

Review Article

A review on microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates from Southeast Asia

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Received: 11 August 2021; Revised: 12 November 2021; Accepted: 19 November 2021

Abstract

The microplastic ingestion of marine invertebrates around ASEAN countries namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam were reviewed. The review involves locations, species, concentration of microplastics, as well as dominant colors and types of microplastics. The most studied species was *Perna viridis*. The highest concentration of microplastic was found in *Laevistrombus turturella* with 628 ± 191.93 particles/individual. Black was the most common dominant color of microplastics and fiber was the most common type of microplastics found in the marine invertebrates. Two lab-based studies of microplastic ingestion in *Acropora formosa* and *Perna viridis* had shown detrimental effects of microplastics. The challenges of microplastic ingestion study around ASEAN was the possibility of microplastic entering seafood food security in both wild and farmed populations, as well as the probable collapse of the coral reef ecosystem.

Keywords: microplastics, invertebrates, ASEAN, Southeast Asia

1. Introduction

The term microplastics refers to “any synthetic solid particle or polymeric matrix, with regular or irregular shape and with size ranging from 1 μ m to 5 mm, of either primary or secondary manufacturing origin, which are insoluble in water” (Frias & Nash, 2018). The ingestion of microplastics in marine invertebrates has been recorded worldwide from the coastal beaches (Horn, Miller, Anderson, & Steele, 2019) to the deepest point of Earth (Jamieson *et al.*, 2019). Marine invertebrates are potentially suitable as an environmental bioindicator for microplastics (Ding *et al.*, 2021; Macali & Bergami, 2020). However, the use of marine invertebrates as bioindicators of microplastics is still at a preliminary stage due to other critical aspects include the standardization of sampling protocols, analytical detection methods and metrics to evaluate the effects of ingested plastics in marine species (Bonanno & Orlando-Bonaca, 2018). Nevertheless, the studies of microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates conducted in Southeast Asia is still not extensively conducted compared to

the other regions despite the Southeast Asia region being one of key contributors to the number of marine plastics in the environment globally (Lyons, Linting, & Neo, 2019). This is due to the Southeast Asia region being predominantly developing countries that still lack waste management strategies (Richie & Roser, 2018) and the issue of microplastic is still recent and at an early stage in the scientific community of Southeast Asia (Lyons, Neo, Lim, Tay, & Dang, 2020). The objectives of this study were focused to investigate the location and species of studies around Southeast Asia namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, the concentration of microplastics in marine invertebrates and the characterization of microplastics through the dominant colors and types. Then, the lab-based studies of microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates are also being reviewed. Lastly, the microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates’ challenges and limitations around Southeast Asia would be explained. Study period was conducted for eight months.

2. Location of Interest

The majority of microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates’ studies were conducted at Java Island since it is the location to most Indonesia’s educational institutions

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Table 1. Microplastic concentrations in species studied across Southeast Asia

Class	Species	Number of samples (n)	Chemical for extraction	Identification	Concentration (mean ± SD)		Country & Sampling area type	References	
					Particles/individual	Particles/gram			
Bivalvia	<i>Anadara granosa</i>	60	KOH	FTIR	5.1 ± 3.5 (Batch 1) 5.3 ± 3.13 (Batch 2)	-	Indonesia (coastal)	Ichlasia (2017)	
		15	HNO ₃	Observation	434 ± 97.05	9.8 ± 2.26	Indonesia (mangrove)	Fitri and Patria (2019a)	
	<i>Crassostrea iredalei</i>	-	HNO ₃	Observation	40 total particles	-	Philippines (estuary)	Espiritu <i>et al.</i> (2019)	
	<i>Donax</i> sp.	12	H ₂ O ₂	Observation	3.13±2.75 (Chaolao beach) 2.98±3.12 (Kungwiman beach)	-	Thailand (coastal)	Tharamon <i>et al.</i> (2016)	
	<i>Macra</i> sp.	35	KOH	FTIR	2.11 ± 0.29	-	Indonesia (island)	Mawaddha <i>et al.</i> (2020)	
	<i>Malleus</i> sp.	3	KOH	Observation	0.125	-	Indonesia (islands)	Sari (2018)	
	<i>Meretrix meretrix</i>	50	H ₂ O ₂	Observation	-	12.9	Indonesia (coastal)	Hardianti (2019)	
		20		FTIR	6.7	-	Indonesia (coastal)	El <i>et al.</i> (2020)	
	<i>Paphia</i> sp.	6	H ₂ O ₂	Observation	11.31±2.03 (Chaolao beach)	-	Thailand (coastal)	Tharamon <i>et al.</i> (2016)	
	<i>Perna viridis</i>	30	H ₂ O ₂	-	-	5 particles/0.25 gram (High salinity location) 2 particles/0.25 gram (Low salinity location) 1 particle/0/25 gram (Brackish location)	-	Indonesia (coastal)	Khoironi <i>et al.</i> (2018)
		90	KOH	Observation	11.12 ± 2.98	-	Indonesia (traditional market)	Nurulchusna (2018)	
		50	KOH	-	-	4	Indonesia (coastal)	Hardianti (2019)	
				-	-	1.95 ± 1.14	0.58 ± 0.25	Malaysia [strait (aquaculture site)]	Maha (2019)
		5	KOH	µFTIR	2.60 ± 1.14	0.29 ± 0.14	Vietnam (coastal)	Nam <i>et al.</i> (2019)	
		50	KOH	-	34.16 ± 10.85 (Location A) 29.92 ± 12.14 (Location B) 115.50 ± 51.42 (Location C) 114.49 ± 39.17 (Location D) 59.43 ± 15.94 (Location E)	16.25 ± 23.47 (Location A) 10.09 ± 4.14 (Location B) 54.70 ± 20.29 (Location C) 54.66 ± 15.58 (Location D) 30.33 ± 7.80 (Location E)	Indonesia (coastal)	Wirasandjaja (2019)	

