



冶金微生物的铁硫代谢多样性及其与矿物的相互作用

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摘要: 生物冶金是利用微生物铁硫元素代谢活性加速硫化矿物氧化溶解, 并对其中有价金属加以提取回收的技术。冶金系统中微生物的代谢多样性及其耦合功能网络, 尤其是以铁硫代谢途径为主的功能网络, 在硫化矿物加速氧化溶解过程中承担了重要作用, 是生物冶金技术理论研究的核心领域。本文归纳了冶金系统中多样化的微生物物种及其铁硫代谢途径, 并从微生物代谢耦合角度探讨了微生物代谢多样性与矿物的相互作用。

关键词: 冶金微生物, 功能网络, 代谢多样性, 生物冶金

生物冶金技术是利用以矿物为营养基质的微生物, 将矿物氧化分解并使有价金属离子进入溶液, 然后通过进一步分离、富集、纯化而提取有价金属的高新技术, 是低品位、难处理矿产资源清洁高效利用的关键技术之一, 也是 21 世纪矿产资源加工的战略关键技术^[1-2]。其中, 冶金微生物作为生物冶金技术的关键功能角色, 促进了整个生物冶金体系的铁、硫元素等物质的循环, 并加速了硫化矿物氧化溶解^[3-4]。这一研究课题是生物冶金理论研究的核心领域, 亦是生物地球化学元素循环的关键科学问题。

生物冶金体系中 pH 极低, 含有浓度极高的硫

酸根离子、铁离子及其他重金属离子, 具有极少量的有机质^[5], 这些极端的环境因素让该生境拥有特定的微生物类群及其代谢形式^[6-7]。若从冶金微生物类群的铁、氧化代谢多样性及其耦合功能网络的整体角度去研究冶金微生物与矿物的相互作用, 能够更好地从总体上把握和调控冶金体系的生态系统功能^[8-12]。因此, 加强冶金微生物铁、硫氧化代谢多样性及其耦合功能网络与矿物相互作用的研究, 有助于生物冶金领域的进一步发展。

1 冶金微生物的多样性

冶金微生物具有极强的耐酸性和重金属抗

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性, 适宜生长温度范围广, 能量代谢方式多样, 系统发育格局分散^[13]。目前为止, 在生物浸出系统中已经发现 40 多种类型的冶金微生物^[14]。根据不同的最适生长温度范围, 可分为耐寒嗜冷微生物(0–20 °C)、嗜温微生物(20–40 °C)、中度嗜热微生物(40–60 °C)和极端嗜热微生物(>60 °C)。其中中度嗜热微生物和极端嗜热微生物在生物冶金中应用最为广泛。根据所利用的能源底物, 可将它们分为以下几种: (1) 氧化 Fe²⁺的铁氧化自养微生物^[15]; (2) 氧化无机硫化化合物的硫氧化自养微生物^[16]; (3) 异养或混合营养型的微生物, 可以以无机物为电子供体, 将 Fe³⁺或 SO₄²⁻还原^[17]。另外, 同时也有兼具上述任意多种能量代谢方式的微生物^[18]。

根据系统发育信息, 冶金微生物主要分布在变形菌门(Proteobacteria)、放线菌门(Actinobacteria)、硝化螺旋菌门(Nitrospira)、厚壁菌门(Firmicutes), 以及古菌的热原体属(*Thermoplasmatales*)和硫化叶菌目(Sulfolobales)^[19]。其中应用最广泛的物种包括有 γ -变形菌纲中的 *Acidithiobacillus* 属(主要是 *At. ferrooxidans* 和 *At. caldus*)^[20], 硝化螺旋菌门的 *Leptospirillum* 属^[21–25], α -变形菌纲中的 *Acidiphilium* 属^[26–27]和厚壁菌门的 *Sulfobacillus* 属^[28–30]。这些微生物主要是具有铁氧化或硫氧化功能的微生物, 且多为可分离的优势菌群, 目前已得到大量的基因组学解析, 为构建生物冶金人工共培养体系提供了重要的参考信息。

2 冶金微生物的铁硫代谢多样性

生物冶金体系中大部分冶金微生物都是自养微生物, 能通过铁或硫的氧化获取维持生命活动所需的能量, 并驱动其他碳、氮、磷等元素的循环^[8–9,31]。为了适应这种有机能源底物匮乏的环境,

