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广西渐新世宁明组三种植物碳同位素与古气候分析

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摘要 渐新世代表地球一个早期的“冰室”期, 是地球气候演化和生物演替过程中一段特殊的时期。渐新世植物化石的碳同位素可为研究该时期的古气候提供依据。对广西渐新世宁明组三种植物及其最近现生亲缘种的碳同位素进行分析, 化石种 *Buxus ningmingensis*, *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* 和 *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 的碳同位素组成($\delta^{13}\text{C}$)分别为 $-29.0\text{\textperthousand}$, $-28.3\text{\textperthousand}$, $-28.0\text{\textperthousand}$; 碳同位素分馏($\Delta^{13}\text{C}$)分别为 $23.48\text{\textperthousand}$, $22.74\text{\textperthousand}$, $22.43\text{\textperthousand}$; 叶内细胞间和外界大气的 CO_2 分压比($\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$)分别为 0.84, 0.81, 0.80; 水分利用效率(WUE)分别为 $42.63 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $51.56 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $55.38 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 。其对应的最近现生亲缘种(NLRs)的 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 分别为 $-27.9\text{\textperthousand}$, $-29.7\text{\textperthousand}$, $-28.8\text{\textperthousand}$; $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 分别为 $20.47\text{\textperthousand}$, $22.36\text{\textperthousand}$, $21.42\text{\textperthousand}$; $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 分别为 0.71, 0.79, 0.75; WUE 分别为 $72.22 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $51.28 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $61.76 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 。化石种 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 值均落在现代 C_3 植物相应的数值范围内, 其 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 均高于相应的 NLRs 数值; 而 *Buxus ningmingensis* 和 *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 的 WUE 低于相应的 NLRs 数值; 其中 *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* 的 WUE 稍高于相应的最近现生亲缘种 *C. hainanensis*, 推测可能与其 NLR 标本的母本植物生长在水源充足、空气潮湿的湖溪边湿地环境有关。基于 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 和 WUE 结果, 推测化石种可能生活在一种比现在更为温暖湿润的气候环境中; 化石及同层位化石的古气候重建支持了当前古气候分析结果。

关键词 碳同位素; 古气候; 植物化石; 渐新世; 宁明组

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0 引言

植物通过光合作用固定大气中的 CO_2 合成自身物质。由于轻、重同位素在热运动或生化反应中的活动性不同, 植物在吸收 CO_2 进行光合作用时, 则导致碳同位素的分馏^[1-2]。此分馏作用受到植物生长时期的气候环境因子影响, 如温度、水分和 CO_2 等^[3-7]。由于陆生植物叶片是植物体与外界大气圈进行气体交换的器官, 与植物光合作用、蒸腾作用和呼吸作用等诸多生理过程密切相关, 因此植物倾向于通过气孔的开闭和改变叶片上的气孔数目来调节诸多生理过程^[8-10], 其中叶片含有植物当时的生长生理和气候环境信息, 其碳同位素组成($\delta^{13}\text{C}$)可以提供包括源

CO_2 碳同位素组成在内的诸多气候环境信息^[11-17]。而植物叶片表面具有由高分子形成的角质层, 其耐酸、耐碱性和抗分解特性使叶片不易被降解。因此, 陆相地层中的叶片容易被保存形成压型化石, 其蕴含的气候环境信息是研究古气候环境的重要材料^[18-21]。

渐新世代表地球新生代一个早期的“冰室”期, 是地球气候演化和生物演替过程中一段特殊的时期。在始新世—渐新世界线时期(33.9 Ma), 随着全球温度迅速降低, 诱发一次历时 4 Ma 的冰期(Oi-1 Glaciation, 距今约 33.7 Ma), 一方面引起南极大陆冰盖快速形成和海平面下降, 另一方面促使动、植物面貌发生了重大的变化, 如一些哺乳动物和阔叶植物的灭绝、须鲸类动物的出现等^[22-23]。继 Oi-1 Glaciation

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之后,虽然全球气候变冷并一直持续到渐新世中期(27~26 Ma),但期间一些大型食肉动物以及一些哺乳动物多样性增加^[22]。在渐新世后期(26~23.03 Ma),伴随全球温度升高(即 Late Oligocene Warming 事件,距今约 25~24 Ma),生物一定程度的繁盛。而随后中新世早期的降温事件(距今约 23.03 Ma),再次诱发一次历时 2 Ma 的冰期(即 Mi-1 Glaciation),温度变化对生物面貌和多样性产生了较大的影响^[22-23]。