Table 1. Continued.

Class	Species	Number of samples (n)	Chemical for extraction	Identification	Concentration (mean \pm SD)		Country & Sampling area type	References		
					Particles/individual	Particles/gram				
Bivalvia	<i>Perna viridis</i>	99	KOH	-	-	0.13 \pm 0.08 (Shell range 4-5.9 cm) 0.07 \pm 0.03 (Shell range 6-7.9 cm) 0.04 \pm 0.02 (Shell range 8-10cm)	Indonesia (island)	Fachruddin <i>et al.</i> (2020)		
		35	KOH	FTIR	14.62 \pm 1.46	-	Indonesia (island)	Mawaddha <i>et al.</i> (2020)		
	<i>Pinctada</i> sp.	5	KOH	Observation	0.08	-	Indonesia (islands)	Sari (2018)		
		12	KOH	Observation	0.3	-	Indonesia (islands)	Tahir <i>et al.</i> (2019)		
	<i>Pinna muricata</i>	4	KOH	Observation	0.25	-	Indonesia (islands)	Sari (2018)		
	<i>Pinna</i> sp.	6	KOH	Observation	0.5	-	Indonesia (islands)	Tahir <i>et al.</i> (2019)		
	<i>Saccostrea forskalii</i>	150	HNO ₃	Raman	-	0.57 \pm 0.22 (Angsila) 0.37 \pm 0.03 (Bangsaen) 0.43 \pm 0.04 (Samaesarn)	Thailand (coastal)	Thushari <i>et al.</i> (2017)		
	<i>Scapharca comea</i>	120	NaOH	FTIR	-	557.98 (Station 1) 261.22 (Station 2) 86.27 (Station 3)	Malaysia (coastal)	Ibrahim <i>et al.</i> (2016)		
Cephalopoda	<i>Loligo</i> sp.	90	KOH	Observation	6.13 \pm 6.53 (Pasar Peterongan) 6.16 \pm 6.58 (Pasar Bulu) 6.35 \pm 6.61 (Pasar Johar) 5.13 \pm 3.14 (Pasar Bangetayu) 4.66 \pm 3.36 (Pasar Karangayu) 2.22 \pm 2.31 (Pasar Rejomulyo)	3.31 \pm 3.88 (Pasar Peterongan) 2.60 \pm 2.52 (Pasar Bulu) 1.69 \pm 1.81 (Pasar Johar) 1.78 \pm 1.13 (Pasar Bangetayu) 1.40 \pm 1.28 (Pasar Karangayu) 0.77 \pm 0.84 (Pasar Rejomulyo)	Indonesia (traditional market)	Angganararas (2019)		
		Echinoidea	<i>Diadema</i> sp.	10	KOH	Observation	22.3	-	Indonesia (island)	Lolodo and Nugraha (2019)
		Gastropoda	<i>Tripneustes gratilla</i>	17	KOH	Observation	0.5	-	Indonesia (islands)	Tahir <i>et al.</i> (2019)
			<i>Cerithidea obtusa</i>	20	HNO ₃	Observation	167 \pm 16.01	-	Indonesia (mangrove)	Fitri and Patria (2019b)
			<i>Chicoreus capucinus</i>	14	HNO ₃	FTIR	0.25 to 0.88	0.50 to 1.75	Malaysia (estuary)	Zaki <i>et al.</i> (2021)
			<i>Cypraea tigris</i>	10	KOH	Observation	0.3	-	Indonesia (islands)	Tahir <i>et al.</i> (2019)
			<i>Dolabella auricularia</i>	8	HNO ₃	Observation	-	54.9	Indonesia (island)	Priscilla <i>et al.</i> (2019)

Table 1. Continued.

