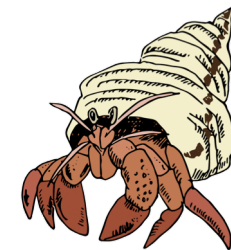
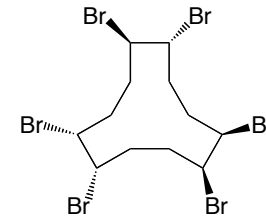
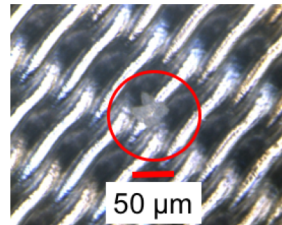
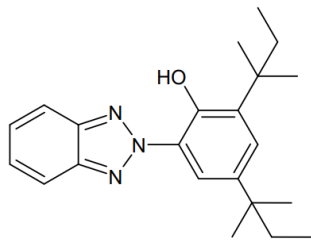
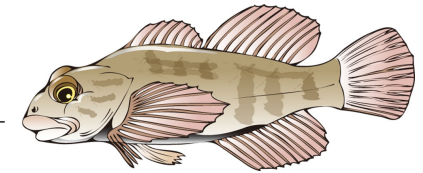
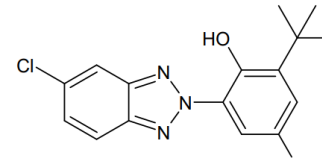
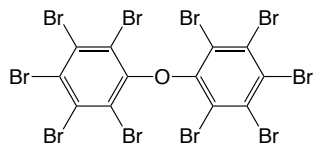


Plastic-mediated long-range transport of additives in marine environments and their bioaccumulation through plastic ingestion



Hideshige TAKADA

Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry (LOG)
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology



Presented on
“**POPs in plastic**”
April 24, 2023



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Ms. Mami Takahashi	
Mr. Taischi Takano	
Ms. Natsuki Hirai	
Ms. Rei Sakurai	
Ms. Fumika Kashiwada	

Topics

Long-range transport of Benzotriazole-type UV stabilizers (BUVSs) via mm-size microplastics

Microplastic-mediated bioaccumulation of plastic additives

Topics

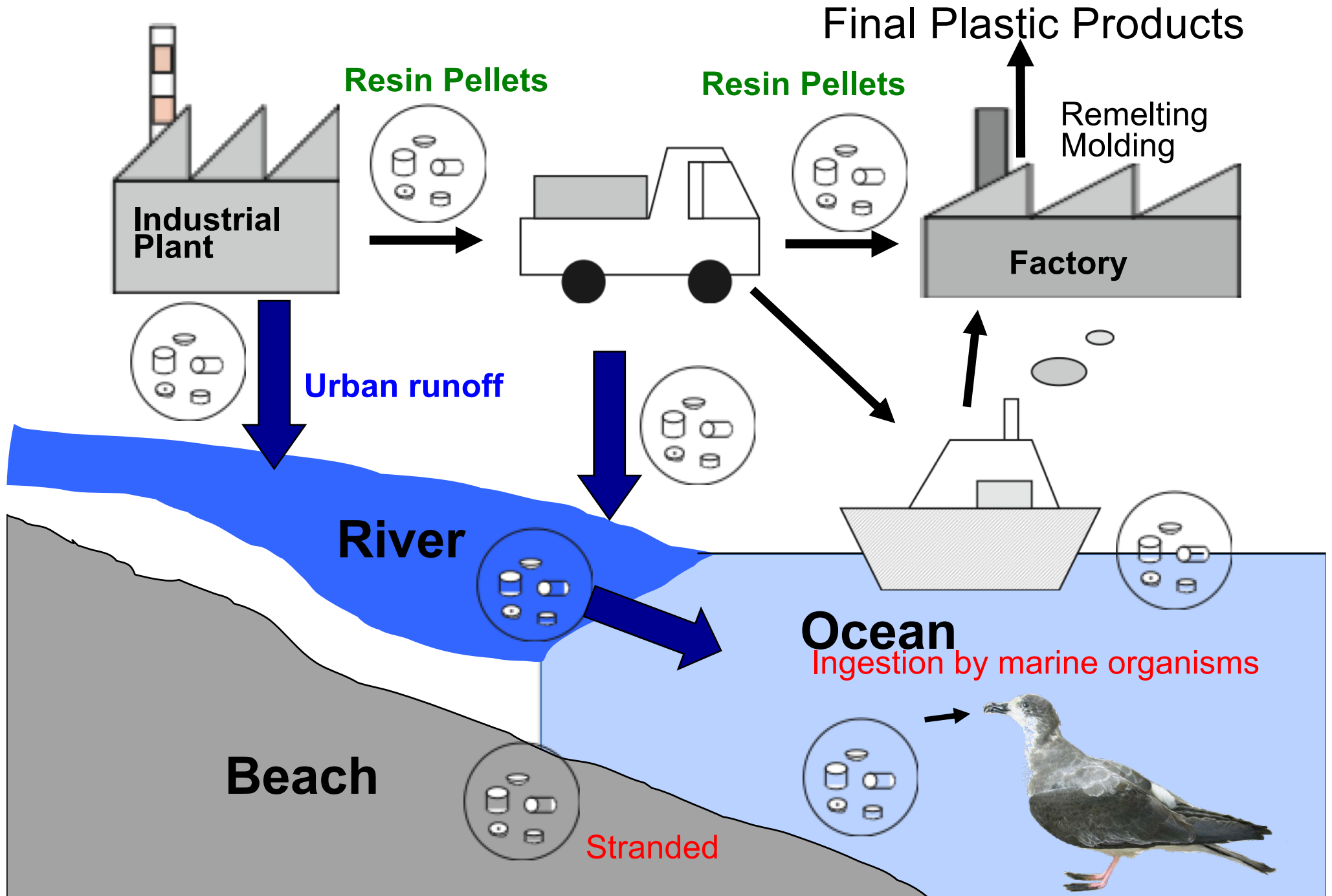
Long-range transport of Benzotriazole-type UV stabilizers (BUVSs) via mm-size microplastics

Microplastic-mediated bioaccumulation of plastic additives

Plastic resin pellets : feedstock of plastic products



Resin pellets, industrial feedstock of user plastics, are spilled during transport and manufacturing and they are widely distributed in the ocean



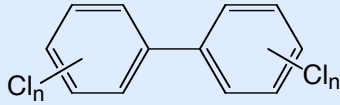
Plastic resin pellets are stranded on beaches across the globe



Sakumono Beach, Ghana

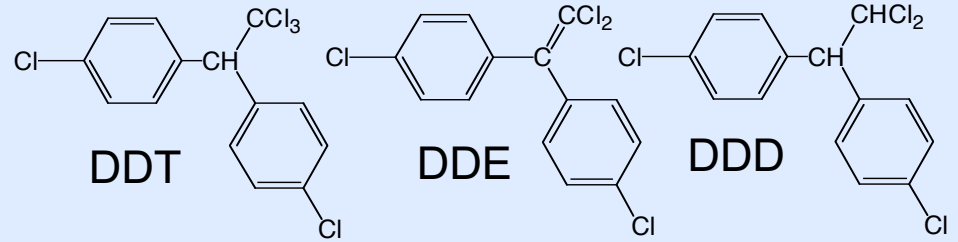
POPs are sorbed to plastic pellet from surrounding seawater

PCBs



- Industrial products for a variety of uses including dielectric fluid, heat medium, and lubricants.
- Endocrine disrupting chemicals

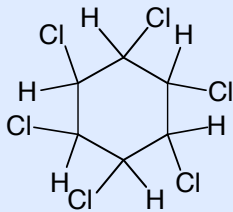
DDTs



- DDT and its metabolites such as DDE and DDD.
- DDT was used as insecticides
- Endocrine disrupting chemicals

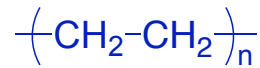
**adsorption from
ambient seawater**

HCH

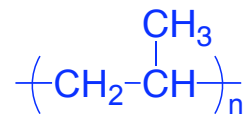


- Insecticide

Plastic



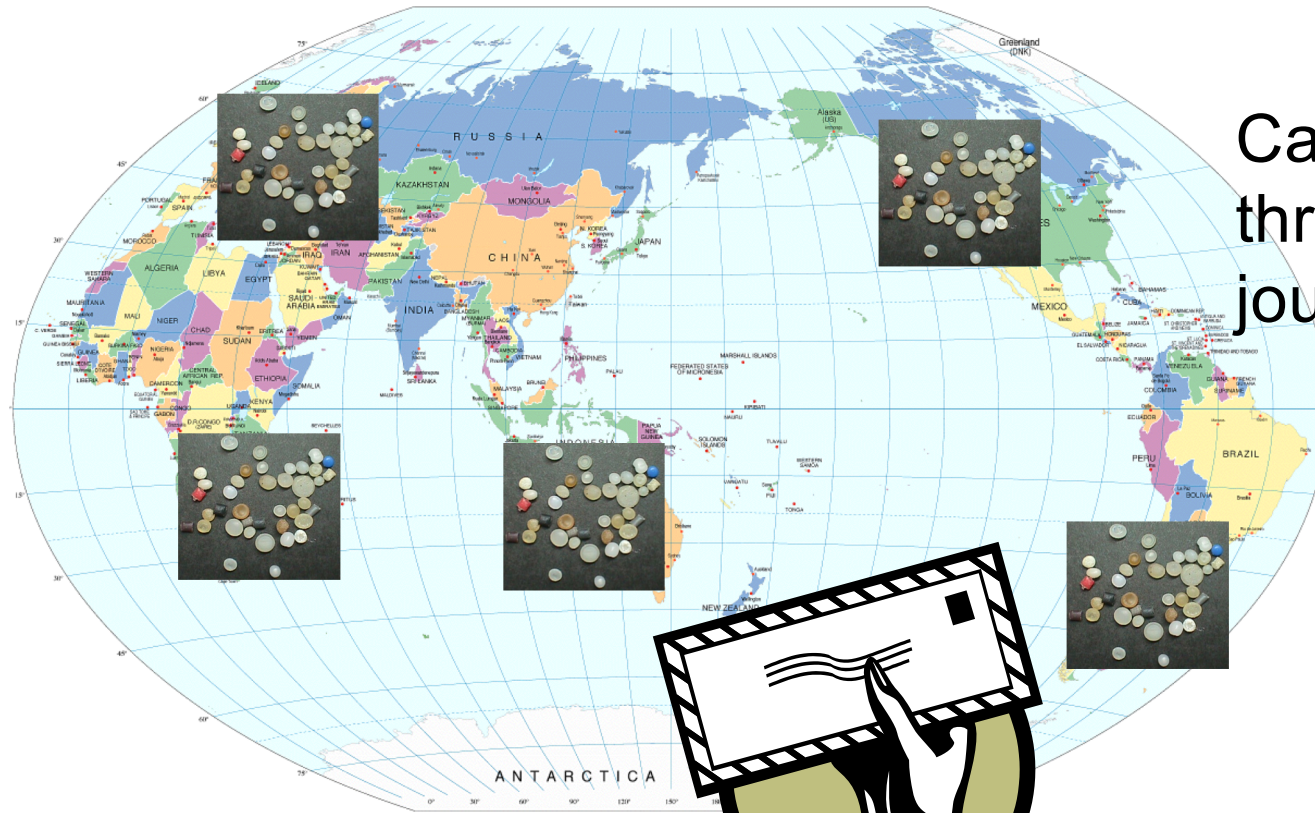
Polyethylene (PE)



Polypropylene (PP)

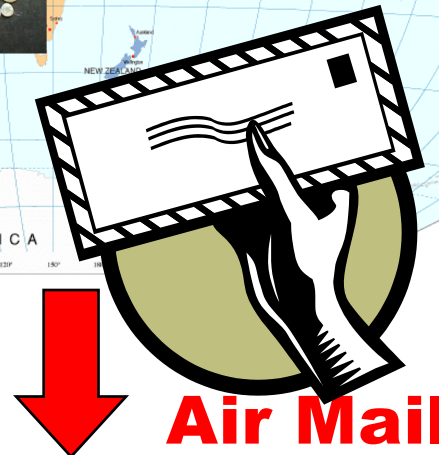
Concentration
factor is
 $\sim 10^5$ to $\sim 10^6$.

International Pellet Watch



Call for pellets
through website,
journals, SNS.

since 2005

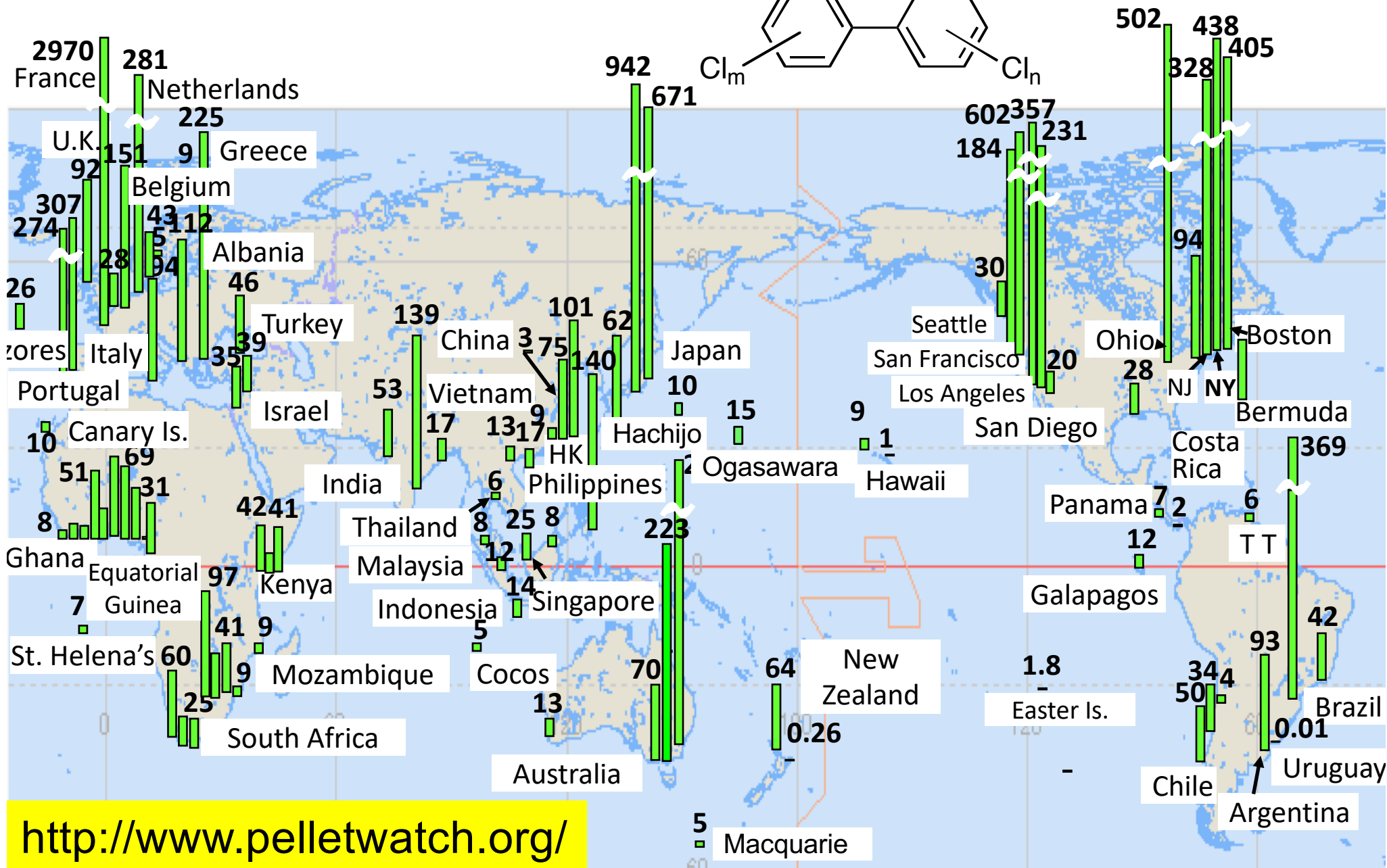
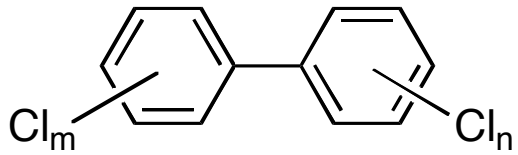


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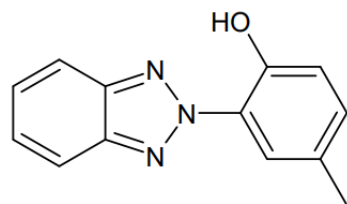
Plastic resin pellet from various areas in the world



Monitoring of sorbed POPs

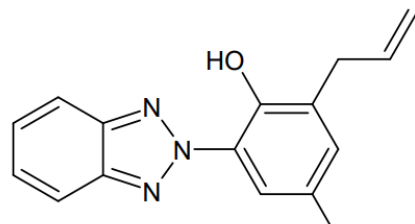


Benzotriazole-type UV stabilizers (BUVSs)



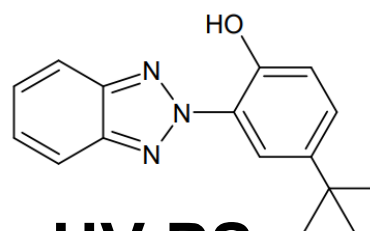
UV-P

logKow = 3.00



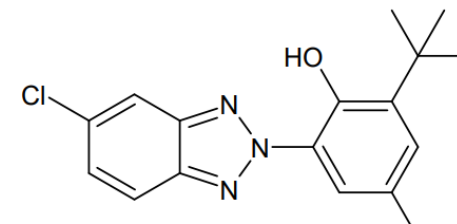
UV-9

logKow = 3.16



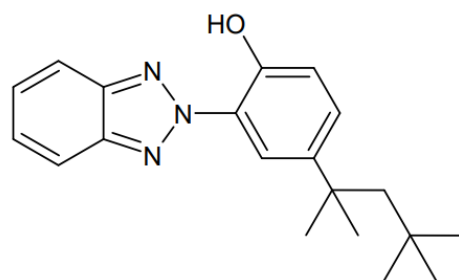
UV-PS

logKow = 4.36



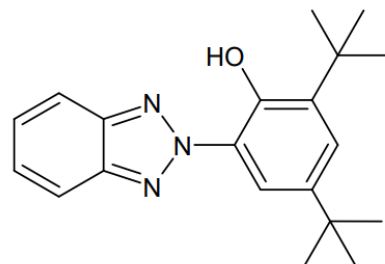
UV-326

logKow = 5.55



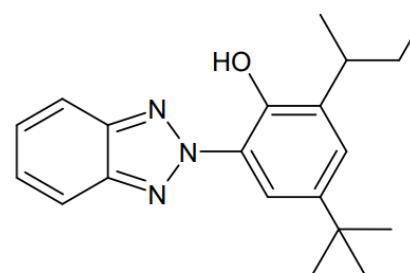
UV-329

logKow = 6.21



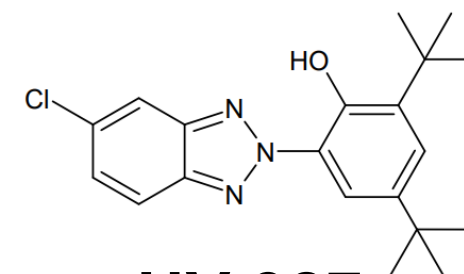
UV-320

logKow = 6.27



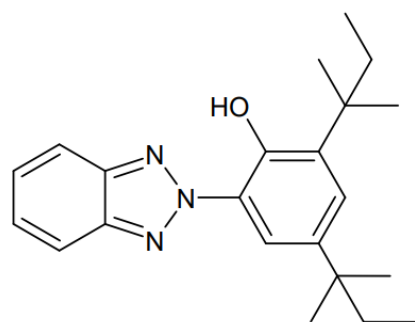
UV-350

logKow = 6.51



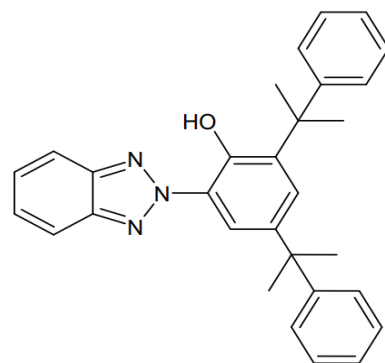
UV-327

logKow = 6.91



UV-328

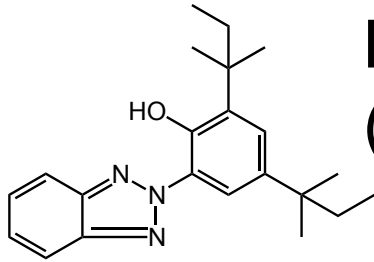
logKow = 7.25



UV-234

logKow = 7.67

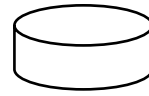
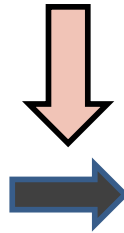
UV stabilizers can be found in plastic resin pellets :
Master-batch pellets or recycled pellets



