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REVIEW PAPER

Roles of the wound hormone jasmonate in plant regeneration

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Abstract

Plants have remarkable abilities to regenerate in response to wounding. How wounding triggers rapid signal transduction to induce a cellular response is a key topic for understanding the molecular mechanism of plant regeneration. An increasing body of evidence indicates that jasmonate, a hormone that is produced rapidly in response to wounding, plays multiple roles in different plant regeneration processes. In this review, we summarize recent advances on the roles of jasmonate in tissue repair, the formation of wound-induced callus, *de novo* organ regeneration, and somatic embryogenesis. Physiological and molecular analyses indicate that jasmonate can regulate stem cell activities, cell proliferation, cell fate transition, and auxin production, thereby contributing to plant regeneration. In addition, jasmonate is strictly controlled in plant cells via restriction of the jasmonate concentration and its signalling pathway in a spatial and temporal manner during regeneration. Overall, jasmonate acts as the hormone linking wounding to distinct types of regeneration in plants.

Keywords: Callus, *de novo* root regeneration, *de novo* shoot regeneration, jasmonate, plant regeneration, somatic embryogenesis, tissue repair, wounding.

Abbreviations: ANAC071, NAC DOMAIN CONTAINING PROTEIN71; ASA1, ANTHRANILATE SYNTHASE a1; CIM, callus-inducing medium; CO11, CORONATINE INSENSITIVE1; ERF, ETHYLENE RESPONSE FACTOR; ESR1, ENHANCER OF SHOOT REGENERATION1; H3K36me3, histone H3 lysine 36 trimethylation; JA, jasmonate; JAZ, JASMONATE-ZIM-DOMAIN; miR156, microRNA156; NO, nitric oxide; RAP2.6L, RELATED TO AP2.6L; PGB2, PHYTOGLOBIN2; PLT, PLETHORA; QC, quiescent centre; RBR, RETINOBLASTOMA-RELATED; SA, salicylic acid; SCR, SCARECROW; SHR, SHORTROOT; SIM, shoot-inducing medium; SPL, SQUAMOSA PROMOTER BINDING PROTEIN-LIKE; WIND1, WOUND-INDUCED DEDIFFERENTIATION1; WOX5, WUSCHEL-RELATED HOMEOBOX5. © The Author(s) 2021. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Society for Experimental Biology. All rights reserved. For permissions, please email: journals.permissions@oup.com

Introduction

Plants can undergo multiple regenerative processes after wounding to repair wounded tissues, form new organs, and produce somatic embryos (Xu and Huang, 2014). The regenerative abilities of plants have been widely exploited in agricultural technologies such as cutting, grafting, and vegetative propagation in tissue culture (Sussex, 2008; Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2019). Wounding is the first event in plant regeneration, and the underlying theme of plant regeneration is the cell fate transition in response to wounding (Chen *et al.*, 2016; Lup *et al.*, 2016).

In plants, most wound-induced responses occur in a relatively narrow time window. Wound signals occur in two waves, the first soon after wounding and the second later (León et al., 2001; Maffei et al., 2007; Hilleary and Gilroy, 2018; Wasternack, 2019). Very soon after wounding, plants quickly produce the first wave of wound signals, such as electrical pulses, calcium ion (Ca²⁺) signals, and reactive oxygen species. The second wave of wound signals mainly involves plant hormones, such as jasmonate (JA), salicylic acid (SA), and ethylene. Among these signals, JA has been well characterized as the wound hormone (Han, 2017; Wasternack and Song, 2017; Ruan et al., 2019). Usually, JA is kept at a low concentration in plant tissues, but it quickly accumulates in response to wounding (Chung et al., 2008; Glauser et al., 2008; Koo et al., 2009). In its signalling pathway, jasmonoyl-isoleucine binds to the F-box protein receptor CORONATINE INSENSITIVE1 (COI1) (Feys et al., 1994; Xie et al., 1998; Yan et al., 2009) and then COI1 is able to bind JASMONATE-ZIM-DOMAIN (JAZ) proteins, leading to the ubiquitination and degradation of JAZs, thereby activating the JA-signalling pathway (Yan et al., 2007; Chini et al., 2007; Thines et al., 2007).

