

土壤生物多样性的研究概况与发展趋势

傅声雷*

(中国科学院华南植物园, 广州 510650)

摘要: 本文概括性地介绍了土壤生物类群的多样性及其在生态系统中的作用; 同时简要地回顾和比较了国内外在土壤生物学方面的研究动态, 分析了土壤生物学今后的发展趋势。鉴于土壤生物在生态系统中的重要性以及我国在土壤生物学研究方面的不足, 《生物多样性》本期刊登了一系列有关土壤生物的文章, 目的是为了使国内科学家对土壤生物多样性在生态系统中的作用有更好的认识, 并希望能够唤起更多的年轻学者加入到土壤生物学的行列, 以推动土壤生物学在我国的迅速发展并将土壤生物学的研究成果应用于国民经济的发展中。

关键词: 土壤生物, 生物多样性, 生态系统功能

A review and perspective on soil biodiversity research

Shenglei Fu*

South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510650

Abstract: In this paper, the soil biodiversity and its functioning in ecosystem were briefly summarized, and the history and development of the discipline of soil biology were also reviewed. Meanwhile, I pointed out some issues on soil biology to be addressed for a few years to come. Due to the importance of soil biodiversity to the maintenance of ecosystem functions but inadequate study on soil biota in China, a series of articles on soil biota were collectively published in this issue of *Biodiversity Science*. The objectives of this issue were to enable the Chinese scientists to better understand the functions of soil biodiversity and to stimulate the interest of young scholars in the discipline of soil biology. The ultimate goal was to push forward the research and development of soil biology in China and to apply the knowledge and techniques of soil biology in the development of national economy.

Key words: soil biota, biodiversity, ecosystem functions

生态学的一项主要内容是研究生物多样性与生态系统功能的关系, 而生物地球化学循环(如C、N转化)是生态系统的功能, 其中很多过程是在土壤中发生, 受土壤生物所调控。但迄今为止, 对于生物多样性的研究大多集中在植物多样性对生态系统功能的影响等方面(Tilman *et al.*, 1997; Loreau *et al.*, 2001), 对于土壤生物多样性如何影响生态系统功能的报道十分有限(Wardle *et al.*, 2004; Usher *et al.*, 2006), 以致人们对土壤生物不同类群在这些过程中所起作用的认识仍非常模糊。因此, 研究土壤生物多样性与生态系统服务功能的

关系十分重要。

土壤是陆地生态系统中生物种类最丰富、数量最多的亚系统。全球细菌种类估计有30,000种, 但目前已知细菌仅有3,000种, 而且其中只有不到5%的是可培养的(Coleman & Crossley Jr, 1996; Joseph *et al.*, 2003)。真菌是另一重要微生物类群, 估计约有150万种, 但已被描述的种类只有约70,000种(Hawksworth, 1991)。文献报道过的线虫大约有20,000种, 其中约有2,000种为植物寄生性线虫, 5,000种是动物寄生性线虫, 13,000种是生活在土壤和海洋中的自由生活线虫 (Malakhov, 1994)。全世

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* 通讯作者 Author for correspondence. E-mail: sfu@scbg.ac.cn

界已报道跳虫约 7,500 种, 而我国只报道了约 300 种。全球分布约 3,000 种蚯蚓, 至 2005 年, 中国已记录的陆栖蚯蚓仅 306 种(黄健等, 2006)。世界已知蚂蚁种类有 8,800 多种, 加上未定名的种类估计在 20,000 余种, 我国蚂蚁种类已定名的约 400 种(罗益镇和崔景岳, 1995)。Andre 等(2002)认为, 因为采样方法不合理和提取方法效率低等原因造成了当前仅有不到 10% 的土壤有足类种类被描述过。由此可见, 尽管土壤生物种类十分丰富, 但其收集、分类、鉴定工作还很不完善; 对土壤生物的生态系统功能更是缺乏系统和全面的研究。例如, 不同土壤生物类群的食性如何? 食量是多少? 决定土壤生物多样性的关键因子是什么? 土壤生物物种如此之多, 它们在生态系统中的功能是否各不相同? 这些最基本的问题都没有明确的答案。鉴于此, 著名国际期刊 *Science* 2004 年第 304 卷同时刊登了 7 篇有关土壤学和土壤生物多样性研究的文章, 特别强调了土壤生物多样性研究的重要性和紧迫性。

