

New Titles

Source: BioScience, 63(2) : 143-144

Published By: American Institute of Biological Sciences

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2013.63.2.13>

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Ultraviolet and infrared spectral signatures that could be regarded as having a connection with biology are present everywhere in the universe—in the solar system, in the most distant galaxies, up to distances exceeding 8 billion light years (Wickramasinghe 2010). The amount of such organic material in our galaxy alone totals nearly one third of all the carbon in interstellar space. The possibility that all this organic material is the result of prebiotic chemical evolution is mere wishful thinking. Whenever similar spectroscopic features are found on Earth (e.g., polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon features), we attribute them to degradation products of biology, yet we refrain from adopting this same logic on a cosmic scale—the argument being that life outside Earth is an extraordinary claim for which extraordinary evidence is called for. On the contrary, Deamer's confinement of life to Earth is an extraordinary claim, particularly in view of the dynamic pathways available for interstellar and interplanetary transfers and the survival properties of bacteria that have been identified and documented.

References cited

- Hoyle F, Wickramasinghe NC. 1977a. Identification of the 2, 200Å interstellar absorption feature. *Nature* 270: 323–324. doi:10.1038/270323a0
- . 1977b. Polysaccharides and infrared spectra of galactic sources. *Nature* 268: 610–612. doi:10.1038/268610a0
- Wickramasinghe NC. 1974. Formaldehyde polymers in interstellar space. *Nature* 252: 462–463. doi:10.1038/252462a0
- . 2010. The astrobiological case for our cosmic ancestry. *International Journal of Astrobiology* 9: 119–129.
- Wickramasinghe NC, Hoyle F, Brooks J, Shaw G. 1977. Prebiotic polymers and infrared spectra of galactic sources. *Nature* 269: 674–676. doi:10.1038/269674a0

CHANDRA WICKRAMASINGHE

Chandra Wickramasinghe (ncwick@gmail.com) is director of the Buckingham Centre for Astrobiology at the University of Buckingham, in the United Kingdom. He is the coauthor of the recent work Comets And the Origin of Life (World Scientific).

How to Contact AIBS

BioScience

Advertising, print and online:
adsales@ucpressjournals.com

Classified advertising:
jwilliams@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 209

Online:
www.aibs.org/bioscienceonline

Permissions:
www.ucpressjournals.com/
reprintinfo.asp

Publisher:
rogrady@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 258

Submission inquiries:
tbearsley@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 326

Subscriptions: Individual
membership@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 247

Subscriptions: Institutional
customerservice@
ucpressjournals.com
510-643-7154

AIBS

ActionBioscience.org:
tbearsley@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 326

Education Office:
smusante@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 311

Executive Director: rogrady@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 258

Membership Records:
membership@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 247

Community Programs:
spotter@aibs.org
941-321-1573

Public Policy Office: rgropp@aibs.org
202-628-1500 x. 250

Scientific Peer-Review Services:
sglison@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 202

Web/IT Services:
jwagener@aibs.org
703-674-2500 x. 107

NEW TITLES

Achieving Water Security: Lessons from Research in Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Ethiopia. Roger Calow, Eva Ludi, and Josephine Tucker, eds. Practical Action Publishing, 2012. 276 pp., illus. \$37.95 (ISBN 9781853397646 paper).

Biophysics: Searching for Principles. William Bialek. Princeton University Press, 2012. 632 pp., illus. \$95.00 (ISBN 9780691138916 cloth).

Biosequestration and Ecological Diversity: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change and Environmental Degradation. Wayne A. White. Taylor and Francis (CRC), 2012. 250 pp., illus. \$79.95 (ISBN 9781439853634 cloth).

The Brain Supremacy: Notes from the Frontiers of Neuroscience. Kathleen Taylor. Oxford University Press, 2012. 256 pp., illus. \$29.95 (ISBN 9780199603374 cloth).

Climate Change and Threatened Communities: Vulnerability, Capacity, and Action. Alfonso Peter Castro, Dan Taylor, and David W. Brokensha, eds. Practical Action Publishing, 2012. 224 pp., illus. \$19.95 (ISBN 9781853397356 paper).

The Ethics of Species: An Introduction. Ronald L. Sandler. Cambridge University Press, 2012. 245 pp., illus. \$29.99 (ISBN 9781107658707 paper).

Evolution and the Mechanisms of Decision Making. Peter Hammerstein and Jeffrey R. Stevens, eds. MIT Press, 2012. 488 pp., illus. \$50.00 (ISBN 9780262018081 cloth).

Flies: The Natural History and Diversity of Diptera. Stephen A. Marshall. Firefly Books, 2012. 616 pp., illus. \$125.00 (ISBN 9781770851009 cloth).

doi:10.1525/bio.2013.63.2.13

Human Dependence on Nature: How to Help Solve the Environmental Crisis. Haydn Washington. Taylor and Francis (Routledge), 2012. 184 pp., illus. \$40.95 (ISBN 9780415632584 paper).

In Search of the Good: A Life of Bioethics. Daniel Callahan. MIT Press, 2012. 232 pp., illus. \$29.00 (ISBN 9780262018487 cloth).

Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods. Niels Halberg and Adrian Muller, eds. Taylor and Francis (Routledge), 2012. 296 pp., illus. \$49.95 (ISBN 9781849712965 paper).

Phytoplasma: Methods and Protocols. Matt Dickinson and Jennifer Hodgetts, eds. Springer (Humana),

2012. 421 pp., illus. \$139.00 (ISBN 9781627030885 cloth).

Plant Mutation Breeding and Biotechnology. Qing-Yao Shu, Brian P. Forster, and Heisuke Nakagawa, eds. Cabi, 2012. 616 pp., illus. \$240.00 (ISBN 9781780640853 cloth).

Protocols for Micropropagation of Selected Economically-Important Horticultural Plants. Maurizio Lambardi, Elif Aylin Ozudogru, and Shri Mohan Jain, eds. Springer (Humana), 2012. 490 pp., illus. \$159.00 (ISBN 9781627030731 cloth).

Restoration and Reclamation of Boreal Ecosystems: Attaining Sustainable Development. Dale Vitt and Jagtar Bharti, eds. Cambridge

University Press, 2012. 424 pp., illus. \$110.00 (ISBN 9781107015715 cloth).

Science Communication: A Practical Guide for Scientists. Laura Bowater, Kay Yeoman, and Stephen Asworth. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. 384 pp. \$49.95 (ISBN 9781119993124 paper).

Thinking Like a Mountain: An Ecological Perspective on Earth. R. Edward Grumbine. Island Press, 2012. 75 pp. \$2.99 (ISBN 9781610914208 e-Book).

Urban Bird Ecology and Conservation. Christopher A. Lepczyk and Paige S. Warren, eds. University of California Press, 2012. 344 pp., illus. \$70.00 (ISBN 9780520273092 cloth).

BRINGING BIOLOGY TO INFORMED DECISION MAKING

JOIN THE COMMUNITY...

As an umbrella organization AIBS works with biologists and their professional organizations, to ensure that reliable information is used when decisions are made—in public policy, research funding, and the public forum.

To learn more about our impact and to join AIBS, visit www.aibs.org.

JOIN AIBS
www.aibs.org

AIBS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS RECEIVE PRINT AND/OR ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO BIOSCIENCE. AIBS ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ABOUT HOW TO ENSURE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR BIOLOGY.

American Institute of Biological Sciences
1900 CAMPUS COMMONS DR.
STE 200
RESTON, VA 20191
WWW.AIBS.ORG