

**OXO | QUICK  LOOK**

**ASTROBIOLOGY!**



**VENUS!**

1  
00:00:04,070 --> 00:00:02,389  
the royal astronomical society announced

2  
00:00:06,309 --> 00:00:04,080  
new findings that add support to the

3  
00:00:17,530 --> 00:00:06,319  
possibility of life in the atmosphere of

4  
00:00:23,910 --> 00:00:17,540  
our neighboring planet venus

5  
00:00:25,750 --> 00:00:23,920  
[Music]

6  
00:00:27,830 --> 00:00:25,760  
i'm jason and today we're going to take

7  
00:00:29,910 --> 00:00:27,840  
a quick look at this latest announcement

8  
00:00:31,109 --> 00:00:29,920  
and add a few similar announcements that

9  
00:00:33,030 --> 00:00:31,119  
have occurred in the past

10  
00:00:34,630 --> 00:00:33,040  
on monday september 14th the royal

11  
00:00:35,270 --> 00:00:34,640  
astronomical society held a press

12  
00:00:36,870 --> 00:00:35,280  
conference

13  
00:00:38,549 --> 00:00:36,880

to announce the discovery of a rare

14

00:00:41,030 --> 00:00:38,559

molecule called phosphine

15

00:00:42,069 --> 00:00:41,040

in the clouds of venus the press release

16

00:00:44,150 --> 00:00:42,079

explains that quote

17

00:00:45,110 --> 00:00:44,160

on earth this gas is only made

18

00:00:47,350 --> 00:00:45,120

industrially

19

00:00:49,110 --> 00:00:47,360

or by microbes that thrive in oxygen

20

00:00:51,910 --> 00:00:49,120

free environments end quote

21

00:00:52,869 --> 00:00:51,920

so what does that mean mit scientist dr

22

00:00:54,630 --> 00:00:52,879

william baines

23

00:00:56,069 --> 00:00:54,640

who was part of the press conference

24

00:00:57,510 --> 00:00:56,079

explained that there are two

25

00:00:59,590 --> 00:00:57,520

possibilities

26  
00:01:01,750 --> 00:00:59,600  
there could be some completely unknown

27  
00:01:04,070 --> 00:01:01,760  
reaction that is creating phosphine

28  
00:01:05,030 --> 00:01:04,080  
or the more exciting one that it could

29  
00:01:07,190 --> 00:01:05,040  
be life

30  
00:01:08,469 --> 00:01:07,200  
researchers used the james clerk maxwell

31  
00:01:10,550 --> 00:01:08,479  
telescope in hawaii

32  
00:01:11,590 --> 00:01:10,560  
to observe light passing through venus

33  
00:01:13,670 --> 00:01:11,600  
atmosphere

34  
00:01:15,190 --> 00:01:13,680  
light is absorbed at very specific and

35  
00:01:16,230 --> 00:01:15,200  
unique wavelengths by atoms and

36  
00:01:17,510 --> 00:01:16,240  
molecules

37  
00:01:19,910 --> 00:01:17,520  
when researchers looked at the

38  
00:01:21,749 --> 00:01:19,920

absorption spectrum they noticed a gap

39

00:01:23,590 --> 00:01:21,759

at the wavelength of phosphine

40

00:01:25,270 --> 00:01:23,600

indicating the phosphine is present

41

00:01:27,510 --> 00:01:25,280

and absorbing light passing through the

42

00:01:29,910 --> 00:01:27,520

atmosphere it's not really the phosphine

43

00:01:31,830 --> 00:01:29,920

by itself that has researchers excited

44

00:01:33,030 --> 00:01:31,840

it's the relatively large quantity of

45

00:01:34,630 --> 00:01:33,040

phosphine

46

00:01:36,230 --> 00:01:34,640

here on earth natural things like

47

00:01:37,429 --> 00:01:36,240

volcanic activity and lightning can

48

00:01:39,670 --> 00:01:37,439

generate phosphine

49

00:01:40,789 --> 00:01:39,680

but only in small amounts according to

50

00:01:42,950 --> 00:01:40,799

the researchers

51  
00:01:44,469 --> 00:01:42,960  
the only thing on earth that are known

52  
00:01:45,350 --> 00:01:44,479  