1 国内外研究概况

土壤生物是地下生态系统的重要组份之一, 几乎所有的土壤过程都与土壤生物有关。虽然国内外对土壤生物的记载历史已久, 但直到 20 世纪 50 年代才真正作为一门学科发展起来, 而且当时注重的主要是土壤生物的收集和研究方法, 同时也对土壤生物不同类群之间的关系进行了初步探讨。60–70 年代的研究主要集中于土壤生物对土壤有机质分解的影响(Kurcheva, 1960; Olson, 1963; Swift *et al.*, 1979), 研究表明, 土壤生物在土壤有机物质的矿化、腐殖质的形成和分解、植物营养元素的转化等过程中起着不可替代的作用(Vossbrinck *et al.*, 1979)。80–90 年代, 土壤生物对土壤结构和质量演变过程的影响引起了广泛的关注(Tisdall & Oades, 1982; Rothwell, 1984; Ingham *et al.*, 1989; Jastrow & Miller, 1991; Edwards & Bohlen 1996)。蚯蚓是少数几种对土壤结构和土壤肥力产生重要影响的大型土壤动物之一, 与蚂蚁和白蚁等一起被称为“生态系统工程师”(Coleman & Crossley Jr, 1996)。它通过排泄(蚓粪)、掘穴、取食和消化等对土壤过程作出贡献。蚯蚓对土壤结构、团聚体形成以及植物生长有十分重要的影响(Edwards & Bohlen, 1996; Pérès *et al.*, 1998)。中型土壤动物如跳虫、螨类等主要通

过排泄物的作用加速土壤腐殖质的形成而改善土壤结构; 小型土壤动物如线虫、原生虫等主要通过调节微生物的有机酸和菌丝的产生而影响土壤结构中团聚体的形成(Coleman & Crossley Jr, 1996)。90 年代末和本世纪初, 土壤生物的研究热点是土壤生物对环境污染物的清除功能(Boopathy, 2000)以及土壤生物对生态系统健康的指示作用(Bongers & Ferris, 1999)。诸多的环境污染修复技术中, 微生物修复技术凭借其成本低、效果好、环境相对安全等优点(Rajendran *et al.*, 2003)而被广泛使用。在国际上, 已有不少应用土壤微生物修复治理被污染环境的成功范例(Boopathy, 2000); 也有利用土壤动物和微生物的关系在土壤重金属污染治理方面的报道。但当前的研究重点是如何提高修复效率和优化应用途径 (Romantschuk *et al.*, 2000)。土壤生物的环境指示作用的研究主要集中在小型或中型土壤动物方面。例如线虫具有身体透明、结构与功能对应关系好等特点, 正越来越多地被作为土壤指示生物来使用, 尤其是用来评价生态系统的土壤生物学效应、土壤健康水平、生态系统演替或受干扰的程度 (Bongers & Ferris, 1999; Ekschmitt *et al.*, 2001; Ferris *et al.*, 2001; Panesar *et al.*, 2001)。

在国际上, 对土壤生物研究最活跃的学术组织是美国的土壤生态学会(Soil Ecology Society)。这个组织成立于 1987 年, 每两年召开一次国际会议。虽然与会人员以美国土壤生物学家为主, 但每次都吸引了来自世界各地的专家学者。这个组织所开展的工作非常全面而且具有开拓性, 所涉及的方向包括: 土壤无脊椎动物生态、土壤微生物生态、土壤化学和物理、生物地球化学和养分循环、植物根系和根际生态、植物病理、菌根、土壤过程和生物与水的相互关系等。

我国土壤生物学的研究起步较晚, 特别是土壤动物学的研究直到 20 世纪 70 年代末、80 年代初才开始, 在随后的 20 多年中, 虽然系统性的工作不多, 但零散的研究也不少。研究内容主要包括: 土壤动物群落的变化(王振中等, 1992; 张荣祖等, 2000; 陈国孝和宋大祥, 2000; 尹文英, 2000); 土壤动物群落的多样性(张荣祖等, 1980; 章家恩, 1999; 杨效东, 2004); 土壤动物在分解过程中的作用及其自身群落演替(胡圣豪, 2000; 柯欣和赵立军, 2000; 殷秀琴等, 2001); 环境变化和污染对土壤动物群落

