



OPEN ACCESS

APPROVED BY
Frontiers Editorial Office,
Frontiers Media SA, Switzerland

*CORRESPONDENCE
De-Sheng Pei
✉ peids@cqmu.edu.cn

[†]These authors have contributed equally to
this work

RECEIVED 25 June 2024
ACCEPTED 25 June 2024
PUBLISHED 08 July 2024

CITATION
Yang X-G, Wen P-P, Yang Y-F, Jia P-P, Li W-G and Pei D-S (2024) Corrigendum: Plastic biodegradation by *in vitro* environmental microorganisms and *in vivo* gut microorganisms of insects. *Front. Microbiol.* 15:1444678.
doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2024.1444678

COPYRIGHT
© 2024 Yang, Wen, Yang, Jia, Li and Pei. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License \(CC BY\)](#). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.

Corrigendum: Plastic biodegradation by *in vitro* environmental microorganisms and *in vivo* gut microorganisms of insects

Xian-Guang Yang^{1†}, Ping-Ping Wen^{1,2†}, Yi-Fan Yang^{1,2}, Pan-Pan Jia², Wei-Guo Li¹ and De-Sheng Pei^{2*}

¹State Key Laboratory Base of Cell Differentiation and Regulation, College of Life Science, Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, China, ²School of Public Health, Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing, China

KEYWORDS

enzyme, gut microbes, insects, invertebrate, plastic biodegradation

A corrigendum on
[Plastic biodegradation by *in vitro* environmental microorganisms and *in vivo* gut microorganisms of insects](#)

by Yang, X.-G., Wen, P.-P., Yang, Y.-F., Jia, P.-P., Li, W.-G., and Pei, D.-S. (2023). *Front. Microbiol.* 13:1001750. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2022.1001750

In the published article, there was an error in a section title. Instead of **Biodegradation of plastics by insects**, it should be **Biodegradation of plastics by insects and other invertebrates**.

In the published article, there was an error in [Tables 2, 3](#) as published. The heading **Insect species** in the first cell of the first column and row of [Tables 2, 3](#) were incorrect, due to the fact that not all species listed in these tables are insects. For instance, *Achatina fulica* is not an insect but rather a mollusk belonging to the class *Gastropoda*. *Sphaeromera terebrans* is not an insect but rather an *Arthropoda* belonging to the class *Crustacea*.

The corrected [Tables 2, 3](#) and their captions appear below.

In the published article, there was an error. A correction has been made to the **Biodegradation of plastics by insects**, paragraph two. The statement is incomplete, as the species enumerated in [Tables 2, 3](#) are not entirely composed of insects. This sentence previously stated:

“Due to different insect species, plastic materials, and evaluation methods, it is difficult to simply describe the differences in the degradation rates of various insects, but specific degradation efficiency data are summarized in [Table 2](#). In addition, except for the insects that confirmed their capabilities of plastic biodegradation, other insects were also reported to eat plastics ([Table 3](#)), but their degradation abilities need further studies”.

The corrected sentence appears below:

“Due to different invertebrate species, plastic materials, and evaluation methods, it is difficult to simply describe the differences in the degradation rates of various insects,

TABLE 2 The confirmed plastic-degrading insects and their ability to degrade diverse plastic materials.