to produce phosphine in similar

53  
00:01:47,990 --> 00:01:45,360  
quantities

54  
00:01:49,190 --> 00:01:48,000  
are biological in origin this is an

55  
00:01:51,590 --> 00:01:49,200  
awesome discovery

56  
00:01:53,350 --> 00:01:51,600  
and it has scientists and astrobiology

57  
00:01:55,350 --> 00:01:53,360  
enthusiasts like myself

58  
00:01:57,350 --> 00:01:55,360  
pretty excited and it's certainly not

59  
00:01:58,389 --> 00:01:57,360  
surprising to see many ufo researchers

60  
00:02:00,950 --> 00:01:58,399  
and enthusiasts

61  
00:02:02,709 --> 00:02:00,960  
excited about this discovery as well but

62  
00:02:03,270 --> 00:02:02,719  
with astrobiology announcements like

63  
00:02:05,510 --> 00:02:03,280

this

64  
00:02:07,270 --> 00:02:05,520  
which are becoming more and more common

65  
00:02:08,070 --> 00:02:07,280  
it's always important to listen to what

66  
00:02:10,309 --> 00:02:08,080  
the discovery

67  
00:02:12,070 --> 00:02:10,319  
actually is and resist distorting or

68  
00:02:14,070 --> 00:02:12,080  
exaggerating the findings

69  
00:02:15,830 --> 00:02:14,080  
although researchers love the big t's to

70  
00:02:17,990 --> 00:02:15,840  
get attention on the research

71  
00:02:19,990 --> 00:02:18,000  
they always responsibly emphasize that

72  
00:02:20,869 --> 00:02:20,000  
no this doesn't mean alien life was

73  
00:02:22,309 --> 00:02:20,879  
discovered

74  
00:02:24,070 --> 00:02:22,319  
of course we saw that with this latest

75  
00:02:24,550 --> 00:02:24,080  
announcement where the team made it

76

00:02:26,070 --> 00:02:24,560

clear

77

00:02:27,750 --> 00:02:26,080

that these findings simply present

78

00:02:30,390 --> 00:02:27,760

another possible indication

79

00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:30,400

of microbial life we've had many such

80

00:02:33,509 --> 00:02:31,920

indications over the years regarding

81

00:02:34,470 --> 00:02:33,519

several different worlds in our solar

82

00:02:35,830 --> 00:02:34,480

system

83

00:02:38,470 --> 00:02:35,840

but as one of my favorite

84

00:02:39,830 --> 00:02:38,480

astrobiologists dr sarah seeger from mit

85

00:02:40,710 --> 00:02:39,840

explained during this recent press

86

00:02:43,110 --> 00:02:40,720

conference

87

00:02:44,710 --> 00:02:43,120

we can't prove life is on another world

88

00:02:47,190 --> 00:02:44,720

until we go there

89

00:02:47,990 --> 00:02:47,200

again for you space geeks this is

90

00:02:50,470 --> 00:02:48,000

amazing

91

00:02:52,070 --> 00:02:50,480

exciting research but for all the people

92

00:02:53,350 --> 00:02:52,080

hyping this announcement into something

93

00:02:55,190 --> 00:02:53,360

that it's not

94

00:02:57,270 --> 00:02:55,200

the first time research like this has

95

00:02:58,149 --> 00:02:57,280

been published an announcement of life

96

00:02:59,830 --> 00:02:58,159

on venus

97

00:03:01,750 --> 00:02:59,840

or some weird coordinated government

98

00:03:03,270 --> 00:03:01,760

effort to slowly condition the public to

99

00:03:04,149 --> 00:03:03,280

the reality that we're not alone in the

100

00:03:06,550 --> 00:03:04,159

universe

101  
00:03:08,070 --> 00:03:06,560  
well your efforts are a bit misguided

102  
00:03:10,229 --> 00:03:08,080  
our solar system is

103  
00:03:12,309 --> 00:03:10,239  
filled with places that might be home to

104  
00:03:13,750 --> 00:03:12,319  
