



PRESENCE OF MICROPLASTICS IN *Cronius ruber* SPECIES

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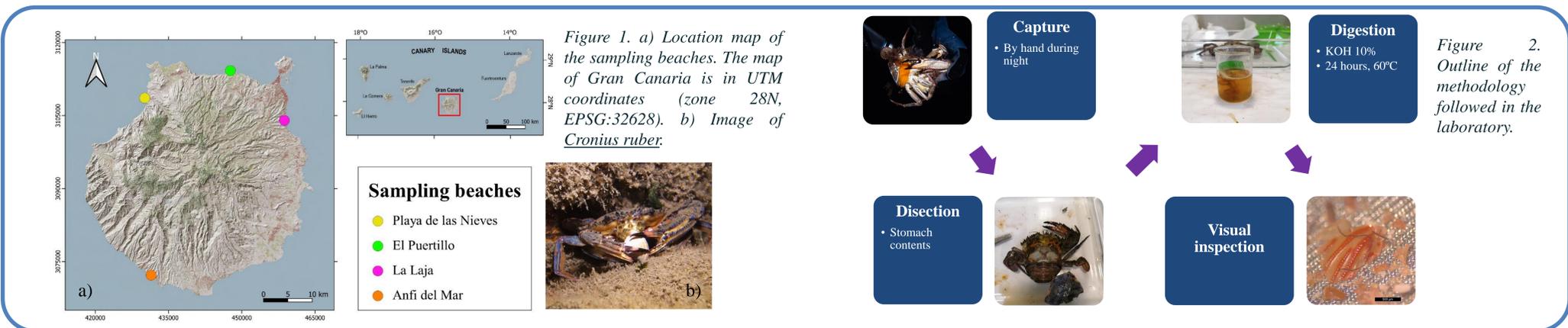
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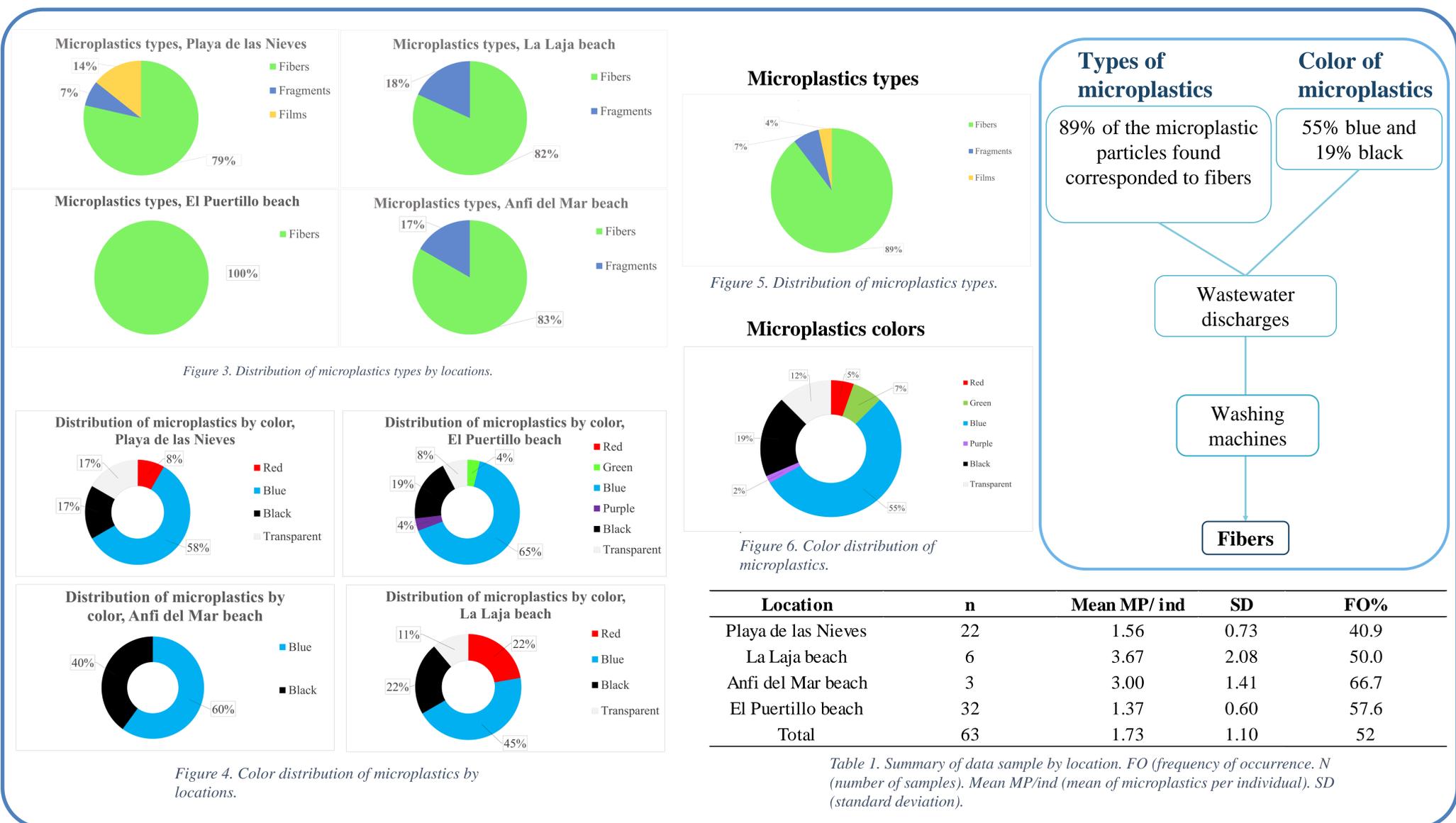
INTRODUCTION

The presence of microplastics in the stomach contents of the invasive species *Cronius ruber* (Lamarck, 1818) has been studied on the island of Gran Canaria. For this purpose, four beaches were selected from which individuals were extracted for further analysis. The beaches chosen were Playa de las Nieves beach, El Puertillo beach, La Laja beach and Anfi del Mar beach. The species *Cronius ruber* of the Portunidae family is commonly known as invasive crab and since 2016 its presence in the Canary Islands has been known. Of the individuals studied, 52% were found to be contaminated. Of the microplastics found, a total of 89% corresponded to microplastic fibers. The most frequent colors were blue (52%) and black (19%). This study demonstrates for the first time the contamination by microplastics in the species *Cronius ruber*.

METHODOLOGY



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



CONCLUSIONS

- Microplastics pollution are affecting the invasive species *Cronius ruber* on the island of Gran Canaria.
- More than 50% of the individuals have microplastics in their stomachs, which may act in favor of trophic transfer to both predators and humans.
- The contamination of the study species is similar to other crab species of interest, so it would be interesting to investigate the reasons why certain colors and types of plastics are ingested more.

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