并且最大限度地利用铁硫氧化产生的能量, 冶金微生物进化出了多样的与铁、硫元素循环相关的代谢途径。

2.1 铁代谢多样性

在中性环境中, Fe(II)暴露在空气中能快速地被氧化成 Fe(III)。然而, 在极端酸性的浸矿体系中(pH<3), Fe(II)即使在有氧条件下也能稳定存在^[32]。因此, 极端酸性的环境为铁氧化细菌提供了稳定的能源底物, 是嗜酸微生物铁代谢途径多样化的基本条件。

2.1.1 铁氧化代谢: 冶金微生物的铁氧化细菌主要包括有 *Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans*、*At. ferrivorans*、*Leptospirillum* 属和 *Sulfobacillus* 属等, 而铁氧化古菌主要有 *Acidiplasma cupricumulans*、*Ferroplasma acidarmanus*、*Acidianus* 属和 *Metallosphaera sedula* 等^[8, 32]。这些铁氧化细菌和古菌可利用不同的电子传递链捕获 Fe(II)氧化释放的电子, 并供给生命代谢活动所需的能量(表 1)。其中, *Acidithiobacillus* 属的铁氧化机制研究得较为透彻, 目前已证实该菌属参与铁氧化功能代谢的基因有 *rusA/B* 和 *iro* 基因^[33–34]。*rusA/B* 基因负责编码铜蓝蛋白 A 和 B, 这两种蛋白是细胞周质中负责氧化 Fe(II)的同工酶。值得注意的是, 在 *At. ferrivorans* Group III 中可检测出 *rusA/B* 基因, 而 *At. ferrivorans* CF2 却没有该基因, 但其依然具有铁氧化活性, 这表明了该基因至少在 *At. ferrivorans* 中不是铁氧化代谢途径的核心基因^[33]。另一方面, *iro* 基因负责编码细胞周质中一种具有铁氧化酶活性的高电位铁硫蛋白 (high-potential iron-sulfur protein, HiIPs)^[35]。这表明了 *Acidithiobacillus* 属至少有两种不同的铁氧化代谢途径。相似地, 这两种铁氧化途径均是靠细胞外膜上的 Cyc2 将 Fe(II)的电子传递到铁氧

表 1. 冶金微生物铁氧化代谢途径多样性
Table 1. Iron metabolic diversity of bioleaching microorganisms

Iron metabolic pathways	Gene/Operon	Position	Electron transfer chain	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cyc2		Outer membrane	Fe(II)→Rusticyanin oxidase	■	■							
Cytochrome 572 (Cyt ₅₇₂)		Outer membrane	Fe(II)→Cyt ₅₇₉			■						
Rusticyanin A	<i>rusA</i>	Periplasm	Rusticyanin→Cyc1/CycA1	■	■							
Rusticyanin B	<i>rusB</i>	Periplasm	Rusticyanin→Cyc1/CycA1	■	■							
Iron oxidase	<i>iro</i>	Periplasm	Iron oxidase→Cyc1/CycA1	■	■							
Cytochrome 579 (Cyt ₅₇₉)		Periplasm	Cyt ₅₇₉ →Cytochrome c			■						
Sulfocyanin		Periplasm							■	■	■	
aa ₃ oxidase		Inner membrane		■	■							
Cyc1		Inner membrane	Cyc1→aa ₃ oxidase	■	■							
CycA1		Inner membrane	CycA1→bc ₁ complex	■	■							
cbb3 oxidase		Inner membrane				■					■	
Cytochrome b		Inner membrane						■	■	■		■
haem-copper terminal oxidase	<i>fox cluster</i>	Inner membrane						■	■	■		■
bc ₁ complex		Inner membrane		■		■	■	■	■	■		■

1: *Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans*; 2: *At. ferrivorans*; 3: *Leptospirillum* spp.; 4: *Sulfobacillus* spp.; 5: *Sulfolobus* spp.; 6: *Acidiplasma* spp.; 7: *Ferropasma acidarmanus*; 8: *Acidianus* spp.; 9: *Metallosphaera sedula*. White cells: absence of the gene/operon; Black cells: presence of the gene/operon.

