The Tasmanian devil is threatened with extinction by a fatal transmissible cancer, Devil Facial Tumor Disease (DFTD). Since its emergence in 1996, DFTD has spread rapidly throughout the country, having incidences over than 80% in some populations with a 100% mortality rate; i.e, the effects are devastating. This neoplasm is unusual in that, contrary to widely held knowledge that cancer dies with its host, it has outlived its original host.

This bibliographic review aims to describe the molecular biology of this transmissible tumor especially focusing on transmission and the escape of the immune system response.

Bibliography