain CA was induced by using mutagen N-methyl-N-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (NTG) in ASP-2 medium containing 100 nM Ni⁺⁺, 1% water-washed agar and minus nitrogen source. The mutants were incubated in closed flask for 50 hs with the cells immobilized in agar. During the incubation, the mutants accumulated H₂ at a quantity of 2 times (mutant N9A) and 6 times (mutant 18A) as much as that of the wildtype, and for mutant 18A, it was equal to 1.8% H₂ in the gas phase (1% CO₂ in air). Under the saturated light intensity of growing, the capacity of net aerobic hydrogen production for the wildtype was found to increase with the increasing light intensity, the reason was that H₂ uptake was reduced as growth light intensity increased. However, there was no detectable H₂ uptake in the mutants even they were grown under low light intensity. It suggests that the high light intensity may inhibit the activity of uptake hydrogenase, and this enzyme or the relevant electron transport may have been lost or damaged in the mutants.

The mutants are not significantly different from the wildtype in growth rate in liquid medium, in chlorophyll *a* concentration and in the rates of C₂H₂ reduction and photosynthetic oxygen evolution. In wildtype, the addition of 50 to 100 nM Ni⁺⁺ to growth medium abolished net H₂ photoproduction and increased the rate of dark H₂ uptake to about 10 times, while in both mutants, H₂ evolution was independent of Ni⁺⁺ in growth medium.

The results suggest that these mutants, N9A and 18A, are the phenotypic Hup⁻ mutants of nitrogen-fixing Cyanobacterium, *Anabaena* spp. strain CA.

Key words Cyanobacteria, hydrogen photoproduction, H₂ uptake, mutants, light intensity, immobilization

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