化酶上，暗示了这两种途径可能来源于同一套铁氧化系统的趋异进化。

在 *Leptospirillum* 属的 4 个种中，包括 *Leptospirillum ferrooxidans* (Group I)^[21]、*L. ferriphilum* (Group II)^[22]、*L. rubarum* (Group II)^[22]、*L. ferrodiazotrophum* (Group III)和 *L. sp. UBA BS* (Group IV)^[25]，都具有相似的 Fe(II)氧化代谢途径^[23, 25, 36]。与 *Acidithiobacillus* 属不同的是，*Leptospirillum* 属是将 Fe(II)的电子由外膜的 Cyt572 传递到细胞周质的 Cyt579，随后经细胞周质的 Cytc 传递到内膜的 cbb3 终端氧化酶，并以氧气为电子受体生成水 (“downhill”) ;或传递到 bc1 复合体，然后通过 QH2 转移到 NADH 脱氢酶中 (“uphill”)^[35]。

Sulfobacillus 属是一种混合营养型的革兰氏阳性菌，在已分离的 *Sulfobacillus* 属中均已被证实具有铁氧化能力，但种间的铁氧化代谢途径存在较大差异^[37-38]。Nicholas 等^[37]通过分析比较 9 株

Sulfobacillus 基因组学发现，与 *Leptospirillum* 属相似，8 株均有完整的 downhill 铁氧化途径，而 *Sulfobacillus* sp. AMDSBA1 则缺乏关键的编码膜相关 c 型细胞色素的基因；对于 uphill 铁氧化途径，只有 *Sulfobacillus* sp. AMDSBA4 具有编码关键复合体 bc1 的基因，但目前并没验证其具有与铁氧化革兰氏阴性菌相同的功能。此外，我们发现在 *S. thermosulfidooxidans* ST 基因组中，存在编码与铁氧化相关蓝铜蛋白 Sulfocyanin 的基因，并且其与古菌的铜蓝蛋白编码基因具有较高的相似性，暗示了基因横向转移可能是 *Sulfobacillus* sp.铁氧化代谢途径趋异进化的重要因素^[39]。

在铁氧化古菌 *Acidiplasma* 属和 *Ferropasma* 属中^[40]，其铁氧化代谢途径与铁氧化细菌 *Leptospirillum* 属较为相似，但亦有明显的差异。Bulaev 等^[41]通过基因组分析表明，*Acidiplasma* sp. MBA-1 含有编码与铁氧化相关的铜蓝蛋白。与 *Leptospirillum*

属相似, Fe(II)的电子传递链包括以 NADH 和氧气为最终电子受体两种。值得注意的是, 该菌株对铁离子拥有很高浓度的铁离子耐受性, 即使在 50 g/L 的 Fe(III)存在下, 依然具有很高的铁氧化活性, 表明了 *Acidiplasma* spp. 铁氧化系统可能具有其他的特性^[42]。加强对该特性的研究, 或许可优化出强铁氧化能力的冶金微生物功能类群。在 *Ferroplasma* spp. JA12 的基因组信息中心, Ullrich 等^[43]发现 Fe(II)氧化电子传递链与 *Leptospirillum* spp. 相似, 但外膜上接收 Fe(II)电子的蛋白是 Cyc2 的同源蛋白而非 Cyt572。但目前对于细菌和古菌铁氧化代谢途径差异的进化机制仍待深入研究。

2.1.2 铁还原代谢: 铁还原代谢广泛存在于嗜酸的微生物中, 铁硫氧化自养菌 *At. ferrooxidans*、*At. ferrivorans* 在厌氧条件下均有铁还原能力, 但目前为止依然没有发现与 Fe(III)还原直接相关的酶。有研究报道 Fe(III)的还原与 *tetH*^[44]和 *arsH* 基因^[45]的表达量有关, 表明 Fe(III)的最终电子供体可能来源于 TetH 和 ArsH 蛋白。另一方面, 在 *At. ferrooxidans* 中, Fe(III)也可能自发地参与 H₂S 的厌氧氧化过程^[46]。此外, 在所有已分离的混合营养型的 *Sulfobacillus* 属中, 即使在没有硫元素存在的条件下, 也拥有铁还原能力, 表明 *Sulfobacillus* 属可能具有直接还原铁的能力^[47-51], 但具体机制仍不明确。而一些异养的细菌和古菌, 如 *Acidiphilium* 属和 *Acidiplasma* 属等, 也都是 Fe(III)还原的承担者^[40, 52-53]。

2.2 硫代谢多样性

相比于铁氧化过程, 冶金微生物从 S²⁻/S⁶⁺氧化过程中可获得更多的能量。而硫元素具有多的价态以及化合物形态, 为了使系统能量输入最大化, 冶金微生物的硫代谢途径比铁代谢更为复杂

