

PROFILING THE GASTROINTESTINAL MICROFLORA OF LITTLE PENGUINS (*EUDYPTULA MINOR*)

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The focus of this project is to use molecular techniques to profile the microbial populations of the different regions of the gastrointestinal tract of little penguins. Samples from the mucosal and epithelial layers were collected during post mortem examination of three little penguin carcasses from the Phillip Island Nature Park. Profiles of the different regions of the gastrointestinal tract are obtained by using the molecular technique known as Polymerase Chain Reaction Denaturing Gradient Gel Electrophoresis or PCR-DGGE. These profiles show how the microbial populations differ in the different regions of the gastrointestinal tract.