研究该段特殊时期的气候环境信息,对预测全球气候变化引发的生物演替提供重要的基础资料^[23]。关于渐新世古气候的研究,主要依靠来自于海相沉积中藻类的烯酮类和有孔虫的同位素数据($\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ 和 $\delta^{11}\text{B}$),少部分数据来自古土壤以及陆生植物^[22-24];如利用气孔参数进行古大气 CO_2 浓度恢复、基于共存分析法和叶相分析法的古气候重建^[25-26]。为了更深入理解渐新世古气候变化对全球生物面貌的影响,需要更多的陆生植物数据支持。全球范围内,由于渐新世植物群相对稀少,因此利用植物化石进行渐新世古气候环境分析相对较少。虽然一些学者利用化石植物群的属种及其叶相组合,以及孢粉定量恢复了一些地区的渐新世古气候^[27-30],但缺少植物的 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 数据验证。近几年来,在广西渐新世宁明组发现保存有许多植物叶片等压型化石^[31-38],这为利用植物化石碳同位素分析渐新世古气候环境提供了不可多得的材料。本文对广西渐新世宁明组三种植物及其最近现生亲缘种(Nearest Living Relatives, NLRs)的碳同位素组成进行了分析,计算其碳同位素分馏

(Carbon isotope discrimination, $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$)和水分利用效率(Water-use efficiency, WUE);并试图探讨 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 WUE 与植物当时生长气候环境之间的关系。

1 材料与方法

本文研究的材料为采自广西崇左市宁明县城中镇至南友高速入口公路一侧的宁明组剖面(图 1a),由兰州大学古生物学与地层学研究所(LDGSW)成员于 2013 年和 2014 年分三次采集。宁明组主要是浅湖相沉积,其岩性以灰黄色至棕灰色的薄层状泥岩为主,夹浅黄色泥质砂岩、泥质粉砂岩、细砂岩以及多层膨润土^[39-40]。在灰色、浅灰白色和棕灰色的薄层状泥岩以及泥质砂岩(图 1b)中保存有许多植物叶片和果实等压型化石以及孢粉化石^[41-43]。根据岩石地层、孢粉组合以及鱼类化石等研究结果^[39,44-48],宁明组的地质时代被认为是渐新世。

宁明组植物群保存有许多叶片、果实、叶片与果实共同保存的枝条等化石^[41-43,49],被子植物占主体,含有一些裸子植物;其中被子植物化石含有大量的樟科、壳斗科、豆科、棕榈科和黄杨科等叶片。本文选定的化石种分别是:双子叶黄杨科黄杨属的 *Buxus ningmingensis* Ma et Sun^[34],单子叶棕榈科琼棕属的 *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* Wang et Sun^[36],裸子植物三尖杉科三尖杉属的 *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* Shi, Zhou et Xie^[50]。通过叶片的宏观特征和角质层分析^[34,36,50],化石种的 NLRs 分别是小叶黄杨(*Buxus*

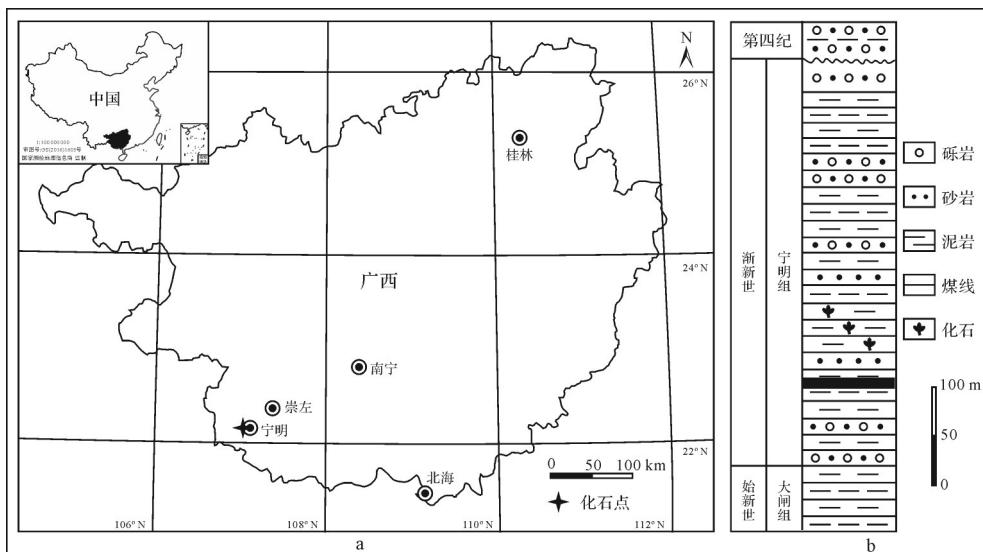


图 1 样品采集地(a)和宁明组地层柱状图(b. 据宁宗善等^[39])