Benzotriazole-type UV stabilizers
(BUVSSs)

compounding into
Master-batch pellets

compounding into
plastic products



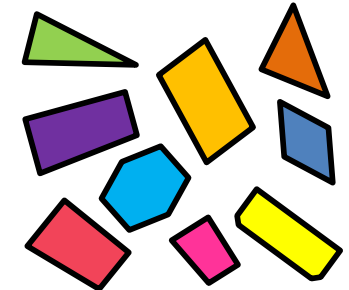
Pellets



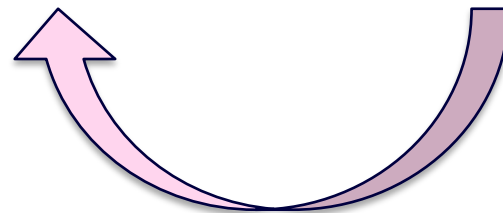
Consumer plastic
products



UV



Fragments



recycled pellets



sorting

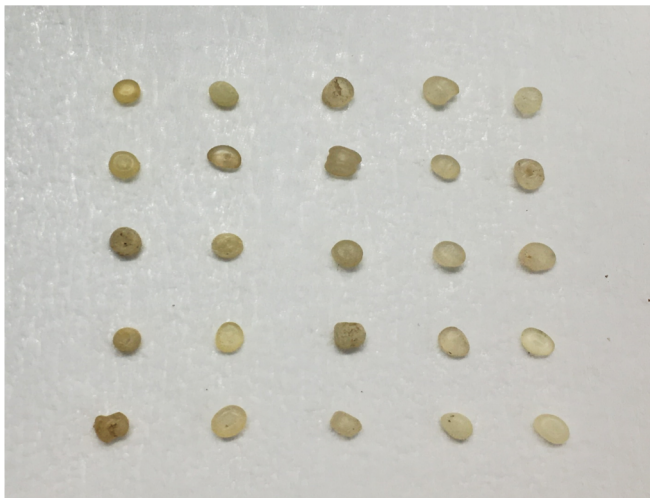
Polyethylene (PE)
Yellowing



sorting

Polypropylene (PP)

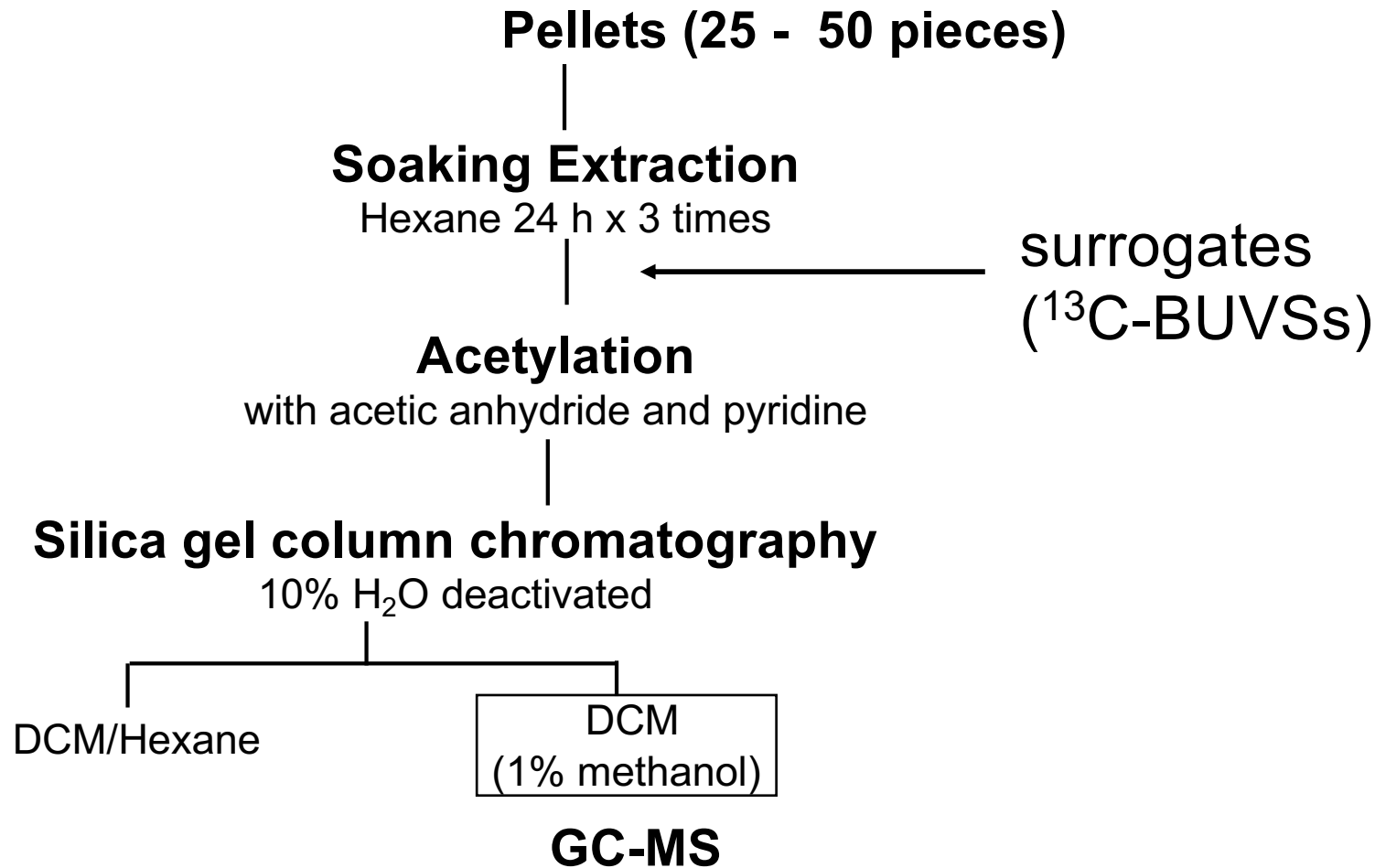
More sorptive to POPs



Less resistant to weathering
More UV-stabilizers required.

37 locations across the globe
Each sample contains 25 – 50 pellets

Analytical Procedure of BUVSs in plastic resin pellets



Extremely High concentrations of BUVSs were found in pellets from 14 samples including remote islands among 37 samples

Total BUVSs (ng/g-pellet)

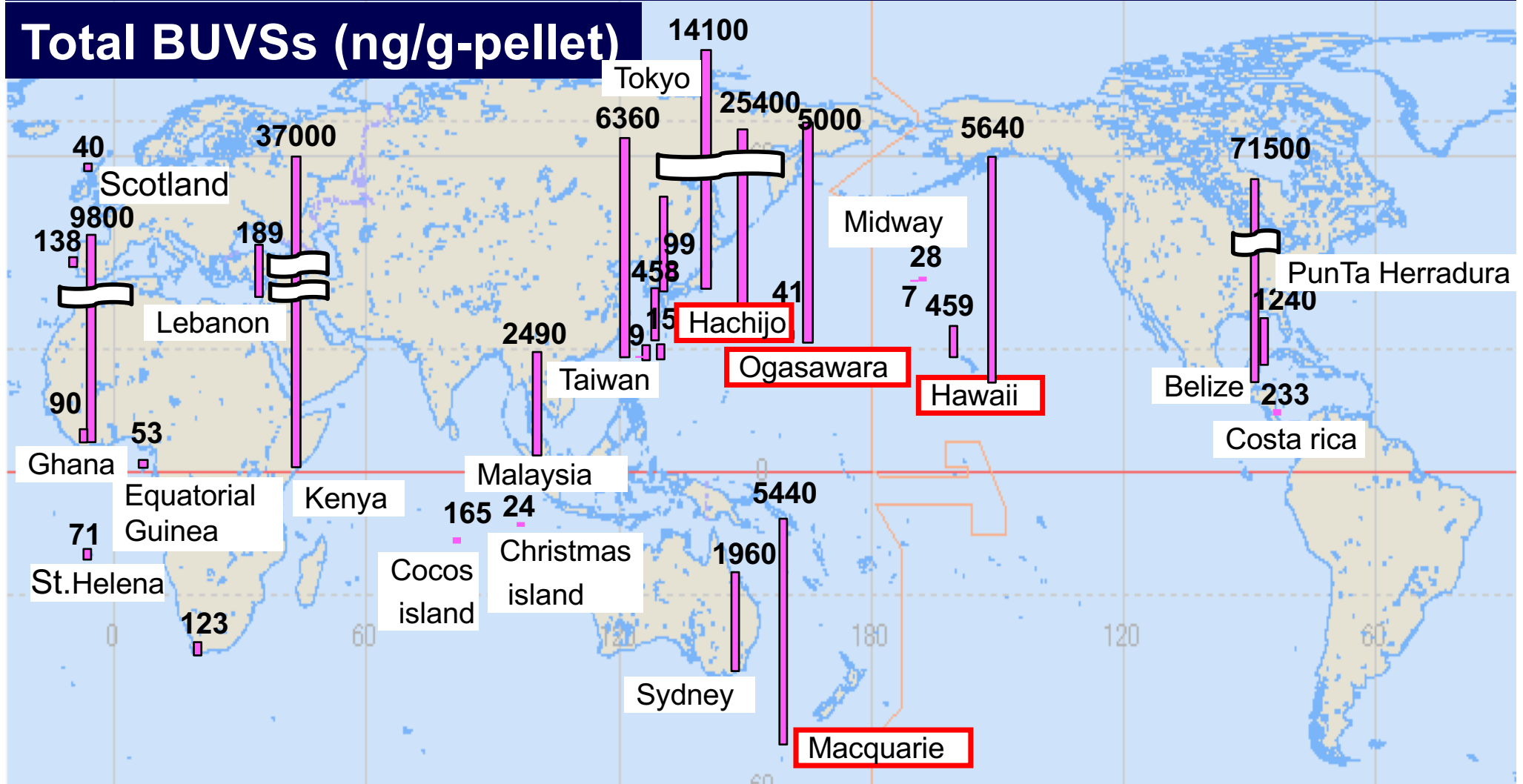


Fig.1. Concentration of total benzotriazole UV stabilizers (BUVSs) in polypropylene (PP) pellets on world beaches(ng/g-pellet)

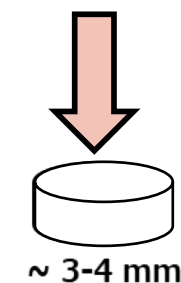
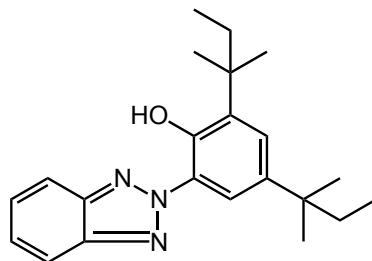
Total BUVSs : sum of UVP, UVPS, UV329, UV9, UV320, UV350, UV326, UV327, UV328, UV234.

Matsunaga et al. (2023)

to be presented on Annual meeting of Japan Society for Environmental Chemistry (JEC)

UV stabilizers can be originated via sorption from seawater in addition to master batch pellets and recycled pellets

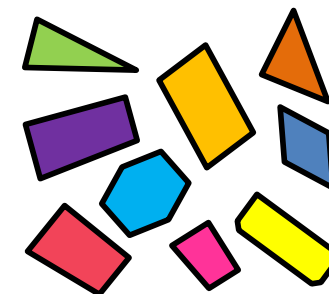
compounding into
Master-batch pellets



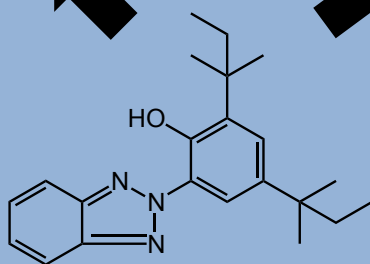
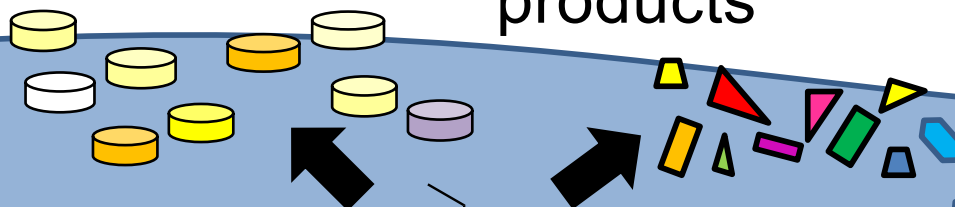
Pellets



UV

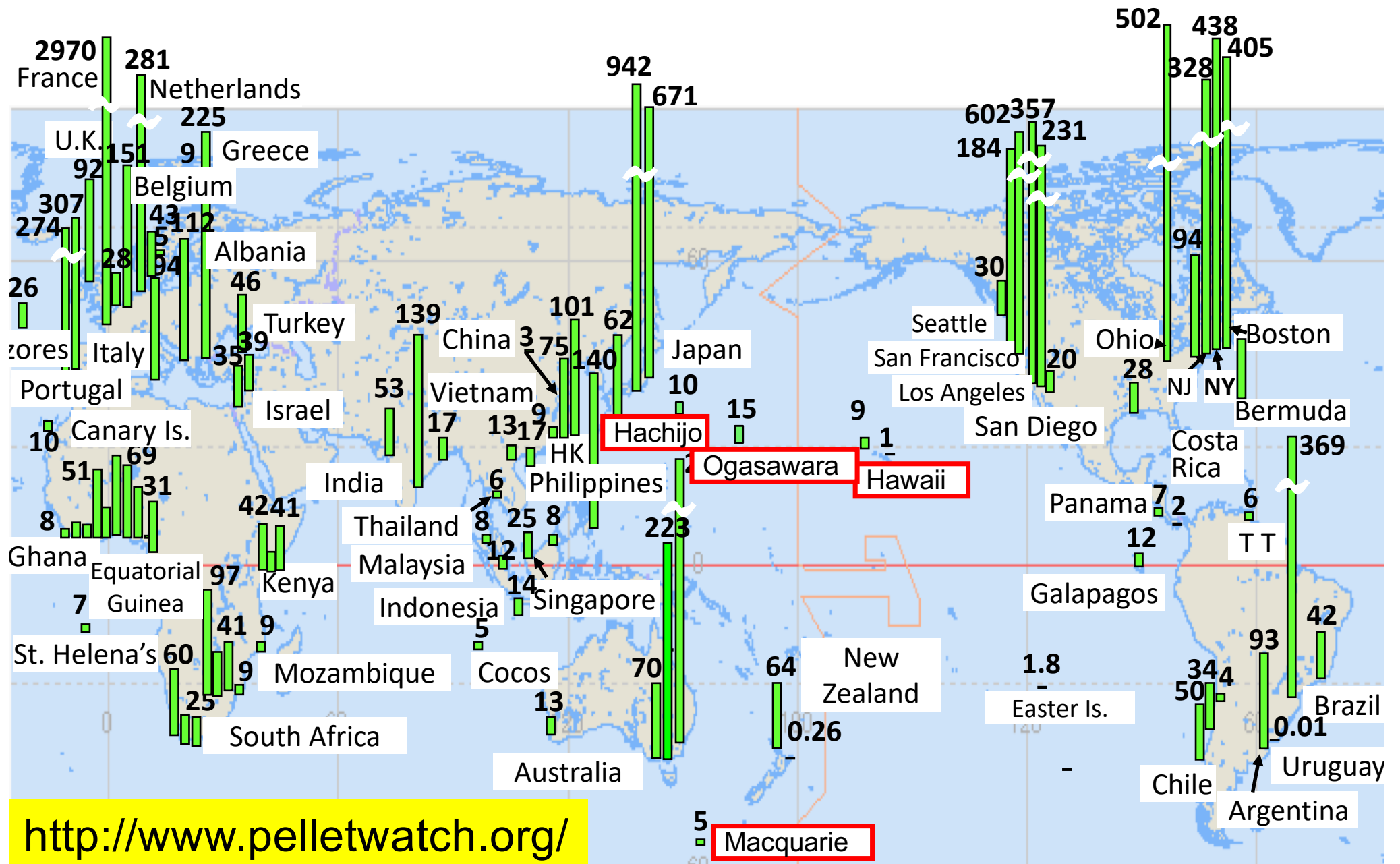


Fragments



Sorption from seawater

Trace level of PCBs were detected in pellets from remote islands



Plastic additives are long-range-transported across the borders

Total BUVSs (ng/g-pellet)

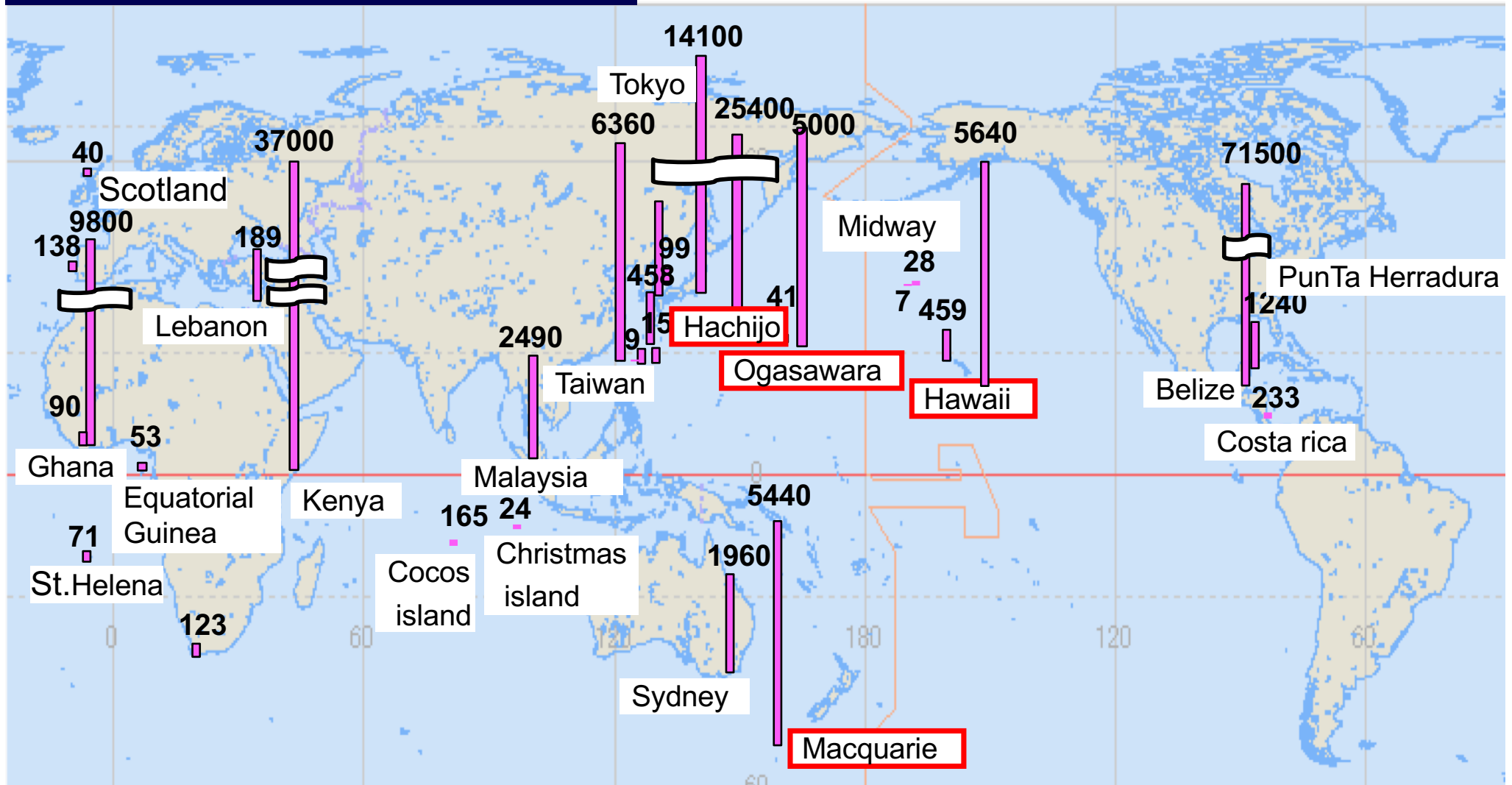


Fig.1. Concentration of total benzotriazole UV stabilizers (BUVSs) in polypropylene (PP) pellets on world beaches(ng/g-pellet)

Total BUVSs : sum of UVP, UVPS, UV329, UV9, UV320, UV350, UV326, UV327, UV328, UV234.

