

There Just Might Be Life on Mars

NASA Curiosity rover picks up mysterious methane 'burps' that could possibly be coming from alien organisms

By Andrew Griffin

Tuesday 16 December 2014

A note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows these two articles reporting the unexpected discovery of methane on Mars.



← Evidence of life on Mars could have been found by NASA's Curiosity Rover.

Mysterious spikes of methane that cannot easily be explained by geology or other theories have been found by an instrument on the robot, which landed on the planet in 2012. Scientists can't be sure what is causing the spikes, but it is possible that it could be very small, bacteria-like living organisms.

If the gas is coming from living microbes then it would mark one of the biggest discoveries in history. On Earth, 95% of methane comes from microbial organisms, but there are many non-biological processes that can also generate the gas.

Scientists have said that the rover now has to test and re-test the possibility of life, ahead of an unmanned mission in 2020 that would look for the source of the methane.

The European Space Agency's ExoMars mission could also provide extra clues. In 2019 it will land a 300kg rover on Mars in 2019, equipped with a two-metre drill and extra equipment for investigating signs of life – although the European robot may be unable to reach the same place on the planet as the area currently being explored by Curiosity.

Previous satellite observations have detected unusual plumes of methane on the planet, but none as extraordinary as the sudden "venting" measured by Curiosity at the 96-mile wide Gale Crater, where evidence suggests water once flowed billions of years ago.

NASA reported last year that that Gale Crater contained the remains of an ancient freshwater lake where there may have been a hospitable environment for life in the distant past.

The laboratory onboard the rover has been sniffing methane in the atmosphere a dozen times in the last 12 months. In late 2013 and early 2014, the amount of methane flared up, and then receded.

At a press conference yesterday at the American Geophysical Union's convention in San Francisco, NASA scientists said that besides living microbes, other possible explanations for the methane include the Sun's rays degrading organic material left behind by meteors.

But that explanation, they added, still relies on the original material being deposited by an object that would have measured several metres across and left a large crater - no sign of which was visible. The scientists said other theories...

To read this article in its entirety, go to: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/nasa-finds-evidence-of-life-on-mars-9929510.html>

Methane on Mars? Curiosity Rover Discovers “Methane Burps”

By Muyen Peng
December 17, 2014



← Curiosity Rover Discovers Methane Burps

NASA may have just hit the holy grail with the possible discovery of methane on Mars. The Curiosity Rover has just detected a huge [spike in methane levels](#) that cannot be explained away as a natural geological feature. Scientists aren't certain at this point what is causing the spikes, though one theory – the one researchers have their fingers crossed for – proposes that the methane is formed by a bacteria-like organism.

95% of the methane produced on Earth is formed by microbial organisms. If this is what is causing the methane spike on Mars, then this could very well be the discovery of the century. Granted, it's no intelligent life or E.T., but it does prove that life is capable outside our own planet. The rover will now be testing for the possibility of life on the red planet with further rover missions underway and planned for 2020.

Earlier satellite observations have detected small plumes of methane on Mars, though these pale in comparison to the one discovered by the Rover. The source of methane was discovered on the planet's Gale Crater, where researchers previously studied the area's soil and found evidence of water molecules, suggesting that water may have once flourished eons ago.

Scientists have also proposed a more mundane theory, which suggests that the methane is produced from the degradation of organic material caused by prolonged exposure to sunrays.

Scientist Sushil Atreya also proposed another theory in which the methane is released after trapped ice molecules become condensed and gushes out in large bursts from pressure caused by thermal stress.

As of right now, all [NASA](#) researchers can do is speculate and hypothesize, though the discovery is ...

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

http://news.yahoo.com/methane-mars-curiosity-rover-discovers-methane-burps-220138702.html;_ylt=AwrTcdNpd5RUWx4AD_UPxQt.;_ylu=X3oDMTByaDNhc2JxBHNlYwNzcgRwb3MDMQRjb2xvA2dxMQR2dGkAw--

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: *There will be great celebration if and when scientists are able to determine that Mars' methane came from living (or formally living) organisms.*

But if “life” is found on Mars, what will it really prove? I suspect that most will answer that life must have evolved on Mars millions or billions of years ago. But this would be a huge leap, going from scientific evidence to interpretive conclusion, especially since secular science still cannot explain how non-living elements came together to form living things (abiogenesis) on earth, a planet much more hospitable to life than Mars.

Thus, scientifically speaking, finding life on Mars does not prove evolutionary origins, especially since there is another explanation that fits all related data obtained by various space missions to Mars over the years.

Dr. Walt Brown has developed an alternative theory on the origin of comets (No. 1 Google hit out of half a million; www.creationscience.com) and the origin of asteroids that also explains why it would not be surprising to find methane and “life” on Mars. In fact, Dr. Brown predicted several years ago that:

Bacteria will be found on Mars. Their DNA will be similar to Earth’s bacteria. Furthermore, isotopes of the carbon in Mars’ methane will show the carbon’s biological origin.

See [In the Beginning, Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood](#), 8th Edition, (2008) or go to: [Is There Life in Outer Space](#) in his online, 9th Edition.

Those with some orbital physics background should be able to follow and appreciate what Dr. Brown proposes. You can read about his theory online at: [Origin of Comets](#) , and [Origin of Asteroids](#).