

# **WATER AND ORGANICS: ASTEROID DELIVERY?**

**T.OWEN  
U. HAWAII**

- **WE DON'T KNOW!!**

- 1.WATER

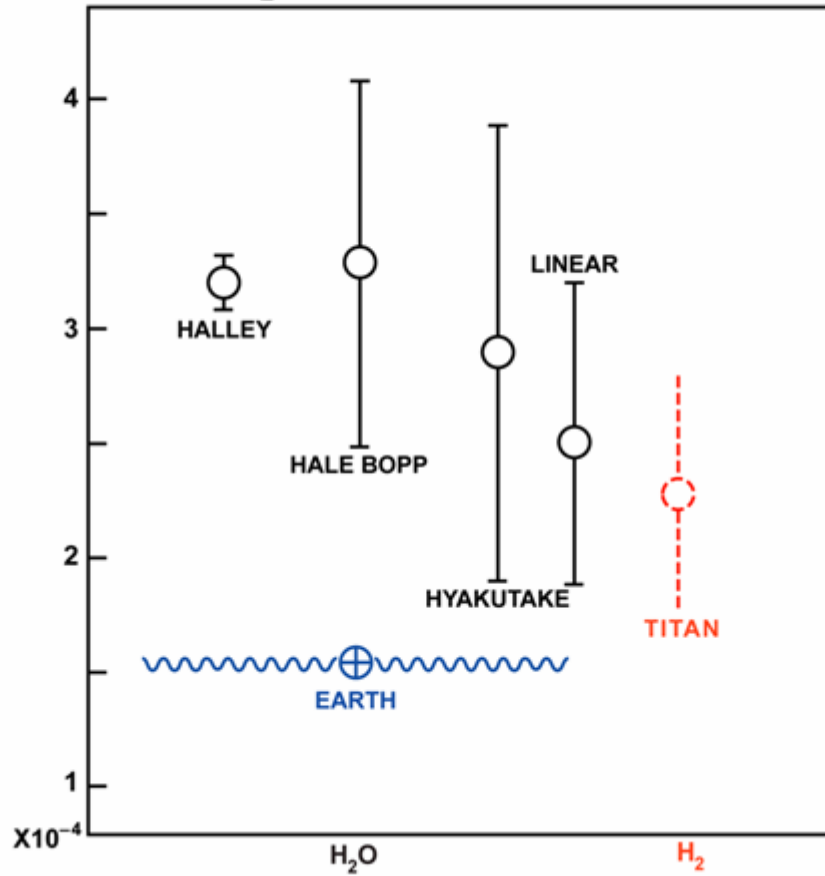
- 2. MAIN BELT "COMETS"

