



• 专辑序言 •

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# 动物起源和寒武纪大爆发

## ——序 言<sup>\*</sup>

殷宗军<sup>1,2\*\*</sup> 赵方臣<sup>1,2</sup>

1 现代古生物学和地层学国家重点实验室, 中国科学院南京地质古生物研究所, 南京 210008;

2 中国科学院生物演化与环境卓越创新中心, 南京 210008

**提要** 动物起源和寒武纪大爆发是生命史上重要的演化创新事件。为展示相关领域的最新进展, 特组织主题为“动物起源和寒武纪大爆发”的论文专辑。作为专辑序言, 本文概述了动物起源和寒武纪大爆发领域的科学意义和当前研究趋势, 并简要介绍了本专辑的内容。专辑包含了来自 13 个研究单位共 42 位作者的 12 篇论文, 包括特约综述论文 1 篇和研究论文 11 篇。专辑不仅评述了相关领域的现状和未来发展趋势, 也展示了我国学者在该领域取得的部分新进展。这些进展涉及华南和华北数个特异埋藏化石库, 比如埃迪卡拉纪石板滩生物群、寒武纪宽川铺生物群和寒武纪凯里生物群等, 并涵盖了海绵动物、刺细胞动物、腕足动物、三叶虫和双瓣壳类节肢动物以及分类位置尚不明确的疑难动物化石等诸多类群。

**关键词** 动物起源 寒武纪大爆发 埃迪卡拉纪 特异埋藏化石库

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## Origin of metazoans and the Cambrian explosion: preface

YIN Zong-jun<sup>1,2</sup> and ZHAO Fang-chen<sup>1,2</sup>

1 State Key Laboratory of Palaeobiology and Stratigraphy, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing 210008, China;

2 Center for Excellence in Life and Paleoenvironment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing 210008, China

**Abstract** The origin of animals and the Cambrian explosion are two significant biological events of evolutionary innovation during the life history. To highlight the recent progresses and provide new perspectives in this research field, we organized this thematic issue entitled “origin of metazoans and the Cambrian explosion”. As the preface of this special issue, we herein reviewed the significances and the development trends of this field, and then briefly summa-

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\*\* 通讯作者: 殷宗军, 研究员; e-mail: zjyin@nigpas.ac.cn

vanized the progresses illustrated by this issue. The special issue collected 12 papers contributed by 42 authors from 13 universities and institutes, including 1 review paper and 11 research articles. These studies focused on several fossil Lagerstätten from South and North China, such as the Ediacaran Shibantan biota, the Cambrian Kuanchuanpu and Kaili biotas, covering advances in a number of fossil animal groups including sponges, cnidarians, brachiopods, trilobites and bivalved arthropods, as well as some problematic animal fossils.

**Key words** origin of metazoans, Cambrian explosion, Ediacaran, fossil Lagerstätten

## 1 引 言

纵观长达 38 亿年的地球生命演化历史, 动物起源和寒武纪大爆发毫无疑问是整个历史长河中浓墨重彩的演化创新事件。人类是动物界的成员, 所以我们对动物究竟何时、从何而来这一科学问题抱有天然的好奇心。也正因为如此, 动物起源和早期演化的科学意义以及相关研究的重要性甚至比肩生命本身的起源和早期演化。自 20 世纪中叶至今, 该领域取得了一系列重大进步, 深刻地改变了人们对动物如何起源以及早期演化历史的认识(例如 Zhang *et al.*, 2014; 朱茂炎等, 2019; Sebé-Pedrós *et al.*, 2017; 以及三文中的参考文献)。当前古生物学和现代生物学的交叉融合使得相关领域的研究已经步入全新的阶段, 为此中国科学院南京地质古生物研究所寒武纪大爆发研究团队在 2019 年组织了寒武纪大爆发国际研讨会(International Conference on the Cambrian Explosion–2019), 聚集了国内外相关领域的一众专家学者, 共同商讨该领域未来发展规划。基于此次研讨会的部分成果, 我们组织了这本主题论文专辑, 旨在总结相关领域的研究历史、进展和未来发展趋势, 并展示部分学者的研究新进展, 为推动该领域的进步贡献力量。本文作为整个专辑的序言, 简要概述了动物起源和寒武纪大爆发领域的重要性和发展趋势, 并对专辑收录的论文进行提要介绍。

