

Project Update: July 2019

New sampling campaigns and other activities.

Sampling campaigns and laboratory activities (fish and bird)

We have continued working in the same way as reported in the 2nd Report. Currently, we have finished all sampling campaigns (field activities) and we are focusing our efforts on the sample processing in the laboratory.

Publication of the first results

At the moment we have obtained (after very hard work!) information enough to write two scientific studies. We are very proud to say that the first one has been published:

Blettler et al. 2019. Threats Underestimated in Freshwater Plastic Pollution: Mini Review. Water Air Soil Pollut (2019) 230:174, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11270-019-4220-z>

Please, see section: "Acknowledgments" "This research was financially supported by The Rufford Foundation (Grant no. 26610-2)".

Please, find this pdf as attached file.

The second one:

Blettler et al. "Massive plastic pollution in a mega-river of the Global South: sediment deposition and fish ingestion", Environmental Pollution...

has recently been approved (with changes) in the prestigious journal "Environmental Pollution" (Impact factor: 4.3).

Presence in the Media.

We have strongly disseminated our first results in the local and national media. This is very important, since education and awareness are key aspect of this project. Our results are significant and surprising. As a result, the public and media interest is very high.

Interview in the newspaper: "El Diario" (most important newspaper in Entre Ríos Province, Argentina). 14.07.2019. (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The most important newspaper in the region (Entre Ríos province). Newspaper cover: "Scientists find microplastics in native fish and birds of the region". Picture: Dr. M. Blettler (me) and the journalist, birds entangled with plastic debris (pictures obtaining during the sampling campaigns).

Interview in TV. Canal 9, the most important TV media in Entre Ríos province, Argentina.

<https://youtu.be/yvAREvel5Lw>

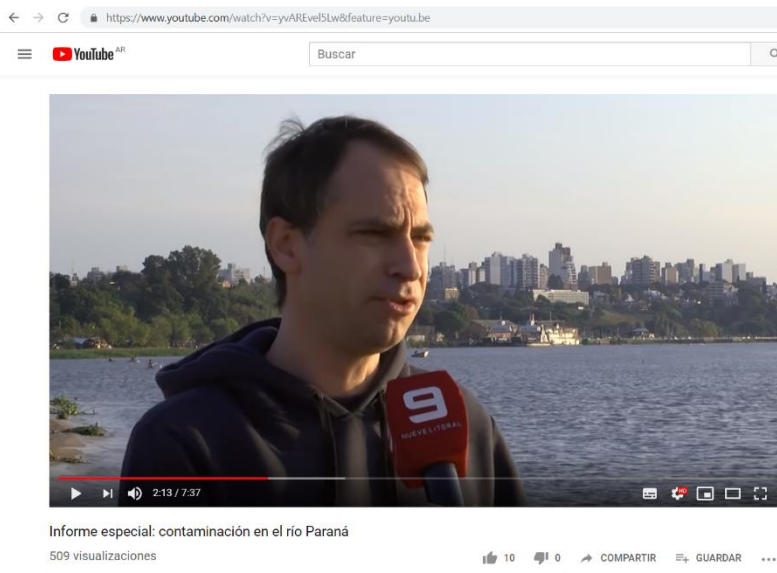


Figure 2. TV interview (Canal 9). Special report about plastic pollution in the Paraná River. Interviewer: Dr. M. Blettler. <https://youtu.be/yvAREvel5Lw>



Tras varias investigaciones para determinar el grado de contaminación por plásticos que hay en las aguas que rodean a Santa Fe y Paraná, los resultados son contundentes y preocupantes. Ya que este material está presente en todos los tamaños imaginables y se ha introducido en el ecosistema, afectando así a los peces y aves que habitan ríos, lagunas y arroyos. El doctor Martín Bletter, investigador adjunto del Conicet en el Instituto Nacional de Limnología (Inali), investiga hace varios años el impacto del plástico y ahora observa cómo la fauna acuática está afectada.



