



## 非洲猪瘟病毒的非必需基因：真的可有可无吗？

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**摘要：**非洲猪瘟(African swine fever, ASF)是由非洲猪瘟病毒(African swine fever virus, ASFV)引起的一种出血性、致死性的猪烈性传染病。ASF 在全球广泛传播，给养猪业造成重大的经济损失。ASFV 基因组庞大，可编码 150 多种蛋白，一些非必需基因编码的蛋白与调控病毒毒力、复制和免疫逃逸等相关。通过删除 ASFV 毒力相关的非必需基因所构建的减毒株是当前比较有前景的疫苗，然而其安全性有待提高。系统地鉴定 ASFV 非必需基因及其功能，不仅有助于 ASF 基因缺失疫苗的研发，也有益于 ASFV 致病机制研究。本文对目前已鉴定的 ASFV 非必需基因及其功能研究进行了总结分析，着重讨论了影响 ASFV 毒力、调控病毒复制、参与免疫逃逸的非必需基因及其编码蛋白的功能，旨在加深对 ASFV 病原学的认识，为新的 ASFV 非必需基因的鉴定和功能研究提供参考。

**关键词：**非洲猪瘟，非洲猪瘟病毒，非必需基因，毒力，免疫逃逸

非洲猪瘟(African swine fever, ASF)是由非洲猪瘟病毒(African swine fever virus, ASFV)引起的一种出血性、致死性猪烈性传染病<sup>[1]</sup>。ASF 于 1921 年在肯尼亚首次暴发，主要在撒哈拉以南的非洲地区流行，上世纪中叶传入欧洲，随后传至南美洲地区，2007 年格鲁吉亚暴发 ASF 疫情并迅速波及俄罗斯、立陶宛等多个欧洲国

家<sup>[2-4]</sup>。2018 年 8 月我国辽宁省沈阳市首次报告该病，随后的几个月内，ASF 几乎席卷了我国所有省份，给我国养猪行业带来了沉重打击<sup>[5]</sup>。ASFV 的天然宿主为家猪、野猪和钝缘蜱，ASF 在家猪-野猪、野猪-软蜱-家猪间循环传播，疣猪、钝缘蜱等自然宿主感染后无明显临床表现，是本病的传播媒介之一<sup>[6-7]</sup>。ASFV 可通过直接、间接

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接触感染 ASFV 的病猪、排泄物、污染物及节肢动物媒介(蝇、蚊子、软蜱)等进行传播<sup>[8]</sup>。

通过生物信息学预测发现, ASFV 基因组编码的 151–174 个基因中, 有 86 个基因为必需基因, 其余为非必需基因<sup>[9]</sup>。虽然众多学者开展了相关研究, 但仍有超过半数的 ASFV 基因功能不清楚。ASFV 的非必需基因对病毒毒力、免疫逃逸等方面具有重要作用<sup>[10]</sup>, 因此, 对非必需基因的研究十分重要。本文着重介绍了 ASFV 的非必需基因研究概况, 并将其分类汇总, 以期 ASFV 的致病机制与疫苗研发提供思路。

## 1 非洲猪瘟病毒

ASFV 是非洲猪瘟相关病毒科(Asfarviridae)非洲猪瘟病毒属(Asfivirus)的成员, 是目前已知的唯一虫媒 DNA 病毒, 成熟病毒粒子直径 260–300 nm, 自内向外分别是病毒基因组、内核心壳、内膜、衣壳和外膜(图 1)<sup>[11–12]</sup>。根据 ASFV p72 (B646L) 基因末端约 500 bp 核苷酸的差异, 现已鉴定出 24 种基因型, 格鲁吉亚、俄罗斯、中国、东南亚和东欧地区流行的主要是基因 II 型, 其他基因型主要流行于非洲和南美洲等地区<sup>[13–15]</sup>。