## 2 动物起源和寒武纪大爆发研究领域的重要性和发展趋势

动物起源是地球生命史上重要的演化创新事件, 也一直是地球科学和生命科学交叉研究的前

沿领域。然而动物究竟是何时以及如何起源的呢? 这一直是古生物学和演化生物学领域长期悬而未决的科学难题(Cunningham *et al.*, 2017a; Erwin, 2020)。探索动物起源本质上就是重建动物共同祖先的组合性状的系统发生过程。研究方法和途径主要包括两类, 即演化发育生物学的理论推测和古生物学的实证研究(Sebé-Pedrós *et al.*, 2017; Paps and Holland, 2018; Richter *et al.*, 2018; Sogabe *et al.*, 2019; Erwin, 2020; Fernandez and Gabaldón, 2020)。演化发育生物学途径是使用分子生物学数据, 即分子谱系发生学和分子钟构建动物总界系统树(holozoon tree, 动物总界包括所有后生动物及其单细胞亲近), 修正基于形态学和解剖学建立的动物谱系关系(Philippe *et al.*, 2011; Erwin *et al.*, 2011; Ryan *et al.*, 2013; Dunn *et al.*, 2014; Pisani *et al.*, 2015; Cannon *et al.*, 2016; Simion *et al.*, 2017; Whelan *et al.*, 2017), 在此基础上通过对现生动物及其单细胞近亲的比较发育生物学和比较基因组学研究, 提出动物共同祖先的生物学模型, 包括形态、解剖结构、发育过程和生命周期等特征, 并推测干群动物的生物学特征, 最终推测动物这一单系类群从单细胞祖先到多细胞祖先再到各种形体构型(body plan)出现的演化历程(King, 2004; Sebé-Pedrós *et al.*, 2016, 2017; Cavalier-Smith, 2017; Brate *et al.*, 2018; Dudin *et al.*, 2019; Sogabe *et al.*, 2019; Erwin, 2020)。然而演化发育生物学提出的理论模型最终需要经得起古生物学证据的检验(Pisani and Liu, 2015; Cunningham *et al.*, 2017a; Erwin, 2020)。

古生物学通过化石记录检测和修正演化发育生物学模型, 需要的关键信息有: (1)最早的成体动物化石记录; (2)早期动物个体发育过程, 尤其是胚胎发育过程的化石记录; (3)干群动物和动物单细胞近亲以及它们发育过程的化石记录。传

统观点认为几乎不可能在地质记录中找到这些至关重要的信息,因此古生物学长期以来在动物起源领域的话语权甚微。而自20世纪90年代开始,古生物学家在前寒武纪-寒武纪转折期的地层中发现了大量特异埋藏的软躯体动物、动物胚胎和动物亲近化石,给该领域带来了转机(Zhang and Pratt, 1994; Bengtson and Yue, 1997; Li et al., 1998; Xiao et al., 1998)。目前的研究进展表明,埃迪卡拉纪瓮安生物群和寒武纪宽川铺生物群这两个磷酸盐化特异埋藏化石库具有揭示这些关键信息的巨大潜力(陈均远, 2004; 张喜光等, 2008; Xiao et al., 2014a; Cunningham et al., 2017b; Bottjer et al., 2020)。其中宽川铺生物群不仅保存了多门类动物成年期标本,还记录了多种动物的发育过程(Bengtson and Yue, 1997; Steiner et al., 2004; Chen et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2015, Dong et al., 2016; Duan et al., 2017; Yin et al., 2018),而瓮安生物群除有潜力保存了最早的动物化石外(陈均远, 2004; Chen et al., 2006, 2009; Yin et al., 2013, 2015, 2016),还可能保存了干群动物和动物单细胞近亲以及它们的发育生物学证据(Hultgren et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2014; Xiao et al., 2014a; Cunningham et al., 2017; Yin et al., 2019, 2020),这是目前其他同期化石记录所不具备的优势,它们为实证检验演化发育生物学模型提供了可能。

在过去的40年里,中国几代学者在动物起源和寒武纪大爆发领域,尤其是重建动物树成型方面做出了举世瞩目的贡献(例如:陈均远, 2004; Chen et al., 2012; Shu et al., 2014; 朱茂炎等, 2010, 2019; Hou et al., 2017;)。尽管成绩斐然,动物起源的研究领域仍然有诸多重要科学问题亟待解决。其中早期动物化石记录也存在诸多悬而未决的难题需要回答,尤其是瓮安生物群和宽川铺生物群中很多关键的动物或与动物有较近亲缘关系的化石类群在系统树上的具体位置仍然存在争论(Xiao et al., 2014a; Cunningham et al., 2017b)。

