

Preliminary investigation into the hindgut microbiota of koalas

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Background

Very little is known about the hindgut microbiota of our iconic native species. The koala has a uniquely evolved hindgut but the resident microbiota are virtually undiscovered. Utilising samples obtained from Kangaroo Island this project will make some initial investigations into tannin complex degrading bacteria, oxalate degrading bacteria and the dominant organisms that make up the intestinal flora. Anaerobic microbiology techniques and molecular techniques will both be utilized.

Funding: Seed funding available and applications will be made in to wildlife research funds in 2011.