

## BIODEGRADATION OF PLASTICS BY FUNGI

Yusra Gulzar<sup>1</sup>, Nida Tabassum Khan<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Life Sciences & Informatics, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Balochistan.

Received date: 06 August 2024; Accepted date: 23 August 2024; Published date: 28 August 2024

**Corresponding Author:** Nida Tabassum Khan, Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Life Sciences & Informatics, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, Takatu Campus, Airport Road, Quetta, Balochistan.

**Citation:** Yusra Gulzar, Nida Tabassum Khan. Biodegradation of Plastics by Fungi. Journal of Medical and Clinical Case Reports 1(9). <https://doi.org/10.61615/JMCCR/2024/AUG027140828>

**Copyright:** © 2024 Nida Tabassum Khan. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

### Abstract

The uncontrolled utilization of plastics for different purposes, for example, bundling, transportation, industry, and farming in the country just as in metropolitan zones, has raised significant issues of plastic garbage removal and its contamination. Plastic yearly creation has outperformed the 300 million tons. Plastic causes contamination and an Earth-wide temperature boost not just on account of expansion in the issue of garbage removal and landfilling yet in addition discharging CO<sub>2</sub> and dioxins because of copying. Various efforts have been made to recognize and disengage microorganisms fit for using engineered polymers in a base development medium, was assessed, in light of the evaluated mass contrasts in both the organism and the miniature plastic pellets utilized, and Results demonstrated that, under the tried conditions, *Z. maritimum* is equipped for using PE, bringing about the decline, in both mass and size, of the pellets. These outcomes demonstrate that this normally happening growth may effectively add to the biodegradation of microplastics, requiring the least supplements. The fungal biomass in soils by and large surpasses the bacterial biomass and hence almost certainly, fungi may assume a significant part in the degradation of plastics, similarly as they prevalently play out the decay of natural issues in the dirt environment. Generally utilized techniques for plastic removal ended up being deficient for successful plastic waste administration, and subsequently, there is developing worry about the utilization of effective microorganisms implied for the biodegradation of non-degradable manufactured polymer. Biodegradable polymers are intended to degrade quickly by microorganisms due to their capacity to degrade the vast majority of natural and inorganic materials, including lignin, starch, cellulose, and hemicelluloses the utilization of biodegradable plastics for certain applications, for example, bundling or wellbeing industry is a promising and appealing alternative for monetary, ecological, and medical advantages. The present review examines the current status, instruments of biodegradation of plastics, methods for describing degraded plastics, and future possibilities for plastic degradation by Fungi.

**Keywords:** Polymer; Biodegradable; Fungi; Thermoplastics; Oxidation.

### Introduction

The word plastic originates from the Greek word "plastikos", which signifies 'ready to be formed into shifted shapes. Plastic is comprised of carbon, hydrogen, silicon, oxygen, chloride and nitrogen. For extraction of the fundamental materials of plastics oil, coal, and petroleum gas are utilized. Plastics are comprised of connecting monomers together by synthetic bonds.[21] Worldwide manufactured plastic creation is 140 million tons every year, and this rate has been consistently expanding since the 1930s. It is assessed that 11% of landfill volume is comprised of waste plastics.[40]

Degradation is the cycle where any substance is separated into isolated parts or components. The decay or pulverization of contaminant atoms by the activity of the chemical discharged by microorganisms is known as biodegradation. Any physical or concoction change in the polymer is because of ecological factors, for example, light, heat, dampness, synthetic conditions, and organic action are named as the degradation of plastic.[21] The natural corruption of polymeric substances is an unpredictable cycle including a few resulting steps instigated by the activity of proteins. Polymer corruption happens under high-impact and anaerobic conditions.[13] biodegradation of plastics relies upon ecological variables temperature,

dampness, oxygen, pH) and the substance structure of the polymer. Biodegradable polymers normally contain ester, amide, or carbonate hydrolyzable bonds in the polymer spine. The nearness of these hydrolyzable practical gatherings expands the powerlessness of biodegradation. Different components that influence biodegradability are crystallinity, sub-atomic weight, and, on account of copolymers, the copolymer creation.[61]

There are two gatherings of plastics based on biodegradability, i.e., non-biodegradable plastics and biodegradable plastics. Non-biodegradable plastics: Their atomic weight is high because of the broad redundancy of little monomer units. These plastics are profoundly steady and don't promptly go into the degradation patterns of the biosphere. Non-biodegradable plastics incorporate a significant number of the routinely utilized plastics like PVC, PP, PS, PET, PUR, and PE. Biodegradable plastics: Both bio-based and fossil-based polymers can be remembered for biodegradable plastics relying on the level of biodegradability and microbial assimilation.[1]

Fungi are the decomposers in the worldwide pattern of life and demise. They are normally there to accomplish the work when anything creature, plant, or

even non-living article is fit to be separated again into its sub-atomic constituents. Fungi are found in soil, in new and ocean water, inside the collections of plants and creatures, and going through the air as spores. While they regularly are discovered working along with microbes and a variety of microorganisms, it is fungi that can particularly deal with separating the absolute biggest particles present in nature [40] Fungi are known for their decent variety and amazing capacity to corrupt unpredictably and industrious characteristic materials, for example, lignin, chitin, and microcrystalline cellulose. Bacteria and fungi can develop under naturally focused conditions, for example, low supplement availability [4] the open door for fungi to advance in their essence is progressing. the occupant fungi expanded their mycelial biomass, and the network moved towards strength by three genera: Graphium, Fusarium, and Penicillium. [40] Plastic corrupting organisms were disconnected from an assortment of assets, for example, rhizosphere soil of mangroves, polythene covered in the dirt, marine water, plastic, and soil at the dumping destinations. [21] Microorganisms are associated with the corruption and weakening of both engineered and characteristic polymers. So as to utilize such materials as a carbon and vitality source, microorganisms have built up an extraordinary strategy. Microorganisms, for example, bacteria and fungi are associated with the degradation of plastics.[13]

Four methods Mechanical, Chemical, physical, and Biochemical are utilized for the corruption of plastics Physical and mechanical procedures Leave their hurtful impacts on the Environment and lives of people, and these strategies additionally taint the earth again in general, Microbial catalysts are liable for

