

## Re: Re – filaments on "bounce" rock.

**Source:** <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.geology/2004–07/0260.html>

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**From:** Jo Schaper (*joschapern4ospam\_at\_2socketdot.no5net*)

**Date:** 07/07/04

Date: Tue, 06 Jul 2004 23:16:46 -0500

- > *Dear All,*
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- > *Please have a look at this picture from the Rover Opportunity on Mars.*
- > <http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery/all/1/m/069/1M134320496EFF08AYP2956M2M1.JPG>
- >
- > *Can you see filamentous structures running on the surface of the rock*
- > *? Located mainly on the center/lower right?*
- > *Well... that stuff on earth would look pretty biogenic to me.*
- >
- > *Somebody out there has a more "reasonable" explanation for those...?*
- >
- > *Greg Ruo*

Don't know how 'reasonable' any of this is. Filaments are not restricted to overt biogenic origins. OTOH, very few, if any natural earth locales are abiotic, so what do we compare these things to? Numerous minerals (rutile, wavellite, asbestos minerals just off the top of my head) form filaments or 'hair'. As does 'Pele's hair' spun volcanics. Much of biogeochemistry is still in the 'chicken or egg' stage—does biotic activity precede mineralization, mineralization cause biotic activity due to microenvironmental change, or is it symbiotic, like lichen needs rocks to grow, but it breaks down rock in the process.