多样^[34-35]。

2.2.1 硫氧化代谢: 还原型无机硫化物(RISCs)的氧化途径分为三种, 包括 H₂S、氧化性谷胱甘肽(GSSH)和 S₂O₃²⁻的氧化^[9, 54]。RISCs 的氧化涉及到多种微生物不同细胞空间的多种酶、复合体和电子载体(表 2)。在 H₂S 的氧化途径中, 细胞周质中的硫化物, 经内膜上的硫醌氧化还原酶(SQR)氧化后生成硫^[55], 硫再经细胞周质硫氧化还原酶(SOR)被氧化生成亚硫酸^[56], 亚硫酸进一步被亚硫酸氧化酶(SO)或被腺苷磷酸硫酸还原酶(APSR)直接或间接氧化生成硫酸^[9, 57]。值得注意的是, 编码 SOR 的 *sor* 基因存在较高的移动性, 例如在 *At. Caldu*s ATCC 51756 和 *At. thiooxidans* A01 基因组中含有 *sor* 基因^[58-59], 但却在一些同源菌株中, 如 *At. caldu*s SM-1^[60]和 *At. thiooxidans* ATCC 19377 却没有这个关键的基因^[35], 同样的现象也发生在混合营养型的 *Sulfobacillus* spp. 种间中^[37]。在古菌研究中, 最早研究发现的 *Acidianus* 属和 *Sulfolobus* 属中部分菌种通过硫氧化还原酶 SOR 完成第一步硫的氧化还原过程, 由亚硫酸受体氧化酶 SAOR、SQR、TQO、TetH 完成亚硫酸到硫酸的直接氧化过程, 由 APSR 和腺苷酰硫酸磷酸腺苷转移酶(APAT)进行亚硫酸的间接氧化^[61-62]。此外, 在 *Metallosphaera* 属菌种的基因组中, 均没发现 SOR、APSR 和 APAT 及其同源蛋白^[63-64], 意味着该菌株可能存在其他硫氧化代谢途径。

在氧化性谷胱甘肽(GSSH)的氧化途径中, 锚定在内膜上的异二硫化物还原酶(HDR)是参与细胞质中 GSSH 氧化的关键酶, 可将 GSSH 氧化分解为 GSH 和 SO₃²⁻, 在大部分嗜酸硫氧化细菌和古菌中具有较高的保守性^[65-66]。然而, 在混合营养型的 *Sulfobacillus* spp. 中, 则存在两种编码异二

表 2. 冶金微生物硫氧化代谢途径多样性
Table 2. Sulfur metabolic diversity of bioleaching microorganisms

Sulfur metabolic pathways	Gene/Operon	Position	Electron transfer chain	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sox system	<i>SoxXYZAB</i>	Periplasm	$S^{2-}/S^0/S_2O_3^{2-}/SO_3^{2-} \rightarrow SO_4^{2-}$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Tetrathionate hydrolase	<i>tetH</i>	Periplasm	$S_4O_6^{2-} \rightarrow S_2O_3^{2-} + SO_4^{2-} + S^0$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Thiosulfate dehydrogenase	<i>tsd</i>	Periplasm	$S_2O_3^{2-} \rightarrow S_4O_6^{2-}$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sulfide quinone reductase	<i>sqr</i>	Inner membrane	$H_2S \rightarrow S^0$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Thiosulfate:quinone oxidoreductase	<i>doxDA</i>	Inner membrane	$S_4O_6^{2-} \rightarrow S_2O_3^{2-}$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sulfur oxygenase reductase	<i>sor</i>	Cytoplasm	$S^0 \rightarrow H_2S + SO_3^{2-} + S_2O_3^{2-}$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Thiosulfate sulfurtransferase	<i>tst</i>	Cytoplasm	$S_2O_3^{2-} \rightarrow SO_3^{2-} + S^0$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Heterodisulfide reductase complex	<i>hdrABC</i>	Cytoplasm	$RSSH \rightarrow RSH + SO_3^{2-}$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sulfate adenylyltransferase/adenylylsulfate kinase	<i>sat/cysC</i>	Cytoplasm	$APS \rightarrow SO_4^{2-}$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
sulfite: acceptor oxidoreductase	<i>sar</i>	Periplasm	$SO_3^{2-} \rightarrow SO_4^{2-}$	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

1: *Acidithiobacillus caldus*; 2: *At. thiobacillus*; 3: *At. ferrooxidans*; 4: *At. ferrivorans*; 5: *Sulfobacillus* spp.; 6: *Sulfolobus solfataricus*; 7: *S. islandicus*; 8: *S. acidocaldarius*; 9: *Acidianus copahuensis*; 10: *Metallosphaera* spp.. White cells: absence of the gene/operon; Black cells: presence of the gene/operon.

