

# 土壤种子库研究综述——植被系统中的作用及功能

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**摘要:**土壤种子库的功能对植被系统的存在、发展和变化具有重要意义。土壤种子库拥有重要记忆功能, 通过研究其记忆能力可以反映植被发展历史, 特别是在追溯植被演化过程中具有重要指示作用。土壤种子库的重要作用主要体现在受损植被系统的恢复上, 其强大的植被恢复功能一直受生态工作者的重视, 并得到广泛应用。正常的植被更新在很大程度上依赖于土壤种子库的潜在植被能力, 在干扰作用下土壤种子库决定着植被的演替趋势。在退化植被系统恢复中, 重视土壤种子库“捐赠”理论和技术的研究, 是发挥和重新构建土壤种子库功能的重要基础。

**关键词:**土壤种子库; 植被恢复; 记忆功能; 植被更新; 种子库捐赠

**中图分类号:** Q948.1   **文献标识码:** A   **文章编号:** 1004-5759(2009)02-0175-09

\* 土壤种子库拥有记忆植被历史, 影响植被发展方向的双重功能, 是植被更新、繁衍源物质提供者<sup>[1]</sup>。根据土壤种子库中种子存活和休眠时间, 可以确定种子发生的时间, 植被发展的历程<sup>[2,3]</sup>。土壤种子库在植物群落的保护和恢复中起着重要作用, 是植物群落对土地利用和气候变化响应的重要指示者<sup>[4]</sup>。土壤种子库是潜在的植物种群或群落, 是植被天然更新的物质基础<sup>[5]</sup>。对土壤种子库的生态系统功能进行了解, 有助于对自然生态系统的管理, 使人类在植被持续性管理上做出合理决策。

## 1 土壤种子库的记忆功能及其与地上植被关系

### 1.1 土壤种子库的记忆

土壤种子库的种子来源于地上植被种子散布, 土壤种子库与地上植被存在必然联系。土壤种子库形成存在时间跨度, 土壤种子库与植被发展历史具有重要关联, 所以土壤种子库在很大程度上能反应植被过去<sup>[6]</sup>。有些研究中, 发现一些植物种子在土壤种子库中存在, 而在植被中不存在, 这与顶极群落或顶极植被特别符合, 因为亚顶极物种的种子在土壤中可休眠 100 年或更长时间<sup>[7]</sup>。杂草种子的不同年限休眠时间记录了杂草植被曾经的发展过程, 这个时间可以追溯到 50~100 年, 甚至更长时间<sup>[8]</sup>。通过土壤种子库记忆功能探讨植被过去的研究较少, 虽然碳同位素可用来鉴定种子年龄, 但是很少有研究人员将土壤种子库的目标或者发现的种子在人工种子库中保存多年, 用来提供年龄证据<sup>[4,9,10]</sup>。在恢复生态学中种子的年龄却是具有重要意义, 对探察种子库的历史结构是一件重要, 但困难的事情<sup>[11]</sup>。

### 1.2 土壤种子库与地上植被的关系

人们更关注于土壤种子库的现实和未来植被功能, 大量的关于种子的研究都更侧重于土壤种子库与现存植被关系。土壤种子库与现存地上植被的关系, 具有决定了植被发展潜在方向的功能。在时间和空间尺度上, 植被对其土壤种子库都有很大的影响, 它的影响可能是直接的, 也可能是间接的<sup>[12,13]</sup>。土壤种子库与地上植被某一阶段的关系并不确定, 这既有研究方法带来的技术性差异, 也有物种、植被群落本身生物学、生态学特征所致, 也可能是土壤种子库所记忆植被历史阶段的差异<sup>[14,15]</sup>。

许多研究表明, 植被不同演替阶段, 土壤种子库与其地上植被关系模式存在明显差异<sup>[16,17]</sup>。Leck 和 Leck<sup>[18]</sup>发现, 随着时间的推移, 弃耕地种子库与地上植被逐渐趋向分异。周先叶等<sup>[19]</sup>对次生演替阶段常绿阔叶林土壤种子库的研究发现, 演替初期阶段土壤种子库物种组成与地上植被的种类组成较一致, 可达 50%, 而演替的其他

