



Weekly important news



Fly to Baku exhibition opens in Berlin Vice President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva attends the event



20th anniversary of establishment of Azerbaijan-France diplomatic ties marked in Paris Azerbaijan's first lady Mehriban Aliyeva participated in ceremony

U.S. President offers Eid al-Adha greetings to Azerbaijani leader



Azerbaijan 67th in WB's Doing Business-2013



Reims hosts exhibition on Azerbaijan and concert by Azerbaijan State Chamber Orchestra First lady Mehriban Aliyeva attends the events

Analysis

Liabilities of Armenian President and refugee - occupants



Golden Bough of Immortality (Thoughts about great Nobels family and Prizes instituted by this family)

BRINGING THE BEST BRAINS TOGETHER

PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HUMANISM

CITY WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH FOR ONE NIGHT

YEAR OF ECOLOGY STARTS IN AZERBAIJAN

ARMENIAN SCAM: SELLING THROUGH NASDAQ OMX THE "SHARES" OF THE PLANT IN NAGORNO KARABAKH

Oddly enough

03.11.2012 [18:07] Tomb of ancient princess unearthed near Cairo

World

Curiosity Rover Finds No Methane on Mars

03.11.2012 [20:55]

Baku, November 3 (AzerTAc). Living organisms produce more than 90 percent of the methane found in Earth's atmosphere, so scientists are keen to see if the gas is present in Mars' air. The hunt continues.

NASA's Mars rover Curiosity has detected no methane in its first analyses of the Martian atmosphere — news that will doubtless disappoint those who hope to find life on the Red Planet.

Living organisms produce more than 90 percent of the methane found in Earth's atmosphere, so scientists are keen to see if Curiosity picks up any of the gas in Mars' air. But the 1-ton rover has come up empty in the first atmospheric measurements taken with its Sample Analysis at Mars instrument, or SAM, researchers announced today (Nov. 2).

"The bottom line is that we have no detection of methane so far," Chris Webster, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., told reporters today.

"But we're going to keep looking in the months ahead since Mars, as we all know, may yet hold surprises for us," added Webster, who is instrument lead for SAM's Tunable Laser Spectrometer.

Scientists have detected methane in Mars' atmosphere before, using a variety of instruments on the ground and in space. But measured concentrations of the gas have been quite low, ranging from 10 to 50 parts per billion or so.

The lack of detection by SAM does not necessarily mean these previous observations are wrong, researchers said. Methane concentrations may vary somewhat by region and over time.

"At this time, we don't have a positive detection of methane on Mars," said Sushil Atreya of the University of Michigan, a SAM co-investigator. "But that could change over time, depending on how methane is produced and how it is destroyed on Mars."

Possible non-biological sources of methane include comet strikes, degradation of interplanetary dust motes by ultraviolet light and water-rock interactions, researchers said. And the gas can be destroyed by photochemical reactions in the atmosphere or absorbed by the Martian surface.

Scientists believe that Mars' methane "sinks" are quite efficient, removing the gas from the atmosphere every few hundred years. That means any methane present in the Red Planet's air was likely generated recently.

"Stay tuned," Atreya said. "The story of methane has just begun."

The new atmospheric measurements — based primarily on a few sniffs Curiosity took at a site called Rocknest — could also help scientists better understand how the Red Planet may have lost much of its original atmosphere, researchers said. Mars' air is currently just 1 percent as thick as that of Earth.

In measurements of atmospheric carbon dioxide, SAM detected a roughly 5 percent increase in heavy carbon isotopes, compared to estimated isotopic compositions at the time Mars formed. (Isotopes are versions of an element that have different numbers of neutrons in their atomic nuclei.)

This suggests that the top of Mars' atmosphere was likely lost to interplanetary space at some point, researchers said.

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Weather

Baku

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Calendar for Nov 2012 showing days of the week and dates.

Latest news

04.11.2012 [15:38] Finnish parliament to discuss draft resolution on Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan

[15:16] 'Russia has no problems with Azerbaijani migrants and Azerbaijani diaspora'

[14:48] Azerbaijan to build the world's tallest tower

[14:46] President Ilham Aliyev receives CEO of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

[14:14] Azerbaijani President receives Indian ICT Minister

[14:12] SOCAR chief: We expect growth in oil production next year

[13:46] Baku to host 2nd Workshop of UNWTO Statistics Capacity-building Programme

[13:15] SOCAR exported over 17m t of oil from Ceyhan port this year

[13:08] Antalya to host Growtech Eurasia 2012 exhibition

03.11.2012