硫还原酶的 *hdr* 基因簇:第一种 *hdr* 基因簇存在于 *S. thermosulfidooxidans* ST、*Sulfobacillus* AMDSBA1 和 *Sulfobacillus* AMDSBA5 中,而第二种类型的 *hdr* 基因簇则存在于绝大部分的 *Sulfobacillus* 属中^[37]。与第一种类型相比,第二种类型基因簇在 *hdrC* 基因上拥有编码黄素蛋白、6 个跨膜体和 2 个富含半胱氨酸结构域的片段^[37],这 3 个基因片段的组合在硫酸盐还原菌 *Desulfobacterium autotrophicum* 中也有发现^[67],但具体作用仍不明确。GSSH 氧化分解产生的 SO_3^{2-} 对细胞具有毒害作用,经腺苷硫酸(APS)还原酶催化产生 APS,然后被硫酸盐腺苷酰转移酶(SAT)氧化生成硫酸盐^[57]。另外,在硫氧化古菌 *Metallosphaera* 属中,发现了新的能将 SO_3^{2-} 氧化成 SO_4^{2-} 的亚硫酸盐-受体氧化酶(SAR, 表 2)^[64, 68]。

在硫代硫酸盐氧化的相关途径中,硫代硫酸盐被细胞周质中的硫代硫酸盐醌氧化酶(TQO)氧化成连四硫酸盐^[69],连四硫酸盐则进一步被连四硫酸盐水解酶(TetH)氧化成硫代硫酸盐、硫酸盐和硫单质^[70]。TQO 和 TetH 广泛存在于嗜酸硫氧化细菌中,

如 *Acidithiobacillus* spp.和 *Sulfobacillus* spp.^[70]。此外,具有铁氧化能力的 *At. ferrooxidans* 和 *At. ferrivorans* 中还含有硫代硫酸盐脱氢酶(Tsd)^[35,71]。

2.2.2 硫还原代谢: 硫还原微生物在生物冶金体系中扮演着关键的角色,这部分微生物通常以有机物为电子供体,还原高价态的无机硫化物。冶金体系中硫还原细菌主要包括 *Desulfovibrio* 属等^[72],而古菌主要包括 *Acidianus* 属^[62, 73-74]等。异养的硫还原菌在厌氧条件下,可以利用有机酸和短链醇作为电子供体,在细胞质中将硫酸还原成硫化物^[8-9]。在 *Desulfovibrio* 属中,有机物的电子首先经 QmoA/B 跨膜复合体将电子传递到 ApsA/B 还原酶,并将硫酸根还原为亚硫酸根,然后再通过 DsrAB/C 还原酶以 H_2 为电子供体,进一步将亚硫酸根还原为硫化物,但 H_2 的电子传递路径尚不清楚^[72, 75]。在古菌 *Acidianus* 属基因组中,Urbieta 等发现了在其细胞周质中含有 Ni/Fe 氢化酶,并认为该酶在 H_2 电子转移到硫化物中发挥了关键作用^[62,74]。另外,铁硫氧化细菌 *At. ferrooxidans* 在厌氧条件下也具有硫还原的能力,基因组分析表

明 *At. ferrooxidans* 具有编码硫还原酶系统的基因 *sreABCD*^[46], 该基因簇可编码细胞内膜上的 Sre 硫还原酶, 并使细胞质中 S^0 还原成 H_2S ^[76]。目前, 许多硫还原菌的基因组已得到解析, 接下来应加强研究硫还原菌与其他菌群的相互作用及其在生态系统的贡献。

3 微生物代谢耦合与矿物的相互作用

硫化矿物的氧化主要分为两种途径, 包括硫代硫酸盐途径和多硫化物途径, 这两种途径均会产生大量的 RISCs 中间产物, 为硫氧化微生物提供大量的能源物质^[77-78]。而硫氧化微生物与其他微生物的代谢耦合, 构建起冶金系统中高效的生态功能网络(图 1), 可加快矿物的溶解过程^[9, 79]。首先, 铁氧化微生物氧化亚铁离子生成铁离子, 铁离子则作为强氧化剂进攻硫化矿, 并被还原成亚铁离子, 同时硫化矿物的有价金属溶解和生成 RISCs^[78, 80]; 硫氧化微生物进一步将 RISCs 氧化分

