Comet 67P Explodes Convention

January 24, 2015 Terry A. Hurlbut

In November of 2014, the European Space Agency achieved a milestone in planetary science. They successfully landed a craft of man on the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. That alone set the world buzzing, as well it might. The landing craft landed nearly in shadow, and had to "hibernate" shortly afterward. But not before sending back a wealth of pictures and other data. In any other context, the scientists involved would have no reservations on their pride. Why then, this time, did those scientists withhold some of their findings for weeks, if not months? Because those findings did something scientists say they appreciate, but don't. They surprised them. And in surprising them, they vexed them. Because those scientists cannot explain those findings.

Vexing findings on Comet 67P. The chief findings the scientists have trouble explaining include:

- 1. The ices of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko have 3.4 times the concentration of deuterium in the earth's oceans.
- 2. The surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko turns out to have a cover of boulders, varying from one to three meters across, as rounded as eggs.

Conventional theories of comet formation all hold that comets formed in space, from materials already in space. The favorite theory is that they formed out of the "solar nebula" and concentrated in a spherical shell, or "cloud," beyond any presently sighted body in the solar system. <u>Jan Oort</u> first proposed this "cloud" in 1952. And he had never seen anything that could suggest it.

Let us repeat that: Jan Oort never saw anything that could suggest this "cloud of comets" that bears his name. No astronomer has ever seen it. Yet most astronomers insist that's where comets live, until a passing star kicks one out of the cloud, to fall toward the Sun and make a few spectacular shows before it "dies."

Problems with those findings. Close-up of a curious surface texture nicknamed 'goosebumps'. The characteristic scale of all the bumps seen on Comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko by the OSIRIS narrow-angle camera is approximately 3 m, extending over regions greater than 100 m. They are seen on very steep slopes and on exposed cliff faces, but their formation mechanism is yet to be explained.

←Credits: ESA/Rosetta/MPS for OSIRIS Team MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA

Those same astronomers say comets delivered the water to the oceans of earth. They must have done so 3.8 million years ago by conventional thinking. Because that's the time paleontologists assume life began.

But how does Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko come to have 3.4 times the level of deuterium in the earth's oceans? What possible neutron storm could have showered the comets, after the first comets fell to earth and dumped their water load, so that the comets still in space could have absorbed enough neutrons to give them 3.4 times the level of deuterium in the earth's oceans? Remember what deuterium is: the second isotope of hydrogen. A nucleus of it holds one proton and one neutron. Now anything that affected all the comets, should have affected the earth, too. Water is far better able to absorb neutrons than are the gases in the atmosphere. That includes nitrogen and oxygen, that together make up most of the air.

As much as this finding vexed the scientists, the "dinosaur egg" texture vexed them even more. Every astronomer knows, or thinks he knows, about the ...

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Listen to Dr. Walt Brown discuss these findings with Pastor Bob Enyart during the <u>January 30, 2015 broadcast of Science Radio.</u>