Journal of Ecology and Toxicology

Genetic and environmental impacts on autism spectrum disorder

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Abstract:

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are highly heterogeneous developmental conditions characterized by deficits in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive patterns of behavior and movements. This article reviews the impact of genetic and environmental risk factors on ASD and their adverse physiological mechanisms. Although the involvement of genetic abnormalities in autism spectrum disorders is well-accepted, recent studies point to an equal contribution by environmental factors. So, here we focus on several environmental factors associated with the development of ASD like pesticides, phthalates, polychlorinated biphenyls, solvents, air