\* 收稿日期: 2008-02-28; 改回日期: 2008-04-25

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金(30600426 和 30730069)资助。

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阶段二者种类组成差异较大,相似度仅为 10%~30%。大多成熟森林土壤种子库的组成与其地上植被组成之间相似性很小<sup>[20]</sup>。Whipple<sup>[21]</sup>将土壤种子库与地上植被的关系分为 4 种:1)有种子,有植株,所有的环境因子适于种的建成;2)有种子,没有植株,环境不适于种的建成;3)有植株,但土壤中没有种子;4)没有植株,也没有种子,可能由于缺乏散布,或是环境因子不适宜造成。于顺利和蒋高明<sup>[22]</sup>对土壤种子库和地上植被关系的总结更加简单化,认为土壤种子库和地上植被的关系大概就存在 2 种情况:不相似性和相似性。

土壤种子库与地上植被相似性的研究结果很多。在多年生禾草占优势的草地中,土壤种子库和地上植被之间具有较低的相似性,这种不相似性是由于优势草本物种对土壤种子库形成的较小贡献所致<sup>[23]</sup>。在一年生植物草地的一年内某些时间段,由于土壤种子库的季节动态,植物物种个体的丰富度与土壤种子库中种子的丰富度也不可能具有紧密的联系<sup>[24]</sup>。相似性高的研究报道也较多,往往与系统经常受不可预测的干扰有关,植物群落一般以一年生植物为主。例如,Leck 和 Graveline<sup>[25]</sup>对淡水潮汐沼泽的研究<sup>[26]</sup>,Peco 等<sup>[16]</sup>和 Manzano 等<sup>[27]</sup>对地中海一年生牧场的研究,Henderson 等<sup>[28]</sup>对沙漠矮草群落的研究,Yu 等<sup>[29]</sup>对地中海沿岸沙丘群落的研究。Leck 和 Simpson<sup>[30]</sup>的研究表明了植被与土壤种子库关系很强,指出干扰强烈的植被都存在着这种关系,例如在反复耕作的地段<sup>[9]</sup>。

## 2 土壤种子库对植被恢复和保护生物的作用

### 2.1 受损植被固有土壤种子库的恢复价值

土壤种子库应用生态学主要是利用土壤种子库进行植被管理,以及恢复或重建受损自然植被等 2 个方面<sup>[31,32]</sup>,后者则得到了长足进展。土壤种子库在恢复生态工程中发展迅速,在重建、半重建的恢复工程中应用广泛,湿地、路矿工程等越来越多强调土壤种子库巨大作用。广泛推广的乡土森林恢复、造林技术都要求对目标生境进行土壤种子库的全面研究,根据土壤种子库构成特征来进行群落结构配置和选择乡土种质资源<sup>[33,34]</sup>。植物种子生存机制是恢复生态学的一个重要基础,足够数量和寿命的植物种子可以使消失的物种在干扰下得以再生,因此加强种子生态学的研究在恢复生态学上非常重要<sup>[3,35]</sup>。

### 2.2 捐赠土壤种子库意义及技术

除了直接补充种子库和应用本底遗留的种子库外,恢复生态学家还采用了捐赠(donor)形式种子库,从临近植被生境相似区域转移种子库,进行受损植被恢复,这种方法一般应用到原来植被完全消失的植被中<sup>[36,37]</sup>,从某种意义上说,移植克隆繁殖体也属于这种恢复方式<sup>[38,39]</sup>。采用直接移植土壤种子库的方式进行植被恢复需要明确几个问题,例如移植来的种子库构成、一年内什么时间进行移植是最佳时间、移植过来种子库在出现显著的可萌发种子丧失之前有多长时间、构建什么样环境用来保证移植过来种子库能够正常发育、用什么方法来防治被移植过来种子库中出现不需要的物种<sup>[4]</sup>。这个方法应用很广泛,在植被完全消失的采矿地<sup>[40]</sup>,湿地恢复或重建<sup>[41~43]</sup>,以及退化陆地植被中都得到了应用<sup>[44]</sup>。Tacey 和 Glossop<sup>[45]</sup>的研究报告表明,移植土壤表层 5 cm 种子库应用到矿地恢复效果就很好。但是 Brown 和 Al-Mazrooei<sup>[46]</sup>的试验则出现了没有预料的结果,在退化的林地湿地进行移植土壤种子库恢复,结果草本植物成为了优势物种,而在更新苗中没有发现任何木本植物,并且湿地微生境对种子库的影响没有预料到。van der Valk 和 Pederson<sup>[4]</sup>在其经典论述中总结到,湿地进行捐赠种子库需要考虑 2 点建议,1)时间应该在物种开始生长时候。2)所移植的种子库深度不能超过 25 cm。但由于不清楚需要的种子和不需要的种子,以及在新环境下发生的情况,甚至种子库收集源区植被产生的后果不可预料性,所以这种工程受到了极大限制。早在 1984 年,Dunn 和 Best<sup>[47]</sup>就严厉指出土壤种子库对天然植被恢复不是一个万能药。van der Valk 和 Pederson<sup>[4]</sup>推测“移植种子库后迅速出现的多样化植被群落和那些并不需要的物种,可能是植被对干扰的一种缓冲机制”。

