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密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长和生理的影响*

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摘要 养殖密度是影响工厂化循环水养殖的重要因素之一, 为探究密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼(*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* ♀×*Epinephelus lanceolatus* ♂)幼鱼生长、消化代谢酶活性、抗氧化酶活性和下丘脑-垂体-肾间组织(HPI)轴相关激素水平及基因表达的影响, 实验选取1800尾规格一致、体格健康的珍珠龙胆石斑鱼, 随机分为3个密度梯度: 低密度100尾[(3.14±0.13) kg/m³, LD]、中密度200尾[(6.31±0.13) kg/m³, MD]和高密度300尾[(9.56±0.24) kg/m³, HD]进行实验。研究表明, HD组特定增长率、肥满度及存活率显著低于其他各组($P<0.05$); 饵料系数和变异系数随密度的升高显著上升($P<0.05$); HD组抗氧化酶和代谢酶活性显著高于其他各组($P<0.05$), 而消化酶活性显著低于其他各组($P<0.05$); HD组HPI轴相关激素水平显著高于其他各组($P<0.05$), HPI轴相关基因(*crhr1*、*nr3c1*及*nr3c2*)的表达量随密度的升高显著上调($P<0.05$), *crh-bp*表达量则相反($P<0.05$)。本研究结果可为深入认识密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长、消化代谢、氧化应激及内分泌的影响提供科学依据, 为实际生产过程中珍珠龙胆石斑鱼幼鱼养殖密度的设定提供理论参考。

关键词 珍珠龙胆石斑鱼; 养殖密度; 氧化应激; 消化代谢; HPI轴

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珍珠龙胆石斑鱼(*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*♀×*Epinephelus lanceolatus*♂)又称龙虎斑、珍珠斑, 其肉质细腻、抗病力强、环境适应能力优秀, 深受市场欢迎(胡金城, 2017; 相智巍等, 2023)。2022年石斑鱼年产量约为2.06万t(王丹等, 2023)。工厂化循环水养殖系统(RAS)具有节能减排、自动化、规模化及养殖效率高等诸多优点(蔡青霖等, 2023), 是珍珠龙胆石斑鱼目前主要的养殖模式。然而, 由于对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的适宜养殖密度不明确, 常出现养殖密度过高造

成的密度胁迫等问题。因此, 选择何种适宜的养殖密度是工厂化养殖珍珠龙胆石斑鱼中亟待解决的重要问题。

现阶段, 国内外关于鱼类密度胁迫的研究已有较多报道, 且普遍认为养殖密度越高, 鱼类的生长性能越差(李大鹏等, 2004; 薛宝贵等, 2013)。已有研究证明, 密度胁迫会抑制哲罗鲑(*Hucho taimen*)、虹鳟(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)、翘嘴鲌(*Siniperca chuatsi*)和斜带石斑鱼(*Epinephelus coioides*)的生长(白庆利等,

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2009; 江仁党, 2009; 郑乐云等, 2013; 陆可等, 2023)。过高密度的养殖会对鱼类造成胁迫, 长期密度胁迫会导致鱼类消化能力降低、代谢异常以及内分泌紊乱(张曦文等, 2012; 程佳佳等, 2015)。研究表明, 密度胁迫会对西伯利亚杂交鲟(*Acipenser baerii*♀ × *Acipenser schrenckii*♂)、大口黑鲈(*Micropterus salmoides*)和草鱼(*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)造成氧化应激(赵大显等, 2022; Li *et al*, 2023; Zheng *et al*, 2024)。值得注意的是, 氧化应激的发生往往伴随着机体消化代谢能力异常以及内分泌系统紊乱(Jing *et al*, 2018)。据报道, 尖吻鲈(*Lates calcarifer*)和牙鲆(*Paralichthys olivaceus*)消化酶的活性随着养殖密度增加而降低(Guo *et al*, 2017; Selvaram *et al*, 2022)。密度胁迫会导致美洲红点鲑(*Salvelinus fontinalis*)的多种代谢酶活性[磷酸果糖激酶(PFK)、果糖二磷酸酶(FBP)等]显著升高(Vijayan *et al*, 1990)。此外, 密度胁迫会导致点带石斑鱼(*Epinephelus coioides*)和塞内加尔鲷(*Solea senegalensis*)内分泌调控受到干扰进而导致 HPI 轴相关激素分泌紊乱, 血液皮质醇含量显著增加(Salasleiton *et al*, 2010; 逯尚尉等, 2011)。综上所述, 适宜的密度对鱼类的生长和生理健康至关重要。

目前, 关于工厂化养殖模式下密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长以及生理生化影响的研究甚少。因此, 本研究通过设定 3 种养殖密度探究密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长、氧化应激、消化代谢酶活性和 HPI 轴激素分泌水平及基因表达的影响, 以期对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的集约化健康养殖提供理论参考。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验用鱼