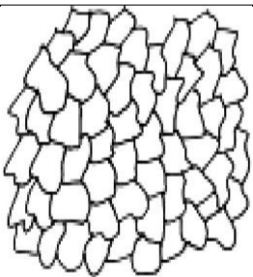
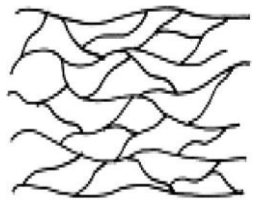
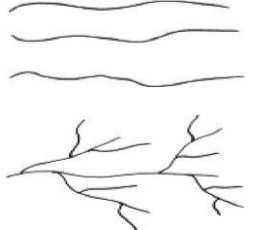
the degradation different kinds of plastics portray the substrates that use the plastics as carbon and vitality sources and aides in biodegradation. Microbial compounds initiate the pace of biodegradation of plastics successfully without causing any damage to nature and no hurtful intermediates or side-effects are produced during PHA corruption. Truth be told, 3-hydroxybutyrate is found in all higher creatures as blood plasma. Hence, PHAs have been considered for clinical applications, including long-haul controlled medication discharge, careful pins, stitches, and bone and vein replacement. [13]

### Review of Literature

Plastics are produced using hydrocarbon monomers. They are delivered by artificially altering characteristic substances or are combined from inorganic and natural crude materials. Based on their physical qualities, plastics are generally separated into thermosets, elastomers, and thermoplastics. These gatherings contrast essentially with respect to sub-atomic structure. [54]

Most of the plastics are thermoplastic; that is, when the plastic is shaped it very well may be warmed and changed more than once. The other gathering is thermosets, which can't be re-dissolved. Manufactured plastics are generally utilized in pressing items, for example, pharmaceuticals, food, beautifiers, synthetic compounds, and cleansers. The most generally utilized plastics in pressing are PE (LDPE, HDPE, MDPE, and LLDPE), PP, PS, PVC, PU, PET, polybutylene terephthalate, nylons, etc. elastomers also cannot be reshaped by heating.[21]

**Table no.1:** Characteristics and Applications of Plastics

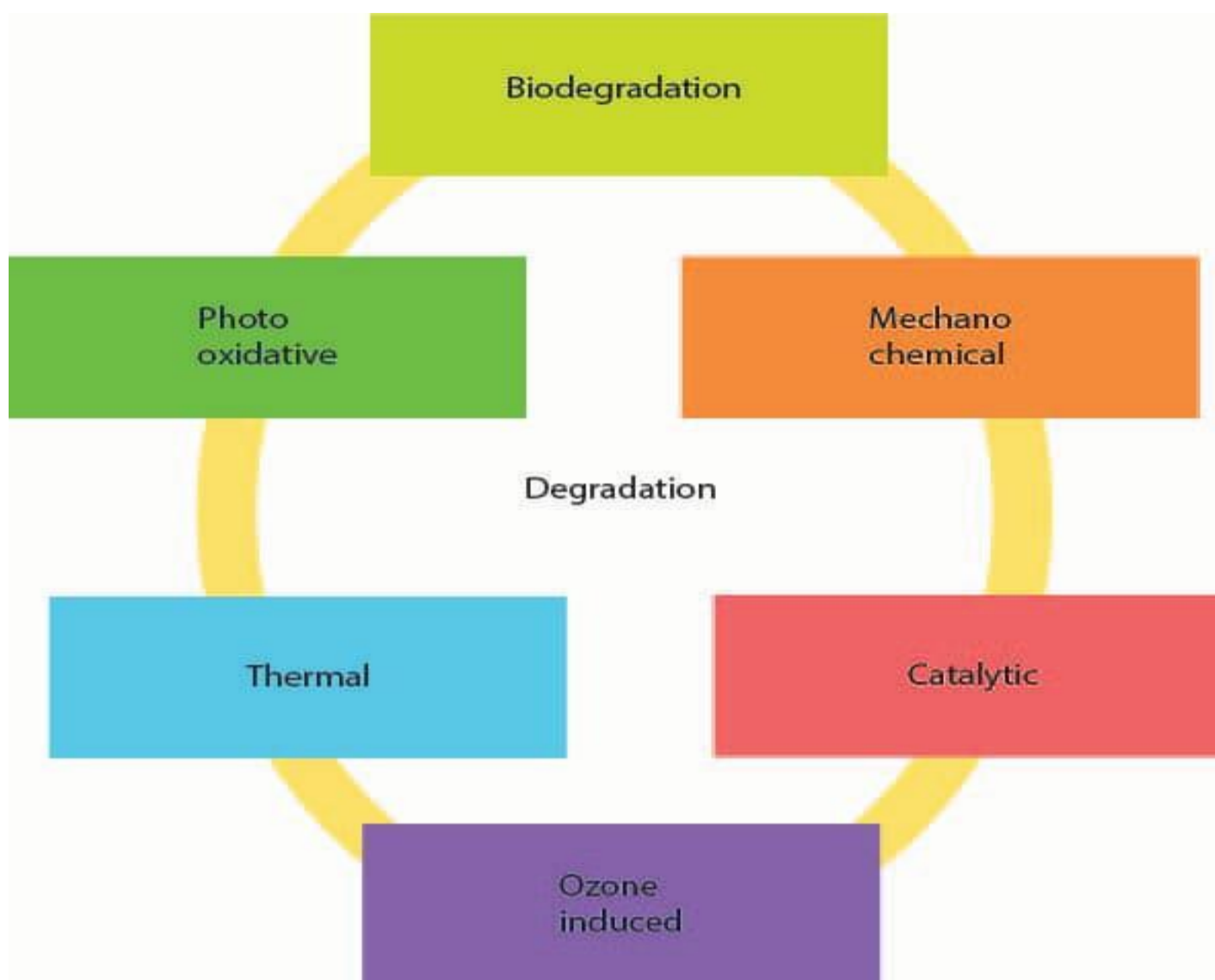
No.	Type of Plastic	Molecular Structure	Characteristics and Applications
1.	Thermosets		Thermosets are hard and have an exceptionally close fit, expanded sub-atomic structure. Relieving continues during forming, after which it is not, at this point conceivable to shape the material by warming. Further molding may then just be performed by machining. Thermosets are utilized, for instance, to make light switches.
2.	Elastomers		Elastomers additionally have a cross-connected structure, they have a looser work than thermosets, offering ascend to a level of versatility. When molded, elastomers additionally can't be reshaped by warming. Elastomers are utilized, for instance, to deliver car tires.
3.	Thermoplastics		Thermoplastics have a straight or stretched sub-atomic structure which decides their quality and warm conduct; they are adaptable at standard temperatures. At approx. 120–180°C, thermoplastics become a pale/fluid mass. The thermoplastics are utilized, for instance, in bundling applications.

