

ORIGINAL

## Effects of Microbeads and Cadmium on plant development and Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Organisms in Soil

### Efectos de las microperlas y el cadmio en el desarrollo de las plantas y los organismos micorrízicos arbusculares en el suelo

Lakshya Swarup<sup>1</sup> , Ayush Gandhi<sup>2</sup> , Neeraj Agarwal<sup>3</sup> , Ashvini V. Jadhav<sup>4</sup>, Prakash Ranjan Behera<sup>5</sup> ,  
Mekala Ishwarya<sup>6</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Chitkara Centre for Research and Development, Chitkara University, Himachal Pradesh-174103 India.

<sup>2</sup>Centre of Research Impact and Outcome, Chitkara University, Rajpura- 140417, Punjab, India.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biotechnology, Noida Institute of Engineering & Technology, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India.

<sup>4</sup>Krishna Institute of Science and Technology, Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth "Deemed to be University", Taluka-Karad, Dist-Satara, Pin-415 539, Maharashtra, India.

<sup>5</sup>Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

<sup>6</sup>Centre for Multidisciplinary Research, Anurag University, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

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**Corresponding author:** Lakshya Swarup 

#### ABSTRACT

Micro plastics (MPs) have gained attention as new pollutants worldwide, but little is known about how it interacts with metal contamination in soil-plant ecosystems. Here, research looked into how Cadmium (Cd) and Micro plastics, such as polyethylene (PE) and polylactic acid (PLA), affected the growth of plants and the neighborhood of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in agricultural Soil. While 10 % PLA reduced the total biomass of maize and the amount of chlorophyll in the leaves, PE showed no discernible phytotoxicity. Between PE and Cadmium, there was an important impact on the volume of roots, but likewise, PLA nor Cadmium had an important effect. PE and PLA showed minimal impact on cadmium accumulation in plant tissues, but they increased soil pH and DTPA-extractable cadmium concentrations. Different treatments showed different counts of pandemic and total OTUs. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungus (AMF) taxa showed a highly variable abundance ratio with Micro plastics and Cadmium. According to the type and dose of Micro plastics, AMF diversity in communities and structure was changed. The dominant AMF genus exhibited but significant interactions with Micro plastics which were further influenced by the presence of Cadmium. Overall, MP sort and quantity, Cadmium and the way it interacts, and the high dose of PLA induced increased phytotoxicity, which changed with the growth of plants and the AMF. In conclusion, coexisting Micro plastics and Cadmium could collectively influence plant function and root symbiosis changes, increasing the dangers to agriculture systems and habitat biodiversity.

**Keywords:** Microplastics (MPs); Cadmium (Cd); Roots and Shoots, Soil.

#### RESUMEN

Los microplásticos (MP) han cobrado importancia como nuevos contaminantes en todo el mundo, pero se sabe poco sobre cómo interactúan con la contaminación por metales en los ecosistemas suelo-planta. En este estudio se investigó cómo el cadmio (Cd) y los microplásticos, como el polietileno (PE) y el ácido poliláctico (PLA), afectaban al crecimiento de las plantas y a la presencia de hongos micorrízicos arbusculares en

suelos agrícolas. Mientras que el 10 % de PLA redujo la biomasa total del maíz y la cantidad de clorofila en las hojas, el PE no mostró ninguna fitotoxicidad apreciable. Entre el PE y el cadmio, se observó un impacto importante en el volumen de las raíces, pero, del mismo modo, ni el PLA ni el cadmio tuvieron un efecto significativo. El PE y el PLA mostraron un impacto mínimo en la acumulación de cadmio en los tejidos vegetales, pero aumentaron el pH del suelo y las concentraciones de cadmio extraíble con DTPA. Los diferentes tratamientos mostraron diferentes recuentos de OTU pandémicas y totales. Los taxones de hongos micorrízicos arbusculares (AMF) mostraron una proporción de abundancia muy variable con los microplásticos y el cadmio. Según el tipo y la dosis de microplásticos, la diversidad y la estructura de las comunidades de AMF se modificaron. El género dominante de AMF mostró interacciones significativas con los microplásticos, que se vieron influidas además por la presencia de cadmio. En general, el tipo y la cantidad de MP, el cadmio y su forma de interactuar, y la alta dosis de PLA indujeron un aumento de la fitotoxicidad, que cambió con el crecimiento de las plantas y los AMF. En conclusión, la coexistencia de microplásticos y cadmio podría influir colectivamente en la función de las plantas y los cambios en la simbiosis de las raíces, aumentando los peligros para los sistemas agrícolas y la biodiversidad del hábitat.

