INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES OF SASA MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY OF SERBIA

Programme and the Book of Abstracts

TWENTY-FIRST YOUNG RESEARCHERS' CONFERENCE MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Belgrade, November 29 – December 1, 2023



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Aim of the Conference

Main aim of the conference is to enable young researchers (post-graduate, master or doctoral student, or a PhD holder younger than 35) working in the field of materials science and engineering, to meet their colleagues and exchange experiences about their research.

Topics

Biomaterials Environmental science Materials for high-technology applications Materials for new generation solar cells Nanostructured materials New synthesis and processing methods Theoretical modelling of materials

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Results of the Conference

Beside printed «Program and the Book of Abstracts», which is disseminated to all conference participants, selected and awarded peer-reviewed papers will be published in journal "Tehnika – Novi Materijali". The best presented papers, suggested by Session Chairpersons and selected by Awards Committee, will be proclaimed at the Closing Ceremony. Part of the award is free-of-charge conference fee at YUCOMAT 2024.

Sponsors



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Microplastics in urban soils of Belgrade: Abundance and potential sources

<u>Ivana Mikavica</u>¹, Dragana Ranđelović¹, Miloš Ilić², Milena Obradović¹, Jovica Stojanović¹, Jelena Mutić²

¹Institute for Technology of Nuclear and other Mineral Raw materials, Belgrade, Serbia ²University of Belgrade, Faculty of Chemistry, Belgrade, Serbia

Microplastics (MPs), the long-lasting anthropogenic contaminant omnipresent in the environment, have become a threat to ecosystems' function and living organisms' health, potentially harming the food chain globally. The presence of MPs emerged on a worldwide scale, while the evidence of microplastic particles is already being detected in human tissues. Terrestrial environments are sinks for plastic deposition and are one of the main routes of MPs reaching the groundwater and water bodies. In this regard, urban soils could significantly contribute to overall plastic pollution even though it have been mostly neglected by the research investigations carried out so far. Herein, we investigated MPs abundance in the soils of Belgrade, a city located in the northeast of Serbia, the capital and the most populated city in Serbia. Two sampling points chosen to represent the pollution gradient were the city center zone, close to the highway (BG1), and Košutnjak, the urban forest area around 7 km distant from the center (BG2). MPs extraction was performed using a density separation method, by saturated NaCl solution (1.2 g cm⁻³). Before extraction, soil organic matter was digested by 30% H₂O₂. Found average concentration of MPs was 400 items per kg of dry soil sampled in BG1. Soil from Košutnjak contained no MPs according to our findings. MPs abundance found in sampled soils from Belgrade is in agreement with previous reports analyzing urban areas. Isolated plastic particles were identified and counted using a polarizing microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena Pol-U). All found items were white/transparent fragments, characterized afterward by ATR-FTIR spectroscopy using a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS50 spectrophotometer. Detected polymer types were polystyrene (PS) and phosphorylated cardanol prepolymer (PCP), suggesting the insulation, packing, and rubber materials as potential pollution sources. Transportation, overload of customer goods and packaging, construction, and building activities are the prevailing anthropogenic origins of MPs accumulation in urban environments. Further investigations will aim to reveal the relations between MPs and other pollutants and the potential impact on soil biota.