Class	Species	Number of samples (n)	Chemical for extraction	Identification	Concentration (mean ± SD)		Country & Sampling area type	References
					Particles/individual	Particles/gram		
Gastropoda	<i>Laevistrombus turturella</i>	40	HNO ₃	Observation	492 ± 107.68 (Station 1) 476 ± 171.34 (Station 2) 360 ± 118.43 (Station 3) 628 ± 191.93 (Station 4)	-	Indonesia (island)	Hamra and Patria (2019)
	<i>Littoraria scabra</i>	10	HNO ₃	Observation	75.5 ± 26.24	86.88 ± 12.00	Indonesia (island)	Patria <i>et al.</i> (2020)
	<i>Littoraria</i> sp.	150	HNO ₃	Raman	-	0.23 ± 0.02 (Angsila) 0 (Bangsaen) 0.17 ± 0.08 (Samaesarn)	Thailand (coastal)	Thushari <i>et al.</i> (2017)
	<i>Nerita articulata</i>	67	HNO ₃	FTIR	0.25 to 0.88	0.50 to 1.75	Malaysia (estuary)	Zaki <i>et al.</i> (2021)
	<i>Nerita polita</i>	14	HNO ₃	FTIR	0.25 to 0.88	0.50 to 1.75	Malaysia (estuary)	Zaki <i>et al.</i> (2021)
	Nudibranch	6	KOH	Observation	0	-	Indonesia (islands)	Tahir <i>et al.</i> (2019)
Hexanauplia	Calanoid (zooplankton)	10-700	HNO ₃	Observation	0.14	-	Malaysia (sea)	Amin <i>et al.</i> , (2020)
	Cyclopoid	10-700	HNO ₃	Observation	0.007	-	Malaysia (sea)	Amin <i>et al.</i> , (2020)
Malacostraca	<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i>	90	H ₂ O ₂	ATR-FTIR	5.60 ± 3.90 (Pasar Bulu) 8.67 ± 5.36 (Pasar Peterongan) 9.92 ± 7.84 (Pasar Johar) 7.10 ± 5.37 (Pasar Bangetayu) 8.43 ± 5.15 (Pasar Karangayu) 11.57 ± 6.69 (Pasar Waru Indah)	1.20 ± 0.98 (Pasar Bulu) 2.02 ± 1.43 (Pasar Peterongan) 2.58 ± 2.33 (Pasar Johar) 1.62 ± 1.10 (Pasar Bangetayu) 1.87 ± 1.19 (Pasar Karangayu) 2.98 ± 2.21 (Pasar Waru Indah)	Indonesia (traditional market)	Sudianto (2019)
	<i>Metapenaeus brevicornis</i>	18	KOH	FTIR	3.78 ± 1.12	0.76 ± 0.48	Thailand (traditional market)	Pradit <i>et al.</i> (2021)
	<i>Metopograpsus quadridentate</i>	9	HNO ₃	Observation	-	61.44 (Station 1) 69.54 (Station 2) 47.76 (Station 3)	Indonesia (mangrove)	Petala and Tsabita (2018)
		9	HNO ₃	Observation	327.56 ± 147.98	33 ± 6.72	Indonesia (island)	Patria <i>et al.</i> (2020)
	<i>Parapenaeopsis hardwickii</i>	18	KOH	FTIR	4.11 ± 1.12	0.55 ± 1.19	Thailand (traditional market)	Pradit <i>et al.</i> (2021)
	<i>Penaeus merguensis</i>	60	KOH	Observation	4.66 ± 3.95	-	Indonesia (coastal)	Restiani (2017)

Table 1. Continued.

