

FROM EXTREMOPHILIC MICROBES TO POSSIBILITIES OF LIFE

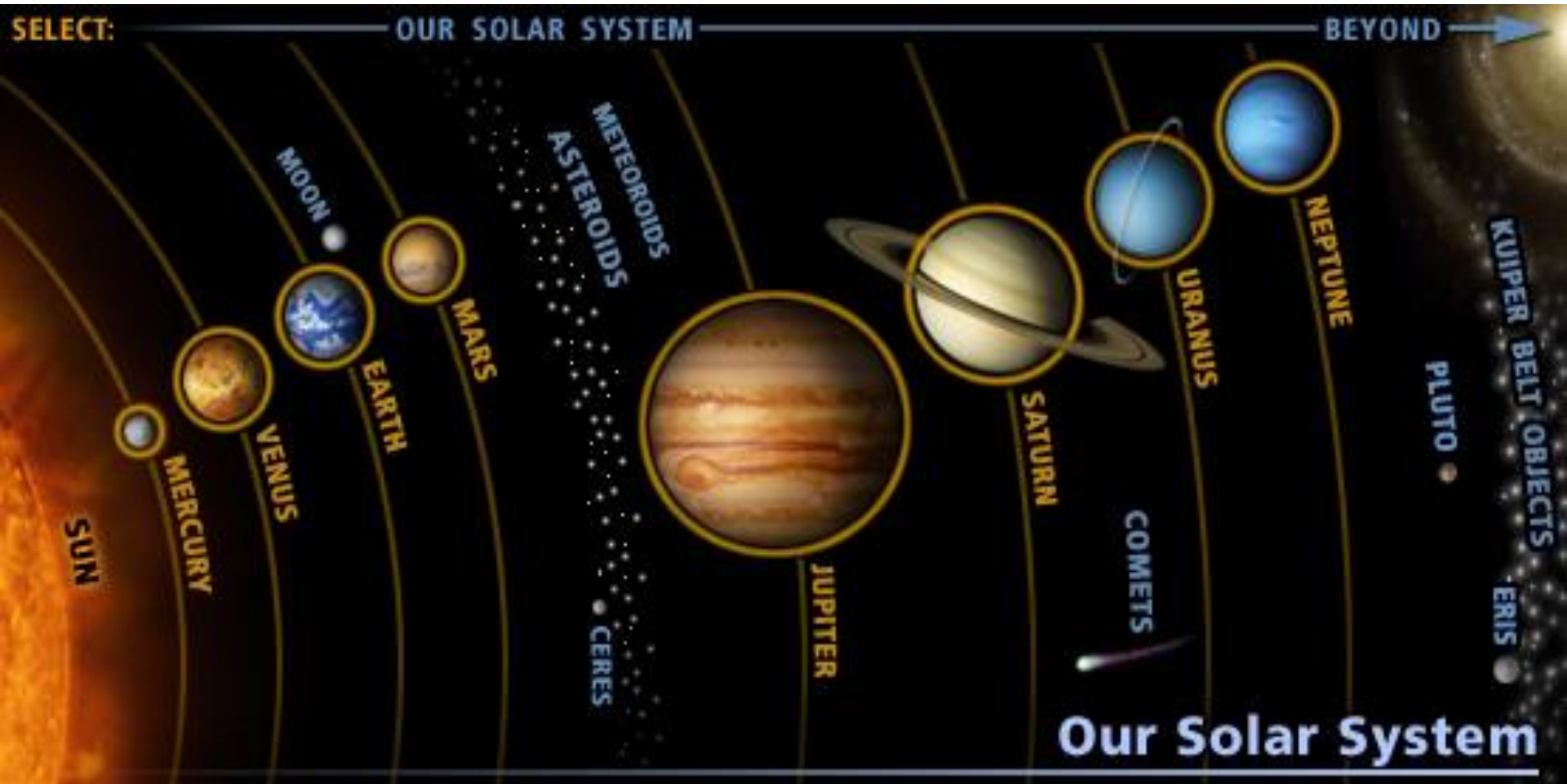
Joseph Seckbach

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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Preformed in Berlin (July 2016)

SOLAR SYSTEM





STROMATOLITES

* THE EXTREMOPHILES & POLYEXTREMOPHILES



* **TEMPERATURE** [High-Low]

* **pH EFFECTS**

(**Acidophiles** Vs. **Alkaliphiles**)

* **PRESSURES**

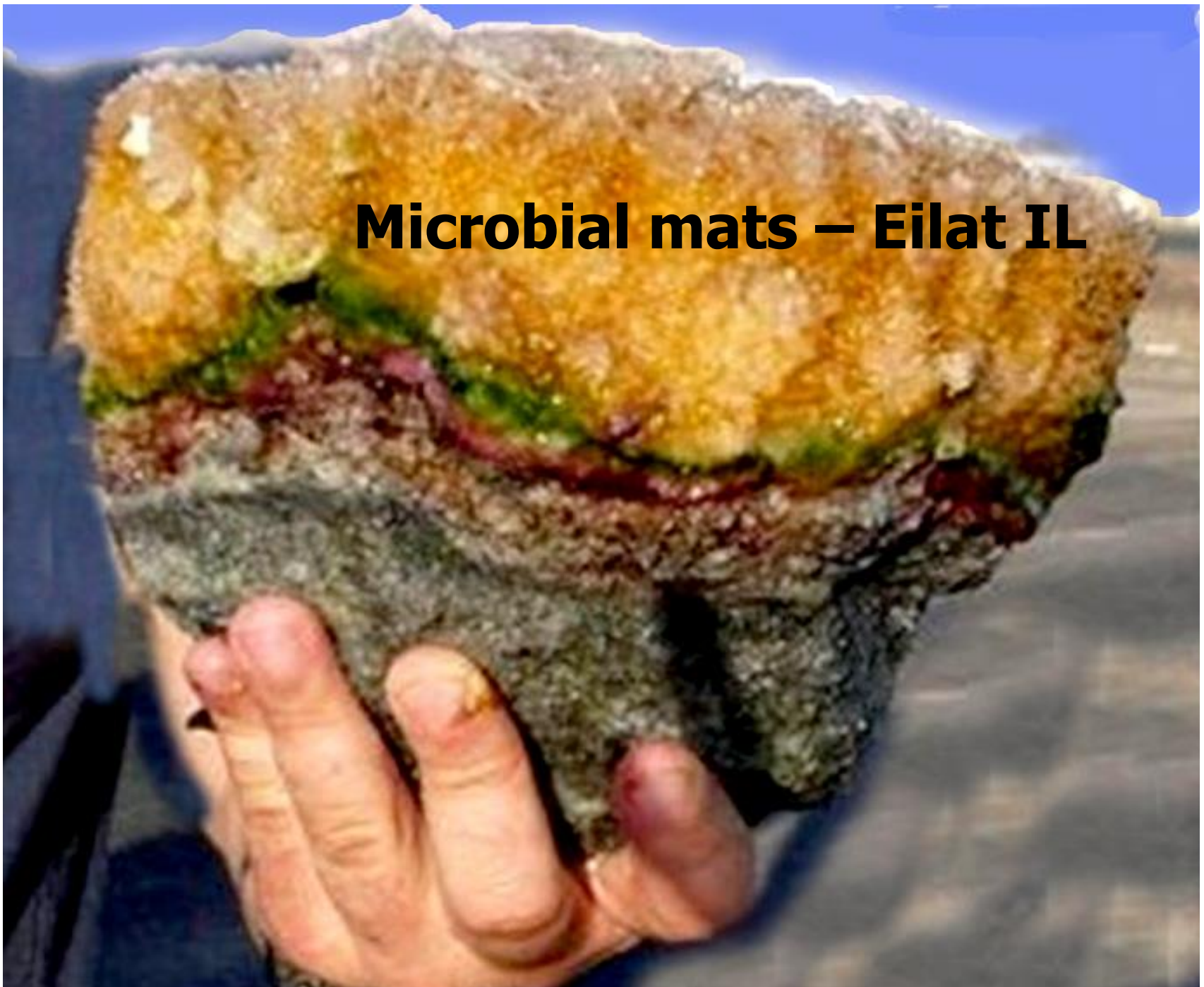
(Barophiles, Piezophiles)

* **UV EFFECTS**

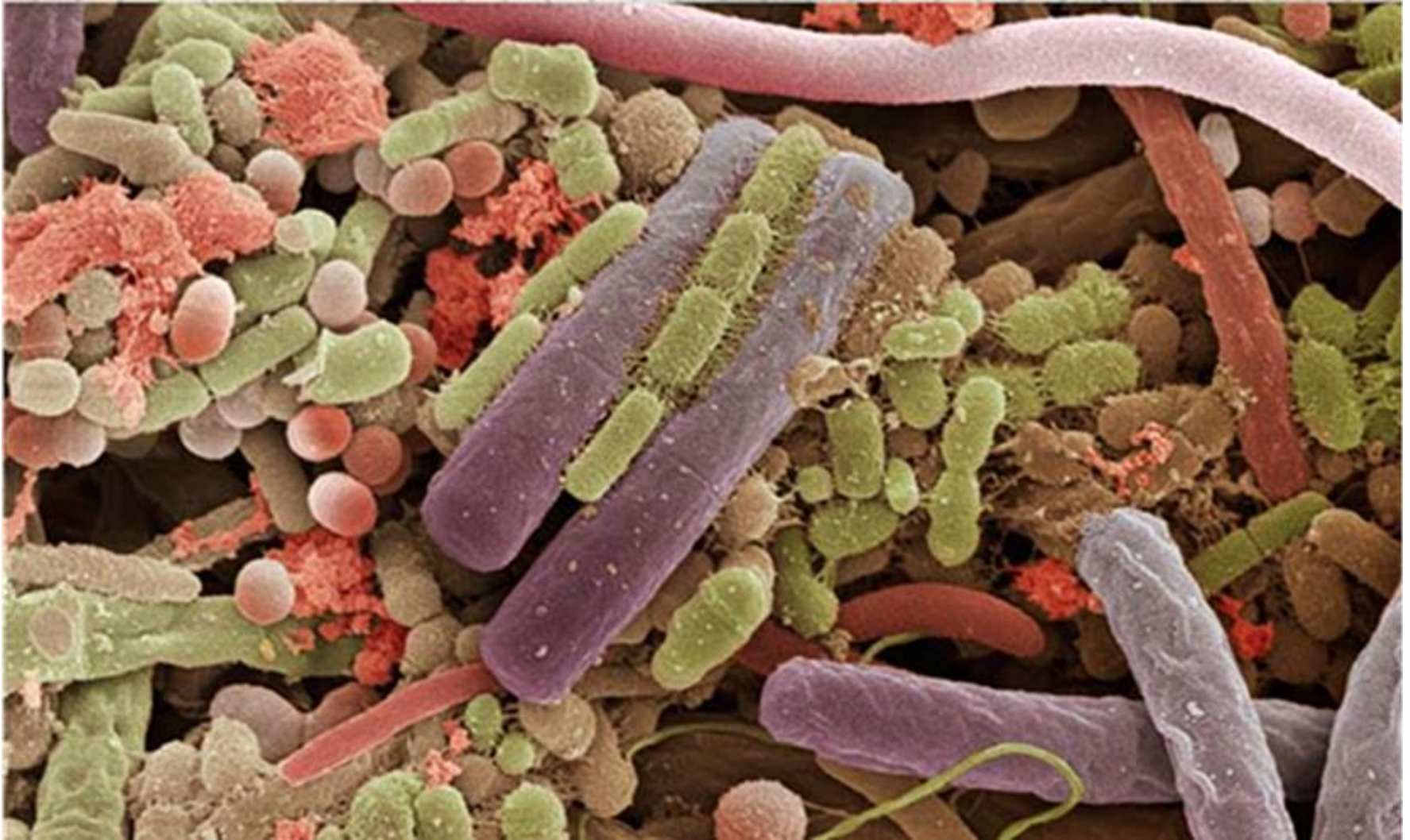
* **LIFE IN GASES** (CO_2 , NH_3 , CH_4)

- **NEW DISCOVERY OF UNDERSURFACE BACTERIA**
- The discovery of solitary little **CRITTERS DEEP BENEATH EARTH'S SURFACE**. A community of **bacteria was found 2.8 kilometers below ground in a gold-mine** and it lives completely alone and completely independent of any other life forms. It also subsists without sunlight or oxygen. They represents the kind or organism that could survive below the Earth surface or some satellits.

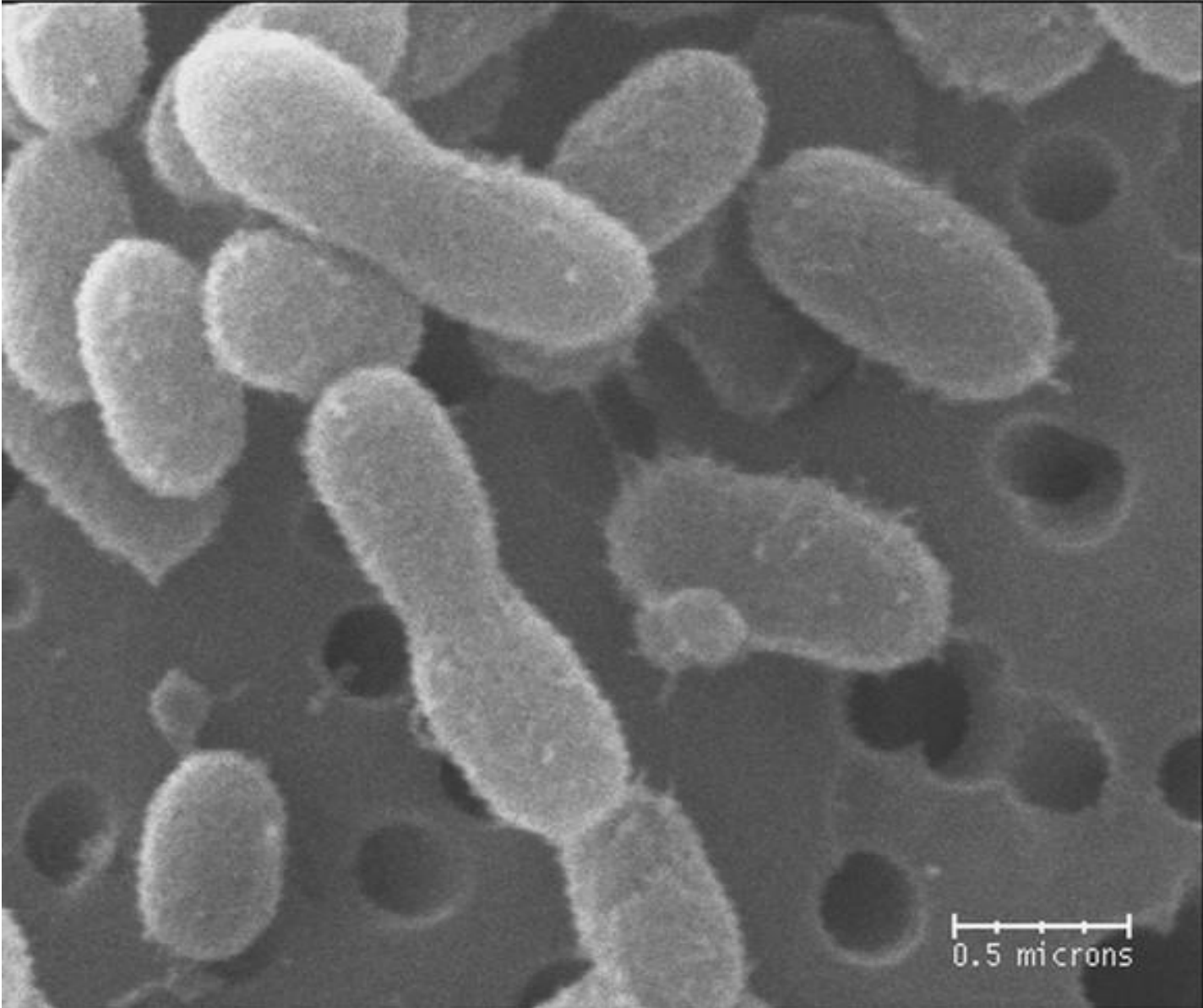
Microbial mats – Eilat IL



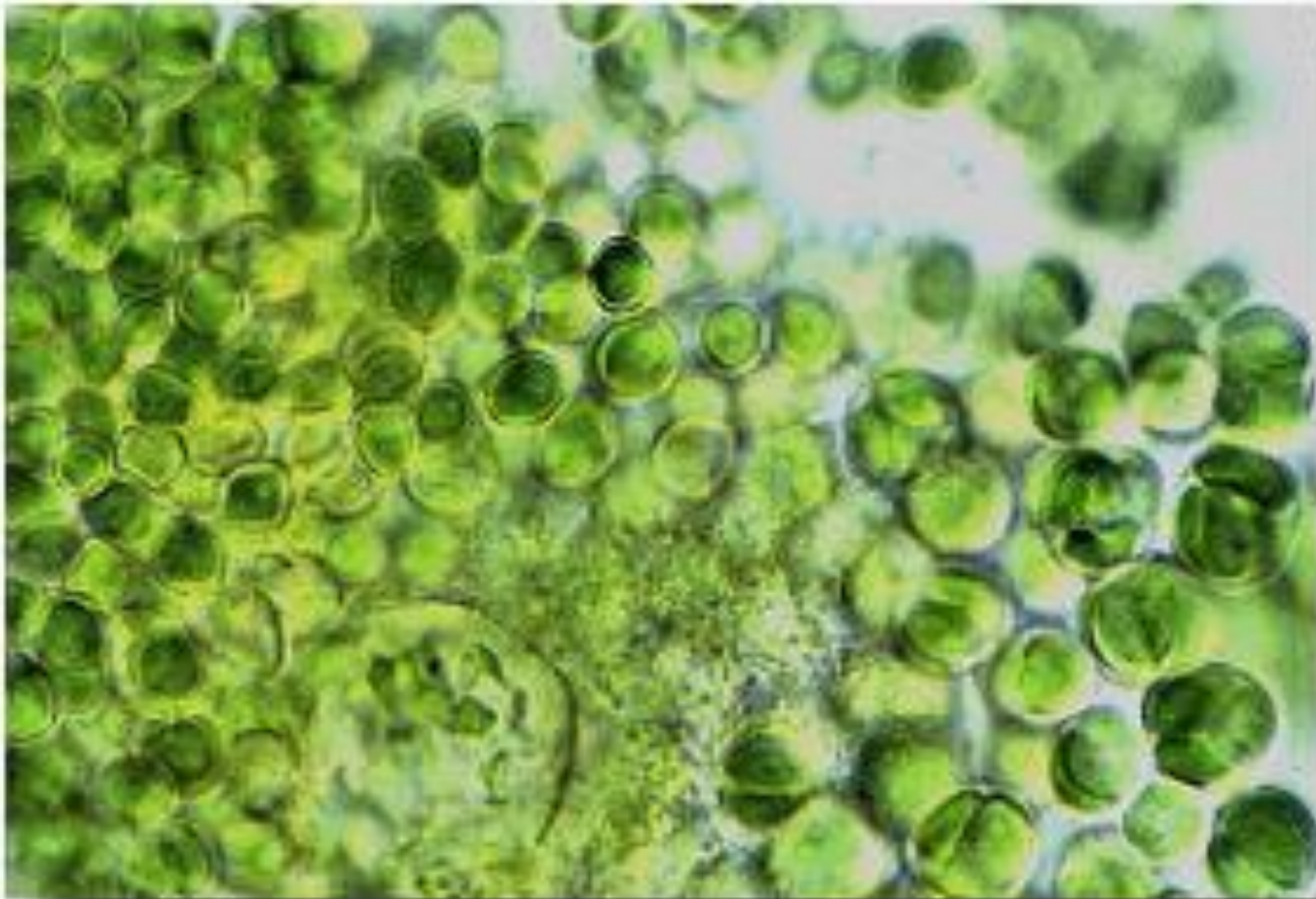
THE MICROORGANISMS WORLD



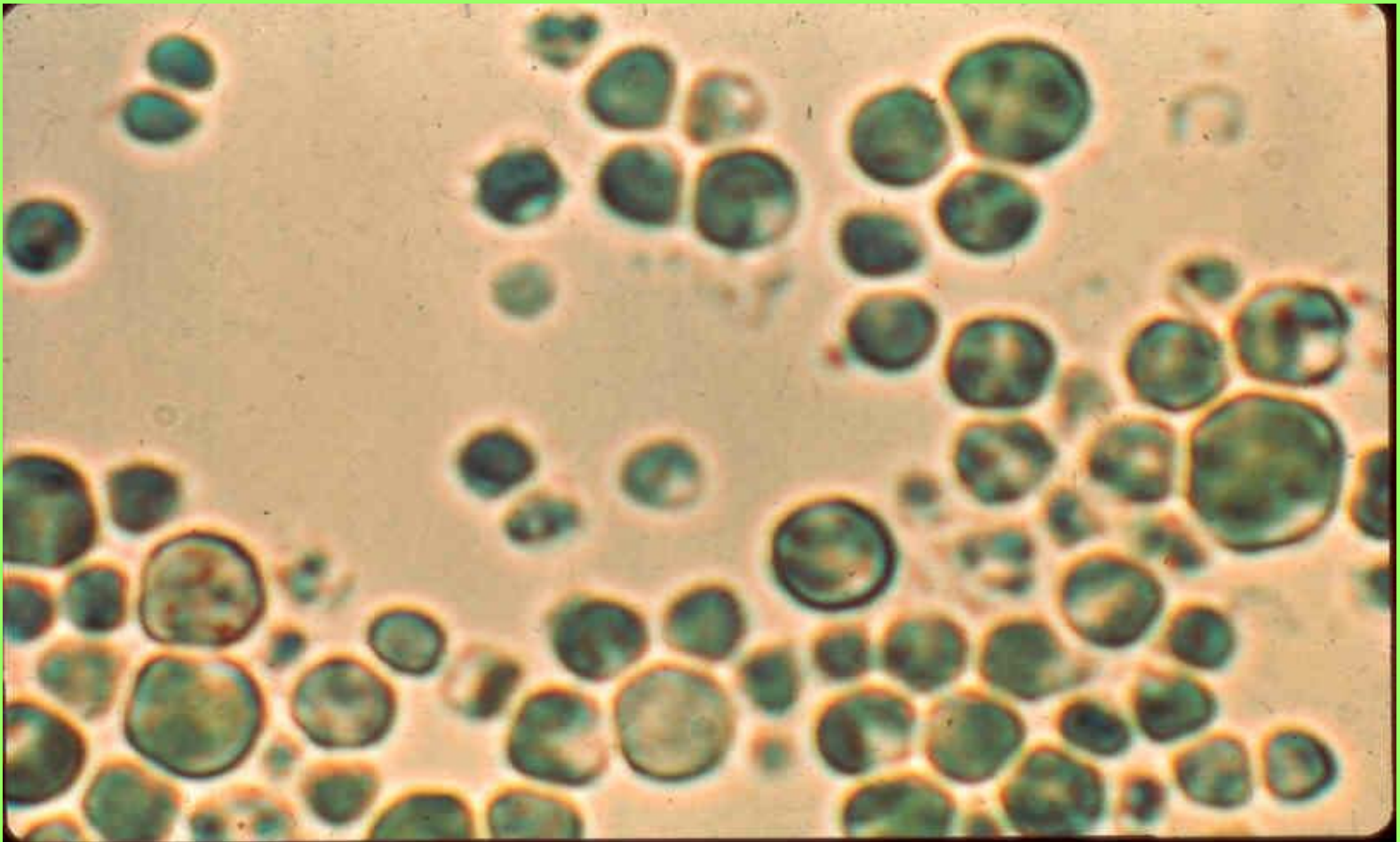
Bacteria revived after over 120,000 years from Greenland frozen glaciers



Chroo-coc-cidiopsis (-20C -->+20C,
Cyanobacteria-desiccation, candidate for
Astrobiology)



Galdieria sulphuraria
[red algae]



shrimps that lives in hydrothermal vents

- Live in hydrothermal vents (areas of hot water) in the Caribbean.





at Yellowstone Hot Spring



Dead Sea (Israel) where halophiles are growing

Tardigrades [water bears] Multi-segmented Extremophilic microbes



I can survive a vacuum -
your argument is invalid.



