**Low microplastic loads in European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) during their marine-freshwater transition**

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READ ME file for the uploaded data

This file provides some important details for the dataset (“BP microplastics in eels”) which presents details on the number of microplastics recovered from juvenile eel samples within the UK. Please read the manuscript “Low microplastic loads in European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) during their marine-freshwater transition” for details on sample collection and processing.

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| --- | --- |
| Column | Details |
| Mucus.sample | Identifier for the sample |
| Sample.date | Date of sample collection |
| River | The river samples were collected from |
| Length | The total length of the eel in mm |
| Head.width | The width of the head in mm |
| Dissect.day | The day the sample was dissected |
| Digest.batch | The batch the sample was processed within |
| Screen | The day the sample was screened |
| Sus.MP | The number of suspected microplastics |
| Colour | The colour of the suspected microplastic |
| Morphology | The morphology of the suspected microplastic |
| Size.units | The size of the suspected microplastic (later converted to µm) |
| Notes | Any information on suspected contaminants including their features |
| Match.1, Match.2…Match.5 | The top 5 spectral database matches by decreasing match |
| Score.1, Score.2…Score.5 | The match score for the top 5 spectral database matches by decreasing match |
| Match | Whether the top match was a hit (score ≥ 0.7) |
| Best.hit | The best hit identified (those with all match scores < 0.7 had no hits) |
| Polymer | The category the best hit was assigned to |
| Confirmed.MP | The number of confirmed microplastics |

Data for the sample blanks are also included as part of the dataset. These can be identified as rows where the Mucus.sample is “BLANK” and the Sample.date is “NA”.