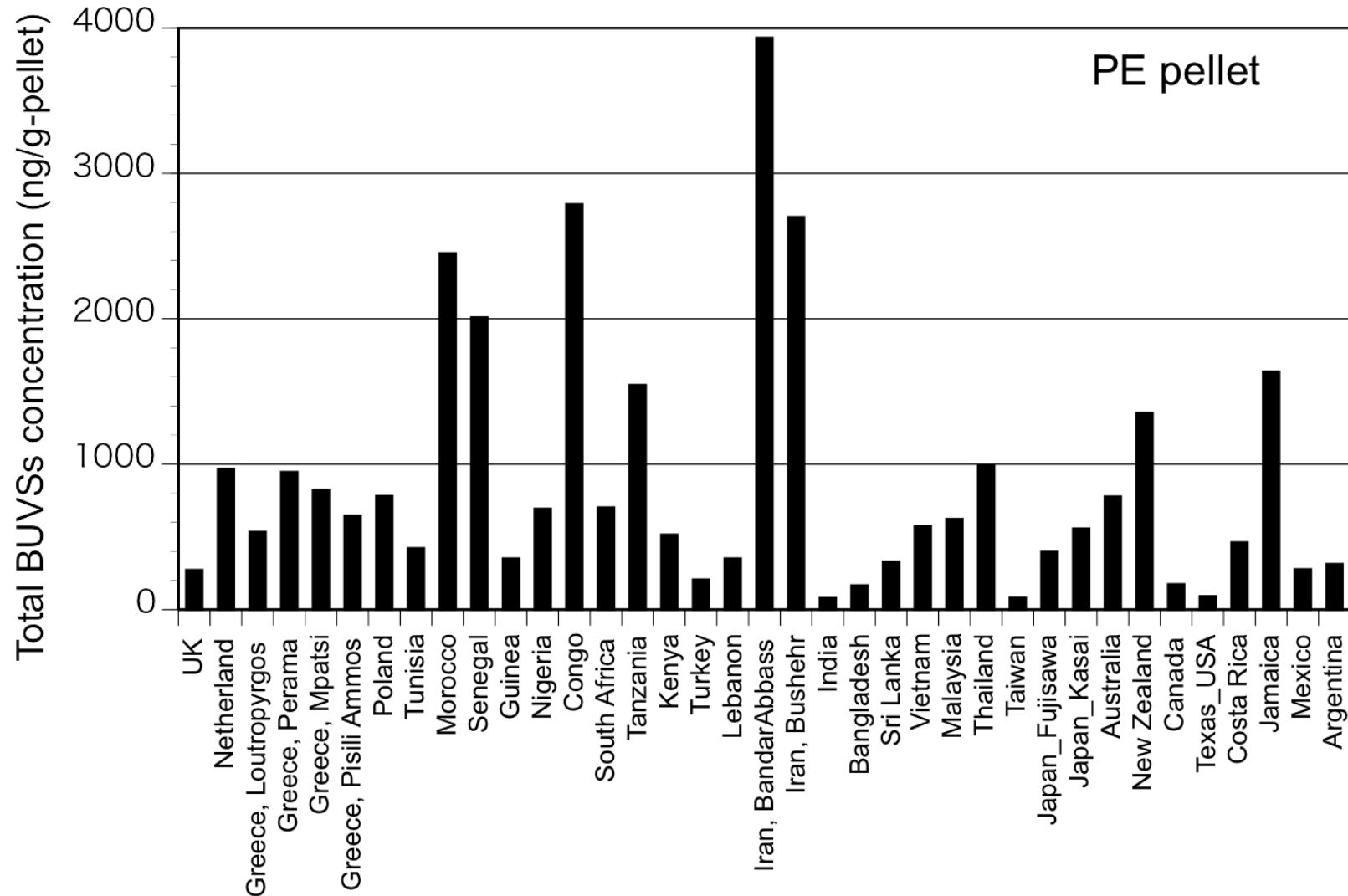


Fig.3. Total benzotriazole UV stabilizers (BUVSs) in polyethylene (PE) pellets.
 Total BUVSs : sum of UVP, UVPS, UV329, UV9, UV320, UV350,
 UV326, UV327, UV328, UV234.

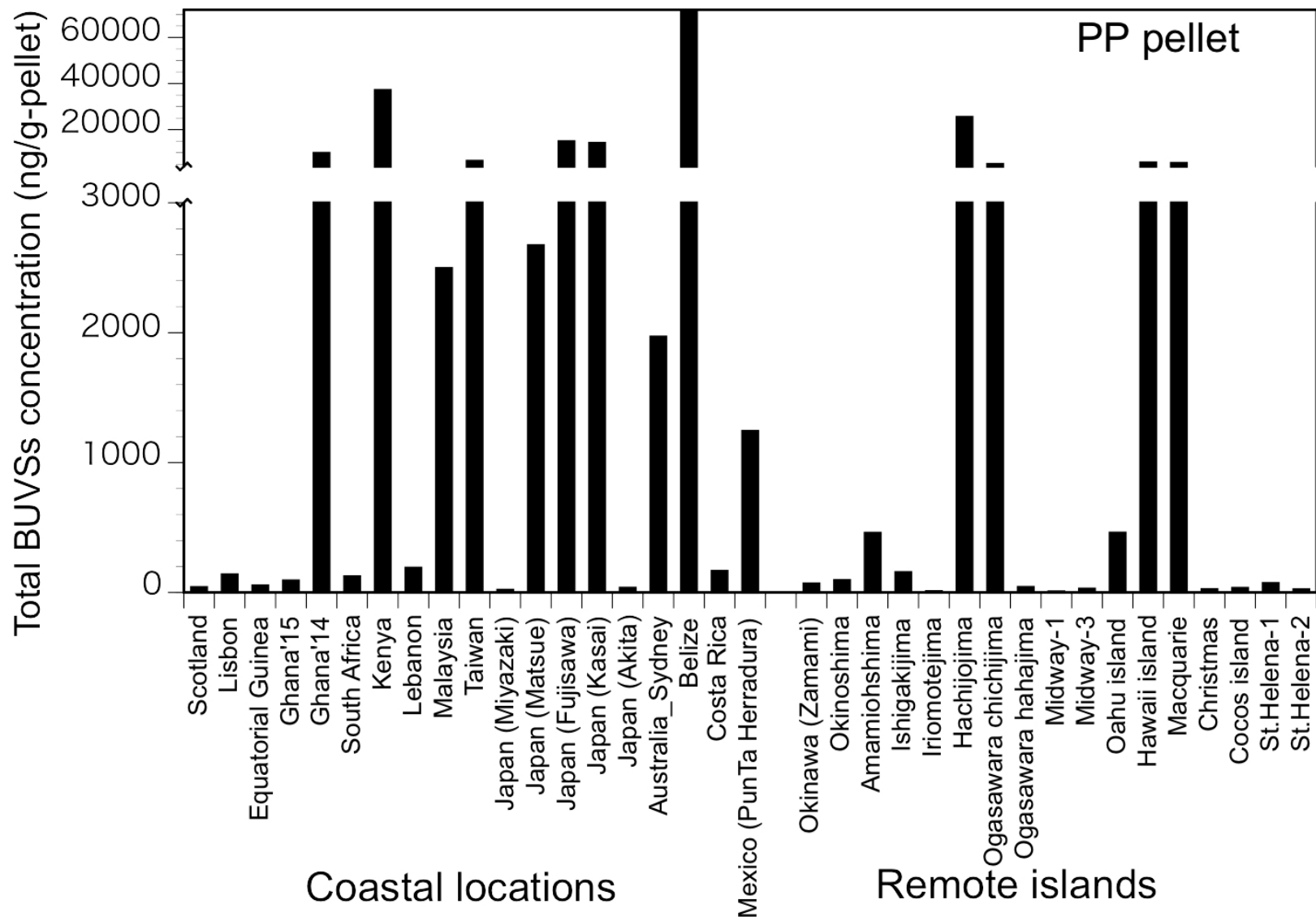
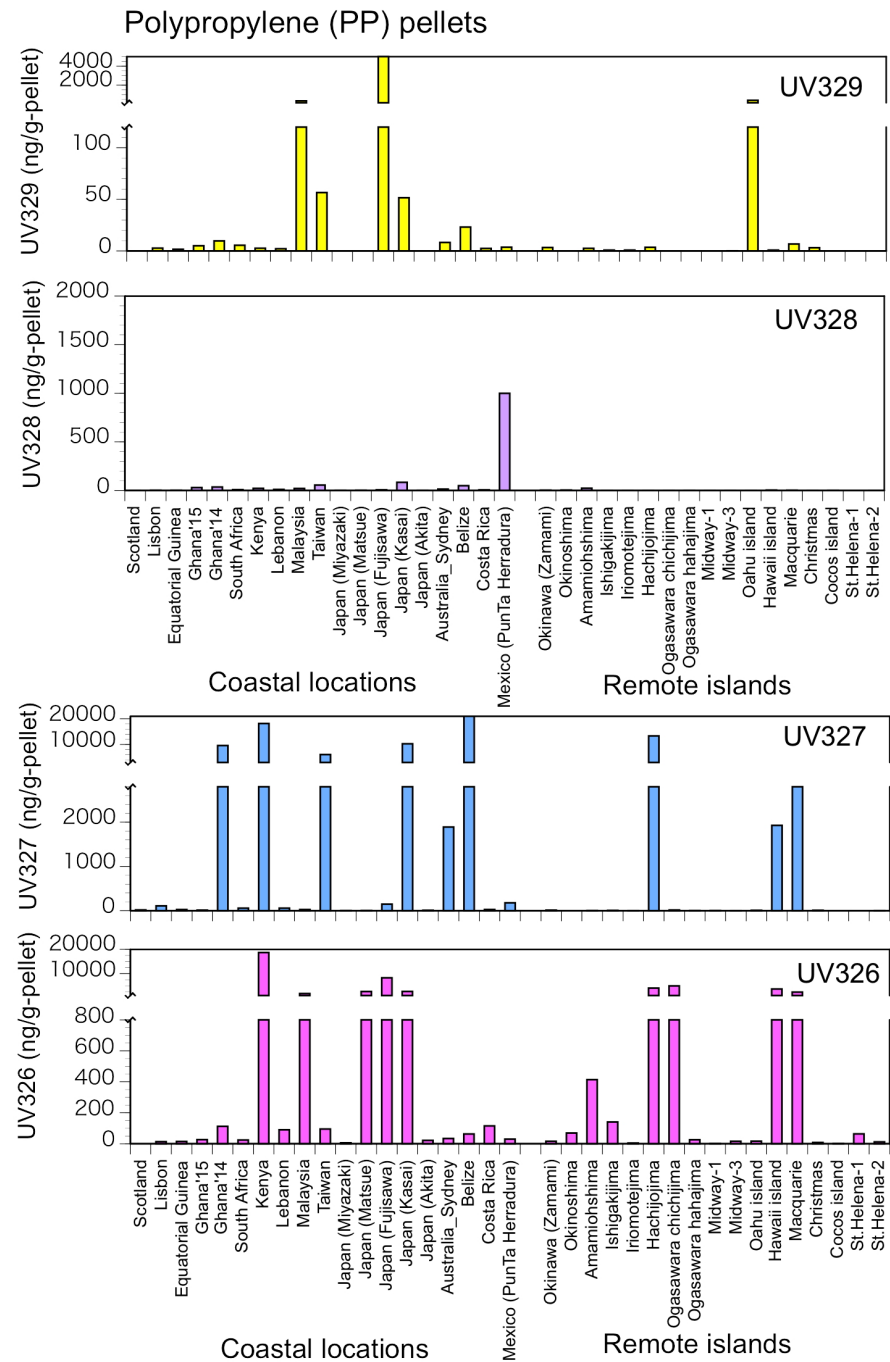
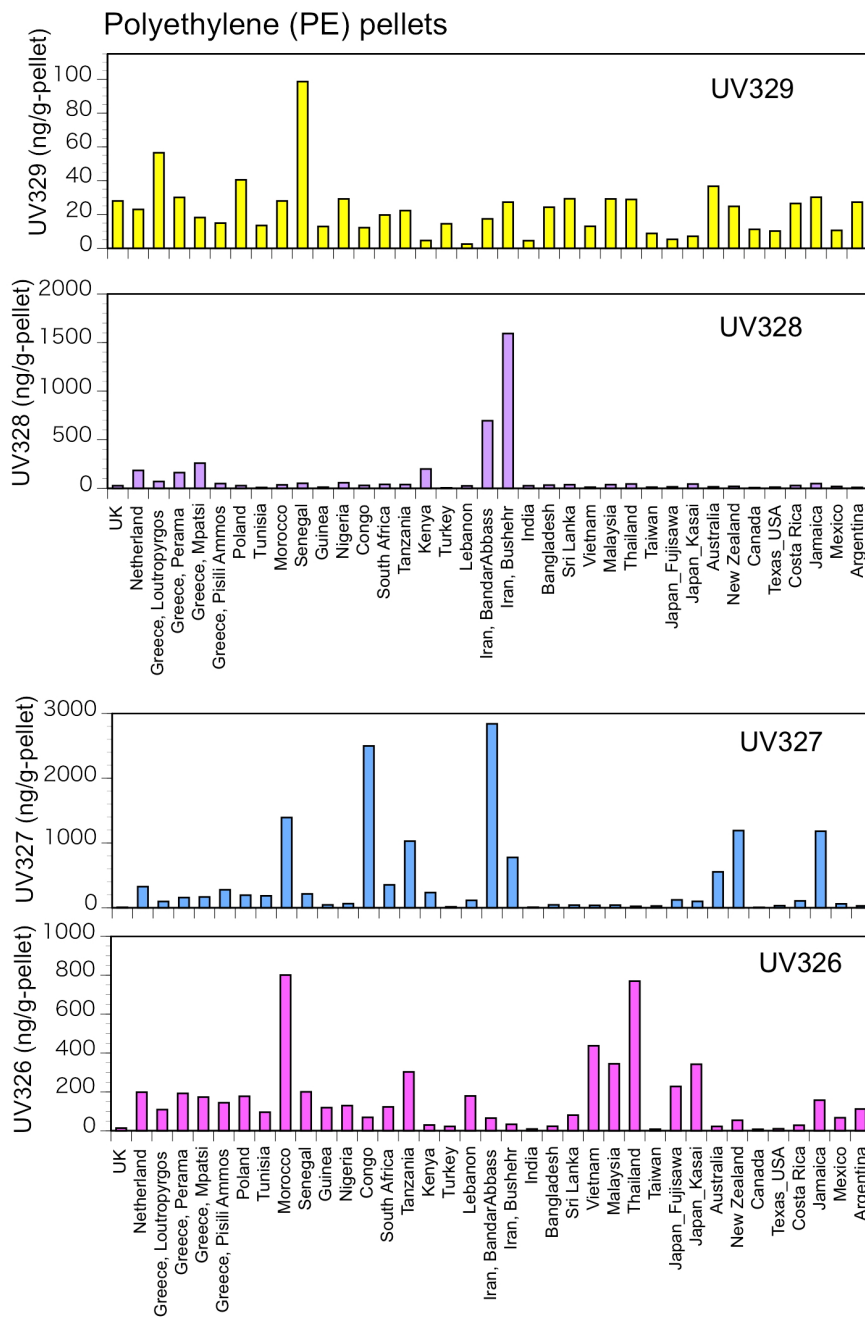


Fig.2. Total benzotriazole UV stabilizers (BUVSs) in polypropylene (PP) pellets.
 Total BUVSs : sum of UVP, UVPS, UV329, UV9, UV320, UV350,
 UV326, UV327, UV328, UV234.

Matsunaga et al. (2023)

to be presented on Annual meeting of Japan Society for Environmental Chemistry (JEC)



PE data : Karlsson et al. (2021)
IPEN report

Fig.4. Concentrations of individual BUVs in plastic resin pellets.
Left : Polyethylene (PE) pellets
Right : Polypropylene (PP) pellets.

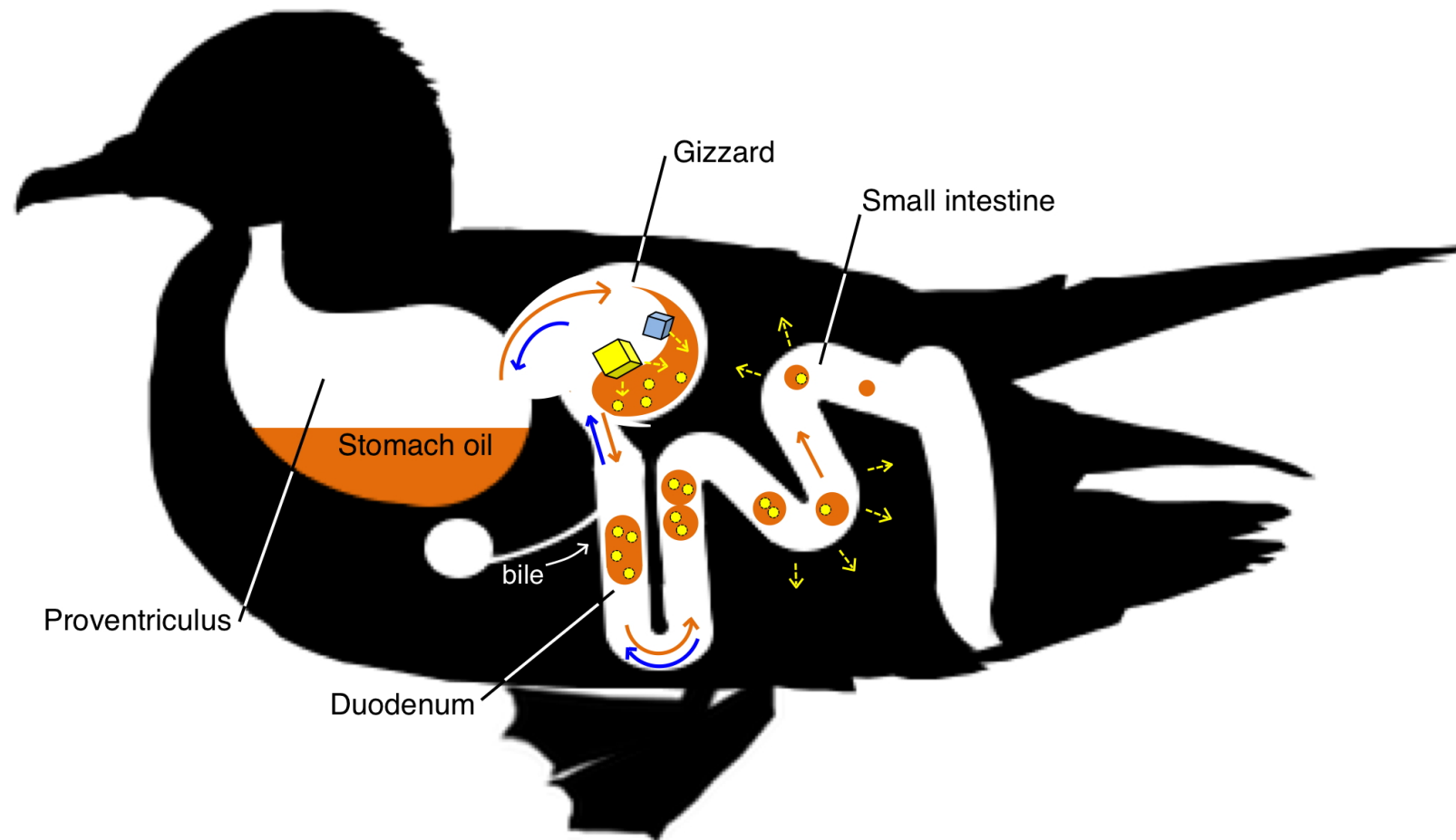
PP data :
Matsunaga et al. (2023)

Topics

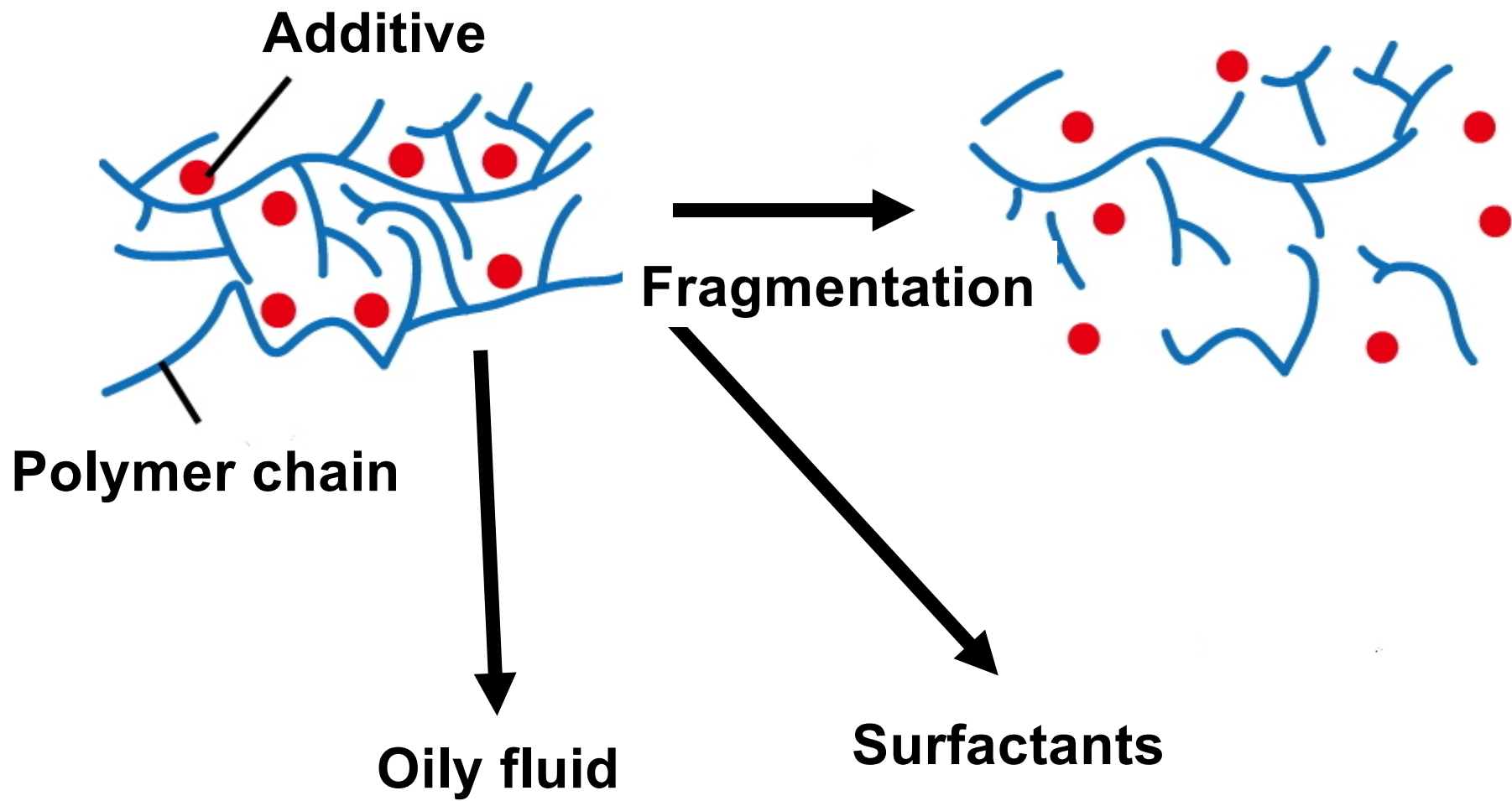
Long-range transport of Benzotriazole-type UV stabilizers (BUVSs) via mm-size microplastics

Microplastic-mediated bioaccumulation of plastic additives

Hazardous chemicals can be transferred and accumulated in tissue and organ of marine organisms which ingest plastics



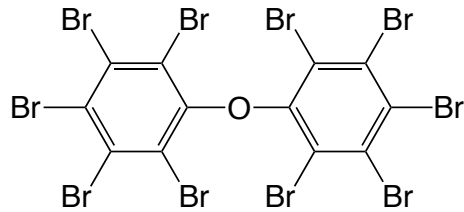
Tanaka, K., Yamashita, R., and Takada, H., *Transfer of hazardous chemicals from ingested plastics to higher-trophic level organisms*, in *Hazardous chemicals associated with plastics in environment*, H. Takada and H.K. Karapanagioti, Editor. 2018, Springer Berlin Heidelberg: p. 267–280.