In this review, we summarize recent advances in research on how the wound hormone JA links wounding to plant regeneration, and discuss the possibility of the involvement of JA in crosstalk with other wounding signals and hormones.

Roles of JA in stem tissue repair and grafting

Research using injured Arabidopsis stems suggests that auxin, ethylene, and JA are involved in the reunion of the wounded tissues (Asahina *et al.*, 2011) (Fig. 1A). When the stem is injured, the tissues near the wounded site can trigger cell division to repair and heal the wound. The gap created by the wound blocks the flux of auxin from the shoot to the root, resulting in the accumulation of auxin in the upper region of the cut gap and the deprivation of auxin in the lower region of the cut gap. The unbalanced auxin distribution in the two regions of the cut gap is critical for tissue repair, because either removal of the source of auxin production (e.g., cauline leaves, shoot apices, or lateral buds) or inhibition of polar auxin transport may result in defective stem wound reunion. At the molecular level, the high auxin concentration together with ethylene promotes the expression of NAC DOMAIN CONTAINING PROTEIN71 (ANAC071) in the upper region of the cut gap, and the low auxin concentration together with JA promotes the expression of *RELATED* TO AP2.6L (RAP2.6L) in the lower region of the cut gap. The gene LIPOXYGENASE2 (LOX2), which encodes the JA-biosynthesis enzyme, is also up-regulated, and its expression profile is similar to that of RAP2.6L. The expression of RAP2.6L can also be up-regulated by exogenous JA treatment. Genetic evidence indicates that both ANAC071 and RAP2.6L are required for stem wound reunion. Overall, the unbalanced distribution of auxin at the cut gap, together with wound-induced ethylene and IA, controls the asymmetrical expression patterns of the transcription factor genes ANAC071 and RAP2.6L, thereby regulating the repair of the wounded stem tissues (Asahina et al., 2011).

Grafting is a biotechnology in which two wounded plants are physically joined to generate a chimeric plant (Melnyk et al., 2015, 2018; Melnyk, 2017; Notaguchi et al., 2020). During grafting, some tissues of the scion and stock, such as the cortex, endodermis, cambium, and/or pericycle, undergo cell division and differentiation to heal the graft junction (Jeffree and Yeoman, 1983; Melnyk et al., 2015). The rapid accumulation of JA and the up-regulation of JA-responsive genes, including RAP2.6L, occur during grafting (Yin et al., 2012; Gasperini et al., 2015; Nanda and Melnyk, 2018; Matsuoka et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2020a). However, JA-deficient Arabidopsis mutants can also be grafted successfully (Gasperini et al., 2015; Nanda and Melnyk, 2018). In addition, the induction of JA and RAP2.6L expression upon wounding during Arabidopsis hypocotyl grafting is not necessary for cell proliferation for healing (Matsuoka et al., 2018). Therefore, further research is needed to clarify the roles of JA in regeneration after grafting.

Roles of JA in root tip repair

Laser ablation, root tip excision, and the use of DNAdamaging reagents are the main methods used to investigate root tip repair and regeneration (Feldman, 1976; van den Berg *et al.*, 1995; Xu *et al.*, 2006; Sena *et al.*, 2009). Many studies have established the framework of root tip repair, involving the wounding response, the redistribution of auxin and cytokinin, and quiescent centre (QC) and stem cell niche re-establishment (Matosevich and Efroni, 2021). These processes require the expression of the wound response genes *ETHYLENE RESPONSE FACTOR 115* (*ERF115*) and *PHYTOCHROME A SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION1* (*PAT1*), and the stem cell regulation genes *PLETHORA* (*PLT*), *SHORTROOT* (*SHR*), *SCARECROW* (*SCR*), and *WUSCHEL-RELATED HOMEOBOX5* (*WOX5*) (van den Berg *et al.*, 1995, 1997; Xu *et al.*, 2006; Sena *et al.*, 2009; Heyman *et al.*, 2013, 2016; Efroni