实验所用珍珠龙胆石斑鱼购于山东省日照市禹海红旗有限公司, 鱼体无外伤、强壮健康, 初始体重为(18.00±0.50) g, 体长为(8.50±0.86) cm, 共 1 800 尾。实验前于连续充氧的 0.6 m³ 的养殖桶中暂养 7 d 以适应环境, 暂养期间密度为(3.18±0.21) kg/m³。

1.2 实验设计

实验在山东省日照市禹海红旗有限公司开展, 养殖周期 60 d。选用工厂化循环水养殖系统, 源水采用砂滤海水。养殖桶高 90 cm, 半径 50 cm (有效水体 0.6 m³), 系统循环水量为 600 L/h, 每日补充新水量在系统最大水量的 20% 以下。保持水温(27±2) °C, 溶氧(8.0±1.0) mg/L, pH 7.8 和盐度 24±1, 氨氮含量均保持在 0.02 mg/L 以下, 每天记录饲料投喂量及死亡

鱼数量。

实验设置 3 个密度梯度, 低密度组(LD)每桶投放珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 100 尾, 密度为(3.14±0.13) kg/m³; 中密度组(MD)每桶投放珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 200 尾, 密度为(6.31±0.13) kg/m³; 高密度组(HD)每桶投放珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 300 尾, 密度为(9.56±0.24) kg/m³, 每组 3 个平行, 共养殖 60 d。每日早、晚(08:00, 17:00)按鱼体重的 2.5% 定量投喂沉降颗粒配合饲料(青岛福满堂海水仔稚鱼 3#号配合饲料, 粗蛋白≥53%, 粗脂肪≥10%, 粗灰分≤16%)。

1.3 样品采集

实验期间, 每 20 d 测定全部珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的体重、体长和全长。实验结束后, 每桶取 6 尾鱼, 共 54 尾, 80 mg/L MS-222 麻醉后于尾部静脉抽取血液, 4 °C 4 000 r/min 离心 10 min, 取上清液于-20 °C 保存待测。在冰上依次取珍珠龙胆石斑鱼脑、肝、肠、胃、肾组织, 液氮速冻, 随后转运至-80 °C 留存待测。

1.4 酶活性测定

从实验室-80 °C 超低温冰箱中取出保存的脑、胃、肠、肝组织, 将各组织分别准确称量 0.1 g, 加入 9 倍体积的生理盐水, 冰水浴条件下机械匀浆, 制成 10% 的组织匀浆, 将匀浆液放入离心机(2 500 r/min, 4 °C, 离心 10 min), 取上清液进行预实验, 根据结果选择上清液直接检测或稀释一定倍数后测定。胃蛋白酶(PPS)、胰蛋白酶(TPS)、淀粉酶(AMS)、脂肪酶(LPS)、超氧化物歧化酶(SOD)、谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶(GSH-PX)、过氧化氢酶(CAT)、己糖激酶(HK)、丙酮酸激酶(PK)、琥珀酸脱氢酶(SDH)及乳酸脱氢酶(LDH)活性, 促肾上腺激素释放激素(CRH)、促肾上腺激素(ACTH)分泌水平, 丙二醛(MDA)、皮质醇(CORT)含量检测所需试剂盒均购自南京建成生物工程有限公司, 测试方法按试剂盒说明书操作。

1.5 总 RNA 提取、cDNA 合成和 qRT-PCR

根据制造商的说明书, 使用快速纯 RNA 试剂盒(Accurate Biology, 湖北)从脑、肝、肾组织中提取总 RNA。在 1% 琼脂糖凝胶上检测 RNA 降解, 并使用 Nano Drop 2000 分光光度计(Nano Drop Technologies, 美国)检查 RNA 浓度和纯度。按照制造商的说明书, 使用 Prime Script RT 试剂盒从 2 μg 总 RNA 合成单链 cDNA。cDNA 模板储存在-80 °C 直到用于进一步分析。

表 1 列出了用于评估 HPI 轴基因表达的引物。

β -actin 用作 qRT-PCR 内部对照。qRT-PCR 数据通过 LightCycler[®] 480 II 使用 SYBR Green Pro Taq HS(精确

生物学)进行分析。qRT-PCR 扩增在 20 μ L 的总反应体积中进行。

表 1 荧光定量 PCR 引物序列
Tab.1 Primers used in real-time PCR

基因 Gene	正向引物 Forward primer (5'-3')	反向引物 Reverse primer (3'-5')
β -actin	GGCTACTCCTTCACCACCACA	TCTGGGCA ACGGAACCTCT
crhr1	GAGAAGTGCTGGTTTGGAA	TGCCCTCAGTTTGGTCAT
crh-bp	TTCTTCCGCATTACAACGC	GAGCTACTTTTGTGTGCCTGTG
nr3c1	CGCGCAAACCAAGAAGTTG	AAGTTGAGGCATGCACTTGG
nr3c2	AAAGTGTGCCTGGTTTGTGG	TTGCAGCTTCCACATGTCAC

