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Antibiotic resistant bacteria in urban sewage: role of full-scale wastewater treatment plants on environmental spreading

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Resistance to 3 antibiotics was assessed in 3 municipal wastewater treatment plants
- *E. coli* and total heterotrophic bacteria (THB) were selected as microbial indicators
- A relevant quote of resistant *E. coli* and THB was observed only for ampicillin
- Biological treatment and sand filtration influenced the presence of resistant bacteria
- Peracetic acid reduced resistant THB, unlike UV radiation and sodium hypochlorite

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