



可降解塑料的环境降解和影响研究进展

张雨辰, 徐源, 谢冰*

华东师范大学生态与环境科学学院, 上海有机固废生物转化工程技术研究中心, 上海 200241

* 联系人, E-mail: bxie@des.ecnu.edu.cn

2024-08-01 收稿, 2024-09-06 修回, 2024-09-25 接受, 2024-09-26 网络版发表

国家自然科学基金(22276059)资助

摘要 塑料污染已经成为一项全球环境问题, 随着禁塑令的发布和实施, 可降解塑料作为传统塑料的替代品已经在快递、外卖包装和一次性用品领域得到了广泛应用. 可降解塑料在不同环境下受非生物和生物因素的降解, 相比较传统塑料其赋存周期更短, 但仍可能具备一定的持久性. 研究可降解塑料在不同环境中的降解特征, 有助于推动产业有序发展, 是完善塑料污染全链条治理体系中不可或缺的环节, 具有重要的现实意义. 本文明确了可降解塑料的定义和分类, 总结了不同聚合物组分的可降解塑料在水环境和土壤环境下的降解特征, 进一步归纳了其在好氧堆肥和厌氧消化中的降解行为, 分析了可降解塑料通过城镇有机固废生物处理的潜力和限制. 此外, 还介绍了可降解塑料释放的微塑料和添加剂等中间产物对环境和生物的潜在影响. 最后, 本文对可降解塑料的环境归趋, 材料开发和应用及处理处置进行了建议与展望, 为可降解塑料的科学推广应用提供理论支持.

关键词 塑料降解, 降解特征, 环境影响, 处理处置

自人工合成塑料被发明以来, 已经有超过100亿吨塑料制品被生产并应用^[1]. 由于塑料大都物质结构稳定, 自然矿化过程缓慢, 在环境中不断累积, 已经对自然界的物质循环、生态系统以及社会生活造成了不可逆的影响^[2]. 我国在环境保护问题上一直重视并致力于解决塑料污染, 应对塑料污染的政策从“禁薄”“限塑”到“禁塑”逐步推进, 并提出源头减量、回收利用与处置和清理整治的三项主要任务.

可降解塑料(degradable plastics, DPs)作为传统塑料的替代品, 已经被广泛地应用. DPs是指在特定环境下, 经过一段时间和包含一个或更多步骤, 结构发生显著变化而损失某些性能和发生破碎的塑料. 对塑料降解性的判断, 我国国家标准(GB)、国际标准化组织(ISO)、美国材料实验协会(ASTM)和经济合作与发展组织(OCED)给出了包括水环境、土壤环境、污泥消化和堆肥等多种特定条件下的判别标准. 然而, DPs

的降解是有环境和时间条件限制的, 不应该被误解为可以在任何条件下降解而不产生任何危害^[3]. 如果不符合任意上述标准中对于降解性的要求, 则被认为是不可降解塑料(nondegradable, NDPs). 此外, DPs降解过程释放的添加剂、低聚体以及微塑料等所引发的环境影响已经受到人们的关注^[4,5].

针对塑料替代产品的推广, 《“十四五”塑料污染治理行动方案》中强调需科学稳妥推广, 开展不同类型DPs降解机理及影响研究, 科学评估其环境安全性和可控性; 健全标准体系, 规范应用领域, 明确降解条件和处置方式等^[6]. DPs大都被用于一次性塑料制品, 将造成每年将有数百万吨的DPs代替传统塑料排向城镇生活垃圾处理处置系统. 参照《生活垃圾分类标志》(GB/T 19095-2019), 城镇生活垃圾主要分为有害垃圾、可回收物、厨余垃圾和其他垃圾. 根据《可降解塑料的环境影响评价与政策支撑研究报告》, 我国可降解

引用格式: 张雨辰, 徐源, 谢冰. 可降解塑料的环境降解和影响研究进展. 科学通报, 2025, 70: 2812–2824

Zhang Y, Xu Y, Xie B. Advances in environmental degradation and impact of degradable plastics (in Chinese). Chin Sci Bull, 2025, 70: 2812–2824, doi: 10.1360/TB-2024-0824

塑料目前有96.77%流向焚烧和填埋,有3.1%泄漏进入环境,仅0.007%通过生物处置,其中工业堆肥(0.001%)和厌氧发酵(0.006%)^[7].目前对DPs如何分类,如何处理还缺乏定论,如通过焚烧进行无害化处理,则失去了推广DPs的意义.因此研究DPs在不同应用领域废弃后的环境降解行为,有助于推动产业有序发展,是完善塑料污染全链条治理体系中不可或缺的一环,有重要的现实意义.本文综述了DPs在水和土壤环境以及有机固废好、厌氧生化处理中的降解转化特征,并讨论了材料特性对其在不同环境降解的影响,最后提出了对可降解塑料应用与管理的建议,并对未来的研究方向进行了展望.

1 塑料降解相关的定义和分类

许多国家和地区已经实施或正在制定有关DPs的标准和法规,然而DPs的定义和分类可能因商业习惯、行业标准、研究领域,甚至是时代发展而异.为了避免误解,在讨论塑料在不同环境条件下的降解特征之前,有必要对塑料的定义和分类进行说明.

1.1 根据原料来源分类

从图1水平方向来看,根据塑料产品原料的属性塑料可以被分为石油基(petroleum-based)、生物基(bio-based)和二氧化碳基(CO₂-based)塑料.这种塑料的定义是根据原料来源的属性进行分类,而与合成的聚合物的种类和降解性能无关.石油基塑料是指以石油为原料通过加聚或者缩聚而成的高分子材料,包括了不可降解的传统塑料如聚乙烯(polyethylene, PE)、聚丙烯

(polypropylene, PP)、聚氯乙烯(polyvinyl chloride, PVC)和聚苯乙烯(polystyrene, PS)等,也包括了可降解的聚对苯二甲酸-己二酸丁二酯(poly (butylene adipate-co-terephthalate) PBAT)和聚己内酯(polycaprolactone, PCL)等^[8].

生物基塑料是以可再生的生物质为初始原料进行加工合成的聚合物,其原料主要有从动植物中提取的纤维素、甲壳素和淀粉等多糖材料,以及微生物发酵产生的聚羟基脂肪酸酯(polyhydroxyalkanoates, PHA)和乳酸等^[9].此外,由可再生生物质提取的上述原料进行化学加工合成的聚合物也同样可以被认为是生物基塑料.因此生物基材料包括可降解的淀粉基塑料、PHA和聚乳酸(polylactic acid, PLA)等,也包括不可降解的PE、聚酰胺(polyamides, PA)和聚对苯二甲酸丙二醇酯(polytrimethylene terephthalate, PTT)等.生物塑料(bioplastics)包括的范围更加宽泛,其定义为:如果一种塑料材料是生物基的、可生物降解的,或者具有这两种特性,那么它就被定义为生物塑料^[9].2022年用于种植生产生物塑料的可再生原料的土地估计为80万公顷,占全球50亿公顷农业面积的0.015%,随着全球生物塑料产量的增加,生物塑料与食品和饲料的原料之间的竞争可能加剧^[10].