Fig.1 (a) Map showing sample site. (b) General stratigraphic section of the Ningming Formation (after Ning et al.^[39])

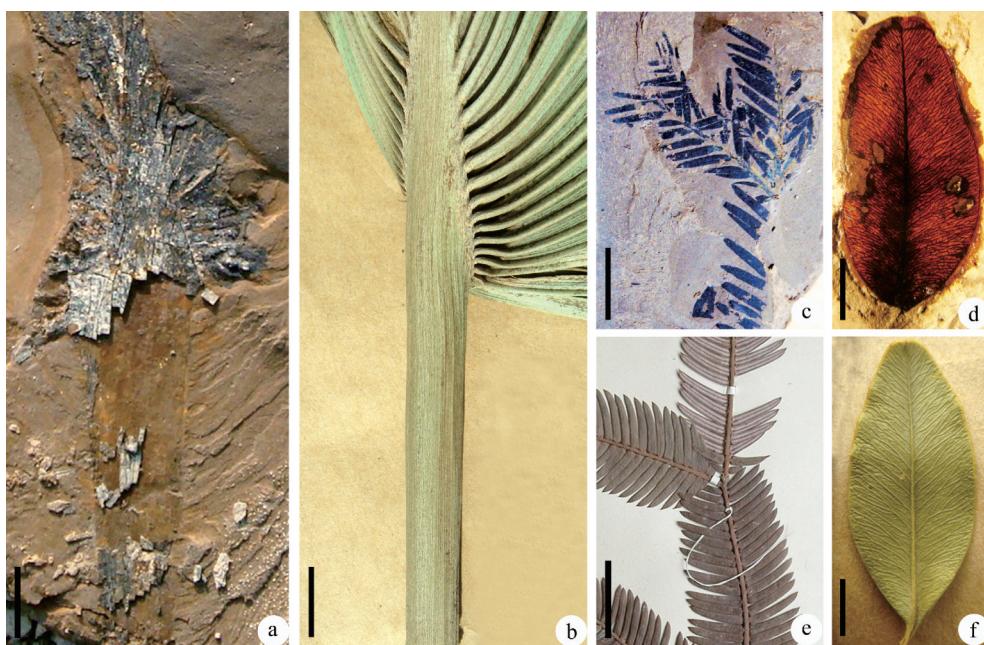


图2 化石种及其NLRs

(a) *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia*; (b) *Chuniophoenix hainanensis*; (c) *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis*; (d) *Buxus ningmingensis*; (e) *Cephalotaxus oliveri*; (f) *Buxus microphylla* subsp. *sinica*。a-b, Wang et al.^[36]和Sun et al.^[14]有描述; c-f, Sun et al.^[14]有描述。比例尺: a-c, e, 1 cm; d, f, 5 mm

Fig.2 Fossil taxa and nearest living relatives (NLRs)

(a) *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia*; (b) *C. hainanensis*; (c) *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis*; (d) *Buxus ningmingensis*; (e) *Cephalotaxus oliveri*; (f) *Buxus microphylla* subsp. *sinica*。(a), (b) also illustrated by Wang et al.^[36] and Sun et al.^[14]; (c)-(f), also illustrated by Sun et al.^[14]. Scale bars: (a)-(c), (e) 1 cm; (d), (f) 5 mm

microphylla Siebold et Zuccarini subsp. *sinica* (Rehd. et Wils.) Hatusima^[34], 琼棕(*Chuniophoenix hainanensis*)^[36] 和篦子三尖杉(*Cephalota-xus oliveri*)^[50]。*Buxus ningmingensis* 和 *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 是植物群中的常见类型。虽然至今只发现 *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* 一块标本, 但其最近现生亲缘种 *C. hainanensis* 是热带典型分子且对气候敏感, 对气候具有明显的指示作用。因此, 本文选择以上三种及其NLRs作为研究对象(图2)。

关于植物化石碳同位素样品的处理方法有两种, 第一种的处理过程如下^[14,51-53]: 将植物化石从岩石上剥下, 用5%的H₂O₂试剂均匀的涂抹在标本上, 期间用毛刷去掉覆盖的岩石, 然后用蒸馏水清洗干净; 置于10%的HCl溶液中, 将吸附和充填在植物化石上的钙质成分完全除去, 直至浸泡试剂由黄色变成白色, 然后用蒸馏水清洗干净; 再经50%的HF溶液浸泡, 将吸附在植物化石上的硅质成分充分溶解, 清除难溶物质, 并用蒸馏水多次清洗干净。样品在烘箱中以90℃恒温烘干, 送中国科学院地质与地球物理研究所兰州油气资源研究中心用MAT-253质谱仪测定其δ¹³C。测量采用PDB标准, 误差小于0.5‰。