1.6 数据计算

特定增长率(SGR)、饲料系数(FCR)、肥满度(K)、存活率(SR)和变异系数(CV)的具体计算公式如下:

$$\text{SGR}(\%/d) = 100 \times (\ln W_2 - \ln W_1) / (t_2 - t_1)$$

$$K = (W/L^3) \times 100$$

$$\text{FCR} = F / [n(W_2 - W_1)]$$

$$\text{SR}(\%) = D_2 / D_1 \times 100$$

$$\text{CV}(\%) = (\text{SD} / \text{Mean}) \times 100$$

式中, n 为鱼尾数, F 为总投饵量(g), W_1 、 W_2 为时间 t_1 、 t_2 时的平均体重(g), W 为鱼的重量(g), L 为鱼的体长(cm), D_1 为初始存活数, D_2 为最终存活数, SD 为该组鱼体重的标准差, Mean 为该组鱼体重的平均值。

1.7 数据分析

本实验所有数据以平均值 \pm 标准差(Mean \pm SD)形式表示, 使用 SPSS 22.0 进行单因素方差分析(one-way ANOVA), 若具有显著差异, 后使用邓肯法(Duncan's)进行多重比较, 显著水平设置为 $P < 0.05$, 数据结果使用 Graph Pad Prime 7.0 作图。

2 结果

2.1 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长性能的影响

密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长性能的影响如表 2 所示。珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 SGR、 K 和 SR 随养殖密度的增加呈下降趋势, FCR 随养殖密度的增加呈上升趋势。HD 组 SGR 和 K 均显著低于 LD 组($P < 0.05$), HD 组的 SR 显著低于 LD 组和 MD 组($P < 0.05$)。LD 组 FCR 显著低于 HD 组($P < 0.05$)。实验结束后, LD 组、MD 组及 HD 组终末密度分别为(15.48 \pm 0.67)、(29.67 \pm 0.38)和(38.46 \pm 1.19) kg/m³。

密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼体重(W_t)和 CV 的影响如图 1 所示。实验 20 d 时, LD 组、MD 组、HD 组之间 W_t 差异不显著; 40 d 和 60 d 时, 珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的 W_t 随密度增加呈下降趋势, MD 组 W_t 显著高于 HD 组($P < 0.05$), 显著低于 LD 组($P < 0.05$)。实验 20 d 和 40 d 时, MD 组和 LD 组 CV 无显著性差异, 均显著低于 HD 组($P < 0.05$)。60 d 时, 珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 CV 随密度增加呈上升趋势, MD 组 CV 显著低于 HD 组($P < 0.05$), 显著高于 LD 组($P < 0.05$)。

表 2 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长性能的影响

Tab.2 Effect of density on the growth performance of *E. fuscoguttatus*♀ \times *E. lanceolatus*♂

养殖密度 Stocking density	终末密度 Final density/(kg/m ³)	特定增长率 Specific growth rate/(%/d)	肥满度 Condition factor	饵料系数 Feed coefficient	存活率 Survival rate/%
低密度 LD	15.48 \pm 0.67	2.71 \pm 0.21 ^a	4.03 \pm 0.49 ^a	0.81 \pm 0.08 ^b	99.33 \pm 0.57 ^a
中密度 MD	29.67 \pm 0.38	2.54 \pm 0.05 ^{ab}	3.87 \pm 0.33 ^b	0.85 \pm 0.02 ^b	98.66 \pm 0.57 ^a
高密度 HD	38.46 \pm 1.19	2.32 \pm 0.06 ^b	3.55 \pm 0.32 ^c	0.94 \pm 0.04 ^a	96.67 \pm 0.67 ^b

注: 同列上标不同小写字母表示不同组间存在显著差异($P < 0.05$), 下同。

Note: Different lowercase letters in the same column indicate significant differences between groups at different temperatures with ANOVA analysis ($P < 0.05$), the same below.