解, 减少硫膜对硫化矿物溶解的抑制作用, 提高硫化矿物的溶解浸出效率^[80-81]; 而铁硫氧化微生物生成的有机物进一步被异养或混合营养型微生物降解, 从而降低有机物对铁硫自养微生物的抑制作用^[80, 82-84]。选择合适的微生物功能种群, 提高生物冶金微生物群落的物种和代谢多样性, 是构建高效生态功能网络的关键^[30, 80]。

在自然冶金系统的调查中, 我们发现江西德兴浸矿堆中的微生物群落比浸出液具有更高的物种多样性, 并对黄铁矿有更好的浸出效果^[29]。进一步的分析表明, 与浸出液微生物群落相比, 浸矿堆中除了包含主导微生物 *Acidithiobacillus* 属和 *Leptospirillum* 属之外, 还具有相对较高丰度的异养微生物, 包括 *Hydrothalea* 属^[85]、*Frateuria* 属^[86]、*Thermogymnomonas* 属^[86]和 *Thiomonas* 属^[87], 这些菌属可降低有机物对铁硫氧化自养菌的抑制作用。然而, 在福建紫金生物冶金系统中, 我们却发现了相反的结果, 物种多样性较低的浸出堆微生物群落反而有着更高的黄铁矿浸出效率, 这可能由于浸出堆系统的细菌群落中拥有更高丰度的铁硫

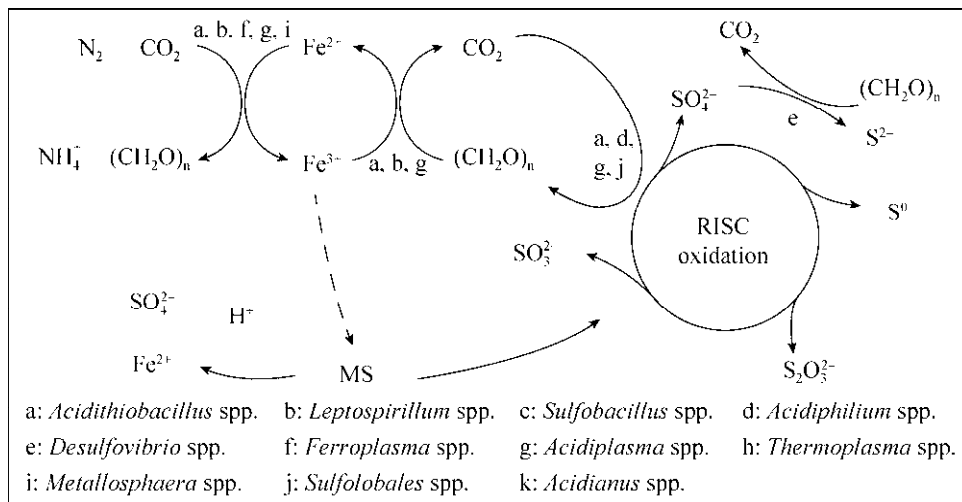


图 1. 生物冶金体系微生物代谢功能网络(MS: 金属硫化物; RISC: 还原型无机硫化物)^[8,54,79]

Figure 1. Metabolic function network of microbial community in bioleaching system (MS: metal sulfides; RISC: reduced inorganic sulfur compounds)^[8,54,79].

氧化细菌^[30]。在德兴浸矿堆与紫金浸矿堆的细菌群落分析比较中,我们发现前者多样性(H=4.4)是后者的(H=3.0) 1.5 倍,而多样性的这部分差异主要源于上述德兴浸矿堆中异养菌的贡献。在进一步的黄铜矿浸出实验中,我们发现德兴浸矿堆中微生物群落的浸出时间比紫金浸矿堆大约提前了 15 d,显著提高了浸出效率^[29-30]。这表明了生物冶金高效的生态功能网络可能并非只依赖于物种多样性的增加,而是功能微生物种群、代谢途径多样性的有机组合^[88-89]。