**Tardigrade-[water bear]
a Multicellular
Extremophile;Tolerate
90C to – 272C**

(Horikawa et al 2008, 2012; Schulze-Makuch&Seckbach 2013)

TARDIGRADES – Water Bears- FEATURES,

TARDIGRADES – Water Bears- FEATURES,

Minute animals of 4 segments, length < 1 mm.

Sent to space and survived out of Earth atmosphere [the only organism resisted in space without protection]

Unique distribution in land and waters

Resist cryobiosis of minus 272C and up to plus 180C.

Tolerates vacuum of space.

Could resist the temperature of Mars

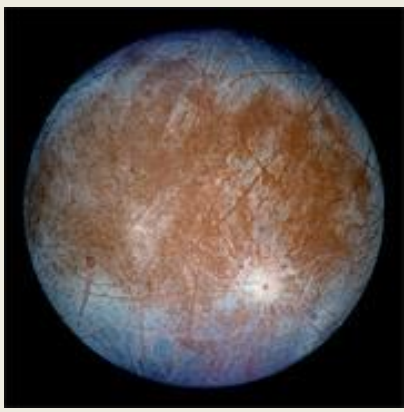
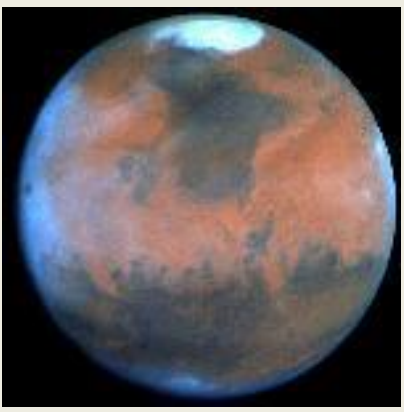
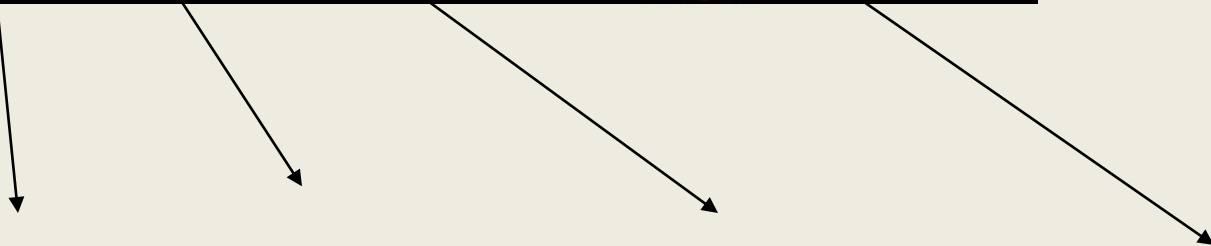
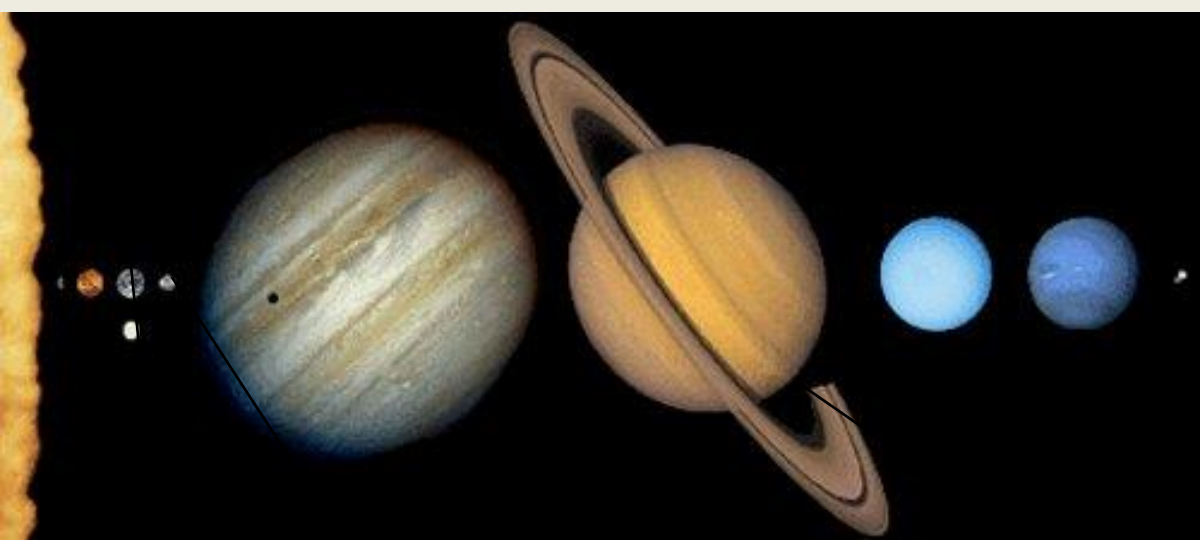
Resists dryness and desiccation

Tolerate pressure of 4000 m under sea level and 6000 m at high ranges.

Enters into unhydrobiosis (dormancy for a long period)

Tolerate high irradiation doses

May stay in anaerobic condition.



EARTH

MARS

EUROPA

TITAN

CONDITIONS ON MARS

- 1) DRY
- 2) COLD
- 3) UV RADIATION
- 4) LIQUID WATER
- 5) CO₂ and METHANE [CH₄]

LIFE ON MARS? PAST AND PRESENCE ON
SUBSURFACE??

New Findings Say Mars Methane Comes from Life or Water — or Both

METHANE could be generated by either

- LIFE or WATER, or maybe even BOTH.
- MICROORGANISMS living in the Martian
- soil could be producing methane gas as a
- by-product of their metabolic processes, or
- methane might be created as a result of
- reactions between volcanic rock and water.
- Either way, the prospect is exciting.

ANCIENT LIFE ON MARS ?

EVIDENCE FROM NASA IMAGES OF THE RED PLANET

CONTOURS OF RIVERS,
CANYONS, CRATERS, FLOWING
AND RUNNING WATER.

Groundwater May Have Played Important Role in Shaping Mars



STAIRWAYS ON MARS



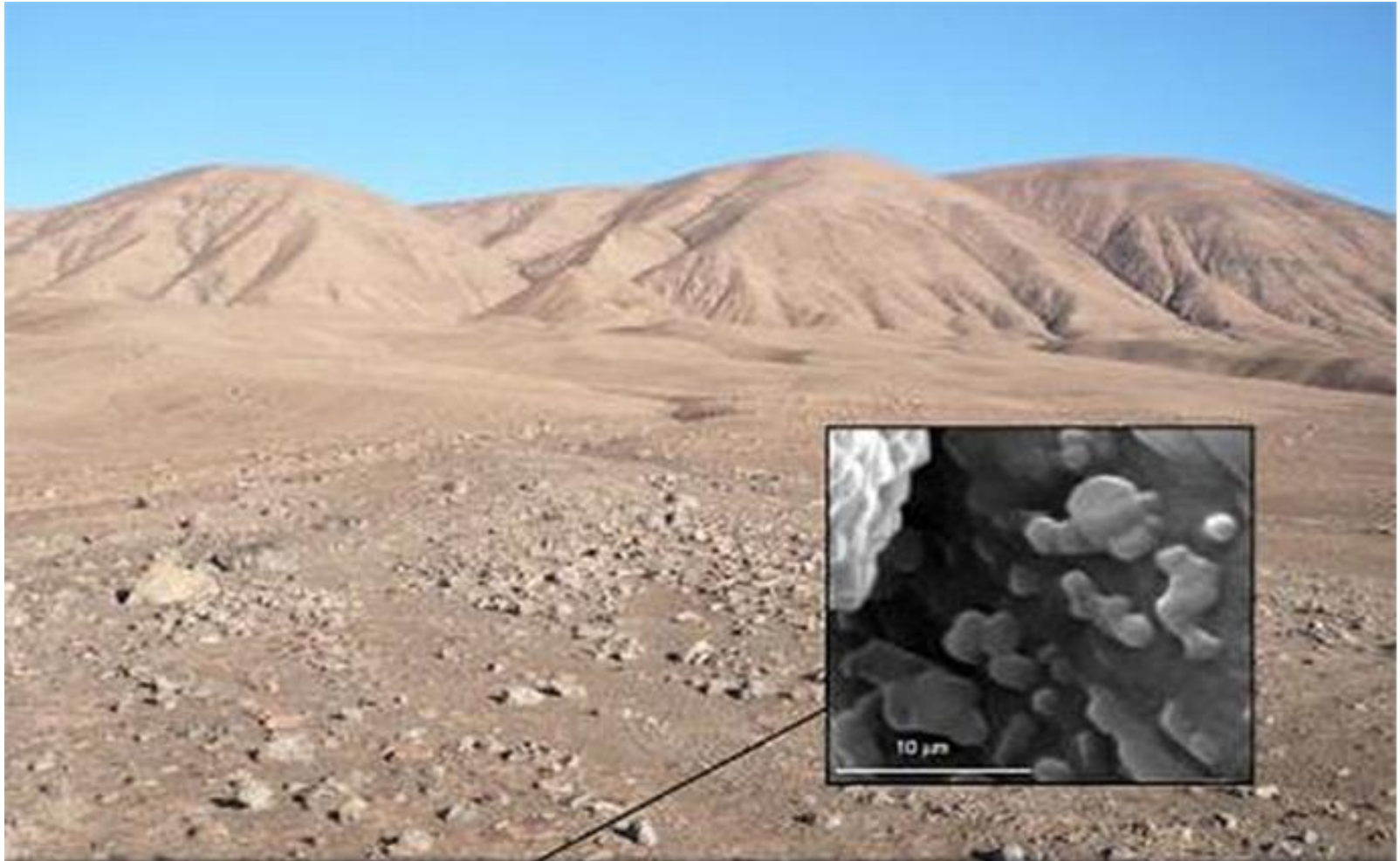
THE ATACAMA DESERT IN CHILI (L) SHARES FEATURES WITH SURFACE OF MARS (R)



8/31/2008

39

Under Atacama desert is life



From EXTREMOPHILE to EXTRA- TERRESTRIAL LIFE

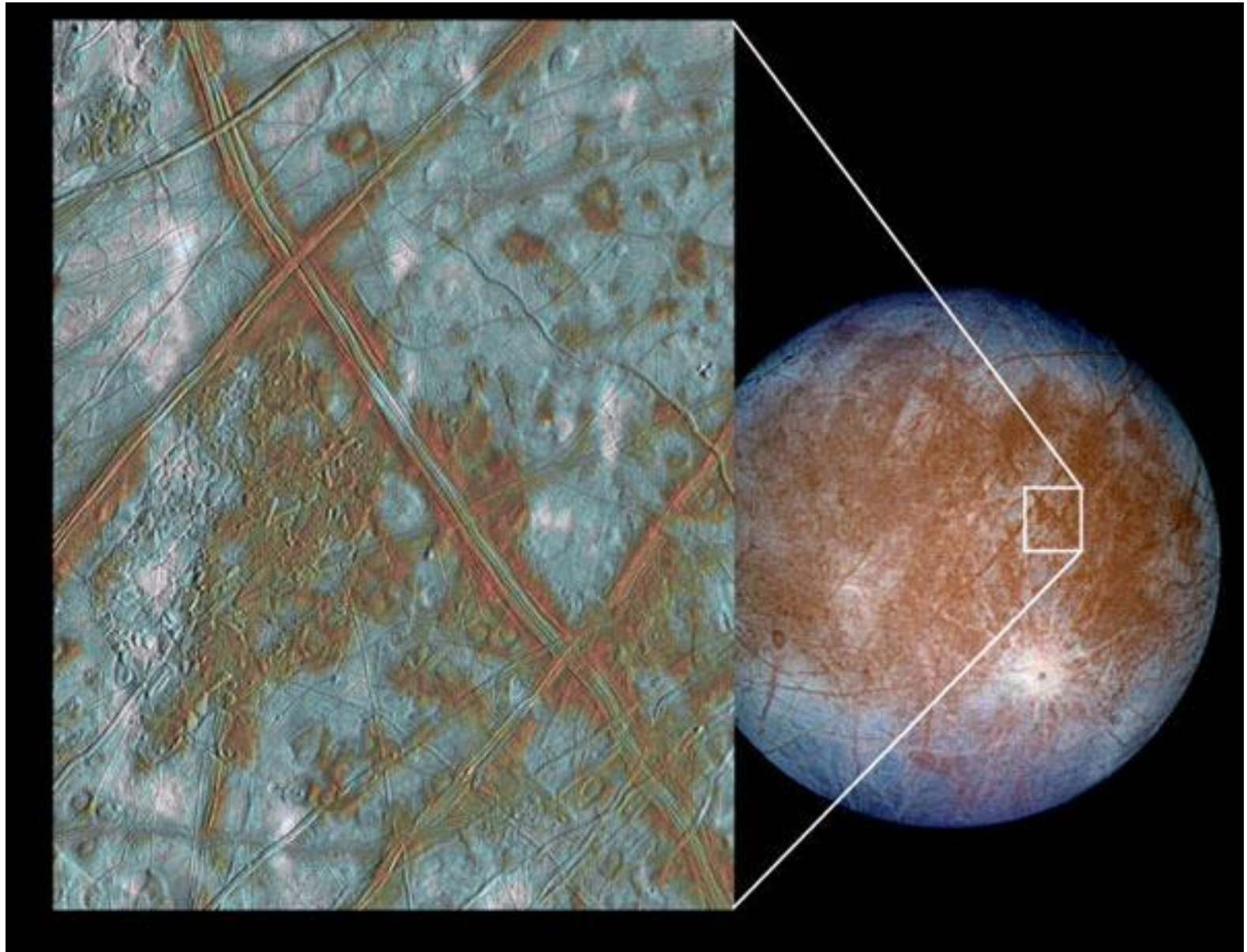
THE CHALLENGES

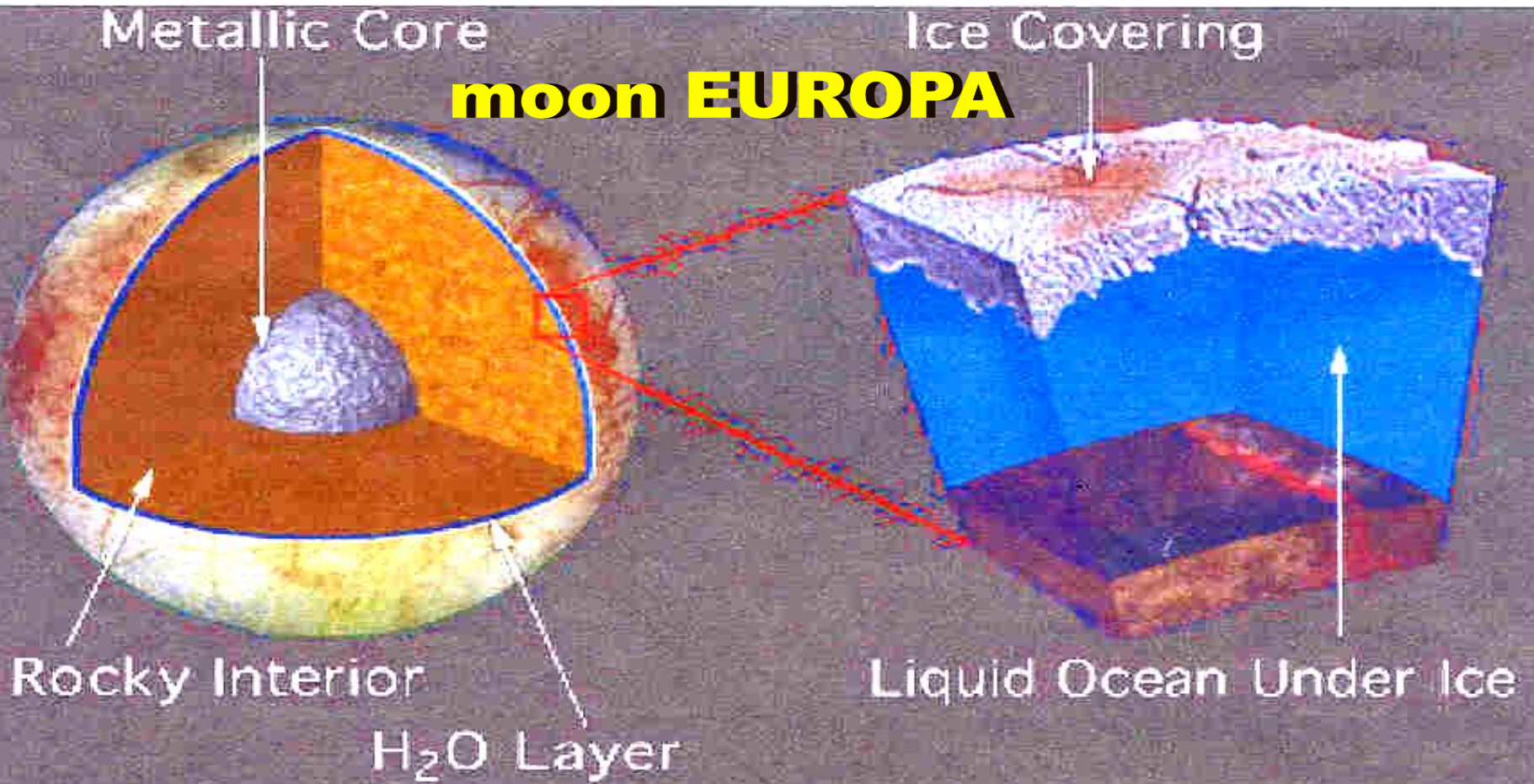
- 1) **DRY CONDITIONS;**
- 2) **TEMPERATURE EFFECTS
(HYPER-THERMOPHILES vs.
PSYCHROPHILES) PRESENT IN
VARIOUS PLACES, (ANTARCTICA,
SIBERIA, AND PERMAFROST)**

EXTREMOPHILES ~ EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

- **COMPARING EXTREME HABITATS on EARTH with other PLANETS and some SATELLITES [MARS, Europa, Titan, Venus]**
- **THE EXTREMOPHILES as ANALOGUES for LIFE FORMS in CELESTRIAL WORLDS**

Surface of Europa with moving lines





artist's drawings depict a proposed model of the subsurface structure of the Jovian
more than 100 kilometers. (Courtesy of NASA.)

THANK for
your ATTENTION



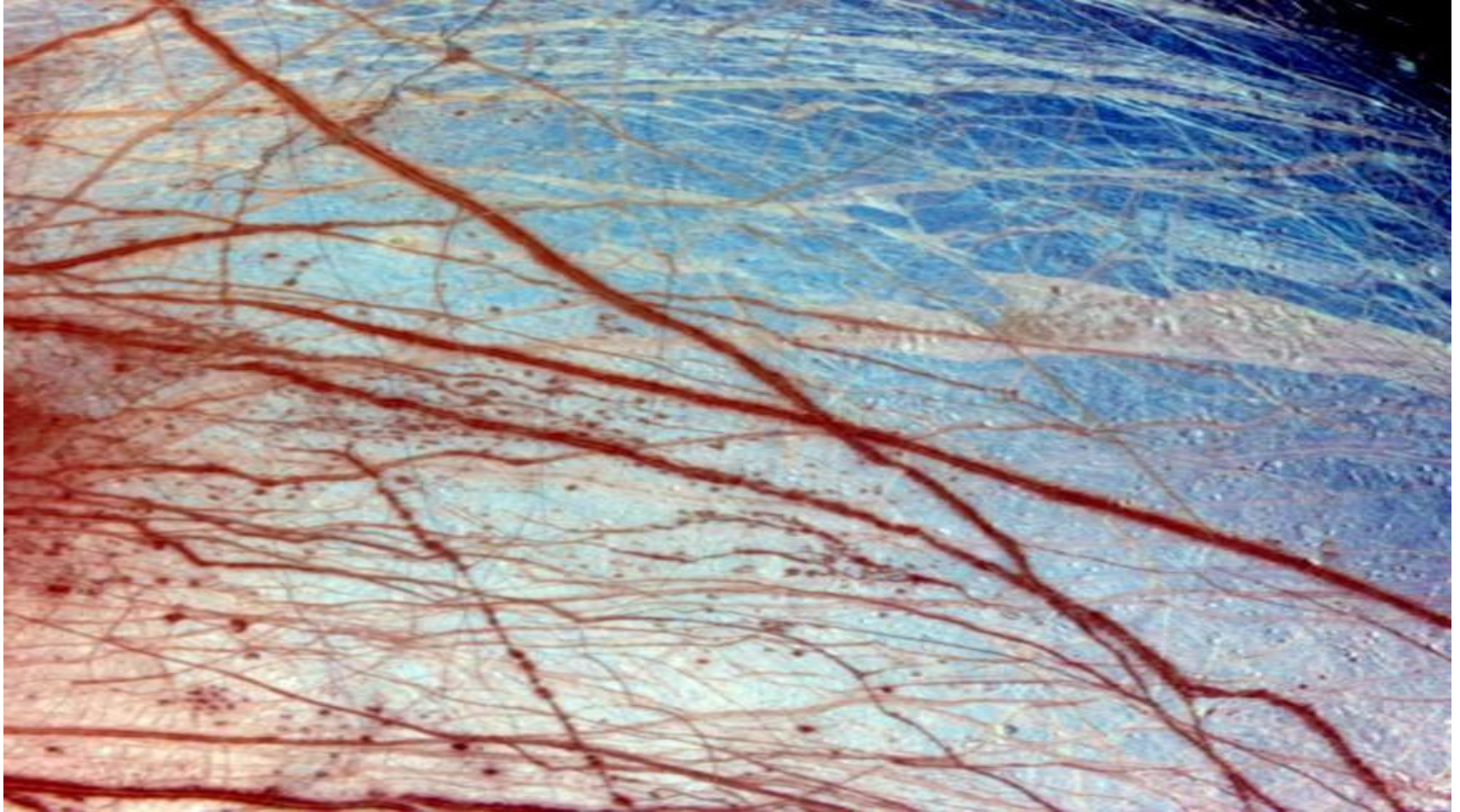
Aurora Jupiter North Pole (Hable Telescope)



SUBSURFACE LIQ. WATER LAKE? SIMILAR TO VOSTOK

**IT IS ASSUMED THAT AT
THE SUBSURFACE OF
MARS AND EUROPA
THERE ARE LIQUID WATER
LAKES WARMED UP BY
THERMO-VOLCANIC SOURCES.**

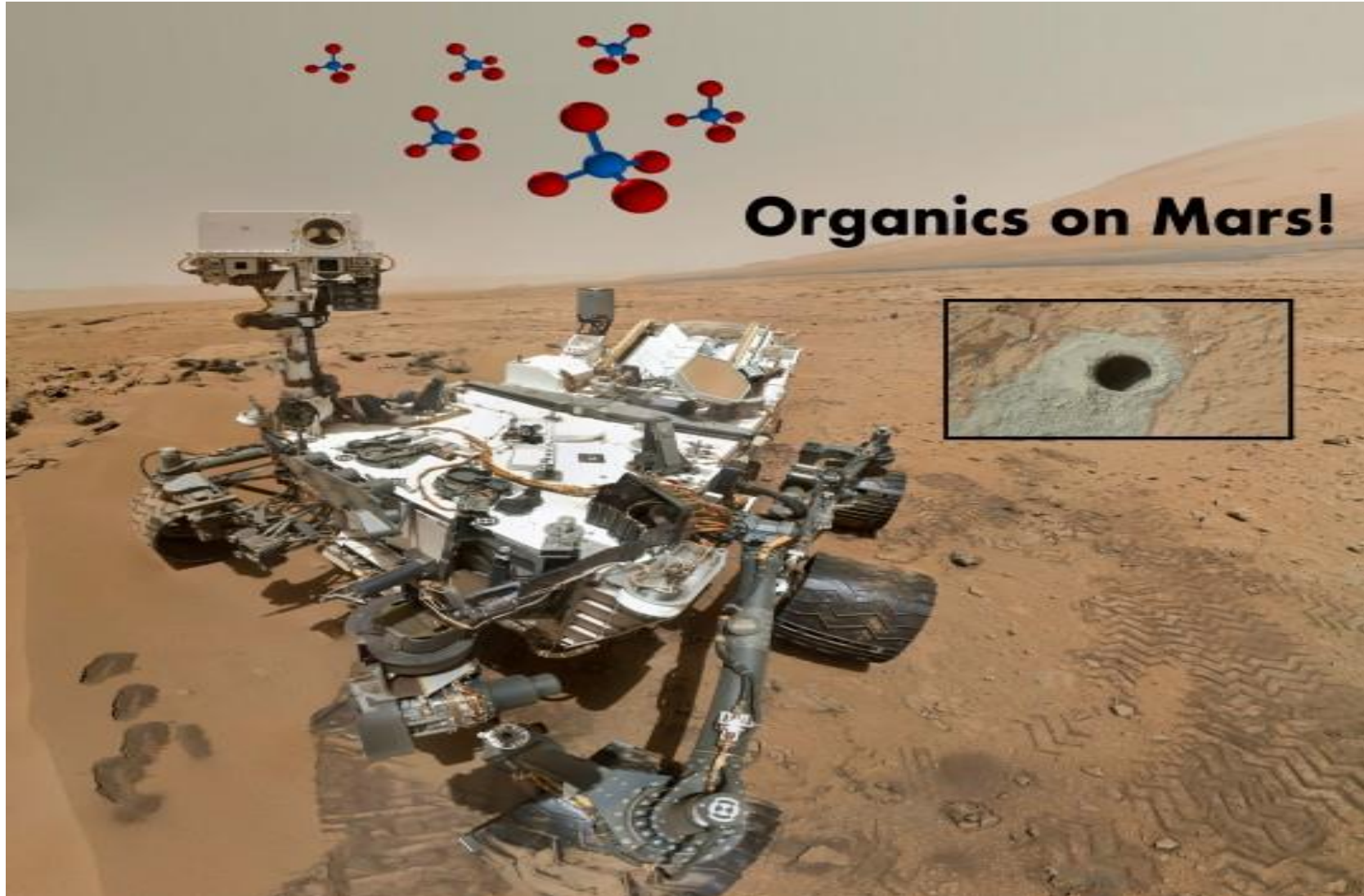
EUROPOA SURFACE



Methane on Mars?