第二种的处理过程与第一种类似, 只是经HF溶液处理后, 再用舒氏液浸泡直至化石叶片由黑色变浅黄色或透明^[6,42]。本文采用第一种处理过程。Farquhar et al.^[11-12]基于对现生植物的光合作用分析, 建立了C₃植物叶片的碳同位素分馏模型, 碳同位素分馏(Δ¹³C)为:

$$\Delta^{13}\text{C} = \frac{\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{空气}} - \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{植物}}}{1 + \delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/1000} = a + (b - a) \frac{C_{\text{植物}}}{C_{\text{空气}}} \quad (1)$$

δ¹³C_{空气}为大气CO₂的碳同位素组成, δ¹³C_{植物}为C₃植物叶片的碳同位素组成, a指大气CO₂通过气孔扩散进入植物叶片所造成的碳同位素分馏系数(=4.4‰), b是指在核酮糖二磷酸羧化酶(RuBP羧化酶)的作用下, 固碳的羧化反应所引起的碳同位素分馏系数(=27.0‰), C_{植物}和C_{空气}分别代表了叶内细胞间和外界大气CO₂分压。C_{植物}/C_{空气}与外界多种气候环境因素密切相关, 它反映了植物气孔开张程度(导通性)、光合作用强度及其他生理过程^[2,5-6]。

C₃植物叶片碳同位素分馏模型(公式1)的提出, 使得碳同位素分析成为估算植物水分利用效率(Water-use efficiency, WUE)的理论基础^[5,11-12,15], WUE为:

表1 化石种及其NLRs的碳同位素分馏和水分利用效率

Table 1 Carbon isotope discrimination and water-use efficiency of the fossil taxa and their NLRs

属种	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{\textperthousand}$	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{空气}}/\text{\textperthousand}$	$\Delta^{13}\text{C}/\text{\textperthousand}$	$\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$	$\text{C}_{\text{空气CO}_2}$	WUE
<i>Buxus ningmingensis</i>	-29.0	-6.2	23.48	0.84	438	42.63
<i>Chuniophoenix slenderifolia</i>	-28.3	-6.2	22.74	0.81	438	51.56
<i>Cephalotaxus ningmingensis</i>	-28.0	-6.2	22.43	0.80	438	55.38
<i>Buxus microphylla</i> subsp. <i>sinica</i>	-27.9	-8.0	20.47	0.71	400	72.22
<i>Chuniophoenix hainanensis</i>	-29.7	-8.0	22.36	0.79	400	51.28
<i>Cephalotaxus oliveri</i>	-28.8	-8.0	21.42	0.75	400	61.76

注:渐新世 $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 引自 Zachos et al.^[22], 大气的 CO₂ 浓度均值 ($\text{C}_{\text{空气CO}_2}$) 引自 Sun et al.^[14]; 现代 $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 和 $\text{C}_{\text{空气CO}_2}$ 引自 CDIAC (<http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/>); $\text{C}_{\text{空气CO}_2}$ 单位为 ml/m³, WUE 单位为 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 。

$$\text{WUE} = \frac{\text{C}_{\text{空气CO}_2} \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{C}_{\text{植物}}}{\text{C}_{\text{空气}}}\right)}{1.6} \quad (2)$$

WUE 受到植物自身和外部气候环境的影响, 是评价植物生长适宜程度的综合生理生态指标, 实质上反映了光合速率与蒸腾速率之比, 单位为 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, 1.6 为水蒸气的气孔传导度与 CO₂ 的比值。 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 由公式(1)求得。如已知大气的 CO₂ 浓度 ($\text{C}_{\text{空气CO}_2}$), 根据公式(2)可求出植物的 WUE。

2 结果

根据公式 1 和 2 计算的结果表明(表1):化石种 *Buxus ningmingensis*, *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia*, *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 的 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 分别为 -29.0‰, -28.3‰, -28.0‰; 因此 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 分别为 23.48‰, 22.74‰, 22.43‰; $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 分别为 0.84, 0.81, 0.80; WUE 分别为 42.63 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, 51.56 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, 55.38 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 。其对应的 NLRs 的 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 分别为 -27.9‰, -29.7‰, -28.8‰; 因此 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 分别为 20.47‰, 22.36‰, 21.42‰; $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 分别为 0.71, 0.79, 0.75; WUE 分别为 72.22 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, 51.28 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, 61.76 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 。表1, 图3 和图4 表明: 化石种的碳同位素分馏 ($\Delta^{13}\text{C}$) 要高于其相应的 NLRs, 而 *Buxus ningmingensis* 和 *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 的水分利用效率 (WUE) 低于其 NLRs, *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* 的 WUE 稍高于其 NLRs。