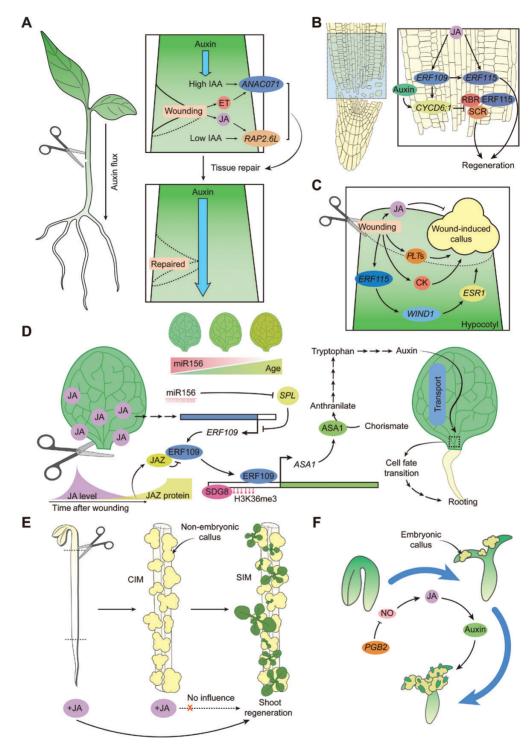


Fig. 1. Summary of the roles of jasmonate (JA) in Arabidopsis regeneration. (A) Stem tissue repair (Asahina *et al.*, 2011). Wounding induces ethylene (ET) and JA accumulation. ET, together with a high auxin concentration, activates *ANAC071* expression; JA, together with a low auxin concentration, activates *RAP2.6L* expression. Both pathways are required for tissue repair. (B) Root tip repair (Heyman *et al.*, 2013; Zhou *et al.*, 2019). JA acts as the wound hormone to promote cell division and cell fate transition via the activation of *ERF*s expression in the wounded root tip. (C) Wound-induced callus formation (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2017). Wounding promotes many pathways, including JA, cytokinin (CK), *PLT*s, and *ERF115-WIND1-ESR1*, which regulate the formation of wound-induced callus from wounded hypocotyls. (D) *De novo* root regeneration from detached leaves (Zhang *et al.*, 2019; Ye *et al.*, 2020). JA serves as the wound hormone to accelerate auxin production in detached leaves, thereby promoting adventitious root regeneration. This process is also regulated by the miR156-*SPL* age pathway. (E) *De novo* shoot regeneration from non-embryonic callus (Park *et al.*, 2019). Pre-treatment of hypocotyl explants with JA can promote shoot regeneration in tissue culture. (F) Somatic embryogenesis (Elhiti *et al.*, 2013; Mira *et al.*, 2016). JA is involved in somatic embryogenesis via crosstalk with nitric oxide (NO) and auxin.

et al., 2016; Marhava et al., 2019; Hellmann and Helariutta, 2019).

After both laser ablation and root tip excision, JA is the key hormone involved in root tip repair via activation of the QC and stem cell niche (Zhou *et al.*, 2019) (Fig. 1B). On the one hand, JA can activate cell division of the QC through the network of WOX5, SHR, SCR, and RETINOBLASTOMA-RELATED (RBR). On the other hand, JA promotes the expression of ERF109 and ERF115 during regeneration. The ERF109 transcription factor and locally accumulated auxin promote the expression of CyclinD6;1 (CYCD6;1), which participates in the activation of cell division. ERF115 interacts with RBR and acts upstream of the RBR-SCR-SHR pathway in the regeneration of the QC and stem cell niche. Additionally, soil penetration and nematode herbivory induce JA-mediated wound responses and regeneration. Overall, the study of Zhou *et al.* (2019) revealed a genetic network from wounding to root tip repair.

Roles of JA in wound-induced callus formation

Wounded hypocotyls of Arabidopsis can produce a group of wound-induced callus cells, whose cell identity differs from that of non-embryonic callus cells produced in tissue culture (Iwase et al., 2011). The tissue organization of nonembryonic callus produced in tissue culture is similar to that of the root primordium or root apical meristem (Sugimoto et al., 2010, 2011; Fan et al., 2012; He et al., 2012). In contrast, wound-induced callus at the wounded site of the hypocotyl after decapitation does not exhibit root primordium or root apical meristem identity (Iwase et al., 2011; Ikeuchi et al., 2013). The AP2/ERF transcription factor gene WOUND-INDUCED DEDIFFERENTIATION1 (WIND1) is involved in wound-induced callus formation by forming a regulatory network with ERF115 and ENHANCER OF SHOOT REGENERATION1 (ESR1), and PLTs also contribute to wound-induced callus formation (Iwase et al., 2011, 2017; Ikeuchi et al., 2017).

