

*Zophobas morio*

## Plastic-Eating Worms That Digest Styrofoam

cities of steel  
mountains of styrofoam

plastic recycling  
crawling around in the wild  
a beetle larvae  
a worm  
the key

known as polystyrene  
of all the non-fibrous plastics  
carries a recycling ID of 6

microbes  
or insect enzymes  
break down

a beetle known as *Zophobas morio*  
a species of darkling beetle  
a superworm

low-carb snack  
bacterial enzymes  
mini recycling plants  
shred the plastic  
in their mouths  
feed it  
to gut bacteria  
break the polymers

known as metagenomics

probably not feasible  
the world  
to beetle larvae

that's a lot of bugs

From "Scientists Discover Plastic-Eating Worms that Digest Styrofoam"  
by Ryan Whitwam, ExtremeTech.com, 2022.