NASA's Curiosity Rover detects Methane, Organics on Mars

June 19, 2016



How Do We Terraform Mars?

June 26, 2016



As part of our continuing "[Definitive Guide To Terraforming](#)" series, Universe Today is happy to present our **guide to terraforming Mars.**

*At present, there are several plans to put astronauts and ever settlers on the Red Planet. But if we really want to live there someday, we're going **to need to do a complete planetary renovation.***

Nature 457, 384-385 (22 January 2009)

Is there life on Europa?

*Europa: The Search for Life
on Jupiter's Ocean Moon*

by Richard Greenberg

ALH84001,0

meteorite - from Antarctica

1996

originated from Mars

1cm

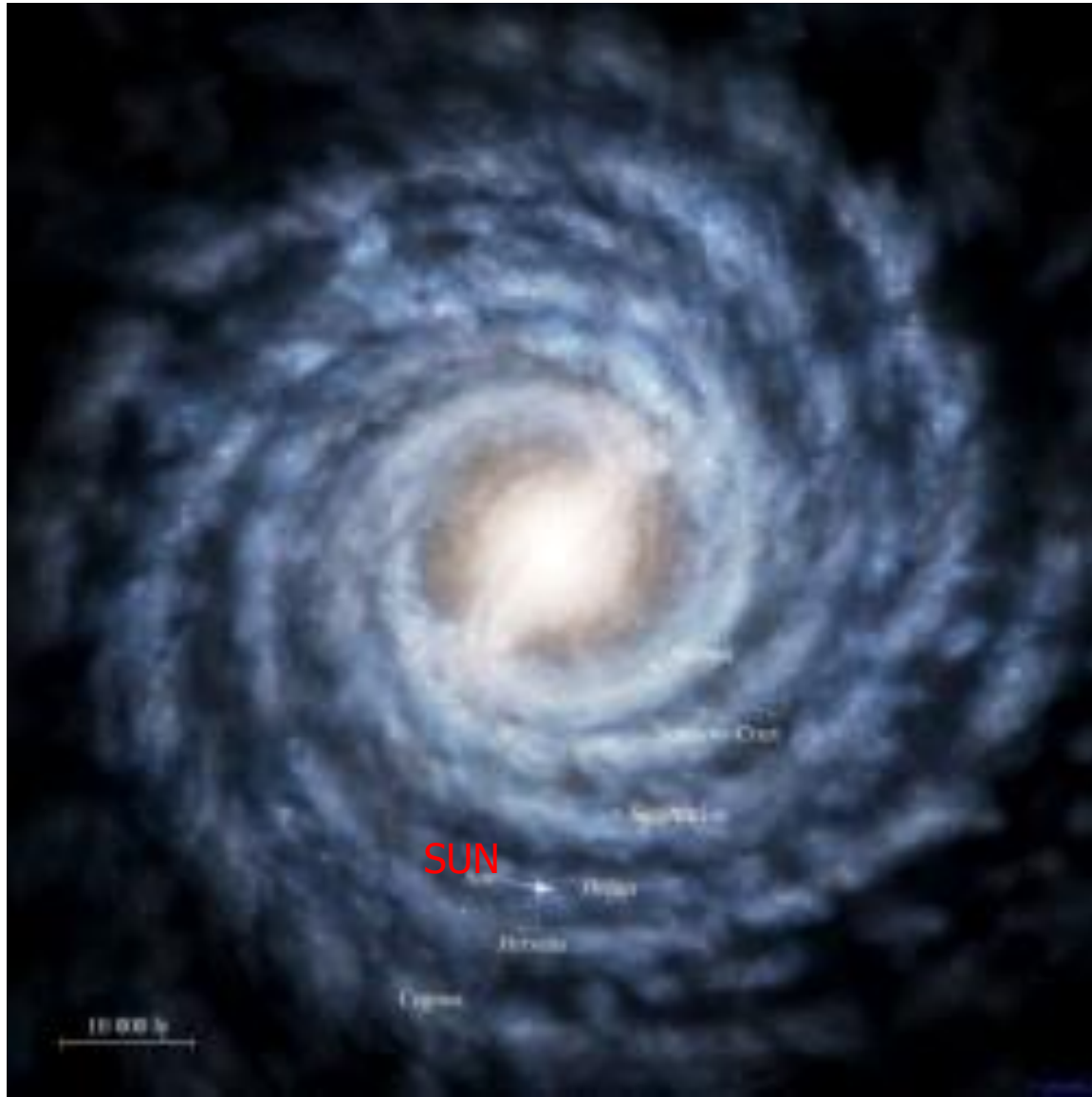


How Could We Detect Life in Europa's Geysers?



Artist's concept of a water vapor plume on Europa. (NASA/ESA/K. Retherford/SWRI)

Our Galaxy



EUROPA OCEAN WORLD

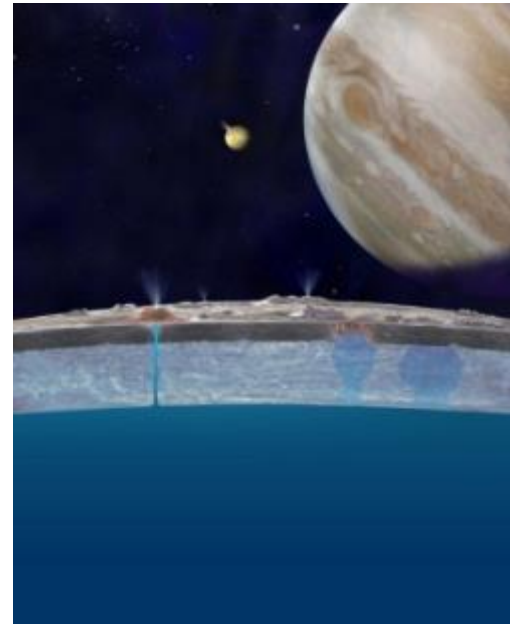
**Icy Hot: Europa's Frozen
Crust Could Be Warmer
Under its Surface [sub-
icy layer]**

Icy Worlds Might Be Alive on the Inside

Many small, frozen worlds seem to have warm underground oceans, making the search for alien life more exciting — and more confusing.

By [Corey S. Powell](#)

RELATED TAGS: [EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE](#)



The global ocean on Jupiter's moon Europa contains about twice the liquid water of all the Earth's oceans combined. There may be plenty of oxygen available in that ocean to support life, a hundred times more oxygen than previously estimated.

VOSTOK LAKE

(ANTARCTICA)

**AT DEPTH OF 4 KM IS A LIQUID
WATER LAKE.**

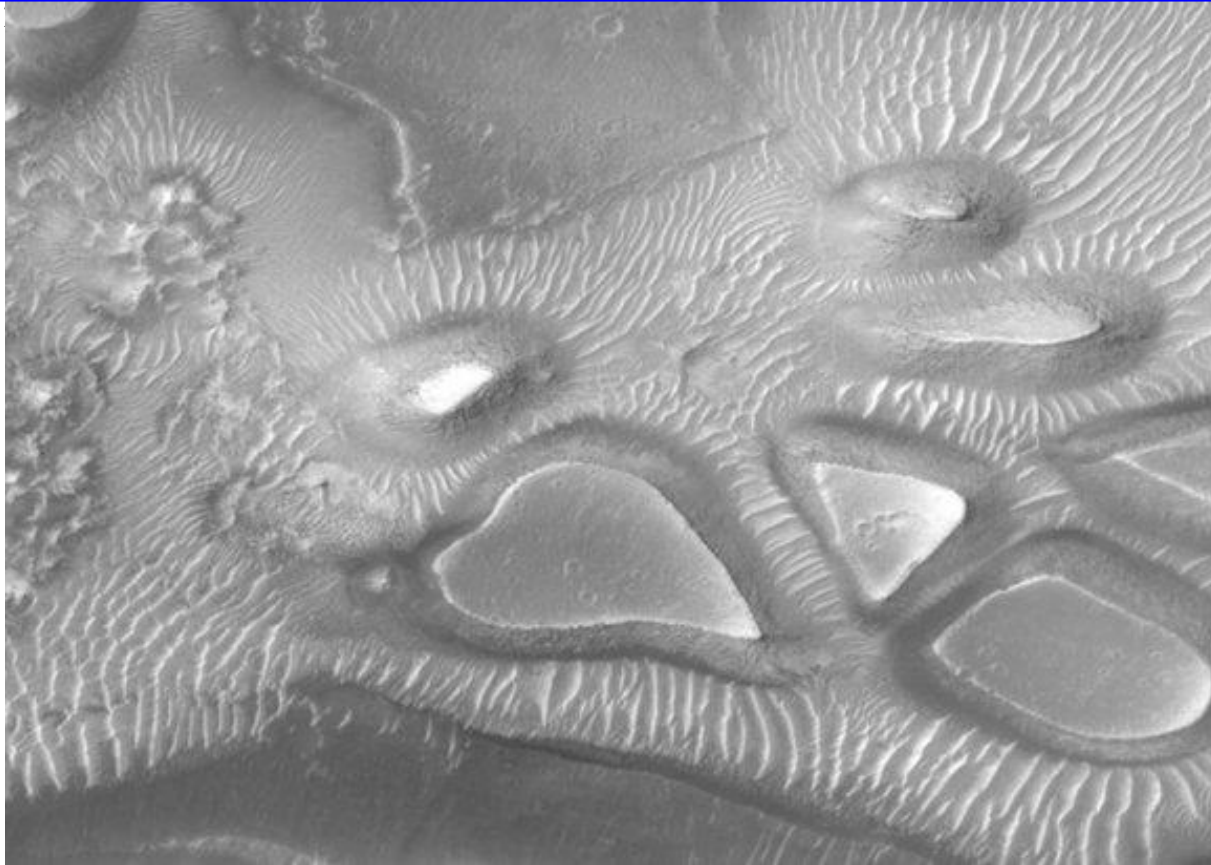
**DRILLINGS THROUGH ICY LAYERS [UP
TO 3.8 KM] HAVE EXPOSED VARIOUS
GENERA OF PROKARYOTES &
EUKARYOTIC MICROORGANISMS .**

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) **If Earth microbes can thrive in extreme environments, could it not be that in the future similar microorganisms might also be observe in the above mentioned celestial bodies?**
- 2) Furthermore, if bacteria are known to survive for **millions of years below glaciers** in Antarctica, and in other places on Earth, why would they not thrive underneath **the ice caps of Mars, and on the European Oceans?**
- 3) All the above facts serve to encourage us to intensify our search for biomarkers on the nearby planets and on some of their satellites.

With Love from Universe Today

February 15, 201



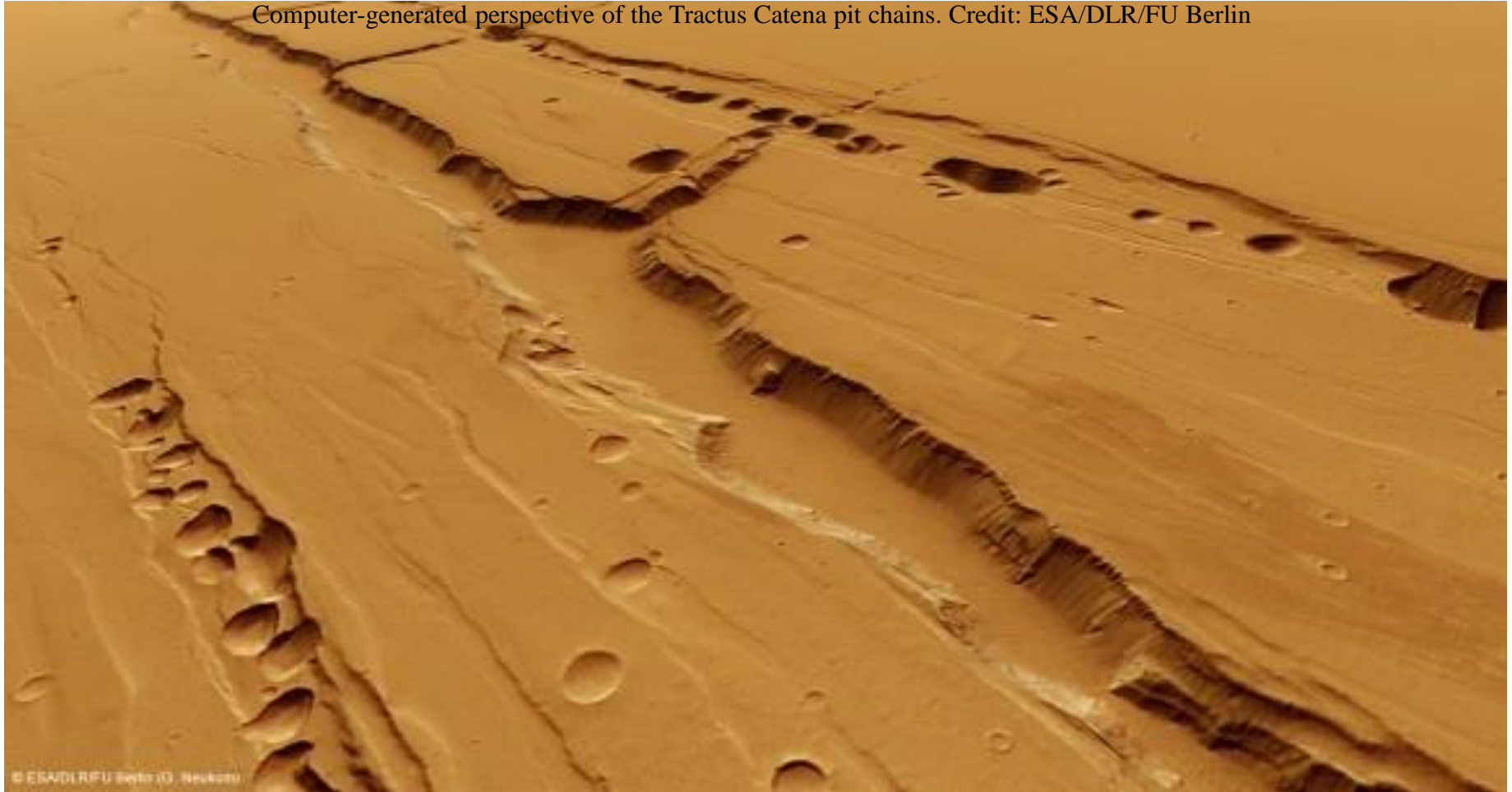
*This image from the **Mars Global Surveyor** shows a **heart-shaped** crater amid other 'box of chocolates' shapes. Credit: Malin Space Science Systems*

Extremophiles under us in land

- The discovery of solitary little **CRITTERS DEEP BENEATH EARTH'S SURFACE** has set the world of microbiology on its head while exciting astrobiologists about the possibility of **LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS**. A community of **BACTERIA WAS FOUND 2.8 KILOMETERS BELOW GROUND IN A GOLDMINE** and it lives completely alone and completely independent of any other life forms. It also **SUBSISTS WITHOUT SUNLIGHT OR OXYGEN**. The species *Candidatus Desulforudis audaxviator* is an amazing discovery, and represents the kind of **Organism that could survive below the surface of mars or saturn's sixth largest moon enceladus.**

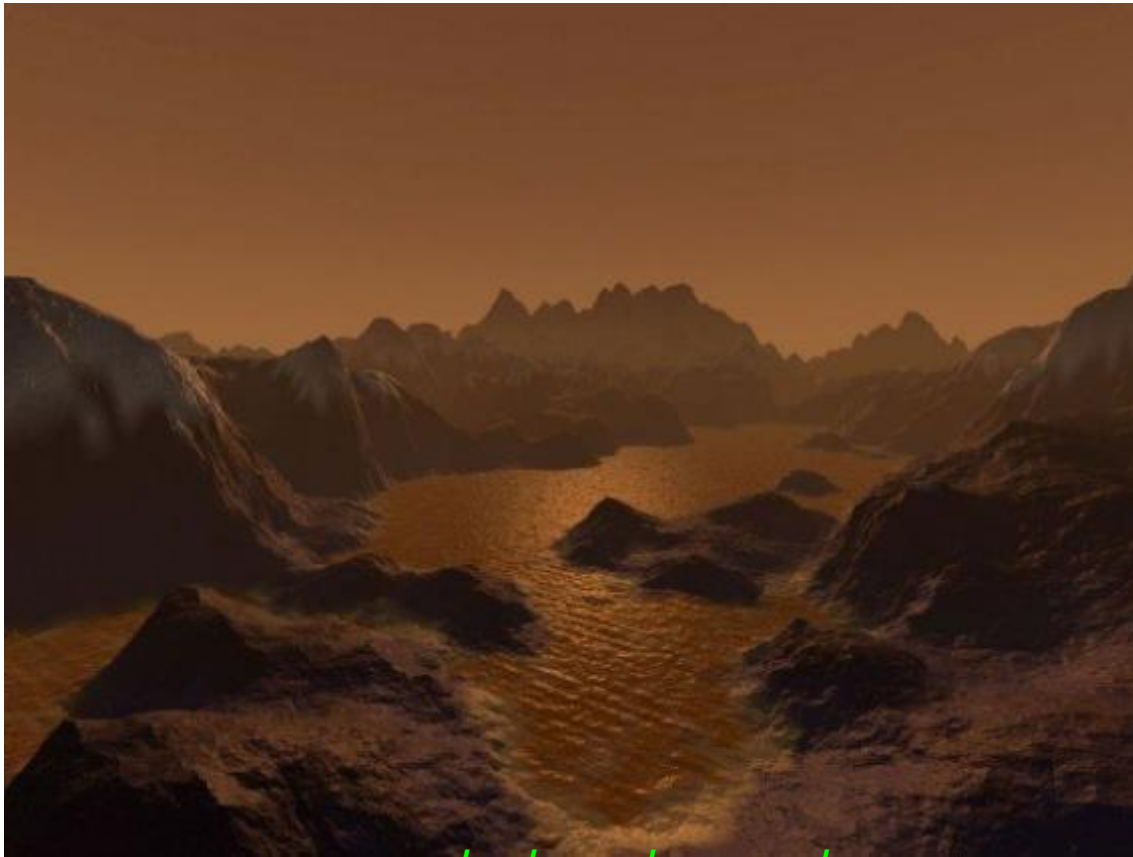
Could There Be Life In Them Thar Pits?

Computer-generated perspective of the Tractus Catena pit chains. Credit: ESA/DLR/FU Berlin



© ESA/DLR/FU Berlin (D. Heucke)

Storms and Lakes on Titan Revealed by Computer Modeling



*An artist's imagination of **hydrocarbon pools**, icy and rocky terrain on the surface of Saturn's largest moon **Titan**. Image credit: Steven Hobbs (Brisbane, Queensland, Australia).*

BIG FOOT ON MARS

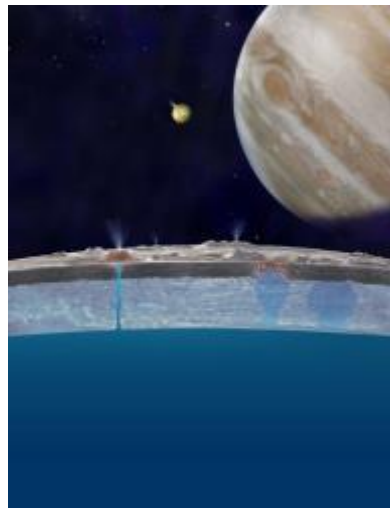


NASA's Curiosity Search for Signs [Ingredients] of Martian Life
work in Gale crater firing a laser on Mars



Icy Worlds Might Be Alive on the Inside

Many small, frozen worlds seem to have warm underground oceans, making the search for alien life more exciting — and more confusing.



