

SS-2. Litter prevention, plastics biodegradation and bioplastics

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Marine litter represents a prominent environmental, economic, human health and aesthetic problem. Information on biodegradation of petroleum-based plastics in the environment is very limited, especially for the most produced recalcitrant fossil-deriving plastics. In addition, recent information available is mostly related to polymers and not to the corresponding plastics, consisting of sophisticated combinations of the polymers with plasticizers and other additives often toxic and recalcitrant in the environment, as well as to microplastics persisting in the environment. Biobased and biodegradable plastics can represent an interesting alternative to synthetic plastics for some prominent industrial sectors but their production is still limited and little is known about their actual fate in the open environment. This special session of EBC-VI will host papers dealing with the biodegradation of microplastics and conventional synthetic plastics as well as studies on the production of biopolymers and their fate in the environment.

Keynote Speaker: Gerhart Braunegg, University of Graz, Austria