During the 1980s, researchers began to investigate whether plastics could become vulnerable to microbial assault, making them degradable in a microbial dynamic condition. Biodegradable plastics opened the path for new contemplations of waste administration procedures.[22]

### Methods of Plastics Degradation

The development of auxiliary homogeneities and arrangement of new utilitarian gatherings likewise happens during polymer degradation. [45] Depending upon the idea of the causing operators, polymer degradation has been named Thermo degradation, Thermo-oxidative degradation, Thermal degradation, Photodegradation, UV degradation, and oxidation Degradation. [63]

Figure No. 1: Types of Plastic Degradation



Thermo degradation implies the corruption of polymer by heat vitality. Thermo-oxidative degradation for the most part gets upheld from oxygen of the environment and is known as thermo-oxidative degradation. The underlying phase of degradation is the cycle of burst in the obligations of macromolecules bringing about radical destinations. Thermal degradation for the most part includes changes to a sub-atomic load of the polymer. Photodegradation The degradation that is completed within the sight of light is named "photodegradation." It is started first by the retention of light vitality by the suitable gathering present in the polymer atom. The light ingestion brings about the scission of the polymer atom at a suitable situation of the chain prompting the transformation to smaller sections. In this way, photodegradable polymers require either an in-assembled photograph responsive gathering in the chain or an added substance one. Photodegradation of polymer incorporates UV degradation and oxidation. Degradation, the UV light is utilized to degrade the final product. Oxidation, in this cycle heat is utilized to separate the plastic. Numerous engineered polymers are impervious to concoction and physical degradation. Both the thermal and physical strategies for degradation diminish the atomic load of the plastic and permit it to biodegrade.[27]

**Biodegradation of Natural Plastics by Fungi**

Polyhydroxyalkanoates are straight polyesters created in nature by bacterial maturation of sugar and lipids. [65] By and large, no destructive intermediates or side-effects are created during PHA degradation actually, 3-hydroxybutyrate is found in all higher creatures as blood plasma. A number of oxygen-consuming and anaerobic organisms that degrade PHA have been confined to different situations.[30] *Acidovorax faecilis*, *Aspergillus fumigates*, *Comamonas sp.*, *Pseudomonas lemoignei*, and *Variovorax paradoxus* are among those found in soil, while in initiated ooze *Alcaligenes faecalis* and *Pseudomonas* have been detached. *Comamonas testosterone* has been found in seawater, and *Ilyobacter Delafield* is available in the anaerobic slop. Since a microbial domain is required for degradation PHA isn't influenced by dampness alone and is uncertainly steady in air. [32] PHAs have pulled in modern consideration for use in the creation of biodegradable and biocompatible thermoplastics.[57] Past discoveries have revealed a *Streptomyces* strain, *Streptoverticillium kashmeriense AF1*, equipped for degrading PHB and PHBV, Several vigorous and anaerobic PHB-corrupting microorganisms have been detached from soil, and different follows, cavities, and depressions as seen on the gouged surface of PHBV films showing that the debasement was a purposeful impact of a microbial consortium colonizing the film surface, including organisms, microbes, and actinomycetes. Various unpredictable disintegration pits have additionally been seen on the outside of PHA by *Comamonas sp.* [52]

Table no.2: Natural Biodegradation Plastics

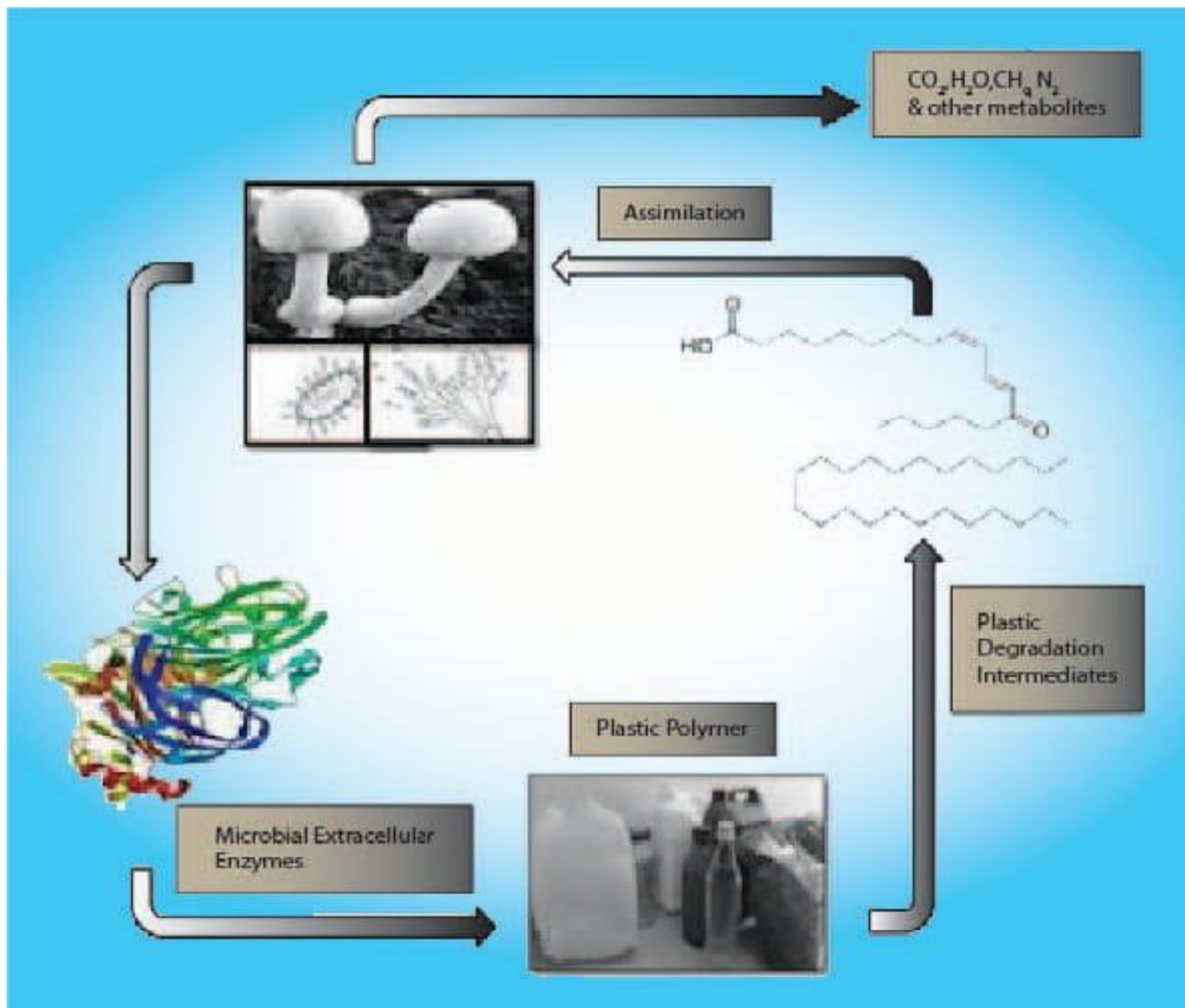
No	Biodegradable plastics	Applications
1.	PGA	Used for subcutaneous structure, intracutaneous closures, and abdominal and thoracic surgeries.