二氧化碳基塑料主要是指二氧化碳和环氧化合物等产生的共聚物及衍生物,通常来说被认为可以完全生物降解.最常见的二氧化碳基塑料为聚碳酸亚丙酯(poly(propylenecarbonate), PPC)和聚碳酸环己烯酯(poly(cyclohexene carbonate), PCHC).由二氧化碳和环氧丙烷合成的PPC相较于传统聚烯烃可以节省40%以上的化石燃料并显著减少生产过程中的碳排放^[11,12].二氧化碳基塑料成本较低且可生物降解,但是由于耐热温度较低以及拉伸和弯曲强度较差限制了其应用.随着改性技术的发展,研究人员应聚焦于保证生物降解性能的同时,提高其分子量和玻璃化温度以改善材料性能,扩大应用场景.

1.2 根据降解性能分类

从图1垂直方向来看,根据塑料产品的降解性能可分为DPs和NDPs.根据降解机制的差别,DPs还可以被分为非生物降解(abiotic degradable plastics, ADPs)和生物降解塑料(biodegradable plastics, BDPs).其中ADPs主要指光降解(photo-degradable)和热氧降解塑料(heat/oxide-degradable plastic)这类由自然光、热和/或氧化

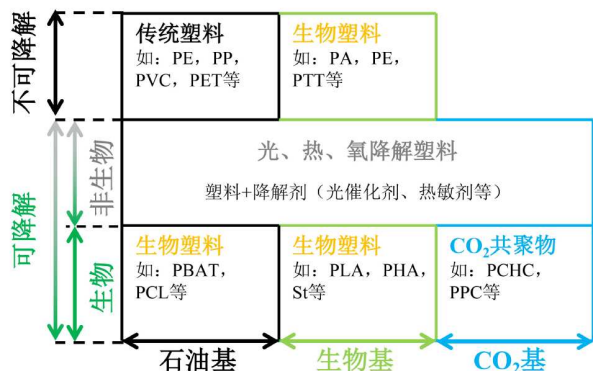


图1 (网络版彩色)不同塑料定义与分类之间的关系示意图
Figure 1 (Color online) Schematic diagram of the relationship between different plastic definitions and classifications

引起降解的塑料,通常由不可降解聚合物,添加一种或多种填料、增强剂、增塑剂或降解剂构成,其降解特征并不是聚合物组分被矿化,而是破碎为微塑料.这些大塑料变成小塑料、微塑料进入到环境中可能产生更大的生态环境风险,因此欧盟指令2019/904已经作出“禁止氧降解塑料制成的一次性塑料产品在欧盟成员国市场上流通”的规定.我国《公共机构停止使用不可降解一次性塑料制品名录(第一批)》中也明确禁止了非生物降解高分子在一次性塑料制品中的应用,这也限制了非生物降解高分子通过添加降解剂而合成的此类ADPs的应用范围.目前国标《降解塑料的定义、分类、标志和降解性能要求》的修订版中也将光降解和热氧降解塑料排除在外,并收紧了DPs的定义范围.虽然ADPs被禁止用于一次性塑料制品中,但是其热敏特性和光指示性给某些特定领域的材料需求提供选择,并且在此基础上开发的光降解、热降解、机械化学降解和其他降解技术推动了塑料废弃物的回收和再利用^[13].

根据国标修订版DPs的定义指在自然界各种条件下,能最终完全降解变成二氧化碳(CO₂)或/和甲烷(CH₄)、水(H₂O)及其所含元素的矿化无机盐以及新的生物物质的一类塑料.符合此定义的DPs大都是BDPs(别称:全生物降解塑料、生物分解塑料),即在多种特定降解条件下由自然界存在的微生物作用引起降解和矿化,并最终完全降解为CO₂、CH₄、H₂O及其所含元素的矿化无机盐以及新的生物物质的塑料.虽然动物和植物可能通过咀嚼研磨和分泌的酶引起塑料的降解^[14],但是这些不是由塑料本身性质决定的,因此本文不作考虑.目前常见的可降解聚合物如表1所示,2023年全球BDPs产量为113.6万吨,预计到2028年产量增长到460.5万吨,其聚合物种类主要为PBAT、PLA和淀粉基塑料,占年总产量的83%以上^[10].

2 不同环境下DPs的降解特征

传统塑料性质稳定在自然环境中可持续赋存数百年,环境中塑料累积导致的污染已经成为一项全球性的环境问题^[15],虽然通过加强废弃塑料的管理、回收利用以及对清理整治等措施来减少塑料污染,但是塑料仍可能被排放到环境中,并通过自然界的物质循环在各种环境中赋存.在使用DPs代替传统塑料制品时,首先关注点就在于能否减少其在环境中的赋存时间以减少其环境累积.

2.1 在水环境中的降解

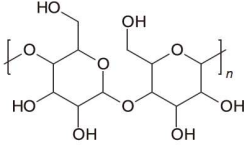
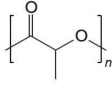
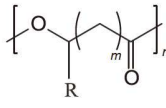
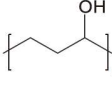
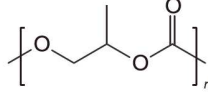
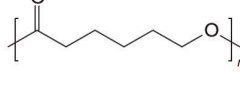
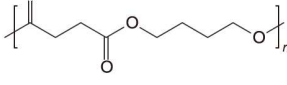
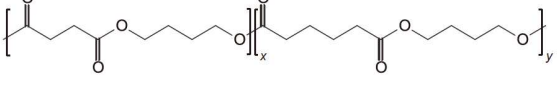
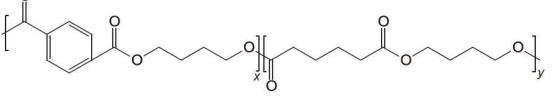
水环境系统因其在物质循环、气候调节以及维护生物多样性等方面的关键作用而备受关注.环境中各种功能微生物在塑料降解中扮演着重要角色,随着分子生物学技术的发展,可以通过对环境DNA的测序分析,从自然环境的复杂微生物群落中识别出潜在的降解塑料降解功能菌. Zhou等人^[16]通过宏基因组比对的方法解析了河口水环境中的塑料潜在降解基因和宿主,发现红杆菌科(*Rhodobacteraceae*)的*Pseudomonas veronii*为多种潜在塑料降解基因的携带者,编码可以降解多种天然生物聚酯(PHA、PHB、P3HV等)的水解酶. Meyer-Cifuentes等人^[17]以PBAT作为碳源对海水微生物进行富集培养,通过组学测序技术推测出6种类PETase和4种类MHETase具备降解脂肪族芳香族聚合物的潜力.但是通过宏基因组学作为塑料降解能力的筛选工具,可能会导致微生物对聚合物的降解能力被夸大^[18],所注释出的潜在降解菌和酶仍有待实验验证其实际降解能力.

如表2所示,目前模拟DPs在水环境中的降解时仅能控制温度和光照,且能参与塑料降解的微生物种类和丰度低,无法复原真实水环境中的复杂水文条件和微生物动态,导致除PHB、PHBV和PCL外,如PBAT、PLA和PBS等材料在环境中仍具有持久性,在短期内降解并不显著.这些实验室受控条件下的模拟,无法模拟紫外线、风化和水流剪切力等环境因素引发的非生物降解作用,而非生物和生物降解作用的联合往往会加速DPs的降解^[19].因此,有必要通过对实际水环境中塑料聚合物动态的持续调查监测,来验证其在实际环境中的赋存与降解.