**Palabras clave:** Microplásticos (MP); Cadmio (Cd); Raíces y Brotes; Suelo.

## INTRODUCTION

Micro Plastics (MPs), a recently recognized pollutant, have drawn growing attention due to their widespread prevalence in various habitats. The majority and effects of Micro plastics in ecosystems on earth, especially in Soil, have recently received increasing attention. While the volume can exceed tones in country, it is assessed that thousand tons of Micro plastics are unconstrained yearly to regions. Additionally, synthetic binder screens and biological fertilizers could release Micro plastics into soils used for agriculture. Multiple investigations have demonstrated the presence of different Micro plastics in Soil, particularly in farms. When Micro plastics are present in the Soil, it's not only disturbed the structure and characteristics of the Soil then similarly negatively disturb soil-dwelling creatures and plants, potentially endangering terrestrial ecosystems. The effects of Micro plastics and nanoscale polymers with less dimension (100 nm) in ecological systems need greater consideration for healthier food manufacturing.<sup>(1)</sup>

Micro plastics typically have a remarkable ability to attach to different pollutants due to their particular huge surface area, acting as their vectors. The relationships between Micro plastics and the related pollutants could change their environmental behaviors, accessibility, and harmful effects, posing various dangers for agricultural and natural environments. Although the linked potential was not considered for earthworms in a previous investigation, Zn adsorbing to high-dense polyethylene (HDPE), micro particles was readily accessible, indicating potential risks for agricultural organisms. Naturally, Micro plastics with pollutant loads could pose a wider range of dangers than the Micro plastics themselves. The impact of pollutants and Micro plastics on soil and plant biota is poorly understood.<sup>(2)</sup> Among the harmful substances frequently found in agriculture are traces of metals. For example, the most common metals contamination of agricultural soils is cadmium. Due to their widespread co-occurring, Micro plastics and Cadmium most likely communicate with one another in the Soil to cause a range of behaviors and physiological impacts.<sup>(3)</sup>

Cadmium deposited onto HDPE Micro plastics was detached from the Micro plastics, and including HDPE Micro plastics boosted soil Cadmium hydrolysis rather than reducing its adhesion. It remains uncertain, though, if the cohabitation of Micro plastics would affect how heavy metals, particularly Cadmium, affect soil and plant microbes biologically. Micro plastics can change soil composition, plant growth, and structure, disturbing the local microbial population. A few investigations have shown that Micro plastics change the proportion and viability of the number of soil microorganisms. However, the kind and dose of the Micro plastics significantly impact the outcomes.<sup>(4)</sup>

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF), which created interactions with many higher-growing plants in varied settings, are among the most common beneficial bacteria. Supposedly, social structures and AMF activity was be affected by Micro plastics, which have an impact on the efficiency of the plants. To date, just one analysis has found that Micro plastics affect mycorrhizal symbiosis: Polyester (PES) enhanced AMF root colonization by an order of magnitude of eight, polypropylene (PP) increased it by a factor of 1,4, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) decreased it by order of magnitude of fifty percent.<sup>(5)</sup> In addition, numerous studies have shown that heavy metal contamination harms AMF diversity and abundance. In this context, Micro plastics could modify soil attributes, such as the absorption and toxicity of heavy metals, in a way that impacts AMF community composition. Without any question, there is a shortage of data regarding how AMF reacts to Micro plastics and the presence of other metals.<sup>(6)</sup>

The article evaluated the growth, physiological indicators, and cadmium accumulation of *Sedum Aizoon* L.

under various treatments to investigate the impact of different arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi on cadmium uptake.<sup>(7)</sup> The findings demonstrated that GM and GMA fungus considerably increased plant biomass and growth.

A strain of *Penicillium amphilobum*, XK11, was selected for this research from the volcanic waste because of its great ability to resist antimony (Sb III) and Cadmium (Cadmium II).<sup>(8)</sup> The type of bacteria has a high capacity for the solubility of phosphates. The findings of the single-factor absorption research demonstrated that the process of incorporation of Sb and Cadmium by XK11 was influenced by the starting pH (pH0), adsorption period (T), and the beginning solution concentration (C0). These findings support the possibility of using XK11 as a biomaterial or to clean up Sb and Cadmium pollution.

