



# First Detection of Complex Carbon Molecules Beyond Our Solar System

## Description

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Compounds called pyrenes have been detected in the Taurus molecular cloud

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A remarkable discovery reveals that a complex carbon compound, crucial for life on Earth, has been observed beyond our solar system for the first time. This finding supports the idea that the essential ingredients for life may indeed originate from space.

The universe's most prevalent carbon is found in carbon monoxide gas; however, the transformation into complex biological compounds with stronger bonds remains a mystery. Asteroids like Ryugu have shown this type of carbon, implying they may have delivered life's building blocks to Earth.

Recently, [Brett McGuire](#) and his MIT team detected a carbon-based molecule known as pyrene in the Taurus molecular cloud, a nearby star-forming region located 430 light-years away. Utilizing the [Green Bank Observatory](#) in West Virginia, they sought the radio signature of pyrene, crucial intermediaries between simpler gases and complex biological molecules.

Given the exceedingly low temperature of the cloud, just above absolute zero (-263°C), these carbon compounds are seen in a pre-stellar phase. McGuire adds, "We are uncovering the chemical archaeological record of our solar system while peering into the origins of another."

This research illuminates potential chemical pathways that may explain the genesis of life's building blocks on Earth, presenting an exciting avenue for further exploration.

Topics:

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Compounds** /'kɒm.paʊndz/ (noun): Substances formed from two or more elements chemically combined.
2. **Detected** /dɪ'tektɪd/ (verb): Discovered or identified the presence of something.
3. **Transformation** /,træns.fər'meɪ.jən/ (noun): The process of changing from one form to another.
4. **Biological** /,baɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ (adjective): Relating to biology or living organisms.
5. **Intermediaries** /,ɪn.tə'mi:.di.ər.ɪz/ (noun): Persons or entities that act as a link or go-between to facilitate an action.
6. **Genesis** /'dʒɛn.ə.sɪs/ (noun): The origin or mode of formation of something.

## Vocabulary quizzes

**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**



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1. Which term describes something innovative and pioneering?  
Option: Artificial  
Option: Groundbreaking  
Option: Enhancing  
Option: Artificial
  2. What term describes a material that allows light to pass through but diffuses it?  
Option: Translucent  
Option: Renewable  
Option: Emissions  
Option: Infrastructure
  3. Which term refers to introducing new ideas or methods?  
Option: Innovative  
Option: Mitigating  
Option: Associated  
Option: Verification
  4. Which term means connected or related to something?  
Option: Phenomenal  
Option: Biological  
Option: Artificial  
Option: Associated
  5. What term describes an energy source that is not depleted when used?  
Option: Simulate  
Option: Renewable  
Option: Genesis  
Option: Gleaned
  6. Which term is related to living organisms and their functions?  
Option: Biological  
Option: Detection  
Option: Confluence  
Option: Compounds
  7. What term refers to substances formed from two or more elements?  
Option: Transformation  
Option: Delineates  
Option: Compounds  
Option: Emissions

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8. Which term describes the origin or mode of formation of something?

Option: Infrastructure

Option: Genesis

Option: Confluence

Option: Ancestry

9. What term refers to the basic physical and organizational structures needed for a society or enterprise to function?

Option: Chronicles

Option: Mitigating

Option: Translucent

Option: Infrastructure

10. What term is used to describe substances released into the air especially by cars and factories?

Option: Associated

Option: Groundbreaking

Option: Emissions

Option: Artificial

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The invention of the smartphone truly \_\_\_\_\_ the way we communicate.

12. Regular exercise plays a key role in \_\_\_\_\_ your overall health.

13. The intelligence displayed by the chess-playing computer was completely \_\_\_\_\_.

14. Planting trees is one way of \_\_\_\_\_ the effects of climate change.

15. The team's performance in the championship was truly \_\_\_\_\_.

16. The book \_\_\_\_\_ the life of a young girl growing up in wartime.

17. The security system \_\_\_\_\_ unauthorized access to the building.

18. The report clearly \_\_\_\_\_ the key findings of the research.

19. From the data collected the researchers \_\_\_\_\_ valuable insights into consumer behavior.





20. The city is located at the \_\_\_\_\_ of two major rivers.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The new technology is the way we approach healthcare.
22. The sudden increase in sales was a that surprised everyone.
23. Economic growth and employment rates are important of a country's development.
24. The issue of climate change is highly with strong arguments on both sides.
25. Solar and wind energy are examples of energy sources.
26. Graduating from college was a significant in her life.
27. Planting trees is one way of the effects of climate change.
28. The symptoms are often with the onset of the disease.
29. The authenticity of the document requires careful .
30. Learning about her family's helped her understand her cultural background.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Groundbreaking 2. Translucent 3. Innovative 4. Associated 5. Renewable 6. Biological 7. Compounds 8. Genesis 9. Infrastructure 10. Emissions

**Gap-Fill:** 11. revolutionized 12. enhancing 13. artificial 14. mitigating 15. phenomenal 16. chronicles 17. detected 18. delineates 19. gleaned 20. confluence

**Matching sentence:** 1. revolutionizing 2. phenomenon 3. indicators 4. contentious 5. renewable 6. milestone 7. mitigating 8. associated 9. verification 10. ancestry

**CATEGORY**

- 1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

**Date Created**

2024/10/25

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