

MJPhD

SCIENTIFIC FACTS IN THE MEME AGE

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Scientific Facts in the Meme Age

Most have heard we consume 5 grams of plastic per week. That is the weight of a credit card's worth of plastic hiding in our food as microplastics. Many may have seen the reporting showing a credit card between two chopsticks. I saw that image and immediately had my doubts. Planting the picture that each bite contained a credit card's worth of plastic – 5 grams – clearly was intentionally misleading. A little digging showed how misleading it is. Actual consumption is about a million times lower. I'll examine where the error occurred, how it spread and how subsequent measurements in peer-reviewed papers failed to change the perception.