This research showed that ectomycorrhizal fungus had specific effects on their development, nutritional content, ROS production, and organic acids excretion in response to contact with micron and nanoscale PS-Micro plastics.<sup>(9)</sup> Additionally, various particle dimensions and quantities had distinct ecological effects on ectomycorrhizal fungi. The findings of this investigation were served as a solid scientific foundation for future research on the acute toxicity of Micro plastics to soil-dwelling ectomycorrhizal fungi.

The work used a hydroponic wheat seedling experiment to examine the binding characteristics of contaminants onto polystyrene (PS) Micro plastics and the toxicity and availability of Micro plastics and heavy metals.<sup>(10)</sup> Findings demonstrated that PS Micro plastics did not significantly impact ROS concentration, photosynthesis, and development of wheat seedlings (0,5 m, 100 mg/L).

In this investigation, PVC-Micro plastics lowered the newly collected weights of *V. natans* both with and without Cadmium exposure.<sup>(11)</sup> This analysis dramatically reduced the newly formed weights at exposure levels of 5 and 15 mg Cadmium. These results suggest that Micro plastics can impede the development of immersed macrophytes individually or in conjunction with a Cadmium pollutant rather than reducing Cadmium toxicity.

The effects of cadmium and PLA microplastics, both separately and in combination, on pakchoi shape, antioxidant structures, and soil microbial activity were investigated in this article.<sup>(12)</sup> It used the soil aging process to cultivate organically matured polylactic acid (PLA) microplastics. These results demonstrated that, compared to their virgin counterparts, ancient PLA (PLAa) microplastics with a fractured surface that were submerged in soil for six months had more detrimental effects on pakchoi. The aim of this investigation that ascertain the impact of polystyrene Micro plastics, Cadmium, with their mixture on the development of *Oryza sativa* L. Young plant roots and associated biological and neurotoxic consequences.<sup>(13)</sup>

Research used a container experiment in a humid conservatory to examine how PMD (polyethylene) affected the nutrients of the Soil, the number of bacteria in the rhizosphere, and rice development at various doses.<sup>(14)</sup> Based on the correlation analysis and other research, this research investigated the interaction processes between PMD and environmental variables in more detail.

This investigation looked at how lucerne development was affected by phosphate-solubilizing bacteria (PSB) and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) at different exposure levels.<sup>(15)</sup> Accomplish unplanned prohibit methodology was applied in this experiment. According to the findings, each index climbed initially and then started declining as the amount of phosphorus doubled.

The purpose of this research, to proposed that the cohabitation of Micro plastics was alter Cadmium absorption in particles, with ensuing effects on seedlings and their commensal AMF. In this research, soil culture research was carried out to examine the individual and mixed impacts of Micro plastics and Cadmium on the development and Cadmium formation in maize cultivated in farming soil, as well as the organization and variety of the AMF community. This investigation could contribute to a greater comprehension of the relationships between harmful metals and micro plastics in agricultural systems.

Research enduring sectors are prepared as follows: The methods are discussed in Part 2, the results are shown in Part 3, and the conclusion is given in Part 4.

## METHOD

In this section, this research explores the Fluid phase, Solid phase, and Thermal method for modeling heat transfer.

### Micro plastics

Specific goals were chosen from two classes of Micro plastics: sustainable polylactic acid (PLA) and traditional polyethylene of high density (PE). The generic type of PLA 4032D, which has a boiling point of 160 C, an approximate solidity of 1,24 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and a precipitation of roughly 37 %, was bought from Nature Works. It was individually sieved to guarantee that the Micro plastics had fragments spanning from 100 to 154 mm.

### Soil

The soil sample was acquired from a farm in different Districts. Subsequently clearing away any rocks, trash, and leftover organic and inorganic matter, the newly prepared Soil was dried out in the air. It was filtered to analyze and cultivate the dehydrated Soil by employing a 2 mm sieve. Table 1 displays the specific characteristics of the Soil.

Table 1. Cadmium levels and absorbs in the roots and surface soil of maize plantlets treated with PE and PLA