2.	PHB	Manufacturing disposable utensils. Also used in medical applications, it can also be used for drug delivery.
3.	PLA	Packaging and paper coatings, other possible markets include sustained release systems for pesticides and fertilizers, many films, and compost bags.
4.	PCL	Used in housing applications, drug encapsulation, acts as a scaffold for tissue repair via tissue engineering, root canal filling, etc
5.	PHA	Used for structures, surgical mesh, repair patches, slings, cardiovascular patches, orthopedic pins, spinal fusion cages, implant materials, skin substitutes, and wound dressings. etc
6.	HV	Used in paper and film coatings, therapeutic drug delivery of worm medicine for cattle, and sustained release systems for pharmaceutical drugs and insecticides.
7.	PVOH	Packaging and bagging applications that dissolve in water to release. Products such as laundry detergent, pesticides, and hospitals are washable.
8.	PVAc	Adhesives, the packaging applications include boxboard manufacture, paper bags, paper liminations, tube winding, and remoistenable labels.

**Different Mechanisms and Role of Fungi in Biodegradation of Plastics**

Microorganisms Such as (fungi) are undeniably fit for the assignment of contaminant decimation since they have catalysts that permit them to utilize ecological

**Figure no.2:** Different Mechanisms and Role of Fungi in Biodegradation of Plastics



contaminants as food and on the grounds that they are little to the point that they can contact contaminants without any problem. [43] fungi have these breaking down capacities to manage the variety of normally happening aggravates that fill in as potential carbon sources. At the point when a zone is tainted, the capacity to manage the defilement and transform it into a vitality source is chosen for inside the fungi populace and prompts a populace that is better ready to use the contaminant. [15] Fungi have the capacity to adjust to changing situations And additionally have had under 100 years in which to advance within the sight of manufactured plastics and numerous different poisons. Capacities that have not been found at this point in growths identifying with the corruption of poisons could be advancing right now in some exceptionally contaminated pocket of soil. Fungi are particularly appropriate for PAH degradation compared with other bacterial decomposers for a couple of reasons. They can degrade high atomic weight PAHs. They likewise work well in non-watery situations where hydrophobic PAHs amass; Also, they can work in the extremely low-oxygen conditions that happen in intensely PAH polluted zones. a rundown of more than 51 contagious species or species bunches that are fruitful at corrupting diverse PAHs. A wide assortment of fungi have advanced compelling instruments to assault explicit PAHs. [34]

The shellfish mushroom, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, can degrade 0-95% of all PAHs present in soil after 80 days. [56] This is a wood-spoiling fungi part of a gathering known as white decay organisms. *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* and *laevis*. These basidiomycetes have at any rate two pathways. One pathway is the cytochrome 450 framework, much like the framework in vertebrate livers which separates huge particles into metabolites; in any case,

a considerable lot of these metabolites are poisonous themselves. The lignin extracellular corruption pathway is ideal on the grounds that the metabolites are completely separated into carbon dioxide. [43] Fungi assault plastic polymers too; these arrive in a wide scope of structures as lignin and are followed up on by various organism species for various polymers. This disintegrating capacity may maybe much more noteworthy than PAH decomposition. It was discovered that the white decay basidiomycetes known for lignin corruption explicitly *P. ostreatus* could adequately separate polyacrylamide. Copolymerization with characteristic polymers, for example, starch or collagen expanded biodegradation. These give an extra carbon source to the growths and may likewise give passages to the organisms to attack the manufactured polymer strains of *Fusarium* and *Hypocrea* that could corrupt one cancer-causing high-weight PAH, pyrene, just as take-up copper and zinc. [34] Fungi have advanced to decay lignin; lignin's variable and enormous structure is fundamentally the same as polycyclic sweet-smelling hydrocarbons, and the catalysts the fungi produce are nonspecific. Fungi must have the option to deal with the high internal heat level inside the body to get by in the cerebrum; a portion of these irresistible organisms have been found in saunas, hot tubs, natural aquifers, and coal squander heaps. These equivalent outrageous conditions, just as other extraordinary conditions, for example, low oxygen, are likewise present in PAH-degraded soils. Fungi have a bewildering potential to tidy up defiled conditions. In the wake of taking a gander at the rundown of organisms that can degrade various Plastics, one could envision that there is a growth out there to corrupt each kind of relentless poison, and everyone just must be found. [16]

**Table no.3:** Fungi Used for Plastic Degradation

No.	Type of Plastic Used	Fungi	References
1.	Degradable plastic	<i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i>	(B. Lee, Pometto, Fratzke, Bailey, & Microbiology, 1991)
2.	Polyurethane	<i>Chaetomium globosum</i> and <i>Aspergillus terreus</i>	(Boubendir, 1992)
3.	Polyurethane	<i>Curvularia senegalensis</i> , <i>Fusarium solani</i> , <i>Aureobasidium pullulans</i> ,	(Crabbe et al., 1994)
4.	Disposable plastic films	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i> and <i>Mucor rouxii</i>	(El-Shafei, Abd El-Nasser, Kansoh, Ali, & stability, 1998)
5.	HDPE	<i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> <i>Trametes versicolor</i>	(Iiyoshi, Tsutsumi, & Nishida, 1998)
6.	PVC	<i>Poliporusversicolor</i> , <i>Pleurotus sajor caju</i> ,	(Kırbaş, Keskin, Güner, & toxicology, 1999)
7.	Plasticized PVC	<i>Aureobasidium pullulans</i> , <i>Rhodotorula aurantiaca</i> , and <i>Kluyveromyces</i> spp.	(Webb et al., 2000)
8.	Polyethylene	<i>Penicillium simplicissimum</i>	(Yamada-Onodera et al., 2001)
9.	Low density	<i>Penicillium pinophilium</i> and <i>Aspergillus niger</i>	(Volke-Sepúlveda, Saucedo-Castañeda, Gutiérrez-Rojas, Manzur, & Favela-Torres, 2002)
10.	Degradable polyethylene	<i>Cladosporium cladosporides</i>	(Bonhomme et al., 2003)
11.	Polyethylene bags	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	(Kathiresan, 2003)
12.	LDPE	<i>Fusarium</i> sp	(Shah, Hasan, Hameed, & Akhter, 2009)