- 3. ORGANICS

**WATER**

**(HYDROGEN—D/H)**

# D/H (H<sub>2</sub>O) IN ICY PLANETESIMALS



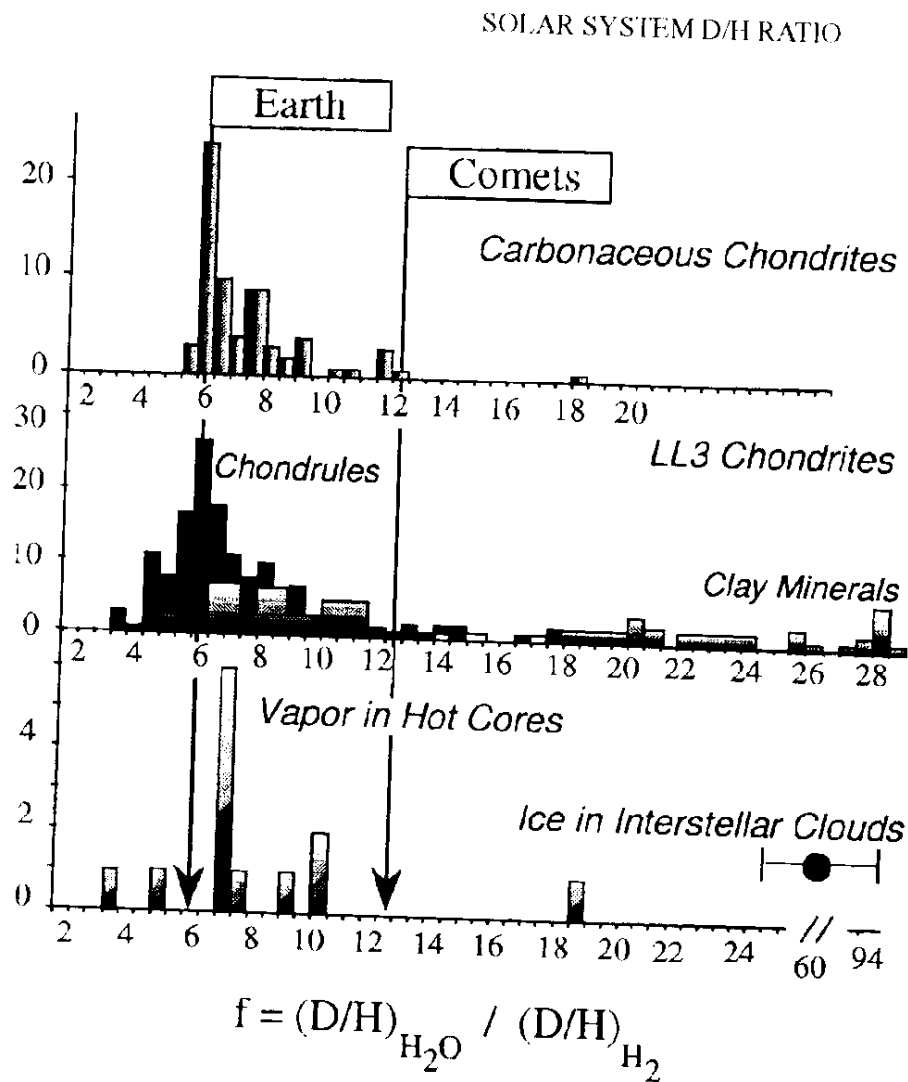
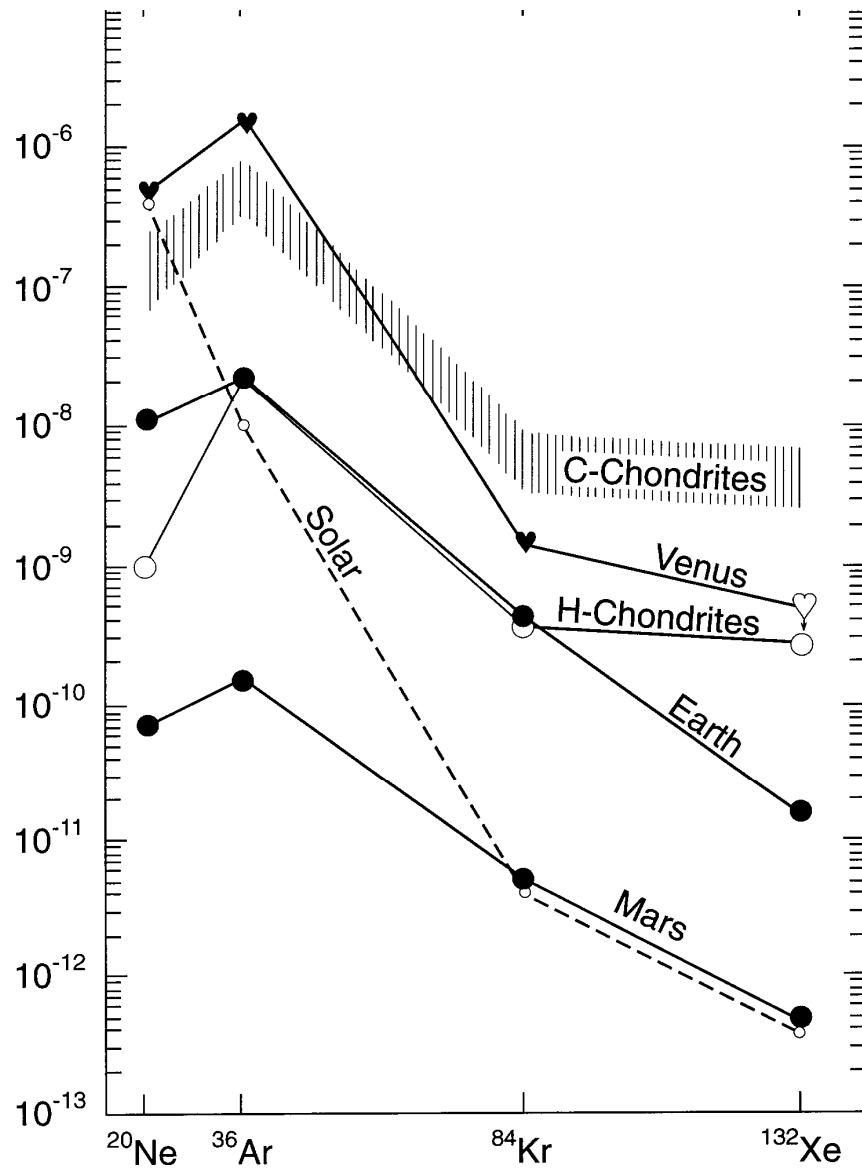
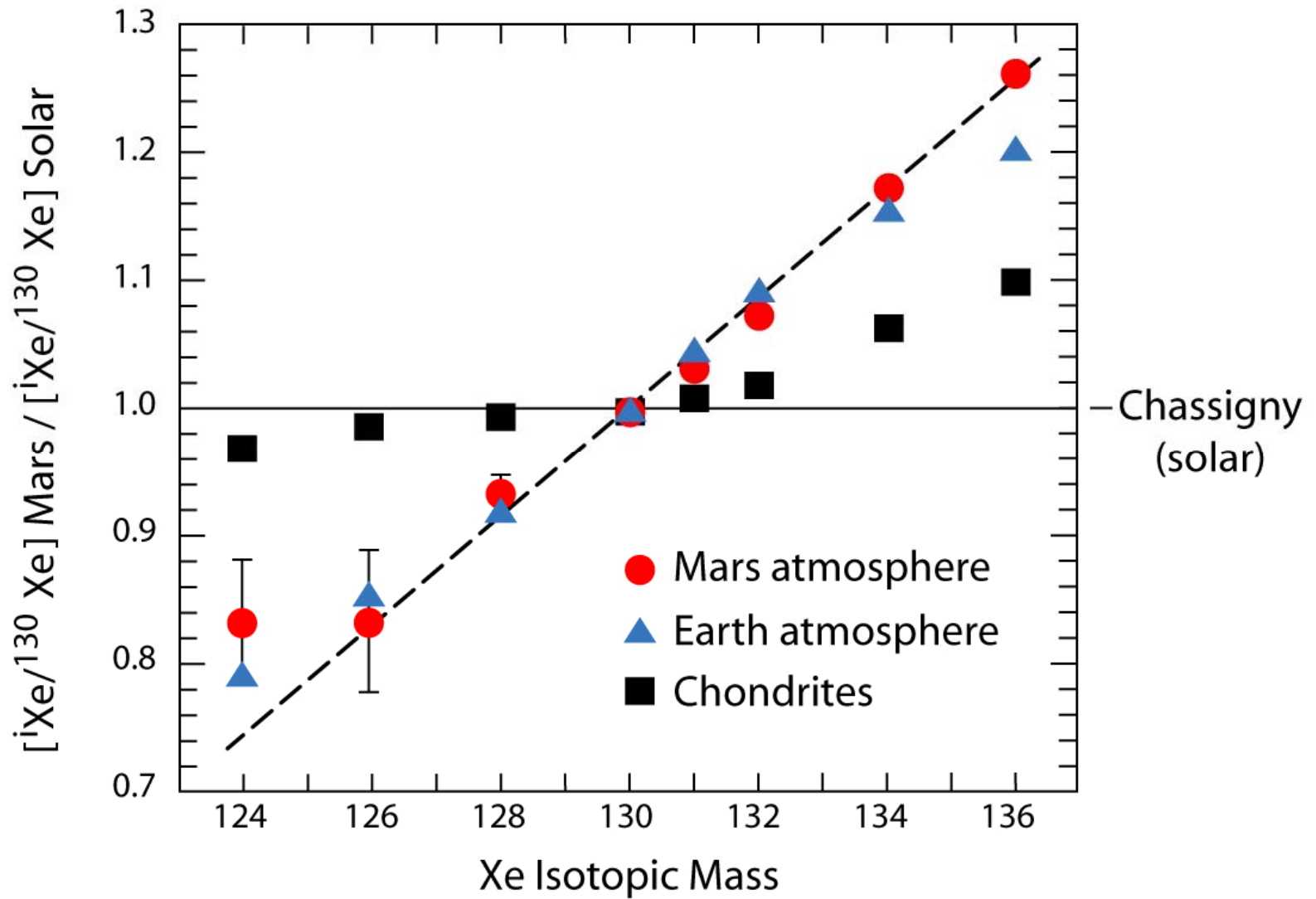


Figure 2. Histograms of distributions of the water D/H ratio in Carbonaceous Chondrites, in LL3 chondrules and clays, in Hot Cores and in interstellar ice (personal compilation of published data). According to this diagram, LL3 chondrites exhibit the best preserved record of the primordial isotopic heterogeneity of the solar system water. Note the similarity between the high D/H values in LL3 chondrites and in interstellar ices.