| MPs action |                | DTPA-Cd (mg/kg) |       | Cd conc. in plants (mg/kg) |       |       |        | Cd uptake in plants (mg/pot) |        |       |         |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|------------------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Category   | Dosage (mg/kg) | Surface soil    |       | Aerial growth              |       | Roots |        | Aerial growth                |        | Roots |         |
|            |                | M               | SD    | M                          | SD    | M     | SD     | M                            | SD     | M     | SD      |
| Group      | 0              | 4,48            | 1,06c | 21,16                      | 3,42a | 39,32 | 3,84ab | 1,074                        | 1,006a | 1,028 | 1,009a  |
| PE         | 2,2 %          | 4,84            | 1,12b | 23,24                      | 2,89a | 46,19 | 7,55a  | 1,074                        | 1,013a | 1,036 | 1,017a  |
|            | 2 %            | 4,33            | 1,09b | 22,86                      | 8,94a | 34,36 | 2,59b  | 1,075                        | 1,025a | 1,028 | 1,007ab |
|            | 12 %           | 4,28            | 1,08d | 21,46                      | 4,94a | 44,45 | 3,23a  | 1,058                        | 1,009a | 1,027 | 1,010ab |
| PLA        | 2,2 %          | 5,28            | 1,18a | 24,24                      | 3,52a | 37,52 | 4,99ab | 1,079                        | 1,014a | 1,028 | 1,012ab |
|            | 2 %            | 5,22            | 1,18a | 19,18                      | 5,98a | 40,79 | 6,89ab | 1,066                        | 1,014a | 1,034 | 1,005a  |
|            | 12 %           | 5,19            | 1,15a | 21,59                      | 2,72a | 38,75 | 9,59ab | 1,042                        | 009b   | 1,015 | 1,009b  |

### Maize

The industry provided the maize seeds. These seeds were sterilized on their outermost part for 15 minutes with 2 % NaClO solution and then repeatedly rinsed with purified water.

### Innovative planning and execution

In this research trifactorial test used three different MP kinds, four MP dosages, and 2 Cadmium levels. There were, therefore, a total of 10 therapies, each with four repetitions. Constructed on the current understanding of Micro plastics prevalence in soils with earlier investigations, the dosages of Micro plastics were established. The estimated levels of Cadmium in Soil are a globally sensible amount.

Micro plastics were extensively incorporated into the Soil for distribution to the desired dosages. The soil-Micro plastics combination has been laced with Cadmium using a solution of Cadmium  $(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Before planting seeds, the soil specimens were allowed to become acquainted for a week at the room's temperature. With 890 g of evaporated surface Micro plastics assortment, 20 uniformly sterile-on-the-outside embryos were planted towards all vessels. Ten uniformly sized seedlings were kept after the appearance of seedlings.

To keep the Soil's water content at around 12-18 %, deionized water was irrigated intermittently. The plants were gathered for testing one month after the seeds were sown. After completely blending the earth in every pot, 50 g samples of the Soil were taken for soil property evaluation. Subsamples were immediately loaded into 10 mL concave separator vessels and kept at 80 C for DNA removal and rapid sequencing investigation. Each subsample weighed around 10 g.

### Botanical and evaluation of Soil

In the experiment, this research stated natural measurements, dried measurements, and the amount of chlorophyll present in plant samples were all measured. Here is how the process is broken down:

- The plant's root systems and shoots were collected and divided.
- The roots and shoots were also cleansed with water from the faucet, and then ionized water was used.
- The new weights of the sources and nodes were considered after cleaning them.
- After that, the roots and shoots from the fresh materials were dehydrated in arange for 24 hours at 72 °C.
- After dispensation, the remaining moisture masses of the root systems and shoots were calculated.
- The newly collected leaves were collected for measuring chlorophyll on the same day as containing.
- Leaf material that weighed about 0,1 grams had been scrubbed and diced up.
- Twenty ml of a 95 % ethanol solution were added to a tube containing leaf tissue.
- To give the tissues enough time to bleach properly, the tube was left in the dark for 18 hours.
- Following bleaching, the extraction was diluted with a 95 % ethanol solution to achieve a final volume of 50 mL.
- By evaluating the extraction's absorption at 666 nm and 650 nm, accordingly, with an optical analyzer the amounts of chlorophyll a with b were identified.
- The chlorophyll a and b levels were then added to determine the overall quantity of chlorophyll.
- It is essential to recall that the method described has been condensed using the information at availability.
- According to the data, it seems to explain an academic method or research involving detecting the pH of soil expulsions and figuring out the amount of Cadmium (Cadmium) easily accessible in the soil and plant components. The steps are broken down as follows:

### PH Measurement

- Preparation of soil suspensions with a soil-to-water ratio of 1:2,5 (w/v).
- The pH of the soil suspensions was unrushed with a pH meter.

### Extracting Cadmium

- The easily accessible cadmium was extracted from the soil using a DTPA solution.
- The soil-DTPA fluid combination has a 1:2 (w/v) Soil DTPA formula ratio.
- The combination was agitated for two hours at 25°C with 180 rpm.
- The resulting resolution was passed through employing paper filters and a 45 mm Millipore filter after stirring.