3 讨论

Kohn^[7]对全球 570 个地点的多种 C₃ 植物分析表明, 其 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 分布范围为 -37‰~ -20‰, 平均值为 -28.5‰。基于现生植物的研究发现, $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 与

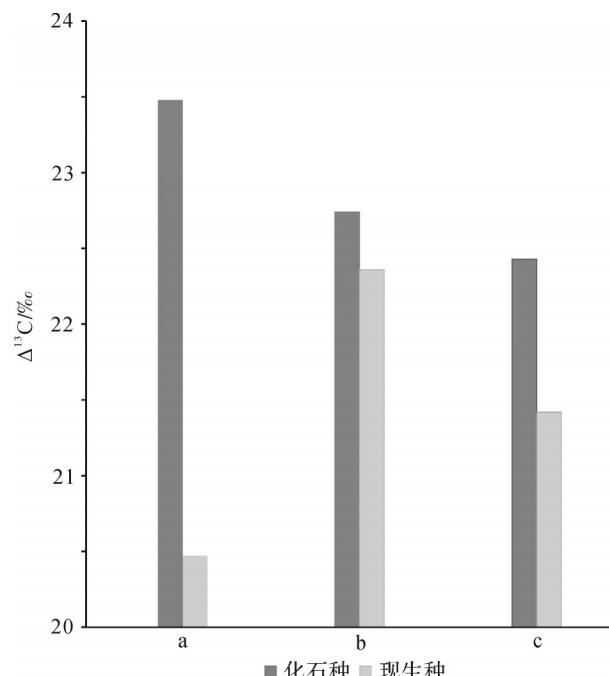


图3 化石种及其 NLRs 的碳同位素分馏 ($\Delta^{13}\text{C}$)
(a) *Buxus ningmingensis* 和 *Buxus microphylla* subsp. *sinica*; (b) *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* 和 *C. hainanensis*; (c) *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 和 *C. oliveri*

Fig.3 Carbon isotope discriminations ($\Delta^{13}\text{C}$) of the fossil taxa and their NLRs

(a) *Buxus ningmingensis* and *B. microphylla* subsp. *sinica*; (b) *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* and *C. hainanensis*; (c) *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* and *C. oliveri*

气孔传导率和光合作用速率密切相关, 受到光照、水分、土壤、大气 CO₂ 和温度等的影响^[6]。较高的 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ (> 0.7) 虽然指示植物具有较高的气孔传到率和较高的同化速率, 但由于环境中水分充足, 植物的水分利用效率却相对较低。此外, 对我国不同气候环境中的现生银杏叶片、德国中始新世早期和云南上新世植物化石叶片的研究表明^[4-6, 54], 生长在温暖、湿润气候环境中的叶片具有较高的 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 、以及较低的 WUE, 说明在水分充足、气候温暖的环境中, 植物叶片具有更高的碳同位素分馏, 然而其水分

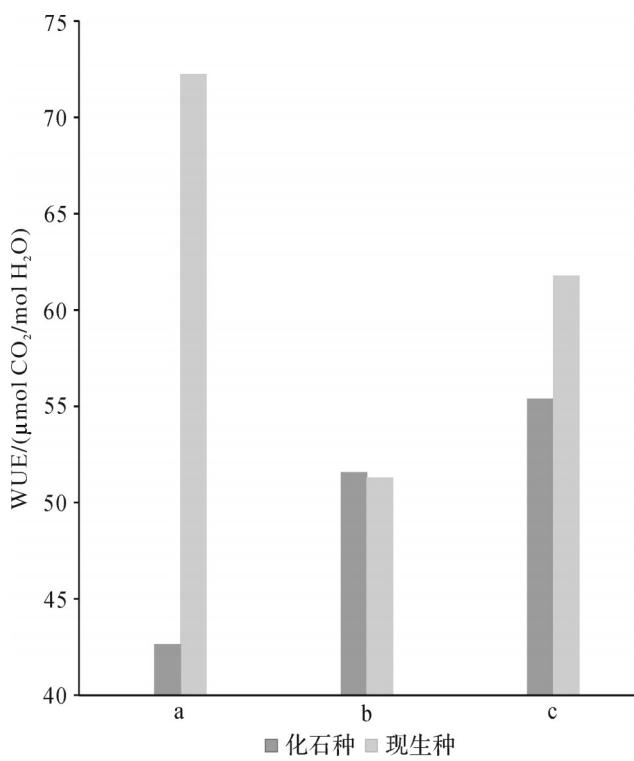


图4 化石种及其NLRs的水分利用效率(WUE)
(a) *Buxus ningmingensis* 和 *Buxus microphylla* subsp. *sinica*; (b) *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* 和 *C. hainanensis*; (c) *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 和 *C. oliveri*