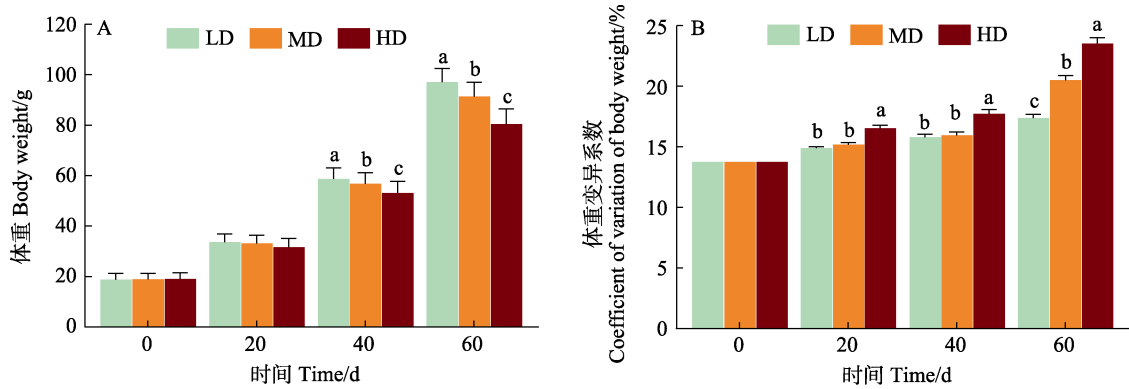


图 1 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼体重和体重变异系数的影响

Fig.1 Effect of density stress on weight and coefficient of variation of body weight of *E. fuscoguttatus*♀×*E. lanceolatus*♂

不同英文字母表示差异显著($P<0.05$), 下同。

Different letters represent significant difference ($P<0.05$), the same below.

2.2 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼消化代谢性能的影响

密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼消化酶和代谢酶活性的影响如图 2 所示。消化酶活性随密度的增加呈下降趋势, LD 组和 MD 组 PPS 活性无显著性差异, 均显著高于 HD 组($P<0.05$); MD 组 TPS、LPS 和 AMS 活性均显著低于 LD 组($P<0.05$), 显著高于 HD 组($P<0.05$)。代谢酶活性随密度的增加呈上升趋势, LD 组和 MD 组的 PK 和 SDH 活性无显著性差异, 均显著低于 HD 组($P<0.05$); MD 组 HK 和 LDH 活性显著高于 LD 组($P<0.05$), 显著低于 HD 组($P<0.05$)。

2.3 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼氧化应激的影响

密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼抗氧化酶活性的影响如图 3 所示。珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的抗氧化酶活性随密

度的增长呈上升趋势, MD 组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼肝脏 MDA 含量、SOD 活性、CAT 活性及 GSH-Px 活性显著高于 LD 组($P<0.05$), 显著低于 HD 组($P<0.05$)。

2.4 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 HPI 轴的影响

密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 HPI 轴相关激素分泌的影响如图 4 所示。珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 HPI 轴相关激素分泌水平随密度的增长呈上升趋势, MD 组 CRH 分泌水平、ACTH 分泌水平和 CROT 含量显著高于 LD 组($P<0.05$), 显著低于 HD 组($P<0.05$)。

密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 HPI 轴相关基因表达的影响如图 5 所示。MD 组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的 *crhr1*、*nr3c1* 及 *nr3c2* 表达量显著高于 LD 组($P<0.05$), 显著低于 HD 组($P<0.05$), 而 *crh-bp* 表达量 MD 组显著高于 HD 组($P<0.05$), 显著低于 LD 组($P<0.05$)。

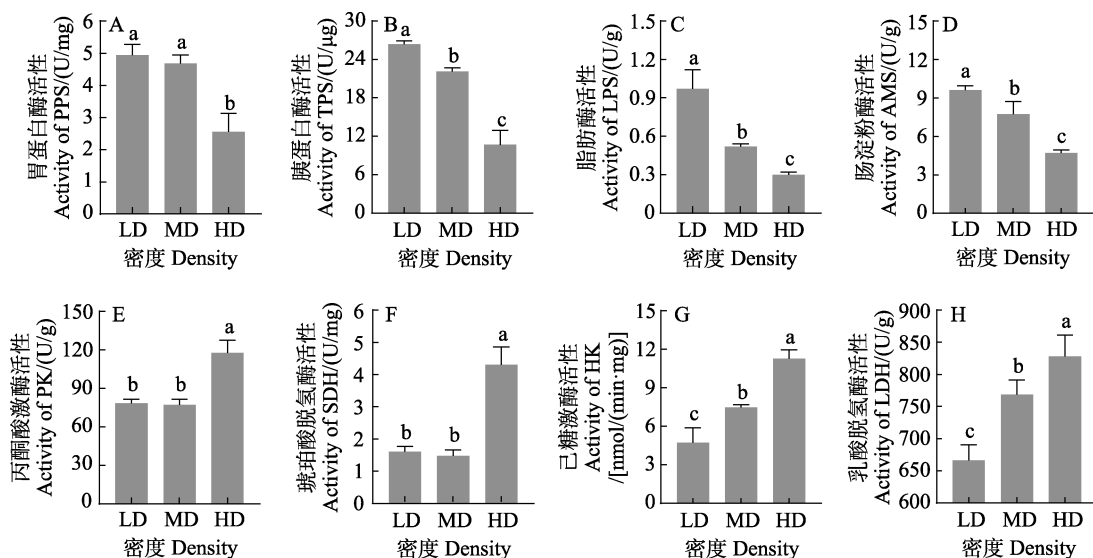


图 2 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼消化及代谢酶活性的影响

Fig.2 Effect of density stress on digestion and metabolic enzyme activities of *E. fuscoguttatus*♀×*E. lanceolatus*♂