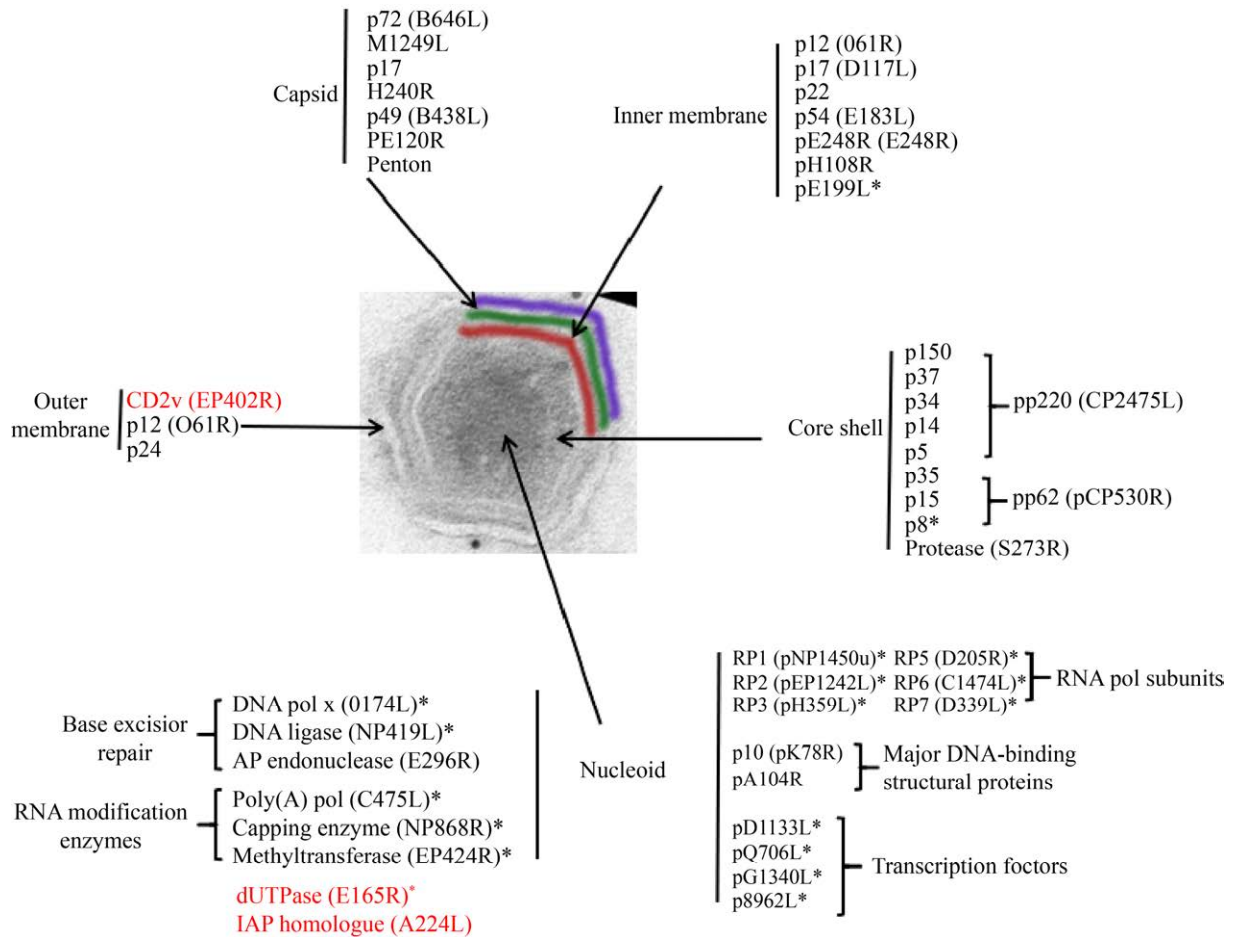


图 1. ASFV 蛋白分布(改编自 Alejo 等<sup>[16]</sup>)

Figure 1. ASFV protein atlas (adapted from Alejo et al.<sup>[16]</sup>). The distribution of proteins marked with an asterisk (\*) was inferred from the predicted or known roles; the genes marked in red are nonessential genes.

ASFV 是一种有囊膜的双链 DNA 病毒, 基因组全长 170–194 kb, 基因组两端具有串联重复序列和多基因家族构成的可变区, 不同毒株的两端可变区不同<sup>[11,17–19]</sup>。ASFV 的基因组分析对病毒基因功能、发病机制等研究具有重要意义。

根据基因缺失是否导致生物活性丧失, 基因可分为必需基因和非必需基因, 必需基因是生物生存和增殖所必需的, 而非必需基因对生物生存和增殖是非必需的<sup>[20]</sup>。2020 年 Wang 等对 46 株 ASFV 基因组进行了综合分析发现, ASFV 具有开放性泛基因组, 同时在 ASFV 中发现的 151–174 个基因中, 只有 86 个基因被鉴定为必需基因, 其余为非必需基因<sup>[9]</sup>。

ASFV 基因组包含 151–174 个开放阅读框, 可编码 68 种结构蛋白和 100 多种非结构蛋白<sup>[11]</sup>。据报道, 24% 的蛋白与 ASFV 形态相关, 19% 的蛋白与 ASFV 基因转录相关, 6% 的蛋白与维持 ASFV 基因组完整性有关, 4% 的蛋白介导 ASFV 侵入细胞, 3% 的蛋白与免疫逃逸有关, 其他功能已知的蛋白占 10%, 功能未知的蛋白约占 34%<sup>[16]</sup>。大部分蛋白功能未知, 限制了 ASFV 复制相关基因和毒力相关基因的鉴定以及疫苗的研制。