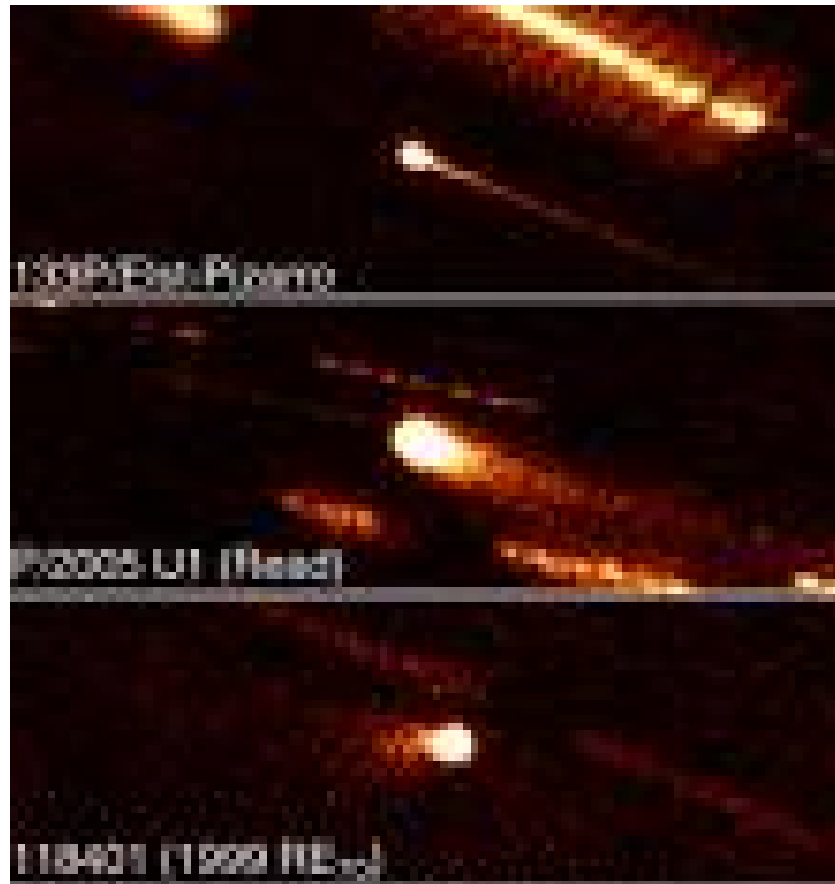


# Xenon Isotopes – II

## Mars = Earth!



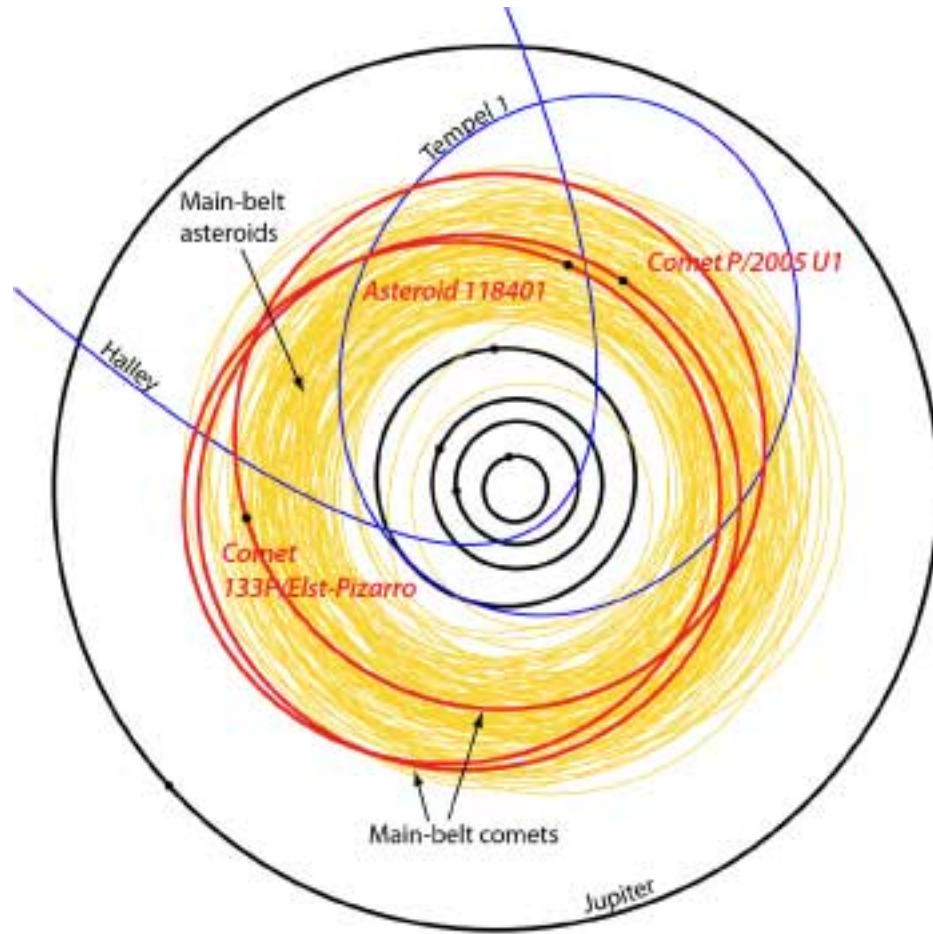
● – EETA 79001 Glass Inclusions



Images taken with the 40" Lick Small Telescope  
(Lick Observatory, Lick, University of California)