### Measurement of Cadmium Focusing

The Cadmium content in the purified fluid was determined using a Shimadzu AA-7000 atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

- Plant Sample Preparation: The plant elements were air-dried and pulverized to a powdery consistency.
- Immerse Absorption: By applying nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ), the plant matter was wet-digested.
- Cadmium Concentration Examination: Using a mass spectrometer with inductively coupled plasma, the Cadmium absorption in the metabolized solution was resolute.

The method for determining the pH of soil suspensions and quantifying the quantity of accessible Cadmium throughout both soil and plant samples is outlined.

### Analytical statistics

The evaluation of data was conducted using SPSS24.0 and R4.3 software. All the data were developed. Numerous fluctuate test was used to analyze the importance of the interventions at  $P < 0.05$ . The relevance of communications between Micro plastics type, Microplastics dose, and Cadmium was evaluated using ANOVA.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Impact of Microplastics on Extractable Cadmium in Soil

For instance, in table 1, no detectable DTPA-retrieved Cadmium attentions remained in Soil that did not receive any Cadmium. When 5 mg/kg Cadmium had been further into the Soil, amounts of DTPA-extractable Cadmium increased. PLA enlarged, afterward PE (except at the 10 % dosage), and the consequences were affected by Micro plastics type and dose, Cadmium, and relationships among them. Future research on the behavior of Cadmium attached to soil elements under the impact of Micro plastics is quite intriguing.

### Soil pH

As shown in Figure 1, adding Cadmium ( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub> caused minor but irrelevant changes in soil pH associated solely with Cadmium. Additionally, the insertion of MPs affected soil pH, but the consequences be contingent on Microplastics variety, quantity, with Cadmium (figure 1).

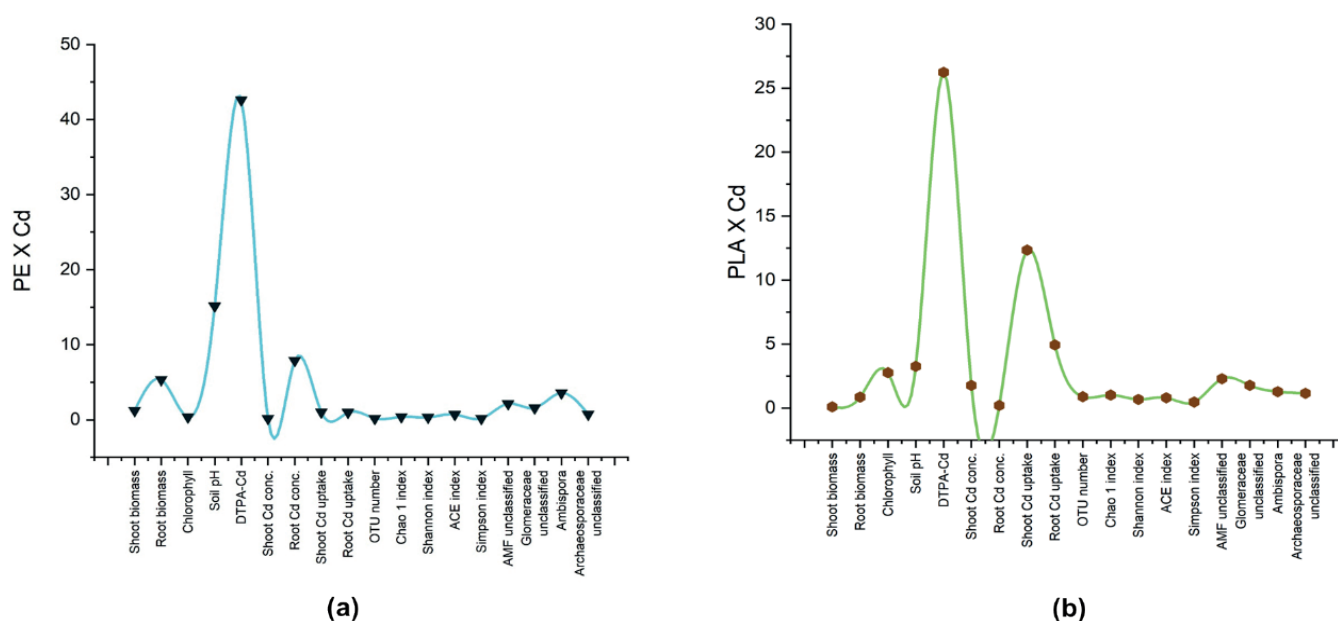


Figure 1. ANOVA coefficients and their effects on restrained variables

In the absence of Microplastics, Cadmium supplementation usually resulted in a greater soil pH level than the equivalent condition that did not receive Cadmium (figure 2), supporting the interaction between Microplastics and Cadmium. Microplastics could alter the environmental behaviors of Cadmium in Soil, including disintegration, moisture, breakdown, adsorption, and pH-related effects. Research observed no reduction in soil pH but an impressive rise, consistent with earlier results.