在 ASFV 结构蛋白中, 囊膜蛋白包括 CD2v、p12 和 p24 等, 其中 CD2v 参与吸附红细胞、干扰宿主免疫防御<sup>[21]</sup>, p12 属于黏附蛋白, 参与病毒吸附入侵<sup>[22]</sup>; 二十面体的蛋白质衣壳由 p72、p49、M1249L、p17、H240R 和 PE120R 等组成, 其中 p72 为主要衣壳蛋白<sup>[23]</sup>; 内膜至少由 7 种已知的蛋白组成, 分别为 p17(pD117L)、pE183L、p12(pO61R)、p22(pKP177L)、pH108R、pE199L 和 pE248R; 核壳主要由多蛋白 pp220(CP2475L)<sup>[24]</sup> 和 pp62(CP530R)<sup>[25]</sup> 的蛋白水解产物和病毒蛋白

酶组成<sup>[26]</sup> (图 1), 这些蛋白约占病毒粒子总质量的 1/3<sup>[25]</sup>。

除上述结构蛋白外, ASFV 还存在多种不同功能的非结构蛋白: 维持基因组完整性的碱基切除修复(BER)系统的 AP 内切酶(PE296R)<sup>[27]</sup>、DNA 连接酶(PNP419L)<sup>[28]</sup>、DNA 聚合酶(Q174L)<sup>[29]</sup>; 干扰宿主防御机制的 pA224L 和 CD2v 等蛋白<sup>[30]</sup>; 细胞凋亡相关蛋白 A179L、EP153R、DP71L 和 E183L; 自噬相关蛋白 A179L; 调控蛋白合成的 DP71L、A224L 和 D250R; 调控 MHC 表达的 EP153R<sup>[31]</sup>。

## 2 ASFV 非必需基因的鉴定方法

ASFV 非必需基因主要通过分析 ASFV 基因序列, 预测出非必需基因后, 通过构建基因缺失病毒进行验证, 并研究其编码蛋白的功能。

### 2.1 非必需基因的预测

可用 Sanger 和 Roary 软件对 ASFV 基因组的必需基因和非必需基因进行分析。使用 InterProScan 等软件在 NCBI、TIGRFAM、Panther、Gene3D、PRINTS、Pfam 和 ProDom 等数据库中进行同源性搜索, 对 ASFV 基因组序列进行比较。利用微阵列技术寻找目的基因和评估 ASFV 基因的潜在功能, 利用 SCOARY v1.6.16 软件进行全基因组关联研究(PANGWAS)分析基因型与表型之间的关系<sup>[32]</sup>, 利用上述生物信息学方法进行预测后, 需要试验验证, 能够缺失的基因为非必需基因。

### 2.2 非必需基因的验证

分析出待验证的非必需基因并对其功能预测以后, 可用 TALEN、ZFN 和 CRISPR/Cas9 等基因编辑技术构建基因缺失病毒。CRISPR/Cas9

技术可对不同的真核和原核生物进行遗传操作，有针对性地对病毒基因进行编辑，目前已经利用 CRISPR/Cas9 系统研究了 ASFV 的 *EP402R*、*9GL* 基因<sup>[33]</sup>。其主要步骤分为：构建 CRISPR/Cas9 载体、构建筛选表达盒、构建同源重组转移载体、细胞转染和重组病毒筛选与纯化<sup>[34]</sup>。

除了上述基因编辑方法外，还可以采用其他基因编辑手段使非必需基因编码的蛋白功能丧失，例如移码突变、点突变、缺失和插入等。基因缺失病毒构建成功后，可利用测序技术把基因缺失病毒和亲本病毒的全基因组序列进行比较，评价基因修饰的准确性、基因组的完整性和重组病毒的纯度。

### 2.3 非必需基因功能研究

基因缺失(突变)病毒构建后，可进行体内或体外的验证，以明确非必需基因对病毒毒力、病毒复制的影响以及免疫逃逸等方面的作用机制。在体外培养，可观察病毒在细胞中的复制水平和致细胞病变(CPE)情况；也可进行体内实验，观察动物接种基因缺失毒后的临床症状、检测抗体水平并评价免疫攻毒保护效果等。