冶金微生物代谢耦合的功能网络模型,在指导人工构建的高效冶金共培养体系中发挥了重要的作用^[9-10]。我们将铁硫氧化细菌 *Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans* 和异养菌 *Acidiphilium acidophilum* 能显著提高整个体系的碳固定速率、铁氧化速率^[83] 和黄铜矿的浸出速率,并加强了体系对重金属离子的抗性^[82]。Li 等^[90]也发现了铁硫氧化微生物共培养体系比铁氧化微生物具有更高的铀矿浸出速率。此外,我们也开展了铁硫氧化微生物共培养体系中微生物配比对黄铜矿浸出效果的研究,研究结果显示硫氧化微生物比例高的体系中拥有更好的浸出效果^[88],这表明了构建高效的共培养体系需要功能微生物特定比例的组合,同时也说明了硫代谢在生物冶金微生物代谢功能网络中的重要性。另一方面,在功能网络的氮循环中,目前只发现了少部分的中温菌能固定大气中的 N_2 ,如 *At. ferrooxidans* 和 *Leptospirillum* 属^[23-24, 35],并未发现极端嗜热的固氮微生物。这暗示了氮源的输入可能会成为生物冶金过程中功能网络运转的重要限速步骤,进而降低硫化矿的浸出速率,添加氮源或引入氮固定功能菌群可能会加速整个群落的物质运转速率^[91]。

在生物冶金系统的底泥中,硫还原菌如

Syntrophobacter 属、*Desulfosporosinus* 属和 *Desulfurella* 属等,通常占有较高的丰度^[92],但由于他们并非直接参与矿物氧化溶解过程,目前对这部分菌属及其在生态功能网络中的作用研究较少。此外,冶金系统中还存在少数的真菌物种^[93],这部分真菌亦可通过分泌有机酸参与矿物溶解的过程,如 *Aspergillus* 和 *Penicillium*^[94]。特别地,也有研究报道了一种具有亚铁氧化酶活性的真菌 *Acidomyces acidophilus*^[95]。这些真菌物种丰富了构建生物冶金微生物功能群和代谢功能网络的选择,但真菌是如何与细菌发生协同作用并形成一个高效的生态功能网络,仍需进一步深入的研究。

4 展望

生物冶金过程中,硫化矿物的生物溶解是一个微生物代谢相互耦合作用的过程,从微生物铁、硫氧化代谢多样性及其耦合功能网络的角度来研究生物冶金的作用机理,还需要强化微生物学、生物信息学和物理化学的结合。未来需要加强以下方面的研究。

(1) 冶金系统中的微生物多样性十分丰富,它们不仅和生物冶金工业应用和矿山环境修复有关,还和极端环境下物种的进化过程与生态过程密切相关。目前,生物冶金系统中仍存在大量未培养且稀有的物种。尽管利用高通量测序、宏基因组、宏转录分析等方法可以避开培养过程,有效分析环境中的微生物组成,预测微生物的代谢途径,但不能通过实验证实未知微生物的生理过程,限制了对于微生物相互耦合、协同作用机制的深入研究。要探索未培养和稀有微生物在生态功能网络中发挥的作用,解析其在生物冶金体系中物种及代谢多样性,需要进一步加强未培养和稀有

物种的鉴定及基因组信息的解析, 探寻新的能量代谢途径以完善、构建高效的生态功能网络。

(2) 在生物冶金系统的功能代谢网络中, 铁硫循环在物质能量循环中发挥了重要作用。但铁硫循环究竟是怎样与其他碳、氮、磷循环耦合的, 其中的关键速率限制环节又是哪个? 构建一个模式群落去回答这些科学问题, 并探明微生物代谢网络的耦合及其与矿物相互作用的过程, 对调控生物冶金微生物群落功能和阐明一些微生物生态学的问题都是极具科学价值的。

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Diversity of iron and sulfur metabolism in bioleaching microorganisms and their interaction with minerals

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Abstract: Bioleaching is to extract valuable metals from their ores by microbial metabolic activity to take iron/sulfur. Microbial metabolic diversity and coupling function networks in metallurgical systems, especially functional networks dominated by iron and sulfur metabolism, play a major role in driving and accelerating the dissolution process of sulfide ore. Therefore, it is the core research area on bio-metallurgy technology. We summarize here the microbial diversity and iron/sulfur metabolism pathways in the metallurgical system, as well as the interactions between microbial metabolism diversity and minerals from the perspectives of metabolic coupling functional network.

Keywords: bioleaching microorganisms, functional network, metabolic diversity, bioleaching

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