2.2 在土壤环境中的降解

土壤中塑料污染很大程度上来自塑料地膜的使用,塑料地膜使作物能够充分利用光、热、水和养分,从而实现早熟、提高产量和提高作物质量极大地促进了农业生产.伴随着地膜的长期和重复使用,通过回收并不能将塑料残渣完全清除而导致了土壤中的塑料污染^[25].使用DPs材质的地膜被认为可以减少塑料累积,提高农业可持续性.与水环境相比,土壤环境所受光照、氧化及物理扰动等非生物降解作用较少,可能会导致DPs破碎所需的时间更长^[26],而土壤中的微生物群落多样性和丰度更高会导致生物降解作用的增强而

表 1 常见的可降解聚合物及其用途
Table 1 Common degradable polymers and their applications

塑料类型	结构式	用途
淀粉基塑料St		包装、购物袋、垃圾袋、地膜、一次性医疗用品、一次性餐具
PLA		包装、购物袋、垃圾袋、地膜、一次性医疗用品、一次性餐具、建筑材料、纺织品
PHA		组织工程、医疗植入物、药物控释系统、包装、地膜、一次性医疗用品
聚乙烯醇(PVA)		可溶包装、高阻隔材料、医疗植入物
PPC		低温包装、地膜、泡沫材料、药物控释系统、高阻隔材料
PCL		可吸收外科缝线、低温包装、药物控释系统、医疗植入物
聚丁二酸丁二醇酯(PBS)		包装、购物袋、垃圾袋、地膜、一次性餐具、农药化肥缓释材料
聚丁二酸-己二酸丁二酯(PBSA)		包装、购物袋、垃圾袋、地膜
聚对苯二甲酸-己二酸丁二酯(PBAT)		包装、购物袋、垃圾袋、地膜、一次性餐具

强化其降解^[27,28]。

表3中给出了DPs在土壤环境中的降解特征，在常温条件下，DPs在土壤中的降解主要受其聚合物种类的限制，St、PHB和PCL等材料均表现出较快的降解速率可在一年内实现降解^[29,30]。粉末状的DPs通常比薄膜状的降解速率更快^[31]，这意味着覆膜种植结束后可以通过旋耕等物理手段加速DPs地膜的破碎以提高其生物降解速率。我国夏季地表温度可超过50℃，土壤中的高温条件也有利于DPs的降解^[32]，PLA的玻璃化转变温度(T_g)为60~65℃，PBAT的T_g为27~32℃，融化温度在47℃左右，高温条件下可使DPs的非结晶区由玻璃态转变为

高弹态，结晶区域的大分子链结构从有序态转变为无序黏流态，更容易与降解酶的位点结合^[33]。此外，可以通过共混或者改性的方法，以提高DPs的力学性能和降解能力，如PLA的刚性、透明等特点可以与PBAT的柔韧性在力学性能上互补，且共混物中PLA的降解会促进PBAT的水解^[34]，PLA与PHBV进行共混后比相比单一PLA的降解速率更快^[35]。

2.3 在好氧堆肥中的降解

自2020年新一轮禁塑令发布以来，DPs作为传统塑料的替代品被广泛地应用于包装市场等一次性用品，

表 2 可降解塑料在水环境中的降解研究

Table 2 Degradation of degradable plastics in the water environment

种类	形状	介质	条件	时间(d)	评价指标	降解率(%)	文献
PLA	薄膜	海水	20.8℃	82	质量损失	< 1	[20]
	薄膜	海水/淡水	25℃, 16 h光照、8 h黑暗	365	质量损失	< 1/< 1	[21]
	颗粒	好/厌氧水	(25 ± 1)℃, pH 7.0 ± 0.1/ (36 ± 1)℃, 黑暗	117/77	产气量	不显著/4.6 ± 1.9	[22]
PLA/PBAT (45/55 wt%)	薄膜	纯水	30℃	180	质量损失	-1.4 ± 0.05	[23]
PBAT	薄膜	海水	20.8℃	82	质量损失	1.5 ± 0.3	[20]
	颗粒	好/厌氧水	(25 ± 1)℃, pH 7.0 ± 0.1/ (36 ± 1)℃, 黑暗	117/77	产气量	不显著	[22]
PHB	薄膜	海水/淡水	25℃	365	质量损失	~8.5/~6.5	[21]
	颗粒	好/厌氧水	(25 ± 1)℃, pH 7.0 ± 0.1/ (36 ± 1)℃, 黑暗	117/77	产气量	83.0 ± 1.6/83.9 ± 1.3	[22]
	颗粒	自然海水	(30 ± 2)℃	28	产气量	12.8 ± 5.3	[24]
PHBV	颗粒	好/厌氧水	(25 ± 1)℃, pH 7.0 ± 0.1/ (36 ± 1)℃, 黑暗	117/77	产气量	81.2 ± 1.7/87.4 ± 7.5	[22]
PCL	薄膜	海水/淡水	25℃, 16 h光照, 8 h黑暗	365	质量损失	< 2/< 2	[21]
	颗粒	好/厌氧水	(25 ± 1)℃, pH 7.0 ± 0.1/ (36 ± 1)℃, 黑暗	117/77	产气量	77.6 ± 2.4/4.5 ± 0.3	[22]
PBS	颗粒	好/厌氧水	(25 ± 1)℃, pH 7.0 ± 0.1/ (36 ± 1)℃, 黑暗	117/77	产气量	不显著/3.1 ± 1.6	[22]

表 3 可降解塑料在土壤环境中的降解研究

Table 3 Degradation of degradable plastics in the soil environment

种类	形状	介质	条件	时间(d)	评价指标	降解率(%)	文献
St	薄膜	土壤	(25 ± 2)℃	136	产气量	~95	[29]
PLA	薄膜	土壤	(25 ± 2)℃	136	产气量	~0	[29]
	薄膜/粉末	土壤	25℃, 湿度60%	28	质量损失/总碳	~0/13.8	[31]
	薄膜	土壤	25和37℃; 45和55℃	365/56	质量损失	~0; ~40	[32]
	薄膜	土壤	23~25℃	200	产气量	~5	[35]
	薄膜	土壤	湿度30%	98	质量损失	~10	[36]
	薄膜	天然土壤	自然条件	184	质量损失	8.0	[37]
PLA/PE 50/50 wt%	薄膜	天然土壤	自然条件	184	质量损失	-0.3 ± 0.1	[37]
PLA/PBAT 45/55 wt%	薄膜	土壤	(30 ± 2)℃, 湿度60%	180	质量损失	-0.7 ± 0.02	[23]
PLA/PHBV 70/30 wt%	薄膜	土壤	23~25℃	200	产气量	32	[35]
PBAT	薄膜	天然土壤	自然条件	184	质量损失	6.8 ± 0.3	[37]
PBAT/PLA 90/10 wt%	薄膜	天然土壤	自然条件	184	质量损失	-1.7 ± 1.0	[37]
PHB	薄膜	土壤	(25 ± 2)℃	136	产气量	~105	[29]
	薄膜	土壤	(30 ± 0.1)℃	30	质量损失	~72	[30]
PHBV	薄膜	土壤	23~25℃	200	产气量	35	[35]
PCL	薄膜	土壤	(25 ± 2)℃	136	产气量	~91	[29]
	薄膜	土壤	(30 ± 0.1)℃	30	质量损失	~72	[30]
PBS	薄膜/粉末	土壤	25℃, 湿度60%	28	质量损失/总碳	1.2/16.8	[31]
PBS-St 50/50 wt%	薄膜/粉末	土壤	25℃, 湿度60%	28	质量损失/总碳	7.2/24.4	[31]

