

Adverse Effect of Plastic Pollution Affecting Animals and Birds: A Rising Concern

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Abstract

The accumulation of plastic and products made of plastic in the environment lead to plastic pollution which imposes a hazardous effect on wildlife and human food chain. The plastics have a chemical configuration by which they are resistant to environmental degradation resulting to high incidences of environmental pollution due to slow degradation.

Keywords: Plastic; Pollution

Introduction

Land, oceans and large water bodies are mostly affected from these pollutions. The marine animals dwelling in the oceans suffer from an altered digestive physiology for the accidental consumption of plastic materials mixed with their feed [1,2].

Marine animals

Sea turtles are mostly affected by plastic pollution including some species of jelly fish which cause esophageal obstruction in them and also accumulate in the stomach of whales.

Even small fishes also consume the tiny bits of plastic below the ocean surface. Tuna, sword fish and Lantern fish also consumes plastics by mistake which become a part of the ocean food chain [3,4].

Birds

Including the animals, plastic pollution also affect the birds like Seabirds, which obstruct their digestive tract causing tissue dam-

age by the toxic chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Marine plastic pollution can even reach birds that have never been at the sea through the food habits.

The plastic particles were found intact within the birds' gizzards and proventriculi along with the plastic debris, such as styrofoam mixed with their feed [5].

Conclusion

The animals exposed to plastic pollution suffer from developmental defects with lesser birth weights for exposure to bisphenol A in fishes and reptiles, long term exposure may lead to stall egg hatching and decreased body weight, tail length, and body length.

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