## 3 ASFV 非必需基因编码蛋白的功能

### 3.1 影响病毒毒力

与其他类型的疫苗相比，通过删除与毒力相关的非必需基因而构建的基因缺失活疫苗，是当前最具有前景的疫苗研发方案。

**3.1.1 非必需基因单个缺失对病毒复制与毒力的影响：**一些非必需基因的单个缺失可在不同毒株中产生减毒作用，为基因缺失苗的开发提供研究思路，例如 *I177L*、*TK(A240L)*、*UK(DP96R)*、

*9GL*、*NL(DP71L)*、*CD2v* 和 *DP148R* 等基因<sup>[35-39]</sup>，这些基因缺失后对病毒毒力、病毒复制的影响以及同源保护效果见表 1。值得注意的是，ASFV-BA71V- $\Delta$ CD2 可诱导交叉保护，这与特异性 T 细胞识别 BA71V 株和 E75 株病毒有关<sup>[40]</sup>；同时 CD2v 蛋白可增强 ASFV 在蝉中的复制<sup>[41]</sup>，因 CD2v 和 C 型凝集素蛋白与 HAI 的血清学特异性有关，可用 CD2v/C 型凝集素基因进行 ASFV 血清型的分型<sup>[42]</sup>；在不同 ASFV 毒株中，缺失 *9GL* 对降低病毒毒力效果不同<sup>[43]</sup>，Malawi Lil-20/1 株缺失 *9GL* 后毒力显著降低<sup>[44]</sup>，而 ASFV Georgia/2007 株缺失 *9GL* 后并未充分致弱<sup>[45]</sup>。此外，研究证实 *9GL* 编码的晚期病毒蛋白 p14 在核苷酸和氨基酸水平上均高度保守，且 *9GL* 与酵母 *ERV1* 和 *ALR* 基因相似，同时 *9GL* 影响正常的病毒粒子成熟<sup>[44]</sup>。

但是一些非必需基因，如 *X69R*、*MGF360-16R*、*8DR*、*MGF360-1L*、*C962R*、*I1L*、*8CR*、*5EL*、*4CL*、*I329L* 和 *E165R* 等，与病毒毒力无关<sup>[46-59]</sup>。

**3.1.2 非必需基因组合缺失对病毒复制与毒力的影响：**虽然单基因缺失毒在诱导保护方面是有效的，但其安全性令人担忧。因此，同时删除多个非必需基因构建的多基因缺失毒，不仅可以起到保护作用，也降低了毒力返强的风险<sup>[60]</sup>。截至目前，最有商业化前景的多基因缺失疫苗候选株有 ASFV-HLJ/18- $\Delta$ 7GD、ASFV-G- $\Delta$ 9GL/ $\Delta$ UK、ASFV-Benin97/1- $\Delta$ MGF360/MGF530、ASFV-Benin97/1-MGF $\Delta$ 505/ MGF360-9L/MGF530 等<sup>[61-63]</sup>。其中，我国科学家以 ASFV HLJ/18 株为骨架，构建了 7 个基因(*MGF505-1R*、*MGF505-2R*、*MGF505-3R*、*MGF360-12L*、*MGF360-13L*、

表 1. ASFV 的非必需基因  
Table 1. The nonessential genes of ASFV

| Genes         | Function                                         | Isolate                          | Virulence             | Virus replication in cells | Homologous protection effect | References |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| I177L         | –                                                | Georgia                          | Completely attenuated | Reduced                    | Good protection              | [35]       |
| DP148R        | –                                                | Benin 97/1                       | Attenuated            | No effect                  | –                            | [39]       |
| 9GL (B119L)   | Morphogenesis                                    | Georgia                          | Attenuated            | Reduced replication        | Good protection              |            |
|               |                                                  | Malawi Lil-20/1                  | Attenuated            | Reduced replication        | Good protection              | [44–45]    |
|               |                                                  | Pretoriuskop/96/4                | Attenuated            | Reduced replication        | Good protection              |            |
| CD2v (EP402R) | Binding to red blood cells                       | BA71V                            | Attenuated            | Reduced replication        | Resist BA71v E75 attacks     | [40]       |
| NL-S          | –                                                | E70                              | Attenuated            | No effect                  | Good protection              | [38]       |
| UK (DP96R)    | IFN inhibitor                                    | E70                              | Attenuated            | No effect                  | –                            | [37]       |
| A238L         | IFN inhibitor                                    | NH/P68                           | Attenuated            | Reduced replication        | Good protection              | [66]       |
| A240L (TK)    | Thymidine kinase                                 | Georgia                          | Completely attenuated | Reduced replication        | No protection                | [36]       |
| C962R         | Encode late expression protein                   | Georgia                          | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [49]       |
| X69R          | Encode early expression protein                  | Georgia                          | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [46]       |
| MGF360-1L     | –                                                | Georgia                          | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [50]       |
| MGF360-16R    | Interaction with host proteins SERTAD3 and SDCBP | Georgia                          | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [47]       |
| L83L          | IL-1beta binding protein                         | Georgia                          | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [51]       |
| 8DR           | Binding to red blood cells                       | Georgia                          | No effect             | –                          | –                            | [48]       |
| 4CL (A224L)   | IAP apoptosis inhibitor                          | MalawiLIL-20/1                   | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [58]       |
| I329L         | IFN inhibitor                                    | OURT88/3                         | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [59]       |
| MGF360-12L    | IFN inhibitor                                    | –                                | –                     | –                          | –                            | [67]       |
| NL (DP71L)    | IFN inhibitor                                    | MalawiLil-20/, Pretoriuskop/96/4 | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [53]       |
| EP153R        | C-type lectin                                    | BA71V                            | No effect             | –                          | –                            | [68]       |
| 8CR           | –                                                | Malawi Lil-20/1                  | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [54]       |
| 11L           | Transmembrane                                    | BA71V                            | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [56]       |
| 5EL           | –                                                | MalawiLIL-20/1                   | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [52]       |
| E165R         | dUTPase                                          | BA71V                            | No effect             | No effect                  | –                            | [57]       |
| O174L         | Polymerase X                                     | BA71V                            | No effect             | Reduced replication        | –                            | [29]       |