Fig.4 Water-use efficiency (WUE) of the fossil taxa and their NLRs

(a) *Buxus ningmingensis* and *B. microphylla* subsp. *sinica*; (b) *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* and *C. hainanensis*; (c) *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* and *C. oliveri*

利用却比较浪费。

表1, 图3和图4表明, 化石种的 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ 值($-29\text{\textperthousand} \sim -28\text{\textperthousand}$)均落在现代C₃植物相应的数值范围内($-37\text{\textperthousand} \sim -20\text{\textperthousand}$), 其 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 值(分别是 $22.43\text{\textperthousand} \sim 23.48\text{\textperthousand}$ 和 $0.80 \sim 0.84$)均高于其相应的NLRs数值(分别是 $20.47\text{\textperthousand} \sim 22.36\text{\textperthousand}$ 和 $0.71 \sim 0.79$); 其中*Buxus ningmingensis*和*Cephalotaxus ningmingensis*的WUE(分别是 $42.63 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 和 $55.38 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$)低于其相应的NLRs数值(分别是 $72.22 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 和 $61.76 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$); 两者的 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 、 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 和WUE指示当时为一种比现在更为温暖湿润的气候环境。

*Chuniophoenix slenderifolia*的 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 和 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ (分别是 $22.74\text{\textperthousand}$ 和 0.81)虽然也高于其NLR数值(分别是 $22.36\text{\textperthousand}$ 和 0.79), 但其WUE稍高于其NLR数值(分别是 $51.56 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$ 和 $51.28 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$)(表1、图3, 4), 推测可能与样品采集有关。*Buxus ningmingensis*和*Cephalotaxus ningmingensis*的NLRs(*Buxus microphylla* subsp. *sinica*和*Cephalotaxus oliveri*)标本都来自中国科学院华南植物园标本馆, 其母本植物生长在自然生境中, 能反映当时的原生气候环境。而*Chuniophoenix slenderifolia*的NLRs(*C. hainanensis*)标本采自华南植物园的植物迁地保护园区——棕榈园; 其母本植物生长在湖溪边的湿地环境, 水源充足、空气潮湿, 未必能完全反映当时的原生自然气候环境^[6-7], 其水分利用比较浪费, 水分利用效率相对化石种的WUE低。

因此, 基于化石种及其NLRs的 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 、 $\text{C}_{\text{植物}}/\text{C}_{\text{空气}}$ 和WUE分析, 推测化石种生活在一种比现在更为温暖湿润的气候环境中。化石种及同层位化石的古气候重建支持了当前古气候分析结果。基于植物大化石利用共存分析法(Coexistence approach, CA)定量重建了渐新世宁明地区一些古气候参数(表2、图5), 化石种NLRs的气候参数引自中国气象局信息中心气象资料室^[55-56], 选取1971—2000年的平均值。一些属种跨国分布和只在国外分布, 其地理分布区的MAT参考了Palaeoflora Database^[57]。CA结果表明: 年均温(Mean annual temperature, MAT)为 $22.8 \pm 0.8^\circ\text{C}$ 、年均降雨量(Mean annual precipitation, MAP)为 $1655.1 \pm 584.6 \text{ mm}$ 、最早月均降雨量(Mean precipitation of the driest month, MPdry)为 $21.8 \pm 10.0 \text{ mm}$ 。宁明地区现代的MAT为 22.0°C 、MAP为 1304.0 mm 、MPdry为 19.8 mm (表2, 中国气象局气象信息中心气象资料室^[55-56])。由于化石点的MAT、MAP和MPdry都整体相对高于当地现在的气候值(表2), 支持了当前碳同位素的分析结果。

4 结论

(1) 对广西渐新世宁明组的*Buxus ningmingensis*, *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia*和*Cephalotaxus ningmingensis*及其NLRs碳同位素进行了分析, 化石种的碳同

