

Special Issue

Microplastics, Nanoplastics, and Crustacea: Uptake and Impacts

Message from the Guest Editor

Micro- and nanoplastics are frequently used catch-all terms for a diverse array of polymers, in combination with their additives and fillers. Observations of the microplastics in the environment have been accompanied by reports of uptake by aquatic species. Key amongst these have been the crustaceans of a range of sizes and feeding modes. The observations have led to global concern regarding their impacts on the individual species and wider communities, with a particular focus on species at the bottom of the food chain. Improved sampling protocols and detection limits have also highlighted the potential threat posed by nanoplastics. The effects of uptake of a range of micro- and nanoplastics by crustaceans have been observed under laboratory conditions. The studies have examined a number of endpoints. The issue aims to bring together research on the uptake and impacts of micro- and nanoplastics by crustacean species. In comparing the observed effects of plastics of a varied sizes, polymers and particle morphologies, we hope to highlight the species and particles types of highest concern and to enable extrapolation of secondary effects to the wider environment.

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