Insect species	Types of plastic	Degradation efficiency	Mechanisms	References
<i>Tenebrio molitor</i>	PE, PS	$49.0 \pm 1.4\%$ loss of PE and PS weight for 32 days	Gut microbiome- <i>Citrobacter</i> sp. and <i>Kosakonia</i> sp.	Brandon et al., 2018
	PS	/	Gut Microbiome- eight unique bacterial species	Brandon et al., 2021
	Polyether-PU foam	67% loss of PE-PU foam for 35 days	Gut Microbiome- the families <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> and <i>Streptococcaceae</i>	Liu et al., 2022
	PE	1.818 g PE of loss on the 58th day	Gut microbiome	Bulak et al., 2021
	PS	0.07 mg PE/larvae/day	Gut Microbiome- <i>Enterococcus</i> , <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> , <i>Escherichia-Shigell</i> , and <i>Lactococcus</i> .	Jiang et al., 2021a
	PS	22.0 ± 0.5 g PS loss in 2 weeks	<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> and <i>Lactococcus garvieae</i>	Bae et al., 2021
	PVC	65.4% loss of ingested PVC for 16 days	Gut microbiome	Peng et al., 2020a
<i>Zophobas atratus</i>	PS foam	36.7% loss of PS weight for 28 days	Gut microbiota	Yang et al., 2020
	PS	/	Gut Microbiome- <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp. EDB1, <i>Bacillus</i> sp. EDA4 and <i>Brevibacterium</i> sp. EDX	Arunrattiyakorn et al., 2022
	PS	2.78 mg PS/larvae/day	Gut Microbiome- <i>Enterococcus</i> , <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> , <i>Kluyvera</i> , and <i>Lactococcus NDa</i>	Jiang et al., 2021b
	PS, LDPE	43.3 ± 1.5 mg PS/100 larvae per day, 52.9 ± 3.1 mg LDPE/100 larvae per day	Gut microbiota and microbial functional enzymes	Peng et al., 2022
	LDPE, EPS	58.7 ± 1.8 mg/100 larvae per day, 61.5 ± 1.6 mg EPS/100 larvae per day	Gut microbiota	Peng et al., 2020b
<i>Galleria mellonella</i>	PE, PS	0.88 and 1.95 g loss of PE and PS weight for 21days	Intestinal bacteria- <i>Bacillus</i> and <i>Serratia</i>	Lou et al., 2020
	LDPE	/	Gut Microbiome- <i>Acinetobacter</i> , <i>Cloacibacterium</i> , <i>Corynebacterium</i> , <i>Curvibacter</i> , <i>Enhydrobacter</i> and <i>Staphylococcus genera</i>	Latour et al., 2021
	LDPE	/	Gut microbiome	Réjasse et al., 2021
	PS	/	Gut microbiota	Wang et al., 2022
	PS	$12.97 \pm 1.05\%$ loss weight of PS for 30 days	Intestinal bacteria- <i>Massilia</i> sp. FS1903	Jiang et al., 2021b
<i>Plodia interpunctella</i>	PE	$6.1 \pm 0.3\%$ and $10.7 \pm 0.2\%$ loss of PE weight for 28 days	Two bacterial strains- <i>Enterobacter asburiae</i> YT1 and <i>Bacillus</i> sp. YP1	Yang et al., 2014
	PE	15.87% loss of PE weight for 60 days	<i>Meyerozyma guilliermondii</i> ZJC1 (MgZJC1) and <i>Serratia marcescens</i> ZJC2 (SmZJC2)	Lou et al., 2022
<i>Tribolium castaneum</i>	PS	12.14% loss of mass weight and 13%/25% (Mw/Mn) reduction of molecular weight for 60 days	An intestinal bacterium- <i>Acinetobacter</i> bacterium	Wang et al., 2020
<i>Tenebrio obscurus</i>	PS	32.44 ± 0.51 mg/100 larvae per day	Intestinal bacteria- <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> , <i>Spiroplasmataceae</i> , and <i>Enterococcaceae</i>	Peng et al., 2019

(Continued)

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Insect species	Types of plastic	Degradation efficiency	Mechanisms	References
<i>Tribolium confusum</i>	PS, PE, and EVA (Ethyl vinyl acetate)	51.92, 46.84, and 2.9% loss of PS, PE, and EVA, respectively, for 30 days	/	Abdulhay, 2020
<i>Achroia grisella</i>	HDPE (high-density polyethylene)	Loss weight of PE- ($43.3 \pm 1.6\%$) and PE + wax ($69.6 \pm 3.2\%$) for 8 days	/	Kundungal et al., 2019
<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>	PVC	19.57% loss of PVC weight for	Intestinal bacterium -Strain EMBL-1	Zhu et al., 2022
<i>Alphitobius diaperinus</i>	PS	/	Intestinal bacteria- <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp. 2 m/c	Cucini et al., 2022
<i>Uloma</i> sp.	PS	37.14 mg of PS per day per 100 larvae	Gut microbiota	Kundungal et al., 2021
<i>Corcyra cephalonica</i> (Stainton)	LDPE	Weight loss: without antibiotic feeding - 25% with antibiotic feeding - 21%	Gut microbiota	Kesti and Sharana, 2019
<i>Plesiophthalmus davidis</i>	PS	34.27 ± 4.04 mg PS loss/larva	Gut microbiota	Woo et al., 2020

TABLE 3 The reported plastics-eating insects and the corresponding plastic types.

Insect species	Types of plastic	References
<i>Ephestia cautella</i>	PVC, PP	Graham Bowditch, 1997
<i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i>	PP, PE, PEST	Graham Bowditch, 1997
<i>Lasioderma serricorne</i>	PP, PE, PEST	Riudavets et al., 2007
<i>Sitophilus oryzae</i>	PP, PE, PEST	Riudavets et al., 2007
<i>Oryzaephilus surinamensis</i>	PE	Shukla et al., 1993
<i>Callosobruchus maculatus</i>	PE	Shukla et al., 1993
<i>Stegobium paniceum</i>	PS	Davidson, 2012

but specific degradation efficiency data are summarized in Table 2. In addition, except for the invertebrates that confirmed their capabilities of plastic biodegradation, other invertebrates were also reported to eat plastics (Table 3), but their degradation abilities need further studies”.

