

Enumeration and Identification of Microbial Flora from the Gut of the Horned Passalus or Betsy-Beetle, *Odontotaenius disjunctus* (Illiger)

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The goal of our research was to enumerate and identify the microbial gut flora of a wood eating pasalid, the Betsy-beetle. Surface sterilization techniques were employed to remove the gut aseptically. Serial dilution techniques were adapted to the contents of the foregut, mid-gut, and hindgut and 30 and 300 colony forming units (CFU's) were obtained. Spread plate techniques were used to obtain the CFU's. The CFU's were isolated using the T-streak method for plating. Isolated colonies were gram stained and identified using BIOLOG®. Preliminary identification techniques characterized strains into the following groups: *Bacillus* sp., fungi, actinomycetes and yeast.

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