造成每年将有数百万吨的DPs代替传统塑料排向城镇生活垃圾处理处置系统。据调查塑料废弃物在厨余垃圾的平均占比约为6.15%^[38]。不管是否通过生物处理法去处理DPs,城镇生活垃圾分类过程无法彻底将塑料排除在生物处理系统之外。根据其材料的降解特性与厨余垃圾等城镇有机固废进行协同处理,可以减少破袋操作,方便城镇生活垃圾分类推广且符合双碳政策及绿色发展的需求。好氧堆肥和厌氧消化是目前有机固废生物处理的主要途径^[39,40],因此有必要关注DPs在此过程的降解特征。

由于55~58℃受控堆肥180 d,相对降解率需大于90%往往是作为判断聚合物是否属于生物降解塑料的测试标准,因此DPs基本上都可以通过好氧堆肥实现完全降解。从表4可看出,温度被认为是影响生物降解塑料的降解率的关键因素,一般来说堆肥过程中高温期持续时间越长,生物降解塑料的降解率越高,所需的降解时间越短。当堆肥温度低于50℃时,生物降解塑料的降解率显著降低。PLA在37℃下受控堆肥365 d的降解率仅为20%^[32]。PBAT、PHA和PBS在12.5~13℃下450 d的降解率均< 10%^[41]。值得注意的是,堆肥固体停留时间一般为20~40 d,DPs难以在此自然堆肥内实现完全降解反而会造成大量微塑料的释放^[42]。需要通过工业堆肥的方式确保高温过程的持续以对DPs的进行强化处理,尽量减少其残留。

表 4 可降解塑料在好氧堆肥中的降解研究

Table 4 Degradation of degradable plastics in aerobic composting

种类	形状	介质	条件	时间(d)	评价指标	降解率(%)	文献
PLA	薄膜	受控堆肥	37/45/50℃	365/63/42	质量损失	~20/~56/~30	[32]
	薄膜	受控堆肥	(58 ± 2)℃, pH 7~8	35	二氧化碳产量	92	[35]
	薄膜	受控堆肥	58℃	200	质量损失	100	[43]
	薄膜	受控堆肥	60℃	~47	二氧化碳产量	~30	[44]
	薄膜	受控堆肥	55℃, 湿度 70%	28	二氧化碳产量	~70	[45]
PLA/PHBV 70/30 wt%	薄膜	受控堆肥	(58 ± 2)℃, pH 7~8	200	二氧化碳产量	100	[35]
PLA/PHB 75/25 wt%	薄膜	受控堆肥	58℃	28	质量损失	~90	[43]
PBAT	薄膜	非受控堆肥	12.5~13℃	450	质量损失	< 1	[41]
	薄膜	受控堆肥	55℃,湿度70%	28	二氧化碳产量	~35	[45]
PHA	薄膜	非受控堆肥	12.5~13℃	450	质量损失	7.9 ± 0.7	[41]
PHB	颗粒	受控堆肥	55℃, 湿度70%	28	二氧化碳产量	~75	[46]
	薄膜	受控堆肥	(58 ± 2)℃	110	二氧化碳产量	95.9	[46]
PHBV	薄膜	受控堆肥	(58 ± 2)℃, pH 7~8	200	二氧化碳产量	90	[35]
PBS	薄膜	非受控堆肥	12.5~13℃	450	质量损失	5.5 ± 0.3	[41]
	薄膜	受控堆肥	(58 ± 2)℃, pH 7~8, 湿度 50%~55%	160	二氧化碳产量	90	[47]

2.4 在厌氧消化中的降解

生物降解塑料在厌氧条件下的降解情况仍存在较大争议。不同的运行条件、接种源、生物降解塑料种类和聚合物的物理化学性质等导致生物降解聚合物在厌氧情况下的降解程度存在较大差异(表5)。总的来说,除醋酸纤维外,高温厌氧消化中生物降解塑料的降解率普遍高于中温厌氧消化。然而,PBAT和PLA作为目前市面上大部分生物降解塑料的组成成分,PBAT的厌氧降解并不显著^[48,49]。PLA在中温厌氧消化下降解不显著,且以PLA作为唯一碳源矿化速率缓慢^[48,50]。PLA塑料在高温厌氧消化条件下可以降解矿化,但其降解周期远大于30 d^[51]。

为了缓解后续厌氧生物处理设施中由于DPs造成的堵塞和累积,应该根据其聚合物组成的化学性质来决定其应用场景和最终的处理处置方式。在中温厌氧消化条件下降解率高的St、PHA和PPC等可以作为适用于可在厌氧条件降解的塑料的潜在原料。此外,还可以通过调整聚合物共混比例、分子量和结晶度等材料性质指标来提升其厌氧降解性能。

3 DPs残留物的环境影响

3.1 DPs的环境残留

DPs的生物降解往往需要适宜的条件,而自然环境

表 5 可降解塑料在厌氧消化中的降解研究

Table 5 Degradation of degradable plastics in anaerobic digestion

种类	形状	介质	条件	时间(d)	评价指标	降解率(%)	文献
St	薄膜	厨余垃圾	52℃	127	产气量	79	[29]
	薄膜	厨余垃圾	52℃	80	产气量	~89	[29]
PLA	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	40	产气量	48.8/53.0	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	120	质量损失	40.2/93.0	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	< 1/4.4	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	40	产气量	47.6/57.9	[48]
	薄膜	厨余垃圾	(55 ± 2)℃	23	产气量	85.79 ± 0.038	[52]
	薄膜	厨余垃圾	(55 ± 2)℃	23	质量损失	-1.69 ± 0.033	[52]
	粉末	剩余污泥	35℃	60	产气量	~0	[53]
	粉末	剩余污泥	37℃	277	产气量	39	[54]
	粉末	脱水污泥/剩余污泥	55℃	75/100	产气量	91/79	[55]
	薄膜	剩余污泥	35℃, 350 r/min	39	产气量	8.6	[56]
PBAT	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	< 1/< 1	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	< 1/< 1	[48]
	薄膜	剩余污泥	35℃, 350 r/min	39	产气量	5.9	[56]
PHA	薄膜	剩余污泥	38℃, 100 r/min	85	产气量	77.1 ± 6.1	[57]
	薄膜	剩余污泥	38℃, 100 r/min	85	产气量	54.6 ± 15.6	[57]
PHB	薄膜	厨余垃圾	52℃	127	产气量	92	[29]
	粉末	剩余污泥	35℃, 350 r/min	60	产气量	67 ± 19	[53]
	粉末	剩余污泥	37℃	277	产气量	12.5	[54]
	粉末	剩余污泥	35℃, 350 r/min	60	产气量	79 ± 21	[58]
	粉末	剩余污泥	35℃, 350 r/min	60	产气量	93 ± 42	[58]
P34HB	粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	72.8	[48]
	粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	85.4	[48]
PCL	薄膜	厨余垃圾	52℃	127	产气量	94	[29]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	1.2/2.9	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	60/120	产气量	93.5/92.3	[48]
	粉末	剩余污泥	37℃	9	产气量	90	[54]
PBS	粉末	剩余污泥	55℃	47	产气量	92	[55]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	< 1/< 1	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	< 1/< 1	[48]
	粉末	剩余污泥	37℃	277	产气量	-3.5	[54]
醋酸纤维	粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	70.9	[48]
	粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	4.6	[48]
PBSA	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	37 ± 2℃	60	产气量	9.4/21.0	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	23.7/30.5	[48]
PPC	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	95.4/84.6	[48]
	颗粒/粉末	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	96.2/95.7	[48]
PVA	颗粒	唯一碳源	(37 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	12.5	[48]
	颗粒	唯一碳源	(55 ± 2)℃	60	产气量	12	[48]