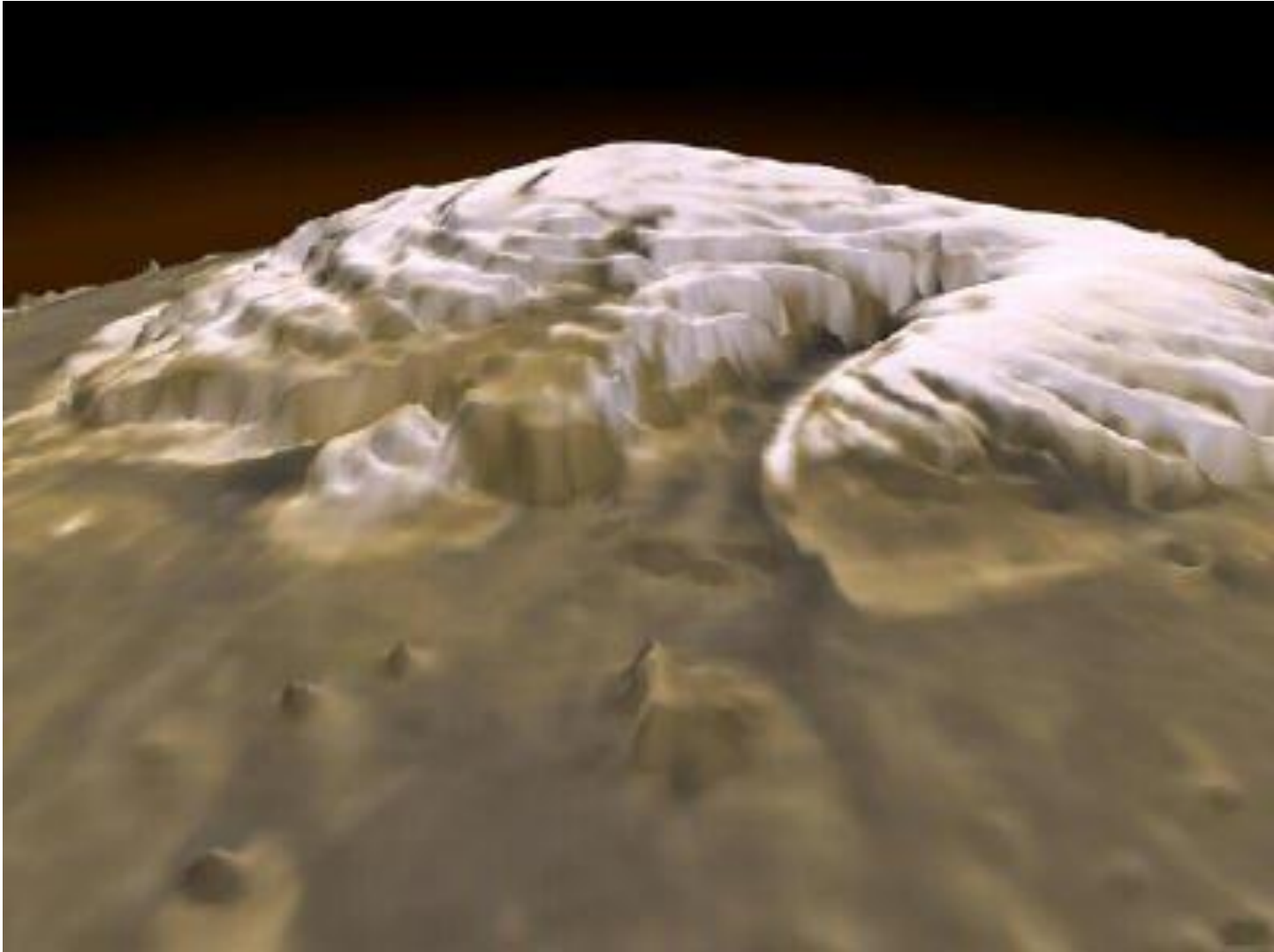
LANDSCAPE ON MARS



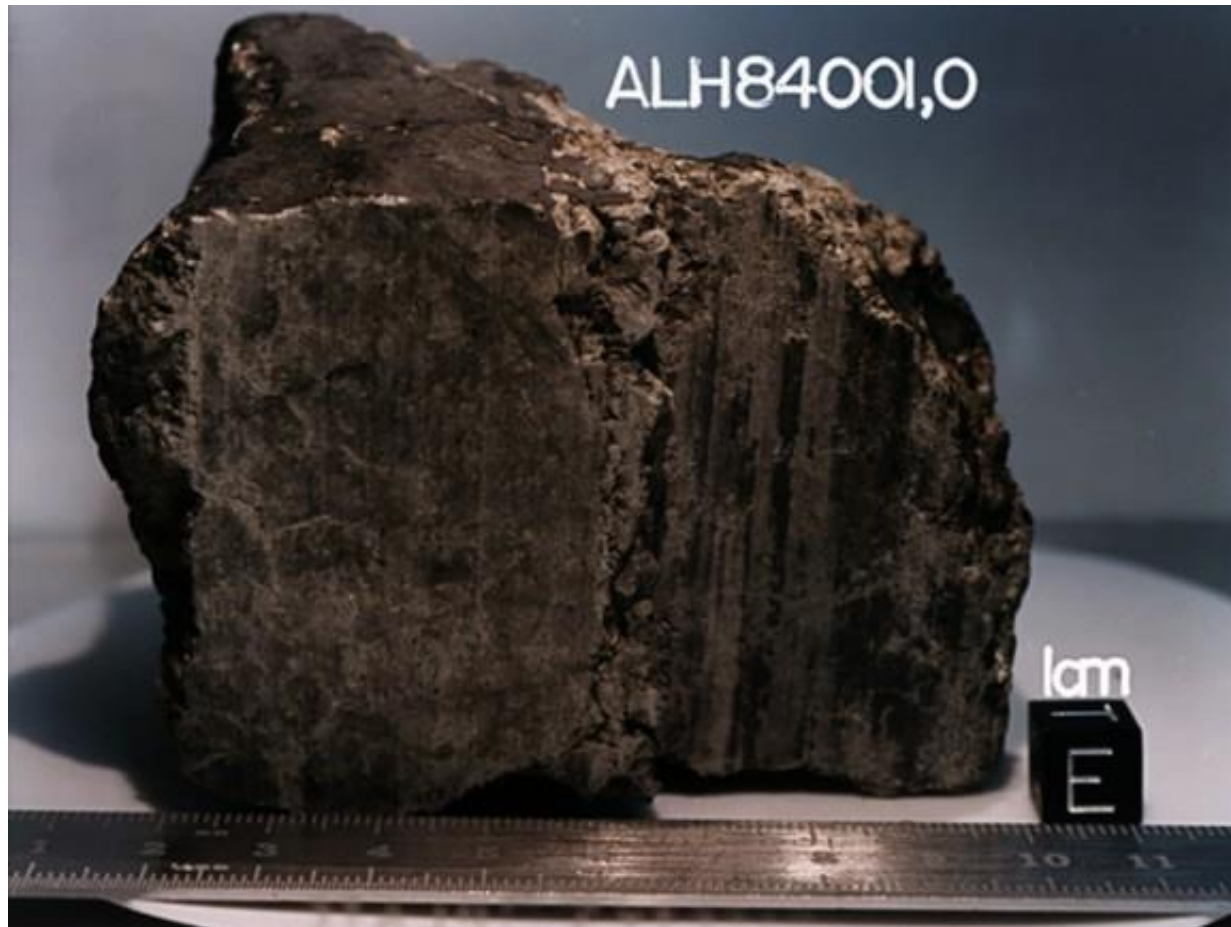
Europa Submarine Prototype



LOTS OF PURE WATER ICE AT MARS NORTH POLE



Organics Found in Mars Meteorites, But Nothing Biological



Microbes recently discovered 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) *below* the seabed off the coast of Canada. The living conditions are cramped, environment is a **searing 100°C (212F)**, and yet **these hardy cells appear to be thriving.**

This new discovery of life so deep below the **Earth**'s surface may set some new limits on just how extreme life can be on other planets...

Love Mars? Then This is For You

e Mars [Sept.4.09] pacifas of photos - Microsoft Word

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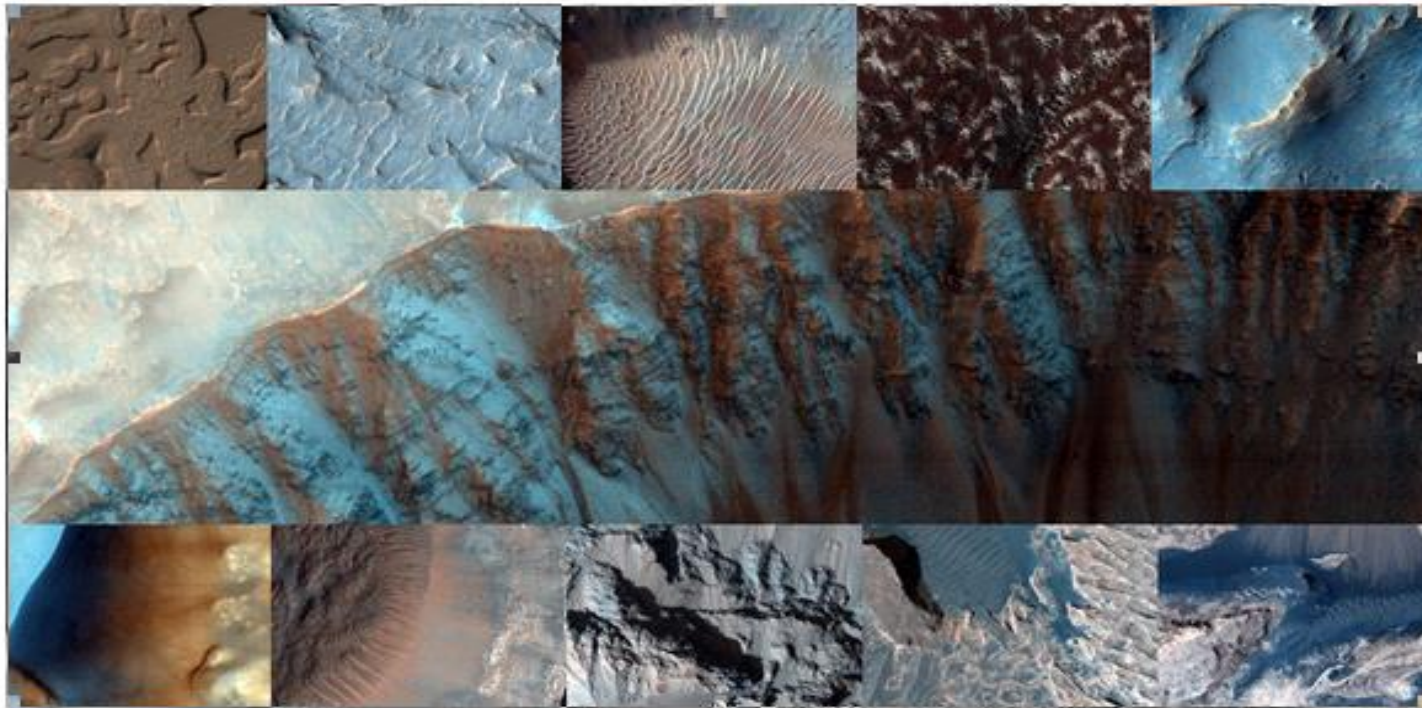
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Love Mars? Then This is For You



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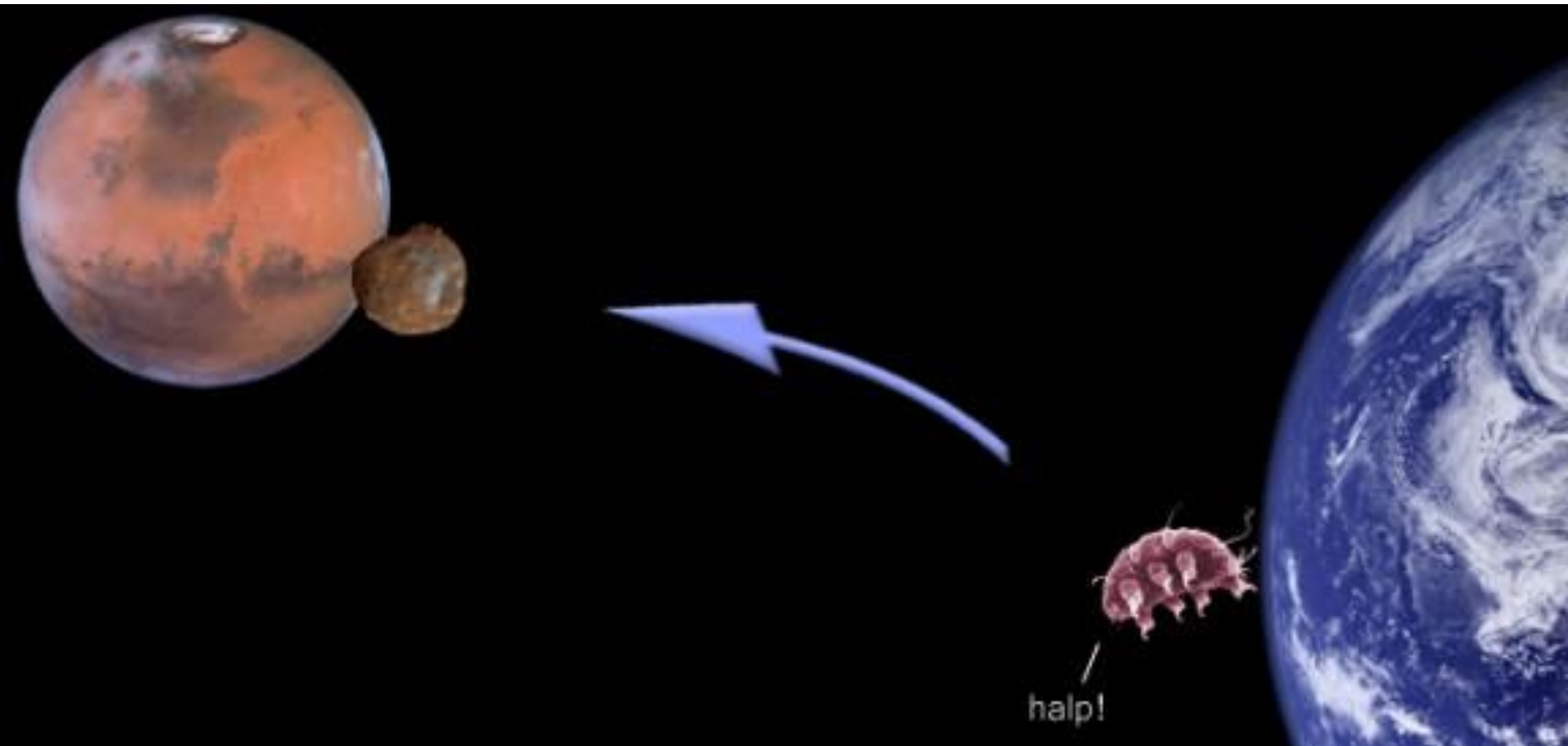
Col 1

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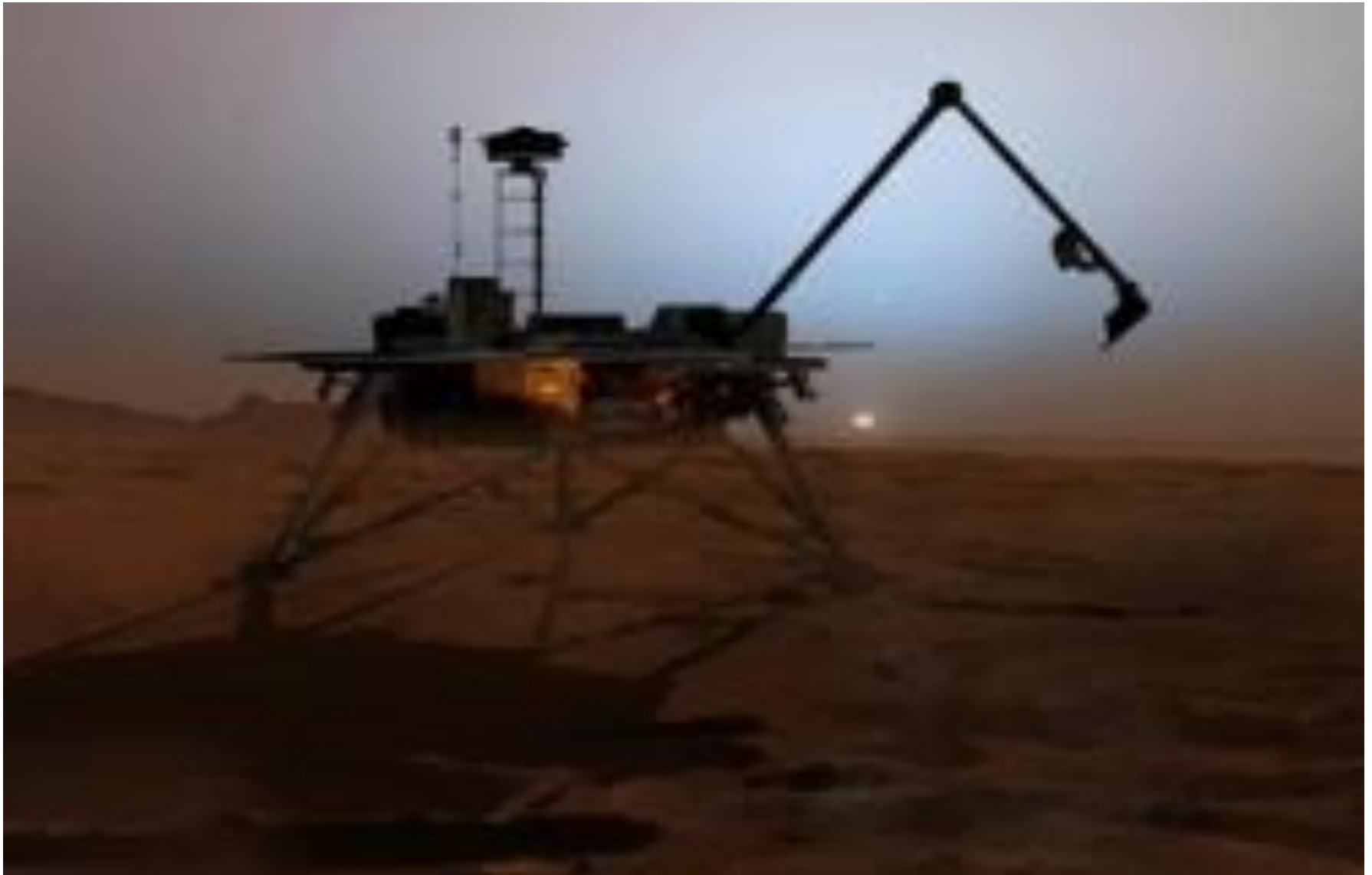
English (U.S)

✖

Russian Space Agency send Terrestrial Life to Phobos (Marsia Moon)



Imminent Discovery of Life On Mars?



ICE AND WATER ON MARS in a North Pole crater.



© ESA/DLR/FU Berlin (G. Neukum)

Salt Pillars in the Dead Sea



Russia delays Lake Vostok drill (press)

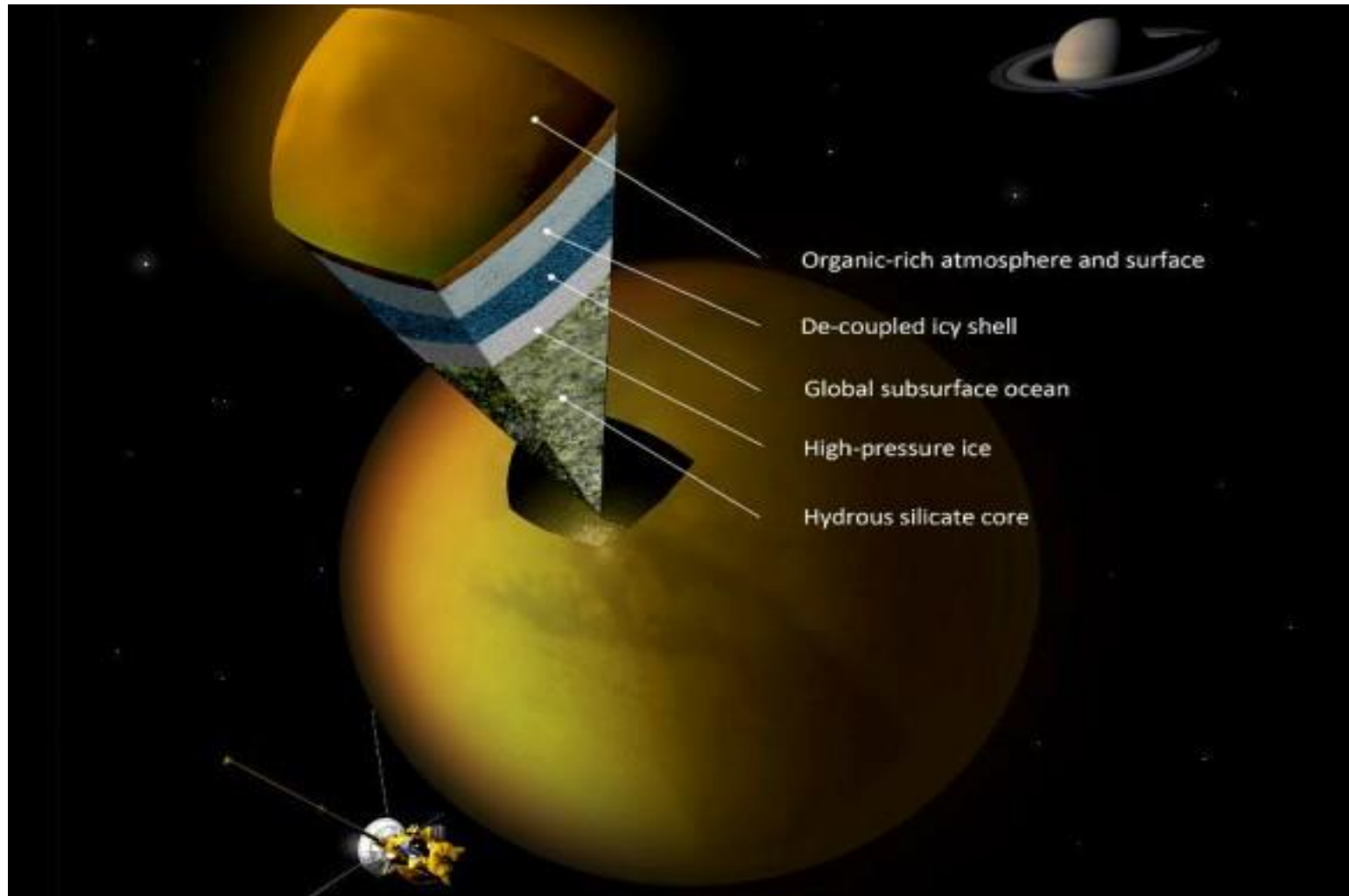
- Antarctica's hidden water will keep its secrets for another year.
- Lake Vostok lies thousands of metres below Vostok Station, the coldest recorded place on Earth.

