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Environmental Chemistry
environmental problems • chemical approaches

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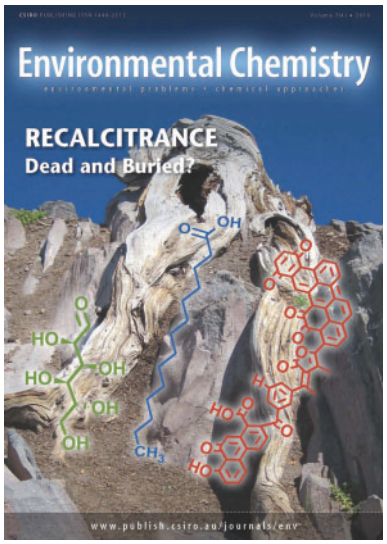
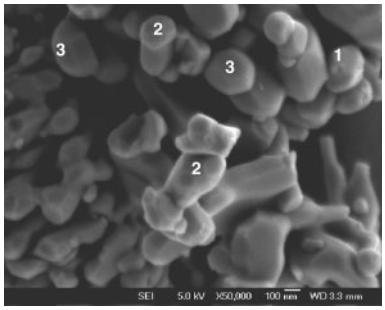


Cover

On a global scale, soils store more carbon than plants or the atmosphere. The cycling of this vast reservoir of reduced carbon is closely tied to variations in environmental conditions, but robust predictions of climate–carbon cycle feedbacks are hampered by a lack of mechanistic knowledge regarding the sensitivity of organic matter decomposition to rising temperatures. See Kleber (pp. 320–332) for a critical discussion of the practice to conceptualise parts of soil organic matter as intrinsically resistant to decomposition or 'recalcitrant'.



Manufactured nanoparticles can be released into the natural environment where they might pose a risk to environmental and human health. Understanding the nanoparticle characteristics that induce toxic effects that are not yet well-known, and the fate and behaviour of nanoparticles in the environment requires precise characterisation of their properties at the nanoscale and the individual particle level (see Baalousha et al., pp. 377–385).