Special Issue

Advances in Biodegradation of Plastics

Message from the Guest Editors

The low rates of recycling have made plastic pollution one of the biggest waste problems faced by today's society. In fact, relevant fractions of plastic cannot be (economically) recycled with conventional technologies, and new solutions are urgently needed. In addition to mechanical and chemical recycling, new studies are now investigating biochemical recycling routes, mainly through enzyme technology and protein engineering. These technologies might represent a much-needed cornerstone for a more circular use of plastic and have the potential to complement the already existing technologies, by targeting the currently non-recycled fractions. However, the hydrophobicity and high crystallinity of plastics are still of major concern, often leading to slow kinetics and incomplete degradation, thus requiring further research and process optimization. Considering that biotechnological degradation of plastics is still at a very early stage, these results are very promising and stimulate further research and development.

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Since its foundation in 2009, *Polymers* has developed into an internationally renowned, extremely successful open access journal. The editorial team and the editorial board dedicatedly combine open-access publishing and high-quality rigorous peer reviewing. The performance of the journal has proven this strategy to be well-suited and highly successful. This is reflected in the increasing impact factor of *Polymers*, the most recent one being 4.7.

I would like to invite you to contribute to the success of the journal by sending us your high quality research papers. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

Editor-in-Chief

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