Archaeon Halophiles

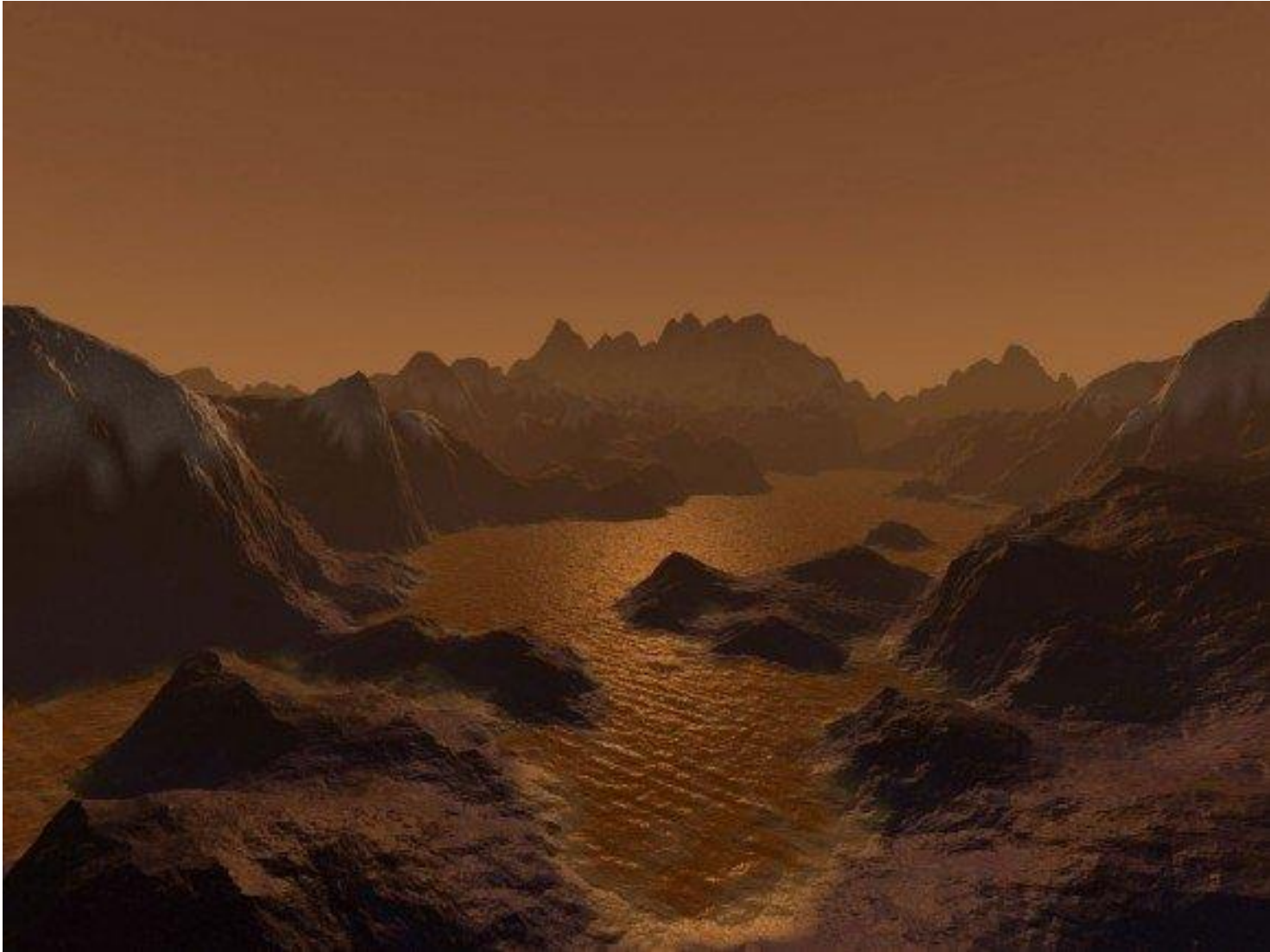


70 **Halorhodopsin**

TITAN TIDES SUGGESTS A SUBSURFACE OCEAN



Storms And Lakes On Titan Revealed By Computer Modeling



CONCLUSIONS

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VO

DISCOVER

MAY 2002

DIS

Is There

Life

on

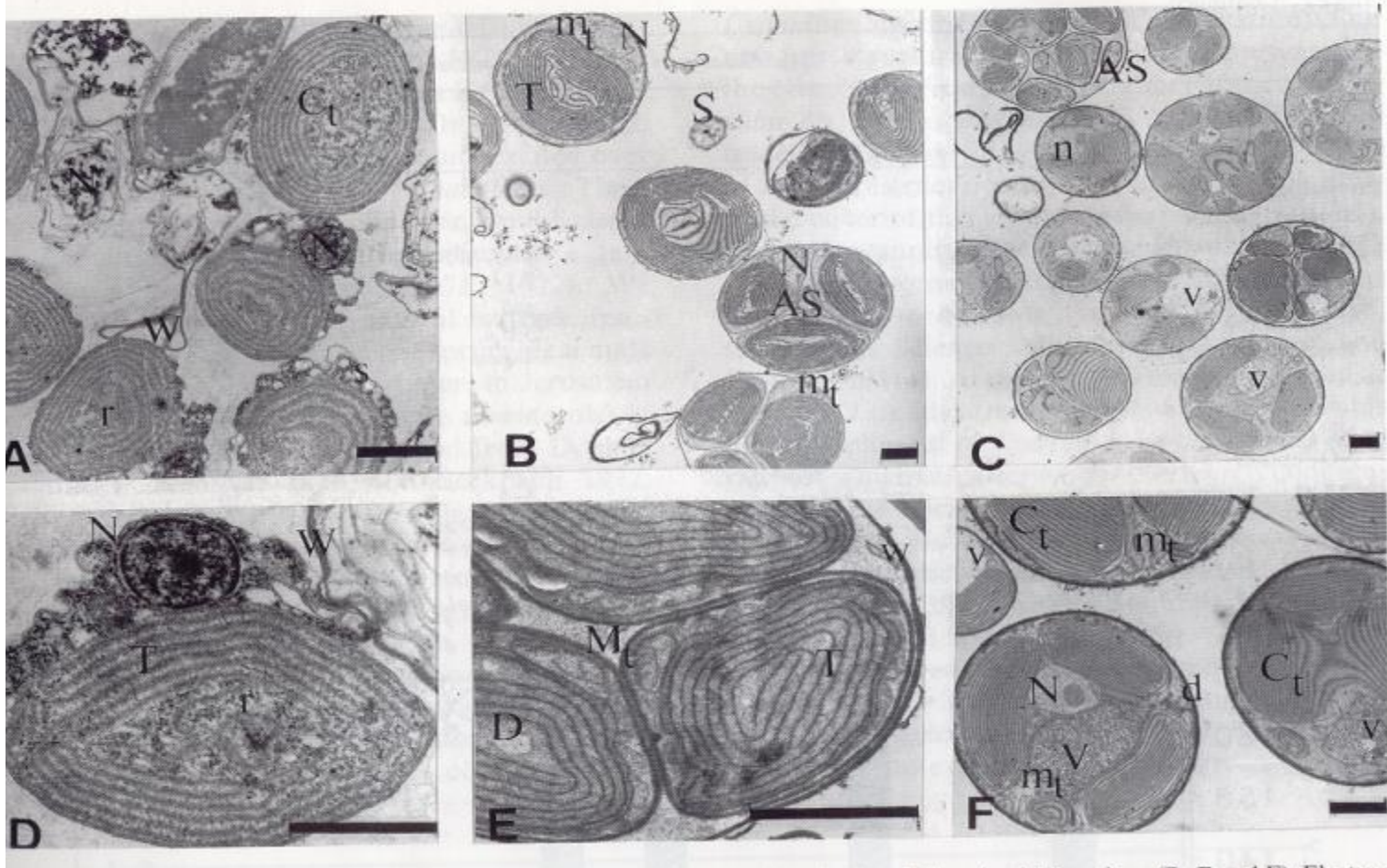
Europa?



Europa, about the size of Earth's moon, orbits 375,000 miles from the gaseous Jupiter's cloud tops.

Three genera of the Cyanidia

The natural history of Cyanidium 103



Dunaliella salina



Green algae around salt x'tals

Titan (satellite of Saturn) organic seas



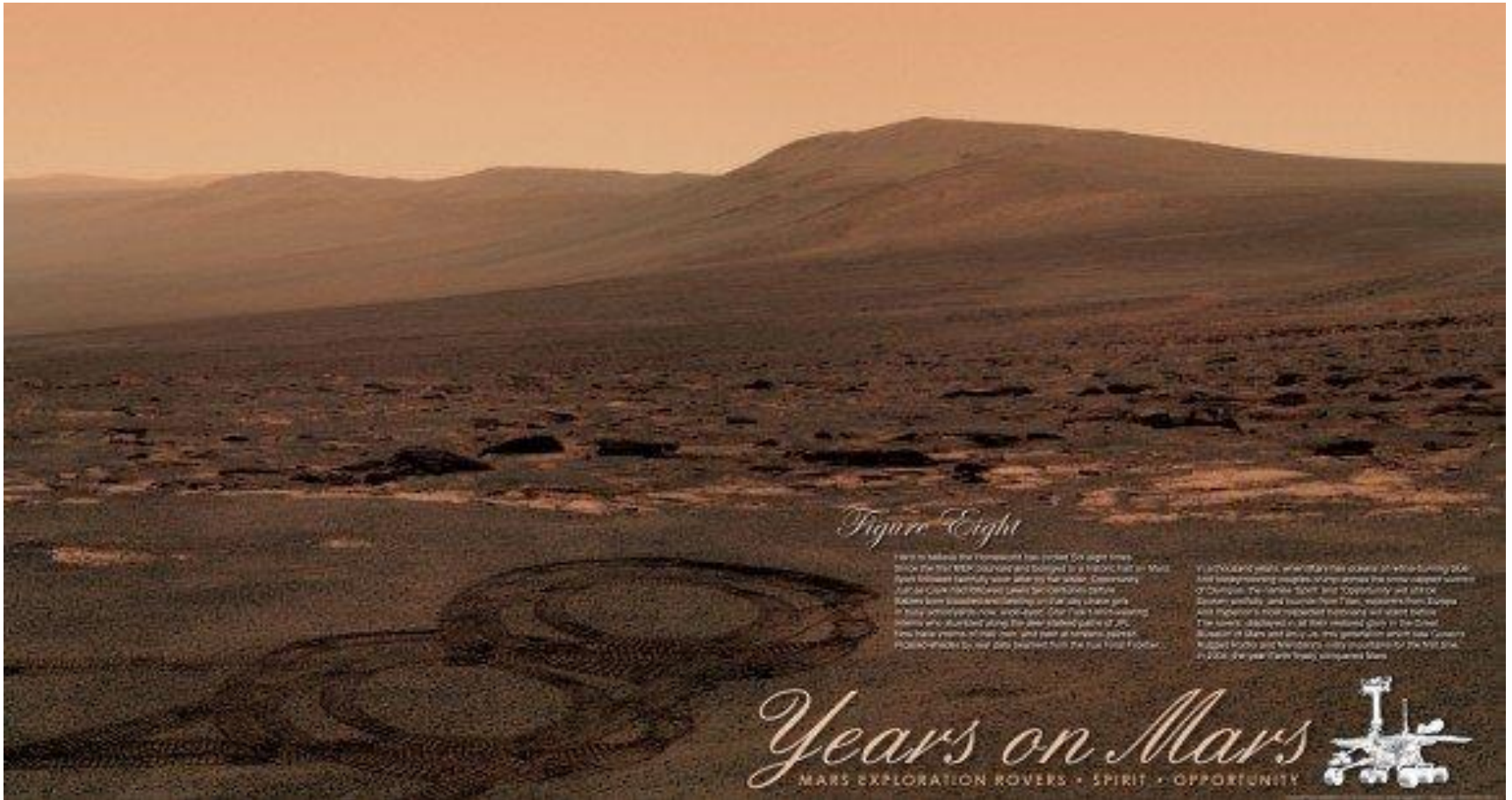
ALH84001,0

meteorite

1cm



8 YEARS ROVER ON MARS



Ancient Domes Reveal 3.45-billion-year-old Life History

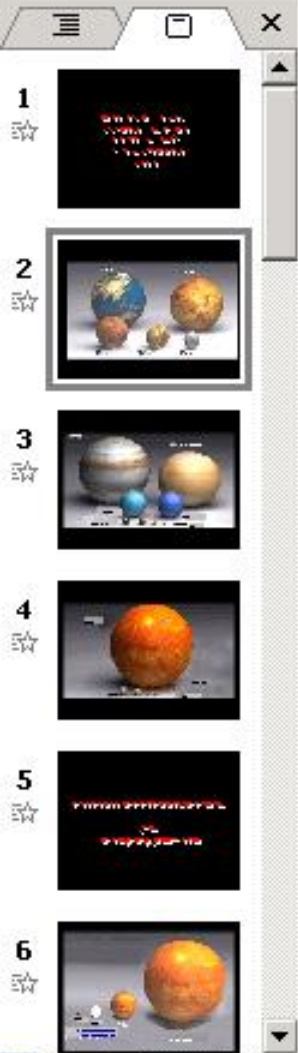
Rare, paleo-surface view of how conical stromatolites would appear if one SNORKELED IN THE SHALLOWS OF A REEF. Ancient, dome-like rock structures contain clues that life was active on [Earth](#) 3.45 billion years Ago, according to new research — and the findings could help shed light on life's history on Earth and other [planets](#), including [Mars](#).



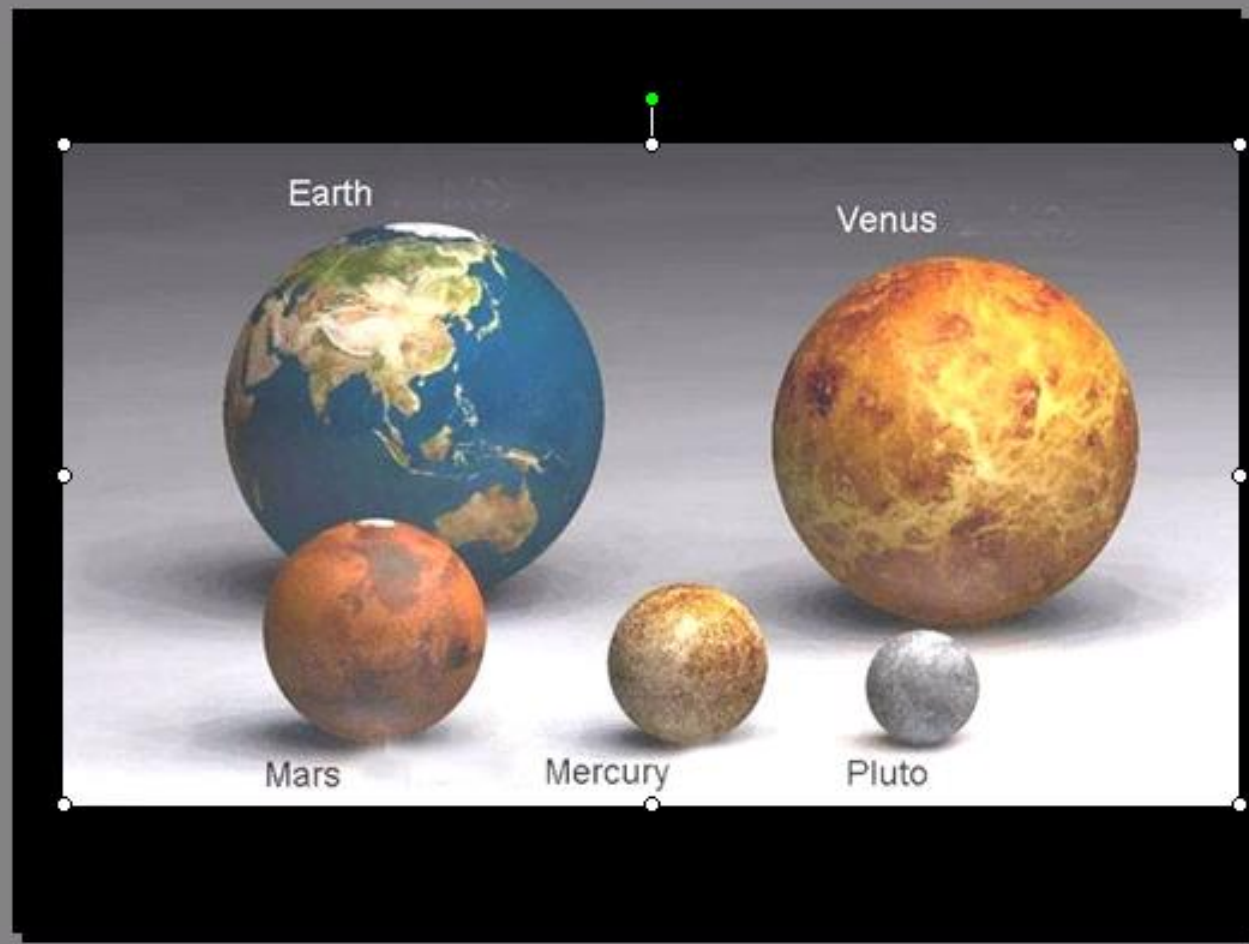
Europa Capable of Supporting Life, Scientist Says

The global ocean on Jupiter's moon Europa contains about twice the liquid water of all the Earth's oceans combined. New research by Richard Greenberg of the University of Arizona suggests that there may be plenty of oxygen available in that ocean to support life, a hundred times more oxygen than previously estimated.

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The slide thumbnails on the left show a sequence of images: 1. A black slide with red text. 2. A slide showing Earth and Venus. 3. A slide showing Mars and Mercury. 4. A slide showing Pluto. 5. A black slide with red text. 6. A slide showing Earth and Venus.

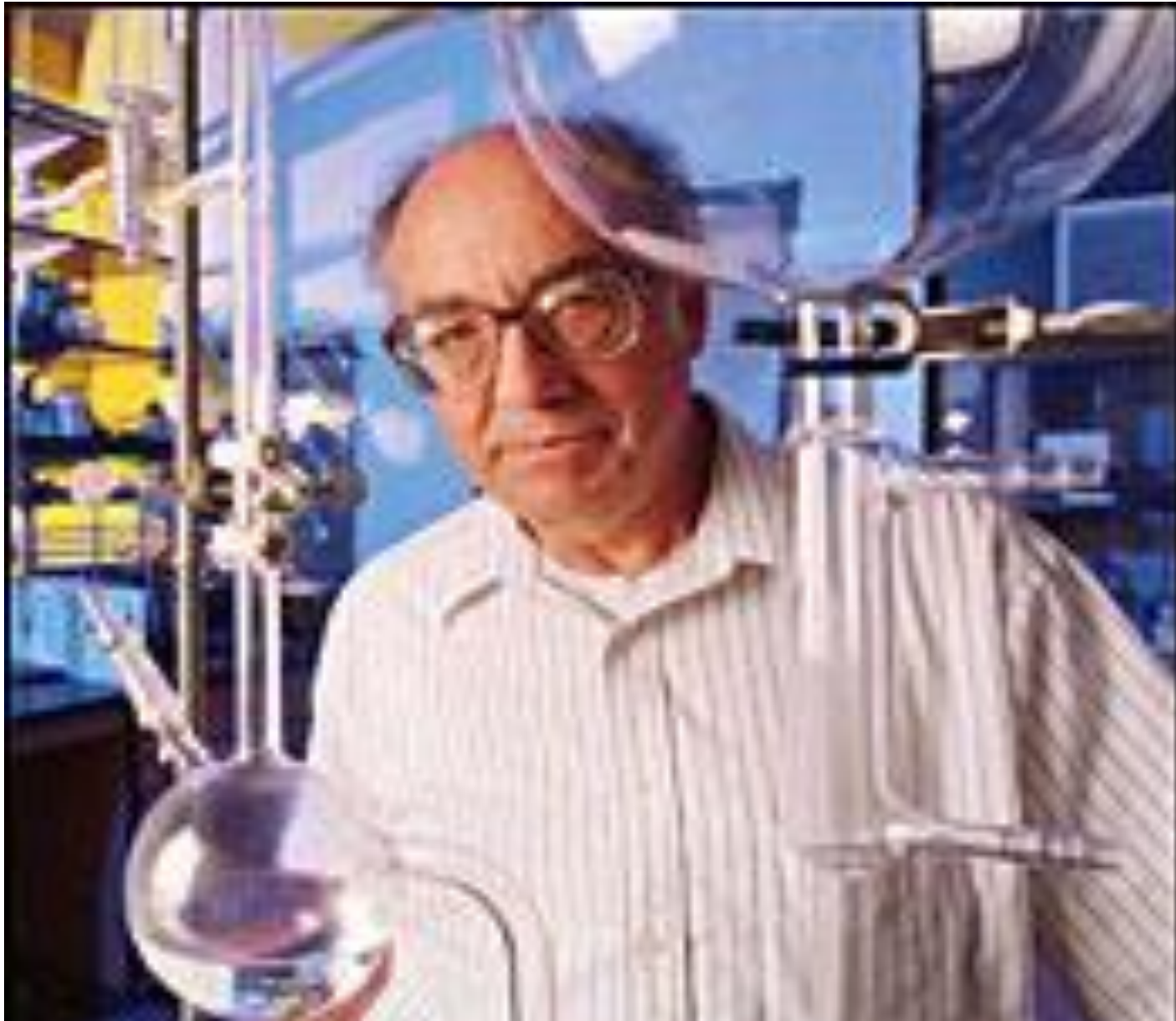


Click to add notes

Phoenix: "It Must Be Ice"

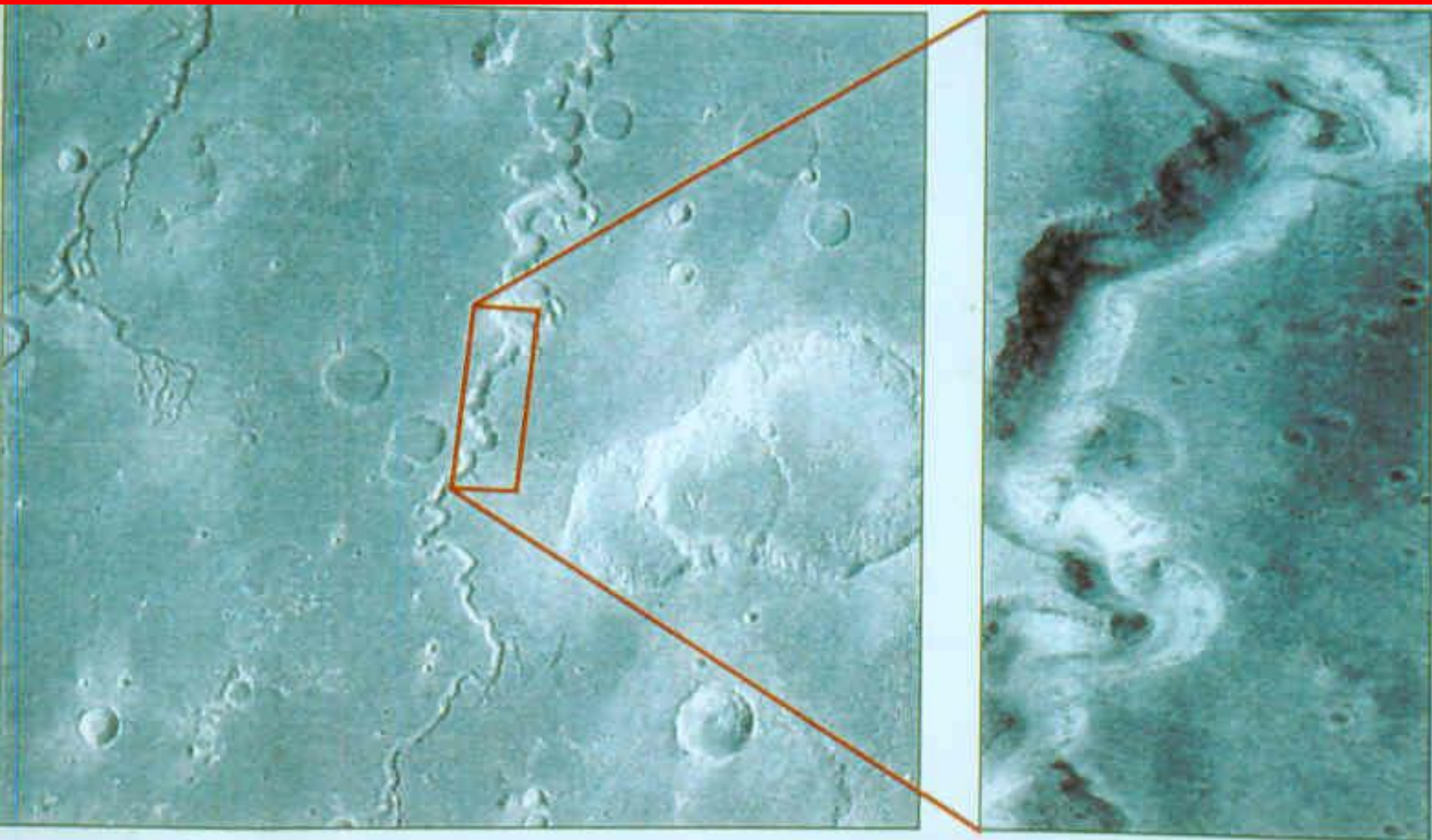


STENLEY MILLER EXPERIMENT (1953)



