

**FIGURE 22.1** Ethylene biosynthetic pathway and the Yang cycle. The amino acid methionine is the precursor of ethylene. The rate-limiting step in the pathway is the conversion of AdoMet to ACC, which is catalyzed by the enzyme ACC synthase. The last step in the pathway, the conversion of ACC to ethylene, requires oxygen and is catalyzed by the enzyme ACC oxidase. The  $\text{CH}_3\text{-S}$  group of methionine is recycled via the Yang cycle and thus conserved for continued synthesis. Besides being converted to ethylene, ACC can be conjugated to *N*-malonyl ACC. AOA = aminooxyacetic acid; AVG = aminoethoxy-vinylglycine. (After McKeon et al. 1995.)

