

DOMESTIC

Research hot springs in Eyjafjörður to gain an understanding of the beginning of life

Kristján Már Unnarsson writes · July 5, 2022 11:31 PM



The scientists sail into the harbor at Hjalteyri after a research dive down to the hot springs.

STRÝTAN.IS

An international team of scientists, sponsored by the US space agency, NASA, is now studying the hot springs in Eyjafjörður in order to investigate whether life could have evolved on Mars and to prepare further exploration expeditions to the planet. It is also hoped that the orbits will provide answers about the probability of life on other planets in the solar system.

The issue was covered [in Stöðvar 2's news](#) , but some might say that the American and Italian scientists, who diver Erlendur Bogason was bringing ashore to Hjalteyri, were researching the deity himself. Namely, they are looking for answers about the beginning of life in the universe by

studying the hot springs at the bottom of Eyjafjörður, which research professor Roy Price says is unique on Earth.



Roy Price is a research professor at Stony Brook University in New York. THE INTERVIEW IS TAKEN AT HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA IN REYKJAVÍK.

EINAR
ÁRNASON

What is particularly exciting are the compounds in the rocks that have also been found on the planet Mars.

"They are very similar to the mineral deposits on Mars, which are up to four billion years old. Four billion years ago, the planet Mars was covered with water. Then there were oceans like Earth," says Roy Price, a research professor at Stony Brook University in New York, who is leading the research.

To obtain drill core samples from the protected streams, the scientists received permission from the Environment Agency, the National Energy Authority and the Natural History Museums, but the wells are then closed. The main purpose is to gain a better understanding of Mars.



Drill core sample taken from a hot sprinkler. STREETS AFTER SAMPLING ARE THEN CLOSED AND THE WOUND HEALS AND DISAPPEARS WITH DEPOSITS FROM THE STRUTS.

ERLENDUR
BOGASON

"We want to gain an understanding of Mars in the early days and whether life thrives there. Was Mars in the early days a place where life could thrive, survive, evolve or even come into being?

This does not only concern Mars but life on other celestial planets in the solar system," says the professor.

In the old herring factory, in pots that were previously used for halibut farming, the scientists have succeeded in recreating springs from geothermal water from Hjalteyri, but it has the same chemical composition as the hot water that flows up through the springs and forms them.

"As our knowledge of this primitive metabolism we call rock life - life living on rocks and the chemical reactions of water and their composition - increases, as our knowledge of this increases, the more we know about the beginning of life on Earth, the possible life of others. planets and how life evolved," says Price.



From Hjalteyri by Eyjafjörður. THERE, SCIENTISTS SEEK ANSWERS ABOUT THE BEGINNINGS OF LIFE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

ARNAR
HALLDÓRSSON

The results from Eyjafjörður he believes can help NASA to find evidence of life on Mars.

"If we know where this environment is, we can direct future explorers, satellites, survey equipment to these places to study them better.

So by studying the environment of the fjord in northern Iceland, we can obtain more information on how this is done and use it to decide where on Mars exploration trips should be directed in the future, for example, "says the research professor.

Here you can see the news from Station 2:

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