

Looking for more sources of medicinal Australian *Leptospermum* (jelly bush) honey

The University of Technology Sydney is leading an exciting new research project looking for more sources of medicinal Australian *Leptospermum* honey (aka jelly bush, or Australian manuka).

We are asking beekeepers with access to *Leptospermum* (jelly bush / manuka) honeys from anywhere in the country to provide samples to include in this research project. We will test these honeys for antimicrobial activity and investigate the relationship between the activity and the plant source.

The project will run over the next three years plus, to allow us to collect and test as many Australian *Leptospermum* honeys as possible.

Why are we doing this?

Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) honey from NZ is world famous, and it is sold at a much higher price than other honeys. However, although Australia is home to the largest diversity of *Leptospermum* plants in the world (we have more than 80 species compared to NZ's two!), most of our honeys do not enjoy the high prices of their NZ equivalents.

We already know that a handful of Australian *Leptospermum* honeys have similar levels of antibacterial activity to NZ manuka, but most of the other 80 plus Australian varieties have not been tested. We want to find more sources of active honey, which will help the Australian beekeeping industry by increasing the amount and value of medicinal Australian honey being produced.

If you have access to *Leptospermum* honeys from anywhere in Australia, and would like to include them in our survey, please get in touch with us. We'll be asking for approximately 500 g, and some information about the location it was collected, as well as samples from the plants the bees visited to produce the honey. We will provide a collection kit containing clear instructions, an address to send your samples to and other important information for our study.

We will keep the results confidential, but we will provide anyone supplying samples with a report on the results from the testing of their honeys.

The Research Team involved in this project includes Dr Shona Blair, Dr Peter Brooks and Professor Dee Carter, as well as the Principle Investigator, Professor Liz Harry and the Project Coordinator, Nural Cokcetin. The project is being funded by RIRDC, with support from Capilano and Comvita.

For more information on providing samples, please contact:

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