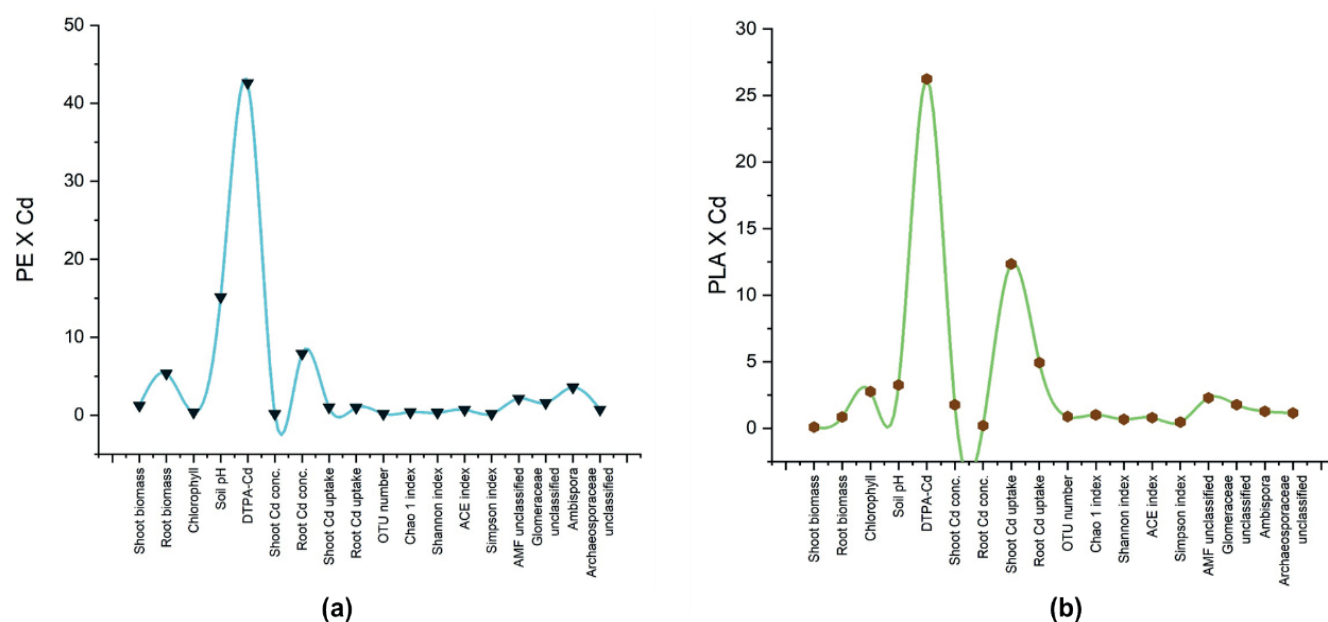


Figure 2. Impacts of leaves in maize seedlings

### Plant biomass

In the current research, when the results of ANOVA were combined (figure 2), both stem and growth-dehydrated heavy objects were significantly affected by MP type and dose, as well as Cadmium inclusion. PE did not reduce biomass from plants in the absence of Cadmium, whereas PLA significantly impeded the growth of plants at the 10 % dose but had no significant effects at 0,1 % and 1 %. It is anticipated that recyclable plastics such as PLA was supplanting non-biodegradable traditional plastics to combat pollution from plastics—however, their negative effects on crop development and output warrant further analysis.

### Fluorescence content in leaves

Maintaining a typical amount of fluorescence is essential for photosynthesis in plants. Comparable to the impacts on biomass from plants, PE had no substantial effects on the amount of chlorophyll. In contrast, PLA at advanced concentrations initiated a considerable reduction, which moderately clarifies the inhibitory effect of PLA on plant material.

### Cadmium concentration and uptake in plants

A separate investigation demonstrated that PVC Micro plastics diminished the formation of whole as and decreased as (V) in earthworms. In this analysis, neither the shoots nor the root system of plants grown in Cadmium-free soil contained detectable Cadmium levels (Table 1). The development of cadmium in the stems and Aerial growth of plants cultivated in cadmium-enriched soil is evidence that cadmium is decidedly accessible and transportable in the soil-plant ecosystem. Though, neither PE nor PLA substantially affected the levels of Cadmium in sprouts and seeds (table 1). Only 10 % PLA substantially decreased shoot and root Cadmium uptake likened to the control (Table 1), which can be clarified as the reduced plant.

