

No, Diatoms Have *Not* Been Found in a Meteorite

By Phil Plait

Yes, diatoms have been found in many meteorites, living diatoms and fossil diatoms. CHG

Living and fossil diatoms have been found in meteorites, as expected from HGD cosmology and Hoyle/Wickramasinghe cometary panspermia. Earth mass planets in PGC clumps of a trillion merge to form stars, bringing water and life to the star's planets and moons, as seen in the Pluto-Charon images. CHG

[UPDATE (Mar. 12, 2013): The authors of this very shaky "life in a meteorite" paper described below published another paper recently, causing a minor media frenzy. In it they try to show the samples are meteorites, but the evidence they present is in many ways even worse than the outrageous claims they made in the first paper! I have written a take-down of that paper as well; but you should read this one here first.]



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Phil Plait writes *Slate's* Bad Astronomy blog and is an

This "take-down" blog of Phil Plait ridicules the observational fact of Schild (1996) and Gibson (1996) that the dark matter of all galaxies is clumps of a trillion primordial gas planets, termed Proto-Globular-Star-Clusters, that merge to form all the stars. The new infra-red sensitive telescopes show the process clearly.



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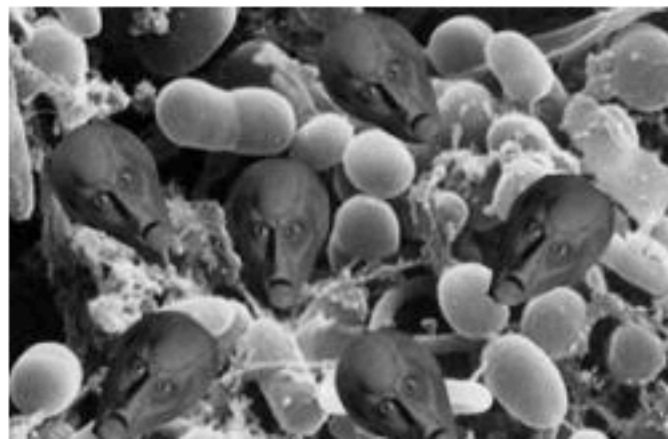
Please see http://JournalofCosmology.com/JoC16pdfs/21_Gibson.pdf

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Phil Plait writes *Slate's Bad Astronomy* blog and is an astronomer, public speaker, science evangelizer, and author of *Death From the Skies!*



If only it were this easy...

If there's a story practically guaranteed to go viral, it's about evidence of life in space. And if you have *pictures*, why, that's going to spread like, well, like a

virus.

So the moment I heard that a paper had been published saying that diatoms—a type of algae, microscopic plant life, that have hard outer shells made of silica and come in a variety of shapes and forms—had been found *in a meteorite*, I knew I'd get flooded with emails and tweets and Facebook messages because LIFE IN SPACE!

And so I did. People are really curious about this!

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But then I read the actual paper, and guess what? Let me be delicate: It's wrong. Really, really wrong. Way, way, way ridiculously oh-holy-wow-how-could-anyone-publish-this wrong.

The paper is correct. CHG

[deep breath]

OK, let's dive in, shall we?

That's the JoC

The dark matter planets of a PGC form a sort of interacting primordial soup stirred by supernova events. As the planets merge they form stars within Oort cavities, and the stardust seeds the other dark matter planets within the PGC. Hydrogen of the planets reduces the supernova oxides forming water oceans where life first evolved, and where new life forms still evolve and are spread by cometary panspermia. Diatoms are just one example.

The paper was published online on a site called **The Journal of Cosmology**. I'll get back to that august publication in just a moment. The lead author is N. C. Wickramasinghe, and as soon as I saw his name alarm bells exploded in my head. Wickramasinghe is a proponent of the idea of panspermia: the notion that life originated in space and was brought to Earth via meteorites. It's an interesting idea and not without some merits.

However, Wickramasinghe is fervent proponent of it. Like, *really* fervent. So much so that he attributes *everything* to life in space. He's said that **the flu comes from space**. He's said **SARS comes from space**. He's claimed **living cells found in the stratosphere come from space**. (There is no evidence at all they do, and it's far more likely they are terrestrial.) He's said a weird red rain in India was from space (when **it's been shown** conclusively that **it isn't**). The list goes on and on. Wickramasinghe jumps on everything, with little or no evidence, and says it's from outer space, so I think there's a case to be made for a bias on his part.

Professor Wickramasinghe is correct on all these claims. See numerous JoC papers giving the evidence.

Now, you might accuse me of using an *ad hominem*, an argument that cast aspersions on the person making the claim, and not attacking the claim itself. I'll get to the claim in a moment, but sometimes an *ad hominem* is warranted! If Sylvia Brown claims she can predict someone's future, you would be right to doubt her based on her past, since she has continually failed in every attempt to do so. If Jenny McCarthy claimed botox cures autism, again, you might be forgiven for doubting it based on her previous anti-vaccine and other false claims. You still need to examine the claims on their own merits, of course, but: Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

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Wickramasinghe is a careful, world class scientist. I have never seen him make a mistake. CHG

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The Journal of Cosmology is an online site that claims to be peer reviewed. However, the papers it publishes are not always of the highest quality. One paper they published a few years back claimed to have found fossils in meteorites, and it **was roundly ridiculed by biologists familiar with the field**—one even used the word “pathetic.” Ouch.

Tyche weighs 3 Jupiters and is $\sim 3 \times 10^{15}$ m from Earth. See Icarus for the paper and data.

The journal also supports other fringe claims that have very little or no evidence to back them up. For an example in my own field, when some astronomers said they found circumstantial evidence for a previously unknown planet in the outer solar system, the JoC published a page with the headline, “Tyche: Rogue Planet Discovered in Oort Cloud,” which was dead wrong. And because **I wrote an article on my blog** saying the planet idea is interesting but not convincing, the editors of the JoC **expressed their opinion of me:**

The Tyche planet at the Oort cloud boundary is typical of the proto-comets that feed the sun, and fertilize the Earth and other inner planets of our PGC with life and water.

The torches and pitchforks crowd, led by astronomer-wannabe Phil Plait claims its [sic] not so. But then, Plait's most famous discovery was finding one of his old socks when it went missing after a spin in his dryer.

Hah!

Yeah. That's professional.



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