Time-course RNA-sequencing analyses identified that many hormone pathways are involved in wound-induced callus formation (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2017) (Fig. 1C). The JA-biosynthesis genes and JA-response genes are quickly up-regulated upon wounding at the hypocotyl. However, mutations in JA-biosynthesis or JA-signalling pathway genes do not block the formation of wound-induced callus, but lead to increased efficiency of wound-induced callus formation (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, JA may play a negative role in the regulation of wound-induced callus formation. Genes involved in cytokinin synthesis are also up-regulated at the wounded site of hypocotyls. The cytokinin that accumulates at the wounded site can activate, via its signalling pathway, the expression of the cell-cycle-related genes *CYCD3;1*, *CYCD3;2*, and *CYCD3;3* to promote wound-induced callus formation. Therefore, JA and cytokinin might play opposing roles in the regulation of wound-induced callus formation (Ikeuchi *et al.*, 2017). Further research will shed light on the molecular mechanism by which JA negatively regulates wound-induced callus formation.

Roles of JA in *de novo* root regeneration in cuttings

De novo root regeneration is the process by which adventitious roots form from wounded or detached plant organs. The regeneration of adventitious roots from cuttings is a commonly used biotechnology for vegetative propagation of plants in the forestry and horticultural industries. Auxin is the key hormone that controls root organogenesis (Thimann and Went, 1934; Zimmerman and Wilcoxon, 1935; Hitchcock and Zimmerman, 1936) and it activates many key genes involved in cell fate transition during root primordium establishment (Xu, 2018).

Many studies have shown that JA plays a positive role in the promotion of *de novo* root regeneration from stem cuttings. In stem cuttings of *Petunia hybrida* and pea (*Pisum sativum*), JA rapidly accumulates in the stem base and promotes root formation (Ahkami *et al.*, 2009; Rasmussen *et al.*, 2015; Lischweski *et al.*, 2015). In the thin cell layers of tobacco or Arabidopsis that produce adventitious roots, treatment with JA at a low concentration can increase root formation (Fattorini *et al.*, 2009, 2018).

Detached leaves of Arabidopsis can regenerate adventitious roots on hormone-free medium, thereby providing a platform to study the molecular mechanism controlling de novo root regeneration from leaf cuttings (Chen et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2014; Xu, 2018). From 10 min to 2 h after leaf detachment, a wave of JA is rapidly produced in detached leaves in response to wounding, but this wave disappears by 4 h after wounding (Zhang et al., 2019). Mutation of the JA-signalling pathway gene COI1 leads to a reduced ability to form roots from detached leaves (Zhang et al., 2019). Through its signalling pathway, JA activates the expression of the transcription factor gene ERF109, and ERF109 in turn up-regulates the expression of ANTHRANILATE SYNTHASE $\alpha 1$ (ASA1) (Sun et al., 2009; Cai et al., 2014). ASA1 is involved in the biosynthesis of tryptophan (Niyogi and Fink, 1992), which is the precursor for auxin production (Zhao, 2010). The rapid up-regulation of ASA1 expression by ERF109 within 2 h of wounding is dependent on an epigenetic modification, that is, the pre-deposition of a trimethyl group at histone H3 lysine 36 (H3K36me3) on the ASA1 locus by SET DOMAIN GROUP8 (SDG8) before wounding (Zhang et al., 2019). This H3K36me3 epigenetic marker might be required for the rapid up-regulation of many genes induced by JA (Zhang et al., 2019). After 2 h, the JA concentration decreases, resulting in the accumulation of the JAZ protein, which can directly interact with