### AMF Diversity of Society and Organization

Four species were recognized: Ambispora, Glomus, Claroideoglomus, and Paraglomus. At the same time, unprotected AMF that were unable to be assigned to the species level as well as other unidentified AMF.

The proportional number of AMF taxa differed widely concerning Microplastics and Cadmium. The proportion of species of the genus Ambispora was greater in the mixtures containing 12 % PE (20,19 %) and 12 % PLA (19,79 %) (figure 3).

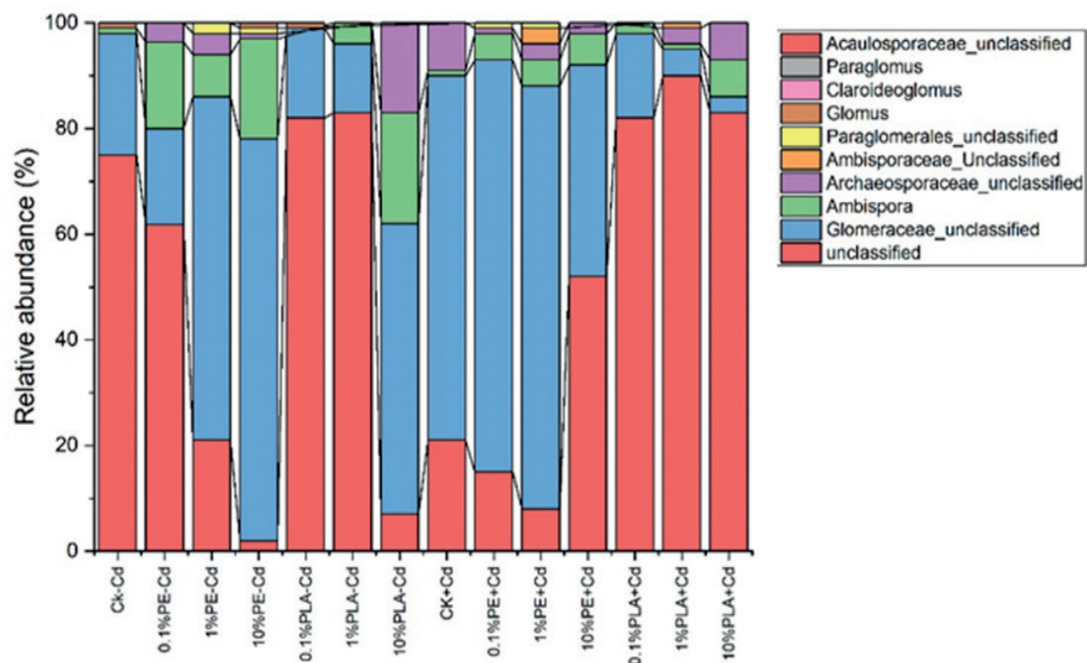


Figure 3. The proportion of individuals of AMF species in soils subjected to alternating PE and PLA

Micro plastics and Cadmium, either separately or together, had minimal impact on the alpha diversity of AMF OTUs in comparison to the untreated group without Cadmium (figure 4).

