

Examination of faecal *Bifidobacterium* populations in breast- and formula-fed infants during the first 18 months of life



Roger, L. C.*; Costabile, A.; Hoyles, L.; Holland, D. T. & McCartney, A. L.

PhD work completed at the School of Chemistry, Food Biosciences and Pharmacy, University of Reading, UK
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Overall Findings:

- Initial feeding regime sets a general pattern in the biological succession of the bifidobacterial population during the first 18 months of life:
 - Diversity increases in both groups
 - Levels decrease in the BF group and stay stable in the FF group
 - BF infants generally harbour a more diverse bifidobacterial population compared to FF infants throughout the study

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- In addition to using Bif-specific PCR-DGGE, bifidobacterial isolates were obtained throughout the study to monitor diversity (1150 isolates)
- Some biotypes were only isolated from one of the feeding group or dietary phase

Perspectives:

- Library of strains available for further characterisation (sequencing results pending)
- Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are necessary to understand the dynamics of the infant bifidobacterial population during the important stage of weaning