

Recognition prize

Laudation

Michael Scheurer

While microplastics are a globally occurring pollutant, its sources and its concentrations in soils have not yet been well researched. In his Master's dissertation, "Microplastics in Swiss Floodplain Soils", Michael Scheurer presents his method of analysing microplastics in soils, applied specifically to floodplain soils in Switzerland. His data show that 90 % (n = 29) of Swiss floodplain soils contain microplastics and point towards direct anthropogenic inputs as well as diffuse pollution via the atmosphere. Michael Scheurer's Master's dissertation was published in a leading scientific journal of the field and resulted in more than 40 media reports (newspapers, radio, and tv). The work is of pioneering character, demonstrates scientific excellence, and contributes significantly to the understanding of the occurrence and the sources of microplastics in terrestrial ecosystems.

Biography

1991 Born in Aarberg, Switzerland

2011 – 2015: Bachelor's in Geography (minor in Computer Studies), University of Bern

2015 – 2018: Master's in Geography, University of Bern und Universitat de València

2013 – 2014: Editor-in-Chief, Tink.ch German-speaking Switzerland and Founder, Tink.ch Ticino

2014 – 2017: Editor and producer at the daily broadsheet, Der Bund; freelance journalist for various Swiss newspapers

Since 2019: Co-founder of Seccom GmbH und FarmX GmbH