表2 化石点的古气候和现今气候对比

Table 2 Comparison of the paleoclimate and modern climate at the fossil locality

气候参数	化石点	宁明
MAT/ $^\circ\text{C}$	22.8 ± 0.8	22.2
MAP/mm	1655.1 ± 584.6	1304.0
MPdry/mm	21.8 ± 10.0	19.8

注: 宁明现代气候的参数引自中国气象局信息中心气象资料室^[55-56], 选取1971—2000年的地面气候值; 化石点古气候参数来自图5。

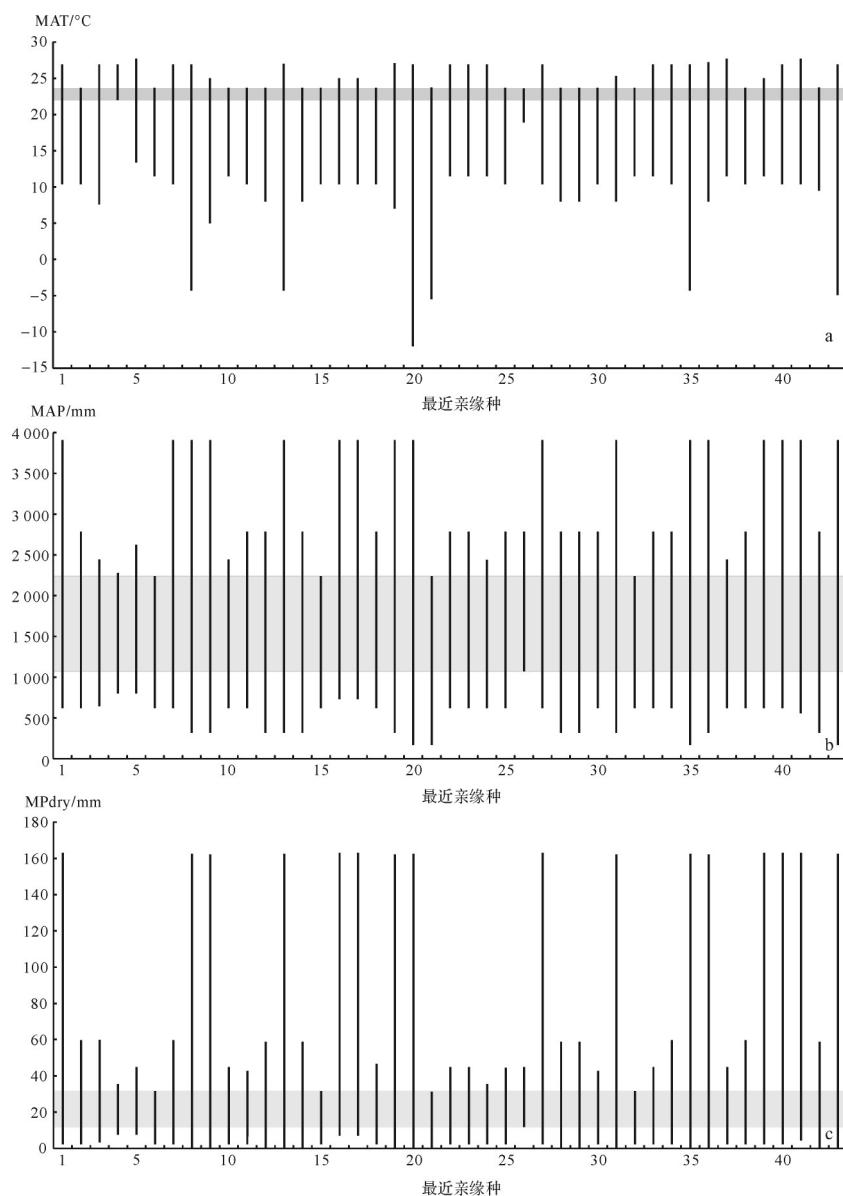


图5 基于CA重建宁明组植物群的MAT,MAP和MPdry

Fig.5 MAT, MAP and MPdry reconstructions of the Ningming Formation based on CA

(a)MAT; (b)MAP; (c)MPdry. 1. *Calocedrus macrolepis*; 2. *Cupressus funebris*; 3. *Cephalotaxus oliveri*; 4. *Chuniophoenix hainanensis*; 5. *Livistona chinensis*; 6. *Trachycarpus martianus*; 7. *Trachycarpus fortunei*; 8. *Acer*; 9. *Ailanthus altissima*; 10. *Ailanthus fordii*; 11. *Alnus nepalensis*; 12. *Quercus engleriana*; 13. *Quercus*; 14. *Cyclobalanopsis oxyodon*; 15. *Castanopsis ceratacantha*; 16. *Castanopsis sclerophylla*; 17. *Lithocarpus glaber*; 18. *Lithocarpus elizabethae*; 19. *Lithocarpus*; 20. *Prunus*; 21. *Sorbus*; 22. *Bauhinia variegata*; 23. *Bauhinia purpurea*; 24. *Bauhinia viridescens*; 25. *Bauhinia brachycarpa*; 26. *Bauhinia didyma*; 27. *Engelhardia*; 28. *Paliurus hemsleyanus*; 29. *Berchemia polypyllea*; 30. *Burretiodendron longistipitatum*; 31. *Buxus microphylla* subsp. *sinica*; 32. *Buxus austro-yunnanensis*; 33. *Securidaca*; 34. *Exbucklandia*; 35. *Fraxinus chinensis*; 36. *Cinnamomum*; 37. *Alseodaphne*; 38. *Neolitsea levinei*; 39. *Laurus*; 40. *Beilschmiedia*; 41. *Litsea*; 42. *Zelkova schneideriana*; 43. *Ulmus*

位素组成($\delta^{13}\text{C}$)值均落在现代 C₃ 植物相应的数值范围内(-37‰~ -20‰)。

(2) 化石种的碳同位素分馏($\Delta^{13}\text{C}$)以及叶内细胞间和外界大气的 CO₂ 分压比(C_{植物}/C_{空气})均高于其相应的NLRs数值;而 *Buxus ningmingensis* 和 *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* 水分利用效率(WUE)低于其相应的NLRs 数值;其中 *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* 的

WUE 稍高于相应的 NLR (*C. hainanensis*) 数值,推测可能与其 NLR 标本的母本植物生长在水源充足、空气潮湿的湖溪边湿地环境有关。

(3) 基于 $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ 、C_{植物}/C_{空气} 和 WUE 结果,推测化石种可能生活在一种比现在更为温暖湿润的气候环境中;化石种及同层位化石的古气候重建支持了当前古气候分析结果。

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Carbon Isotope and Paleoclimatic Implications of Three Plants from the Oligocene Ningming Formation, Guangxi