(待续)

(续表 1)

|                                                                                  |                                    |            |                       |                           |                 |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------|
| E296R                                                                            | AP endonuclease                    | BA71V      | No effect             | Reduced replication       | –               | [27] |
| Nonessential gene combination deletion                                           |                                    |            |                       |                           |                 |      |
| MGF505-1R, 2R, 3R, MGF360-12L, 13L, 14L, CD2v                                    | IFN inhibitor                      | HLJ/18     | Completely attenuated | Reduced replication       | Good protection | [61] |
| MGF505-1R, 2R, 3R, MGF360-12L, 13L, 14L                                          | IFN inhibitor                      | Georgia    | Completely attenuated | No effect                 | Good protection | [63] |
| MGF360-9L, 10L, 11L, 12L, 13L, 14L, MGF530/505-1R, 2R, 3R, 4R, 9GL, CD2v, EP153R | IFN inhibitor                      | Benin 97/1 | Attenuated            | No effect                 | Good protection | [62] |
| 9GL, UK                                                                          | Binding to red blood Morphogenesis | Georgia    | Attenuated            | Reduced replication       | No protection   |      |
| 9GL, NL, UK                                                                      | IFN inhibitor                      | Georgia    | Attenuated            | Reduced replication       | Good protection | [60] |
| 9GL, MGF360/505                                                                  | IFN inhibitor                      | Georgia    | Attenuated            | Cause replication defects | No protection   | [64] |
| L7L-L11L, CD2v, UK                                                               | IFN inhibitor                      | Georgia    | Attenuated            | Reduced replication       | No protection   | [65] |
|                                                                                  | –                                  | SY18       | Attenuated            | No effect                 | Good protection | [55] |
|                                                                                  | binding to red blood               | SY18       | Attenuated            | No effect                 | Good protection | [69] |

–: no reports.

*MGF360-14L* 和 *CD2v*)缺失的突变株, 临床试验初步证实 ASFV-HLJ/18- $\Delta$ 7GD 在猪体内可完全致弱。可以预测, ASFV-HLJ/18- $\Delta$ 7GD 是一种安全有效的 ASF 候选疫苗株, 有望在控制 ASF 中发挥重要作用, 但还需进一步评估<sup>[61]</sup>。O'Donnell 等构建了 ASFV-Georgia- $\Delta$ 9GL/ $\Delta$ UK 缺失毒, 临床试验表明, ASFV-Georgia- $\Delta$ 9GL/ $\Delta$ UK 对猪无致病性并且提供了良好的同源保护, 为设计新型 ASF 候选疫苗株提供了新思路<sup>[60]</sup>。

除此之外, 多基因家族的基因缺失也能产生良好的减毒效果并提供完全的同源保护。例如, ASFV-Benin 97/1 分离株缺失 *MGF360* (*MGF360-10L*、*11L*、*12L*、*13L* 和 *14L*) 和 *MGF530/505* (*MGF530/505-1R*、*2R* 和 *3R*) 以及

(*MGF360-9L* 和 *MGF530/505-4R*) 基因, 能降低病毒的毒力, 并诱导同源保护<sup>[62]</sup>。ASFV Georgia 株缺失 *MGF360* (*MGF360-12L*、*MGF360-13L* 和 *MGF360-14L*) 与 *MGF505* (*MGF505-1R*、*MGF505-2R* 和 *MGF505-3R*) 后也可降低毒力并可提供同源保护, 但对病毒的复制无影响<sup>[63]</sup>。

但一些非必需基因组合缺失时, 存在减毒效果不佳、同源保护降低的情况。目前发现的这些组合缺失有 ASFV-Georgia- $\Delta$ 9GL/ $\Delta$ CD2v/ $\Delta$ EP153R、ASFV-Georgia- $\Delta$ 9GL/ $\Delta$ NL/ $\Delta$ UK、ASFV-Georgia- $\Delta$ 9GL/ $\Delta$ MGF360/505 等。ASFV Georgia 株的 *9GL*、*CD2v* 和 *EP153R* 同时缺失后不能提供同源保护, 而单独缺失 *9GL* 基因则可提供同源保护, 据此推测, *CD2v* 的缺失会拮抗 *9GL* 的致弱效果<sup>[43]</sup>。

ASFV-Georgia- $\Delta$ 9GL/ $\Delta$ NL/ $\Delta$ UK 无同源保护作用, ASFV-Georgia 的 *UK* 基因缺失并不会降低毒力, *NL* 基因的缺失反而使病毒毒力增强<sup>[64]</sup>。在 ASFV-Georgia 株中同时缺失 *9GL* 和 *MGF360/505* 基因可显著降低病毒毒力和复制水平, 但不能提供同源保护<sup>[65]</sup>。以上结果表明, 研发 ASF 疫苗株时, 要结合前人的研究以及非必需基因的特性谨慎组合缺失, 切勿盲目操作, 总结前人的经验可以发现, 利用 *I177L*、*9GL*、*CD2v* 和 *MGF* 相关基因构建基因缺失苗的成功率是比较大的, 但需要进一步证实。