Class	Species	Number of samples (n)	Chemical for extraction	Identification	Concentration (mean \pm SD)		Country & Sampling area type	References
					Particles/individual	Particles/gram		
Malacostraca	<i>Scylla</i> spp.	90	H ₂ O ₂	Observation	49.54 \pm 21.40 (Pasar Peterongan) 69.60 \pm 36.18 (Pasar Tanah Mas) 49.84 \pm 13.83 (Pasar Gang Baru) 45.59 \pm 15.73 (Pasar Bangetayu) 42.83 \pm 10.81 (Pasar Kobong) 34.39 \pm 15.77 (Pasar Karang Ayu)	9.09 \pm 4.65 (Pasar Peterongan) 12.52 \pm 5.98 (Pasar Tanah Mas) 9.62 \pm 4.03 (Pasar Gang Baru) 9.58 \pm 4.58 (Pasar Bangetayu) 7.92 \pm 4.32 (Pasar Kobong) 6.14 \pm 2.95 (Pasar Karang Ayu)	Indonesia (traditional market)	Adidharma (2019)
Polychaeta	Shrimp (zooplankton)	10-700	HNO ₃	Observation	0.13	-	Malaysia (sea)	Amin <i>et al.</i> (2020)
	Polychaete (zooplankton)	10-700	HNO ₃	Observation	0.01	-	Malaysia (sea)	Amin <i>et al.</i> (2020)
Sagittoidea	Chaetognaths	10-700	HNO ₃	Observation	0.003	-	Malaysia (sea)	Amin <i>et al.</i> (2020)
Thecostraca	<i>Balanus amphitrite</i>	150	HNO ₃	Raman	-	0.43 \pm 0.33 (Angsila) 0.33 \pm 0.04 (Bangsaen) 0.23 \pm 0.10 (Samaesarn)	Thailand (coastal)	Thushari <i>et al.</i> (2020)

an extended period. Therefore, while *S. cornea* is a bivalve species with a pseudofeces mechanism, the situation of the location will also be affecting the bivalve's vulnerability to microplastics ingestion. Although species could originate from the same class that will determines their feeding behavior, different studies have different location, and chemical for extraction that causes variation of microplastic concentration values.

Amin, Sohaimi, Anuar, and Bachock (2020) revealed a low incidence of ingestion in zooplankton groups at the coast of Terengganu, Malaysia. This suggests that zooplankton may mistake microplastics for food, raising concerns about the potential for trophic transfer to predatory species at higher trophic levels (Egbeocha *et al.*, 2018).

4. Dominant Colors and Types of Microplastics

From 33 literatures, 15 assessed the color of microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates. Only 13 studies (39.39%) documented the dominant microplastic color. Tahir *et al.* (2019) listed two dominant colors for his study, which were blue and black. Figure 2 shows black is the most common dominant color to be discovered in microplastics identified in marine invertebrates. In contrast to Hidalgo-Ruz, Gutow, Thompson, and Thiel (2012) that mentioned the most prevalent color of microplastics in sediment and seawater were white or shades of white. This could indicate that marine

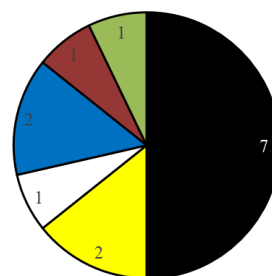


Figure 2. Dominant colors of microplastics ingestion in marine invertebrates recorded. Numbers in the figure are numbers of publications

invertebrates could potentially have color preferences behavior when foraging the microplastics. Zaki *et al.* (2021) stated that dark colors, such as blue, brown, and black are ingested by the gastropods *N. articulata*, *N. polita* and *Chicoreus capucinus* due to the microplastics having the appearance of food compared to light colors. Black microplastics often associated with polystyrene (PS) and polypropylene (PP) polymers and it could adsorb more variety of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (Frias, Sobral, & Ferreira, 2010; Hidalgo-Ruz *et al.*, 2012; Ichlasia, 2017).

Visual identification of microplastics cannot be done only based on color because the color of microplastic does not determine the polymer and chemical composition (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2016; Lusher, Welden, Sobral, & Cole, 2017). However, recording microplastic color is vital for investigations involving marine invertebrates to investigate color preference behavior (Frias & Nash, 2018).

