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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.

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