## 3.2 调控病毒免疫逃逸

**3.2.1 抑制细胞凋亡:** ASFV 能编码类似凋亡抑制剂的蛋白来抑制细胞凋亡, 以促进细胞存活, 保证病毒在细胞中的复制。编码抗凋亡蛋白的基因包括 *EP153R*、*A224L(4CL)*、*DP71L*、*A179L* 和 *E183L* 等, 除 *E183L* 外, 其他均为非必需基因<sup>[31,68,70-76]</sup>。

*EP153R* 基因可抑制 ASFV 感染所引起的细胞凋亡。在病毒感染或星孢菌素诱导的 Vero 细胞中, *EP153R* 蛋白抑制细胞蛋白 p53 的反式激活, 从而抑制细胞凋亡。*EP153R* 是第一个被发现的具有抗凋亡特性的病毒 C 型凝集素, 并且参与 ASFV 感染细胞的红细胞吸附过程。除此之外, *EP153R* 能够抑制 MHC-I 分子的表达, 这一抑制作用可能是通过破坏胞吐过程实现的, 不影响 MHC 与抗原的合成或糖基化<sup>[68]</sup>。

*A224L* 基因是凋亡抑制蛋白(IAP)家族的成员。Dixon 等发现, *A224L* IAP 样蛋白可通过抑制 caspase-3 以及激活 NF- $\kappa$ B 转录因子调控的抗凋亡基因来抑制细胞凋亡<sup>[70]</sup>。Nogal 等利用缺失 *A224L* 基因的缺失毒, 发现 *A224L* 基因编码的蛋白与 caspase-3 蛋白水解酶片段相互作用, 抑制酶

的活性从而诱导细胞凋亡。此外, *A224L* 能显著抑制肿瘤坏死因子  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ )、放线菌酮或星形孢菌素在 Vero 细胞中过表达时的 caspase 活性和细胞凋亡<sup>[71]</sup>。

*DP71L* 编码的蛋白与宿主的生长抑制 DNA 损伤基因 34 (GADD34)具有类似的功能, 能够利用蛋白激酶 1 将真核转录起始因子 2 $\alpha$  (eIF2 $\alpha$ )去磷酸化, 促进宿主细胞蛋白合成, 同时还能够抑制促细胞凋亡因子(CHOP)的活化, 和细胞凋亡<sup>[72-73]</sup>。

*A179L* 编码的蛋白能与几种促凋亡的 Bcl-2 蛋白结合<sup>[74]</sup>, 可抑制各类细胞的细胞凋亡, 例如, 它能抑制双链 RNA 激活蛋白激酶(P68)诱导的 HeLa 和 BSC-40 细胞的凋亡<sup>[75]</sup>, 以及大分子合成抑制剂诱导 K562 的凋亡<sup>[76]</sup>。除了具有抑制细胞凋亡作用外, 还能通过与 Beclin-1 的相互作用调节自噬, 抑制自噬小体的形成<sup>[77]</sup>。

**3.2.2 参与干扰素的调节:** ASFV 基因组编码许多不是病毒复制所必需的基因, 如 *A238L*、*I329L*、*MGF360-12L*、*DP96R*、*MGF360*、*MGF530/505* 和 *A276R* 基因等, 但可以调控干扰素(IFN)的表达, 影响宿主防御病毒感染从而实现免疫逃逸<sup>[78-86]</sup>。

*A238L* 蛋白是免疫逃逸相关蛋白<sup>[78]</sup>。*A238L* 蛋白能够抑制炎症反应以及核转录因子 NF- $\kappa$ B 和活化 T 细胞核因子(NAFT)依赖性基因的表达, 从而实现免疫逃逸。*A238L* 能下调 TNF- $\alpha$  的表达或者抑制环氧化(cox-2)的表达从而下调前列腺素 E2 的表达量, 而前列腺素 E2 是一种炎症脂质介质和免疫反应调节剂, 参与炎症反应与免疫应答。除此之外, *A238L* 抑制 p65/re1A 乙酰化以及抑制 p300 反式激活对诱导型一氧化氮合酶(INOS)表达的调节, 致使 INOS 产生一氧化氮(NO), 对宿主细胞造成损害, 利于病毒的传播<sup>[79]</sup>。