作为一个化石库,瓮安生物群化石种类繁多。除常见的多细胞藻类之外还包含了40余种球形化石(Xiao et al., 2014b),其中不少球形化石,包括部分大型带刺疑源类都被解释为动物休眠卵和胚胎(Chen et al., 2006; Yin L et al., 2007; Cohen

et al., 2009; Yin Z et al., 2016)、动物的单细胞亲近(Hultgren et al., 2011)或干群动物(Chen et al., 2014)。其中哪些是动物胚胎,哪些是干群动物,哪些是动物单细胞近亲仍然有争议(Xiao et al., 2014a; Cunningham et al., 2017b; Yin et al., 2019, 2020)。除胚胎状化石外,瓮安生物群中成年期动物化石也备受关注,而前人报道的刺细胞动物(Xiao et al., 2000; Chen et al., 2002)已被重新解释为蓝细菌或藻类(刘鹏举等, 2010; Cunningham et al., 2015; Sun et al., 2019)。三胚层两侧对称动物小春虫(Chen et al., 2004)也尚未被广泛接受(Bengtson et al., 2012)。

宽川铺生物群中发现的大量动物和动物胚胎化石的亲缘关系也争议不断。橄榄蛋和假球蛋的动物学属性已被学界广泛接受,但它们在动物树上的具体位置仍然充满争议。橄榄蛋先后被解释为刺胞动物钵水母干群、刺胞动物立方水母、某种干群刺胞动物或环神经动物等(Dong et al., 2013, 2016; Han et al., 2013, 2016; Steiner et al., 2014)。假球蛋被解释为节肢动物(Steiner et al., 2004)或刺胞动物锥石的胚胎(Duan et al., 2017)。似古球蛋虽然已经证实是动物休眠胚胎,但具体属于哪一个动物门仍需更多证据(Yin et al., 2018)。

毫无疑问,只有解决了上述争论,这些早期化石记录方能有效地发挥它们应有的作用——检验演化发育生物学提出的理论模型,进而探讨现代动物个体发育方式及其背后的发育基因调控网络的起源和早期演化。

这些早期化石记录的生物学解释为何长期充满争议而且很难厘清呢?这一定程度上与传统古生物学研究的方法论有关。动物起源虽是古生物学的前沿课题,但传统古生物学“将今论古”的方法论在研究动物如何起源时易陷入思维困境。“将今论古”是将发现的化石置于现代动物分类体系中进行比对研究,但最早动物及其祖先,包括干群动物及其单细胞祖先,均早已灭绝,它们的形态结构、生理、生殖和发育过程均与现生动物有巨大的未知差异。加之它们微小而柔软,保存为化石的概率极低,因此在地质记录中找到并正确地识别它们对传统古生物学研究而言是空前挑战。故而该领域

的古生物学研究工作往往聚焦好找、易识的冠群动物化石(冠群动物化石更容易与现生门类进行比对研究),探讨的问题实际上是“早期动物如何演化”而非“动物如何起源”。因此长期主导“动物起源”研究的是演化发育生物学,它通过比较基因组学和比较发育生物学研究现生动物及其单细胞近亲之间在基因调控、发育机制等方面的异同,提出动物起源过程的理论模型。

演化发育生物学的理论推测表明,干群动物及其单细胞近亲的化石记录相较于冠群动物化石本身,更能揭示动物起源的进程,它们为检验演化发育生物学模型提供了古胚胎学和古发育生物学方面的直接证据。鉴于此,未来的研究工作需要进一步突破传统古生物学的认知思维,以研究瓮安生物群和宽川铺生物群等前寒武纪-寒武纪转折期特异埋藏生物群为抓手,推动古生物学和演化发育生物学在该领域的交叉融通,重新认识动物共同祖先出现之前的干群动物及其单细胞近亲记录的重要性,发掘更多的干群动物和动物单细胞近亲等化石类群,而不是一味地只强调冠群动物化石本身的重要性,最终为探明动物起源过程提供关键化石证据,以检验和修正演化发育生物学关于动物起源的理论模型。