life although earth and mars are the

105  
00:03:15,190 --> 00:03:13,760  
only two planets here

106  
00:03:17,589 --> 00:03:15,200  
that fall within the traditional

107  
00:03:19,589 --> 00:03:17,599  
habitable zone the places where life can

108  
00:03:21,350 --> 00:03:19,599  
exist continue to expand as our

109  
00:03:22,550 --> 00:03:21,360  
understanding of life as we know it

110  
00:03:24,149 --> 00:03:22,560  
expands

111  
00:03:26,070 --> 00:03:24,159  
our search for extraterrestrial life is

112  
00:03:27,750 --> 00:03:26,080  
limited to life as we know it

113  
00:03:29,270 --> 00:03:27,760

because that's all we know we know

114

00:03:29,990 --> 00:03:29,280

what's required to sustain life here on

115

00:03:32,070 --> 00:03:30,000

our planet

116

00:03:33,910 --> 00:03:32,080

so astrobiologists use that knowledge

117

00:03:34,550 --> 00:03:33,920

when looking for signs of life on other

118

00:03:36,550 --> 00:03:34,560

worlds

119

00:03:38,789 --> 00:03:36,560

here on earth scientists find life

120

00:03:41,430 --> 00:03:38,799

thriving in extreme environments

121

00:03:43,110 --> 00:03:41,440

previously thought to be uninhabitable

122

00:03:45,270 --> 00:03:43,120

and that knowledge is added to our

123

00:03:47,030 --> 00:03:45,280

understanding of life as we know it

124

00:03:48,630 --> 00:03:47,040

which expands the possible places for

125

00:03:50,390 --> 00:03:48,640

life to exist on other worlds

126  
00:03:52,710 --> 00:03:50,400  
as more scientific instruments launched

127  
00:03:55,190 --> 00:03:52,720  
into space the field of astrobiology

128  
00:03:56,869 --> 00:03:55,200  
exploded this has led to many exciting

129  
00:03:58,789 --> 00:03:56,879  
announcements over the years

130  
00:04:00,070 --> 00:03:58,799  
announcements similar to the one about

131  
00:04:02,470 --> 00:04:00,080  
venus we just saw

132  
00:04:04,309 --> 00:04:02,480  
in 2013 the hubble space telescope data

133  
00:04:05,110 --> 00:04:04,319  
revealed water vapor from jupiter's moon

134  
00:04:09,429 --> 00:04:05,120  
europa

135  
00:04:11,429 --> 00:04:09,439  
ocean with two to three times the volume

136  
00:04:13,509 --> 00:04:11,439  
of all the liquid water on earth

137  
00:04:15,190 --> 00:04:13,519  
astrobiologists get excited about water

138  
00:04:15,589 --> 00:04:15,200

because when it comes to life as we know

139

00:04:17,909 --> 00:04:15,599

it

140

00:04:19,749 --> 00:04:17,919

where there's water there's life but

141

00:04:20,229 --> 00:04:19,759

life as we know it requires an energy

142

00:04:22,629 --> 00:04:20,239

source

143

00:04:24,390 --> 00:04:22,639

to sustain metabolism so when

144

00:04:26,710 --> 00:04:24,400

researchers announced the discovery of

145

00:04:29,189 --> 00:04:26,720

widespread hydrogen peroxide on europa

146

00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:29,199

in 2013 it was a big deal

147

00:04:34,150 --> 00:04:32,240

space.com explained quote an analysis of

148

00:04:35,990 --> 00:04:34,160

infrared observation of europa

149

00:04:38,390 --> 00:04:36,000

revealed that hydrogen peroxide is

150

00:04:40,870 --> 00:04:38,400

abundant on the ice-covered jovian moon

151  
00:04:42,390 --> 00:04:40,880  
end quote the studies lead scientist

152  
00:04:43,189 --> 00:04:42,400  
kevin hand of nasa's jet propulsion

153  
00:04:45,510 --> 00:04:43,199  
laboratory

154  
00:04:46,870 --> 00:04:45,520  
