erratum

Can bacteria save the planet?

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In the April issue of EMBO reports, this article incorrectly stated that prior to the 2010 publication by Jung, Kim, Park and Lee (*Biotechnol Bioeng* **105**: 161–171), it had not been possible to produce PLA directly by bacterial fermentation.

In fact, Seiichi Taguchi and colleagues at Hokkaido University in Japan and the Toyota Central Research and Development Laboratories, demonstrated the first bacterial production of PLA in genetically modified *Escherichia coli* in 2008 (Taguchi *et al* (2008) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **105**: 17323–17327; Matsumoto & Taguchi (2010) *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* **85**: 921–932). Their publications describe a lactate-coenzymeA-producing bacterial strain with a recombinant lactate-polymerizing enzyme that is able to synthesize polylactate and copolymers.

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