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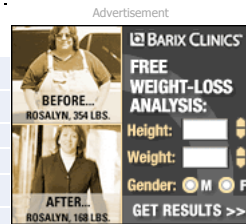
## Scientists scanning new data from Saturn's largest moon

Associated Press  
Frankfurt (Germany), January 27 | 20:45 IST

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Saturn's largest moon contains all the ingredients for life, but senior scientists studying data from a European probe today ruled out the possibility Titan's abundant methane stems from living organisms.

More than a week after the Huygens probe plunged through Titan's atmosphere, researchers continue to pore over data collected for clues to how the only celestial body known to have a significant atmosphere other than Earth came to be and whether it can provide clues to how life arose here.

Initial findings have revealed an abundance of methane on the surface of Titan - the first moon other than Earth's to be explored - which is crucial to supporting its thick atmosphere. But scientists are still puzzling over the origin of the methane.

"This methane cannot be coming from living organisms," Jean-Pierre Lebreton, mission manager for the Huygens probe that landed on the surface of Titan Jan. 14, told The Associated Press.

Images snapped by the 340-kilogram probe as it parachuted through Titan's atmosphere from the Cassini orbiter show the moon's surface was cut by a weather system leaving deep river beds and large reservoirs, implying activity by liquid methane.

Based on data collected by Huygens' instruments, Sushil **Atreya**, a professor of planetary science at the University of Michigan in the United States, believes a hydro-geological process between water and rocks deep inside the moon could be producing the methane.

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