13.	High density polyethylene (HDPE)	Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus oryzae Aspergillus flavus	(Konduri, Koteswarareddy, Rohini Kumar, Venkata Reddy, & Lakshmi Narasu, 2011)
14.	LDPE powder	Aspergillus nidulans and Aspergillus flavus	(Usha, Sangeetha, & Palaniswamy, 2011)
15.	Polyethylene carry bags	Aspergillus niger	(Aswale & Ade, 2011)
16.	LDPE	Aspergillus oryzae	(Konduri et al., 2011)
17.	Degradable plastic	Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus nidulans, Aspergillus flavus, Aspergillus glaucus	(Priyanka & Archana, 2011)
18.	LDPE powder	Aspergillus versicolor and Aspergillus sp	(Pramila & Ramesh, 2011)
19.	LDPE	Aspergillus sp	(Raaman, Rajitha, Jayshree, & Jegadeesh, 2012)

### The Role of Fungal Enzymes in the Biodegradation of Plastics

Enzymes exist in each living cell and henceforth in all organisms. Compounds are quite certain in their activity on substrates, Fungi produce extracellular catalysts to corrupt lignin, which can't go through the cell dividers of microorganisms. This cycle of corruption is called mineralization, and the finished result is carbon dioxide.[29] Laccase can help in the oxidation of the hydrocarbon spine of PE. Gel pervasion chromatography (GPC) decides if without cell laccase hatched with PE helps in the decrease of normal sub-atomic weight and normal sub-atomic number of PE by 20% and 15%, respectively.[55] Laccases are generally present in lignin biodegrading organisms, where they catalyze the oxidation of fragrant mixes. Laccase movement is known to follow up on nonaromatic substrates.[36] Lignin and manganese-subordinate peroxidases (LiP and MnP, separately) and laccases are the three fundamental proteins of the ligninolytic system.[18]

A few strains that are equipped for debasing the PE are *Brevibacillus* spp., and *Bacillus* spp., where proteases are answerable for the corruption of plastics.[55] Papain and urease are the two proteolytic chemicals found to debase clinical polyester PU. Polymer corrupted by papain was because of the hydrolysis of urethane and urea linkages creating free amine and hydroxyl groups. [44] Fungi and manganese peroxidase, incompletely filtered from the strain of *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* additionally help in the debasement of high-atomic weight PE under nitrogen and carbon restricted conditions.[54] The chemicals liable for the debasement of different sorts of plastics portray the substrates that use the plastics as carbon and fuel sources and help in biodegradation. Microbial compounds actuate the pace of biodegradation of plastics viably without making any mischief to the environment.[13]

**Table no.4:** Various Enzymes Used to Degrade Plastics

No.	Enzyme	Microorganism	Plastic	References
1.	Glycosidase	A. flavus	PCL	(Tokiwa, Calabia, Ugwu, & Aiba, 2009)
2.	Cutinase	Aspergillus oryzae	PBS	(Maeda et al., 2005)
3.	Catalase, protease	A. niger	PCL	(Tokiwa et al., 2009)
4.	Manganese	phnerochaete	PEL	(Shimao, 2001)
5.	Cutinase	Fusarium	PCL	(Shimao, 2001)
6.	Urease	Trichoderma sp.	polyurethane	(Loredo-Treviño et al., 2011)
7.	Serine hydrolase	Pestalotiopsis microspore Curvularia senegalensis Fusarium solani	PUR	(Russell et al., 2011)

### Biodegradation of Synthetic Plastics by Fungi

The degradation of most manufactured plastics in nature is a moderate cycle that includes ecological variables, trailed by the activities of microorganisms.

The essential instrument for the biodegradation of high-sub-atomic weight polymer is oxidation.[4]

**Table no.5:** Plastic Degradation and its Applications.

No.	Plastic	Applications
1.	PET	SOFT DRINK, WATER AND DRESSING bottles, peanut butter, and jam bars.
2.	HDPE	Milk, juice, and water bottles, trash, and retail bags.
3.	PVC	Juice bottles, cling films, raincoats, visors, shoe soles, garden hoses, and electricity pipes.
4.	LDPE	Frozen food bags, squeezable bottles, flexible container lids
5.	PP	Bottle caps, drinking straws, medicine bottles, car batteries, disposable syringes.
6.	PS	Packing materials, laboratory ware, disposable cups, plates, trays, and cutlery.
7.	OTHER OFTEN POLYCARBONATE	Beverage bottles, baby milk bottles, electronic casing

### Polyethylene

Polyethylene is one of the manufactured polymers of high hydrophobic level and high atomic weight. In common structure, it isn't biodegradable. Accordingly, their utilization in the creation of removal or pressing materials causes risky ecological problems.[26] To make this biodegradable, it requires the adjustment of its crystallinity sub-atomic weight and mechanical properties that are liable for PE obstruction toward degradation.[4] Biodegradation of PE is known to happen by two components: hydro-biodegradation and Oxo-biodegradation.[8] These two instruments concur with the alterations because of the two added substances, starch and favorable to oxidant, utilized in the amalgamation of biodegradable PE. Biodegradation of LDPE film was 0.2% weight reduction in 10 years.[3] Yamada-Onodera et al. (2001) confined a strain of the organism *Penicillium simplicissimum* YK to biodegrade PE, with no additives.[66] The capacity of parasites and *Streptomyces* strains to assault degradable PE comprises arranged PE packs containing 6% starch. They secluded eight unique strains of *Streptomyces* and two parasites *Mucor rouxii* NRRL 1835 and *As. flavus*.[14]

### Polypropylene

Polypropylene is a thermoplastic polymer utilized in a wide assortment of utilizations including bundling and naming, materials (e.g., ropes, warm clothing, and covers), writing material, plastic parts, and reusable compartments of different sorts, research center gear, amplifiers, car segments, and polymer banknotes. Most business PP is isotactic and has a middle-of-the-road level of crystallinity between that of LDPE and HDPE. PP is ordinarily extreme and adaptable, particularly when copolymerized with ethylene.[35] Polypropylene is subject to fasten debasement from introduction to warmth and UV radiation, for example, that present in sunlight.[38] Microbial people groups disconnected from soil tests blended in with starch have been fit for corrupting PP.[10] Biodegradation of isotactic PP with no treatment is accounted for with one of the networks assigned as 3S among the four microbial networks (assigned as 1S, 2S, 3S, and 6S) adjusted to develop on starch-containing PE from advancement culture.