很难达到必要的条件,在不满足降解条件的情况下其残留物仍具备一定的持久性,引发了人们对其环境安全性的担忧^[59]。评估DPs降解和崩解能力时,通常仅要求测试材料分解为小于2 mm的碎片,所形成的微塑料的环境影响和潜在风险往往被忽略。在DPs的生物降解和酶解过程中可能产生数百万的微塑料颗粒,表现出与传统微塑料相同的毒性风险^[60]。

Wei等人^[61]研究了PBAT在不同水环境中形成微塑料的过程,发现PBAT较传统低密度聚乙烯(LDPE)更易在水环境中产生微塑料,且紫外预处理模拟太阳照射会促进这一过程。Qian等人^[62]对在黄河的水样中微塑料赋存进行了调查,检测出了粒径20~50 μm的PBS和PLA微塑料。Okoffo等人^[63]通过液相萃取与热裂解-气相色谱-质谱法对澳大利亚污水处理厂中的5种DPs进行了定量,DPs在废水、生物固体和沉积物中的赋存浓度约为0.07~0.18 mg/g。Zhang等人^[42]研究表明DPs在堆肥过程高温阶段发生快速降解,而残留的塑料碎片在降温和腐熟阶段降解不显著,导致最终每克堆肥干重中微塑料残留量达到 $10^3 \sim 10^4$ 个。

上述研究在对环境中残留的DPs进行表征时仍存在一定局限,如热裂解-气相色谱-质谱法的定量线为0.02~0.05 mg/g,难以对低浓度环境样品进行定量^[63]。传统的浮选-消解-称重的方法,会导致DPs因消解产生20%~40%的质量损失,难以保证定量要求,而以湿式筛分代替消解又会受到筛网孔径的限制和杂质的污染,导致结果产生偏差^[42]。因此,针对环境中DPs残留的定量表征仍有待完善。

3.2 DPs的环境影响机制

目前对DPs的降解和应用的研究比较普遍,对环境和生态的影响、有毒物质的吸附和释放,以及作为微生物和植物附生载体的作用仍需进一步研究。现有研究中DPs残留物的环境影响机制可归纳为以下2个方面。

(1) 微塑料的残留。微塑料因其尺寸效应会诱导产生活性氧(ROS)导致细胞活力降低,而比表面积大以及特殊的表面性质往往会使其成为污染物的富集体和载体^[64]。DPs化学组成单体与传统塑料相近或类似,而相较于传统塑料更容易产生微塑料,因此目前研究中经常以传统塑料与不同单体结构的DPs进行比较。Magara等人^[65]发现在微塑料对蓝贻贝的暴露实验中,PHB微塑料造成的氧化应激效应与传统PE微塑料相当。PLA

和PPC微塑料对蚯蚓的生物毒性不低于传统PE微塑料^[66]。海洋动物肠胃对生物降解塑料的消化率很低可能会导致肠道堵塞等风险^[67]。与传统微塑料相比,由于塑料分子结构和吸附机理的不同,DPs对污染物的吸附能力可能更强,更容易成为环境污染物的潜在载体。如老化后的PLA相较于PVC对抗生素具有更高的吸附能力^[68]; PHB微塑料对三氯生的吸附速率和吸附平衡量远高于PE^[69]; PBS对杀菌剂的吸附能力远超过PE和PVC^[70]。除了吸附化学污染物导致的协同暴露风险,微塑料在环境中往往还是潜在病原菌和抗生素抗性基因(ARGs)的载体,DPs的塑料际(plastisphere)往往会表现出更高的ARGs丰度水平^[5,71,72]。此外,微塑料的赋存会影响堆肥腐殖化过程,降低嗜热期细菌及真菌群落的丰富度和多样性^[73,74],导致堆肥最终产品质量受到影响。

(2) 中间产物的释放。DPs在降解过程中会产生大量溶解性有机物(DOM),对天然有机碳库及环境产生了巨大影响^[75]。Romera-Castillo等人^[76]发现,塑料释放到环境中的DOM可以刺激异养微生物的活动,约60%的DOM可以在5天内被微生物利用。然而,DPs降解衍生的DOM与天然有机物不同,可能会导致某些微生物的定向富集,从而影响废水处理的性能^[77]。Zhou等人^[78]的研究发现PBAT会显著改变土壤微生物群落结构并富集致病菌。Zhang等人^[42]的研究也表明DPs在自然堆肥中更易造成微塑料和ARGs的传播。DPs降解过程也会释放双酚A和邻苯二甲酸酯等添加剂,多种塑料添加剂都被证实为内分泌干扰物,其中邻苯二甲酸酯还被证实可以上调促进生物膜致密化和抗氧化系统表达的分子过程和生理变化,可显著促进基因水平转移^[4,79]。因此,有必要加强对DPs的管理,并通过废弃物处理处置途径强化其降解与矿化,减少其向环境中排放。

4 总结和展望

目前研究表明DPs在水和土壤等自然环境以及好氧堆肥和厌氧消化的处理处置中表现出有条件的降解性,即需要特定的聚合物种类、温度条件或者持续时间等才能完成降解。DPs的不完全降解会导致塑化剂和微塑料等的释放,对生态环境造成一定的影响。DPs被当成传统塑料的替代品广泛应用,却仍然按照传统塑料的分类与处理处置流程,主要通过焚烧进行处理,在增加经济成本的同时,并未带来显著的环境效益。针对

DPs的推广应用和处理处置提出以下展望。

(1) 对实际环境中DPs的赋存进行调查和监测。目前实验室模拟的受控条件无法还原季节更替、风化、水流剪切等非生物因素对于DPs的破碎降解的作用, 针对DPs环境降解转化和微塑料的赋存及持久性仍缺乏系统认知。

(2) 对应DPs的应用场景和降解能力制定标准。在可回收和重复利用领域, 优先实行回收而非可降解。针对泄漏风险高、再利用价值低、难以回收或清理的应用场景, 应基于真实环境明确DPs的处理处置措施和降解能力, 例如规范承装厨余垃圾的可降解垃圾袋, 方便城镇生活垃圾分类等。

(3) 完善塑料废弃物全流程管理, 健全和优化分类

体系。填补DPs如何分类的空白, 避免将DPs混入其他垃圾进行焚烧处理。DPs与厨余等城镇有机固废协同资源化处理处置是减少其环境风险、实现循环经济的有效措施, 且符合城镇生活垃圾分类及绿色低碳发展的需求。

(4) 持续开展DPs材料的研发工作。针对不同应用场景和环境归趋开发对应的材料, 通过多种聚合物材料之间的共混和改性, 满足商品用途、力学性能和降解能力的需求, 为DPs产业发展提供技术保障。