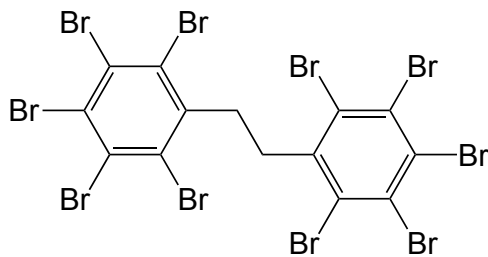
Fate of plastic additives in the ocean

Are the additives transferred and accumulated into biological tissue/organ, when plastics are ingested by marine organisms?

BFRs



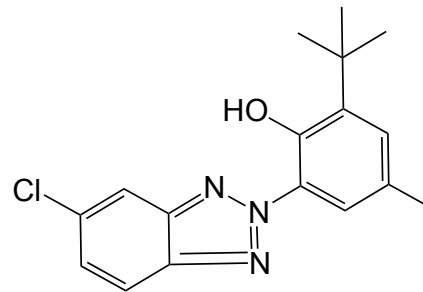
BDE209 (log K_{ow} : 12.11)



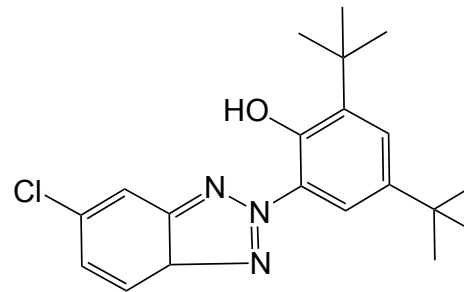
DBDPE (log K_{ow} : 13.64)

Highly hydrophobic

Benzotriazoles UV stabilizers

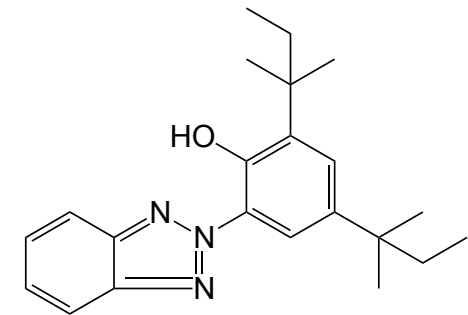


UV326 (log K_{ow} : 5.55)

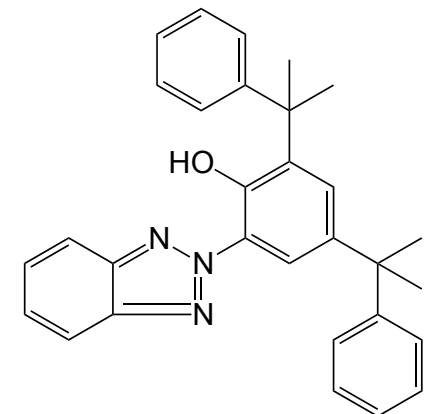


UV327 (log K_{ow} : 6.91)

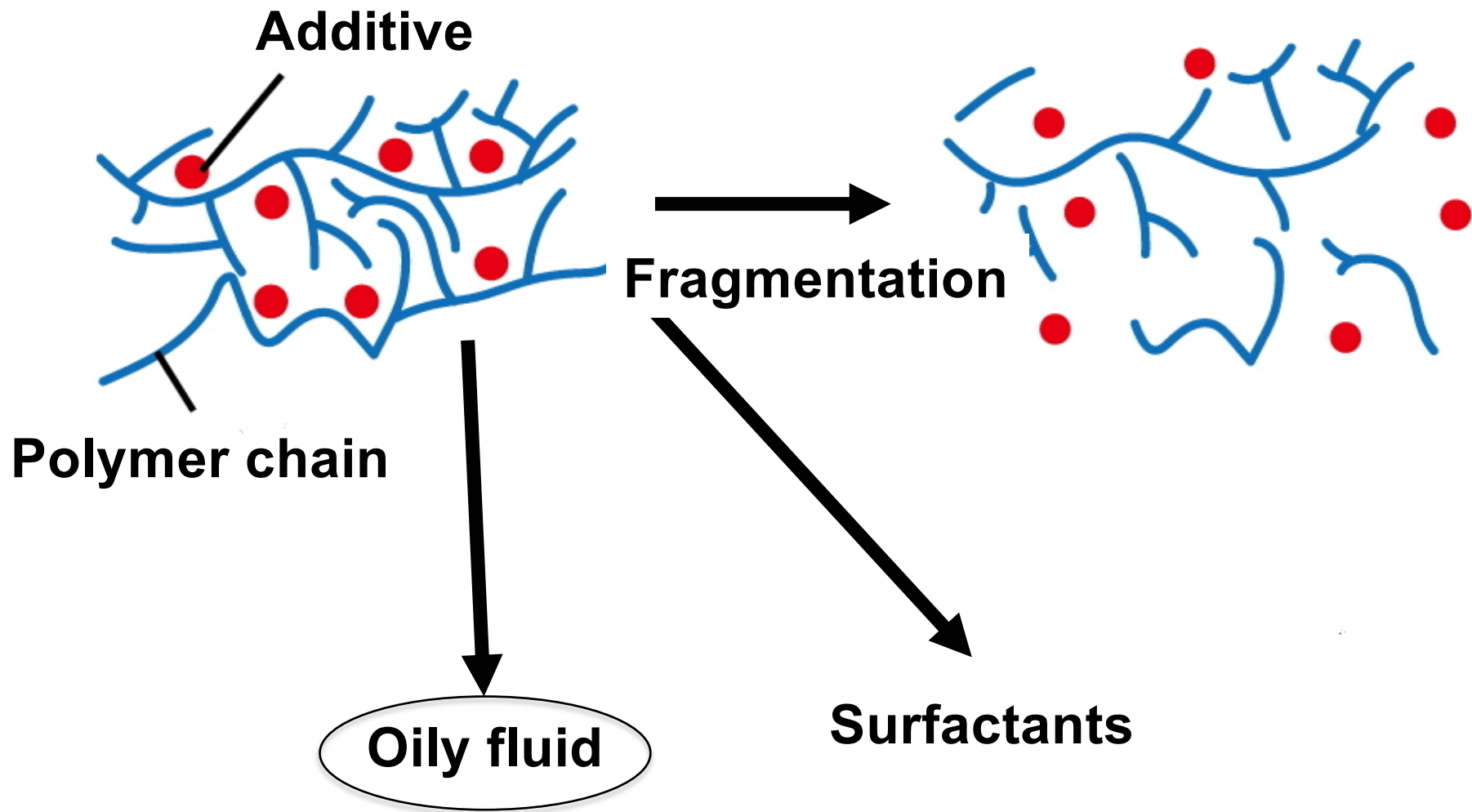
Moderately hydrophobic



UV328 (log K_{ow} : 7.25)



UV234 (log K_{ow} : 7.67)



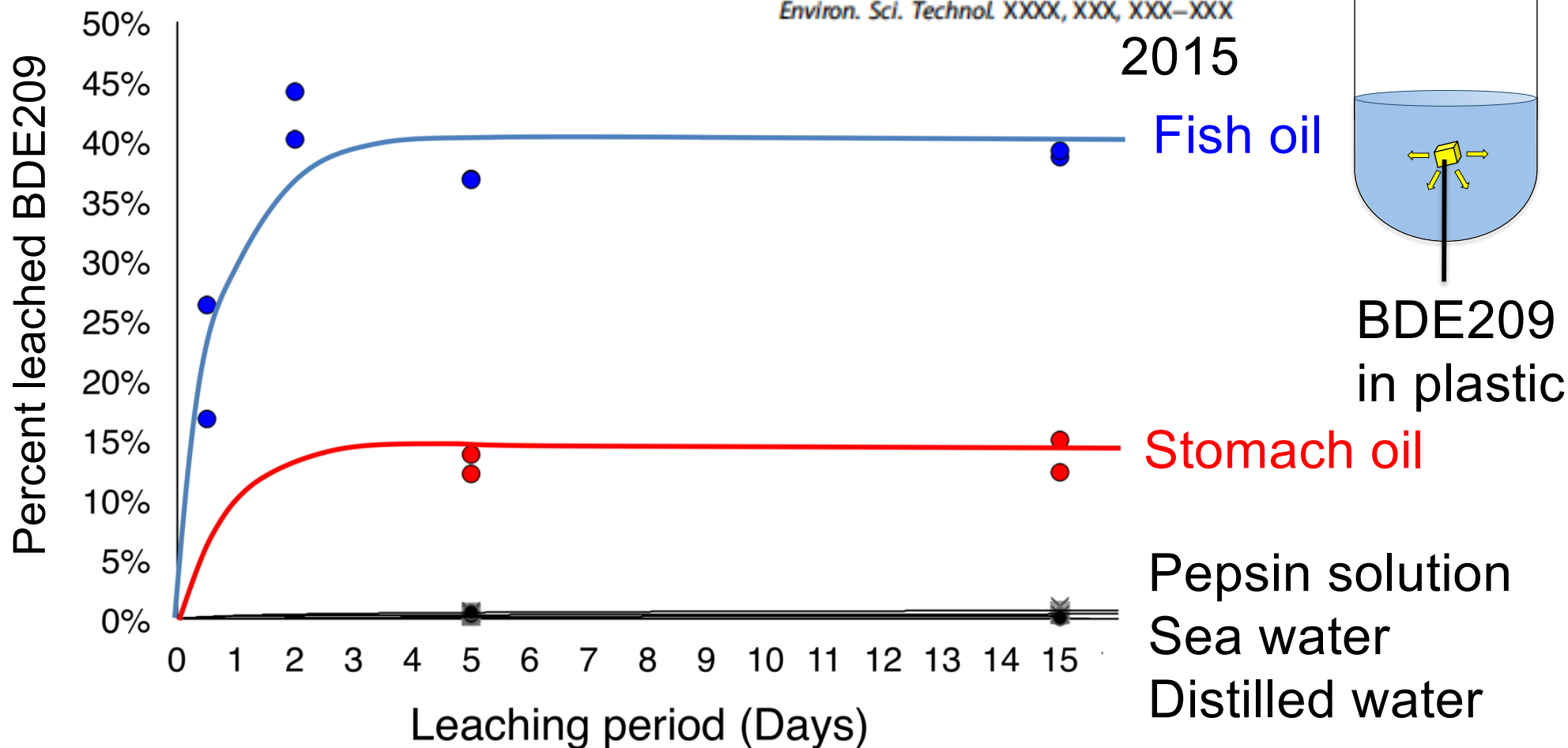
Oily components in digestive tract facilitates leaching of hydrophobic additives

Facilitated Leaching of Additive-Derived PBDEs from Plastic by Seabirds' Stomach Oil and Accumulation in Tissues

Kosuke Tanaka,[†] Hideshige Takada,^{*,†} Rei Yamashita,[†] Kaoruko Mizukawa,[†] Masa-aki Fukuwaka,[‡] and Yutaka Watanuki[§]

DOI: 10.1021/ac.est.5b01376
Environ. Sci. Technol. XXXX, XXX, XXX–XXX

2015



Oily components in digestive fluid facilitate the leaching of additives from plastics

Facilitated Leaching of Additive-Derived PBDEs from Plastic by Seabirds' Stomach Oil and Accumulation in Tissues

Kosuke Tanaka,[†] Hideshige Takada,^{*,†} Rei Yamashita,[†] Kaoruko Mizukawa,[†] Masa-aki Fukuwaka,[‡] and Yutaka Watanuki[§]

[†]Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Fuchu, Tokyo 183-8509, Japan

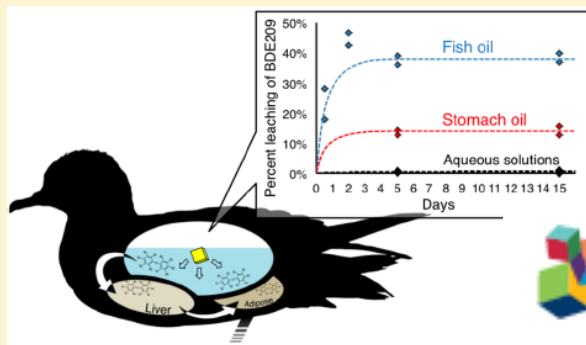
[‡]Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, Kushiro, Hokkaido 085-0802, Japan

[§]Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University, Hakodate, Hokkaido 041-8611, Japan

S Supporting Information

2015

ABSTRACT: Our previous study suggested the transfer of polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants from ingested plastics to seabirds' tissues. To understand how the PBDEs are transferred, we studied leaching from plastics into digestive fluids. We hypothesized that stomach oil, which is present in the digestive tract of birds in the order Procellariiformes, acts as an organic solvent, facilitating the leaching of hydrophobic chemicals. Pieces of plastic compounded with deca-BDE were soaked in several leaching solutions. Trace amounts were leached into distilled water, seawater, and acidic pepsin solution. In contrast, over 20 times as much material was leached into stomach oil, and over 50 times as much into fish oil (a major component of stomach oil). Analysis of abdominal adipose, liver tissue, and ingested plastics from 18 wild seabirds collected from the North Pacific Ocean showed the occurrence of BDE209 in their tissues, the dominance of BDE207 over other nona-BDE isomers suggested biological exposure. Model calculation of PBDE exposure to birds based on the results of the leaching experiment suggested the dominance of plastic-mediated internal exposure to BDE209 over exposure from the environment.



frontiers
in Environmental Science

Transfer of Additive Chemicals From Marine Plastic Debris to the Stomach Oil of Northern Fulmars

Susanne Kühn^{1*}, Andy M. Booth², Lisbet Sørensen², Albert van Oyen³ and Jan A. van Franeker¹

¹ Wageningen Marine Research, Den Helder, Netherlands, ² Department of Oceanography, Trondheim, Norway, ³ Carat GmbH, Bochoitz, Germany

ORIGINAL RESEARCH
published: 19 August 2020
doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2020.00138

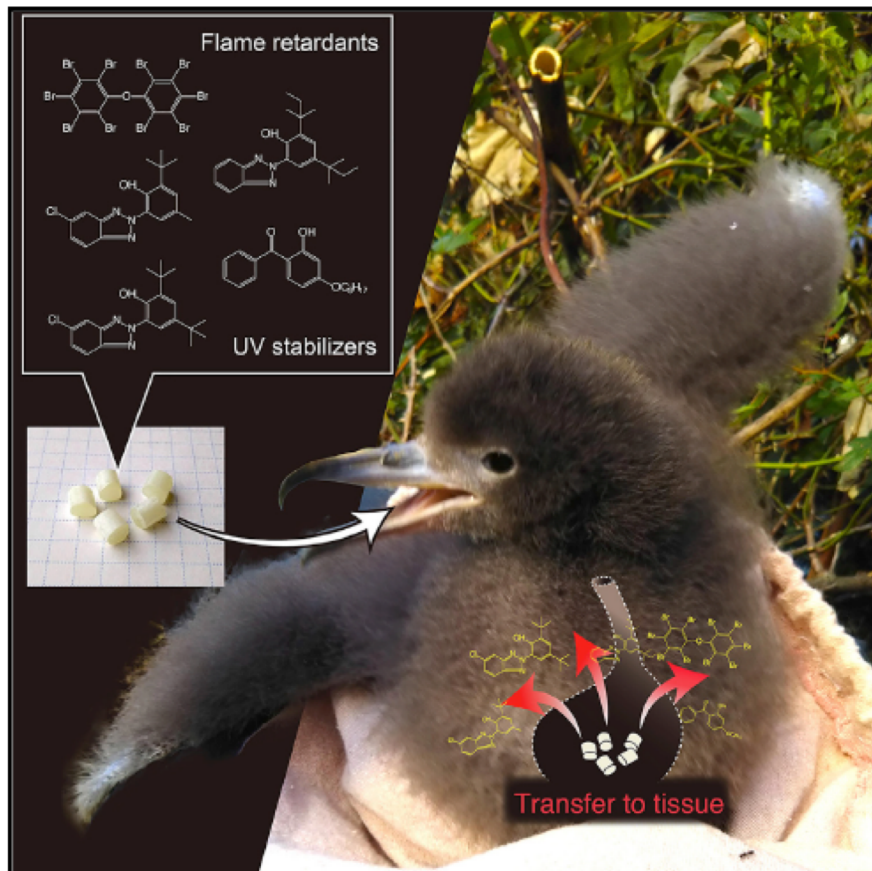
Feeding experiment confirmed the transfer of additives from ingested plastics to the organs of seabirds

Report

Current Biology

In Vivo Accumulation of Plastic-Derived Chemicals into Seabird Tissues

Graphical Abstract



Authors

Kosuke Tanaka, Yutaka Watanuki, Hideshige Takada, ..., Michelle Hester, Yoshinori Ikenaka, Shouta M.M. Nakayama

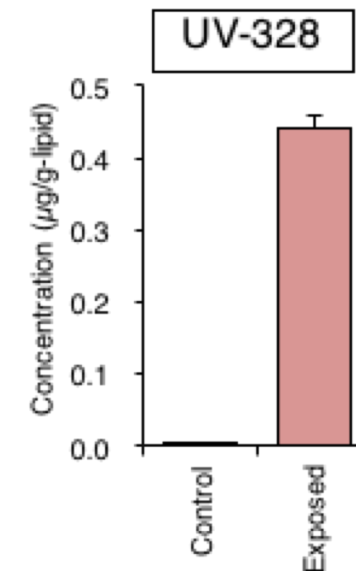
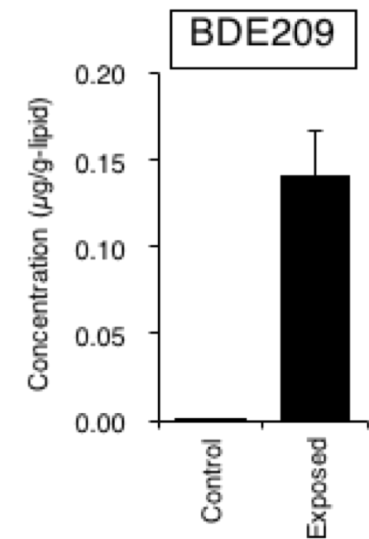
Correspondence

shige@cc.tuat.ac.jp

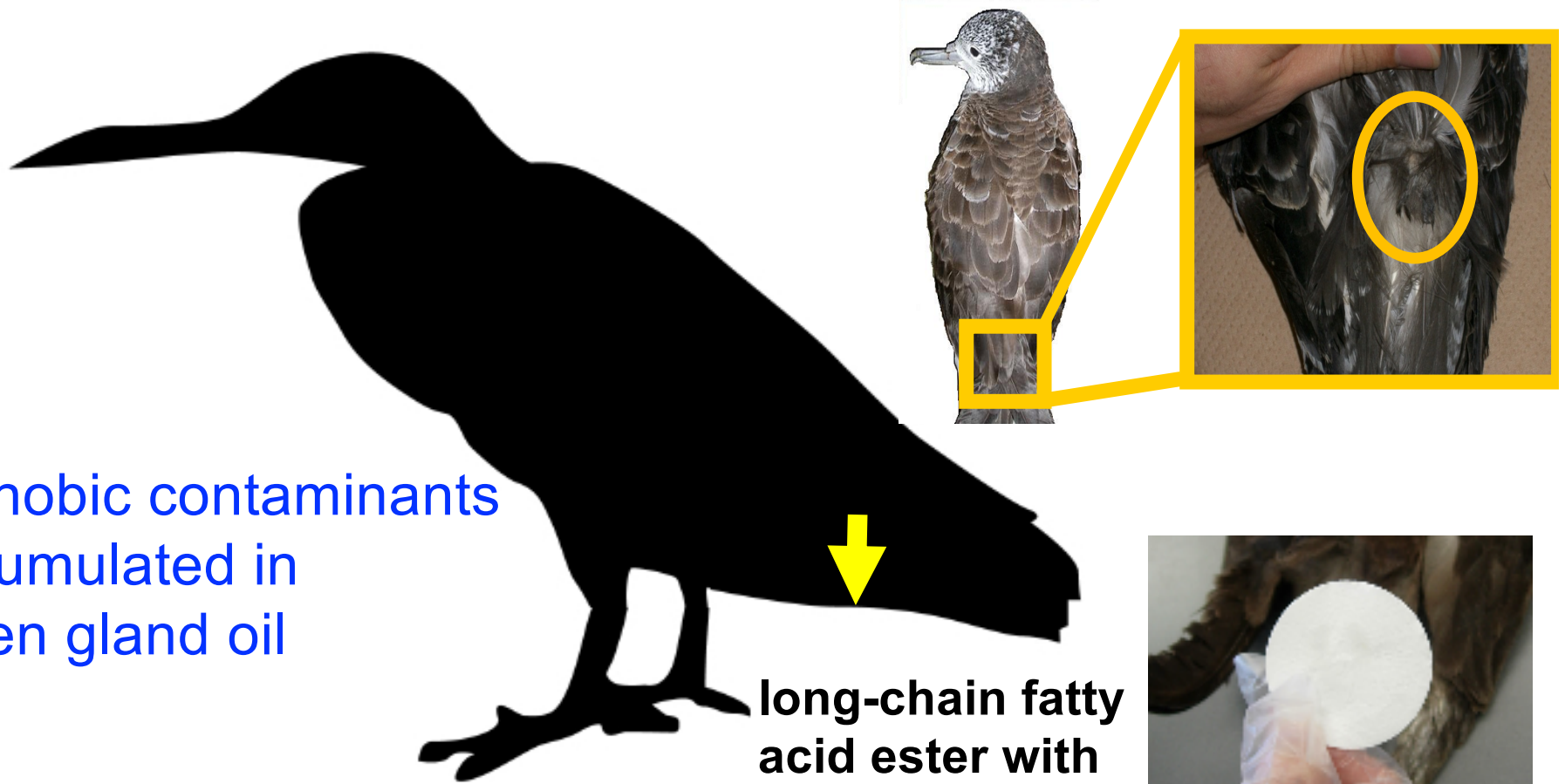
In Brief

Tanaka et al. show that feeding additive-laced plastic pellets to seabirds results in the accumulation of chemical additives in liver and adipose tissue at 10^1 – 10^5 times above baseline. These findings demonstrate seabird exposure to plastic additives and additives' importance as emerging pollution sources.

