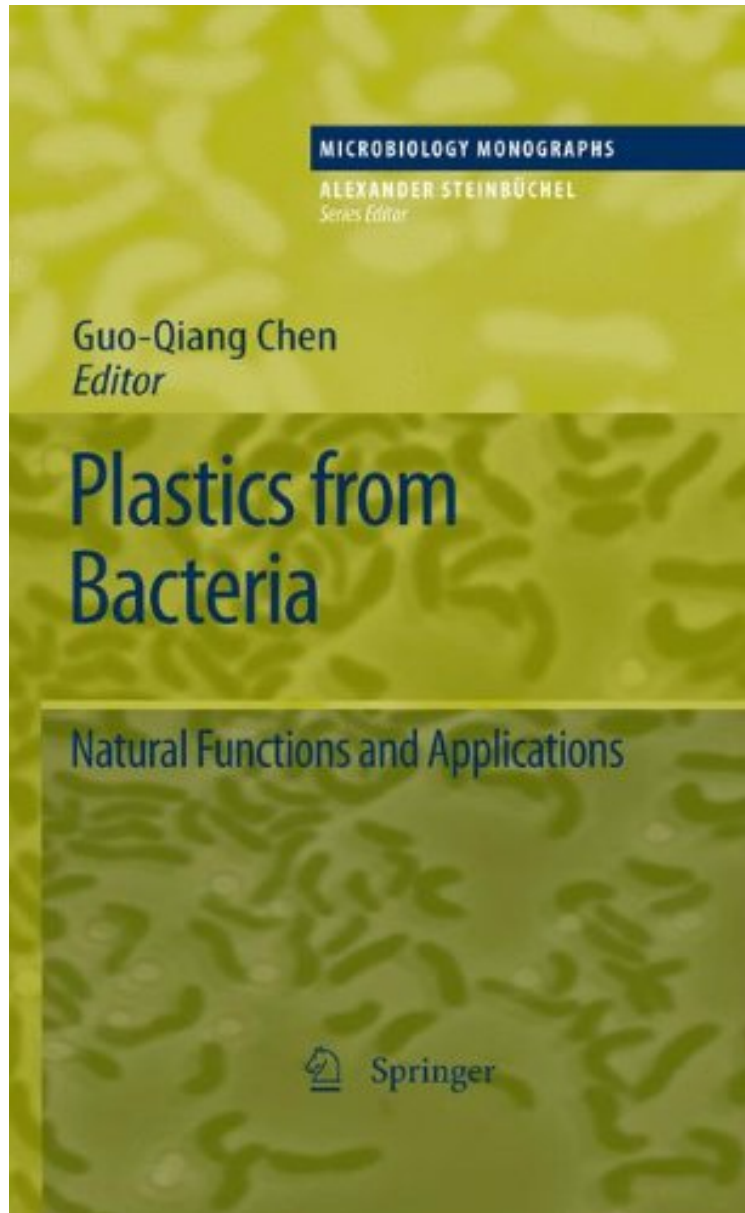


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## **Plastics from Bacteria: Natural Functions and Applications (Microbiology Monographs)**

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Plastics from Bacteria:*

## Natural Functions and Applications (Microbiology Monographs):

Due to the possibility that petroleum supplies will be exhausted in the next decades to come, more and more attention has been paid to the production of bacterial plastics including polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA), polylactic acid (PLA), poly(butylene succinate) (PBS), biopolyethylene (PE), poly(trimethylene terephthalate) (PTT), and poly(p-phenylene) (PPP). These are well-studied polymers containing at least one monomer synthesized via bacterial transformation. Among them, PHA, PLA and PBS are well known for their biodegradability, whereas PE, PTT and PPP are probably less biodegradable or are less studied in terms of their biodegradability. Over the past years, their properties and applications have been studied in detail and products have been developed. Physical and chemical modifications to reduce their cost or to improve their properties have been conducted. PHA is the only biopolyester family completely synthesized by biological means. They have been investigated by microbiologists, molecular biologists, biochemists, chemical engineers, chemists, polymer experts, and medical researchers for many years. PHA applications as bioplastics, fine chemicals, implant biomaterials, medicines, and biofuels have been developed. Companies have been established for or involved in PHA related RD as well as large scale production. It has become clear that PHA and its related technologies form an industrial value chain in fermentation, materials, feeds, and energy to medical fields.

From the reviews: The editor and the authors have produced an excellent up-to date compendium on biopolymers that will undoubtedly attract a large audience. This excellent text book will be extremely useful for students, young and senior researchers in the field of life sciences. A useful reference for scientists of all branches of microbiological sciences. It should be on the shelves of all libraries at universities, research institutes and biotechnological companies and is further strongly recommended to all those who are interested in life science. (Uta Breuer, *Biotechnology Journal*, Vol. 5, 2010)