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Abstract: The Oligocene represented an early “icehouse” epoch and is a significant period in which global climates and organisms had pronounced evolutions. Carbon isotope data for plant fossils from the Oligocene strata records the evolution of contemporaneous climates. Three plants from the Oligocene Ningming Formation in Guangxi were selected for carbon isotope analysis, along with their nearest living relatives (NLRs). The carbon isotope composition ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) values of the fossil plants *Buxus ningmingensis*, *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* and *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* were $-29.0\text{\textperthousand}$, $-28.3\text{\textperthousand}$, $-28.0\text{\textperthousand}$, with carbon isotope discrimination ($\Delta^{13}\text{C}$) values $23.48\text{\textperthousand}$, $22.74\text{\textperthousand}$, $22.43\text{\textperthousand}$ and $\text{C}_{\text{plant}}/\text{C}_{\text{air}}$ ratios (intra-leaf CO₂ : atmospheric CO₂) 0.84, 0.81, 0.80. Their water-use efficiency (WUE) were $42.63 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $51.56 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $55.38 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of their NLRs were $-27.9\text{\textperthousand}$, $-29.7\text{\textperthousand}$, $-28.8\text{\textperthousand}$, with $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ values $20.47\text{\textperthousand}$, $22.36\text{\textperthousand}$, $21.42\text{\textperthousand}$, $\text{C}_{\text{plant}}/\text{C}_{\text{air}}$ ratios 0.71, 0.79, 0.75 and WUE $72.22 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $51.28 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$, $61.76 \mu\text{mol CO}_2/\text{mol H}_2\text{O}$. The carbon isotope analysis shows that $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of the three fossil plants were within the range of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of extant C₃ plants, and their $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\text{C}_{\text{plant}}/\text{C}_{\text{air}}$ also showed higher values than their NLRs. The WUE values of *Buxus ningmingensis* and *Cephalotaxus ningmingensis* were lower than their NLRs; WUE of *Chuniophoenix slenderifolia* is slightly higher than its NLR (*C. hainanensis*), which may have grown in a wetland environment alongside a small stream or lake. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\text{C}_{\text{plant}}/\text{C}_{\text{air}}$ and WUE values all suggest that the fossil plants may have lived in a warmer and wetter climate. This is supported by paleoclimatic reconstruction based on the three fossil taxa and other plant fossils from the same horizon.

Key words: carbon isotope; paleoclimate; plant fossil; Oligocene; Ningming Formation