### 2.2 土壤种子库的保护生物学意义

土壤种子库在保护生物学上应用更加广泛,保护生物学应该注重那些繁殖水平和能力很低的物种<sup>[48]</sup>。如果对目标物种土壤种子库了解清楚,就可以通过改变干扰因素对目标物种、种群进行合理保护,甚至可以根据详细指标进行物种保护及种群管理模型化<sup>[49]</sup>。土壤种子库作为繁殖体的储备库,可以减小种群灭绝几率,成为影响种群、群落乃至生态系统演替过程和发展趋势的重要因子<sup>[2]</sup>。持久性土壤种子库可以使种群在当地消失后长期

存在,例如欧洲北部短寿命的有花植物大多具有长寿命的种子,并形成长期的土壤种子库<sup>[50,51]</sup>。土壤种子库被认为是植物种群基因多样性的潜在提供者<sup>[52]</sup>,土壤种子库可以指导进行保护生物学实践,对于那些在土壤种子库中存在很少及种子寿命短的植物,应该特别注意保护。

### 3 土壤种子库对植被更新功能

#### 3.1 干扰的作用

关于植被更新的研究更侧重于干扰的影响<sup>[53~55]</sup>,很少描述静态条件下植被的理想更新模式,事实上这种更新行为很难发生<sup>[56]</sup>。干扰使植被中光照、温度、养分和水分等环境条件发生变化<sup>[57]</sup>,引起植被更新源产生变化,引起有效资源水平和供给能力,使之进行多次分配,导致植被更新行为多样化<sup>[58,59]</sup>。正常干扰在很大程度上有利于植被更新,它是调节植被内部活力的一种重要驱动力,但突发的干扰或灾害一般不利于植被更新,有时对植被本身产生致命伤害。长期过度干扰(如放牧,砍伐,挖掘等行为)对植被正常更新的损害十分严重,过度的干扰几乎使植被更新库消亡,或者改变其结构,植被因此退化<sup>[60,61]</sup>。植被更新对干扰响应能力有限,原因在于来源于繁殖体库的幼苗抗性较差,特别是种子产生的幼苗,几乎没有自己选择生存的余地<sup>[62]</sup>。

一般认为火烧可以促进植株幼苗建成,并促进了一些土壤种子库的活化,但是对植株生产率的影响则没有一致结果<sup>[53,55,63,64]</sup>。Stephen<sup>[53]</sup>研究认为,火烧促进萨旺纳潮湿营养贫瘠生境内茅膏菜(*Drosera* spp.)幼苗在贫瘠的萨旺纳湿地生长和植株建成,前提是没有伤害土壤中种子库或者无性繁殖体的更新芽功能。加利福尼亚海岸的外来物种法国金雀花(*Parochetus communis*)靠强大种子繁殖进行更新、扩散,研究人员采用火烧的办法,不仅减少地上植株存在,而且降低了植物种子库中种子规模,但多次火烧对种子库的影响比一次火烧并不大<sup>[65]</sup>。Westbrooke 等<sup>[55]</sup>研究了澳大利亚南威尔士干扰干旱植被,结果表明水淹和火烧不仅不利于该植被更新和物种维持,而且还可能给外来物种侵入提供机会,水淹和火烧使物种从 11.8 种/625 m<sup>2</sup> 降低到 5.7 种/625 m<sup>2</sup>,而放牧则没有显著影响。