(5) 加强对DPs降解残留特征的研究。DPs更容易发生降解产生微塑料并释放塑化剂和添加剂等, 这些不完全降解产物在环境中所需的降解时间以及对生态系统的影响仍需进一步探究。

参考文献

- 1 United Nations Environment Programme. From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. Technical Report, Nairobi, 2021
- 2 MacLeod M, Arp H P H, Tekman M B, et al. The global threat from plastic pollution. *Science*, 2021, 373: 61–65
- 3 Kim M S, Chang H, Zheng L, et al. A review of biodegradable plastics: Chemistry, applications, properties, and future research needs. *Chem Rev*, 2023, 123: 9915–9939
- 4 Hu L, Zhou Y, Chen Z, et al. Oligomers and monomers from biodegradable plastics: An important but neglected threat to ecosystems. *Environ Sci Technol*, 2023, 57: 9895–9897
- 5 Zhou Q, Zhang J, Zhang M, et al. Persistent versus transient, and conventional plastic versus biodegradable plastic? Two key questions about microplastic-water exchange of antibiotic resistance genes. *Water Res*, 2022, 222: 118899
- 6 National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Ecology and Environment. “14th Five-Year Plan” Action Plan for Plastic pollution Control (in Chinese). 2021, No. 1298 [国家发展改革委, 生态环境部. “十四五”塑料污染治理行动方案. 2021, 发改环资(2021)1298号]
- 7 Tsinghua University, Sinopec. Environmental Impact Assessment of Degradable Plastic and Policy Support Research Project Report (in Chinese). 2022 [清华大学, 中国石化. 可降解塑料的环境影响评价与政策支撑研究项目报告. 2022]
- 8 Xu Y, Yin C F, Yue W L, et al. Microbial degradation of petroleum-based plastics (in Chinese). *Chin J Biotechnol*, 2019, 35: 2092–2103 [许楹, 殷超凡, 岳纹龙, 等. 石油基塑料的微生物降解. 生物工程学报, 2019, 35: 2092–2103]
- 9 European Commission. Biobased, Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/plastics/biobased-biodegradable-and-compostable-plastics_en
- 10 Plastics Europe. Bioplastics Market Data. 2023, <https://www.european-bioplastics.org/market/>
- 11 Dormer A, Finn D P, Ward P, et al. Carbon footprint analysis in plastics manufacturing. *J Cleaner Production*, 2013, 51: 133–141
- 12 Xu Y, Lin L, Xiao M, et al. Synthesis and properties of CO₂-based plastics: Environmentally-friendly, energy-saving and biomedical polymeric materials. *Prog Polym Sci*, 2018, 80: 163–182
- 13 Zhang F, Zhao Y, Wang D, et al. Current technologies for plastic waste treatment: A review. *J Cleaner Production*, 2021, 282: 124523
- 14 Li X Y, Liu Z M, Xue R Z, et al. Biodegradation of typical plastics and its mechanisms (in Chinese). *Chin Sci Bull*, 2021, 66: 2573–2589 [李昕玥, 刘卓苗, 薛润泽, 等. 典型塑料的生物降解及其降解机理. 科学通报, 2021, 66: 2573–2589]
- 15 Ostle C, Thompson R C, Broughton D, et al. The rise in ocean plastics evidenced from a 60-year time series. *Nat Commun*, 2019, 10: 1622
- 16 Zhou L, Sang S, Li J, et al. From waste to resource: Metagenomics uncovers the molecular ecological resources for plastic degradation in estuaries of South China. *Water Res*, 2023, 242: 120270
- 17 Meyer-Cifuentes I E, Werner J, Jehmlich N, et al. Synergistic biodegradation of aromatic-aliphatic copolyester plastic by a marine microbial consortium. *Nat Commun*, 2020, 11: 5790
- 18 Lear G, Maday S D M, Gambarini V, et al. Microbial abilities to degrade global environmental plastic polymer waste are overstated. *Environ Res Lett*, 2022, 17: 043002

- 19 Min K, Cui J D, Mathers R T. Ranking environmental degradation trends of plastic marine debris based on physical properties and molecular structure. *Nat Commun*, 2020, 11: 727
- 20 Delacuvellerie A, Benali S, Cyriaque V, et al. Microbial biofilm composition and polymer degradation of compostable and non-compostable plastics immersed in the marine environment. *J Hazard Mater*, 2021, 419: 126526
- 21 Bagheri A R, Laforsch C, Greiner A, et al. Fate of so-called biodegradable polymers in seawater and freshwater. *Glob Challenges*, 2017, 1: 1700048
- 22 García-Depraet O, Lebrero R, Rodríguez-Vega S, et al. Biodegradation of bioplastics under aerobic and anaerobic aqueous conditions: Kinetics, carbon fate and particle size effect. *Bioresource Tech*, 2022, 344: 126265
- 23 Barbosa Camargo Lamparelli R d C, Montagna L S, Bernardo da Silva A P, et al. Study of the biodegradation of pla/pbat films after biodegradation tests in soil and the aqueous medium. *Biointerface Res App*, 2022, 12: 833–846
- 24 Tanadchangsang N, Pattanasupong A. Evaluation of biodegradabilities of biosynthetic polyhydroxyalkanoates in Thailand seawater and toxicity assessment of environmental safety levels. *Polymers*, 2022, 14: 428
- 25 Li S, Ding F, Flury M, et al. Macro- and microplastic accumulation in soil after 32 years of plastic film mulching. *Environ Pollution*, 2022, 300: 118945
- 26 Napper I E, Thompson R C. Environmental deterioration of biodegradable, oxo-biodegradable, compostable, and conventional plastic carrier bags in the sea, soil, and open-air over a 3-year period. *Environ Sci Technol*, 2019, 53: 4775–4783
- 27 Huo X D, Sun J S, Wang J X, et al. Isolation and identification of poly (butylene adipate-co-terephthalate)-degrading bacteria (in Chinese). *Xinjiang Agric Sci*, 2017, 54: 2086–2091 [霍向东, 孙九胜, 王金鑫, 等. 聚对苯二甲酸-己二酸丁二酯(PBAT)降解菌的分离鉴定和降解能力测定. *新疆农业科学*, 2017, 54: 2086–2091]
- 28 Xu S, Wang J, Zhou T, et al. Screening and community succession of high effective poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate) plastic mulch degrading bacteria (in Chinese). *Microbiol Chin*, 2018, 45: 2341–2352 [徐松, 王敬, 周婷, 等. 聚己二酸/对苯二甲酸丁二酯塑料地膜高效降解菌群筛选及其群落结构演替特征. *微生物学通报*, 2018, 45: 2341–2352]
- 29 Narancic T, Verstichel S, Reddy Chaganti S, et al. Biodegradable plastic blends create new possibilities for end-of-life management of plastics but they are not a panacea for plastic pollution. *Environ Sci Technol*, 2018, 52: 10441–10452
- 30 Rizzarelli P, Cirica M, Pastorelli G, et al. Aliphatic poly(ester amide)s from sebacic acid and aminoalcohols of different chain length: Synthesis, characterization and soil burial degradation. *Polym Degradation Stability*, 2015, 121: 90–99
- 31 Adhikari D, Mukai M, Kubota K, et al. Degradation of bioplastics in soil and their degradation effects on environmental microorganisms. *JACEN*, 2016, 05: 23–34
- 32 Karamanlioglu M, Robson G D. The influence of biotic and abiotic factors on the rate of degradation of poly(lactic) acid (PLA) coupons buried in compost and soil. *Polym Degradation Stability*, 2013, 98: 2063–2071
- 33 Perz V, Bleymaier K, Sinkel C, et al. Substrate specificities of cutinases on aliphatic–aromatic polyesters and on their model substrates. *New Biotechnol*, 2016, 33: 295–304
- 34 Zhang M, Meng Q Y, Diao X Q, et al. Biodegradation behavior of PLA/PBAT blends (in Chinese). *Chin Plast*, 2016, 30: 79–86 [张敏, 孟庆阳, 刁晓倩, 等. PLA/PBAT共混物的降解性能研究. *中国塑料*, 2016, 30: 79–86]
- 35 Muniyasamy S, Ofori O, John M J, et al. Mineralization of poly(lactic acid) (PLA), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate) (PHBV) and PLA/PHBV blend in compost and soil environments. *J renew Mater*, 2016, 4: 133–145
- 36 Wu C. Preparation, characterization, and biodegradability of renewable resource-based composites from recycled polylactide bioplastic and sisal fibers. *J Appl Polym Sci*, 2012, 123: 347–355
- 37 Liao J, Chen Q. Biodegradable plastics in the air and soil environment: Low degradation rate and high microplastics formation. *J Hazard Mater*, 2021, 418: 126329
- 38 Qiu R. Original quantification, fate and microplastic release of municipal plastic solid waste—An example study in Shanghai (in Chinese). Master Thesis. Shanghai: East China Normal University, 2021 [邱荣. 城市塑料类生活垃圾的源头量化、流向何微塑料释放——以上海为例. 硕士学位论文. 上海: 华东师范大学, 2021]
- 39 Bing X. Biological transformation and secondary pollution control technology of urban perishable organic solid waste (in Chinese). *Manag Res Sci Technol Achiev*, 2022, 17: 64–66 [谢冰. 城镇易腐有机固废生物转化与二次污染控制技术. *科技成果管理与研究*, 2022, 17: 64–66]
- 40 Yang D H, Hua Y, Wu B R, et al. Consideration on development of organic solid waste resource treatment and disposal technology under the background of double carbon (in Chinese). *Environ Eng*, 2022, 40: 1–8 [杨东海, 华煜, 武博然, 等. 双碳背景下有机固废资源化处置技术发展思考. *环境工程*, 2022, 40: 1–8]
- 41 Mercier A, Gravouil K, Aucher W, et al. Fate of eight different polymers under uncontrolled composting conditions: Relationships between deterioration, biofilm formation, and the material surface properties. *Environ Sci Technol*, 2017, 51: 1988–1997
- 42 Zhang Y, Tao J, Bai Y, et al. Incomplete degradation of aromatic–aliphatic copolymer leads to proliferation of microplastics and antibiotic

