POLONNARUWA METEORITE WITH EVIDENCE OF LIFE FROM OUTER SPACE DESCRIBED THE MOST IMPORTANT FIND IN 500 YEARS

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by Walter Jayawardhana

A meteorite that Landed recently, close to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka has been described as the most important scientific discovery in the last 500 years as it carried "compelling evidence of life" from outer space.

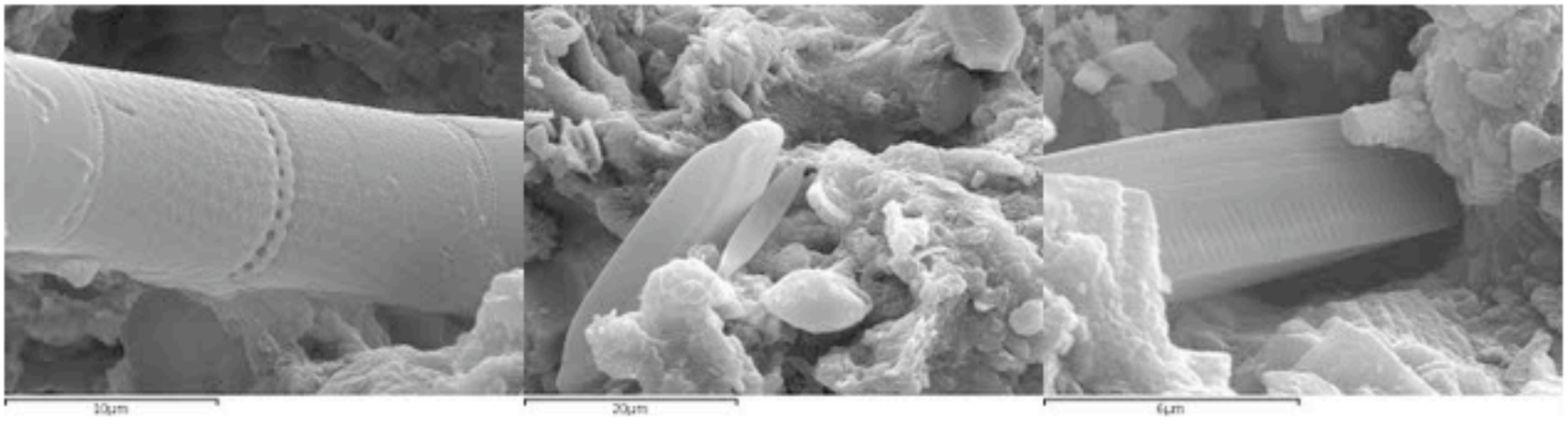
The scientists who discovered the contents of the meteorite said, "we report here the first compelling evidence for life existing outside the earth.'

Following extensive lab work in the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka four scientists in a paper said , "We report the discovery for the first time of fossilized diatoms in a carbonaceous meteorite that fell on 29 December 2012". Diatoms are a variety of algae.

They very firmly said contamination, a hazard scientists face when examining things fallen from the sky on the ground is excluded in the meteorite they have named Polonnaruwa.

The four scientists, Chandra Wickramasinghe, J. Wallis, D.H.Wallis, and Anil Samaranayaka said, there are also structures in the meteorite similar to the red rain cells that fell within days in the area.

The team in a paper to be published in the Journal of Cosmology added, "The new data on fossil diatom provide strong evidence to support the theory of Cometary Panspermia" –a theory that says life came to our planet earth and other worlds hitchhiking on comets from far corners of the universe.



POLONNARUWA METEORITE UNDER ELECTRONIC MICROSCOPE

The leader of the team, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe from the Buckingham Center for Astrobiology in UK told this correspondent, ""I think the discovery of an unequivocal microbial structure such as a diatom deeply trapped in the rock matrix proves beyond doubt that this life existed in the parent comet from which the meteorite was derived. The highly intricate and woven patterns on the outer shells of diatoms are impossible to generate by any other process than biology. This could ultimately turn out to be the most important scientific discovery in 500 years. The cosmic ancestry of humans becomes ever more securely established."

"People might try to say that what we found were terrestrial contaminants. Contamination after landing on Earth is ruled out absolutely because of the way the diatoms are woven between the rock matrix. In any case we found many diatom types that are not known to be present on the soil where the meteorite landed."

The scientists said minutes after a large fire ball seen by a large number of people in Sri Lanka on 29 December 2012 a large meteorite disintegrated and fell in the village of Araganwila located few miles away from the historic city of Polonnaruwa.

At the time of entry into the earth's atmosphere on 29 December 2012 the parent body of the Polonnaruwa meteorite would have had most of its interior porous volume filled with water , volatile organics and possibly viable living cells. The scientists said a remarkable coincidence was the red rain.

They said the red rain analyzed at the Medical Research Insitute in Colombo contained red biological cells that show spontaneous movement and the ability of reproducing. Abnormally high in arsenic and silver they are connected to a non territorial habitat , possibly connected with a cometary asteroidal body. The four scientists said the Polonnaruwa meteorite was a result of a fragmentation of such a body.

The electron microscopic studies of the Polonnaruwa meteorite had been done at the School of Earth Sciences of the Cardiff University, in the United Kingdom.