and inhibit ERF109 to turn off the wounding signal (Zhang et al., 2019). Turning off the wound signal is important, because constant JA treatment or disruption of endogenous JA homeostasis is harmful for root organogenesis (Gutierrez et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2019; Lakehal et al., 2019, 2020; Alallaq et al., 2020). Recent studies have indicated that JA inhibits adventitious rooting from Arabidopsis hypocotyls via repression of the cytokinin degradation pathway gene CYTOKININ OXIDASE/DEHYDROGENASE1 (CKX1) and activation of the expression of RAP2.6L and ERF115 (Lakehal et al., 2020; Dob et al., 2021; Pan et al., 2021), and that red light can promote adventitious rooting by preventing the accumulation of JA and cytokinin (Alallag et al., 2020). Overall, the JA peak after wounding boosts auxin production to promote de novo root regeneration from leaf cuttings, and a strict turning-off of the JA signal is also required for root organogenesis (Fig. 1D).

The root regenerative capacity declines as plants age (Greenwood et al., 2001; Díaz-Sala, 2014; Rasmussen et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2016; Pan et al., 2019; Ye et al., 2020). A recent study revealed that the age pathway can crosstalk with JA and auxin in the regulation of de novo root regeneration (Ye et al., 2020) (Fig. 1D). In Arabidopsis, as the plant ages, the microRNA156 (miR156) level decreases, resulting in the accumulation of transcripts of its targets, SQUAMOSA PROMOTER BINDING PROTEIN-LIKE (SPL) genes (Poethig, 2009; Wang, 2014). SPL2, SPL10, and SPL11 are specifically involved in the regulation of rooting from leaf cuttings (Ye et al., 2020). In aged leaves, SPL2, SPL10, and SPL11 can inhibit JA-mediated auxin biosynthesis by repressing the expression of the AP2/ERF transcription factor genes ERF109 and ABSCISIC ACID REPRESSOR1 (ABR1), both of which are involved in wound- and JA-induced auxin production (Zhang et al., 2019; Ye et al., 2020). Therefore, as the plant ages, it becomes less sensitive to the wound hormone JA during regeneration.

Roles of JA in *de novo* shoot regeneration in tissue culture

Adventitious shoots can regenerate from non-embryonic callus in tissue culture. In tissue culture, detached explants are cultured on callus-inducing medium (CIM), which has a high ratio of auxin to cytokinin, to produce non-embryonic callus. The callus can then be moved to shoot-inducing medium (SIM), which has a high ratio of cytokinin to auxin, to regenerate adventitious shoots (Skoog and Miller, 1957).

The role of JA in *de novo* shoot regeneration is less well understood. An indication came from experiments using Arabidopsis hypocotyl explants treated with JA (Park *et al.*, 2019) (Fig. 1E). In that study, hypocotyl explants pre-treated with JA before culture on CIM showed enhanced shoot regeneration on SIM, while JA treatment of explants already on CIM did not enhance shoot regeneration on SIM. This might indicate that pre-treatment with JA activates some regeneration-promoting genes in the hypocotyl explants (Park *et al.*, 2019). The authors also showed that mutations in the JA-signalling pathway gene *COI1* impair shoot regeneration in tissue culture (Park *et al.*, 2019), suggesting that the endogenous JA-signalling pathway is involved in *de novo* shoot regeneration. However, the molecular mechanism underlying the role of JA in *de novo* shoot regeneration in tissue culture is still largely unclear. A recent study indicated that endogenous auxin accumulation in callus is important for organ regeneration (Zhai and Xu, 2021). In future studies, it will be interesting to test whether pre-treatment with JA affects the accumulation of endogenous auxin in hypocotyl explants.

Roles of JA in somatic embryogenesis

Plant somatic cells can undergo dedifferentiation to form somatic embryos (Horstman *et al.*, 2017; Méndez-Hernández *et al.*, 2019; Wójcik *et al.*, 2020; Salaün *et al.*, 2021). Usually, somatic embryos form either directly from somatic cells or indirectly from embryonic callus in tissue culture. Auxin is the key hormone that triggers cell dedifferentiation and somatic embryo formation (Su *et al.*, 2009; Wang *et al.*, 2020b). Several studies have indicated that JA might also have a role in the regulation of somatic embryogenesis in diverse species.

