

Strange Moon of Asteroid Dinkinesh Is Weirder than Thought after NASA Probe Finds 'Contact Binary'

"We never suspected anything so bizarre!"

By Brett Tingley

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https://www.space.com/nasa-lucy-asteroid-dinky-3-space-rocks-contact-binary?utm_term=2565E045-C522-438D-92C3-AF84EFEAB6A4&lrh=a0e69f9caac9d72fc2a17e4e29dac61cec26606fa1a05fd34729a6ef71cee8b8&utm_campaign=58E4DE65-C57F-4CD3-9A5A-609994E2C5A9&utm_medium=email&utm_content=0BE383A2-096B-43F2-861B-C59B80F4F5D9&utm_source=SmartBrief

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: Those who have taken college level orbital physics courses can appreciate why NASA scientists are saying, "It is puzzling, to say the least," and "I don't understand why the two components of the satellite have similar sizes. This is going to be fun for the scientific community to figure out."

Decades ago, NASA scientists considered it "bizarre" when they found Asteroids and Comets with moons. Then it was "bizarre" when they found that some Asteroids and Comets were actually contact binaries. Now they find an Asteroid with a contact binary moon and not just a contact binary, but a barely-touching-each-other contact binary.

They say it will be fun for the scientific community to figure out how this could be, but they never will, because there is no explanation for any of these observations unless one embraces Dr. Walt Brown's Hydroplate Theory explanation of their origins. To do so would take embracing the biblical account of the flood of Noah, something NASA will never do, but you can.

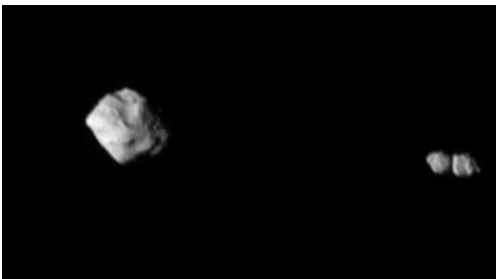
In Genesis 7:11-12, God tells us, "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights." NKJV

This implies that an ocean of water, locked beneath the crust, erupted through a ruptured crack causing global rainfall for forty days and nights. Dr. Brown theorizes that some of this rupturing water was jettisoned with enough velocity to escape earth's gravity and go into orbits around the sun. The sides of the broken crust would have been eroding into this stream of hypersonic water. These pulsed jets of water and debris would have gravitationally attracted into the millions of asteroids and comets that now populate our solar system, and as a result of known laws of physics, would have spun out to their current positions.

The clouds of water molecules surrounding the debris would have slowed down their relative velocities via aero-braking allowing the debris to come together into very loosely packed rock piles and would have also created contact binaries.

Over the centuries, the solar winds have swept away the water molecules preventing the remaining moons of asteroids and comets from also aero-braking into contact binaries, and also preventing NASA scientists from being able to explain what they are discovering all over the solar system.

For those wanting to research this more, please go to: [Hydroplate.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFBphFODgT4&t=1273s) and/or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFBphFODgT4&t=1273s>



This image shows the asteroid Dinkinesh and its satellite as seen by the Lucy Long-Range Reconnaissance Imager (L'LORRI) as NASA's Lucy Spacecraft departed the system. From this perspective, the satellite is revealed to be a contact binary, the first time a contact binary has been seen orbiting another asteroid. (Image credit: NASA/Goddard/SwRI/Johns Hopkins APL)

Asteroid Dinkinesh continues to surprise us.

On Nov. 1, NASA's [Lucy spacecraft](#) zoomed past this space rock, marking the [first of several asteroid encounters](#) the probe is designed to make. Lucy's goal is to ultimately explore a set of asteroids near Jupiter, known as the Trojans, which are thought to hold clues about the earliest days of our [solar system](#); these objects may be able to shed light on the origins of life on [Earth](#). But, on the way to those Trojans, Lucy has a couple of stops — including Dinkinesh, which sits in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

On Nov. 2, project scientists with the Lucy mission announced the first flyby [came with a surprise](#): Dinkinesh, or 'Dinky,' appears to be not one asteroid, but two. Lucy was able to observe that Dinkinesh is a binary system, meaning there is a small natural satellite in orbit around it.

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And today (Nov. 7), scientists announced another surprise.

In a [NASA statement](#), the Lucy team writes that Dinky's smaller satellite is itself a type of binary system known as a "contact binary," meaning the two smaller objects are in contact with one another. This means Dinky isn't made up of one, or two, but rather *three* components.

"It is puzzling, to say the least," the Southwest Research Institute's Hal Levison, principal investigator for Lucy, said in the statement. "I would have never expected a system that looks like this. In particular, I don't understand why the two components of the satellite have similar sizes. This is going to be fun for the scientific community to figure out."

Lucy spotted the third rock in this asteroid system six minutes after snapping the images that initially revealed Dinkinesh wasn't alone. In that time, the probe had traveled 960 miles (1,545 km) from the point at which it discovered the first satellite.

Contact binary systems seem to be fairly common throughout our solar system, but scientists hadn't seen one orbiting another asteroid prior to Dinkinesh, Lucy's deputy project scientist John Spencer said in the statement. "We'd been puzzling over odd variations in Dinkinesh's brightness that we saw on approach, which gave us a hint that Dinkinesh might have a moon of some sort, but we never suspected anything so bizarre!"

Again, however, Dinkinesh and its two satellites are only the first of many asteroids Lucy will visit during its planned 12-year mission that [began in Oct. 2021](#), when it launched from Kennedy Space Center atop a United Launch Alliance (ULA) [Atlas V](#) rocket.

After leaving Dinky, the probe will head back to Earth for a gravity assist maneuver in December 2024. This assist is expected to slingshot the probe back out to the [main asteroid belt](#), where it will study the asteroid [Donaldjohanson](#) in 2025.

From there, Lucy will move on to its main goal: The Trojan asteroids.

The spacecraft will become the first mission to visit these early solar system relics, and if all goes according to plan, Lucy will visit eight different Trojan asteroids between 2027 and 2033. Possibly, the spacecraft will uncover more space rock surprises along the way.

"It's truly marvelous when nature surprises us with a new puzzle," Tom Statler, Lucy program scientist from NASA Headquarters in Washington, said in the statement. "Great science pushes us to ask questions that we never knew we needed to ask."