# MAIN BELT COMETS



**MBC: COMET OR ASTEROID?**

**BOTH?**

**TEST**

**D/H IN H<sub>2</sub>O:  $3.2 \times 10^{-4}$  => COMET**

**$1.6 \times 10^{-4}$  => ASTEROID**

**$2.4 \times 10^{-4}$  => ASTERCOM**

## **MBC: SOURCE OF EARTH WATER?**

### **REQUIRES:**

- **$D/H = 1.6 \times 10^{-4}$**
- **NOBLE GAS ABUNDANCES  
(AND XENON ISOTOPES)**

**MATCH EARTH ATMOSPHERE**

# **TOTAL ORGANIC MATTER DELIVERED BY METEORITES/ASTEROIDS/COMETS**

**COMPARABLE TO TOTAL MASS OF BIOSPHERE  
--(CHYBA, SAGAN ET AL. 1989, 1990.)**

**BUT THIS ESTIMATE**

**IGNORES LIMIT SET ON METEORITIC CONTRIBUTIONS BY  
MIS-MATCH OF NOBLE GASES.**

**{SIMILAR LIMIT MAY APPLY TO COMETS}**

**AND THUS**

**INVITES NEW ESTIMATE, ALSO USING NEWER DATA ON  
IMPACT HISTORY OF EARLY EARTH.**

**FROM WHENCE CAME CARBON AND IN WHAT  
GUISE?**

# **ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN METEORITES**

## **IOM**

**INSOLUBLE ORGANIC MATTER**

**90 TO 99% of carbon in meteorites**

## **SOM**

**SOLUBLE ORGANIC MATTER**

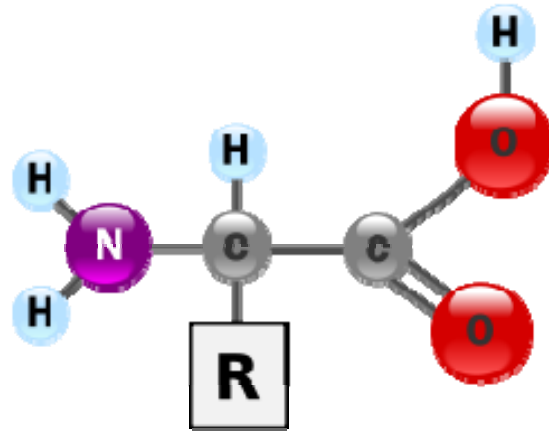
**~10% of carbon**

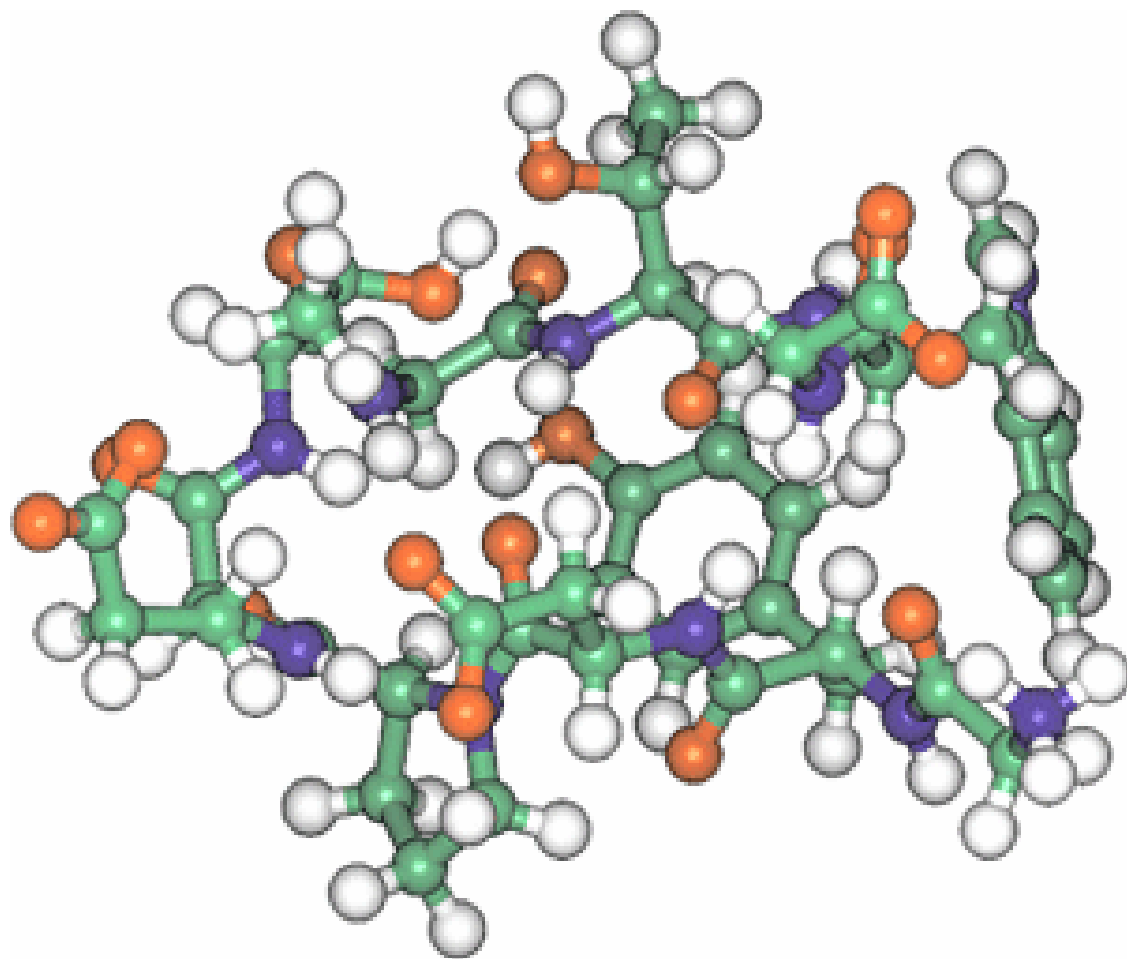
**~0.1% is Amino Acids:**

**70 identified—J. Cronin**

**All Life on Earth uses 20**

**“Building Blocks” of Protein**





## The Central Dogma



DNA



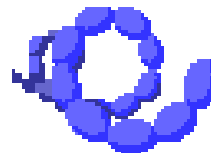
Transcription



RNA



**Translation:**  
the synthesis  
of a polypeptide  
specified by an  
mRNA



Protein



**CONCLUSIONS: DELIVERIES?**

**Some water—How Much?**

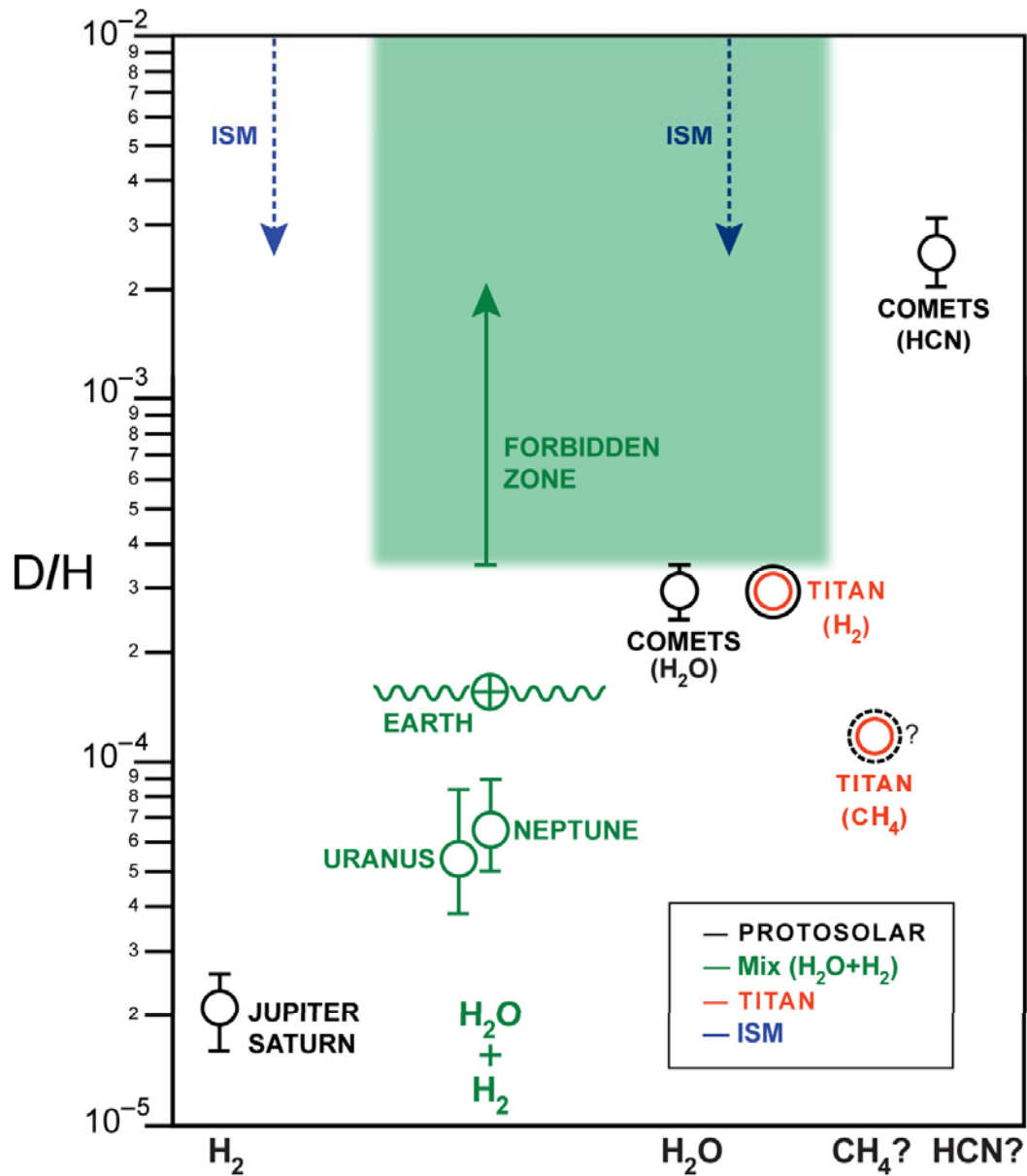
**Some Organics— How Much? Which?**

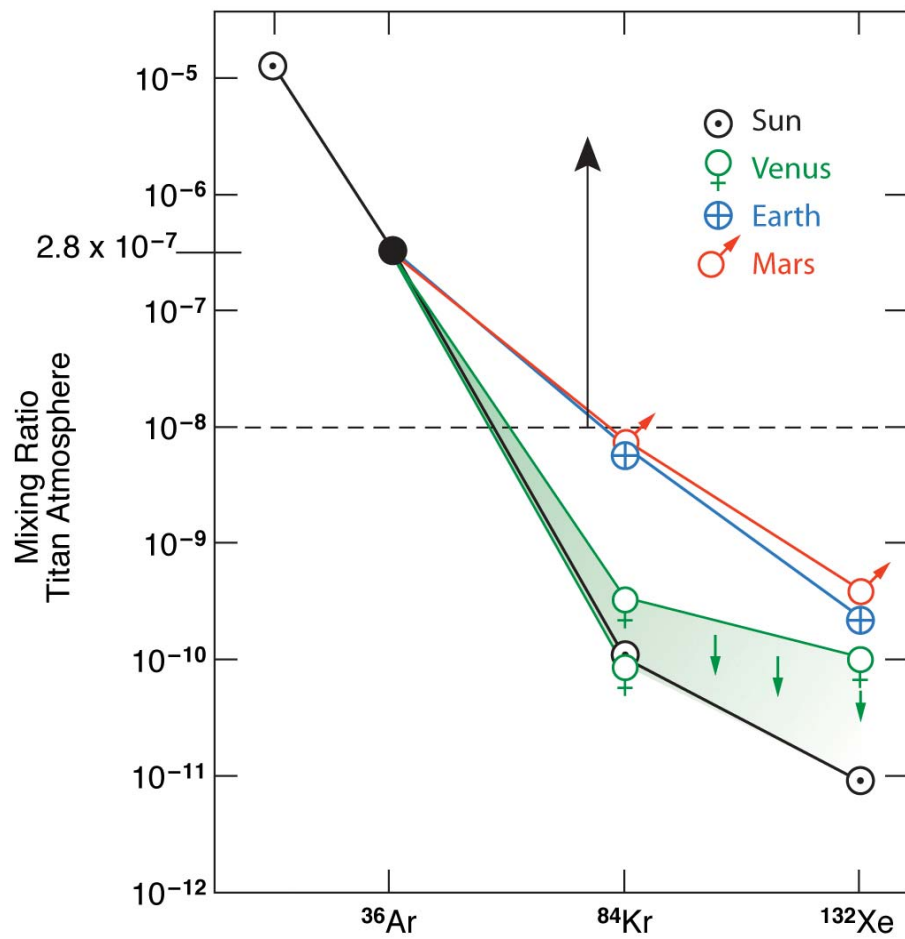
**Noble Gases and Isotopes Will Provide  
References.**

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# DEUTERIUM IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