*Pseudomonas chlororaphis*, *Pseudomonas stutzeri*, and *Vibrio* species were distinguished in the network 3S. [2]

### Polyvinyl Chloride

Polyvinyl chloride is a solid plastic that opposes scraped spots and synthetic substances and has low dampness ingestion. PVC is utilized in development since it is more compelling than conventional materials, for example, copper, iron, or wood in line and profile applications. It very well may be made gentler and more adaptable by the expansion of plasticizers, Mostly, PVC is utilized in structures for lines and fittings, electrical wire protection, floor covers, and engineered cowhide items. It is additionally used to make shoe soles, inflexible lines, materials, and nursery hoses.[41] As indicated by [24] PVC having low atomic weight can be presented to biodegradation by the utilization of white-decay fungi.[24] The organism *As. fumigatus* viably corrupts plasticized PVC. *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* was developed on PVC in a mineral salt agar. *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, *Lentinus tigrinus*, *As. niger* and *Aspergillus sydowii* can successfully debase PVC.[5]

### Polystyrene

Polystyrene is an engineered polymer that contains a rehashing gathering, likewise viewed as exceptionally steady and less powerless for biodegradation. It is utilized in the creation of dispensable cups, bundling materials, research facility products, and in certain electronic employments. PS is utilized for its lightweight, firmness, and great warm protection. At the point when it is corrupted by warm or synthetic methods it discharges items, for example, styrene, benzene, toluene, and acrolein.[59] Biodegradation analyses of PS, styrene oligomers, and PS copolymers have had a go at utilizing bacteria.[17] fungi.[37] blended culture and catalyst under various conditions. Enzymatic biodegradation of PS polymer was attempted with hydro-quinone peroxidase protein with success.[39] The protein was separated from lignin decolorizing bacterium *Azotobacter beijerinckii* HM121 and utilized in a two-stage (watery and dissolvable) system.[13]

## Polyurethane

Polyurethane is usually used as a constituent material in numerous items including furniture, covering, development materials, strands, and paints.[50] Primarily, PUR is the buildup result of polyisocyanate and polyol [19] Four types of organisms *Curvularia senegalensis*, *Fusarium solani*, *Aureobasidium pullulans*, and *Cladosporium sp.* were obtained from the soil and found to debase ester-based PU.[51] Pathirana and Seal (1985) detailed that some polyester-PUR debasing organisms produce extracellular esterases, proteases, or ureases within the sight of PUR. Esterase action has been resolved in the way of life supernatant of growth, for example, *C. Senegalensis*.[42]

## Conclusion

It is obvious that without plastic we can't meet our day-to-day life needs, but in view of its detrimental effect, it is required to develop competent processes for its safe disposal and explore alternative materials like starch-based and blended plastic. This knowledge is useful because Currently, the annual worldwide use of plastic materials is gradually increasing. In the natural environment, different kinds of microorganisms play an important role in various steps involved in the degradation of plastics Various plastic-degrading methods are available but the cheapest, eco-friendly acceptable method is degradation using microbes. The microbe releases the extracellular enzymes to degrade the plastic but the detailed characterization of these enzymes is still needed to be carried out. Utilization of molecular techniques to detect specific groups of microorganisms involved in the degradation process will allow a better understanding of the organization of the microbial community involved in the attack of materials.

## Future Prospects

To tackle the issues identified with the removal of plastic waste created from different sources, the most imaginative and earth-safe path is to utilize biodegradable plastics in specific applications like bundling, horticulture, and the wellbeing industry. Bio-and fossil-based biodegradable polymers, whenever used, are effectively corrupted in the earth, cells, or under enhanced modern facilities. The interest in natural well-disposed polymers is expanding consistently in specific applications. Use of these materials ought to be engaged in the future, particularly for the assembling of bundling stuff, food thing bundling, and expendable clinical things. It is additionally useful to utilize biodegradable plastics in the earth as farming movies, fishery materials (fishing nets), bio-absorbable materials in therapeutics, careful systems, and sterile merchandise. Additionally, biodegradable plastics ought to be applied where dissemination into nature is unavoidable or when it is trying to isolate the trash. Then again, an appropriate game plan for their waste and littering control is fundamental to exploiting such polymers in the community. Next-age bio-based biodegradable plastics will focus on building a more reasonable society for explicit applications. Further, these plastics ought to be biodegraded and reused in a reasonable manner to make their re-utilize conceivable.

