# MICROPLASTICS Illuminating an invisible foe

For such small particles—they are defined as particles smaller than 5 mm in diameter—microplastics have a big impact on the natural world. They can be found everywhere and their ingestion and inhalation can have harmful effects on humans, animals, plants, and microbes.

Yet, we can still reduce their impact and identify opportunities for better solutions today.

Get the full details and see all the references at cas.org/microplastics-report





debris

**Plastic** 

- 400 particles

**MICROPLASTICS CAN BE** 



69-85%



150,000 tons/year

**700,000 tons/year** 





### tory diseases

MICROPLASTICS MAY IMPACT HUMAN HEALTH

39,000-52,000 microplastic particles

estimated to be consumed per person each year

MICROPLASTICS MAY HARM SINGLE- AND MULTI-CELLULAR

**ORGANISMS** 

## More researc MICROPLASTICS COME FROM MANY TYPES OF POLYMERS

1-Propene homopolymer

(polypropylene)



Substance name Hydrogen peroxide Polytetrafluoroethylene **•** Poly(vinyl alcohol) Titania \_\_\_\_ **MICROPLASTICS ARE BEING** 



2019 2021 Year