

Re: Zodiacal light linked to ancient Martian oceans

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From: Sander Vesik (sander_at_haldjas.folklore.ee)

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In sci.space.policy Doug... <dvandorn@nospam.mn.rr.com> wrote:

> In article <1085931228.730857@haldjas.folklore.ee>,

> sander@haldjas.folklore.ee says...

>> In sci.space.policy Herb Schaltegger <herbschaltegger@spamtrap.invalid> wrote:

>>> In article <1085870641.676887@haldjas.folklore.ee>,

>>>> Sander Vesik <sander@haldjas.folklore.ee> wrote:

>>>>

>>>>> In sci.space.policy Herb Schaltegger <herbschaltegger@spamtrap.invalid> wrote:

>>>>>> In article <40B8A9C3.1090703@tabletoptelephone.com>,

>>>>>>> Hop David <hospaceHATESSPAaMmM@tabletoptelephone.com> wrote:

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> The words "Martian biosphere" seem to imply existence of Martian life.

>>>>>>>> I'm skeptical Martian life has ever existed.

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> I'm keeping an open mind, especially in light of (very) recent findings

>>>>>>>> of methane and possibly ammonia in the Martian atmosphere in amounts

>>>>>>>> which cannot be easily explained in the absence of biological processes.

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> Has anybody calculated how long a trace amount of methane would be present

>>>>>>>> in martian atmosphere? For that matter – can it be ruled out that martian

>>>>>>>> atmosphere didn't once contain a lot of methane, most of which left?

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> Just curious, not trying to naysay its biological origin.

>>>>

>>> Here's the initial press release/story from ESA regarding methane:

>>>>

>>>>> <http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Mars_Express/SEMZ0B57ESD_0.html>

>>>>>

>>> But that could be caused by occasional out-gassing from volcanic processes

>> deep down inside the planet, no? Say once a century or even more seldom?

>> It would be interesting to see if the distribution is uniform and if the

>> amount is constant or declining over time.

>

> From the looks of what I've seen, I think you can pretty well conclude

> that Mars is not "teeming" with either life or volcanic activity.

> Whatever is causing the methane and ammonia signatures is probably

> fairly minor and localized. (Remember, even the indications of ice in

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- > *the regolith shows that it's not at all global -- it's somewhat*
- > *localized and not characteristic of the entire Martian surface.)*
- >
- > *It would be good to see just how widespread these results are, though --*
- > *and to see if there's any correlation between the methane/ammonia*
- > *signatures and particular forms of topography or geology...*

No – unless it is very recent and happens in only one area then it will be very well dispersed. It stays around for a hundred plus years – consider how many global dust storms will happen in that time.

What you really need is recording the average for a decade, then you'll start to have an idea how much this is a steady flow vs. occasional "burps"

- >
- > *Doug*
- > *dvandorn@NOSPAM.mn.rr.com*

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Sander
+++ Out of cheese error +++