

Final Report for ANU3C

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Annual Progress Report (Due 1st Fri Feb. to determine continuation of funding)

Final Report (Due 30 September or 3 months after completion of project)



Actual start date:
8 January 1996

Anticipated completion date:
7 July 1999

OFFICE USE ONLY:
Date of receipt:

Project title (as per original application)

Molecular Biology of Gossypol Biosynthesis in Cotton

CRDC Project Code
ANU3C

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Final Report

What was the background of the project?

Gossypol is a naturally occurring product of secondary metabolism unique to cotton species. Gossypol is important to the cotton plant because it provides a degree of natural resistance against pests and diseases of cotton. Unfortunately gossypol is toxic to humans and monogastric animals, and cotton seed products must undergo expensive post-harvest treatments to remove the high levels of gossypol from oil and meal for consumption. The ideal cotton plant would possess high levels of gossypol in the plant and negligible levels in the seed. This is a characteristic already present in the native Australian cotton species, *Gossypium sturtianum*, however it is exceedingly difficult to introgress this trait into cultivated species by traditional breeding methods.