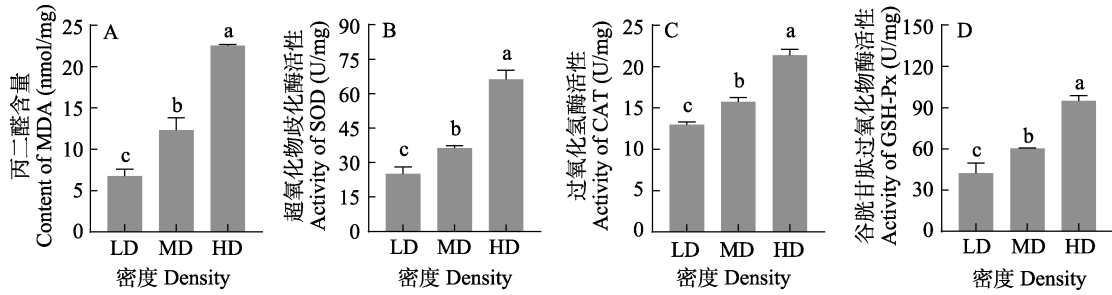


图 3 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼抗氧化指标的影响

Fig.3 Effect of density stress on antioxidant indexes of *E. fuscoguttatus*♀×*E. lanceolatus*♂

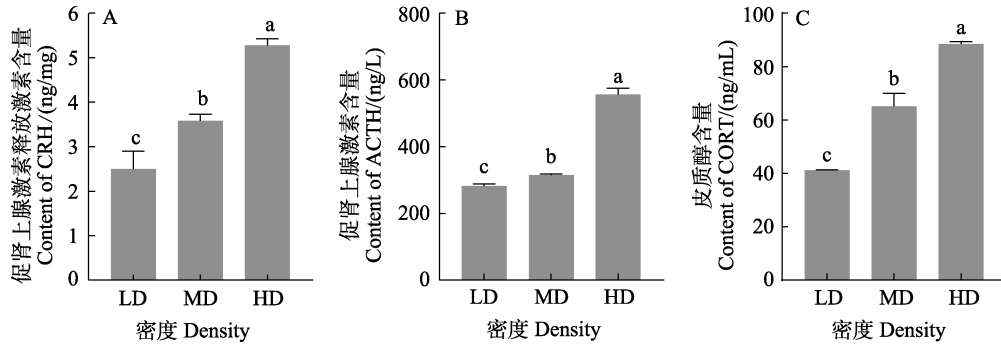


图 4 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 HPI 轴相关激素分泌影响

Fig.4 Effect of density stress on the secretion of HPI axis related hormones of *E. fuscoguttatus*♀×*E. lanceolatus*♂

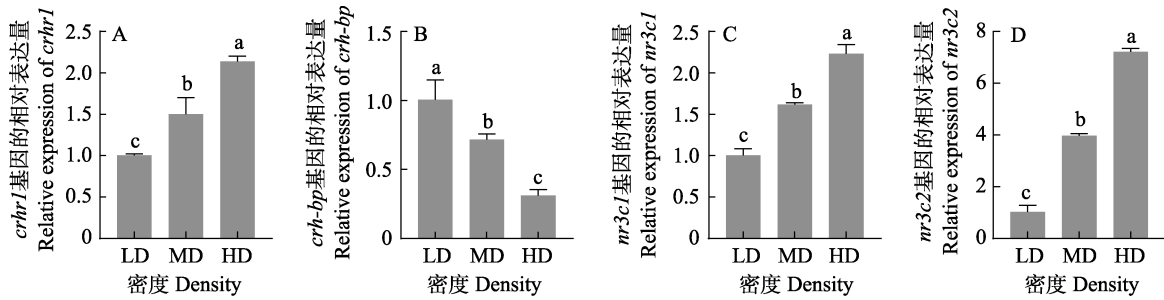


图 5 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 HPI 轴相关基因表达的影响

Fig.5 Effect of density stress on HPI axis related gene expression of *E. fuscoguttatus*♀×*E. lanceolatus*♂