explained quote europa has the liquid

155  
00:04:48,469 --> 00:04:46,880  
water and elements

156  
00:04:50,469 --> 00:04:48,479  
and we think that compounds like

157  
00:04:51,990 --> 00:04:50,479  
peroxide might be an important part of

158  
00:04:53,749 --> 00:04:52,000  
the energy requirement

159  
00:04:55,270 --> 00:04:53,759  
the availability of oxidants like

160  
00:04:56,870 --> 00:04:55,280  
peroxide on earth

161  
00:04:58,790 --> 00:04:56,880  
was a critical part of the rise of

162  
00:05:01,350 --> 00:04:58,800  
complex multicellular life

163  
00:05:02,870 --> 00:05:01,360

end quote as space.com pointed out the

164

00:05:03,990 --> 00:05:02,880

extensive peroxide excites

165

00:05:05,670 --> 00:05:04,000

astrobiologists

166

00:05:07,830 --> 00:05:05,680

because it's quote a boon for the

167

00:05:08,710 --> 00:05:07,840

potential habitability of the icy moon's

168

00:05:11,430 --> 00:05:08,720

water ocean

169

00:05:12,870 --> 00:05:11,440

end quote when peroxide mixes with water

170

00:05:15,110 --> 00:05:12,880

oxygen is released

171

00:05:17,189 --> 00:05:15,120

so based on that study there's real

172

00:05:18,950 --> 00:05:17,199

potential for life in europa's ocean

173

00:05:20,550 --> 00:05:18,960

nasa's cassini spacecraft discovered

174

00:05:23,029 --> 00:05:20,560

that saturn's moon enceladus

175

00:05:25,029 --> 00:05:23,039

has an atmosphere and the geysers of

176  
00:05:25,510 --> 00:05:25,039  
water are erupting from its surface into

177  
00:05:27,990 --> 00:05:25,520  
space

178  
00:05:29,749 --> 00:05:28,000  
and in 2015 cassini data showed that

179  
00:05:31,029 --> 00:05:29,759  
quote these geysers contain complex

180  
00:05:33,670 --> 00:05:31,039  
organic compounds

181  
00:05:34,550 --> 00:05:33,680  
including propane ethylene and acetylene

182  
00:05:36,469 --> 00:05:34,560  
end quote

183  
00:05:38,550 --> 00:05:36,479  
nasa astrobiologist chris mckay told the

184  
00:05:39,909 --> 00:05:38,560  
guardian that enceladus is the perfect

185  
00:05:42,150 --> 00:05:39,919  
place to look for life

186  
00:05:43,270 --> 00:05:42,160  
he explained quote he's got liquid water

187  
00:05:45,110 --> 00:05:43,280  
organic material

188  
00:05:46,469 --> 00:05:45,120

and a source of heat it's hard to think

189

00:05:48,230 --> 00:05:46,479

of anything more enticing

190

00:05:49,510 --> 00:05:48,240

short of receiving a radio signal from

191

00:05:51,749 --> 00:05:49,520

aliens on enceladus

192

00:05:53,029 --> 00:05:51,759

to tell us come and get them end quote

193

00:05:53,749 --> 00:05:53,039

let's keep bouncing around the solar

194

00:05:56,629 --> 00:05:53,759

system

195

00:05:57,189 --> 00:05:56,639

in 2012 large amounts of water ice and

196

00:05:59,430 --> 00:05:57,199

possible

197

00:06:00,629 --> 00:05:59,440

organic compounds were discovered on the

198

00:06:02,390 --> 00:06:00,639

planet mercury

199

00:06:04,550 --> 00:06:02,400

this discovery was a weird one because

200

00:06:06,629 --> 00:06:04,560

it included a strange dark material

201  
00:06:09,029 --> 00:06:06,639  
that researchers believe is likely quote

202  
00:06:10,629 --> 00:06:09,039  
a mixture of complex organic compounds

203  
00:06:12,469 --> 00:06:10,639  
the carbon containing building blocks of

204  
00:06:14,390 --> 00:06:12,479  
life as we know it end quote

205  
00:06:16,710 --> 00:06:14,400  