Tanaka et al., 2020, *Current Biology* 30, 1–6
February 24, 2020 © 2019 Elsevier Ltd.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2019.12.037>



Preen gland oil : oil excreted from an organ situated at the tail of birds



Hydrophobic contaminants are accumulated in the preen gland oil

long-chain fatty acid ester with higher alcohol



water-proof property to feathers of seabirds

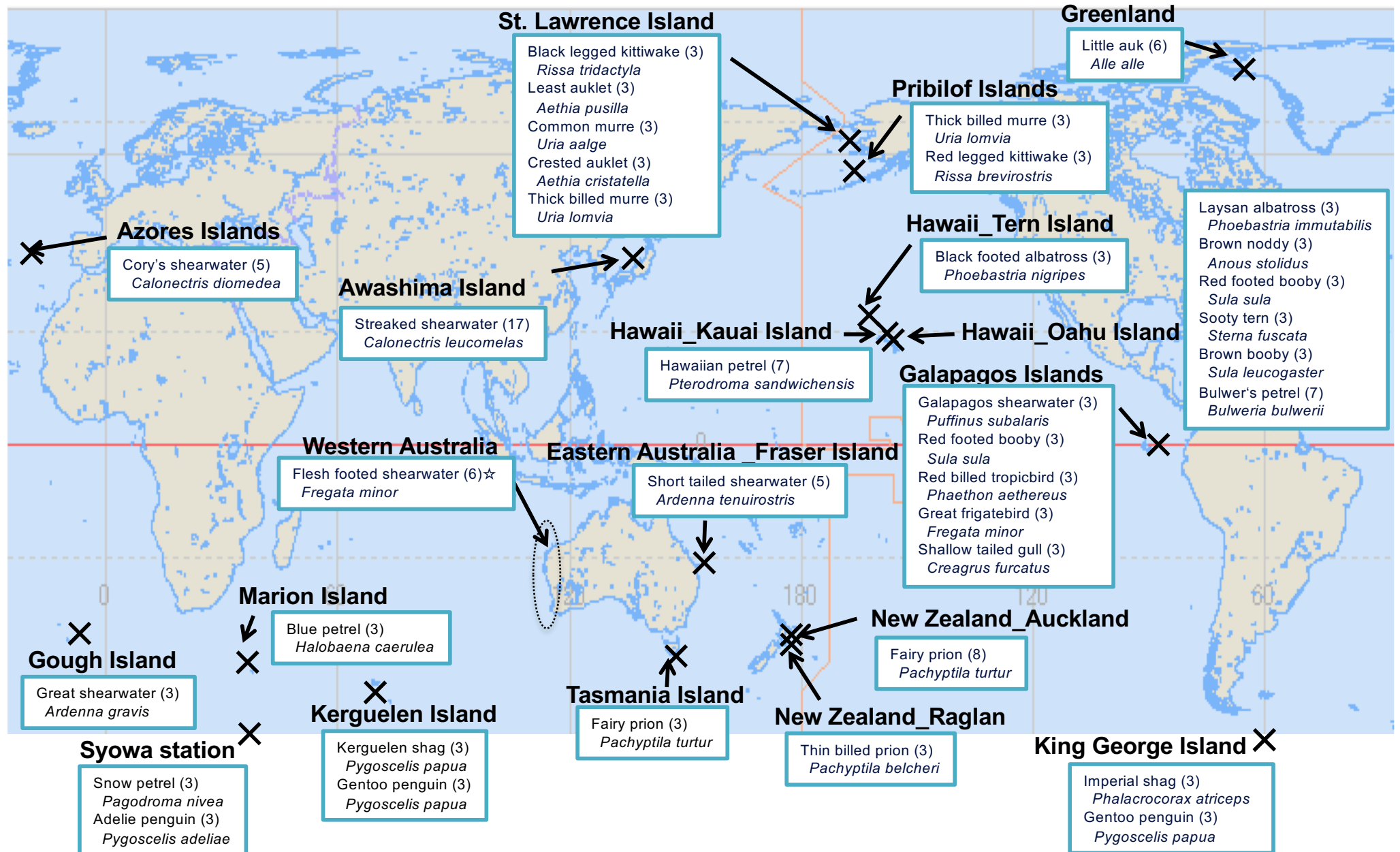
Non-invasive approach

Plastic additives and legacy persistent organic pollutants in the preen gland oil of seabirds sampled across the globe

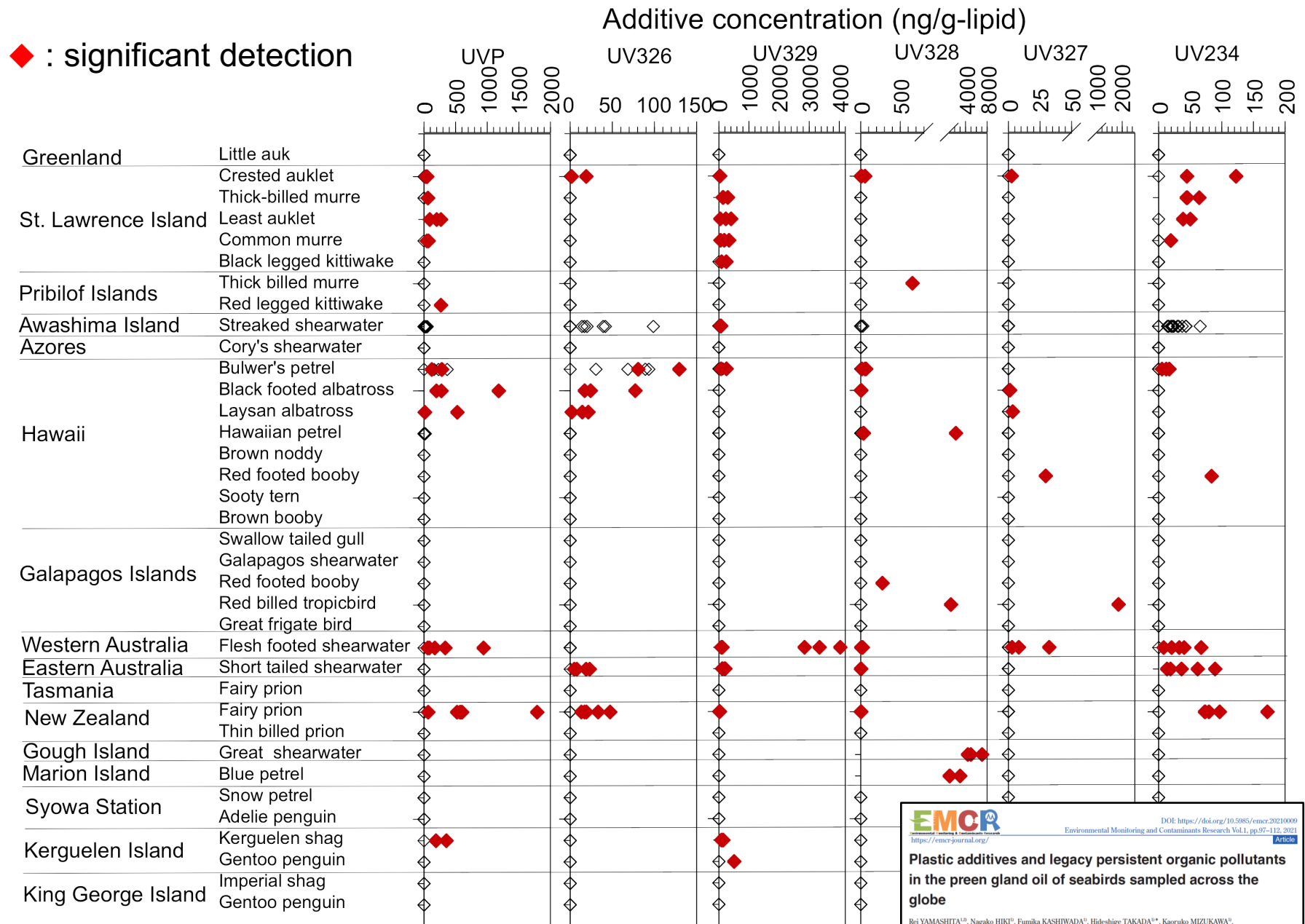
Rei YAMASHITA^{1,2}, Nagako HIKI¹, Fumika KASHIWADA¹, Hideshige TAKADA^{1,*}, Kaoruko MIZUKAWA¹, Britta Denise HARDESTY^{2,4}, Lauren ROMAN^{3,5}, David HYRENBACH⁶, Peter G. RYAN⁷, Ben J. DILLEY⁷, Juan Pablo MUÑOZ-PÉREZ^{8,9}, Carlos A. VALLE⁸, Christopher K. PHAM¹⁰, João FRIAS¹¹, Bungo NISHIZAWA¹², Akinori TAKAHASHI¹², Jean-Baptiste THIEBOT¹², Alexis WILL¹³, Nobuo KOKUBUN¹², Yūki Y. WATANABE¹², Takashi YAMAMOTO^{14,15}, Koze SHIOMI^{12,16}, Ui SHIMABUKURO¹⁷ and Yutaka WATANUKI¹⁸

Wide species of seabirds globally collected

145 individuals of 31 species from 16 locations in the world



Benzotriazole UV stabilizers were detected in preen gland oil from ~ 40 % of seabirds globally collected



EMCR
Environmental Monitoring and Contaminants Research

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5985/emcr.20210009>
Environmental Monitoring and Contaminants Research Vol.1, pp.97-112, 2021

Plastic additives and legacy persistent organic pollutants in the preen gland oil of seabirds sampled across the globe

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Extremely high concentrations of UV stabilizer were detected in preen gland oil from seabirds from remote islands



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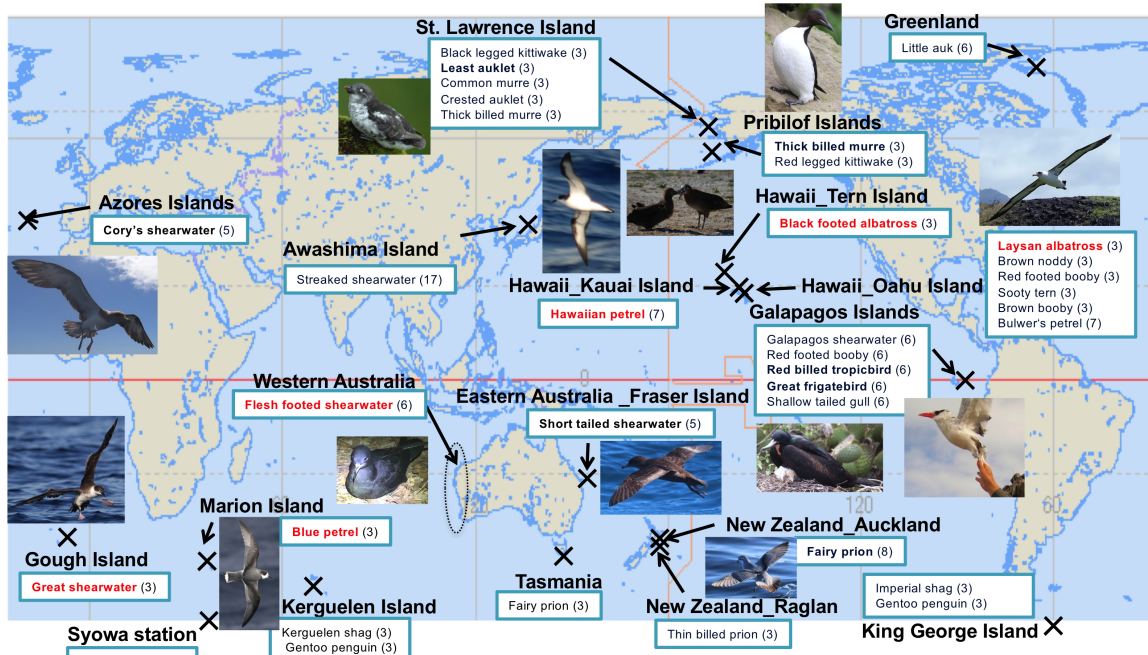
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Field observations demonstrated the bioaccumulation of plastic additives in seabirds preen gland oil (46 % of individuals examined)

Plastic additives and legacy persistent organic pollutants in the preen gland oil of seabirds sampled across the globe

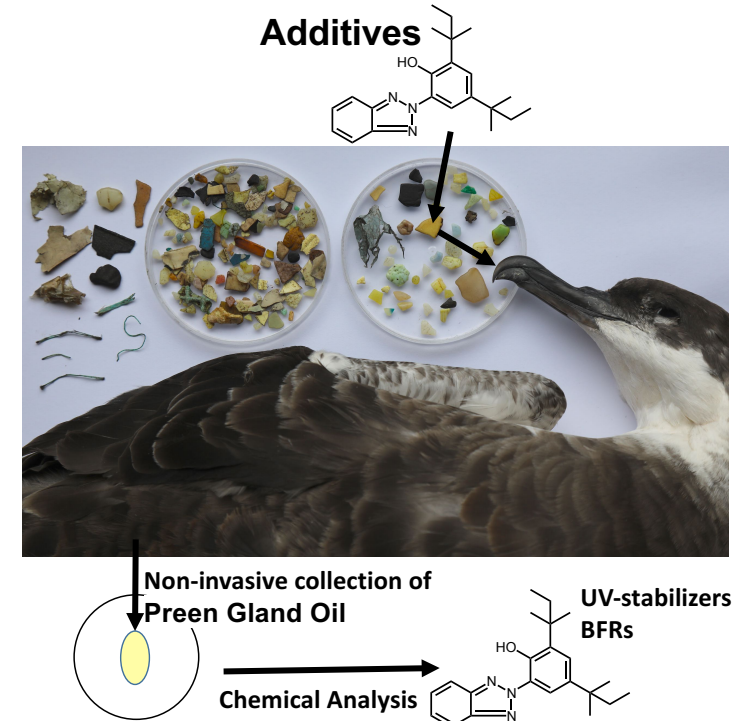
Rei YAMASHITA^{1,2}, Nagako HIKI¹, Fumika KASHIWADA¹, Hideshige TAKADA^{1*}, Kaoruko MIZUKAWA¹, Britta Denise HARDESTY^{3,4}, Lauren ROMAN^{3,5}, David HYRENBACH⁶, Peter G. RYAN⁷, Ben J. DILLEY⁷, Juan Pablo MUÑOZ-PÉREZ^{8,9}, Carlos A. VALLE⁹, Christopher K. PHAM¹⁰, João FRIAS¹¹, Bungo NISHIZAWA¹², Akinori TAKAHASHI¹², Jean-Baptiste THIEBOT¹², Alexis WILL¹³, Nobuo KOKUBUN¹², Yuuki Y. WATANABE¹², Takashi YAMAMOTO^{14,15}, Kozue SHIOMI^{12,16}, Ui SHIMABUKURO¹⁷ and Yutaka WATANUKI¹⁸

World seabirds accumulating plastic additives



Species in bold and with photo were confirmed to accumulate plastic additives in their preen gland oil. Especially, **Great shearwater, Blue petrel, Flesh footed shearwater, Hawaiian petrel, Laysan Albatross, and Black-footed albatross** had higher concentrations of plastic additives and their association with plastic ingestion were indicated.

All Photos by David Hyrenbach (Hawaiian petrel, Black-footed albatrosses, Laysan albatrosses), Juan Pablo Muñoz-Pérez (Red billed tropicbird), Christopher K. Pham (Cory's shearwater), Lauren Roman (Flesh footed shearwater, Short tailed shearwater, Fairy prion), Peter G. Ryan (Great shearwater, Blue petrel), Akinori Takahashi (Least Auklet), Carlos A. Valle (Great frigate bird), Takashi Yamamoto (Thick-billed murre).



Bioaccumulation and metabolism of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in coenobitid hermit crabs from marine litter-polluted beaches in remote islands



Nana Tanaka^a, Naohiko Takada^a, Mami Takahashi^a, Bee Geok Yeo^a, Yuki Oya^b, Izumi Watanabe^b, Yoshihisa Fujita^c, Hideshige Takada^a, Kaoruko Mizukawa^{a,*}

^a Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, 3-5-8, Saiwaicho, Fuchu, Tokyo 183-8509, Japan

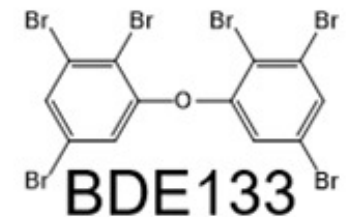
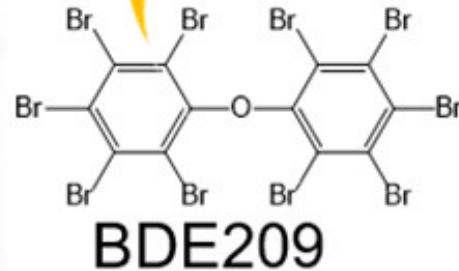
^b Laboratory of Environmental Toxicology, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, 3-5-8, Saiwaicho, Fuchu, Tokyo 183-8509, Japan

^c Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, 1-4, Shuri-Tounokura, Naha, Okinawa 903-8602, Japan

