

## Fungi to the Rescue

Examining microplastics, which can fit in most blood vessels of living things, we learned they can contaminate & pose a health danger to the biosphere and Earth's inhabitants. Many plastic products are thrown out with barely any comprehension of their potential impacts on the Earth & its life. Furthermore, these microplastics and other polymers that make up vehicle tires and polypropylene twine can cause harm to living things and the environment for decades if nothing is done. In recent years, studies have shown that fungi can quicken the decomposition of these polluting plastics and polymers. This is why we investigated fungal growth on Sabouraud dextrose agar and tomato juice agar. Additionally, using fungal DNA extracted from tires and twine, we amplified via PCR using the ITS4-Fun and 5.8S-Fun primer pairs. During our meetings, using the QIIME2 pipeline allowed us to assess whether any fungal DNA present belongs to fungi known to degrade plastic, benefiting the Earth's biosphere while removing waste that poses a significant health risk to all life on Earth.