

*Invited Editorial*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY  
 IN LATIN AMERICA: INTRODUCTION**

In Latin America, since the first analysis conducted by Carriquirborde and Bainy in 2012 [1], the number of published studies in the environmental science disciplines linked with environmental toxicology and environmental chemistry has grown 64% since 2011 (Figure 1). This growth was mainly driven by Brazilian scientific production, that represented 52% of the total Latin American published studies, followed by Mexico (18%) and Argentina (11%).

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) has complemented the expansion of scientific output in Latin America by organizing several activities in the region. Such attention has contributed to the increase of SETAC Latin American membership by 220% from 2011 to 2015, reaching more than 330 members. In 2015, the 11th Biennial Meeting of the Latin American branch of SETAC was held in Buenos Aires. The meeting brought together 450 participants from 22 countries from within Latin America and other regions of the world (Figure 2). Twenty-seven sections were included in the scientific program, covering aquatic toxicology and ecology, emerging contaminants, endocrine disruption, environmental human health, environmental analytical chemistry, landscape ecotoxicology and management, ecosystem services, life cycles analysis and sustainability, pesticides in the environment, and terrestrial or wildlife toxicology and ecology. As a result, more than 550 works were published in the abstract book [2].

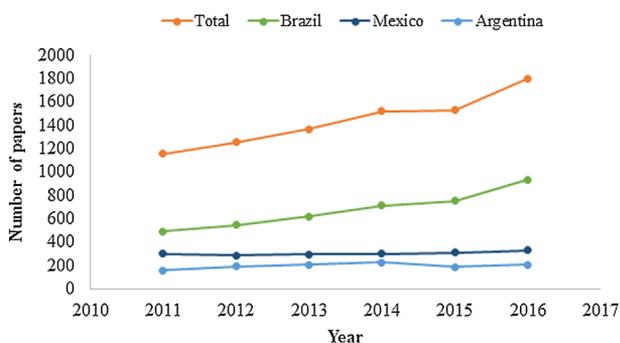


Figure 1. Temporal evolution of scientific production in the field of environmental toxicology and chemistry Latin America. Data was obtained from SCOPUS (April 2017) Search criteria included: (TITLE-ABS-KEY-(pollution) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(exposure) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY-(toxicity) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(biomarker) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY-(bioassay) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(heavy metals) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(pesticides) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(hydrocarbons) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(endocrine disruptors) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(emerging pollutants) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(nanoparticles) AND AFFIL(country)) AND (LIMIT-TO(SUBJAREA, "ENVI").

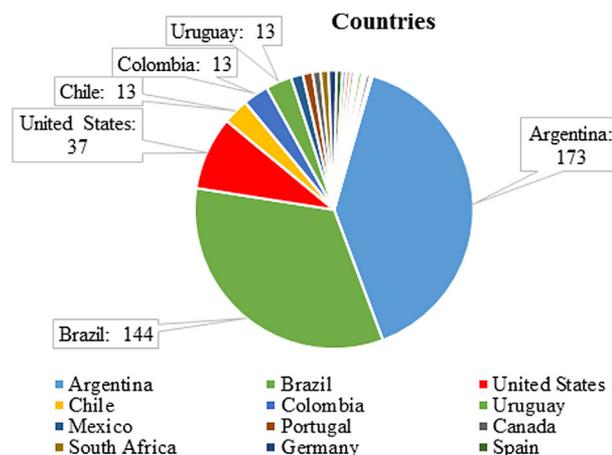


Figure 2. Number of registrants by country at the 11th Biennial Meeting of the Latin American branch of SETAC held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2015.

The present SETAC Latin America special section gathers 12 manuscripts, including 2 review papers and emerging from studies presented at the 11th Biennial Meeting of the Latin American branch of SETAC, showing the scientific activity of Latin American researchers, as well as articles completed in collaboration with colleagues from other geographic units. The main topics covered by the manuscripts include emerging pollutants, endocrine disruption, pesticides and soil, and sediment and sewage toxicology and chemistry. It is remarkable that the number of articles in the present section doubles those articles in the former Latin America special section published in *Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry* in 2012.

We hope that this special section contributes to the visualization of the research activity in the environmental toxicology and chemistry arena in Latin America.

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**REFERENCES**

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2. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. 2015. *Abstracts, SETAC Latin America 11th Biennial Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 7–10, 144 pp.*

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