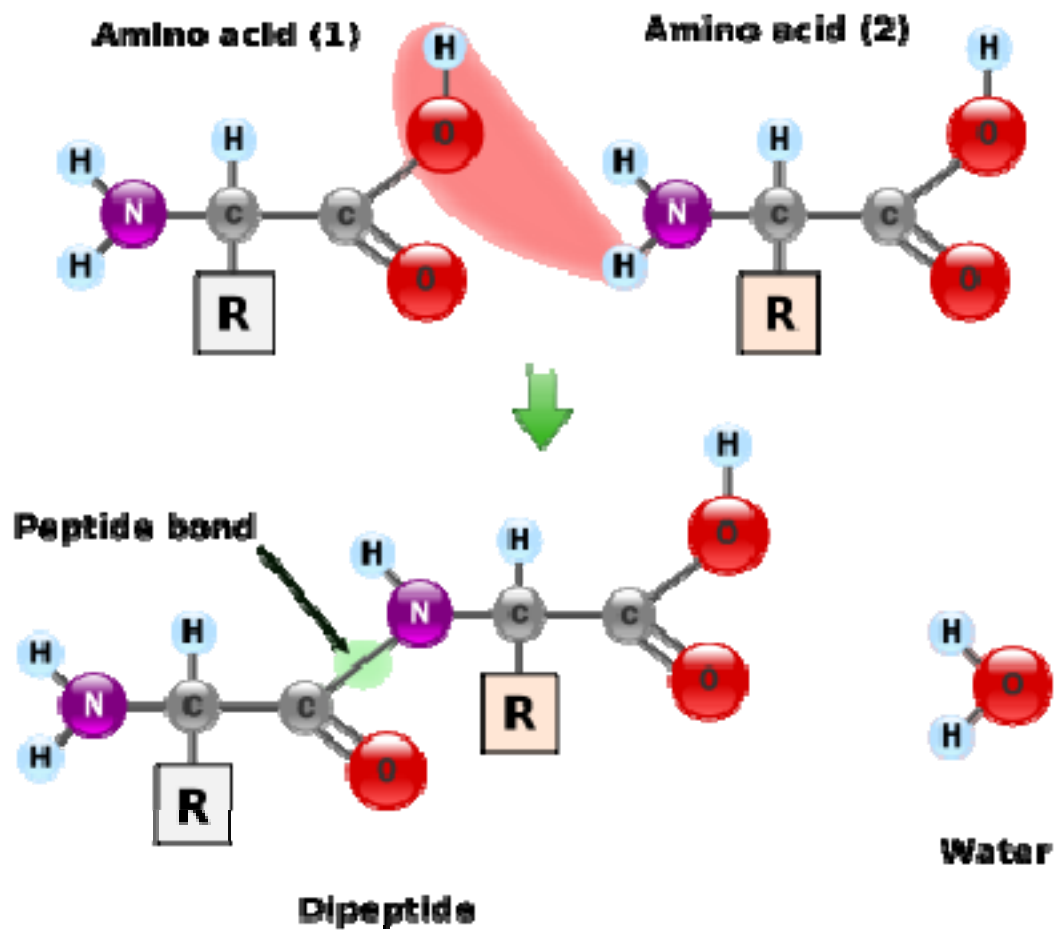




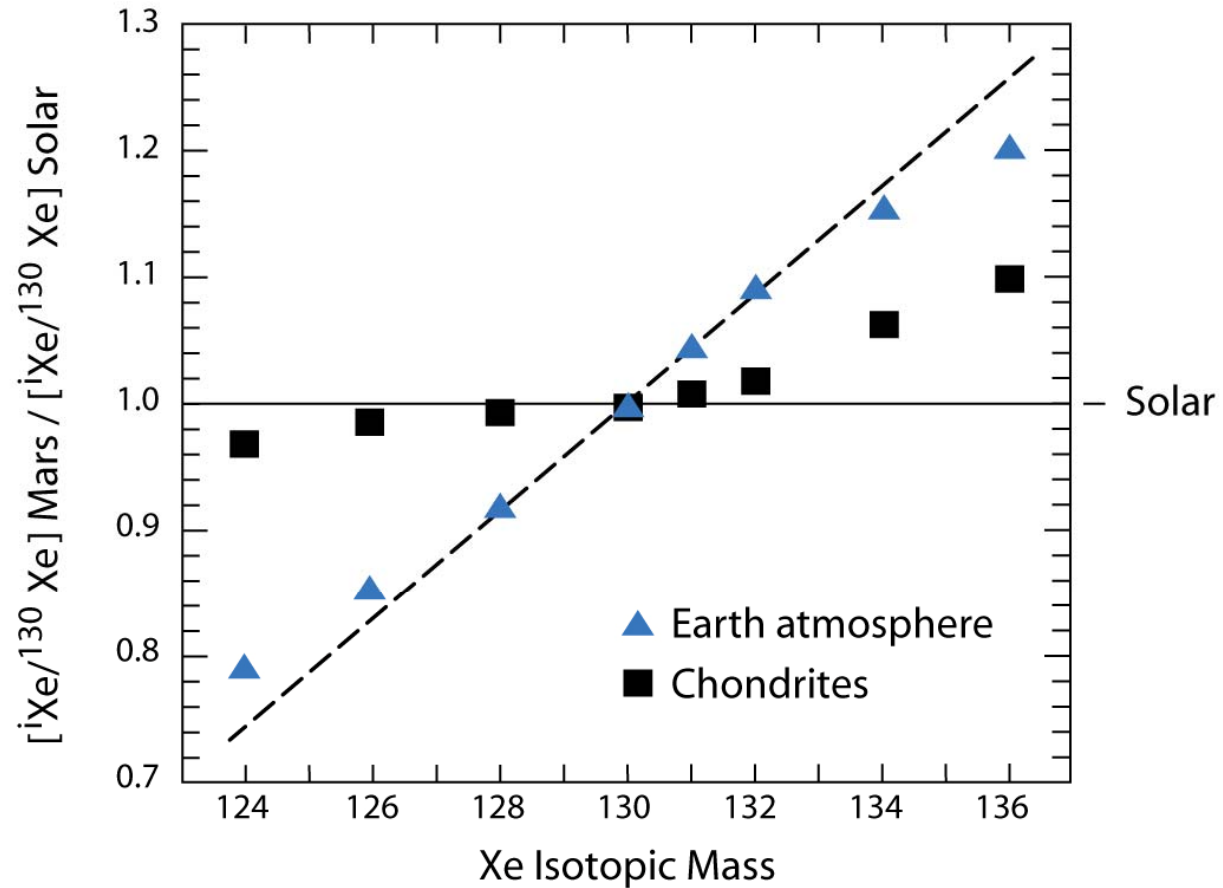
- Science 1 December 2006: Vol. 314. no. 5804, pp. 1439 - 1442 DOI: 10.1126/science.1132175 [Prev](#) |

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- **REPORTS** **Organic Globules in the Tagish Lake Meteorite: Remnants of the Protosolar Disk** Keiko Nakamura-Messenger,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Scott Messenger,<sup>1</sup> Lindsay P. Keller,<sup>1</sup> Simon J. Clemett,<sup>1,3</sup> Michael E. Zolensky<sup>1</sup> **Coordinated transmission electron microscopy and isotopic**