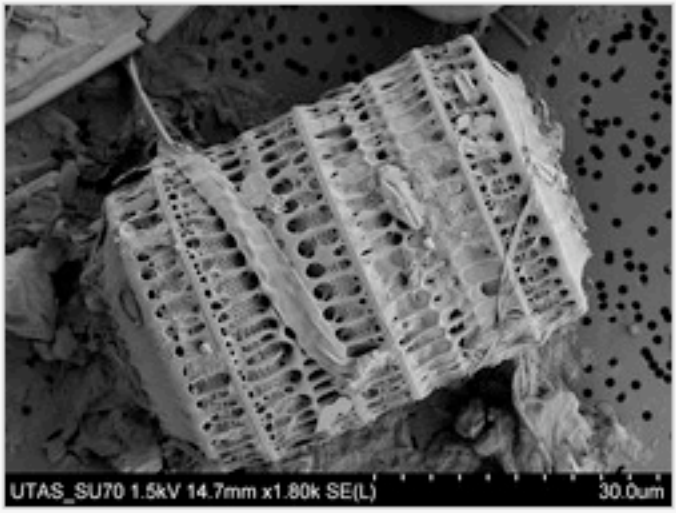
The scientists said in the meteorite microfossils rather than living cells were seen . The scientists said in the meteorite the donut shaped structure seen has a striking similarity to Kerala red rain cells and the cells contained in the red rain that followed the meteorite fall in the Polonnaruwa area.

The scientists said contamination is decisively ruled out in the meteorite since the structure is deemed to be fossilized and fossil diatoms were not present on the surface of the ground where it fell.The scientists said , contamination is excluded by the circumstance that the elemental abundances within the structures match closely with those of the surrounding matrix. There is also evidence of structures morphologically similar to red rain cells that may have contributed to the episode of red rain that followed within days of the meteorite fall. They said , "We conclude therefore identification of the fossilized diatom of the Polonnaruwa meteorite is firmly established and unimpeachable."

They also said," Since this meteorite is considered to be an extinct cometary fragment , the idea of microbial life carried within comets and the theory of cometary panspermia is vindicated."

The paper said , "The universe , not humans must have the final say to declare what the world is really like."

Fossil record [edit]



Paralia sulcata diatom imaged using the University of Tasmania scanning electron microscope

The fossil record of diatoms has largely been established through the recovery of their siliceous frustules in marine and non-marine sediments. Although diatoms have both a marine and non-marine stratigraphic record, diatom biostratigraphy, which is based on time-constrained evolutionary originations and extinctions of unique taxa, is only well developed and widely applicable in marine systems. The duration of diatom species ranges have been documented through the study of ocean cores and rock sequences exposed on land.[34] Where diatom biozones are well established and calibrated to the geomagnetic polarity time scale (e.g., Southern Ocean, North Pacific, eastern equatorial Pacific), diatom-based age estimates may be resolved to within <100,000 years, although typical age resolution for Cenozoic diatom assemblages is several hundred thousand years.

The Cretaceous record of diatoms is limited, but recent studies reveal a progressive diversification of diatom types. The Cretaceous–Paleogene extinction event, which in the oceans dramatically affected organisms with calcareous skeletons, appears to have had relatively little impact on diatom evolution.[35]

Although no mass extinctions of marine diatoms have been observed during the Cenozoic, times of relatively rapid evolutionary turnover in marine diatom assemblages occurred near the Paleocene–Eocene boundary[36] and at the Eocene–Oligocene boundary.[37] Further turnover of assemblages took place at various times between the middle Miocene and late Pliocene,[38] in response to progressive cooling of polar regions and the development of more endemic diatom assemblages. A global trend toward more delicate diatom frustules has been noted from the Oligocene to the Quaternary.[34] This coincides with an increasingly more vigorous circulation of the ocean's surface and deep waters brought about by increasing latitudinal thermal gradients at the onset of major ice sheet expansion on Antarctica and progressive cooling through the Neogene and Quaternary towards a bipolar glaciated world. This drove the diatoms into uptaking silica more competitively (i.e., to use less silica in formation of their frustules). Increased mixing of the oceans renews silica and other nutrients necessary for diatom growth in surface waters, especially in regions of coastal and oceanic upwelling.

On January 10, 2013, mathematician Chandra Wickramasinghe reported in the fringe science *Journal of Cosmology*, of shapes resembling fossil diatom frustules in the Polonnaruwa meteorite that landed in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka on 29 December 2012.[39][40][41]

39. ^ "Polonnaruwa meteorite with evidence of life from outer space described the most important find in 500 years". *LankaWeb*. 13 January 2013. Retrieved 2013-01-15.
40. ^ Wickramasinghe, Chandra; J. Wallis, D.H. Wallis, and Anil Samaranayake (10 January 2013). "Fossil Diatoms in a New Carbonaceous Meteorite" (PDF). *Journal of Cosmology* **22**. Retrieved 2013-01-15.
41. ^ Wickramasinghe, Chandra; J. Wallis, D.H. Wallis, M.K. Wallis, S. Al-Mufti, J.T. Wickramasinghe, Anil Samaranayake and K. Wickramarathne (13 January 2013). "On the cometary origin of the Polonnaruwa meteorite" (PDF). *Journal of Cosmology* **21** (38). Retrieved 2013-01-16.