- resistance genes. *Environ Int*, 2023, 181: 108291
- 43 Arrieta M P, López J, Rayón E, et al. Disintegrability under composting conditions of plasticized PLA-PHB blends. *Polym Degradation Stability*, 2014, 108: 307–318
- 44 Flynn A, Torres L F, Hart-Cooper W, et al. Evaluation of biodegradation of polylactic acid mineral composites in composting conditions. *J Appl Polym Sci*, 2020, 137: 48939
- 45 Tabasi R Y, Ajji A. Selective degradation of biodegradable blends in simulated laboratory composting. *Polym Degradation Stability*, 2015, 120: 435–442
- 46 Weng Y X, Wang X L, Wang Y Z. Biodegradation behavior of PHAs with different chemical structures under controlled composting conditions. *Polym Testing*, 2011, 30: 372–380
- 47 Anstey A, Muniyasamy S, Reddy M M, et al. Processability and biodegradability evaluation of composites from poly(butylene succinate) (PBS) Bioplastic and biofuel co-products from Ontario. *J Polym Environ*, 2014, 22: 209–218
- 48 Jin Y, Cai F, Song C, et al. Degradation of biodegradable plastics by anaerobic digestion: Morphological, micro-structural changes and microbial community dynamics. *Sci Total Environ*, 2022, 834: 155167
- 49 Ren Y, Hu J, Yang M, et al. Biodegradation behavior of poly (lactic acid) (PLA), poly (butylene adipate-co-terephthalate) (PBAT), and their blends under digested sludge conditions. *J Polym Environ*, 2019, 27: 2784–2792
- 50 Yu C, Dongsu B, Tao Z, et al. Anaerobic co-digestion of three commercial bio-plastic bags with food waste: Effects on methane production and microbial community structure. *Sci Total Environ*, 2023, 859: 159967
- 51 Wang F. Polylactide biodegradation under thermophilic and hyperthermophilic anaerobic digestion condition (in Chinese). *Chin J Environ Eng*, 2018, 12: 304–309 [王峰. 超高温和高温厌氧条件下聚乳酸塑料的降解. *环境工程学报*, 2018, 12: 304–309]
- 52 Bandini F, Frache A, Ferrarini A, et al. Fate of biodegradable polymers under industrial conditions for anaerobic digestion and aerobic composting of food waste. *J Polym Environ*, 2020, 28: 2539–2550
- 53 Benn N, Zitomer D. Pretreatment and anaerobic co-digestion of selected PHB and PLA bioplastics. *Front Environ Sci*, 2018, 5: 00093
- 54 Yagi H, Ninomiya F, Funabashi M, et al. Mesophilic anaerobic biodegradation test and analysis of eubacteria and archaea involved in anaerobic biodegradation of four specified biodegradable polyesters. *Polym Degradation Stability*, 2014, 110: 278–283
- 55 Yagi H, Ninomiya F, Funabashi M, et al. Anaerobic biodegradation tests of poly(lactic acid) and polycaprolactone using new evaluation system for methane fermentation in anaerobic sludge. *Polym Degradation Stability*, 2009, 94: 1397–1404
- 56 Weng Y X, Jin Y J, Meng Q Y, et al. Biodegradation behavior of poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate) (PBAT), poly(lactic acid) (PLA), and their blend under soil conditions. *Polym Testing*, 2013, 32: 918–926
- 57 Wang S, Lydon K A, White E M, et al. Biodegradation of poly(3-hydroxybutyrate- *co*-3-hydroxyhexanoate) plastic under anaerobic sludge and aerobic seawater conditions: Gas evolution and microbial diversity. *Environ Sci Technol*, 2018, 52: 5700–5709
- 58 Venkiteshwaran K, Benn N, Seyedi S, et al. Methane yield and lag correlate with bacterial community shift following bioplastic anaerobic co-digestion. *Bioresour Tech Rep*, 2019, 7: 100198
- 59 Wang C, Yu J, Lu Y, et al. Biodegradable microplastics (BMPs): A new cause for concern? *Environ Sci Pollut Res*, 2021, 28: 66511–66518
- 60 Wei X F, Capezza A J, Cui Y, et al. Millions of microplastics released from a biodegradable polymer during biodegradation/enzymatic hydrolysis. *Water Res*, 2022, 211: 118068
- 61 Wei X F, Bohlén M, Lindblad C, et al. Microplastics generated from a biodegradable plastic in freshwater and seawater. *Water Res*, 2021, 198: 117123
- 62 Qian Y, Shang Y, Zheng Y, et al. Temporal and spatial variation of microplastics in Baotou section of Yellow River, China. *J Environ Manage*, 2023, 338: 117803
- 63 Okoffo E D, Chan C M, Rauert C, et al. Identification and quantification of micro-bioplastics in environmental samples by pyrolysis–gas chromatography–mass spectrometry. *Environ Sci Technol*, 2022, 56: 13774–13785
- 64 Zhang Y, Wu D, Su Y, et al. Occurrence, influence and removal strategies of mycotoxins, antibiotics and microplastics in anaerobic digestion treating food waste and co-digestive biosolids: A critical review. *Bioresour Tech*, 2021, 330: 124987
- 65 Magara G, Khan F R, Pinti M, et al. Effects of combined exposures of fluoranthene and polyethylene or polyhydroxybutyrate microplastics on oxidative stress biomarkers in the blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*). *J Toxicol Environ Health A*, 2019, 82: 616–625
- 66 Ding W, Li Z, Qi R, et al. Effect thresholds for the earthworm *Eisenia fetida*: Toxicity comparison between conventional and biodegradable microplastics. *Sci Total Environ*, 2021, 781: 146884
- 67 Müller C, Townsend K, Matschullat J. Experimental degradation of polymer shopping bags (standard and degradable plastic, and biodegradable) in the gastrointestinal fluids of sea turtles. *Sci Total Environ*, 2012, 416: 464–467
- 68 Fan X, Zou Y, Geng N, et al. Investigation on the adsorption and desorption behaviors of antibiotics by degradable MPs with or without UV ageing process. *J Hazard Mater*, 2021, 401: 123363