ASFV OURT88/3 株的 *I329L* 基因能抑制 I 型 IFN 的产生, 通过靶向不同的细胞内信号中间产物来降低 I 型 IFN 的表达<sup>[80]</sup>。*I329L* 基因编码一种高度糖基化蛋白, *I329L* 蛋白抑制 IFN- $\beta$  和 CCL5 的激活, 也能抑制双链 RNA 诱导的 NF- $\kappa$ B 和 IRF3 激活<sup>[81]</sup>。*A276R* 与 *I329L* 基因都可通过 TLR3 抑制 IFN- $\beta$  的产生<sup>[66]</sup>。

*MGF360-12L* 基因通过阻断 Importin  $\alpha$  介导的 p65 入核以及 NF- $\kappa$ B 信号通路来抑制 I 型 IFN 的产生。研究显示, ASFV-MGF360-12L 可以降低 IRF3、STING、TBK1、ISG54、ISG56 和 AP-1 的 mRNA 转录, *MGF360-12L* 还可抑制经典核定位信号(NLS)介导的 p50 和 p65 的核定位, 此外, *MGF360-12L* 可以竞争性地抑制 NF- $\kappa$ B 与核转运蛋白的相互作用, 从而干扰 NF- $\kappa$ B 的核转移, 这也为 ASFV 实现其免疫逃逸提供了一种新策略<sup>[67]</sup>。

ASFV-China 2018/1 株的 *DP96R* 通过 cGAS-STING-TBK1 信号通路干扰 I 型 IFN 的产生。*DP96R* 可抑制 cGAS/STING 和 TBK1, 选择性地阻断 cGAS/STING 和 TBK1 诱导的 NF- $\kappa$ B 启动子的激活。此外, 还可抑制 cGAS/STING 激活的 TBK1 磷酸化以及 TBK1 诱导的抗病毒应答<sup>[82]</sup>。

*MGF360* 和 *MGF505* 基因可直接或间接抑制 I 型 IFN 的表达<sup>[83]</sup>, *MGF360* 和 *MGF505* 与 ASFV 宿主范围特异性、抑制宿主先天免疫和病毒毒力有关<sup>[63]</sup>。*MGF360* 家族成员 *A276R* 可以抑制 Poly(1:C)刺激的 I 型 IFN 上调表达, 而对 JAK-STAT 途径和 NF- $\kappa$ B 信号通路没有抑制作用; *MGF505* 家族成员 *A528R* 可以抑制 Poly(I:C)刺激的 IFN 诱导表达, 同时对 JAK-STAT 途径具有抑制作用<sup>[84]</sup>。

### 3.3 其他功能

维持基因组完整性的碱基切除修复(BER)系统对于消除许多类型的碱基损伤、修复碱基位点至关重要, 可在宿主细胞高度氧化的环境中保护病毒基因组, BER 主要包括 AP 内切酶(*E296R*)<sup>[27]</sup>、DNA 连接酶(*NP419L*)<sup>[28]</sup>、DNA 聚合酶(*O174L*)<sup>[29]</sup>, *E296R* 与 *O174L* 是 ASFV 在 Vero 细胞中增殖非必需的基因<sup>[27-28]</sup>。

ASFV *E296R* 基因编码一种 II 类无嘌呤和无嘧啶(AP)核酸内切酶, 具有 AP 位点特异性的核酸内切活性。ASFV AP 内切酶具有 AP 内切酶、3'-5'外切酶和核苷酸切割修复(NIR)活性<sup>[85-86]</sup>。3'-5'核酸外切酶可以参与基因组复制过程中校对, 也可以消除出现在单链断裂中的错配, 这些特性使该酶适合参与 BER<sup>[87]</sup>。当 AP 核酸内切酶基因缺失时, 病毒在猪巨噬细胞中的复制受损, 并导致 Vero 细胞对氧化和烷基化 DNA 损伤化合物的敏感性增高<sup>[27]</sup>。

ASFV *O174L* 基因编码 DNA 聚合酶 Pol X, 为一种晚期结构蛋白, 缺失该基因的病毒在 Vero 细胞中复制时对氧化损伤很敏感, 该基因的缺失会导致基因突变频率增加<sup>[29]</sup>。*NP419L* 基因编码一种 I 型 DNA 连接酶, 是病毒 BER 系统的一部分, 所以它并不是非必需基因<sup>[28]</sup>。由于这些基因具有某些独特的功能, 可以据此设计小分子抑制剂, 以干扰 ASFV 基因组的修复过程, 达到抗病毒的目的。

ASFV-Georgia 编码的 *MGF360-16R* 与宿主蛋白 SERTAD3 和 SDCBP 相互作用。利用酵母双杂交技术分析发现, *MGF360-16R* 与宿主蛋白 SERTAD3 的 Serta 结构域和 Syndecan 结合蛋白(SDCBP)相结合, SERTAD3 和 SDCBP 都参与核



转录,且SDCBP参与宿主细胞内的病毒运输<sup>[47]</sup>。因而,推测MGF360-16R可能与核转录和宿主细胞内的病毒运输有关,但需要进行进一步验证。