Remote island, polluted by beached plastics

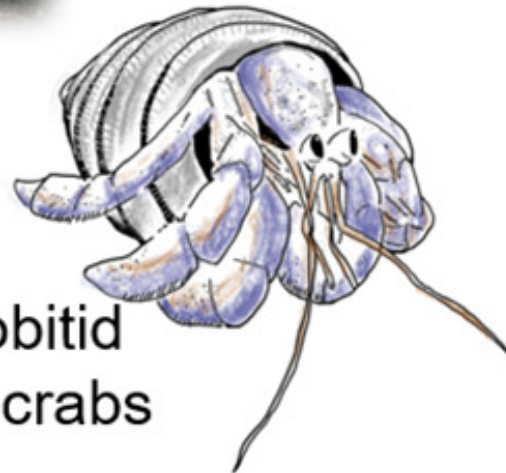


debromination



Ingestion

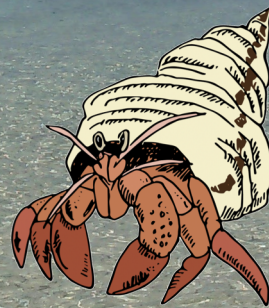
coenobitid
hermit crabs



unusual congeners

remote island in Okinawa, Japan

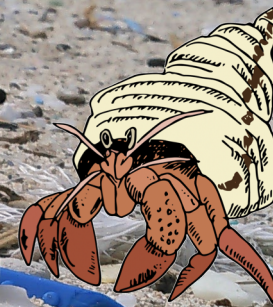
Control beach



Hermit Crab

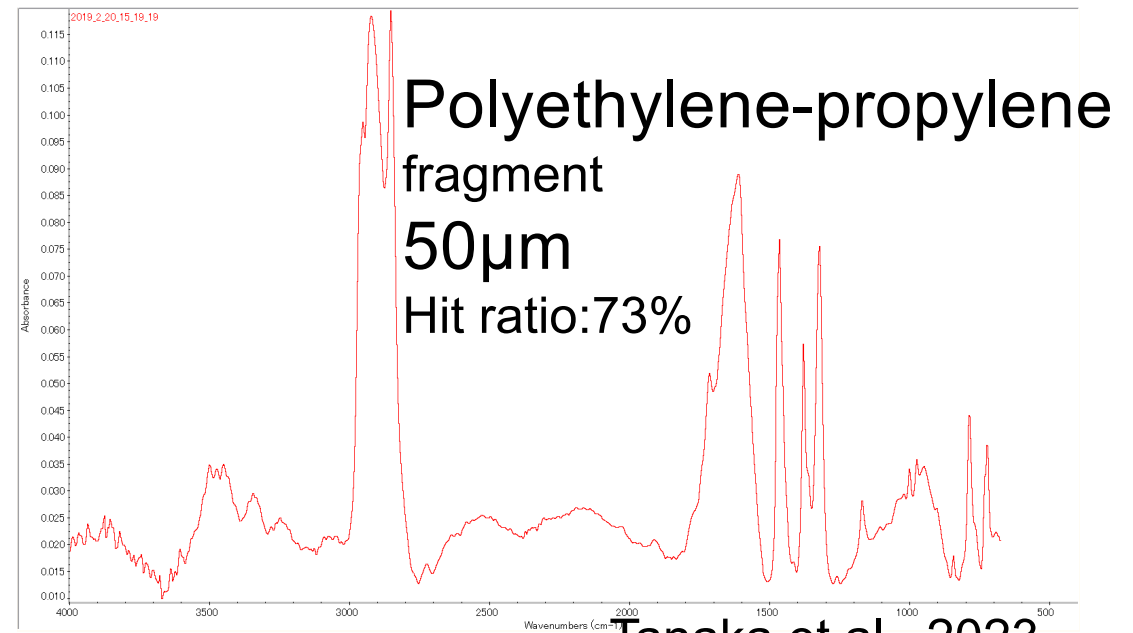
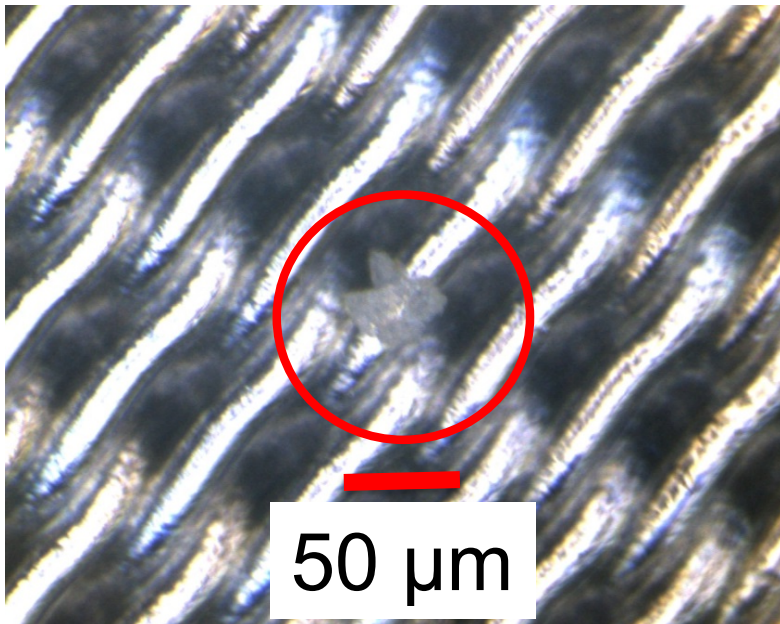
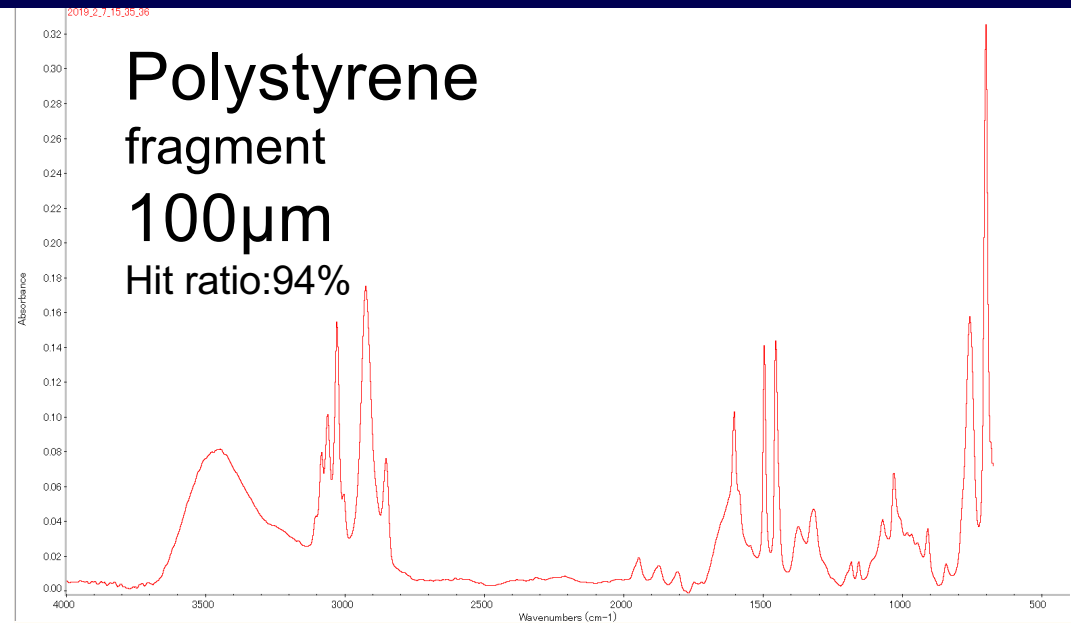
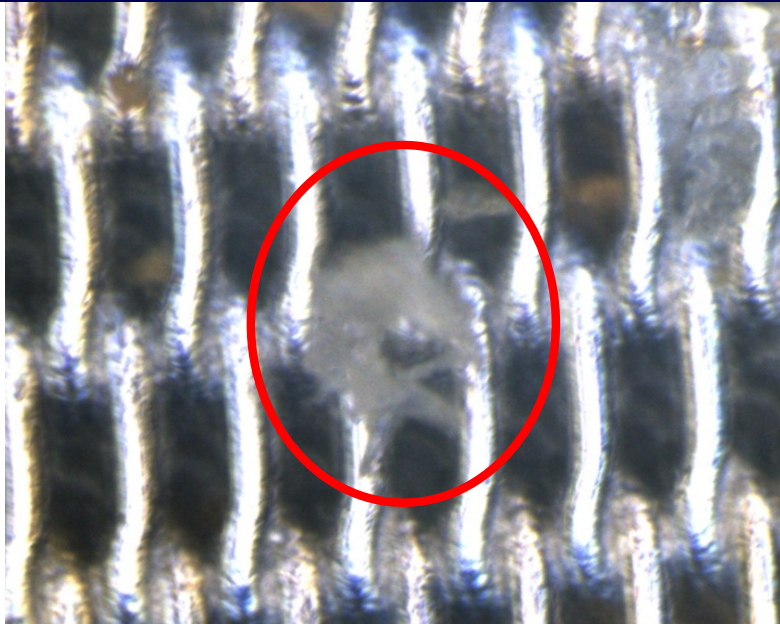
remote island in Okinawa, Japan

Plastic contaminated beach

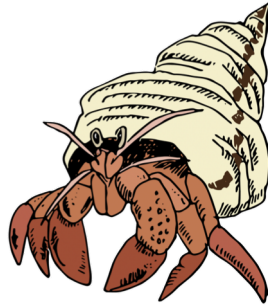


Hermit Crab

Images and FTIR spectrum of microplastics found in stomach of Hermit Crab



Microplastics in digestive tract of Hermit Crab



0 – 13 pieces/g-wet

Control
beach



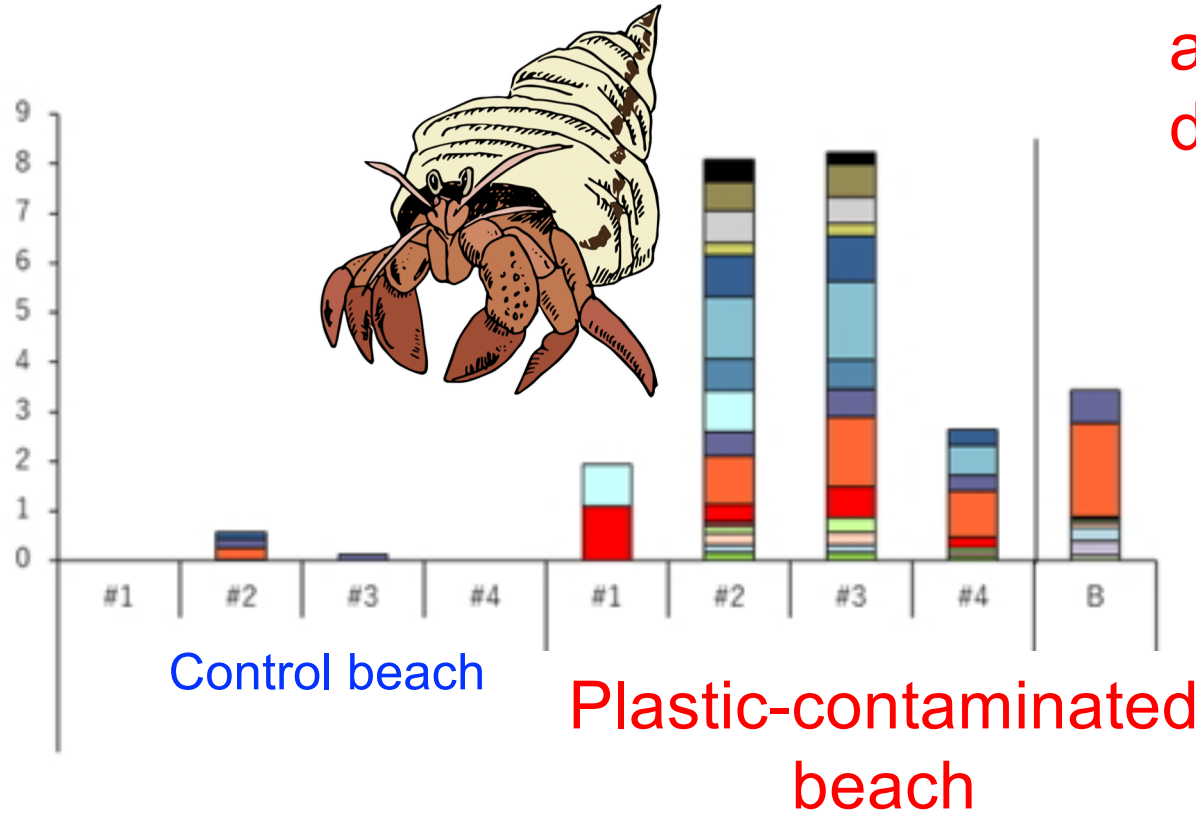
293 - 482 pieces/g-wet

Plastic
contaminated
beach



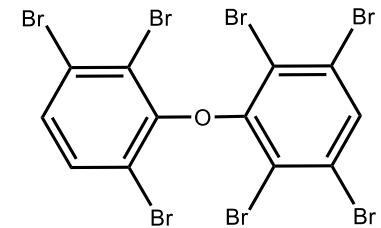
Field observation of transfer of plastic additives (brominated flame retardants) to hepatopancreas of hermit crab

Tissue PBDEs concentration (ng/g-lipid)

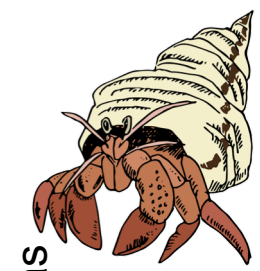


Metabolites of the additives were dominant.

209	10Br
206	9Br
207	9Br
208	9Br
196	8Br
203	8Br
197	8Br
201	8Br
202	8Br
179/178+7Br	7Br
184	7Br
188	7Br
183	7Br ^m
153	6Br
146	6Br
136/133	6Br
6Br	6Br
154	6Br
80	4Br



Laboratory exposure experiment of microbeads containing BDE209 to Hermit Crab



PBDEs concentrations in hepatopancreas (ng/g-lipid)

■ 209	10Br
■ 206 ■ 207 ■ 208	9Br
■ 196 ■ 198	8Br
■ 201 ■ 202	8Br
■ 178/179+187	7Br
■ 175	7Br
■ 153 ■ 146	6Br
■ 133/136	6Br
■ 135/149	6Br

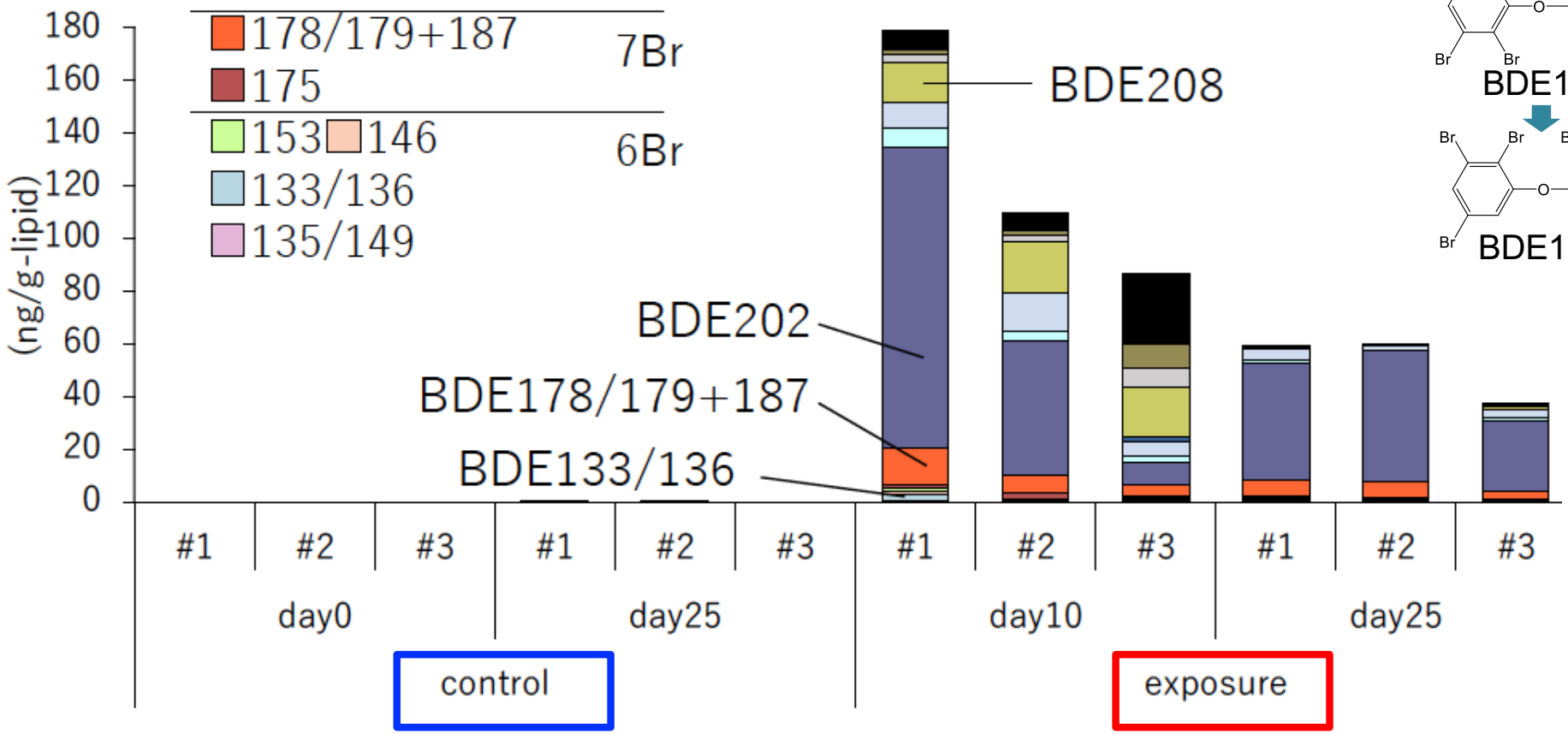
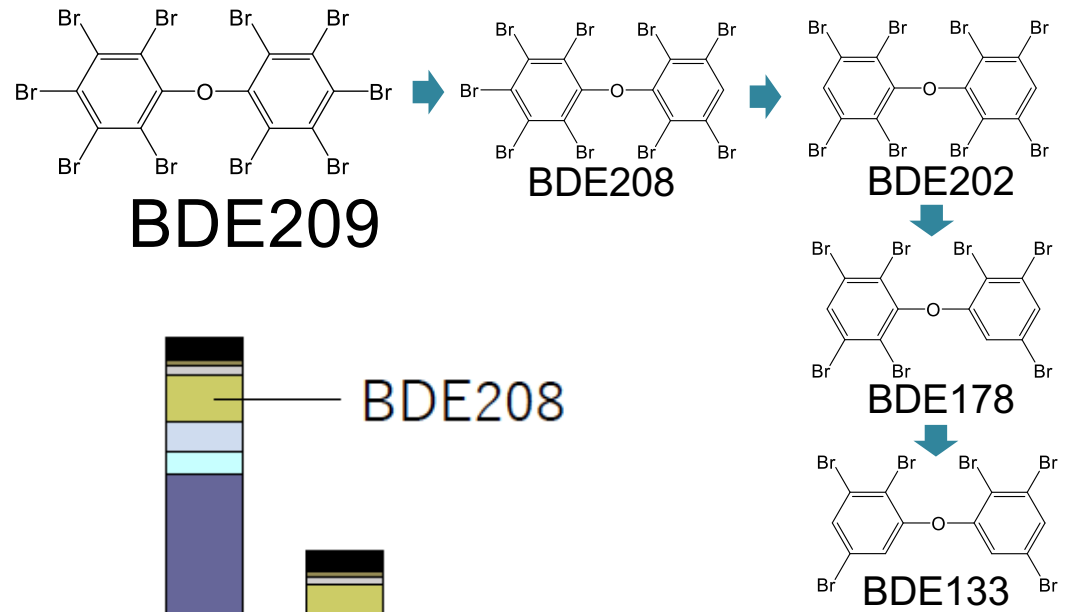
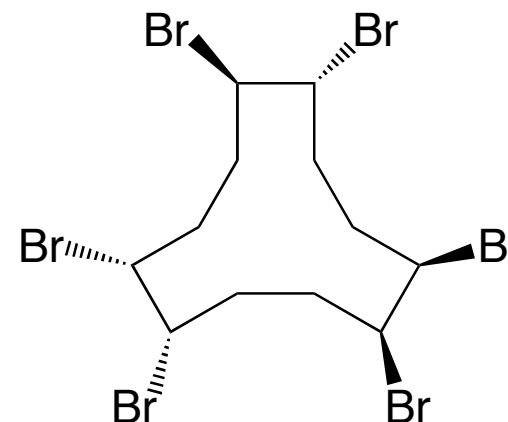
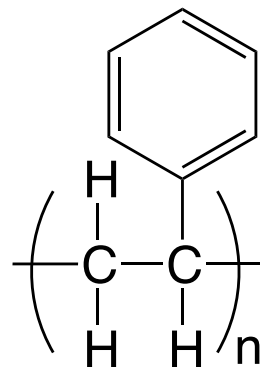
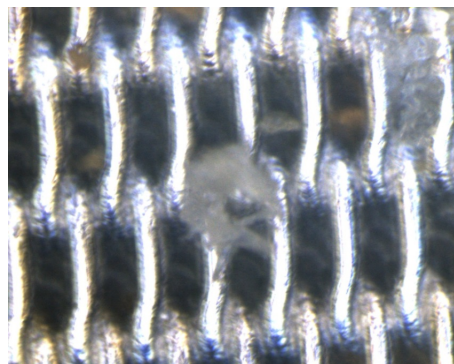
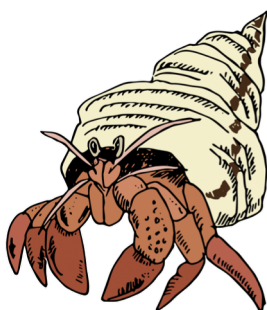


Fig. PBDEs concentrations in hepatopancreas of hermit crab exposed with microbeads containing BDE209

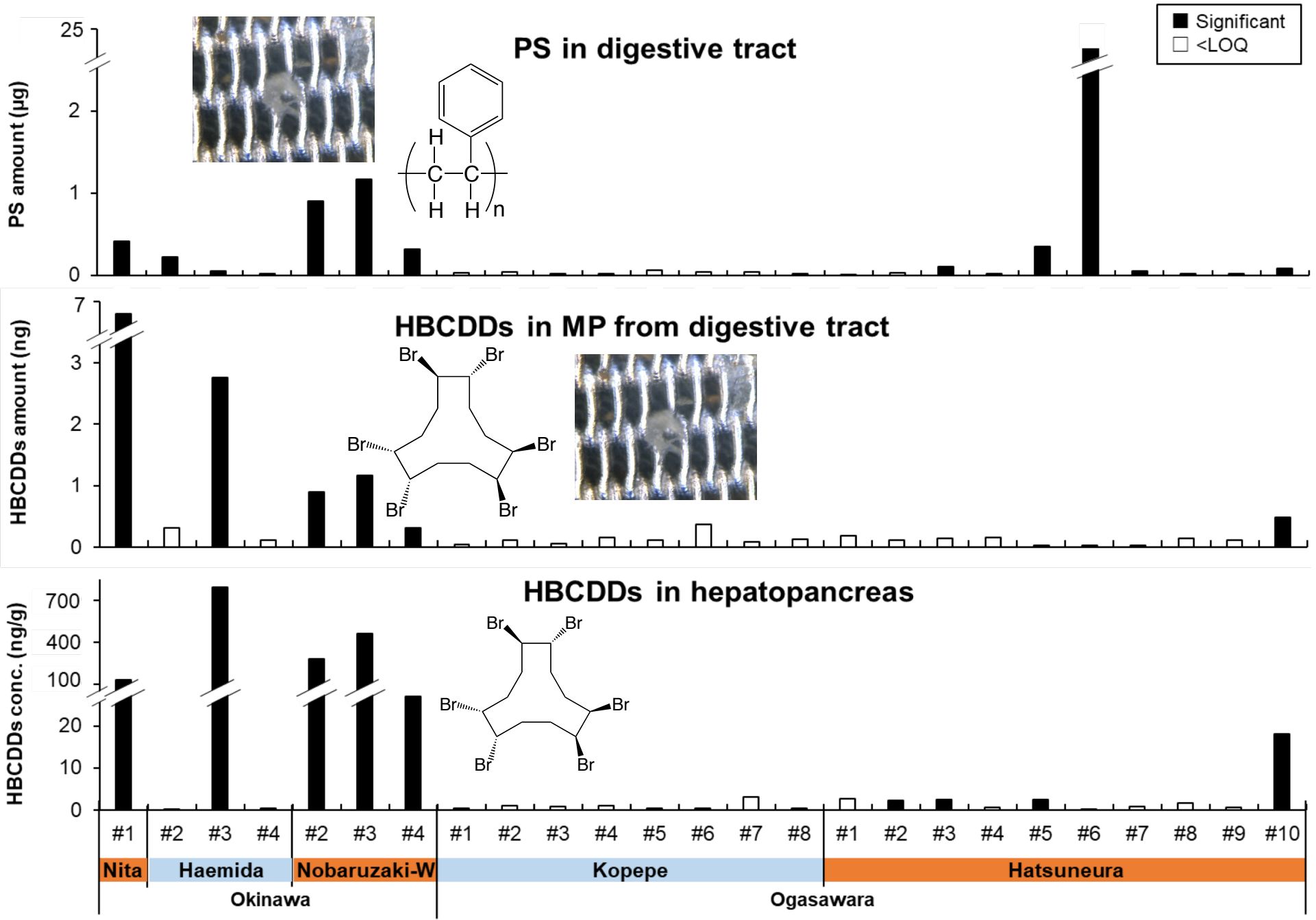
Pollution of plastics and related compounds from stranded litter to terrestrial hermit crabs in remote islands