## Xenon Isotopes – I



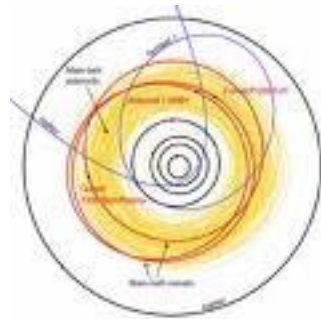
### The Wrong Xenon Problem:

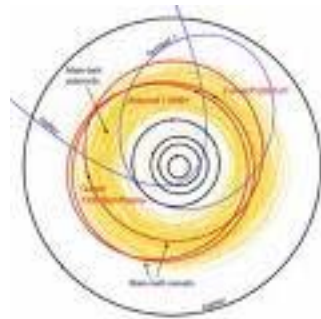
Atmosphere exhibits the wrong isotope architecture for xenon — compared to meteorites

“Planetary component” of meteoritic noble gases is misnomer!









**MBC: COMET OR ASTEROID?**

**BOTH?**

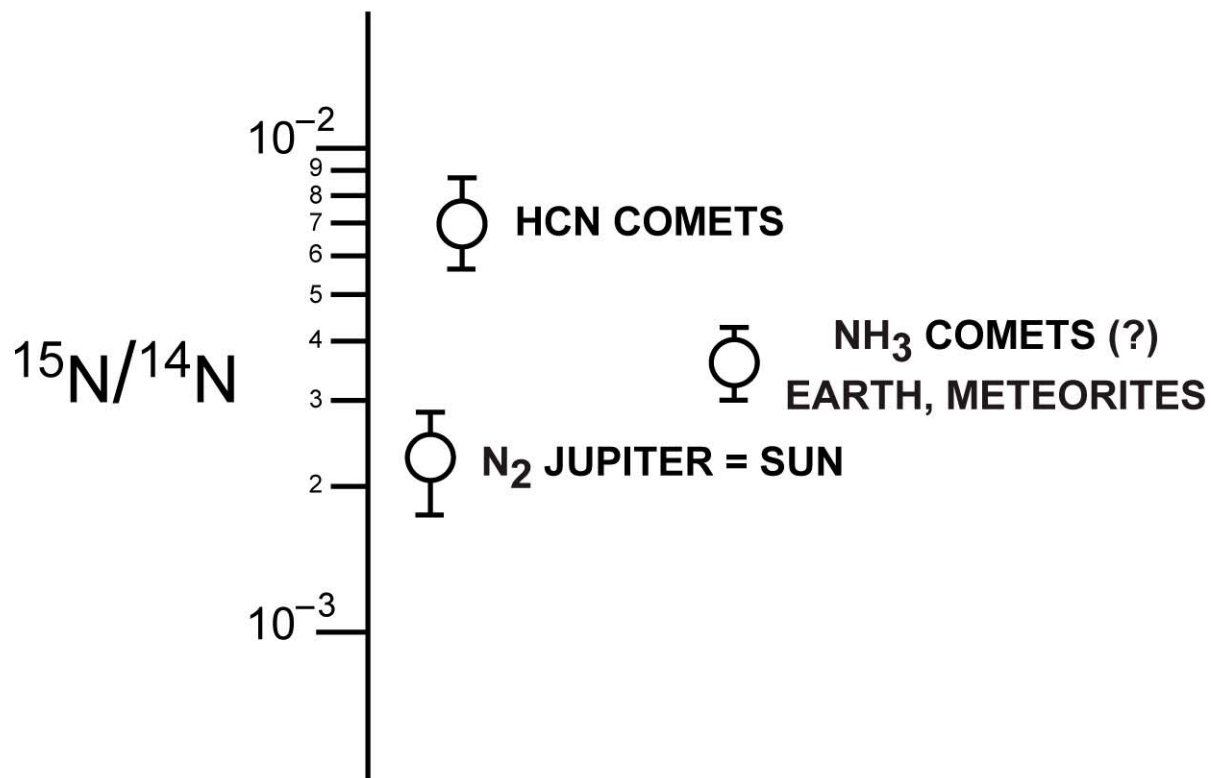
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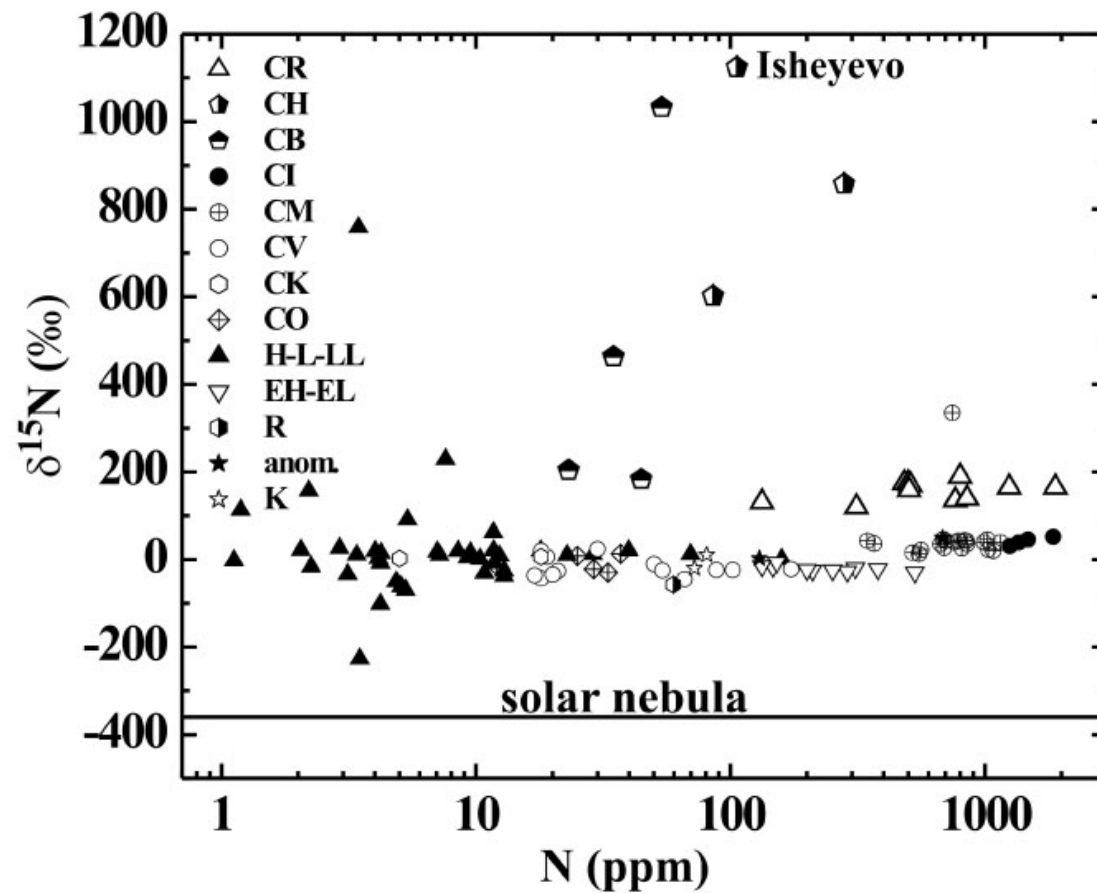
**$2.4 \times 10^{-4}$  => ASTROCOM**