and it could be the same type of organic

206  
00:06:17,110 --> 00:06:16,720  
material that ultimately gave rise to

207  
00:06:19,749 --> 00:06:17,120  
life

208  
00:06:21,510 --> 00:06:19,759  
on earth even our friend mars has had

209  
00:06:23,270 --> 00:06:21,520  
its share of exciting astrobiology

210  
00:06:25,350 --> 00:06:23,280  
announcements in recent years

211  
00:06:27,430 --> 00:06:25,360  
there was even a conference in 2013

212  
00:06:28,150 --> 00:06:27,440  
co-hosted by the nasa astrobiology

213  
00:06:30,390 --> 00:06:28,160

institute

214

00:06:32,790 --> 00:06:30,400

and the uk center for astrobiology

215

00:06:33,510 --> 00:06:32,800

titled the present-day habitability of

216

00:06:35,510 --> 00:06:33,520

mars

217

00:06:37,590 --> 00:06:35,520

that highlighted findings that were new

218

00:06:39,350 --> 00:06:37,600

at the time like the discovery of a

219

00:06:42,309 --> 00:06:39,360

widespread energy source

220

00:06:44,150 --> 00:06:42,319

and abundant water on mars then there's

221

00:06:46,469 --> 00:06:44,160

the exciting world of titan

222

00:06:48,309 --> 00:06:46,479

nasa scientists really hyped up the fact

223

00:06:49,430 --> 00:06:48,319

that they may have discovered life on

224

00:06:51,589 --> 00:06:49,440

saturn's moon titan

225

00:06:53,510 --> 00:06:51,599

back in 2012 by using data from the

226

00:06:54,150 --> 00:06:53,520

cassini spacecraft to study the moon's

227

00:06:57,029 --> 00:06:54,160

chemically

228

00:06:58,950 --> 00:06:57,039

complex surface based on their research

229

00:07:00,870 --> 00:06:58,960

scientists say that it's possible that a

230

00:07:01,990 --> 00:07:00,880

quote primitive exotic form of life or

231

00:07:04,629 --> 00:07:02,000

precursor to life

232

00:07:06,629 --> 00:07:04,639

may exist on titan end quote what the

233

00:07:07,909 --> 00:07:06,639

researchers found was that hydrogen gas

234

00:07:10,309 --> 00:07:07,919

in titan's atmosphere

235

00:07:11,670 --> 00:07:10,319

disappeared at the moon's surface and as

236

00:07:13,749 --> 00:07:11,680

the telegraph explained

237

00:07:16,550 --> 00:07:13,759

this suggests that alien life forms

238

00:07:17,990 --> 00:07:16,560

could be breathing on titan additionally

239

00:07:20,150 --> 00:07:18,000

researchers noted the lack of the

240

00:07:21,189 --> 00:07:20,160

chemical compound acetylene at titan's

241

00:07:23,189 --> 00:07:21,199

surface

242

00:07:24,309 --> 00:07:23,199

chris mckay an astrobiologist at nasa's

243

00:07:25,909 --> 00:07:24,319

ames research center

244

00:07:27,589 --> 00:07:25,919

explained that quote this lack of

245

00:07:29,189 --> 00:07:27,599

acetylene is important

246

00:07:31,430 --> 00:07:29,199

because that chemical would likely be

247

00:07:32,390 --> 00:07:31,440

the best energy source for methane-based

248

00:07:34,550 --> 00:07:32,400

life on titan

249

00:07:36,469 --> 00:07:34,560

unquote scientists believed that life on

250

00:07:39,670 --> 00:07:36,479

titan would consume hydrogen

251  
00:07:41,350 --> 00:07:39,680  
as life on earth consumes oxygen cassini

252  
00:07:43,189 --> 00:07:41,360  
also detected the presence of something

253  
00:07:43,990 --> 00:07:43,199  
appearing to be an organic compound on

254  
00:07:45,990 --> 00:07:44,000  
titan's surface

255  
00:07:47,830 --> 00:07:46,000  
that scientists have been unable to

256  
00:07:50,070 --> 00:07:47,840  