## References

- Ahmed, T, Shahid, M, Azeem, F, Rasul, I, Shah, A. A, Noman, M.P. (2018). Research Biodegradation of plastics: current scenario and future prospects for environmental safety. 25(8): 7287-7298.
- Alariqi, S.A, Kumar, A.P, Rao, B, Singh, R.J.P.D, Stability. (2006). Biodegradation of  $\gamma$ -sterilised biomedical polyolefins under composting and fungal culture environments. 91(5): 1105-1116.
- Albertsson, A.-C. J. E. P. J. (1980). The shape of the biodegradation curve for low and high-density polyethylene in a prolonged series of experiments. 16(7): 623-630.
- Albertsson, A.C, Barenstedt, C, Karlsson, S.J.A.p. (2003). Abiotic degradation products from enhanced environmentally degradable polyethylene. 45(2): 97-103.
- Ali, M. (2009). Microbial degradation of polyvinyl chloride plastics. Ph.D. thesis, Quaid-i-Azam University.
- Aswale, P, Ade, A.J.S.A.i.B, Pune. (2011). Polythene degradation potential of *Aspergillus niger*.
- Atagana, H. I. J. W. J. o. M, Biotechnology. (2004). Biodegradation of phenol, o-cresol, m-cresol and p-cresol by indigenous soil fungi in soil contaminated with creosote. 20(8): 845-849.
- Bonhomme, S, Cuer, A, Delort, A, Lemaire, J, Sancelme, M, Scott, G.J.P.d, Stability. (2003). Environmental biodegradation of polyethylene. 81(3): 441-452.
- Boubendir, A. (1992). Purification and biochemical evaluation of polyurethane degrading enzymes of fungal origin. University of Salford.
- Cacciari, I, Quatrini, P, Zirletta, G, Mincione, E, Vinciguerra, V, Lupattelli, P, microbiology, e. (1993). Isotactic polypropylene biodegradation by a microbial community: physicochemical characterization of metabolites produced. 59(11): 3695-3700.
- Crabbe, J. R, Campbell, J. R, Thompson, L, Walz, S. L, Schultz, W.W.J.I.B, Biodegradation. (1994). Biodegradation of a colloidal ester-based polyurethane by soil fungi. 33(2): 103-113.
- Cruz-Pinto, J, Carvalho, M, Ferreira, J. J. D. A. M. C. A. M. C, Physics. (2003). The kinetics and mechanism of polyethylene photo-oxidation. 216(1): 113-133.
- Devi, R. S, Kannan, V. R, Natarajan, K, Nivas, D, Kannan, K, Chandru, S, Antony, A. R. J. E. W. M. (2016). The role of microbes in plastic degradation. 341.
- El-Shafei, H. A, Abd El-Nasser, N. H, Kansoh, A. L, Ali, A. M. J. P. d, stability. (1998). Biodegradation of disposable polyethylene by fungi and *Streptomyces* species. 62(2): 361-365.
- Fernández-Luqueño, F, Valenzuela-Encinas, C, Marsch, R, Martínez-Suárez, C, Vázquez-Núñez, E, Dendooven, L. J. E. S, Research, P. (2011). Microbial communities to mitigate contamination of PAHs in soil—possibilities and challenges: a review. 18(1): 12-30.
- Gautam, R, Bassi, A, Yanful, E. J. A. b, biotechnology. (2007). A review of biodegradation of synthetic plastic and foams. 141(1): 85-108.
- Higashimura, T, Sawamoto, M, Hiza, T, Karaiwa, M, Tsuchii, A, Suzuki, T. J. A, Microbiology, E. (1983). Effect of methyl substitution on microbial degradation of linear styrene dimers by two soil bacteria. 46(2): 386-391.
- Hofrichter, M, Lundell, T, Hatakka, A. J. A, Microbiology, E. (2001). Conversion of milled pine wood by manganese peroxidase from *Phlebia radiata*. 67(10): 4588-4593.