The authors apologize for these errors and state that they do not change the scientific conclusions of the article in any way. The original article has been updated.

Publisher's note

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

References

- Abdulhay, H. (2020). Biodegradation of plastic wastes by confused flour beetle *Tribolium confusum* Jacquel du Val larvae. *Asian J. Agric. Biol.* 8, 201–206. doi: 10.35495/ajab.2019.11.515
- Arunrattiyakorn, P., Ponprateep, S., Kaennonsang, N., Charapok, Y., Punphuet, Y., Krajangsang, S., et al. (2022). Biodegradation of polystyrene by three bacterial strains isolated from the gut of Superworms (*Zophobas atratus* larvae). *J. Appl. Microbiol.* 132, 2823–2831. doi: 10.1111/jam.15474
- Bae, J., Cho, H. W., Jung, H., Park, J., Yun, S., Ha, S., et al. (2021). Changes in Intestinal Microbiota Due to the Expanded Polystyrene Diet of Mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*). *Indian J. Microbiol.* 61, 130–136. doi: 10.1007/s12088-021-00922-w
- Brandon, A. M., Gao, S. H., Tian, R., Ning, D., Yang, S. S., Zhou, J., et al. (2018). Biodegradation of Polyethylene and Plastic Mixtures in Mealworms (Larvae of *Tenebrio molitor*) and Effects on the Gut Microbiome. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 52, 6526–6533. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.8b02301
- Brandon, A. M., Garcia, A. M., Khlystov, N. A., Wu, W. M., and Criddle, C. S. (2021). Enhanced bioavailability and microbial biodegradation of polystyrene in an enrichment derived from the gut microbiome of *tenebrio molitor* (Mealworm Larvae). *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 55, 2027–2036. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.0c04952
- Bulak, P., Proc, K., Pytlak, A., Puszka, A., Gawdzik, B., and Bieganowski, A. (2021). Biodegradation of different types of plastics by *tenebrio molitor* insect. *Polymers* 13, 3508. doi: 10.3390/polym13203508
- Cucini, C., Funari, R., Mercati, D., Nardi, F., Carapelli, A., and Marri, L. (2022). Polystyrene shaping effect on the enriched bacterial community from the plastic-eating *Alphitobius diaperinus* (Insecta: Coleoptera). *Symbiosis* 86, 305–313. doi: 10.1007/s13199-022-00847-y
- Davidson, T. M. (2012). Boring crustaceans damage polystyrene floats under docks polluting marine waters with microplastic. *Mar. Pollut. Bull.* 64, 1821–1828. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2012.06.005
- Graham Bowditch, T. (1997). Penetration of Polyvinyl Chloride and Polypropylene Packaging Films by *Ephestia cautella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) and *Plodia interpunctella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) Larvae, and *Tribolium confusum* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) Adults. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 90, 1028–1031
- Jiang, S., Su, T., Zhao, J., and Wang, Z. (2021a). Biodegradation of polystyrene by *tenebrio molitor*, *galleria mellonella*, and *zophobas atratus* larvae and comparison of their degradation effects. *Polymers* 13, 3539. doi: 10.3390/polym13203539

