

Brief Bio of Sarah Lillian Stanton



I am working on the plant *Pachystigma pygmaeum* which is a member of the Rubiaceae family and is one of the plants that causes Gousiekte. Gousiekte affects ruminants and causes heart lesions on the animals resulting in death. My project is to isolate and identify the microbial endophytes that reside in the plant and to determine

whether the endophytes produce the toxic compound that kills the animals. Hopefully I will also be able to identify the toxic compound that is present in the plant.

My goals are to research plant species like *Pachystigma pygmaeum* and learn more about the plant in general. From my work in honours so far I have realised just how little information there is in the world today and I think it is important to increase the knowledge of plants like *Pachystigma pygmaeum*. This knowledge could give scientist many new and exciting possibilities for medicinal purposes in the future. I am very interested in applying herbal remedies to both human and animals and I think that with identifying new toxic substances in plants it could be possible to analyse the substances and study them medically.

My ambitions for the future are to study compounds that are isolated from plants and try to apply them in the medical field. There are unlimited amount of secondary metabolites present in plants that are dying to be discovered. These secondary metabolites have possibilities to benefit both animals and humans alike.