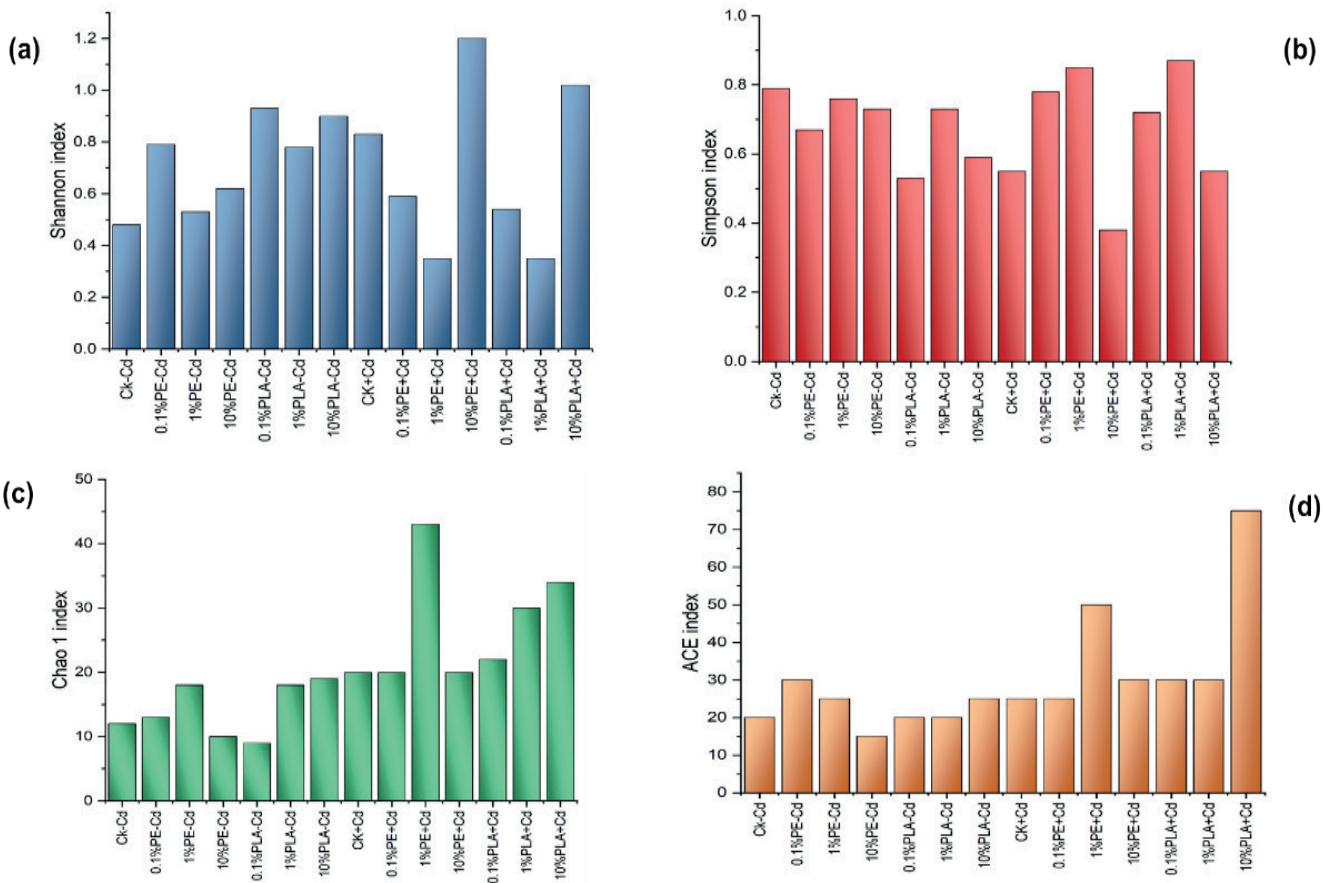


Figure 4. Alpha diversity of AMF in Soil uncovered to PE and PLA synchronized

**DISCUSSION**

In general, PLA had greater effects on soil characteristics, herbal progression, and the AMF community than

PE. Supplementary to the impacts caused by PLA particles, it should be noted that the emission of associated elements following PLA degradation, such as ingredients, polymers, and substances, could also have adverse consequences.

## CONCLUSION

The effects of MP and Cadmium associations on the plant's efficiency and the AMF ecosystem were demonstrated in this research. While 10 % PLA severely reduced the biomass of plants and chlorophyll levels, PE demonstrated minimal overt bacterial toxicity. Microplastics did not change the Cadmium amount of Cadmium in plant tissues, but it substantially raised the amount of DTPA-extractable Cadmium in the Soil. Microplastics had various effects on the makeup and variety of the AMF community, which the coexisting CADMIUM occasionally impacted. A large amount of PLA had more profound effects on Cadmium bioavailability, the development of plants, and the AMF communities than did PE, suggesting a potential risk to soil-plant interactions. Finally, connections among Microplastics and metallic pollutants could cause changes in plant behavior and symbiotic relationships, affecting agriculture and biotic variety. Given the current information gap, extensive, lengthy studies should be carried out using a variety of pollutants, and Microplastics found in actual environments to ascertain their potential effects on soil ecosystems.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

*Conceptualization:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Data curation:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Formal analysis:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Research:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Methodology:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Project management:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Resources:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Software:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Supervision:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Validation:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Visualization:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Writing - original draft:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.

*Writing - review and editing:* Lakshya Swarup, Ayush Gandhi, Neeraj Agarwal, Ashvini V. Jadhav, Prakash Ranjan Behera, Mekala Ishwarya.