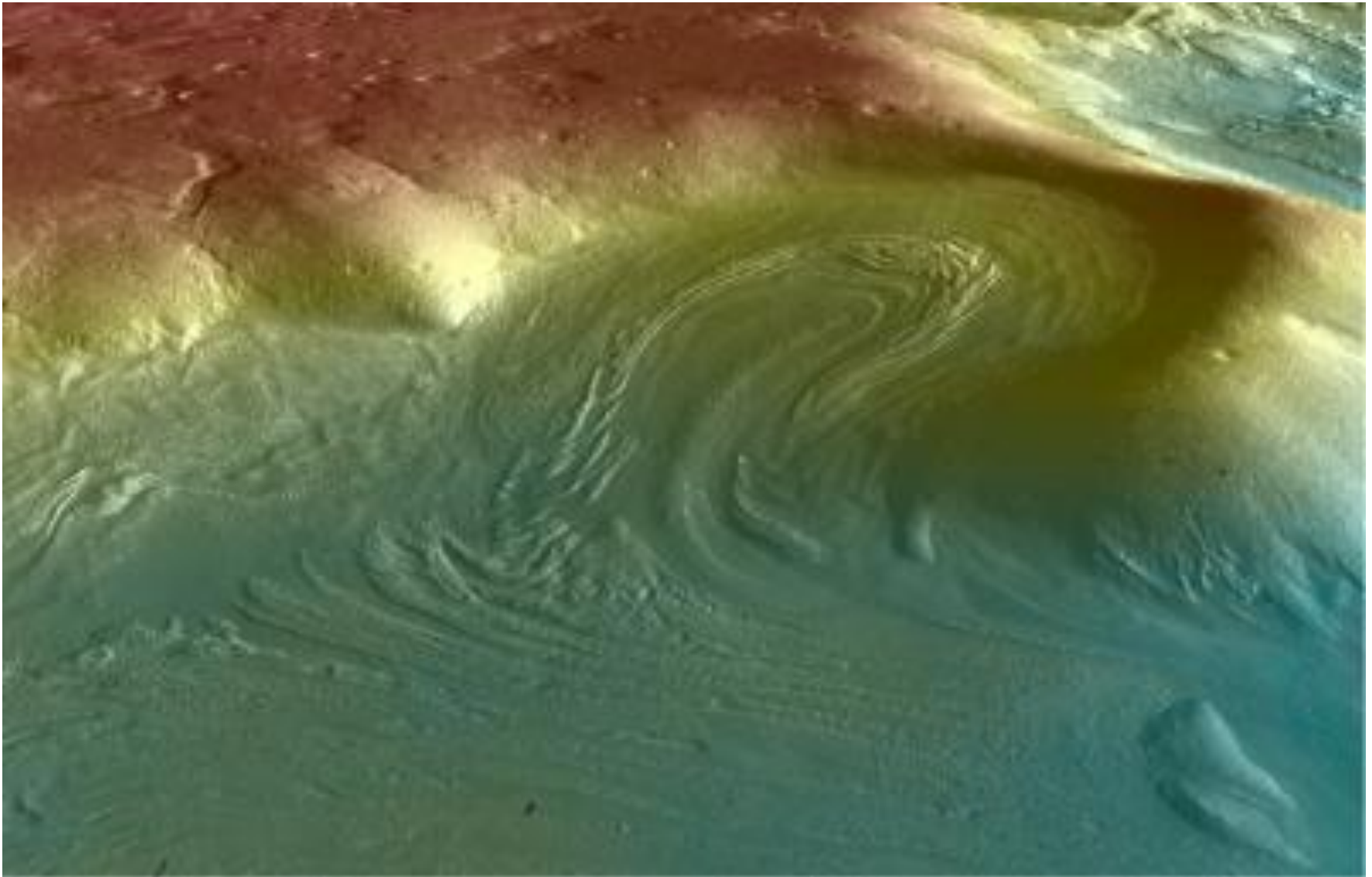
Indian scientists flying a giant balloon experiment have announced the **discovery of three new species of bacteria from the stratosphere.**





The Nanedi Valles is a feature on Mars that suggests liquid water once flowed on the surface. Images: NASA/JPL

Recurring glaciers on the surface of Mars

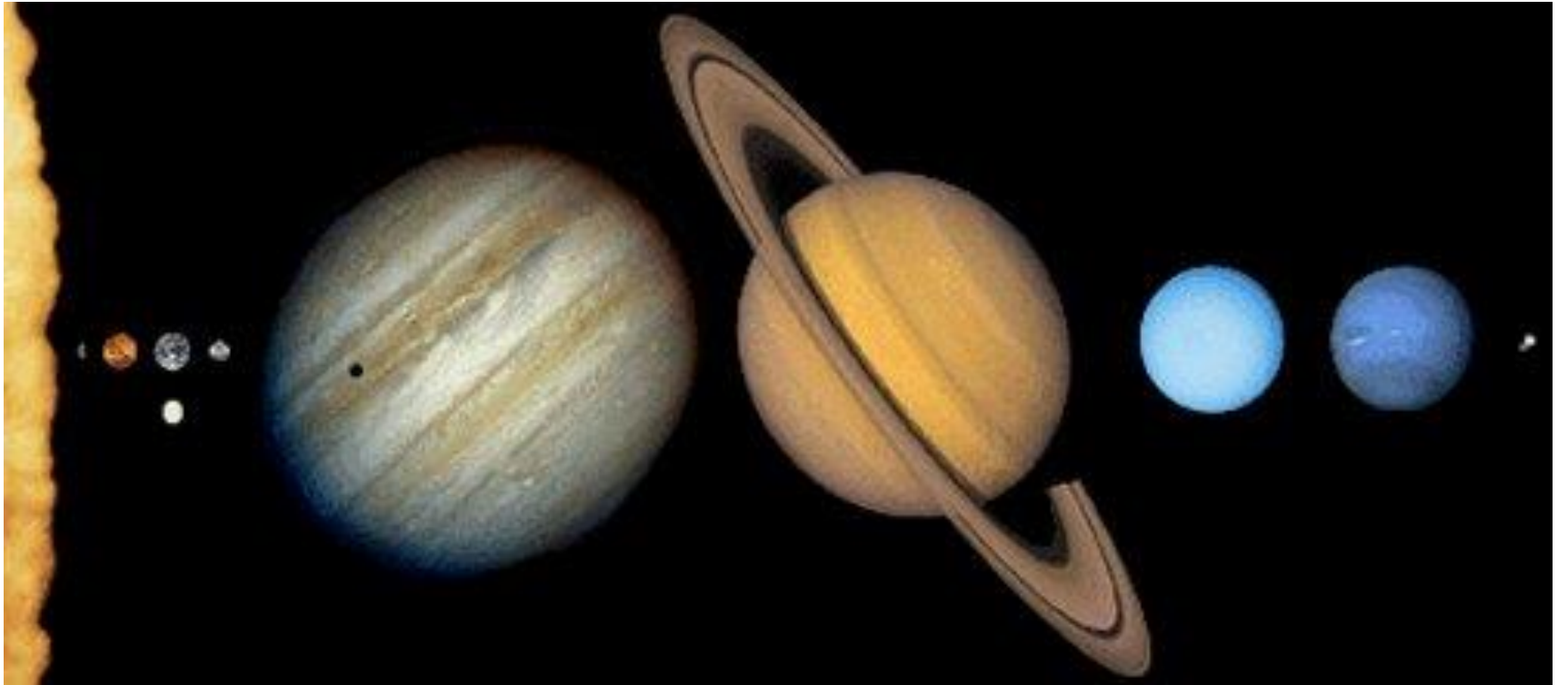


Antarctica's "Blood Falls" Shows How Aliens Might Live on Ice Worlds



image of a water-carved channels on Mars





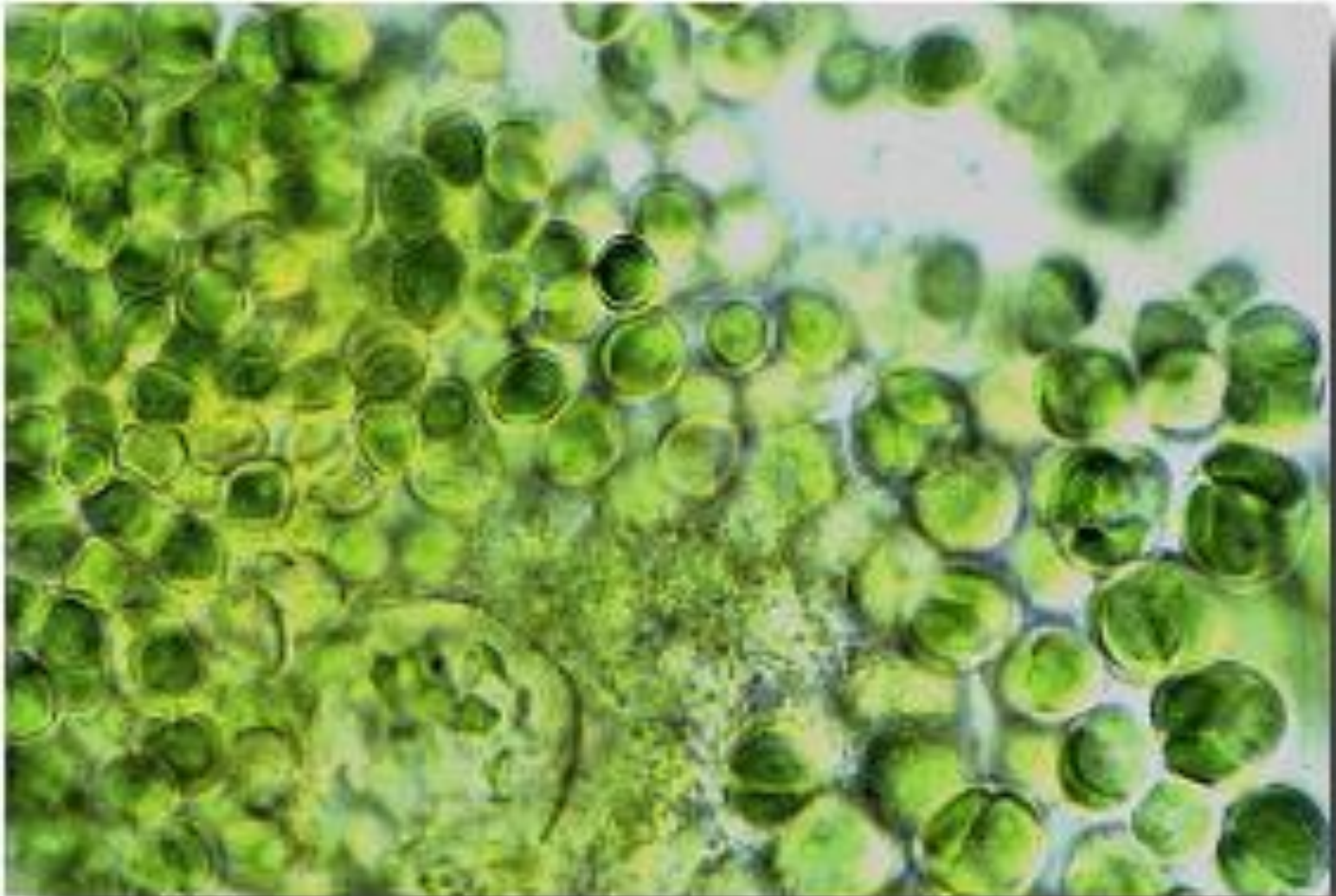


Pozzuoli (Napoli) sources for acidothermophilic microbe

An illustration of a dust storm on Mars.



Chroococciopsiopsis candidate for Martian inhabitation



Size comparison of Milky Way with ultracompact galaxy



QUESTIONS ABOUT ORIGINS

1) EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE ON EARTH?

2) THE STATE OF EARTH ATMOSPHERE

3) WHEN WAS THE ORIGIN OF LIFE ON EARTH?

WAS: REDUCED? HIGHLY REDUCED?

NEUTRAL? OXIDIZED?

4) WERE ASTROIDS & COMETS SOURCES OF ORGANICS?

QUESTIONS ABOUT ORIGINS

- 5) WHEN WAS OXYGEN PHOTOSYNTHESIS INVENTED?
- 6) WHEN DID EUKARYOTES ORIGINATE?
- 7) WAS THERE AN RNA WORLD?
- 8) WHAT WAS THE SITE OF THE ORIGIN OF LIFE? POND? OCEAN? HYDROTHERMAL VENTS? SUBSURFACE, PANSPERMIA? MINERAL SURFACE? OR MARINE SHORELINE?

QUESTIONS ABOUT ORIGINS

- 9) **WAS THE FIRST ORGANISM HETEROTROPH OR AUTOTROPH?**
- 10) **WAS THE FIRST CELL THERMOPHILE or MESOPHILE or PSYCHROPHILES?**
- 11) **IS THERE LIFE IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM OUTSIDE EARTH?**

Martian Settlers May Need Chickens To Conquer The Red Planet

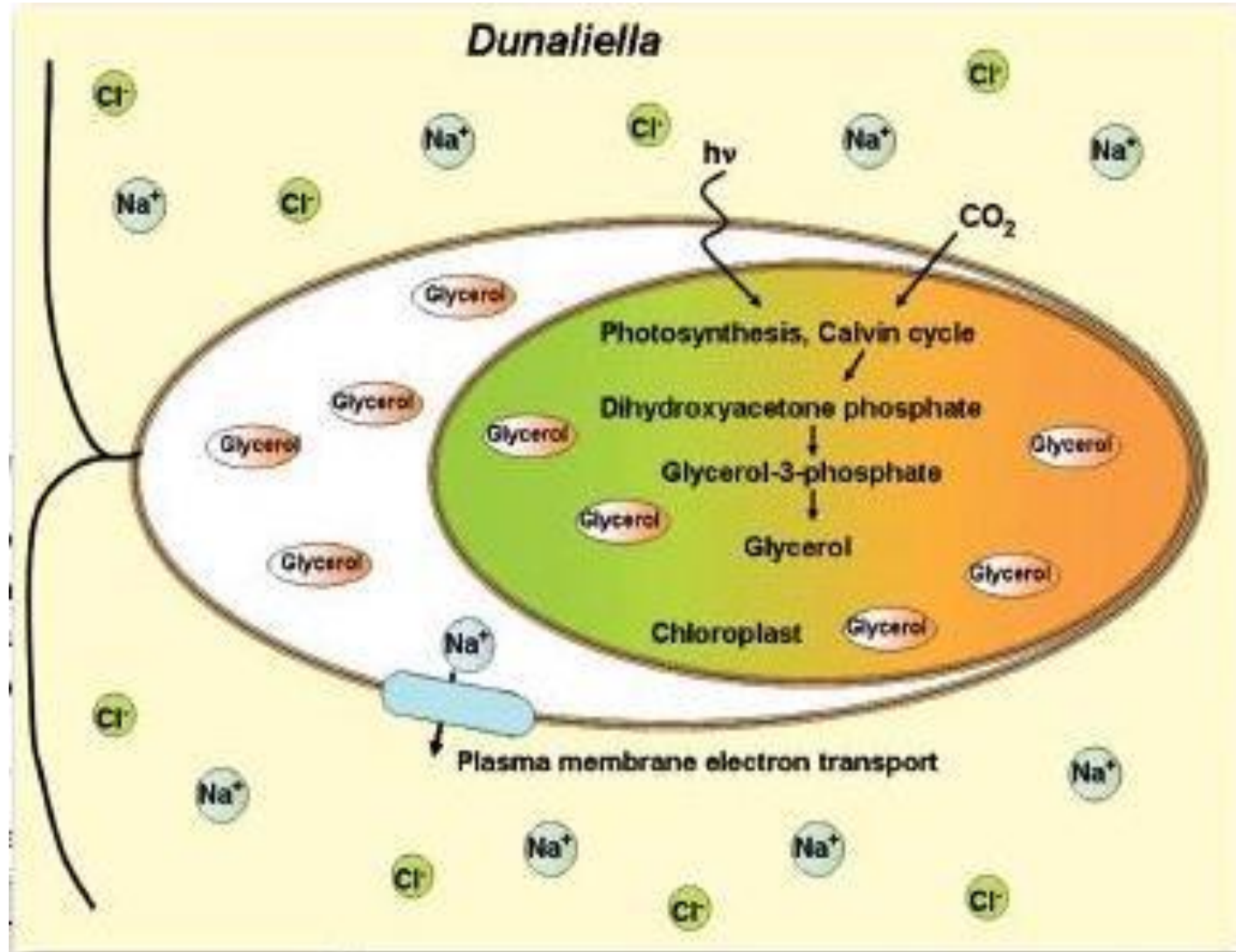


- If humanity ever intends upon settling Mars (by settling We mean a one way trip with no plans on returning back to Earth), they are going to need a whole lot of chickens if they want to survive—let alone thrive—upon the red planet.

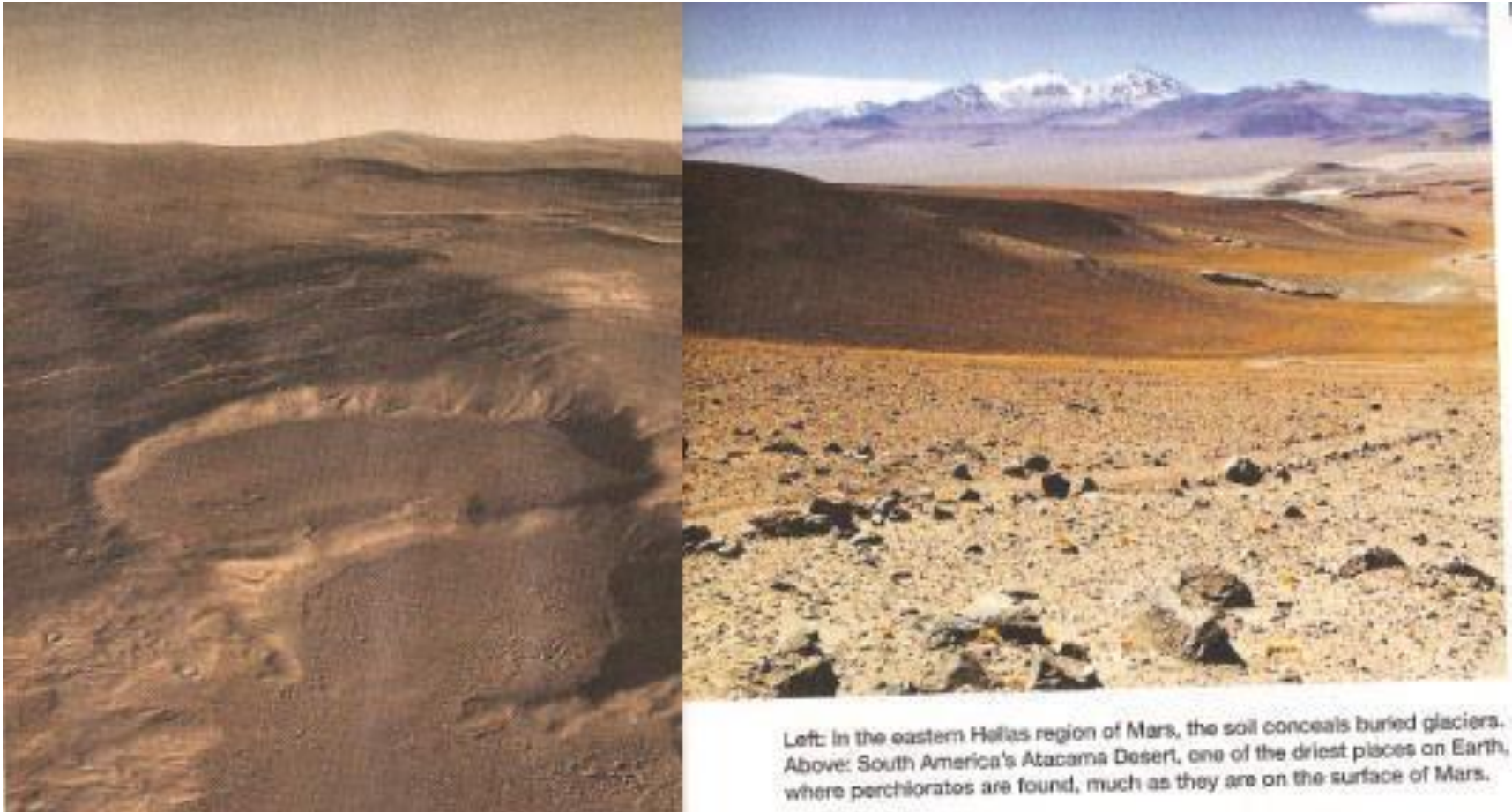
Europa Submarine Prototype Gets Another Test

A submersible probe that could possibly be used on Jupiter's icy moon, **Europa** is taking the next step to test its capabilities. The Environmentally Non-Disturbing Under-ice Robotic Antarctic Explorer, also known as ENDURANCE, will swim untethered under ice, and collect data to create **three-dimensional maps of underwater environments**. The probe also will take **samples of microbial life**. Now it will plunge under a permanently ice covered lake in Antarctica that is 40 meters deep.

Dunaliella metabolism



Mars vs. Atacama in Chile



Evidence of water (ice) on Mars ?

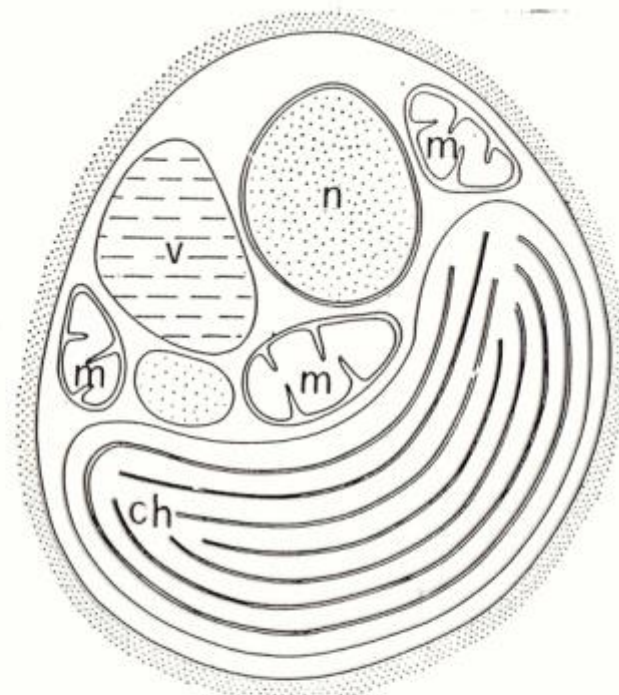




Cyanidioschyzon merolae
De Luca, Taddei & Varano;



Cyanidium caldarium Geitler;



Galdieria sulphuraria (Galdieri) Merola.

Fig. 1 — A sketch showing the main ultrastructural characteristics of three thermal acidophilic algae: a) x ca. 13,000. ch. = chloroplast; m = mitochondrion; n = nucleus; v = vacuole.