- Jiang, S., Su, T., Zhao, J., and Wang, Z. (2021b). Isolation, identification, and characterization of polystyrene-degrading bacteria from the gut of *galleria mellonella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) Larvae. *Front. Bioeng. Biotechnol.* 9, 736062. doi: 10.3389/fbioe.2021.736062
- Kesti, S., and Sharana, S. (2019). First report on biodegradation of low density polyethylene by rice moth larvae, *Coryza cephalonica* (Stainton). *Holistic Appr. Environ.* 9, 79–83. doi: 10.33765/thate.9.4.2
- Kundungal, H., Gangarapu, M., Sarangapani, S., Patchaiyappan, A., and Devipriya, S. P. (2019). Efficient biodegradation of polyethylene (HDPE) waste by the plastic-eating lesser waxworm (*Achroia grisella*). *Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res.* 26, 18509–18519. doi: 10.1007/s11356-019-05038-9
- Kundungal, H., Synshiang, K., and Devipriya, S. P. (2021). Biodegradation of polystyrene wastes by a newly reported honey bee pest *Uloma* sp. larvae: An insight to the ability of polystyrene-fed larvae to complete its life cycle. *Environ. Chall.* 4, 100083. doi: 10.1016/j.envc.2021.100083
- Latour, S., Noël, G., Serteyn, L., Sare, A. R., Massart, S., Delvigne, F., et al. (2021). Multi-omics approach reveals new insights into the gut microbiome of *Galleria mellonella* (Lepidoptera:Pyralidae) exposed to polyethylene diet. *bioRxiv*.2021.2006.2004.446152. doi: 10.1101/2021.06.04.446152
- Liu, J., Liu, J., Xu, B., Xu, A., Cao, S., Wei, R., et al. (2022). Biodegradation of polyether-polyurethane foam in yellow mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) and effects on the gut microbiome. *Chemosphere* 304, 135263. doi: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.135263
- Lou, H., Fu, R., Long, T., Fan, B., Guo, C., Li, L., et al. (2022). Biodegradation of polyethylene by *Meyeromyza guillermondi* and *Serratia marcescens* isolated from the gut of waxworms (larvae of *Plodia interpunctella*). *Sci. Total Environ.* 853, 158604. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.158604
- Lou, Y., Ekaterina, P., Yang, S. S., Lu, B., Liu, B., Ren, N., et al. (2020). Biodegradation of polyethylene and polystyrene by greater wax moth larvae (*Galleria mellonella* L.) and the effect of co-diet supplementation on the core gut microbiome. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 54, 2821–2831. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.9b07044
- Peng, B.-Y., Chen, Z., Chen, J., Yu, H., Zhou, X., Criddle, C. S., et al. (2020a). Biodegradation of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) in *Tenebrio molitor* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) larvae. *Environ. Int.* 145, 106106. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2020.106106
- Peng, B.-Y., Li, Y., Fan, R., Chen, Z., Chen, J., Brandon, A. M., et al. (2020b). Biodegradation of low-density polyethylene and polystyrene in superworms, larvae of *Zophobas atratus* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae): Broad and limited extent depolymerization. *Environ. Pollut.* 266, 115206. doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2020.115206
- Peng, B.-Y., Sun, Y., Wu, Z., Chen, J., Shen, Z., Zhou, X., et al. (2022). Biodegradation of polystyrene and low-density polyethylene by *Zophobas atratus* larvae: Fragmentation into microplastics, gut microbiota shift, and microbial functional enzymes. *J. Cleaner Prod.* 367, 132987. doi: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.132987
- Peng, B. Y., Su, Y., Chen, Z., Chen, J., Zhou, X., Benbow, M. E., et al. (2019). Biodegradation of Polystyrene by Dark (*Tenebrio obscurus*) and Yellow (*Tenebrio molitor*) Mealworms (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae). *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 53, 5256–5265. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.8b06963
- Réjasse, A., Waeytens, J., Deniset-Besseau, A., Crapart, N., Nielsen-Leroux, C., and Sandt, C. (2021). Plastic biodegradation: do *Galleria mellonella* larvae - bio-assimilate polyethylene? A spectral histology approach using isotopic labelling and infrared microspectroscopy. *bioRxiv*.2021.2010.2008.463624. doi: 10.1101/2021.10.08.463624
- Riudavets, J., Salas, I., and Pons, M. J. (2007). Damage characteristics produced by insect pests in packaging film. *J. Stored Prod. Res.* 43, 564–570. doi: 10.1016/j.jspr.2007.03.006
- Shukla, R. M., Chand, G., Chandra, M., and Saini, M. L. (1993). Comparative resistance of different packaging materials to stored grain insects. *Plant Prot. Bull.* 45, 21–23.
- Wang, S., Shi, W., Huang, Z., Zhou, N., Xie, Y., Tang, Y., et al. (2022). Complete digestion/biodegradation of polystyrene microplastics by greater wax moth (*Galleria mellonella*) larvae: Direct in vivo evidence, gut microbiota independence, and potential metabolic pathways. *J. Hazardous Mater.* 423, 127213. doi: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2021.127213
- Wang, Z., Xin, X., Shi, X., and Zhang, Y. (2020). A polystyrene-degrading *Acinetobacter* bacterium isolated from the larvae of *Tribolium castaneum*. *Sci. Total Environ.* 726, 138564. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.138564
- Woo, S., Song, I., and Cha, H. J. (2020). Fast and Facile Biodegradation of Polystyrene by the Gut Microbial Flora of *Plesiophthalmus davidi* Larvae. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 86, e01361–e01320. doi: 10.1128/AEM.01361-20
- Yang, J., Yang, Y., Wu, W. M., Zhao, J., and Jiang, L. (2014). Evidence of polyethylene biodegradation by bacterial strains from the guts of plastic-eating waxworms. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 48, 13776–13784. doi: 10.1021/es504038a
- Yang, Y., Wang, J., and Xia, M. (2020). Biodegradation and mineralization of polystyrene by plastic-eating superworms *Zophobas atratus*. *Sci. Total Environ.* 708, 135233. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.135233
- Zhu, P., Shen, Y., Li, X., Liu, X., Qian, G., and Zhou, J. (2022). Feeding preference of insect larvae to waste electrical and electronic equipment plastics. *Sci. Total Environ.* 807, 151037. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.151037