During somatic embryogenesis in *Medicago sativa*, endogenous JA accumulates in the developing somatic embryos (Ruduś *et al.*, 2005, 2009). However, JA treatment can inhibit somatic embryogenesis in *M. sativa* (Kepczynski and Florek, 1997; Ruduś *et al.*, 2001, 2006) and carrot (*Daucus carota*) (Tokuji *et al.*, 1995). In *Brassica napus*, the application of exogenous JA as well as abscisic acid and SA at an appropriate concentration can promote microspore embryogenesis (Ahmadi *et al.*, 2014). The application of JA can also promote somatic embryogenesis in saffron (*Crocus sativus*) (Blázquez *et al.*, 2004).

Studies on Arabidopsis have shed light on the role of JA in somatic embryogenesis (Elhiti et al., 2013; Mira et al., 2016) (Fig. 1F). Supplying JA at an appropriate concentration in the medium can promote somatic embryogenesis, whereas JA at a very high concentration inhibits somatic embryogenesis in Arabidopsis. Thus, the concentration of JA is critical for its function. Mutations in the genes involved in JA biosynthesis result in the reduced formation of somatic embryos. JA promotes somatic embryogenesis through promoting the expression of genes involved in auxin production (e.g. ASA1 and YUCCA). In addition, nitric oxide (NO), which is negatively regulated by PHYTOGLOBIN2 (PGB2), promotes JA biosynthesis and regulates the JA-signalling pathway. Therefore, the PGB2-NO-JA-auxin crosstalk might form a regulatory network that controls the efficiency of cell dedifferentiation and somatic embryo formation (Mira et al., 2016).

Because JA has been found to both inhibit and promote somatic embryogenesis in diverse plant species, it is possible that plants are very sensitive to the concentration of JA as well as its spatial and temporal patterns. This could be the same in *de novo* root regeneration and probably other plant regeneration processes as well. One possibility is that JA may crosstalk with auxin and/or cytokinin under different physiological conditions (Zhang *et al.*, 2019; Alallaq *et al.*, 2020; Lakehal *et al.*, 2020; Dob *et al.*, 2021; Pan *et al.*, 2021).

Conclusion

JA is involved in many types of plant regeneration, including tissue repair, wound-induced callus formation, de novo organ regeneration, and somatic embryogenesis (summarized in Fig. 1). The common theme of JA in plant regeneration is the link between wounding and cell fate transition, and JA might be very strictly sensed and controlled by the cell during regeneration. Currently, our understanding of the network of wound signals involved in regeneration is very limited. To improve our understanding, first, the molecular mechanisms of JA in different types of plant regeneration need to be further explored. Auxin and cytokinin are key hormones in almost all types of plant regeneration. Although there is some evidence for crosstalk between JA and cytokinin or auxin, the molecular framework of how these three hormones act together in regenerationfor example, in wound-induced callus formation, tissue repair, and de novo shoot regeneration-remains unknown. Second, wounding may produce many signals, some of which may act even faster than JA. Recent studies on wounding indicate important roles for electrical signals, Ca²⁺ waves, and glutamate in systemic wound responses (León et al., 2001; Maffei et al., 2007; Choi et al., 2016; Hilleary and Gilroy, 2018; Toyota et al., 2018; Wasternack, 2019; Moe-Lange et al., 2021). Ethylene and SA are also important hormones induced by wounding. Research into the crosstalk between IA and other wound signals and hormones will shed light on the complex network involved in regeneration after wounding. Third, JA can spread very quickly through the wound site and to other tissues (Gasperini et al., 2015). It will be important to determine whether JA functions as a mobile signal in plant regeneration. Fourth, singlecell damage in the Arabidopsis root activates the production of, and responses to, ethylene, but not JA or SA (Marhavý et al., 2019). This might indicate that, in some cases, different types of wounding trigger responses through different signals. Overall, a comprehensive understanding of wound signalling pathways is necessary to understand how different types of regeneration are triggered in plants under different conditions.

Author contributions

GZ, WL, WZ, JL, and LX conceived and wrote the review; GZ, ZG, WZ, and LX prepared the figure; all authors discussed and revised the review.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

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