DISCOVER

Science, Technology, and The Future

THE 5-YEAR ENERGY FIX

HOW WE WILL Clean
Up Coal, Reboot Nuclear
Power, Capture
Sunlight, and Rewire
the Economy

PLUS
Dog Doctors,
Rat Love,
Methane Rain
on Titan, and
How Climate
Change
Made Us
Human

**HAVE WE
ALREADY FOUND
LIFE ON MARS?**

**THE ENIGMA
OF SPECIES**

DARK GALAXIES

**GOOD
PROTEINS
GONE BAD**

EXTREMOPHILES

BACTERIA, ARCHAEA & PROTISTA

Life Found a Mile Below Terrestrial Seabed; Implications For Life on Mars



Chroococcidiopsis [CB] in rocks (Negev IL)



From Fossils to Astrobiology

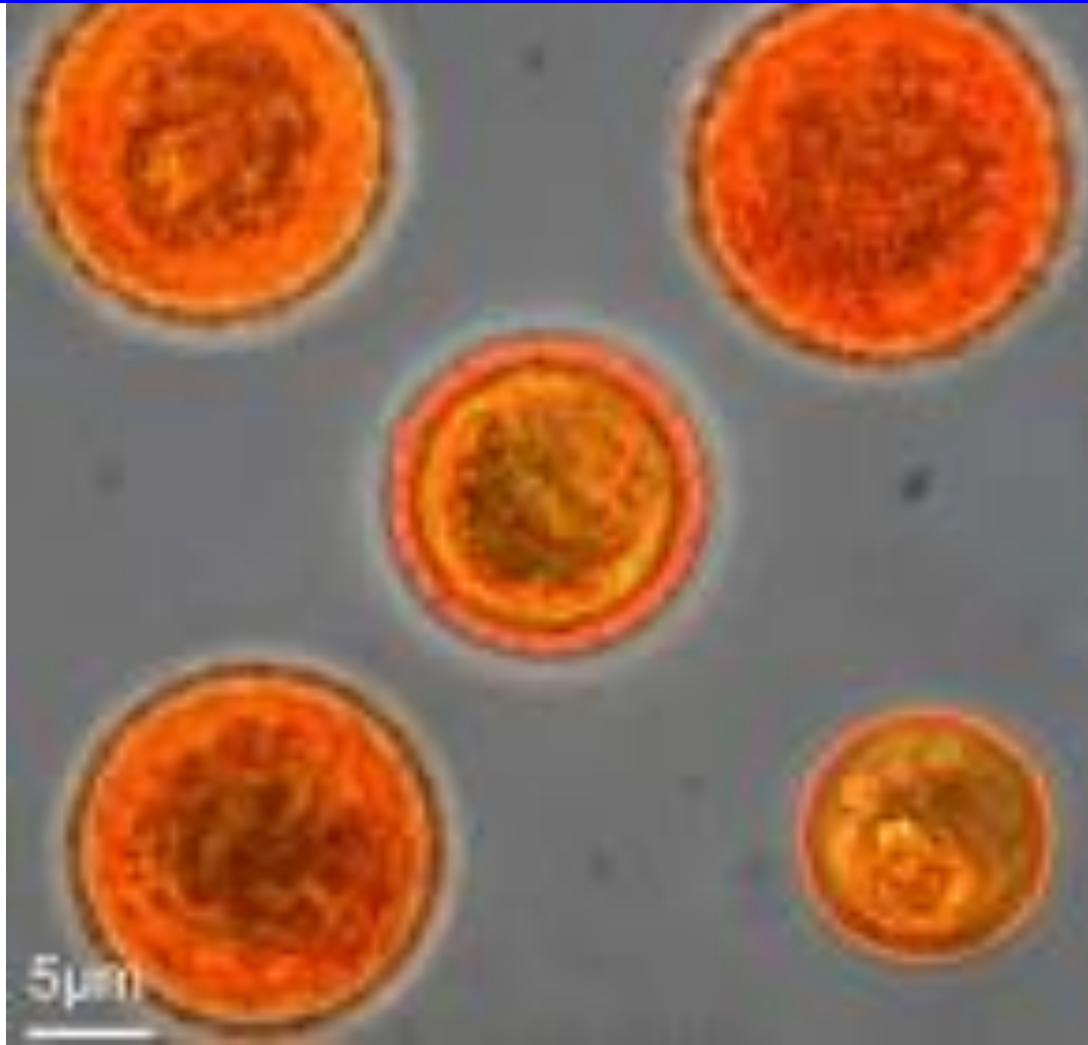
Records of Life on Earth and the Search
for Extraterrestrial Biosignatures

Edited by
Joseph Seckbach and Maud Walsh



 Springer

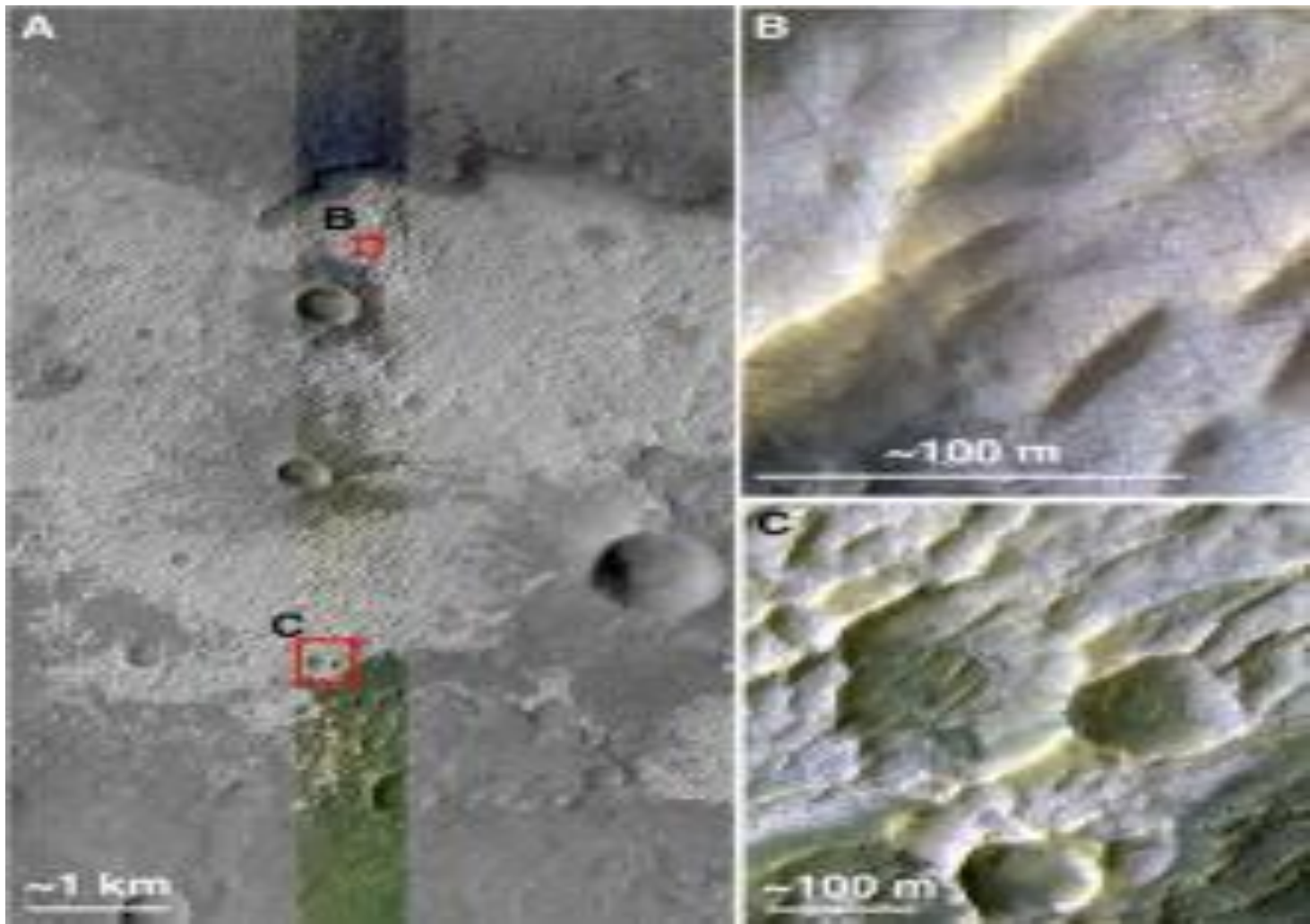
Dunaliella rich carotene (as osmotic balance)



TARDIGRADE [water bear] a Multicellular Extremophile



Salt Deposits on Mars Might Be the Right Place to Search for Life



[Phoenix Camera Snaps Frost on Mars](#)



Cyanidium grown on pure CO₂ and on Air

Cell volume and released photosynthetic O₂

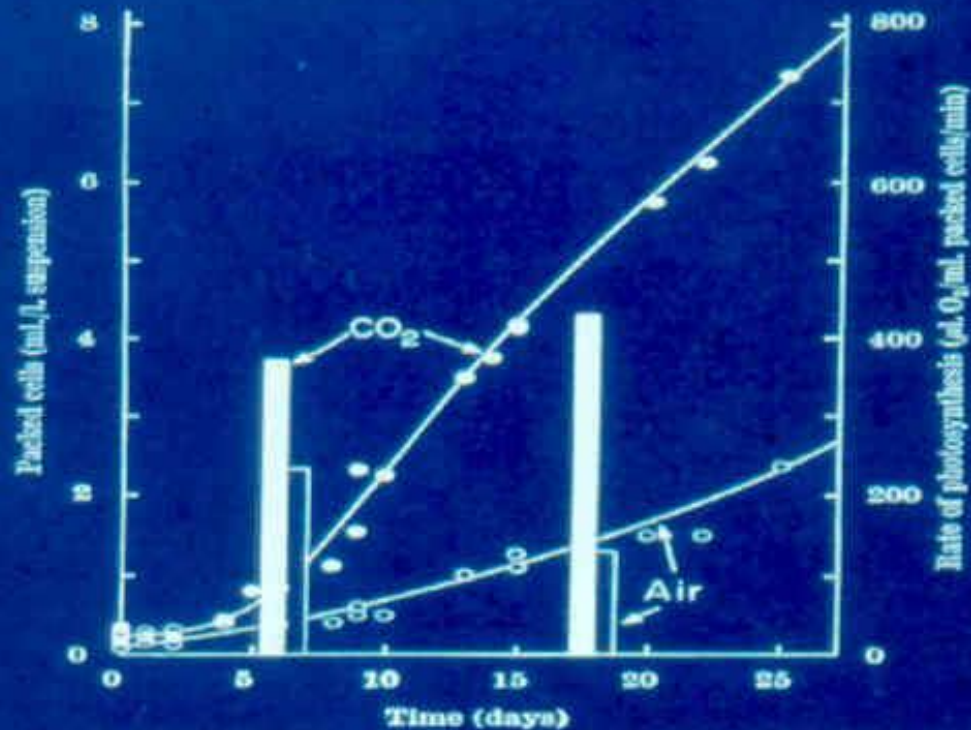
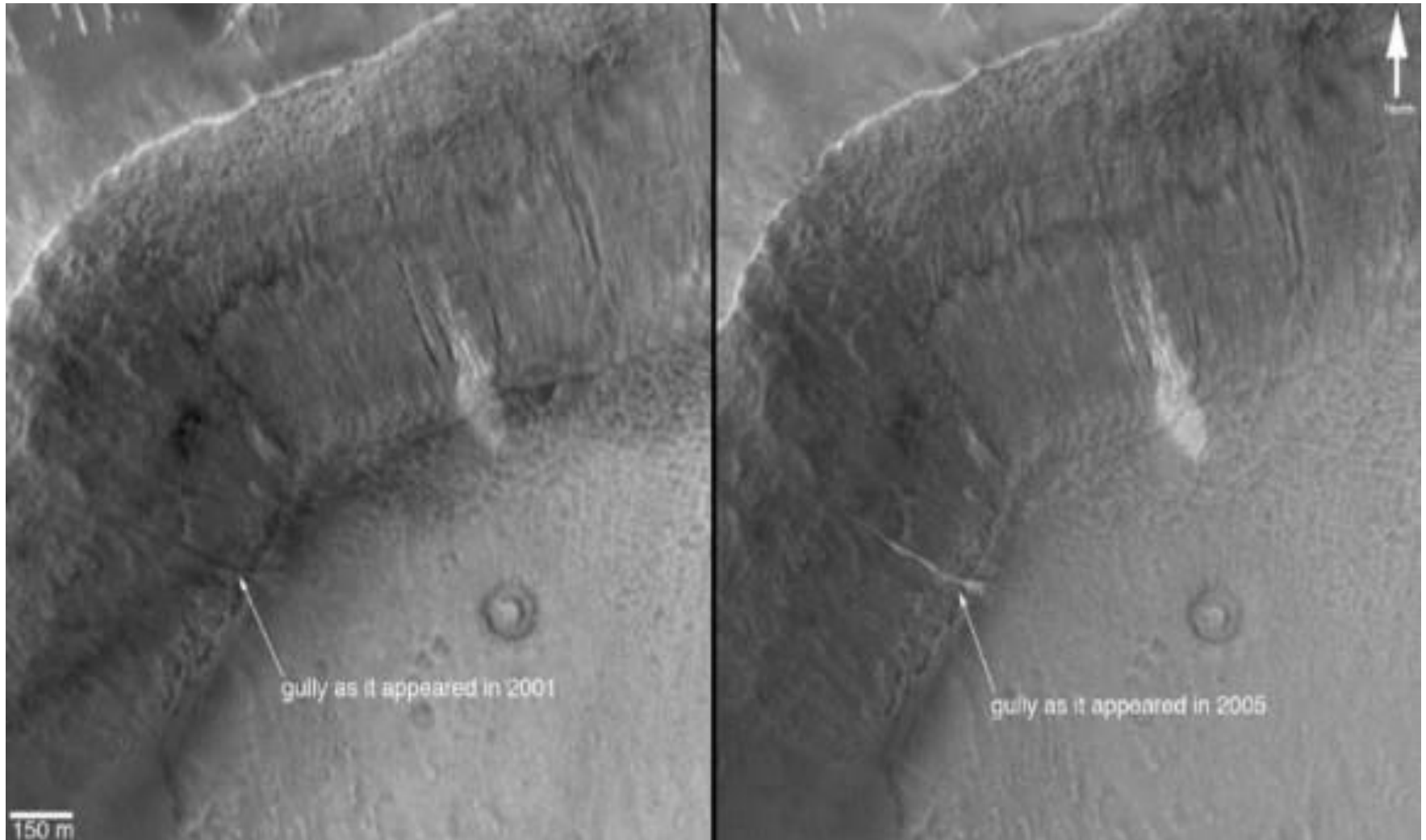


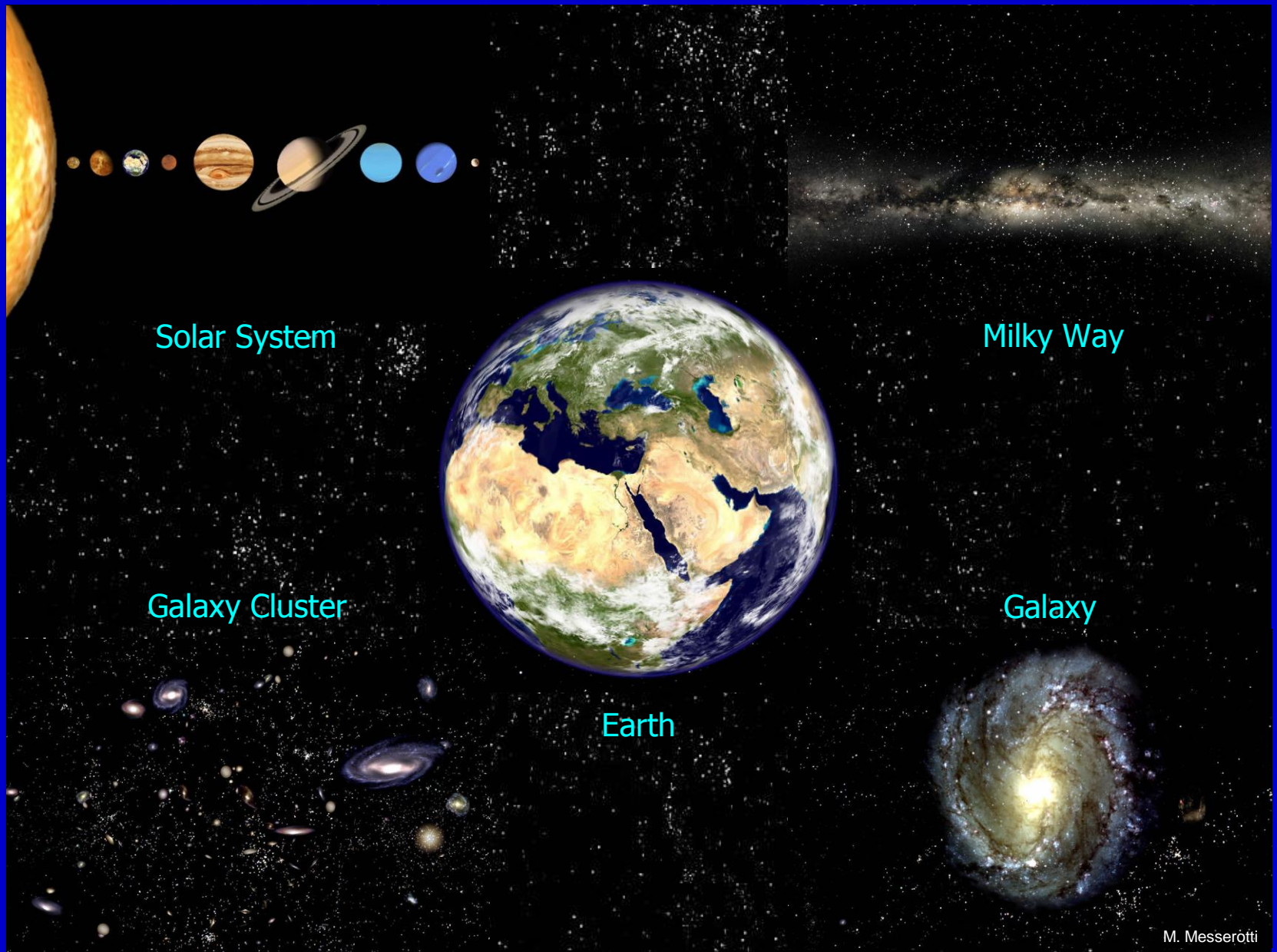
Fig. 1. Growth of *Cyanidium caldarium* (circles) and the photosynthetic rates (histograms) as a function of CO₂ (solid figures) or air (open figures) supply to the cells.



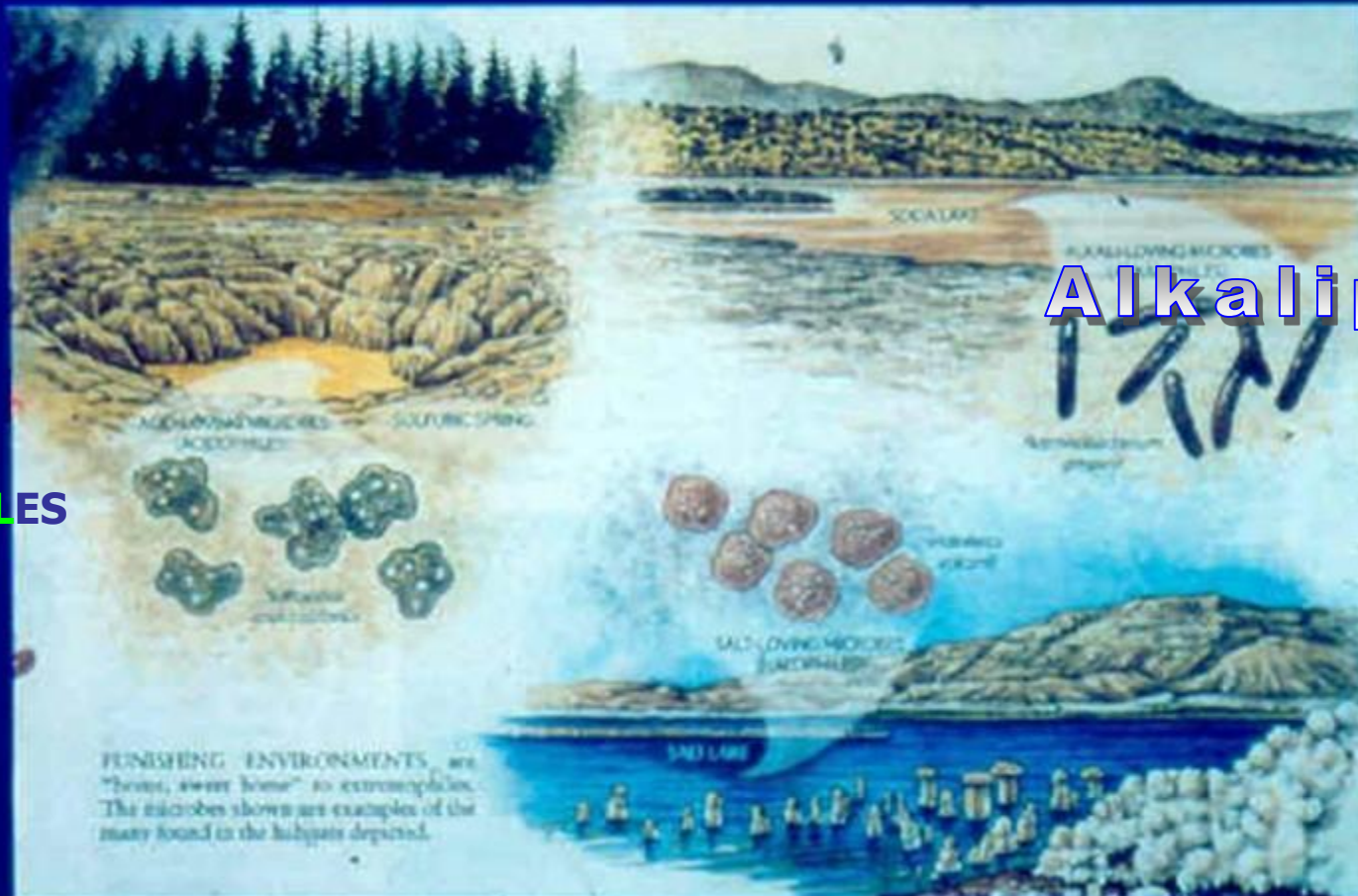
FIGURE 8. This cell was cultured heterotrophically in dark with glucose. There is a drastic reduction in the plastid size (P); they barely contain lamellation. It undergoes cellular division: the separating outline of the two daughter cells is already being formed (S) and it splits the cell into two regions. Both nuclei (N) contain chromosomes and the nucleolus is present (Nu), the nuclear envelope is not complete and it seems to open up to the cytoplasm (arrows), a microtubule is visible (arrow head). Some mitochondria are seen to divide in both regions (M). $\times 15,000$.

Are Gas-Formed Gullies the Norm on Mars?





