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Title: How do gut microbes break down dietary fiber?

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Source: TRENDS IN BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES **Volume:** 39 **Issue:** 4 **Pages:** 156-158 **DOI:** 10.1016/j.tibs.2014.02.005 **Published:** APR 2014

Times Cited in Web of Science Core Collection: 4

Total Times Cited: 5

Usage Count (Last 180 days): 0

Usage Count (Since 2013): 17

Cited Reference Count: 10

Abstract: Trillions of commensal bacteria in our colon thrive on what we do not digest in our small intestine. Many have evolved multiple sophisticated machineries, termed polysaccharide utilization loci or PULs, for carbohydrate breakdown; each PUL may target a particular complex carbohydrate. Until now, studies have focused on the structural and functional characterization of individual PUL constituents. A recent work by Larsbrink et al. moves the scope from single-gene analysis to the entire PUL dissection.

Accession Number: WOS:000335426200003

PubMed ID: 24613530

Language: English

Document Type: Editorial Material

KeyWords Plus: SYMBIONT

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Publisher: ELSEVIER SCIENCE LONDON

Publisher Address: 84 THEOBALDS RD, LONDON WC1X 8RR, ENGLAND

Web of Science Categories: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Research Areas: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

IDS Number: AG4YL

ISSN: 0968-0004

29-char Source Abbrev.: TRENDS BIOCHEM SCI

ISO Source Abbrev.: Trends Biochem.Sci.

Source Item Page Count: 3

Open Access: No

Output Date: 2017-08-01

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