

Honey study produces sweet result for medicine

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Honey from an Australian native myrtle has been found to contain the most powerful anti-bacterial properties of any medicinal honey in the world.

Medicinal honeys contain an anti-bacterial agent that can be used to treat wounds and viruses.

A team including researchers from the University of Queensland and the State Government found native myrtle honey has very high levels of the ingredient known as MGO.

The chief executive of a company involved in the research, Carolyn MacGill, says the honey could prove useful in treating infections resistant to antibiotics.

"Recently there was a conference in New South Wales based on the overuse of penicillin and penicillin derivatives, and this hopefully will pose an option for them to look at this type of honey for MRSA and staph-type infections," she said.

Ms MacGill says the honey will also be beneficial in wound care.

"It'll have a huge impact, particularly in the wound care market as these patients become more resilient to the penicillin products," she said.

"They need to look for alternatives and fortunately this is a natural alternative that's been available for some time, but unknown," she said.