3 讨论

3.1 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼生长的影响

Sharawy 等(2022)研究发现,随着密度增加,鱼类生长速率降低,养殖密度和鱼类生长速率呈负相关关系。曹阳等(2014)研究表明,在高密度组(3.2 kg/m³)中俄罗斯鲟(*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*)的增重率(WG)和肥满度(K)显著低于中密度组(1.6 kg/m³)和低密度组(0.8 kg/m³)。黄宁宇等(2005)的研究也表明,瓦氏黄颡鱼(*Pelteobagrus vachelli*)的日增重、增长率及生长效率与密度呈负相关。本研究结果与上述研究一致,在 60 d 时,HD 组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼幼鱼的 W_t 、K 和 SGR 显著低于 MD 组和 LD 组,并且其 FCR 显著

高于 LD 组。结果表明,随着密度增加,珍珠龙胆石斑鱼种内空间和食物竞争加剧,导致摄入的能量更多地被消耗而非用于生长,从而生长缓慢。在高密度养殖模式下,具有生长优势的鱼会占据更多生存资源,并因此表现出较快的生长速度。然而,由于生长处于劣势的鱼竞争性差,无法获得更多的生存资源,导致其生长缓慢,最终鱼群产生更大的生长差异(Cutts *et al*, 1998)。在本研究中,实验 20 d 时各密度组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的 CV 并未呈现出显著性差异。然而在实验 40 d 时,HD 组 CV 显著高于 LD 组和 MD 组。实验 60 d 时,MD 组 CV 显著高于 LD 组,显著低于 HD 组。这表明密度胁迫在一定程度上加剧了珍珠龙胆石斑鱼个体间的差异性。

3.2 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼消化代谢性能的影响

消化酶作为鱼体内重要的酶类,在鱼类生长发育的过程中对其适应食物变化和摄取营养物质具有显著影响(Gisbert *et al.*, 2009)。大量研究表明,密度胁迫会降低鱼类消化酶活性,在对大菱鲆(*Scophthalmus maximus*)的研究中发现,随着养殖密度增加,其体内TPS和AMS活性呈下降趋势(乔玮等, 2014);在对银鲳(*Pampus argenteus*)的研究中也发现,高密度组幼鱼的PPS、TPS和LPS活性显著低于其他密度组(孔煜夫等, 2023);此外,在对鲤(*Cyprinus carpio*)、虹鳟和团头鲂(*Megalobrama amblycephala*)的研究中同样发现,鱼体内AMS活性随密度增加呈下降趋势(Trenzado *et al.*, 2018; Adineh *et al.*, 2019; Wang *et al.*, 2019)。类似的,本研究中,珍珠龙胆石斑鱼体内的PPS、TPS、LPS、AMS活性均随着养殖密度的增加呈下降趋势。由此可见,密度胁迫可能在一定程度上对鱼类消化生理产生负面影响。研究表明,鱼类受到密度胁迫时会引起一系列生理反应,进而改变代谢酶的活性(Menezes *et al.*, 2015)。PK和HK均为糖酵解过程中的关键限速酶,其活性改变对调控糖代谢有很大的作用,也反映了糖酵解的水平(陈婉情等, 2016)。SDH和LDH是动物体内有氧和无氧呼吸过程中重要的酶,当机体能量需求增加时,通过提升LDH活性来提供更多的能量(Zakhartsev *et al.*, 2004)。本研究发现,珍珠龙胆石斑鱼代谢酶(PK、HK、LDH和SDH)活性均随着密度的增加呈上升趋势。这表明HD组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼在密度胁迫的影响下提高了机体内PK、HK、LDH和SDH的活性,这些酶活性的升高更可能是机体通过糖酵解获取更多的能量以应对强烈的应激胁迫。这与Vijayan等(1990)对美洲红点鲑以及余友斌等(2023)对大黄鱼(*Larimichthys crocea*)的研究结果类似,但王兴春(2021)研究发现,养殖密度对黄姑鱼(*Nibea albiflora*)谷草转氨酶(AST)、谷丙转氨酶(ALT)、LDH等代谢酶的影响不显著,这可能是实验鱼规格、实验鱼品种和所设置密度的差异所致。

3.3 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼肝脏抗氧化指标的影响

抗氧化防御系统在对机体的氧化应激进行抵抗时发挥着至关重要的作用(Wang *et al.*, 2018),其中SOD首先将产生于机体内的氧自由基分解为过氧化氢(McCord *et al.*, 1969),与此同时,SOD所生成的过氧化氢一方面被CAT还原成氧分子和水(Rudneva *et al.*, 1997),另一方面则被GSH-Px消除。此外,GSH-Px还能清除体内脂质过氧化物(Arthur, 2000),