ASFV的E165R基因是dUTP核苷酸水解酶(dUTPase)家族的成员,E165R的活性中心与dUTPase非常相似。dUTPase在该蛋白家族的基序中是保守的,该酶在感染的早期和晚期都有表达,并定位于感染细胞的细胞质中。dUTPase在细胞质中降解dUTP,从而减少尿嘧啶与病毒DNA的错误结合,这在维持基因的保真度方面起着至关重要的作用。抑制dUTPase的活性可能不利于ASFV的复制。因此,可将dUTPase作为抗病毒药物设计的靶点<sup>[88-89]</sup>。

## 4 总结和展望

ASF是一种致死率可高达100%的猪烈性传染病。ASF的传播方式复杂多样,目前无商品化的疫苗可用,仅能依靠生物安全防护、快速诊断及扑杀等措施进行防控,严重威胁各国养猪及相关行业的健康发展。对此,笔者作出以下总结与展望。

首先,ASFV非必需基因鉴定与研究十分重要。ASFV具有复杂的基因组结构、编码的蛋白众多,而非必需基因在ASFV基因组中所占比重较大;ASFV的非必需基因对病毒毒力、病毒复制、免疫逃逸、参与病毒-宿主相互作用等功能具有重要的影响;ASFV某些基因表现出遗传多样性或在某些区域具有明显的复杂性,这表明ASFV可能利用多种机制,从而获得新的表型特征,如抗原和毒力的变化。

其次,ASFV非必需基因的筛选鉴定与功能研究具有很大的潜在价值,尤其在疫苗研究方

面。有关学者尝试了各种类型疫苗和各种构建疫苗的策略,但这些疫苗均未商品化。大部分基因缺失疫苗的保护率高,免疫后可以抵抗亲本毒株的攻击,有的可以抵抗异源毒株的攻击。笔者认为,基因缺失疫苗是目前比较有希望成功的疫苗,通过敲除与毒力、免疫逃逸相关的非必需基因构建基因缺失病毒,如ASFV-HLJ/-18-7GD、ASFV-Georgia-Δ9GL/ΔUK和ASFV-SY18-ΔCD2v/UK<sup>[60-61,69]</sup>等候选株毒力完全被致弱,给ASF防控带来曙光。遗憾的是,减毒活疫苗可能存在重组、突变和毒力返强的风险,这也是各国对现有ASF基因缺失活疫苗商品化慎之又慎的主要因素。既然缺失ASFV非必需基因可将病毒致弱且能提供免疫保护,因而今后要深入解析未知的非必需基因,最终达到ASF疫苗株即使小范围内重组或突变也不影响该疫苗株的安全性和免疫原性的目的。因此,积极探究ASFV非必需基因的功能,尤其是未知非必需基因的功能,将为揭开ASFV的神秘“面纱”打下基础。

再次,ASFV非必需基因的研究策略需要改进。未来应充分利用基因组学、生物信息学、合成生物学和空间转录组学等预测出具有研究意义的非必需基因并对其功能进行验证。利用这些技术构建ASFV突变体,敲除与毒力相关的非必需基因以实现预期目的;代谢组学可通过对ASFV感染宿主代谢产物的识别,有利于揭示ASFV的致病机制;空间转录组学将有助于我们研究ASFV非必需基因的功能,通过结合影像组学和测序技术,可以对特定条件下的非必需基因转录产物进行定位,从而明确ASFV非必需基因编码蛋白与免疫系统之间的相互作用。完成基因预测后,利用CRISPR/Cas9等基因编

辑技术构建基因缺失突变株，从而确定是否为非必需基因。

功能已被初步解析的非必需基因仅占少数，是否还有其他非必需基因与病毒毒力和病毒复制相关？还有哪些非必需基因在免疫逃逸过程中发挥作用？非必需基因之间存在怎样的协同作用？以上几个问题值得继续探究。

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# Nonessential genes of African swine fever virus: nothing or something?

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**Abstract:** African swine fever (ASF) is a hemorrhagic and fatal infectious disease caused by African swine fever virus (ASFV). ASF is endemic or epidemic in Africa, Asia, and Europe and causes huge economic losses to the pig industry. ASFV has a large DNA genome encoding more than 150 proteins, including many nonessential genes-encoded proteins associating with ASFV virulence, viral replication, immunoevasion and unknown functions. Currently, a number of ASF live attenuated vaccines have been developed by deleting virulence-related nonessential genes. Generally, these vaccines have safety concerns, although they are able to provide partial to full protection. Systematic identification of more nonessential genes, especially virulence-related genes, will not only contribute to the development of safer gene-deleted ASF vaccines, but also benefit the understanding of the ASF pathogenesis. This review systematically summarizes the functions of known nonessential genes of ASFV, with focus on those involved in virulence, regulation of viral replication and escape of host antiviral immunity, and puts forward suggestions for the identification and functional study of unknown nonessential genes of ASFV.

**Keywords:** African swine fever, African swine fever virus, nonessential genes, virulence, immunoevasion

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