From out 33 literatures, 28 assessed types of microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates. While 27 (81.82%) studies documented the dominant microplastic type, Thushari *et al.* (2017) just listed the types of plastics found without mentioning the dominant type. Fibre is the most prevalent type of microplastic found in marine invertebrates (Figure 3). This present finding seems to be consistent with Phuong *et al.* (2016) which recognized fiber microplastics were widely indicated in marine invertebrates. Fiber is a secondary source of microplastics originated from the synthetic materials of clothes and monofilament fragmentation of fishing nets and ropes (Hidalgo-Ruz *et al.*, 2012; Rochman *et al.*, 2019). The dominance of fiber could be explained as the sampling locations located near to the fishing activities of the local community (Fachrudin, Yaqin, & Iin, 2020; Hamra & Patria, 2019; Hardianti, 2019; Ichlasia, 2017; Lolodo & Nugraha, 2019; Sari, 2018; Tharamon *et al.*, 2016). The abundance of fisheries activities contributed to the source of microplastic fiber from fishing net. Meanwhile, another reason for the prevalent of fiber could be due to ecotourism activities and settlement along the coast (Hamra & Patria, 2019). Patria, Santoso and Tsabita (2020) conducted her research on Pramuka Island, Indonesia a popular ecotourism destination and discovered that the most common type of microplastic in *M. quadridentata* and *Littoraria scabra* was microplastics fibre. The microplastics fiber could come from the clothing worn by people partaking in the water activities and wastewater of the nearby chalet and resort.

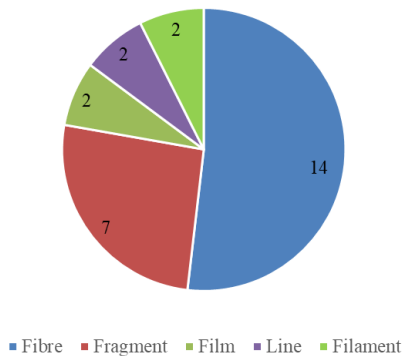


Figure 3. Dominant types of microplastics ingestion in marine invertebrates recorded. Numbers in the figure are numbers of publications

5. Lab-based Studies of Microplastic Ingestion in Marine Invertebrates

Two papers conducted studies in laboratories to control the environment of marine invertebrates. Rahim, Yaqin, and Rukminasari (2019) showed that the ingestion of PE microplastics in *P. viridis* increases as the concentration of PE microplastics in water increases and caused mortality. This is consistent with what has been obtained by Qu, Su, Li,

Liang, and Shi (2018), the number of microplastics in *P. viridis* was significantly higher in high concentration treatments compared to low concentration treatments.

Another laboratory experiment, Syakti *et al.* (2019) showed the bleaching and necrosis events happened to *Acropora* sp. when exposed to treatments of low-density polyethylene (LDPE). These findings seem to be consistent with other research that found similar events happened to *Acropora* sp. when exposed to microplastics (Reichert, Arnold, Hoogenboom, Schubert, & Wilke, 2019; Reichert, Schellenberg, Schubert, & Wilke, 2018). These effects were thought to be caused by the reduction in light penetration due to the microplastics covering the surface of the coral or the toxicity of the microplastics itself. However, further work is still required to establish the presence of a mechanism for both theories.

6. Microplastic Challenges/Limitation Studies on Southeast Asia

There is unequal distribution of microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates' research across Southeast Asia. While sharing the same ocean waters and marine invertebrate species, there may be a knowledge gap between countries. Without the creation of a regional database for marine invertebrate research, it becomes harder to obtain the newest critical information by researchers across Southeast Asia (Lyons *et al.*, 2019).

Next, Southeast Asia's seas is a site to the coral triangle, which has 76% of the world's total species composition of corals (Cros *et al.*, 2014) as well as a habitat for diverse range of other marine invertebrates. Microplastic ingestion has been proven to affect the coral reefs (Reichert *et al.*, 2018, 2019; Syakti *et al.*, 2019). The collapse of the coral reef ecosystem would threaten 130 million people who rely on these marine resources for their livelihoods (Lasut *et al.*, 2018).

Lastly, microplastics have been shown to pose a problem to seafood food security in both wild and farmed populations. The current research also still tends to focus on species that is edible and have commercial significance. This priority will cause humans to overlook the other marine invertebrates that already ingested more microplastics compared to the commercial species (Priscilla, Sedayu & Patria, 2019; Patria *et al.*, 2020).

7. Conclusions

This review demonstrated that the majority of microplastic ingestion in marine invertebrates' investigations have been undertaken in Indonesia, with species primarily from the Java Sea. Most of the chosen species are economically significant and edible, the concentration of microplastics ingested can be influenced by feeding behavior, and species location. Although most researchers focus on gastropod and bivalve as the subject of research, other types of marine invertebrates also should be considered for future study. The dominant type, color and the polymer of microplastics could give information of the microplastic sources and anthropogenic activities that occurred nearby. It is important to conduct further studies to determine if the toxicity effects are connected to the presence of microplastic,

the polymer's composition, or the shape and colors of the microplastics instead.

Acknowledgements

Authors gratefully acknowledge the Special MyRA Assessment Funding from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Funding ID: F07/SpMYRA/1711/2018).

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