以维持机体的正常生理活动并阻断氧化应激对机体的进一步损伤。本研究中,HD组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的SOD、CAT和GSH-Px 3种指标均显著高于其他密度组,这与之前对黑鲷(*Acanthopagrus schlegelii*)和豹纹鳃棘鲈(*Plectropomus leopardus*)的研究结果一致(林琳等, 2017; 孙鹏等, 2023),表明密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的抗氧化系统造成一定影响,需要机体提供更多的抗氧化酶以对抗密度胁迫所带来的氧化损伤,从而免受应激伤害。此外,MDA含量的变化能反应生物体内脂质过氧化程度,脂质过氧化被认为是细胞氧化损伤的重要标志之一(Zhang *et al.*, 2018)。本研究发现,珍珠龙胆石斑鱼机体MDA含量与养殖密度呈正相关,这与陶俊合(2023)对红鳍东方鲀(*Takifugu rubripes*)以及宋志飞(2015)对俄罗斯鲟的研究结果一致。这也进一步说明了密度胁迫在一定程度上导致了珍珠龙胆石斑鱼氧化应激反应。

3.4 密度胁迫对珍珠龙胆石斑鱼HPI轴的影响

CRH是下丘脑在应激胁迫下释放的一种多肽,刺激垂体产生ACTH,ACTH又刺激肾上腺产生CORT,CORT是鱼类应激状态下HPI轴中分泌的一种重要的应激相关激素,其含量会在外界环境刺激下迅速升高(张伟等, 2014)。已有研究表明,在密度、盐度、低氧、重金属暴露、细菌感染等各种环境应激因素作用下,硬骨鱼体内CRH、ACTH和CORT的含量及mRNA表达水平均显著增加(Craig *et al.*, 2005; Bernier *et al.*, 2012; Madison *et al.*, 2013; Choi *et al.*, 2015; Hou *et al.*, 2019)。在本研究中,珍珠龙胆石斑鱼的CRH、ACTH和CORT分泌水平随着养殖密度的增加而显著上升,这与对花斑溪鳉(*Kryptolebias marmoratus*)的研究结果一致(Amano *et al.*, 2022)。此外,Jia等(2016)报道大菱鲆血浆中CRH、ACTH和CORT水平随着氨氮胁迫时间和浓度的增加而上升,说明大菱鲆的HPI轴被激活。这些结果表明,密度胁迫会导致珍珠龙胆石斑鱼应激激素的合成与分泌,从而激活了HPI轴,导致了机体氧化应激。

CRH受体主要有*crhr1*和*crhr2*两种不同基因编码的亚型组成,其中,*crhr1*基因在中枢神经系统表达丰富,能够调动机体各系统应答应激,介导CRH对ACTH分泌的刺激作用,诱导ACTH释放入血,最终导致糖皮质激素分泌(Aguilera *et al.*, 2004)。*crh-bp*基因对CRH发生的应激反应活性起着重要负调节作用(Seasholtz *et al.*, 2002);*nr3c1*和*nr3c2*基因有维持糖皮质激素合成的作用(罗应杰等, 2017)。在本研究中,HD组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼*crhr1*、*nr3c1*和

nr3c2 表达量均显著性上调, *crh-bp* 基因表达量显著下调, 这与对塞内加尔鲷的研究结果相似(Yvette *et al.*, 2011)。此外, 斑马鱼(*Danio rerio*)在急性应激状态下 *crhr* 基因表达显著上调(Gabriele *et al.*, 2012)。类似的研究表明, HD 组在应激状态下, CRH 和 CORT 分泌旺盛, *crhr1* 作为中央神经系统中 ACTH 的主要受体之一(Vaughan *et al.*, 1995), 其基因表达量随之显著上调, 诱导 ACTH 释放入血, 调动机体各系统增加机体能量应对应激环境。*nr3c1* 和 *nr3c2* 基因作为糖皮质激素的主要受体基因, 能调控 CRH 的持续产生(张岫竹等, 2005)。本研究中, HD 组由于长期受密度胁迫影响, HPI 轴被激活, 血液中 CORT 水平远高于其他组, 因此, HD 组珍珠龙胆石斑鱼 *nr3c1* 和 *nr3c2* 基因表达量显著上调。CRH-BP 作为 CRH 的抑制剂, 能够阻断由 CRH 介导的 ACTH 在垂体前叶细胞中的分泌以保持其内分泌轴的稳态(Potter *et al.*, 1991), 本研究中, *crh-bp* 表达量的下调可能是由于长时间的应激干扰了 CRH-BP 的反馈机制, 导致了 HPI 轴相关激素分泌及相关基因表达的紊乱。

4 结论

综上所述, 密度胁迫不仅会导致珍珠龙胆石斑鱼饵料系数升高、生长性能降低、个体之间体重差异扩大, 还会引发一系列的生理变化, 主要表现为消化酶活性降低、代谢酶活性升高、氧化应激加剧和 HPI 轴激活。本研究结果可为工厂化循环水养殖珍珠龙胆石斑鱼养殖密度的制定提供理论参考。