#### 3.2 环境的适应性

植被更新对策一般侧重于环境胁迫适应性,长期进化使植物对环境压力产生适宜性更新对策<sup>[56,66,67]</sup>。Deiller 等<sup>[68]</sup>报道了莱茵河上游泛滥平原硬木林中树木更新对策,如白蜡树(*Fraxinus excelsior*)、欧洲鹅耳枥(*Carpinus betulus*)、枫树(*Acer* spp.)等树种在种子库中很少散布大量孢子体,但地面上它们的幼苗却很多,同时发芽产生于枯枝落叶层而不是种子库中,因此这些具有潮汐特点的植被栖息地种子库的植被更新功能被削弱,洪水的拖延会导致种子萌发赶不上机会。Britton 等<sup>[41]</sup>研究表明,气候和其他条件导致了石楠(*Photinia*)在不同地区种子萌发到幼苗建成的时间段的差异,地理区域上英格兰西北地区石楠明显比西南地区更新速度快。泥石地植物幼苗生长限制于土壤养分供应水平,而水分和土壤运动等限制性并不大<sup>[69]</sup>,大量的种子和幼苗在泥石环境中消失,或者生存,存留的幼苗成为下一代繁殖的供体。环境中化学物质输入则对植物吸收养分和植株器官功能产生很大影响,特别对植被更新过程中种子萌发、幼苗成长的影响很可能是致命的<sup>[70]</sup>。大多数这种作用都通过植物—土壤的反馈作用来反映,这种反馈是驱动植被发展的一个重要力量,植物与土壤的反馈影响到植物本身更新行为,导致种子散布、种子聚集、种子萌发行为、以及幼苗建成的随机性或者集体性等生活史式样多样化,使得植物在反馈中得到适应性进化<sup>[71~73]</sup>。

#### 3.3 动物的选择性作用

动物对种子的捕食,有时候提高植被中植物物种丰富度,干扰植被的更新,这对植被结构影响很大,动物捕食种子改变种子库结构<sup>[74,75]</sup>。Fahnestock 等<sup>[76]</sup>对科罗拉多州普列里草地土拨鼠对植被更新的影响进行研究,驱除土拨鼠对草地恢复没有影响,不能使混合普列里草地迅速重建,除非采取从土壤种子库进行恢复。高的植物种子捕食率在热带次生林和初生林中强烈的影响着植被更新<sup>[77]</sup>,鸟类对种子的散布可能是植被更新的一个重要基础<sup>[75]</sup>。蚯蚓通过对植物种子的影响干扰植被更新,哥伦比亚萨旺纳草地的蚯蚓不仅贮藏种子,还降低种子萌发率,但经过蚯蚓消化道后幸存下来的种子萌发率则较高,蚯蚓选择性采食种子使得蚯蚓土丘的植物群落构成明显不同于周围植被群落物种组成<sup>[78]</sup>。动物主动的选择种子行为,可以降低种内竞争<sup>[79]</sup>,也可将种子带离母树,成为另一种传播机制。

### 3.4 植被异质性的作用

植被间隙、空地的出现给幼苗建成提供机会,对幼苗逃避竞争有重要作用,在植物群落内合理的群落间隙对植被更新非常重要<sup>[80]</sup>,植被异质性空间导致种子命运各异,运气好的种子在植被间隙中得以建成植株,运气差点的就要等上多年,才有机会成苗,运气最差的种子则最终死亡。森林林隙(或林窗)动态与森林生物多样性有密切关系<sup>[56,81]</sup>,林隙为森林苗木生长发育提供主要场所,同时,林隙的形成与消亡过程也是森林不断发育与更新的生态学过程<sup>[82]</sup>,林隙的补充也并非所有种子都能完成,而是与种子建成的幼苗本身生物、生态学特征有关,有的幼苗只能在林下建群,有的幼苗则最终成为林隙补充者。植被更新源与母株距离是决定种群水平格局的重要因素,母株种子散布的空间格局产生显著不同幼苗萌发格局,这改变着种群的分布模式<sup>[83,84]</sup>。估测“种子影像或者分布模式(seed shadow)”即种子在母株周围的散布距离和密度是研究种群更新的重要内容,但这方面的研究十分困难,因为在复杂的植被空间系统中很难估计哪些种子,多少种子在散布<sup>[85]</sup>。詹康氏假说(Janzen-Connell hypothesis)认为有些树种的种子离母树的距离越远,死亡率越低,因为这样可以避免同种内密度过高而造成的病菌侵袭及种子被掠食<sup>[86]</sup>。种子一旦逃过掠食者或病菌侵袭,即顺利进入更新的初期阶段。