# PROTOSOLAR NITROGEN



**WATER**

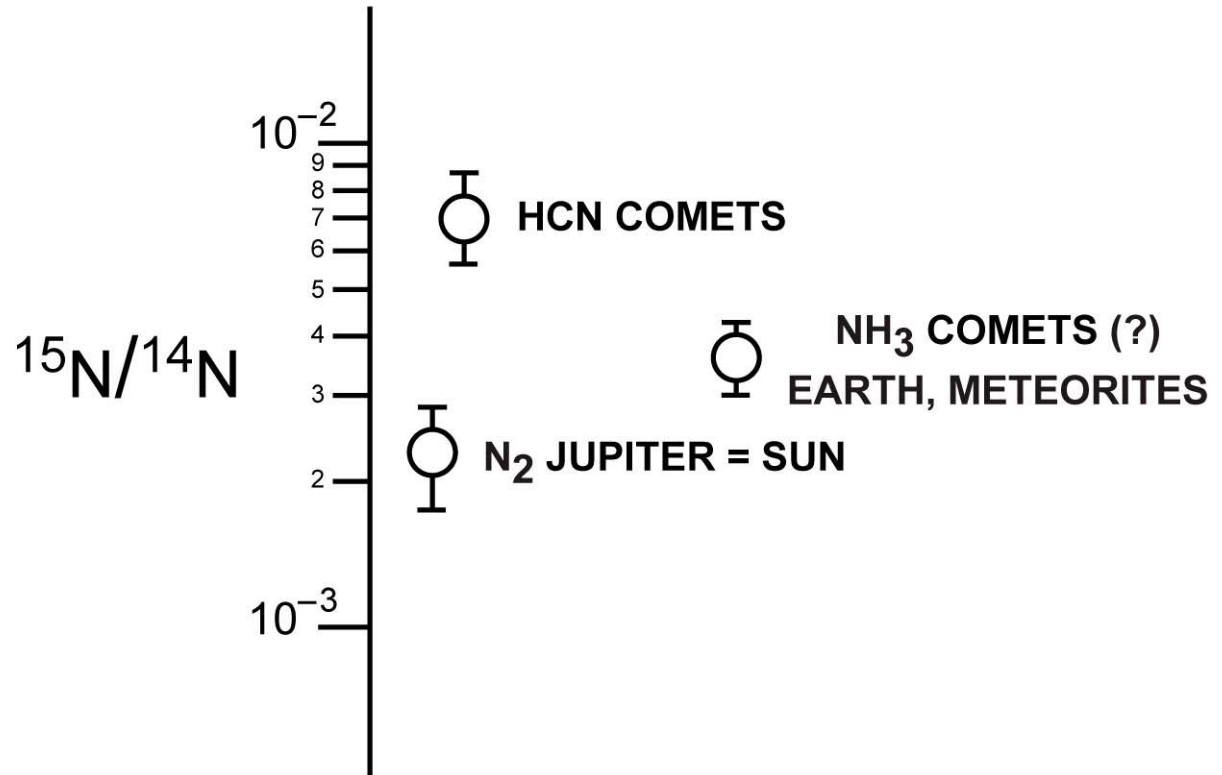
**(HYDROGEN—D/H)**



Bulk N contents and N-isotopic compositions of meteorites.

Krot et al. (2003), Ivanova et al. (2006)

# PROTOSOLAR NITROGEN





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# ORGANICS

NITROGEN--- $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$

$\text{NH}_3$  HCN

{WE SEE  $\text{N}_2$ ,  $\text{Nxx} \Rightarrow$  amino acids}

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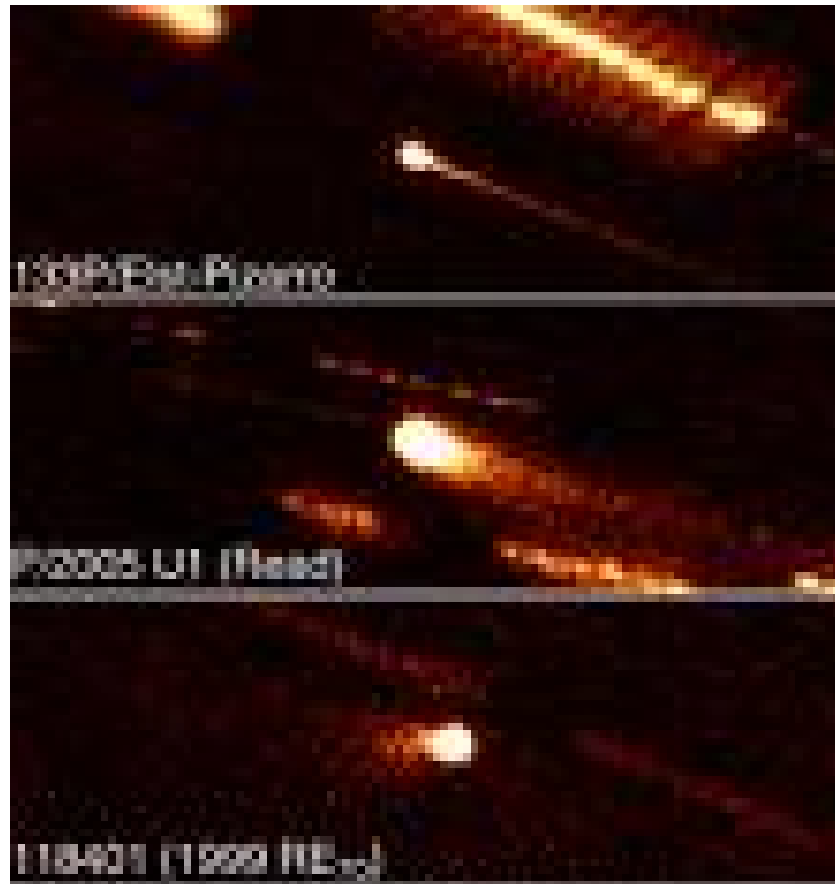
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**0.1% is Amino Acids:**