19. Howard, G. T, Norton, W. N, Burks, T. J. B. (2012). Growth of *Acinetobacter gernerii* P7 on polyurethane and the purification and characterization of a polyurethanase enzyme. 23(4): 561-573.
20. Iiyoshi, Y, Tsutsumi, Y, Nishida, T.J. J. o. w. s. (1998). Polyethylene degradation by lignin-degrading fungi and manganese peroxidase. 44(3): 222-229.
21. Kale, S. K, Deshmukh, A. G, Dudhare, M. S, Patil, V. B. J. J. o. B. T. (2015). Microbial degradation of plastic: a review. 6(2): 952-961.
22. Kaseem, M, Hamad, K, Deri, F. J. P. S. S. A. (2012). Thermoplastic starch blends: A review of recent works. 54(2): 165-176.
23. Kathiresan, K. J. R. d. b. t. (2003). Polythene and plastics-degrading microbes from the mangrove soil. 51(3-4): 629-633.
24. Kırbaş, Z, Keskin, N, Güner, A. J. B. o. e. c, toxicology. (1999). Biodegradation of polyvinylchloride (PVC) by white rot fungi. 63(3): 335-342.
25. Konduri, M. K, Koteswarareddy, G, Rohini Kumar, D, Venkata Reddy, B, Lakshmi Narasu, M. J. J. o. A. P. S. (2011). Effect of pro-oxidants on biodegradation of polyethylene (LDPE) by indigenous fungal isolate, *Aspergillus oryzae*. 120(6): 3536-3545.
26. Krupp, L. R, Jewell, W. J. J. E. s, technology. (1992). Biodegradability of modified plastic films in controlled biological environments. 26(1): 193-198.
27. Kyrikou, I, Briassoulis, D. J. J. o. P, Environment, t. (2007). Biodegradation of agricultural plastic films: a critical review. 15(2): 125-150.
28. Lee, B, Pometto, A. L, Fratzke, A, Bailey, T. B. J. A, Microbiology, E. (1991). Biodegradation of degradable plastic polyethylene by *Phanerochaete* and *Streptomyces* species. 57(3): 678-685.
29. Lee, K.-M, Gimore, D, Huss, M. J. J. o. P, Environment, t. (2005). Fungal Degradation of the Bioplastic PHB (Poly-3-hydroxy-butyric acid). 13(3): 213-219.
30. Lee, S. Y. J. B, bioengineering. (1996). Bacterial polyhydroxyalkanoates. 49(1): 1-14.
31. Loredó-Treviño, A, García, G, Velasco-Téllez, A, Rodríguez-Herrera, R, Aguilar, C. N. J. A. i. B, Biotechnology. (2011). Polyurethane foam as substrate for fungal strains. 2(2): 52-58.
32. Luzier, W. D. J. P. o. t. N. A. o. S. (1992). Materials derived from biomass/biodegradable materials. 89(3): 839-842.
33. Maeda, H, Yamagata, Y, Abe, K, Hasegawa, F, Machida, M, Ishioka, R, biotechnology. (2005). Purification and characterization of a biodegradable plastic-degrading enzyme from *Aspergillus oryzae*. 67(6): 778-788.
34. Mai, C, Schormann, W, Majcherczyk, A, Hüttermann, A.J. A.m, biotechnology. (2004). Degradation of acrylic copolymers by white-rot fungi. 65(4): 479-487.
35. Maier, C, Calafut, T. (1998). Polypropylene: the definitive user's guide and databook: William Andrew. 452.
36. Mayer, A. M, Staples, R. C. J. P. (2002). Laccase: new functions for an old enzyme. 60(6): 551-565.
37. Milstein, O, Gersonde, R, Hüttermann, A, Chen, M.-J, Meister, J. J. J. A, Microbiology, E. (1992). Fungal biodegradation of lignopolystyrene graft copolymers. 58(10): 3225-3232.
38. Morris, P. J. (2005). Polymer pioneers: a popular history of the science and technology of large molecules: Chemical Heritage Foundation. 88.
39. Nakamiya, K, Ooi, T, Kinoshita, S. J. J. o. f, bioengineering. (1997). Non-heme hydroquinone peroxidase from *Azotobacter beijerinckii* HM121. 84(5): 480-482.
40. Norton, J. M. J. U. o. H. i. a. H. H. i. C. C. H. (2012). Fungi for bioremediation of hydrocarbon pollutants. 10: 18-21.
41. Owen, E. J. E. A. S. P. L, Ripple Road, Barking, Essex, UK. (1984). Degradation and Stabilization of PVC.(Retroactive Coverage).
42. Pathirana, R, Seal, K. J. I. B. B. (1984). Studies on polyurethane deteriorating fungi. 20(4): 229-235.
43. Peng, R.-H, Xiong, A.-S, Xue, Y, Fu, X.-Y, Gao, F, Zhao, W, Yao, Q.-H. J. F. m. r. (2008). Microbial biodegradation of polyaromatic hydrocarbons. 32(6): 927-955.
44. Phua, S, Castillo, E, Anderson, J, Hiltner, A. J. J. o. b. m. r. (1987). Biodegradation of a polyurethane in vitro. 21(2): 231-246.
45. Pospíšil, J, Nešpůrek, S. (1997). Highlights in chemistry and physics of polymer stabilization. Paper presented at the Macromolecular Symposia. 115(1): 143-163.
46. Pramila, R, Ramesh, K. V. J. A. J. o. M. R. (2011). Biodegradation of low density polyethylene (LDPE) by fungi isolated from marine water a SEM analysis. 5(28): 5013-5018.
47. Priyanka, N, Archana, T. J. J. E. A. T. (2011). Biodegradability of polythene and plastic by the help of microorganism: a way for brighter future. 1(4): 1000111.
48. Raaman, N, Rajitha, N, Jayshree, A, Jegadeesh, R. J. J. A. I. R. (2012). Biodegradation of plastic by *Aspergillus* spp. isolated from polythene polluted sites around Chennai. 1(6): 313-316.
49. Russell, J. R, Huang, J, Anand, P, Kucera, K, Sandoval, A. G, Dantzler, K. W, microbiology, e. (2011). Biodegradation of polyester polyurethane by endophytic fungi. 77(17): 6076-6084.
50. Saunders, J. H, Frisch, K. C. (1964). Polyurethanes: Chemistry and Technology: Chemistry: Interscience Publishers. 16.
51. Shah, A. A, Hasan, F, Akhter, J. I, Hameed, A, Ahmed, S. J. A. o. m. (2008). Degradation of polyurethane by novel bacterial consortium isolated from soil. 58(3): 381-386.
52. Shah, A. A, Hasan, F, Hameed, A, Ahmed, S. J. I. b, biodegradation. (2007). Isolation and characterization of poly (3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyvalerate) degrading bacteria and purification of PHBV depolymerase from newly isolated *Bacillus* sp. AF3. 60(2): 109-115.
53. Shah, A. A, Hasan, F, Hameed, A, Akhter, J. I. J. A. J. o. M. R. (2009). Isolation of *Fusarium* sp. AF4 from sewage sludge, with the ability to adhere the surface of polyethylene. 3(10): 658-663.
54. Shima, M. J. C. o. i. b. (2001). Biodegradation of plastics. 12(3): 242-247.
55. Sivan, A. J. C. o. i. b. (2011). New perspectives in plastic biodegradation. 22(3): 422-426.
56. Steffen, K. T, Schubert, S, Tuomela, M, Hatakka, A, Hofrichter, M. J. B. (2007). Enhancement of bioconversion of high-molecular mass polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in contaminated non-sterile soil by litter-decomposing fungi. 18(3): 359-369.

57. Takaku, H, Kimoto, A, Kodaira, S, Nashimoto, M, Takagi, M. J. F. m. I. (2006). Isolation of a Gram-positive poly (3-hydroxybutyrate)(PHB)-degrading bacterium from compost, and cloning and characterization of a gene encoding PHB depolymerase of *Bacillus megaterium* N-18-25-9. 264(2): 152-159.
58. Tokiwa, Y, Calabia, B. P, Ugwu, C. U, Aiba, S. J. I. j. o. m. s. (2009). Biodegradability of plastics. 10(9): 3722-3742.
59. Tsuchii, A, Suzuki, T, Takahara, Y. J. A, Chemistry, B. (1977). Microbial degradation of styrene oligomer. 41(12): 2417-2421.
60. Usha, R, Sangeetha, T, Palaniswamy, M. J. L. A. R. C. J. I. (2011). Screening of polyethylene degrading microorganisms from garbage soil. 2(4): 200-204.
61. Vaverková, M, Adamcová, D, Kotovicová, J, Toman, F. J. E. C, S, E. (2014). Evaluation of biodegradability of plastics bags in composting conditions. 21(1): 45-57.
62. Volke-Sepúlveda, T, Saucedo-Castañeda, G, Gutiérrez-Rojas, M, Manzur, A, Favela-Torres, E. J. J. o. a. p. s. (2002). Thermally treated low density polyethylene biodegradation by *Penicillium pinophilum* and *Aspergillus niger*. 83(2): 305-314.
63. Wackett, L. P, Hershberger, C. D. (2001). Biocatalysis and biodegradation: microbial transformation of organic compounds: ASM press Washington, DC.
64. Webb, J. S, Nixon, M, Eastwood, I. M, Greenhalgh, M, Robson, G. D, Handley, P. S. J. A, microbiology, e. (2000). Fungal colonization and biodeterioration of plasticized polyvinyl chloride. 66(8): 3194-3200.
65. Williams, S, Peoples, O. J. C. (1996). Biodegradable plastics from plants. 26(9): 38-44.
66. Yamada-Onodera, K, Mukumoto, H, Katsuyaya, Y, Saiganji, A, Tani, Y. J. P. d, stability. (2001). Degradation of polyethylene by a fungus, *Penicillium simplicissimum* YK. 72(2): 323-327.