结构的影响(张友梅等, 2000), 土壤动物在生态恢复中的作用(邱江平, 1999; 戈峰等, 2001); 生态系统不同管理措施下不同土壤动物群落的变化(梁文举等, 2001; 郑长英等, 2002); 土壤动物与土壤微生物与植物生长的关系(胡锋等, 1999; 毛小芳等, 2005; Mao *et al.*, 2006), 等等。这些研究所代表的区域涵盖了东北寒温带和中温带地区(张荣祖等, 1980; 梁文举等, 2001); 暖温带地区(刘仁和袁兴中, 1999; 陈国效和宋大祥, 2000; 傅必谦等, 2002); 亚热带地区(张贞华等, 1986; 廖崇惠等, 1990; 尹文英, 1992; 李健雄等, 1995; 吴继华和孙希达, 2000)和热带地区(李朝达等, 1997, 2000; 廖崇惠和陈茂乾, 1990; 杨效东等, 2001; 廖崇惠等, 2003; 邓晓保等, 2003)。通过这些研究, 对我国主要生态系统, 特别是森林生态系统中土壤群落结构、区系组成和分布特征有了基本的了解; 同时, 对土壤动物在凋落物分解和养分循环中的作用以及人类活动如何影响土壤生物多样性等方面都有了较好的认识。期间, 出版了具有代表性的《中国亚热带土壤动物》、《中国土壤动物检索图鉴》、《中国土壤动物》等专著。但是, 这些工作大多是在野外调查的基础上所进行的, 而且以定性的研究为主。在室内或室外控制条件下所开展的定量研究十分缺乏, 而且还未见有利用模型模拟开展土壤生物学理论研究的报道。尹文英(2001)对我国土壤动物学的研究概况作了很好的总结, 认为我国的土壤动物学研究主要包括3个方面: (1)土壤动物多样性和地带特征的调查研究; (2)土壤动物生态学的实验研究; (3)人类活动对土壤动物影响的研究。

我国虽然也成立了中国土壤生态学会, 但主要着重于对土壤化学和物理特性的研究, 相比之下, 土壤生物学的研究还没有得到足够的重视。希望我国土壤生态学家能在今后加强土壤生物多样性的研究, 使土壤生态学得以全面发展。

归纳起来, 土壤食物网中的各种生物通过相互协作, 在生态系统的物质循环和功能维持等过程中起重要作用。这些作用主要包括: (1)分解有机质和调节养分循环; (2)改善土壤理化性状; (3)传播或控制植物疾病; (4)清除污染物和维持生态系统健康; (5)调控植物根际食物网而影响植物的生长; (6)指示和预警生态系统受损状况; (7)具有食用、医药等方面的经济价值。虽然不少研究已对土壤生物的生态

系统功能进行了阐述, 但大多数研究都是基于野外调查和观测而进行的描述, 通过利用野外控制实验手段对不同土壤生物类群的生态系统功能进行定量的研究十分缺乏。

2 发展趋势

随着全球变化生态学、恢复生态学和生物复杂性(biocomplexity)研究的迅速发展, 土壤生物学的研究热点最近强调了以下几方面:

(1)土壤生物对全球变化的响应与适应。研究表明: 全球气候变暖将改变土壤微生物群落结构(如细菌和真菌的比例), 大气N沉降可能导致某些土壤生物类群的急剧减少。在土壤生物的驱动和参与下, 土壤有机质分解是土壤微量气体产生的重要原因(Smith *et al.*, 2003; 韩兴国和王智平, 2003)。但是, 不同土壤生物类群对土壤温室气体排放的相对贡献及其作用机理如何? 土壤生物能否在缓解全球变化中起重要作用? 这些问题还没有得到解答。

(2)土壤生物在食物网各生物类群之间的相互作用, 特别是它们之间的正、负反馈作用机制。据报道, 蚯蚓的活动可以增加跳虫的丰度和多样性(Salmon, 2004); 但蚯蚓的定居使森林地表的微生物生物量明显减少, 而土层中微生物量有所增加(Groffman *et al.*, 2004)。在缺少土壤食物网高层捕食者的情况下, 线虫的存在将增加微生物生物量及其呼吸作用, 从而产生更多的CO₂(Fu *et al.*, 2005)。虽然我们对土壤食物网中各生物类群之间的正、负反馈作用有了一些认识, 但如何定量研究这些作用是我们面临的一个挑战。

(3)土壤生物与植物之间的相互作用, 特别是土壤生物对植物根际环境的影响。我们知道, 土壤生物与植物根际的相互作用主要包括植物与根瘤细菌、植物与菌根真菌的共生关系以及根际分泌物与根际食物网的关系。但以往很多有关土壤生物与植物根际的研究多集中于对菌根和根瘤菌的研究上(Lawrence *et al.*, 2003), 而土壤生物对根际分泌物和根际食物网影响的研究还很不足。土壤生物某些类群的消失或显著增加将如何影响植物根系的生长、植物的结瘤固氮、根际化学物质的分泌、根际呼吸作用的变化? 这些变化又将如何影响微生物与植物之间的养分竞争关系? 这些方面都有待更深入的研究。