Extremophilic Microorganisms



Alkaliphiles

ACIDOPHILES

HALOPHILES

Life on Mars Theory Boosted by New Methane Study

- Scientists have ruled out the possibility that methane is delivered to Mars by meteorites, raising fresh hopes that the GAS MIGHT BE GENERATED BY LIFE on the RED PLANET, in research published in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*
 - *Science Daily (Dec. 8, 2009)*

NASA Finds Shrimp Where No Advanced Life Should Be: 600 Feet Beneath Antarctic Ice



MOTHER EARTH-OUR PLANET



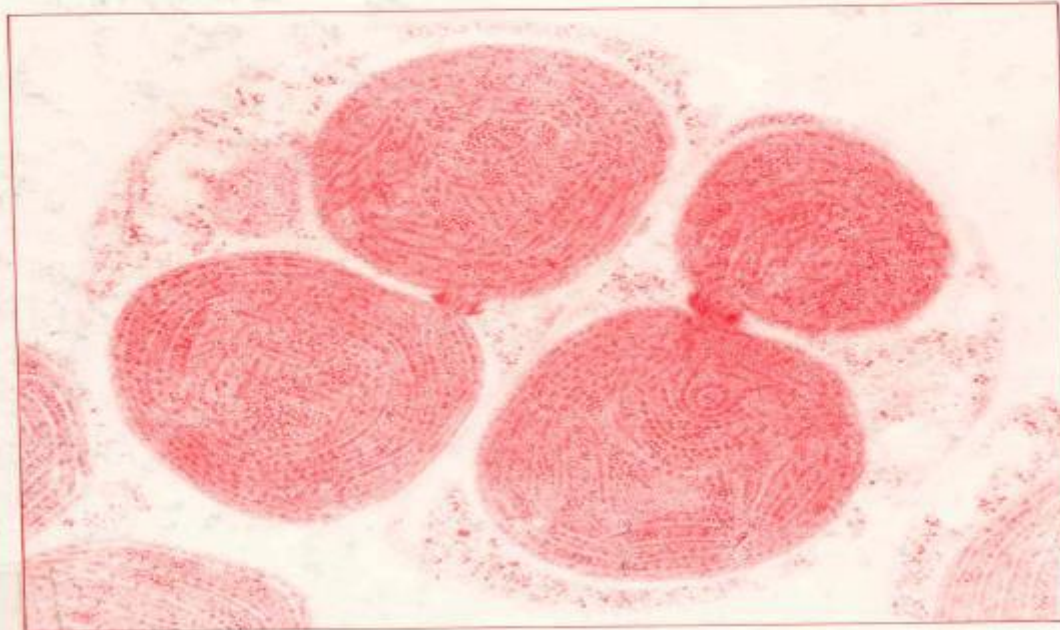


**They're
reaching
for the stars...**

THE CYANIDIUM BOOK

**Evolutionary Pathways
and Enigmatic Algae:
Cyanidium caldarium
(Rhodophyta)
and Related Cells**

edited by
J. SECKBACH



Kluwer Academic Publishers

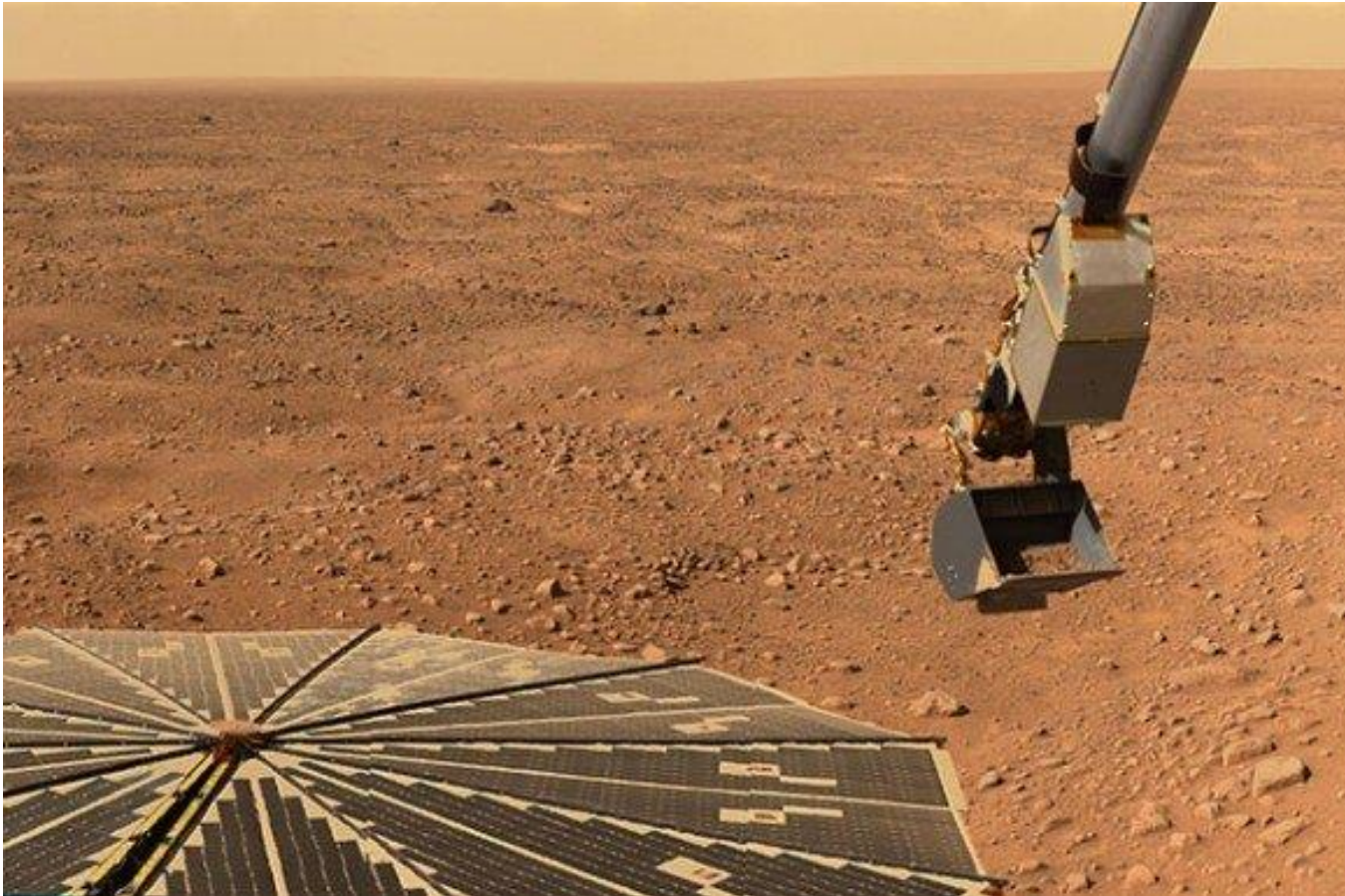
Movement of Tardigrade

Tardigrades [water bears] Multi-segmented Extremophilic microbes



600 Million Year Drought Makes Life on Surface of Mars Unlikely

View of Mars' surface near the north pole from the Phoenix lander



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona

Curiosity Starts First Science on Mars Sojourn – How Lethal is Space Radiation to Life's Survival

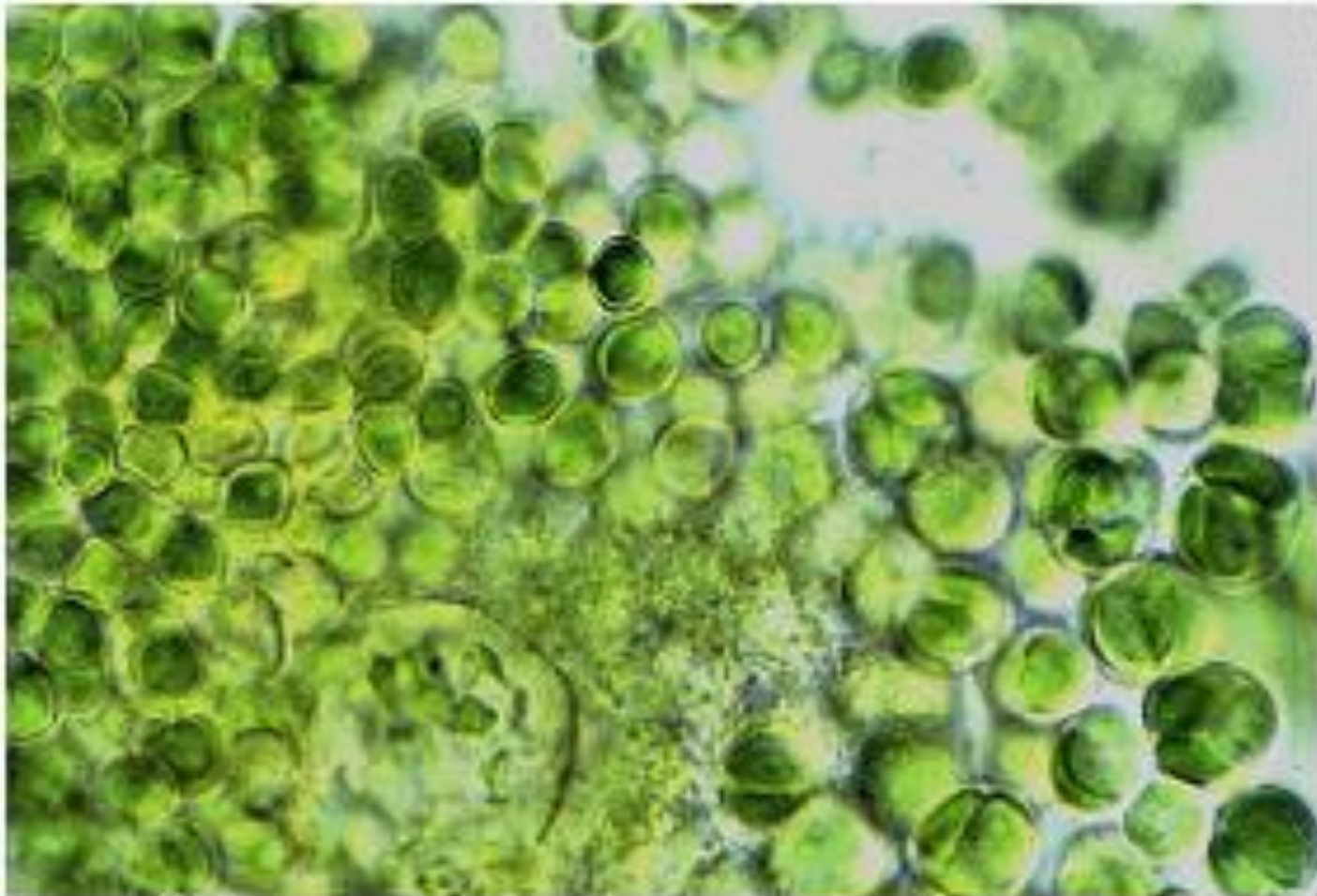


*NASA's Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover is currently cruising to Mars and is already investigating the lethality of the interplanetary space **radiation environment** to humans. After touchdown, Curiosity will*

investigate Mars' past or present ability to sustain microbial life.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Chroo-coc-cidiopsis (-20C -->+20C,
desiccation, candidate for Astrobiology)



How Could We Detect Life in Europa's Geysers?



Scientists consider how to sample the spray from Europa.
Scientists consider how to sample the spray from Europa.

"YOGI" rock on Mars (5 m)



Blood Falls at Antarctica's Taylor Glacier.



STROMATOLITES FROM AUSTRALIA



An underwater photograph of a hydrothermal vent field. The scene is dominated by dark, rocky seafloor with several white, mineral-rich structures. A red rectangular box with the word 'PART?' in yellow text is overlaid on the left side. At the bottom, the words 'HYDROTHERMO VENTS' are written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. The overall lighting is dim, with a blue-green tint from the water.

PART?

HYDROTHERMO VENTS

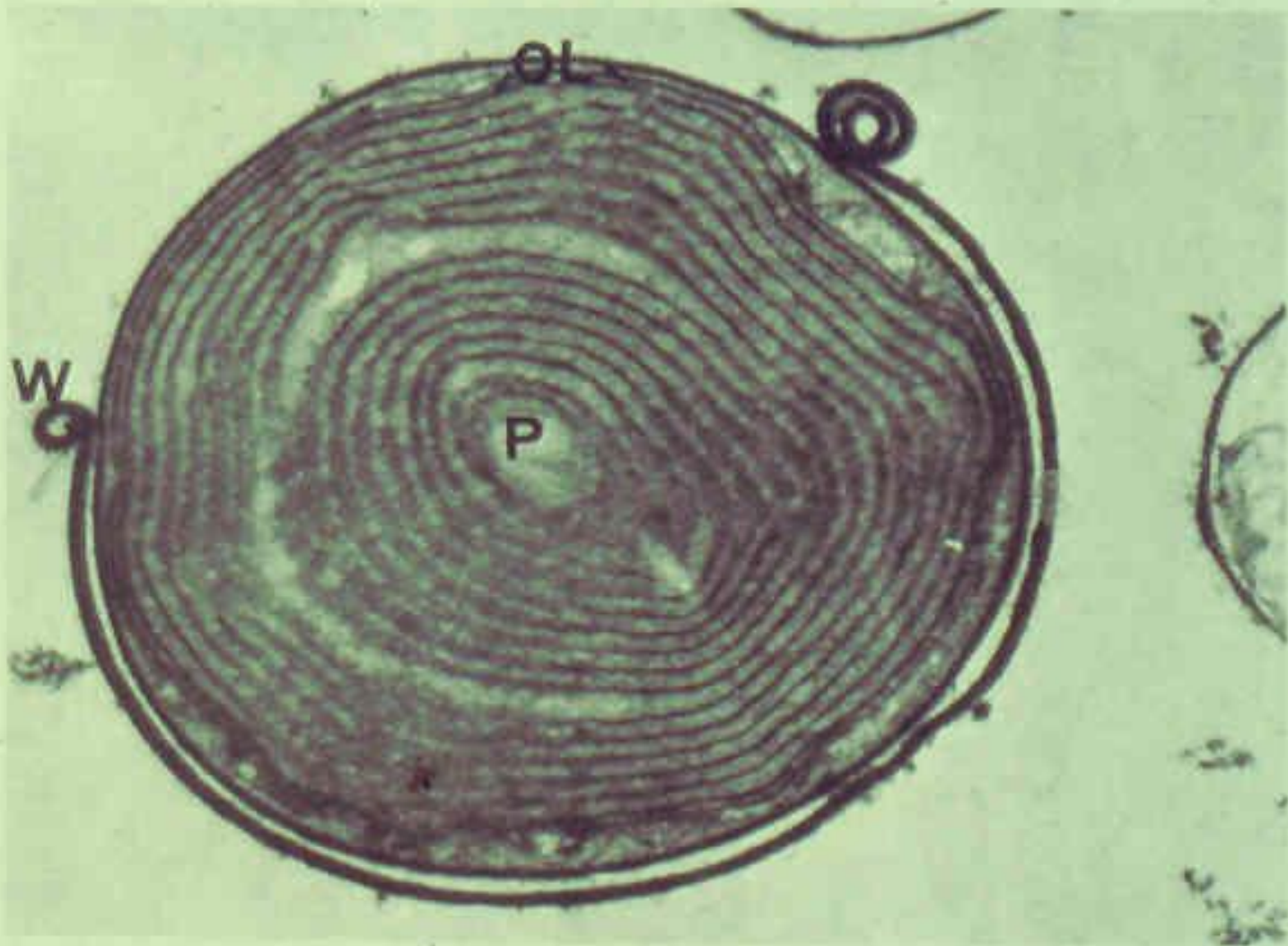
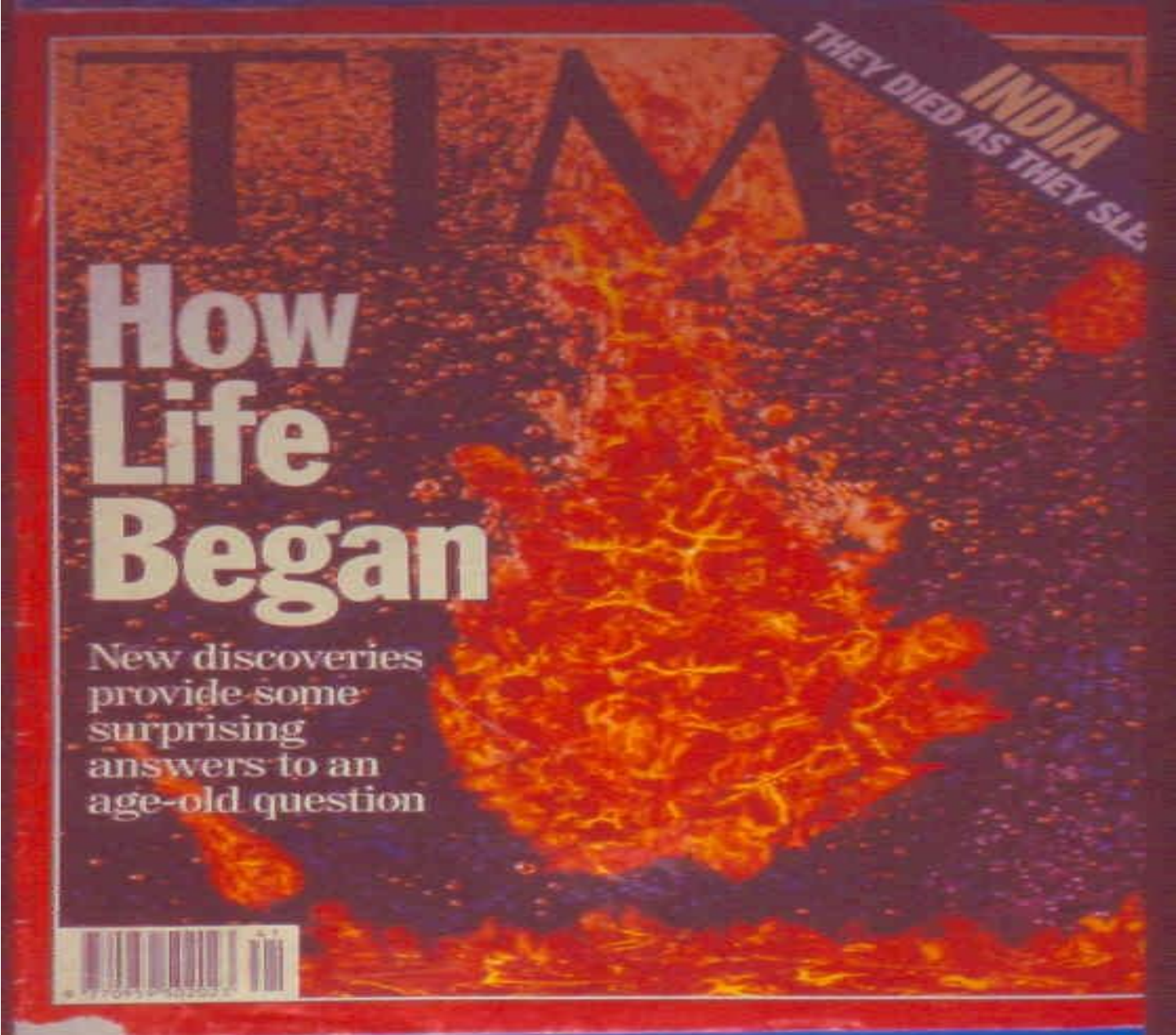


FIGURE 9. The chloroplast (P) of this cell (from strain B culture) occupies most of the cytoplasm volume and contains 15 concentric thylakoids. The scroll-like wall (W) occurs as the cell reproduces (see FIGURES 2, 3, as viewed by the SEM). The outermost lamella (OL) runs parallel with the plastid envelope. $\times 27,500$. From Seckbach²² with permission from the *Israel Journal of Botany*.

HOSTILE VOLCANIC LAKE TEEMS WITH LIFE

Microbes thriving in salty, alkali waters containing arsenic.

- **Published online 2 April 2010 [Nature]**

The magazine cover features a map of India in the center, rendered in a dark, textured style. A large, vibrant volcanic eruption, with bright orange and yellow lava flows and a plume of dark smoke, is superimposed over the map, appearing to erupt from the Indian subcontinent. The background is a dark, starry space. At the top, the word 'WORLD' is partially visible in large, dark letters. A diagonal banner in the upper right corner contains the text 'INDIA' and 'THEY DIED AS THEY SLE'.

How Life Began

New discoveries
provide some
surprising
answers to an
age-old question



MICROBIAL DIVERSITY

HALOPHILES

- SALINITY (g/l)

0

350

< Eukaryotes – Prokaryotes >

F.W. ORGANISMS

EXTREME HALOPHILES

Brackish, marine

Salt lakes

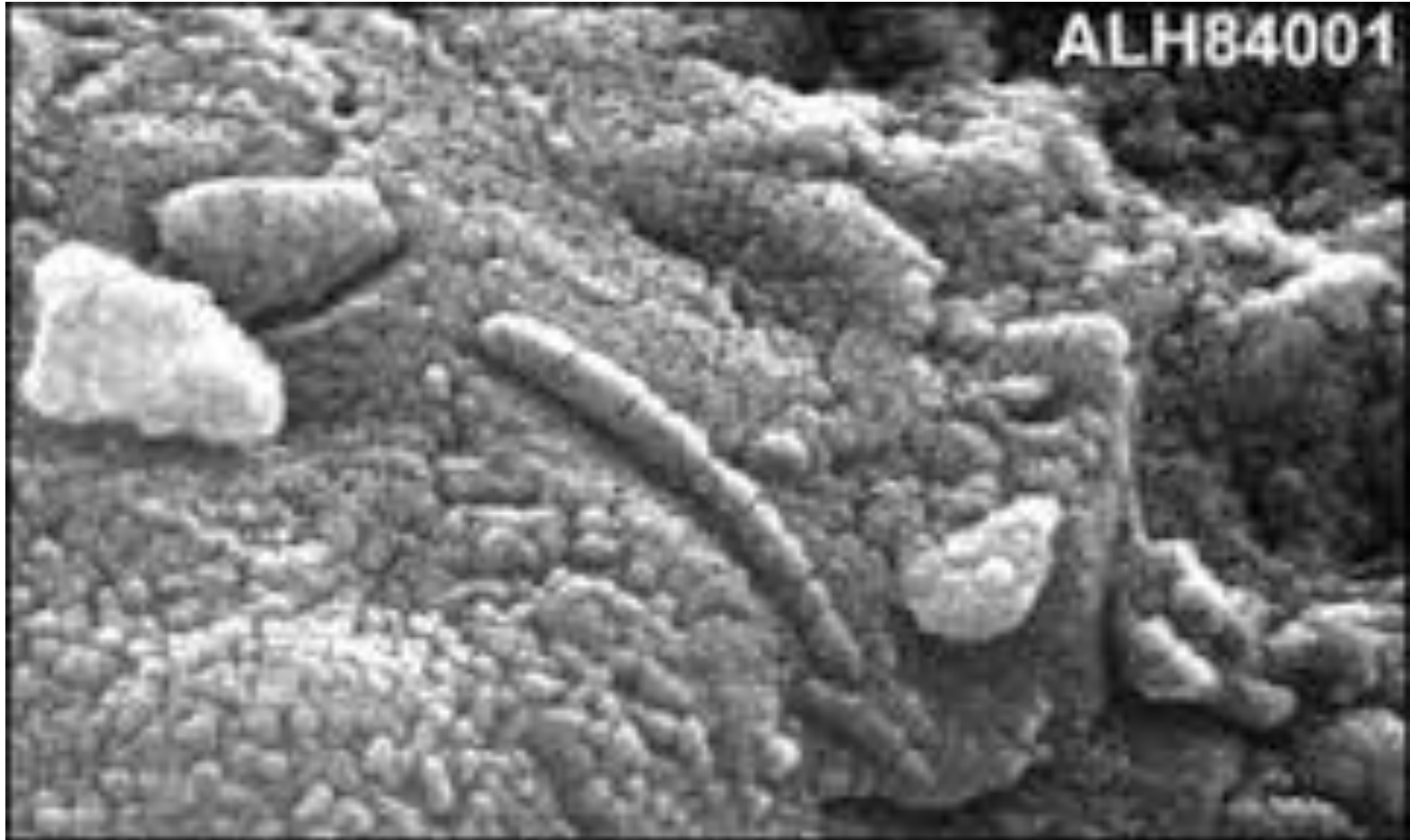
Dead Sea

Mother Earth



NANOBACTERIA FROM MARS

BIOFOSSILS OR INORGANIC MINERALIZATION?



GREENING OF THE RED PLANET [Terraforming]

**A hardy microbe from Earth
might one day transform the
barren ground of Mars into
arable soil.**