



Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



Our Bookstore is OPEN

Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!

Topics: [UFOs](#) - [Paranormal](#) - [Area 51](#) - [Ghosts](#) - [Fortean](#) - [Conspiracy](#) - [History](#) - [Biography](#) - [Psychology](#) - [Religion](#) - [Crime](#) - [Health](#) - [Geography](#) - [Maps](#) - [Science](#) - [Money](#) - [Language](#) - [Recreation](#) - [Technology](#) - [Fiction](#) - [Other](#) - [New](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1999](#) -> [Jun](#) -> Re: Theorist Predicts Life in Universe is Common

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Theorist Predicts Life in Universe is Common

From: Stig Agermose <stig.agermose@get2net.dk>
Date: Sun, 27 Jun 1999 06:10:00
Fwd Date: Sun, 27 Jun 1999 11:41:46 -0400
Subject: Re: Theorist Predicts Life in Universe is Common

[List only]

Source: AstroNews (Astronomy Magazine), 22 June 1999,

<http://www.kalmbach.com:80/astro/news/news/0699Origins.html>

Stig

ORIGIN OF LIFE

Theorists Predicts Life in Universe is Common, Waiting for Discovery

**

The hypothesis that life is unique to Earth could prove to be just as implausible as theories of Divine Creation. Chemist Robert Shapiro suggests that the laws of nature might favor the generation of life throughout the universe.

Shapiro's arguments are presented in "Prebiotic cytosine synthesis: A critical analysis and implications for the origin of life," in the April 13, 1999, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Shapiro, a professor of chemistry at New York University, also lays out his argument in a new book entitled Planetary Dreams, published by John Wiley & Sons. In the book and paper, Shapiro argues that standard origin-of-life theories are badly flawed. Such theories are dependent on a miraculous event: the once-in-a-universe spontaneous generation of nucleic acids DNA or RNA that make up plant, animal, and microbial genes or some related molecule.

Shapiro, a specialist in the chemistry of DNA and RNA, marshals an array of data to argue that the simplest kind of cellular life may arise as a predictable result of organic chemistry and the physics of self-organizing systems whenever planets exist with the right constituents and conditions: a liquid or dense gas medium (not necessarily water), a suitable energy source, and a system of matter capable of using the energy to organize itself. He calls this hypothesis the "life principle." Furthermore, he argues that no predictable directions exist for life's later development from these basic beginnings.

In addition, he argues that humankind's search for life beyond

Earth should continue to focus on those nearby worlds -- Mars, Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Titan -- where the conditions appear to support the development of life.

He writes, "The debate over extraterrestrial life has been carried out with a great deal of passion, but with little progress, for centuries. Only in the last decades have we gained the ability to move it forward by collecting data at close range. We can send robots to inspect likely worlds such as Mars, Europa and Titan, and return photographs, information and samples, or, if we choose, we can go there ourselves and look around. We may find existing life, remnants of extinct life, or chemical systems evolving in the direction of life. Alternatively, we may encounter monotonous wastelands, lacking any sign that a process relevant to life has taken place there. The results will help decide which of two very different views of the Universe is more nearly correct."

22 June 1999

If you've come to this page from an outside link and you don't see the ASTRONOMY Magazine Logo at the top of the page *Click Here

ASTRONOMY is a Registered Trademark of Kalmbach Publishing Co. Copyright © 1996,1997,1998,1999 Kalmbach Publishing Co.

[[Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#)]
[[This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#)]

UFO UpDates - Toronto - updates@globalserve.net

Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.

To subscribe please send your first and last name to updates@globalserve.net

Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

[[UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#)]

To find this message again in the future...

Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.

Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: webmaster@ufomind.com

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).