“Empezamos a proyectar qué problemas podría traer aparejado sobre la biota (conjunto de los organismos vivos). Primero lo hicimos en peces y no son buenas las noticias porque encontramos microplásticos contenido en el estomago de todas las especies que investigamos. Hace poco lo empezamos a estudiar en las aves y también encontramos las partículas de microplásticos en su organismo”, comentó el investigador.

Figure 3. TV interview (Canal El Litoral). Special report about plastic pollution in the Paraná River, focusing on birds and fish. Interviewer: Dr. M. Bletter. [https://www.ellitoral.com/index.php/id_um/201763-la-contaminacion-por-plastico-cada-vez-mas-presente-en-el-ecosistema-martin-bletter-investigador-del-conicet-
area-metropolitana.html](https://www.ellitoral.com/index.php/id_um/201763-la-contaminacion-por-plastico-cada-vez-mas-presente-en-el-ecosistema-martin-bletter-investigador-del-conicet-area-metropolitana.html)

And many other interviews in radio and internet sites.

I want to notice that in all cases I particularly mentioned The RF as financial source.

Open conferences.

I have been promoted several open conferences showing our results (so far). For example:



Figure 4. Flyer of the open conference “Plastic Rivers” delivered in a high school of San Cristobal, Santa Fe province, Argentina, by Dr. M. Blettler.

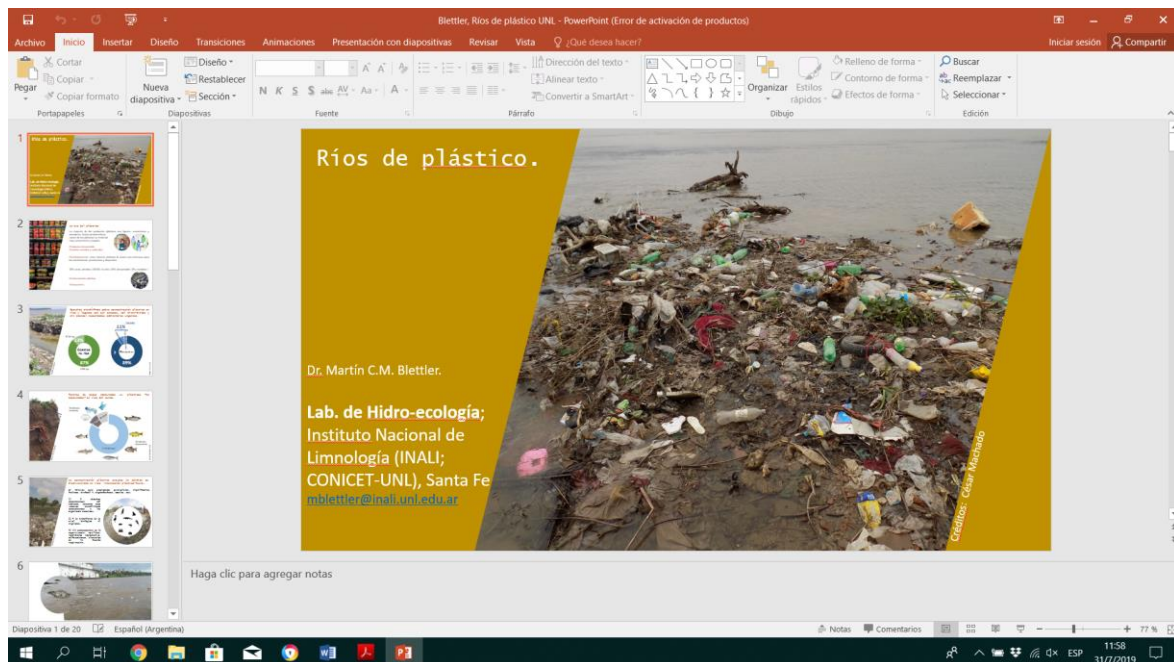


Figure 5. Open conference “Plastic Rivers” delivered in The National University of the Littoral, Ciudad Universitaria 3000, Santa Fe province, Argentina by Dr. M. Blettler (13.06.2019).