Kaoruko Mizukawa, et al. (2023)
(Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology)



HBCDDs

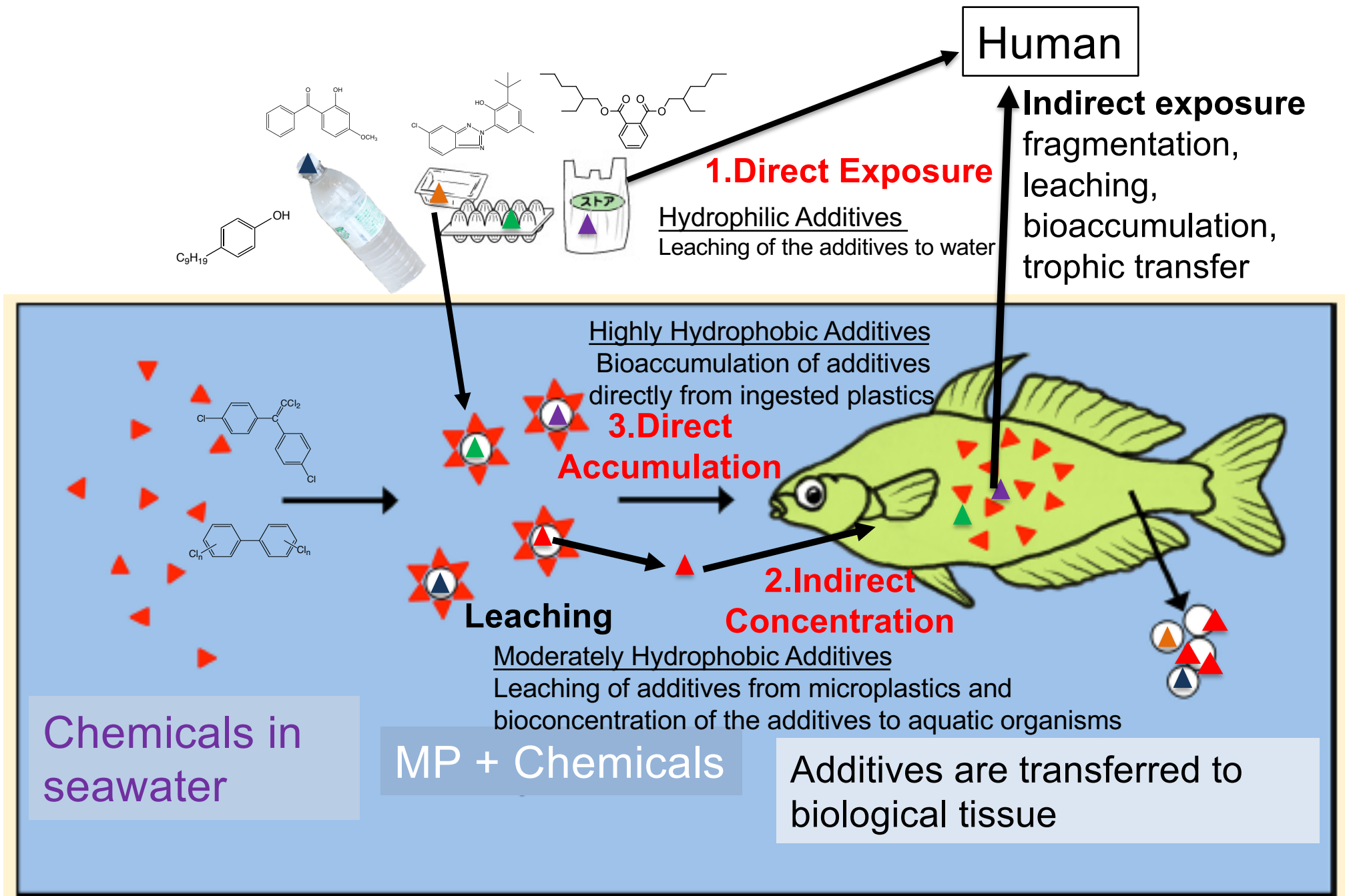
to be presented on
Annual meeting of
Japan Society for
Environmental
Chemistry (JEC)



HBCDs in Hermit Crab

Mizukawa et al., 2023

All the classes of additives can be finally exposed to human through 3 pathways



Accumulation of Benzotriazole UV stabilizers following exposure of microplastic fragments containing the additives to mussel

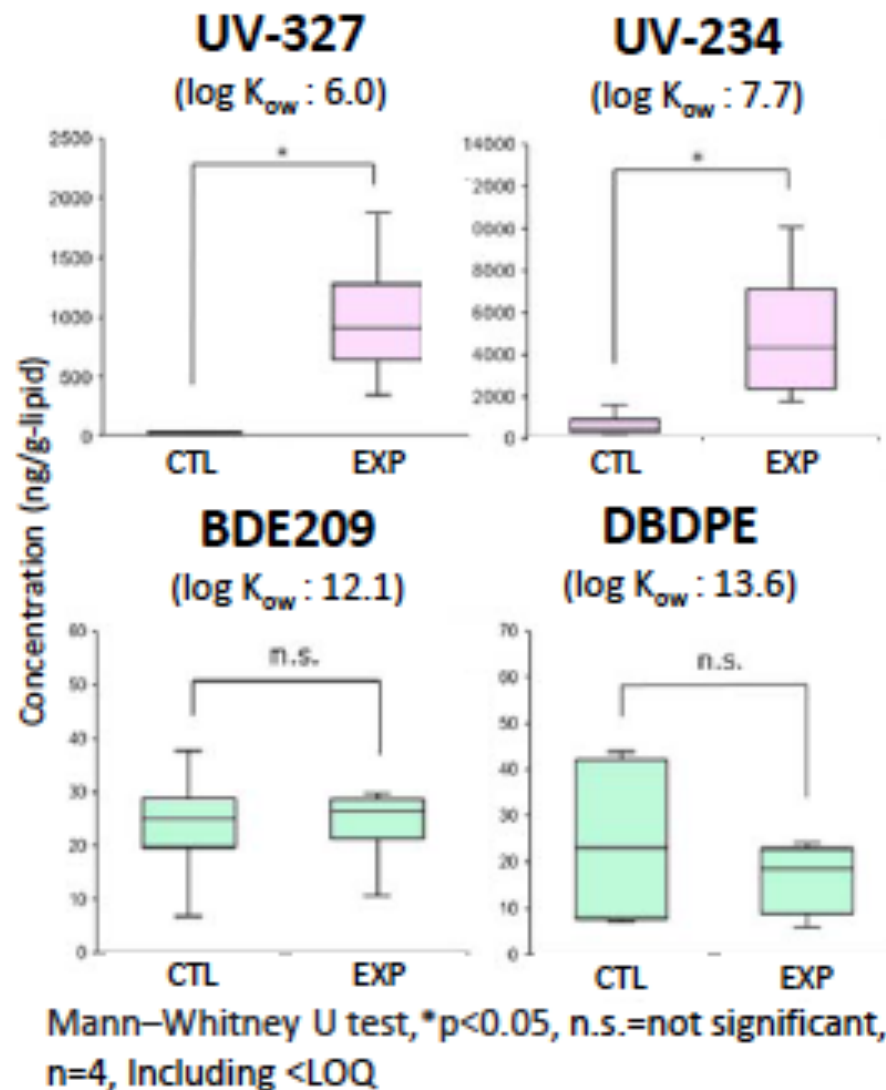
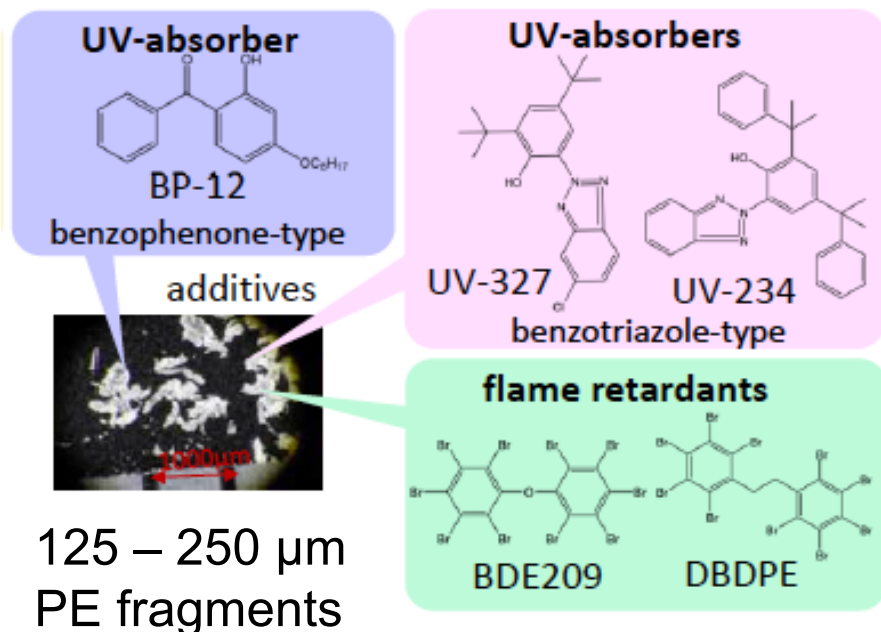
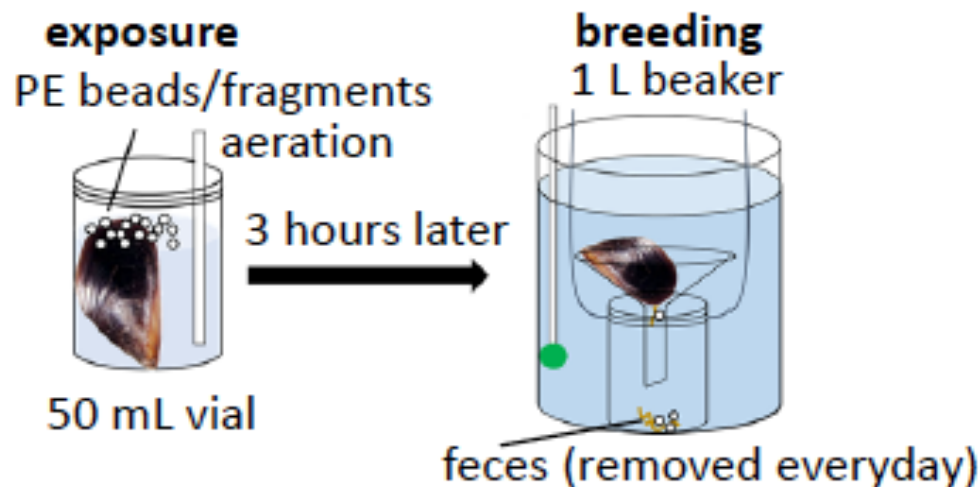
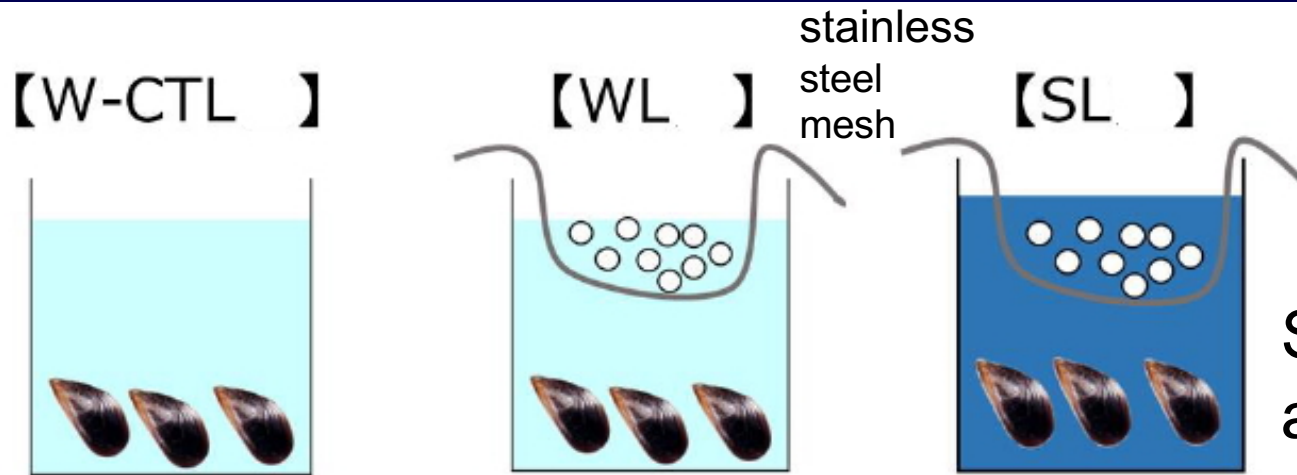


Fig. Concentrations of the additives in gonad of mussels

Mizukawa, K., Takano, T., Sakurai, R., Ota, M., Nakaoka, M., Kinjo, A., Inoue, K., Takada, H., 2022. Dietary exposure experiments on the transfer of chemical pollutants from microplastics to bivalves. In: International Online Workshop on Microplastics Issues, online.

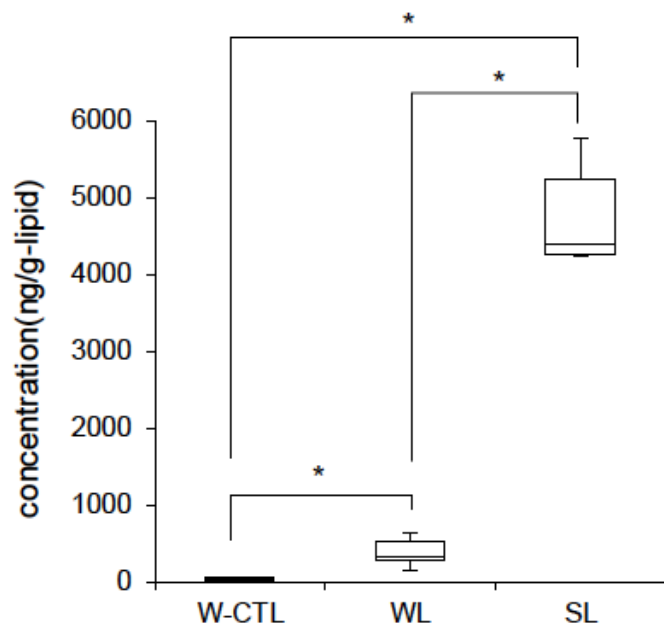
Indirect concentration of additives through leaching and bioconcentration occurred for moderately hydrophobic additives



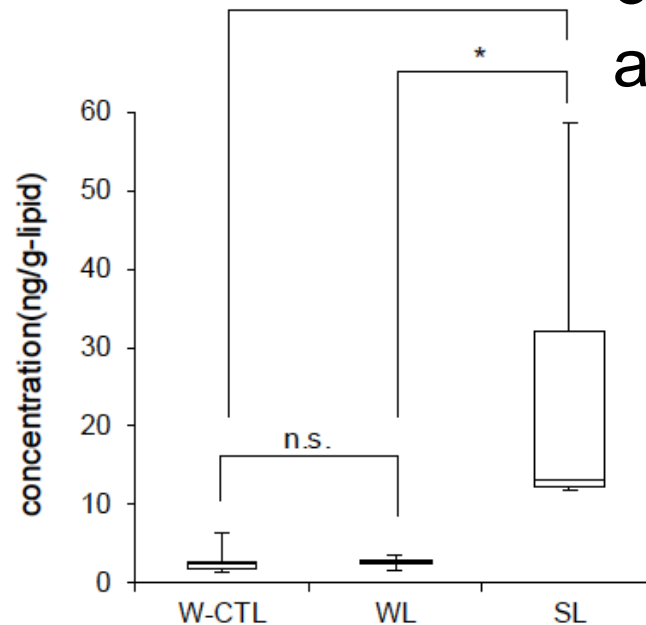
Surfactant accumulated leaching and

indirect concentration of hydrophobic additives

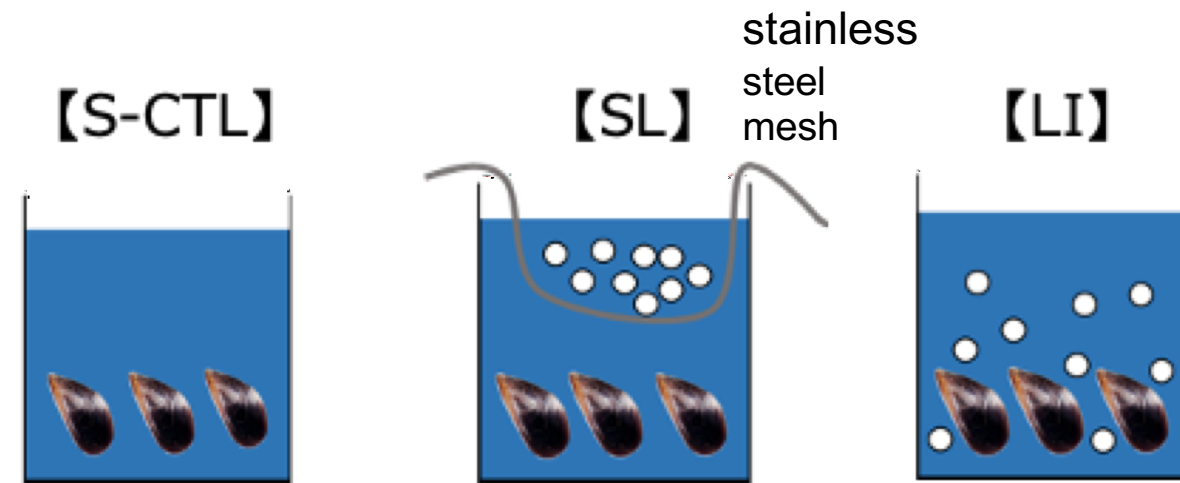
UV327
(log K_{ow} : 6.91)



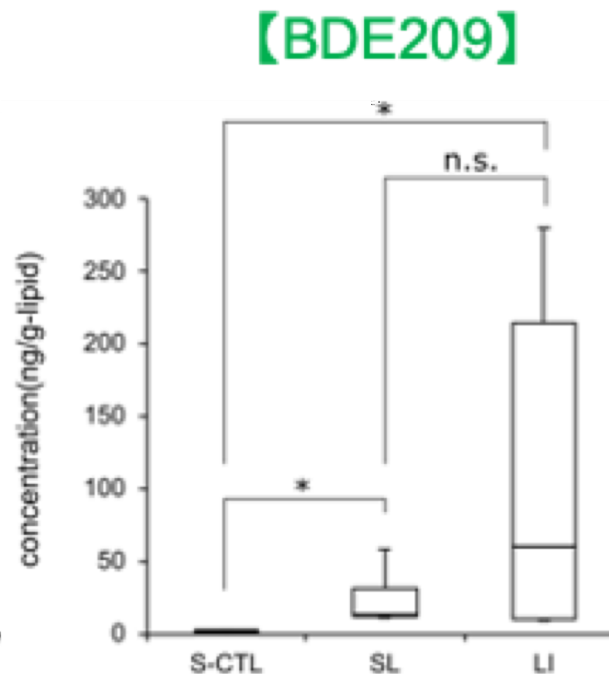
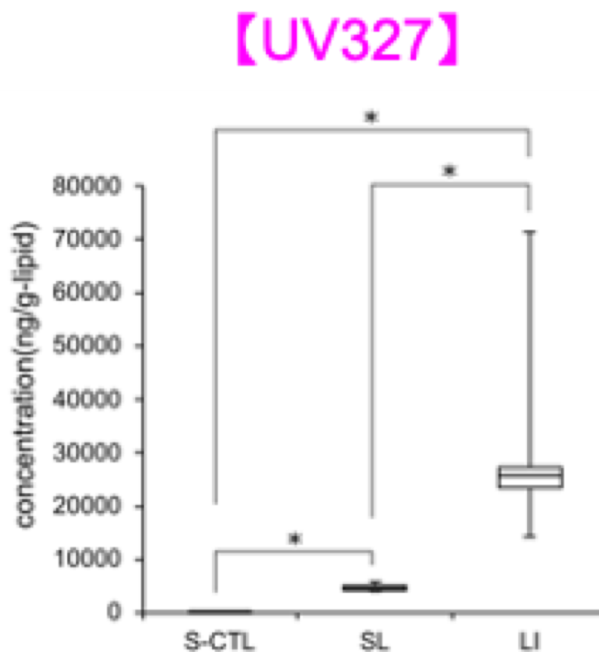
BDE209
(log K_{ow} : 12.11)