- 69 Tong H, Hu X, Zhong X, et al. Adsorption and desorption of triclosan on biodegradable polyhydroxybutyrate microplastics. *Enviro Toxic Chem*, 2021, 40: 72–78
- 70 Jiang M, Hu L, Lu A, et al. Strong sorption of two fungicides onto biodegradable microplastics with emphasis on the negligible role of environmental factors. *Environ Pollution*, 2020, 267: 115496
- 71 Song R, Sun Y, Li X, et al. Biodegradable microplastics induced the dissemination of antibiotic resistance genes and virulence factors in soil: A metagenomic perspective. *Sci Total Environ*, 2022, 828: 154596
- 72 Liu X, Wang X, Wang R J, et al. Effects comparison between the secondary nanoplastics released from biodegradable and conventional plastics on the transfer of antibiotic resistance genes between bacteria. *Environ Pollution*, 2023, 317: 120680
- 73 Sun Y, Ren X, Rene E R, et al. The degradation performance of different microplastics and their effect on microbial community during composting process. *Bioresource Tech*, 2021, 332: 125133
- 74 Zhou Y, Sun Y, Liu J, et al. Effects of microplastics on humification and fungal community during cow manure composting. *Sci Total Environ*, 2022, 803: 150029
- 75 Liu S, Qiu Y, He Z, et al. Microplastic-derived dissolved organic matter and its biogeochemical behaviors in aquatic environments: A review. *Crit Rev Environ Sci Tech*, 2024, 54: 865–882
- 76 Romera-Castillo C, Pinto M, Langer T M, et al. Dissolved organic carbon leaching from plastics stimulates microbial activity in the ocean. *Nat Commun*, 2018, 9: 1430
- 77 Li H, Shen M, Wang Y, et al. Research advances of biodegradable microplastics in wastewater treatment plant: Current knowledge and future directions. *Sci Total Environ*, 2024, 951: 175614
- 78 Zhou A, Ji Q, Kong X, et al. Response of soil property and microbial community to biodegradable microplastics, conventional microplastics and straw residue. *Appl Soil Ecol*, 2024, 196: 105302
- 79 Wang H, Yu P, Schwarz C, et al. Phthalate esters released from plastics promote biofilm formation and chlorine resistance. *Environ Sci Technol*, 2022, 56: 1081–1090

Summary for “可降解塑料的环境降解和影响研究进展”

Advances in environmental degradation and impact of degradable plastics

Yuchen Zhang, Yuan Xu & Bing Xie^{*}

Shanghai Engineering Research Center of Biotransformation on Organic Solid Waste, School of Ecological and Environmental Sciences, East China Normal University, Shanghai 200241, China

^{*} Corresponding author, E-mail: bxie@des.ecnu.edu.cn

Plastic pollution has become a global environmental issue. With the implementation of plastic bans, degradable plastics (DPs) have been widely used as a substitute for traditional plastics in the fields of express delivery, takeout packaging, and disposable products. DPs undergo degradation under the influence of abiotic and biotic factors in different environments, and their residence time is shorter compared to traditional plastics, even though certain persistence still occurs. Researching the degradation characteristics of DPs in different environments helps promote the development of the industry. It is an indispensable link in the improvement of the comprehensive management of plastic pollution with practical significance. In this paper, various definitions and classifications of DPs were clarified, and the degradation characteristics of DPs with different polymer components in water and soil environments were summarized. The degradation in aerobic composting and anaerobic digestion were reviewed, and the potential and limitations of DPs through biological treatment of organic solid waste in urban areas were analyzed. In addition, the potential environmental and biological impacts of intermediate products such as microplastics and additives released by DPs were also introduced. Current research shows that DPs exhibit conditional degradability in natural environments, which depends on specific polymer types, temperature conditions, or duration to complete the degradation. Incomplete degradation of DPs can lead to the release of plasticizers and microplastics, impacting on the ecological environment. DPs are widely used as substitutes for traditional plastics but are still processed according to the classification and treatment/disposal procedures of traditional plastics, mainly through incineration, which increases treatment costs without bringing significant environmental benefits. The following prospects are proposed for the promotion, application, and treatment of DPs: (1) Investigate and monitor the occurrence of DPs in the natural environment. The laboratory conditions cannot replicate the effects of seasonal changes, weather, and water shear on the fragmentation and degradation of DPs. There is still a lack of systematic understanding of the environmental degradation and transformation of DPs, as well as the presence and persistence of intermediate products. (2) Establish standards based on the application scenario and degradation capability of DPs. In the field of recycling and reuse, priority should be given to recycling rather than biodegradability. For application scenario with high leakage risk, low reuse value, and difficulty in recycling or cleaning, the treatment and degradability of DPs should be clearly defined. (3) Improve the full-process management and optimize the classification system of plastic waste. Fill the gap in the classification of DPs to avoid mixing them with other waste for incineration. Co-processing of DPs with municipal organic solid waste such as kitchen waste is an effective measure to reduce environmental risks and achieve a circular economy, which also meets the needs of waste sorting and low-carbon development. (4) Continuously carry out research and development on DPs. Develop materials for different application scenarios, through blending and modification of various polymer materials, to meet the requirements of commodity use, mechanical properties, and degradation capabilities, and provide technical support for the development of the DP industry. (5) Strengthen the research on the residual characteristics of DPs. DPs are more prone to degradation, microplastics production and plasticizers and additives release. The sustainability of these incomplete degradation products in the environment and their impacts on ecosystems need further investigation.

plastic degradation, degradation characteristics, environmental impact, treatment and disposal

doi: [10.1360/TB-2024-0824](https://doi.org/10.1360/TB-2024-0824)