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Effects of Density Stress on Growth and Physiology of *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* ♀×*Epinephelus lanceolatus* ♂

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Abstract The pearl gentian grouper (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* ♀×*Epinephelus lanceolatus* ♂) is the main cultured species of marine fish in factory recirculating aquaculture system (RAS). High density presents the main characteristic of intensive farming model represented by RAS, and density stress is a fundamental factors affecting fish welfare. Density stress causes a series of changes in fish growth performance, digestive and metabolic capacity, oxidative stress states, and endocrine homeostasis. However, research on how the pearl gentian grouper copes with density stress, and the effects of density stress on the growth, digestion, metabolism, oxidative stress, and endocrine production requires further research. Seeking a suitable stocking density can improve the culture efficiency of the pearl gentian grouper and avoid culture risks. Selecting an appropriate stocking density is an important problem to be solved in the factory recirculating aquaculture model. Therefore, this study investigated the changes of growth performance, digestive and metabolic capacity, oxidative stress, and Hypothalamus - Pituitary - Interrenal (HPI) axis related parameters of pearl gentian grouper under different density conditions. Three density gradient groups were set: low-density (LD), medium-density (MD), and high-density (HD). In the LD, MD, and HD groups, 100, 200, and 300 pearl gentian groupers were added per barrel with a density of (3.14±0.13), (6.31±0.13), and (9.56±0.24) kg/m³, respectively. The three experiments were performed in parallel for 60 days. Fish were fed a formula feed of 2.5% of their body weight in the morning and

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evening (08:00, 17:00) daily. The density stress test was performed for 60 days in a factory recirculating aquaculture system [temperature (27 ± 2) °C, dissolved oxygen (8.0 ± 1.0) mg/L, pH 7.8 and salinity 24 ± 1]. The body weight, body length, and total length of all the fish were measured every 20 days. A total of 18 juvenile pearl gentian groupers were randomly collected from each density group, for a total of 54. Anesthesia was administered (MS-222, 80 mg/L), tail vein blood was drawn with a 2 mL disposable syringe, and centrifuged (4 000 r/min, 4 °C, 10 min) to obtain a supernatant that was stored at -20 °C for testing. Before testing the corresponding indicators, the brain, liver, intestine, stomach, and kidney were frozen in liquid nitrogen. The results showed that the optimum stocking density of pearl gentian grouper was ($15.48\text{--}29.67$) kg/m³ under the conditions of water [temperature (27 ± 2) °C, dissolved oxygen (8.0 ± 1.0) mg/L, pH 7.8, and salinity 24 ± 1]. In terms of growth, the specific growth rate and condition factor in the HD group were significantly lower than those in the other groups ($P<0.05$), and the feed coefficient and coefficient of variation were significantly increased with the increase of density ($P<0.05$). In addition, the survival rate of the HD group was significantly lower than that of the other groups ($P<0.05$). Density stress results indicated that the growth retarded, weight difference increased, and mortality increased with increasing density. In terms of digestion and metabolism, the digestive enzyme activities (pepsin, trypsin, lipase, and amylase) in the HD group were significantly lower than those in the other groups ($P<0.05$). Density stress results in a significant decrease in the digestive performance of the fish. The metabolic enzyme activities (PK, SDH, HK and LDH) in the HD group were significantly higher than those in the other groups ($P<0.05$). In terms of oxidative stress, the activities of antioxidant enzymes (MDA, SOD, CAT and GSH-Px) in the HD group were significantly higher than those in other groups ($P<0.05$). In terms of HPI axis, the levels of HPI axis related hormones (CRH, ACTH and CORT) in the HD group were significantly higher than those in other groups ($P<0.05$). qRT-PCR was used to determine the expression levels of HPI axis-related genes, and the density stress upregulated *crhr 1*, *nr3c 1*, and *nr3c 2* ($P<0.05$), while *crh-bp* was downregulated ($P<0.05$). In summary, the study revealed that the effects of density stress on growth performance, digestive and metabolic capacity, stress, and HPI axis of the pearl gentian grouper. Density was negatively correlated with the growth performance and caused a significant decrease in digestive enzyme activity, significantly increased metabolic enzyme activity, intensified oxidative stress, and dysregulated HPI axis hormones and related genes. The results of this experiment can provide theoretical reference for the establishment of stocking density for juvenile pearl gentian grouper in the production process. Our findings provide scientific evidence for further understanding the effects of density stress on the growth, digestive metabolism, oxidative stress, and endocrine production of the pearl gentian grouper.

Key words *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*♀×*Epinephelus lanceolatus*♂; Stocking density; Oxidative stress; Digestion and metabolism; HPI axis