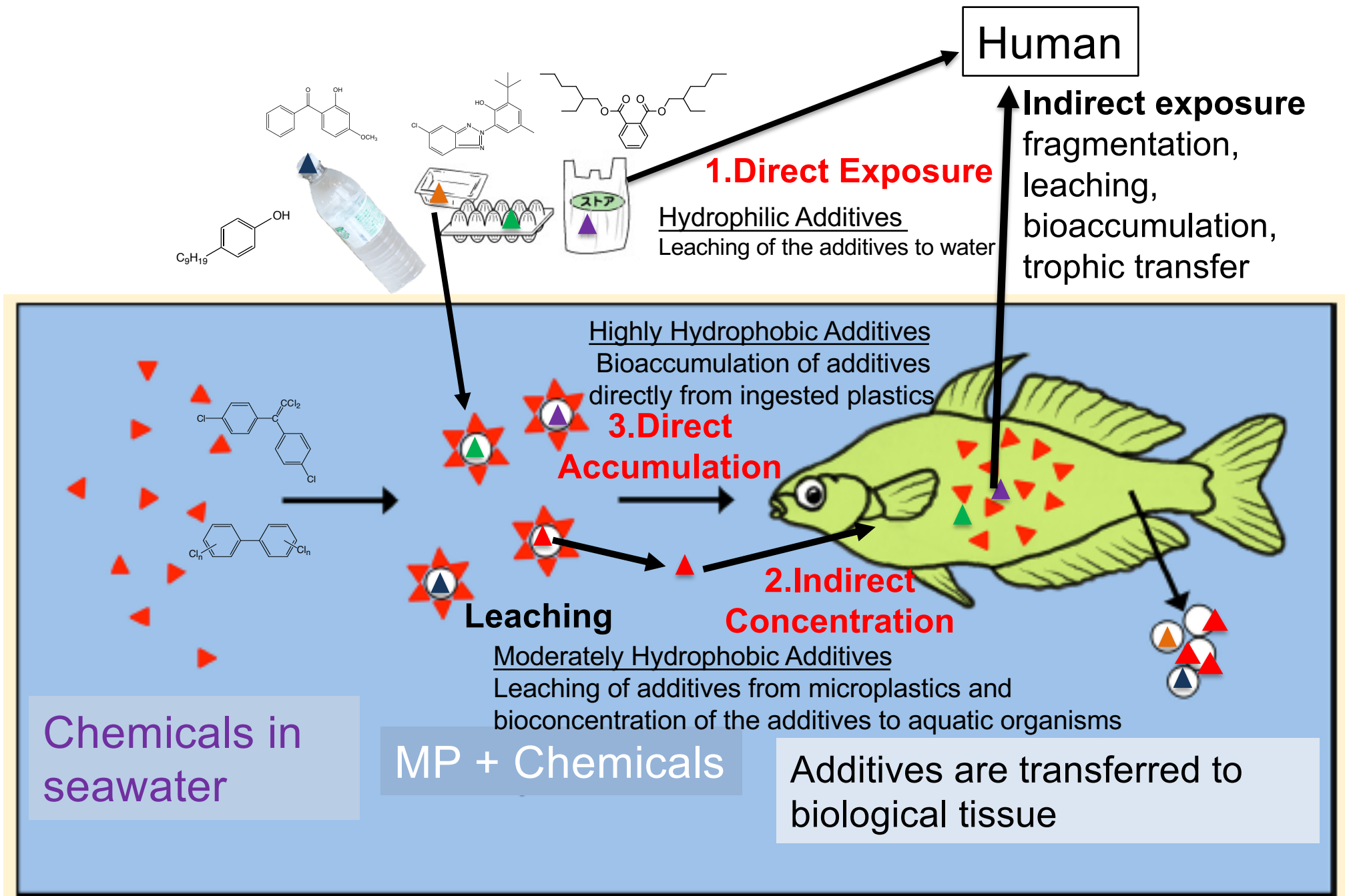
Direct bioaccumulation is more important for highly hydrophobic additives



Surfactant accumulated leaching and indirect concentration of hydrophobic additives



All the classes of additives can be finally exposed to human through 3 pathways



The significance of trophic transfer of microplastics in the accumulation of plastic additives in fish: An experimental study using brominated flame retardants and UV stabilizers



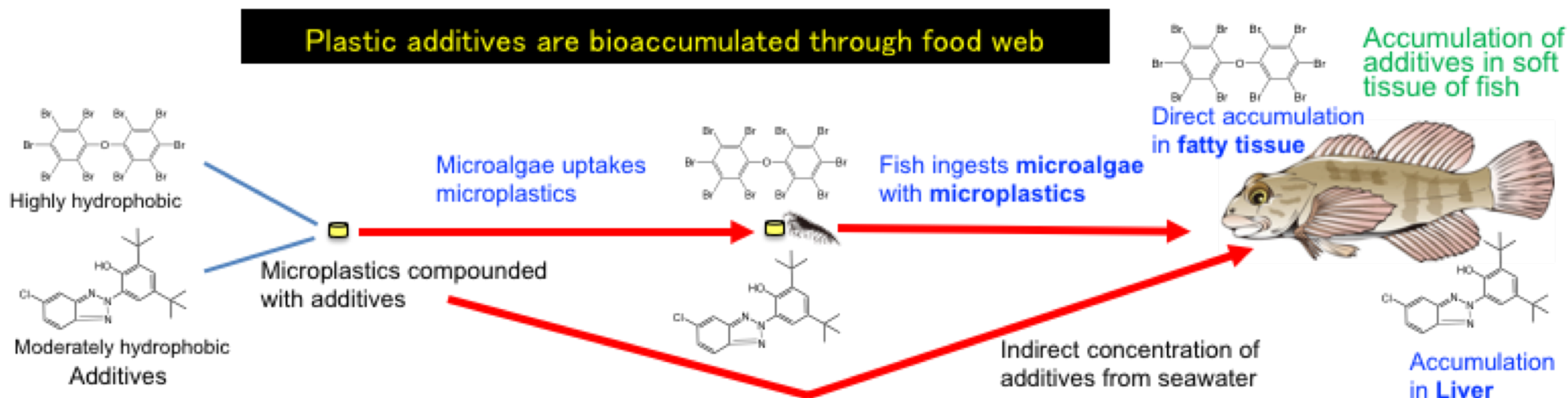
Takaaki Hasegawa^{a,1}, Kaoruko Mizukawa^b, Bee Geok Yeo^b, Tomonori Sekioka^c, Hideshige Takada^b, Masahiro Nakaoka^{d,*}

^a Graduate School of Environmental Science, Hokkaido University, Akkeshi, Hokkaido 088-1113, Japan

^b Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Fuchu, Tokyo 183-8509, Japan

^c Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, Hakodate, Hokkaido 041-8611, Japan

^d Akkeshi Marine Station, Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido University, Akkeshi, Hokkaido 088-1113, Japan



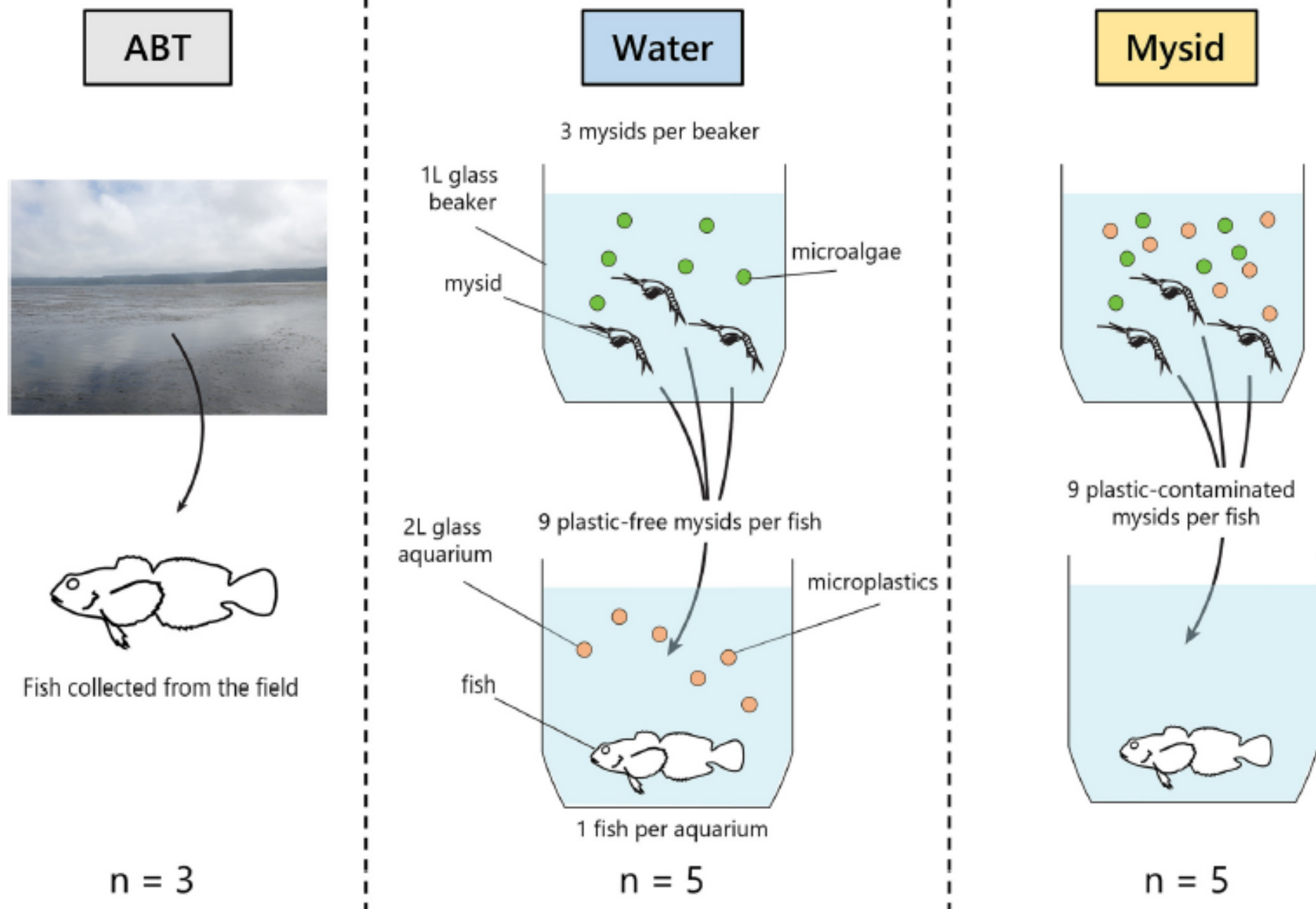


Fig. 1. Experimental design of the trophic transfer experiment. Fish (ABT) were collected from the field and analyzed to determine baseline concentrations of the target additives. Fish (Water) were fed plastic-free mysids and exposed to microplastics compounded with the additives suspended in the water column for 10 days. Fish (Mysid) were fed mysids that had been pre-exposed to microplastics compounded with the additives, but the aquarium water did not contain a microplastic suspension. n in the figure denotes the sample size for each treatment group.

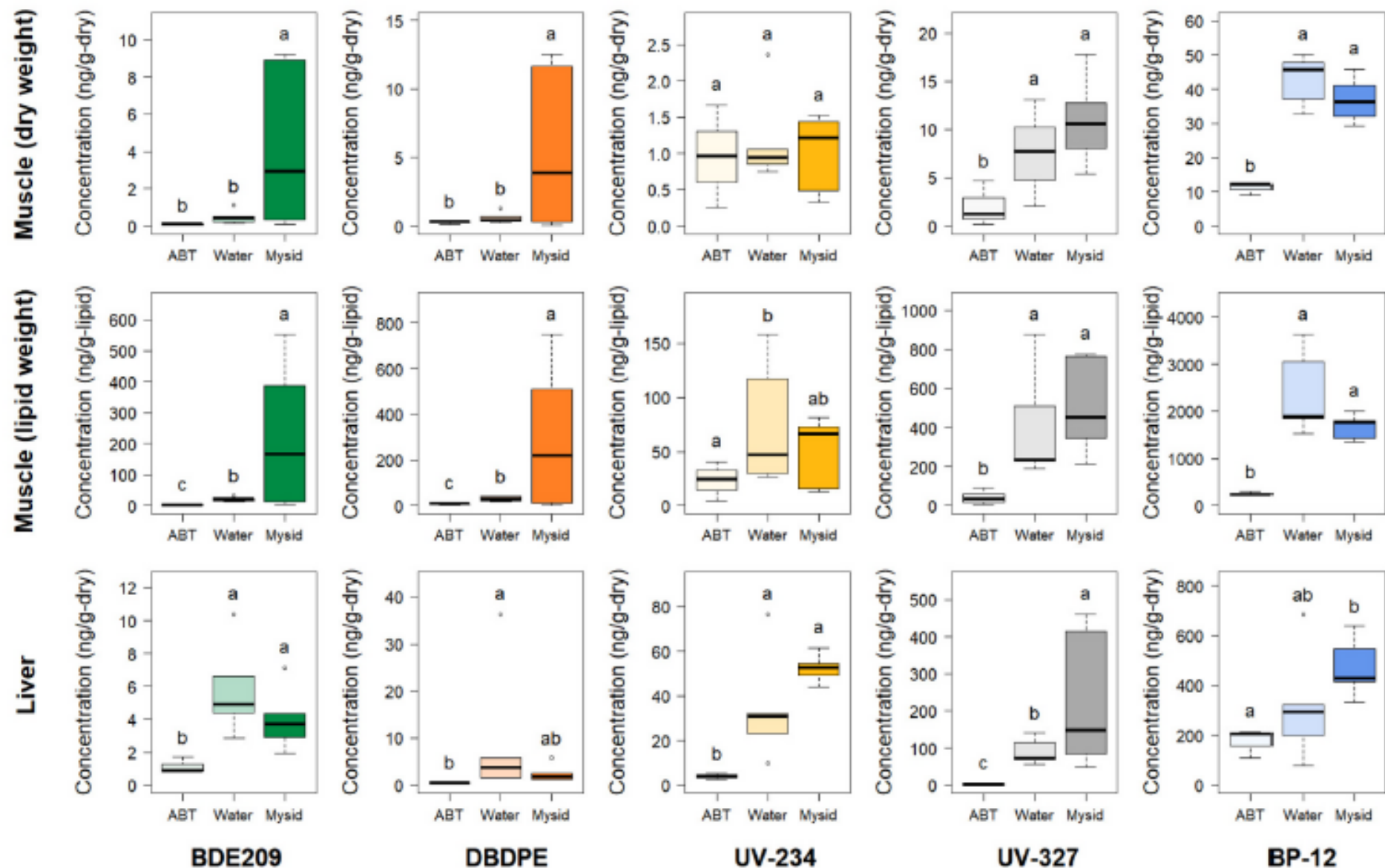
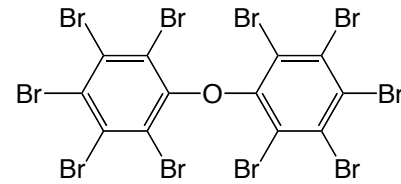
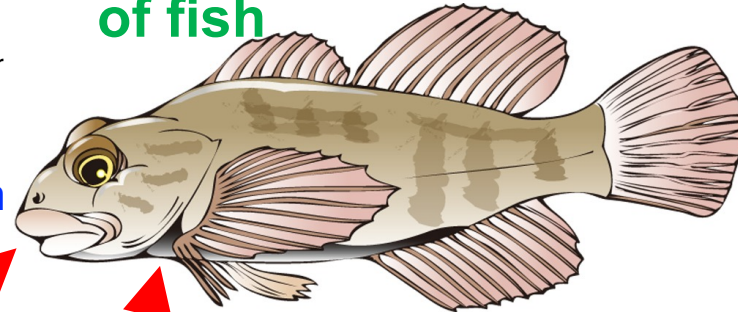


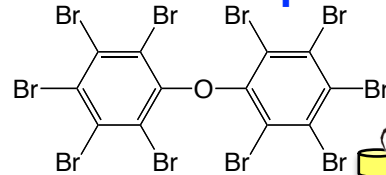
Fig. 3. Concentrations of the five additives in muscle (dry- and lipid-weight basis) and liver (dry-weight basis only) from fish immediately after collection from the ambient environment (ABT), fish exposed to microplastics suspended in the water column (Water), and fish fed mysids previously exposed to microplastics (Mysid). Concentrations were calculated by dividing the amount of the additive (ng) in the tissue by the dry weight (also lipid weight for muscle) of the tissue (g). Within each box and whisker plot, the solid horizontal line is the median, the bottom and top are the 25th to 75th percentiles, and the whiskers show the 10th and 90th percentiles. Values with the same letter are not significantly different ($P < 0.01$, generalized linear model with post hoc Tukey's honestly significant difference test).

Accumulation of additives in soft tissue of fish



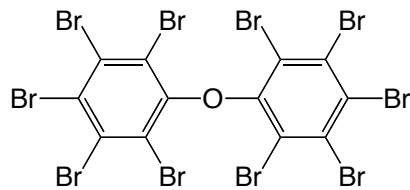
Direct accumulation in fatty tissue

Fish ingests microalgae with microplastics

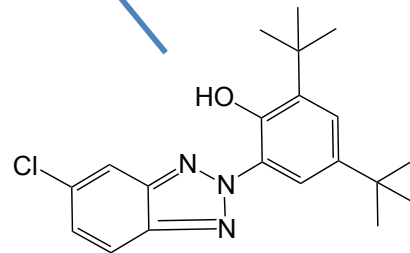


Microalgae uptakes microplastics

Microplastics compounded with additives

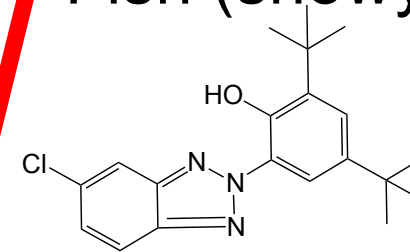


Highly hydrophobic



Moderately hydrophobic

Fish (snowy sculpin)



Accumulation in liver

Indirect concentration of additives from seawater

Conclusion:

Analysis of PP pellets demonstrated that **mm-size plastics transport BUVSs for hundreds to thousands kilo meters** without drastic degradation nor leaching.

>>[International regulation is necessary.](#)

Laboratory exposure experiments and field observations indicate that **hydrophobic additives** are not inert and **can be bioaccumulated in marine organisms including mussel, hermit crab, fish, and seabirds.**

Fragmentation, breaking down of microplastics, oily digestive fluid, and surfactants facilitate bioaccumulation of the additives.

For **highly hydrophobic additives** such as BDE209, **direct accumulation from ingested plastics** would be more important.

For **moderately hydrophobic additives** such as UV328 and UV327, **leaching to water and bioconcentration via water** could be important, too.

Implication and Recommendation:

>>International regulation

Microplastics are not biodegraded and easy to be resuspended and can be **repeatedly ingested by the biota until their burial**. Long-term accumulative exposure of additives to marine organisms and finally to human could be larger than we estimated based on single ingestion.

>>Total exposure of additives to human should be assessed by measurement of additives in all the potential sources and understating of individual processes.

On the other hand, **various plastic additives are detected in human body and some symptom of endocrine disruption has been already detected**.

>>As a precautionary approach, **reduction of plastic usage has been recommended**.

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SPECIAL COLLECTION
















THE MINDEROO-MONACO COMMISSION ON PLASTICS AND HUMAN HEALTH



**BOSTON
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The Minderoo-Monaco Commission on Plastics and Human Health

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MARGARIA-LUIZA PEDROTTI  MEGAN WOLFF
AROUB K. YOUSUF 
SARAH DUNLOP 

*Author affiliations can be found in the back matter of this article

Conclusions: It is now clear that current patterns of plastic production, use, and disposal are not sustainable and are responsible for significant harms to human health, the environment, and the economy as well as for deep societal injustices.

The main driver of these worsening harms is an almost exponential and still accelerating increase in global plastic production. Plastics' harms are further magnified by low rates of recovery and recycling and by the long persistence of plastic waste in the environment.

The thousands of chemicals in plastics—monomers, additives, processing agents, and non-intentionally added substances—include amongst their number known human carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, neurotoxicants, and persistent organic pollutants. These chemicals are responsible for many of plastics' known harms to human and planetary health. The chemicals leach out of plastics, enter the environment, cause pollution, and result in human exposure and disease. All efforts to reduce plastics' hazards must address the hazards of plastic-associated chemicals.

Recommendations: To protect human and planetary health, especially the health of vulnerable and at-risk populations, and put the world on track to end plastic pollution by 2040, this Commission supports urgent adoption by the world's nations of a strong and comprehensive Global Plastics Treaty in accord with the mandate set forth in the March 2022 resolution of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

International measures such as a Global Plastics Treaty are needed to curb plastic production and pollution, because the harms to human health and the environment caused by plastics, plastic-associated chemicals and plastic waste transcend national boundaries, are planetary in their scale, and have disproportionate impacts on the health and well-being of people in the world's poorest nations. Effective implementation of the Global Plastics Treaty will require that international action be coordinated and complemented by interventions at the national, regional, and local levels.

This Commission urges that a cap on global plastic production with targets, timetables, and national contributions be a central provision of the Global Plastics Treaty. We recommend inclusion of the following additional provisions:

Acknowledgement

We express our sincere appreciation to International Pollution Elimination Network (IPEN) and IPW volunteers for their collection of plastic samples, Dr. Denise Britta Hardesty, Dr. Juan Pablo Muñoz, Dr. Carlos A. Valle, Dr. Peter Ryan, Dr. David Hyrenbach, and Dr. Yutaka Watanuki for their providing the preen gland oil samples. The present study was supported by a Grant-in-Aid from the Ministry of Education and Culture of Japan (Projects No. 16H01768 and No. 17J05875) and the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (SII-2-2)