### 3.5 植物繁殖策略不同

植物更新需一般经历种子成熟、扩散、休眠、萌发、幼苗建成各环节,也反应与植物生活史每个阶段的密切关系<sup>[87,88]</sup>。在种子植物的生活史中,种子散布期、萌发和幼苗期是最关键时期,因为在这2个时期,植物生命体死亡率最高<sup>[54]</sup>。不同种植物更新经历各环节遇到障碍的性质和强度不同,每种植物都有其特定的更新对策<sup>[89]</sup>。Grime<sup>[90]</sup>将植物的更新(regeneration)分为5种类型:1)营养扩展,2)植被裸斑的季节性更新,3)与持久种子库有关的更新,4)与风媒种子有关的更新,5)与持久幼苗库有关的更新。并认为,植物具有的更新方式越多,其生态幅越广,植物在波动环境下的持久性越好,同时其面临的选择压力也越多。简单总结,植物更新无非有2种途径:一是通过种子(有性繁殖)进行更新,二是通过克隆生长(无性繁殖相伴的营养生长过程)进行扩展<sup>[91]</sup>。

大多数多年生禾草,及有些乔木和灌木通过克隆生长进行更新<sup>[92]</sup>。在1942年,Salisbury统计了英国177种分布最广泛的多年生草本植物<sup>[90]</sup>,发现有120种(占68%)进行营养繁殖。进行营养繁殖的植物通过形成持久性根状茎、匍匐茎和萌生枝,使克隆植物进行扩展并继而独立。营养扩展具有后代死亡风险低的特点,所产生的后代在遗传结构上是一致的。在植物和凋落物比较浓密,种子无法定居的植被类型中,营养繁殖比较普遍<sup>[93]</sup>,例如在温带地区,草本植物及有些木本植物普遍采用营养繁殖,而在北极和高山地区,营养繁殖更为普遍。火烧后的灌木林地和热带雨林中,营养繁殖也是重要的更新方式。在无干扰的环境中,营养繁殖在选择上有优势<sup>[90,94]</sup>。无干扰的环境中,植物处于强烈竞争状态,在这种情况下,无性系分株比种子形成的幼苗更容易存活;长期而稳定的环境压力(如北极和高山的气候)对营养繁殖和种子繁殖形成的种群具有显著影响。这里自然选择适于营养繁殖,可能是因为在严酷环境中种子繁殖的幼苗建成比较困难<sup>[90,95]</sup>。有的植物只通过种子进行更新,这种更新方式在对不同环境的适应上具有优势。

一般植被更新混合了多种植物、多种更新方式,更倾向于种子和无性2种对策的混合模式,植物种群在种群更新对策中的权衡(trade-off)反映到植被水平上,就成为植被更新行为<sup>[56]</sup>。相对而言,无性繁殖体则相对在稳定的环境中易发挥其更新功能<sup>[96]</sup>。无性繁殖体的更新策略与异质性资源水平和能力关系密切,一般当异质性资源超出无性系克隆觅食和整合能力时候,无性繁殖体更新行为将面临失败<sup>[93,97]</sup>。多年生草地植被在无性更新上更具普遍性<sup>[98]</sup>。

## 4 小结

植物种子的遗传载体功能使得其在植被更新的生态学事件中具有特殊功能,种子自从产生就经历着痛苦的历程,各种危险时刻威胁着种子的遗传使命。植被更新是从繁殖体库到植株一系列过程,当突发的灾害及人类干扰损害超过植被或种群忍耐能力时,植被更新发生畸变,外来物种侵入对植被更新库产生压力,土壤种子库原有功能发生变化,驱动着植被发生逆向演替。土壤种子库功能的研究应该注重其实用功能,目前集中于受损植被系统,或者濒危物种,土壤种子库功能研究更具有现实意义。土壤种子库功能的正常发挥是植被正常演替的基础,土壤种子库“捐赠”理论和技术是受损植被恢复、重新发挥土壤种子库功能的重要保证,应该得到充分重视。

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### Review of soil seed bank studies——soil seed bank function in natural ecosystem

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**Abstract:** Soil seed banks have an important significance in vegetation systems. Memory is an important function of soil seed banks since it can reflect the history and process of vegetation succession, and be used as a means to trace vegetation development. A main use of soil seed banks is in vegetation restoration, so soil seed banks have been widely used by restoration workers. Normal vegetation regeneration depends on the potential vegetation supply of soil seed banks and that determines the trend of vegetation succession or development. In a degraded vegetation system, the theory and technology of soil seed bank donors should be emphasized in studies as a significant base from which to practice and rebuild soil seed bank function (SSBF) for vegetation restoration.

**Key words:** soil seed bank; vegetation restoration; memory function; vegetation regeneration; soil seed bank donor