动物起源后在较短时间内发生了快速的辐射演化,即寒武纪大爆发。该现象是指在不到地球历史 1% 的时间里诞生了现今几乎所有的动物门类,而且此后漫长的地质历史时期几乎没有新的门一级别的动物出现(朱茂炎等, 2019; 张兴亮, 2021)。寒武纪大爆发被认为是整个地球生命史的关键转折点之一,而且是地球生态系统的关键转折,其最终结果不仅仅是产生了几乎所有的动物形体构型,而且诞生了类似现代海洋的复杂生态系统(Zhao *et al.*, 2010),标志着整个“地球-生命系统”(Earth-Life System)从以微生物主导的状态彻底转变成由动物主导的状态(朱茂炎等, 2019),地球的宜居性有了质的飞跃,在生态上可以完全支撑大型复杂动物的生存。

20 世纪发现的布尔吉斯页岩生物群、澄江生物群、凯里生物群等寒武纪特异埋藏化石库为研究寒武纪大爆发的过程和机制提供了重要的化石材料。已有研究表明,寒武纪大爆发不只是一个简单的由

化石记录揭示的现象,而且是整个生命演化史上一个客观存在的强有力的事实。寒武纪大爆发的研究已经深刻地改变了人们对生命演化过程和机制的传统认识,当前相关研究已经步入了新时期,未来的研究将更加强调多学科交叉和多技术联合的系统性工作,从“地球-生命系统”的角度出发,整合地质学、古生物学、生态演化发育生物学(Eco-Evo-Devo)、分子生物学和古环境学等方面的数据,从而更好地重建寒武纪大爆发这一自然历史过程并解释其背后的发生机制(朱茂炎等, 2019; 张兴亮, 2021)。

### 3 专辑简介

寒武纪大爆发的研究若从达尔文时代算起,已经持续了近两百年,相关研究的发生、发展是一个波澜壮阔的复杂过程。为系统总结寒武纪大爆发研究的历史,评述相关研究的进展和未来发展趋势,本专辑特别邀请西北大学张兴亮教授撰写特约论文(张兴亮, 2021),综述了寒武纪大爆发研究的历史、现在和未来趋势。该文以恢宏的时空框架、多学科交叉的宽广视野总结了相关领域的研究进程,指出了当前研究的偏向性和局限性,提出了未来研究工作的着力点和思路。

无论是分子钟估算还是化石记录研究均表明动物在寒武纪之前就已经起源,因此研究前寒武纪,尤其是前寒武纪末期的埃迪卡拉纪化石记录对理解动物起源、追溯寒武纪大爆发之根有十分重要的意义。陕西迹 *Shaanxilithes* 就是埃迪卡拉纪晚期标志性的疑难动物化石,其全球广布性和跨沉积相埋藏的优势使其具有全球地层对比意义。房瑞森等(2021)首次在云南会泽朱家箐剖面发现了埃迪卡拉纪陕西迹化石。作者采用成像和谱学分析技术探讨了陕西迹的埋藏学特征,并在此基础上讨论了其亲缘关系。

我国三峡地区发现的石板滩生物群是全球为数不多保存在海相碳酸盐岩地层中的典型埃迪卡拉生物群,是近十年来我国早期生命研究领域的重要进展。为厘清石板滩生物群的化石组合面貌与国际上三大埃迪卡拉生物群组合(阿瓦隆组合、白海组合和纳玛组合)之间的关系,吴承羲等

(2021)基于全球统计数据,采用了多元统计分析和网络分析等定量古生物学分析技术探讨了石板滩生物群组合类型,认为石板滩生物群应该划归纳玛组合。此外作者还初步探讨了石板滩生物群的生态空间利用情况,指出石板滩化石组合以底表固着和底表移动为主。

海绵动物是最简单的后生动物,也是最早分支的动物类群,因此重建海绵动物的起源和早期演化过程对理解动物界的起源和早期演化历史有非常重要的意义。罗翠等(2021)首次报道了三峡地区寒武系水井沱组深水相海绵动物化石组合,鉴定了4属共8个类别(包括了两个新种和两个未定种)。该组合多样性表明海绵动物至少在距今5.15亿年左右就已经取得了生态学上的成功,适应了多种不同环境,且繁盛于贫氧的深水区。