**70 identified—J. Cronin**

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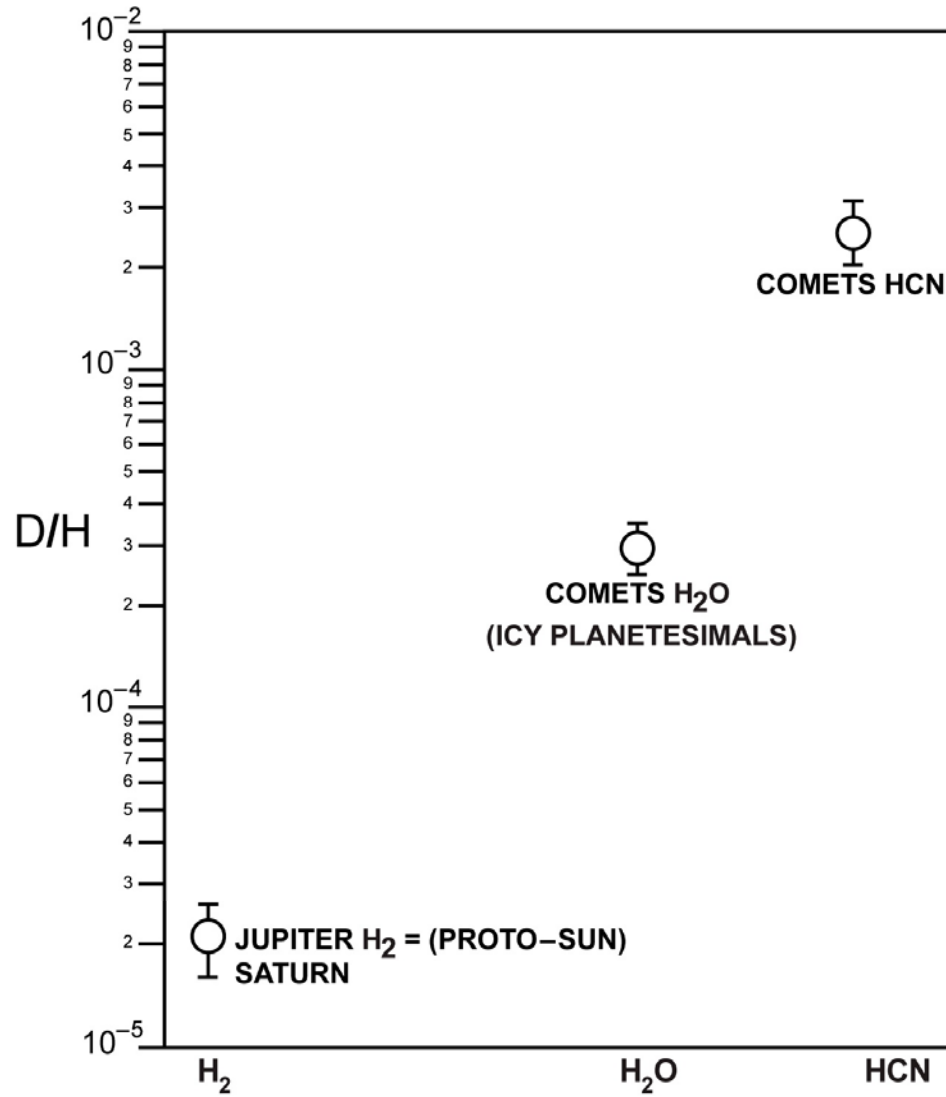
Images taken with the 40" Lick Small Telescope  
 on 19/04/2005 (top), 20/04/2005 (middle),  
 21/04/2005 (bottom) (all times UT)

## RULES:

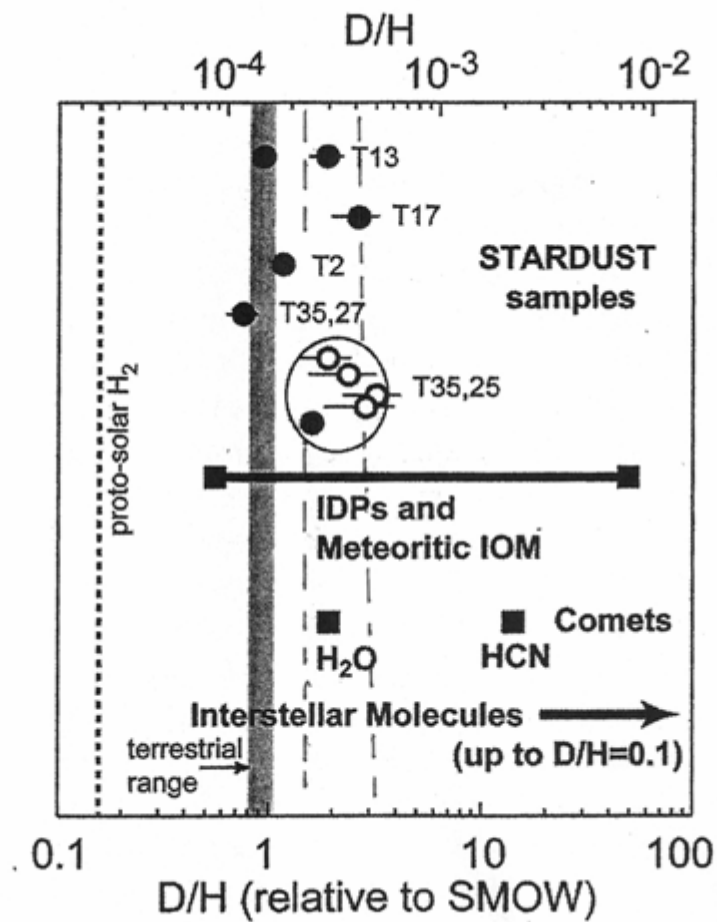
- 1.The Angels Are in the Global View
- 2.There is no Isotope Exchange Between a Solid and a Gas
- 3.There are Two Stable Isotopes of Hydrogen: D and H Nitrogen:  $^{14}\text{N}$  and  $^{15}\text{N}$ 
  - 4.  $\text{N}_2 \nrightarrow \text{NH}_3$
  -

5. Never Forget Einstein:

# PROTOSOLAR HYDROGEN







- **Physical Properties of Main-Belt Comet P/2005 U1 (Read)**
- **The main-belt comets occupy dynamically asteroidal orbits in the main asteroid belt.**
- Henry H. Hsieh (1 and 2), David Jewitt (1), Masateru Ishiguro (3) ((1) University of Hawaii, (2) Queen's University Belfast, (3) Seoul National University)

**Alles sollte so einfach wie  
möglich gemacht werden, aber  
nicht einfacher.**

**Albert Einstein**