(4)土壤生物在生态恢复中的作用。对退化生态系统的恢复,以往考虑的都是植被恢复途径。虽然植被恢复在我国的生态恢复工作中取得了不少成绩,但在重金属污染严重或持水能力差的喀斯特地区等极度退化的土地上进行植被恢复的效果并不理想。因此,在极度退化的生态系统,在进行植被恢复之前应进行土壤恢复或修复。在土壤恢复的过程中,土壤生物的作用非常重要。除了上面已经提到的蚯蚓和微生物(包括菌根真菌)外,其他土壤动物(如线虫等)在生态恢复中的应用可能也有很好的前景。

(5)土壤生物功能群的控制实验研究。如上所述,土壤生物的物种十分丰富,而且物种之间的相互关系十分复杂,在现阶段,要阐明某一具体物种在生态系统中的作用几乎不可能(Jones & Bradford, 2001; Wardle *et al.*, 1997)。因此,国际上多以土壤生物功能群(functional groups)为研究对象来探讨它们在生态系统中的作用(Coleman & Whitman, 2005)。所谓功能群是指对某些生态系统功能起主要作用的类群(Moore & de Ruiter, 1991),但此定义还存在一定的争议。在本文中,作者根据Coleman和Crossley Jr (1996)的*Fundamentals of Soil Ecology*一书,将土壤生物划分为以下4大功能群:(1)微生物(microflora):细菌、真菌、放线菌等;(2)小型土壤动物(microfauna):原生虫、线虫等;(3)中型土壤动物(mesofauna):跳虫、蛴螬等;(4)大型土壤动物(macrofauna):蚯蚓、蚂蚁、白蚁等。虽然Hendrix等(1990)从养分循环和土壤结构角度归纳了不同土壤生物功能群的作用,但是某个土壤生物功能群的变化如何影响生态系统功能?一个功能群的减少或增加将如何影响其他土壤生物的活动?这些最基本和最重要的问题至今没有得到清楚的解答。Moore等(1993)通过模型模拟发现,土壤食物网中高层捕食者的丧失对低层土壤生物类群影响很大。Hunt和Wall (2002)从功能群的角度模拟了土壤生物多样性的丧失对生态系统功能的影响。他们发现某些土壤动物功能群的消失对生态系统功能的影响并不显著,但真菌和细菌的消失则可能导致整个土壤食物网的崩溃,从而影响生态系统的健康维持。遗憾的是,通过控制实验手段研究土壤生物功能群对生态系统功能的影响还处于起步阶段,当前最主要的手段是土壤动物类群的“添加”(addition)和“剔

除”(removal)实验(Coleman和Whitman, 2005)。虽然在这方面的研究也曾陆续有过一些报道(Ingham *et al.*, 1986; Bradford *et al.*, 2002; Liu & Zou, 2002),但还没有形成应有的规模,以致我们对土壤生物多样性的功能认识还很有限。

3 展望

鉴于国际、国内对土壤生物在生态系统功能方面研究不足的现状,建立一个设计完善的土壤生物学长期实验研究平台十分必要。利用这个平台,可以开展野外和室内土壤生物功能群控制实验,深入探讨土壤生物学的一些热点问题,以期阐明土壤生物多样性的生态系统功能。基于科学发展和国家需求,我认为以下几方面值得进行深入研究:(1)土壤生物在重金属和有机污染物治理中的作用;(2)土壤生物入侵的程度和危害;(3)土壤食物网中各生物类群之间的正、负反馈作用;(4)土壤生物对全球变化的响应与反馈;(5)土壤生物多样性的时空格局及其形成机制;(6)土壤生物多样性在生态系统健康评价和维持中的作用;(7)人类活动对土壤生物多样性的影响;(8)分子生物学技术在土壤生物多样性研究中的应用。

《生物多样性》本期特别刊登了一系列土壤生物多样性方面的文章,主要从宏观角度概述不同土壤生物类群(微生物、线虫、跳虫和蚯蚓等)在生态系统中的作用,同时也对其中一个类群(线虫)在农田和草原生态系统中的作用作了重点阐述。目的不仅是为了使国内科学家对土壤生物多样性在生态系统中的作用有更全面和更系统的认识,而且希望能够唤起更多的年轻学者加入到土壤生物学研究的行列,以推动土壤生物学在我国的迅速发展并将土壤生物学的研究成果应用于国民经济的发展中。

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