刺细胞动物作为两胚层的基础动物不仅处在动物树的根部,而且被广泛认为是化石记录中最早出现的动物类群之一,因此研究刺细胞动物化石的早期记录对理解早期动物演化过程很有裨益。陈湘远等(2021)评述了埃迪卡拉纪到寒武纪苗岭世的刺细胞动物化石记录,指出前寒武纪的刺细胞动物化石记录充满争议,可靠的刺细胞化石从寒武纪纽芬兰世开始出现,以磷酸盐化微体化石为代表;尔后不同类群刺细胞动物化石相继出现,以布尔吉斯页岩型宏体化石为代表。到寒武纪苗岭世乌溜期刺细胞动物门的各大支系基本上都已经出现。

寒武纪宽川铺生物群是磷酸盐化特异埋藏化石库,以保存大量软躯体动物和动物胚胎化石而著名。前人的研究主要偏向于化石生物学方面,对整个生物群的沉积背景和埋藏过程以及保存模式的研究较少。为此苗雨霏等(2021)以宽川铺生物群中的圆管螺化石为例,综合采用显微结构成像技术和显微谱学技术分析了宽川铺生物群的沉积背景和化石保存方式,并在此基础上重建了化石的埋藏矿化过程,为理解宽川铺生物群的埋藏机制提供了新信息。

宽川铺生物保存了大量动物胚胎,是理解早期动物的个体发育和形体构型的起源的重要化石记录。其中四方塔型壳属就是宽川铺生物群中常见的一类动物化石。然而其个体发育序列并不完

整,胚胎发育阶段,尤其是原肠胚期和预孵化期的内部结构仍不清楚,严重制约了对其发育过程和亲缘关系的理解。赵多多等(2021)采用高分辨率显微CT技术重建了四方塔型壳晚期胚胎的三维结构,不仅发现其通过单极内陷的方式进行原肠作用,并且探讨了预孵化期口叶的发育过程,新的数据支持了将四方塔型壳归于刺细胞动物门而非环神经动物门或者棘皮动物门的观点。

后生动物矿化的起源和早期辐射是寒武纪大爆发时期重要的生物演化创新事件,因此一直是寒武纪大爆发研究领域的热点课题。冯荣等(2021)应用电子显微学技术研究了贵州松桃寒武系清虚洞组的管状化石 *Mongolitubulus squamifer* 壳体显微结构,发现其壳体由具有鳞片的外层和发育纵向纤维结构的内层组成。这些显微结构信息为解释其亲缘关系提供了新的生物学线索。

腕足动物不仅是寒武纪动物群的重要组成部分,而且还因为其具有地理分布广泛、多样性高且个体数量多等特点,是潜在的地层划分对比的工具。刘瑶等(2021)首次系统描述了山东潍坊寒武系苗岭统乌溜阶馒头组的腕足动物化石组合,并发现了腕足动物组合面貌在同一个三叶虫化石带内迅速交替的现象。

三叶虫无疑是寒武纪时期的明星生物,作为最早出现的节肢动物类群之一,其软体组织和内部生物结构一直备受关注。孙智新等(2021)报道了华北寒武系馒头组和张夏组保存了消化系统的三叶虫化石材料,发现这些三叶虫的头部具有四对消化腺,以及可能存在“嗉囊”结构,为揭示三叶虫消化系统尤其是头部消化系统的结构提供了新的信息。

三叶虫作为节肢动物隶属蜕皮类,因此其生长发育过程中有多次蜕壳的现象。陈圣光等(2021)研究了贵州剑河寒武系凯里组褶颊虫类三叶虫的蜕壳行为,发现其蜕壳方式存在通过头部缝合线打开完成蜕壳和由头胸结合部断口完成蜕壳等两种方式。

寒武纪时期双瓣壳类节肢动物是海洋生态系统的重要类群,也是节肢动物的典型代表之一。孙骜等(2021)系统描述了峡东地区寒武系第二统第三阶水井沱组下段两种双瓣壳类节肢动物。作

者依据新的化石材料建立了新属 *Caudicaella*, 修订了孙氏虫科的鉴定特征, 并对该科两属种的生长模式、功能形态学和生态学进行了初步研究。

总之, 以上研究涵盖了华南和华北多个特异埋藏化石群(包括石板滩生物群、宽川铺生物群和凯里生物群)以及一些常规埋藏的化石记录, 研究的化石类群涉及疑难动物化石、海绵动物、刺细胞动物、腕足动物、三叶虫和双瓣壳类节肢动物等。这些评述性和原创性的工作将为进一步推进动物起源和寒武纪大爆发领域的发展贡献力量。

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