identify these are just some quick

257  
00:07:51,589 --> 00:07:50,080  
examples of big time astrobiology

258  
00:07:53,430 --> 00:07:51,599  
findings from recent years

259  
00:07:55,510 --> 00:07:53,440  
but i can't conclude this video before

260  
00:07:56,469 --> 00:07:55,520  
mentioning that research published back

261  
00:07:58,070 --> 00:07:56,479  
in 2012

262  
00:08:00,469 --> 00:07:58,080  
where some scientists demonstrated their

263  
00:08:01,749 --> 00:08:00,479

belief that nasa discovered life on mars

264

00:08:03,909 --> 00:08:01,759

decades ago

265

00:08:05,830 --> 00:08:03,919

a team of scientists published a paper

266

00:08:09,110 --> 00:08:05,840

in which they analyzed data collected by

267

00:08:10,790 --> 00:08:09,120

nasa's mars vikings robots in 1976

268

00:08:12,790 --> 00:08:10,800

concluding that samples were originally

269

00:08:14,790 --> 00:08:12,800

incorrectly identified by scientists

270

00:08:16,070 --> 00:08:14,800

as geologic samples rather than

271

00:08:18,150 --> 00:08:16,080

biological samples

272

00:08:19,589 --> 00:08:18,160

neuropharmacologist and biologist joseph

273

00:08:21,670 --> 00:08:19,599

milller from the university of southern

274

00:08:23,670 --> 00:08:21,680

california's keck school of medicine

275

00:08:25,350 --> 00:08:23,680

was a member of the research team and he

276

00:08:27,589 --> 00:08:25,360

told discovery news quote

277

00:08:29,029 --> 00:08:27,599

on the basis of what we've done so far

278

00:08:31,749 --> 00:08:29,039

i'd say i'm 99

279

00:08:34,310 --> 00:08:31,759

sure there's life there end quote

280

00:08:35,829 --> 00:08:34,320

astrobiology is such an exciting field

281

00:08:37,670 --> 00:08:35,839

there are many earth-based and

282

00:08:39,509 --> 00:08:37,680

space-based instruments providing

283

00:08:41,589 --> 00:08:39,519

scientists with valuable information

284

00:08:43,190 --> 00:08:41,599

like never before and there are so many

285

00:08:45,509 --> 00:08:43,200

space missions underway

286

00:08:47,110 --> 00:08:45,519

and in the planning phases specifically

287

00:08:49,030 --> 00:08:47,120

designed for the search for

288

00:08:52,070 --> 00:08:49,040

extraterrestrial life

289

00:08:53,990 --> 00:08:52,080

astrobiology is extremely active so

290

00:08:56,389 --> 00:08:54,000

there are always discoveries research

291

00:08:58,070 --> 00:08:56,399

publications and press releases

292

00:08:59,590 --> 00:08:58,080

some of these get pretty hyped up to

293

00:09:01,350 --> 00:08:59,600

generate public interest

294

00:09:03,670 --> 00:09:01,360

the public and the media love to get

295

00:09:05,750 --> 00:09:03,680

excited expecting the discovery of

296

00:09:07,910 --> 00:09:05,760

extraterrestrial life to be announced

297

00:09:09,509 --> 00:09:07,920

and these scientists love it it gets a

298

00:09:10,070 --> 00:09:09,519

lot of attention on their research and

299

00:09:11,670 --> 00:09:10,080

hopefully

300

00:09:13,269 --> 00:09:11,680

the extra attention leads to more

301

00:09:15,990 --> 00:09:13,279

funding more connections

302

00:09:17,990 --> 00:09:16,000

etc so they can continue the research as

303

00:09:18,870 --> 00:09:18,000

dr sarah seger pointed out in the press

304

00:09:20,949 --> 00:09:18,880

conference

305

00:09:22,070 --> 00:09:20,959

we need more missions to these worlds to

306

00:09:25,440 --> 00:09:22,080

get more data