

SARS from Outer Space?

<http://www.space.com/astronotes/astronotes.html>

April 25, 2003

on

Chandra Wickramasinghe (Cardiff U.)

&

Milton Wainwright (Sheffield U.)

about what appeared on April 23 in the British tabloid newspaper The SUN

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/>



Chandra Wickramasinghe

Director of the Cardiff Centre for Astrobiology

former student of Fred Hoyle, with whom he co-developed the modern theory of panspermia



Sir Fred Hoyle (1915~2001)

"Space isn't remote at all. It's only an hour's drive away if your car could go straight upwards."

"There is a coherent plan in the universe, though I don't know what it's a plan for."



- ✓ Structure of stars
- ✓ Origin of the chemical elements in stars
- ✓ "Big Bang", or not --- Steady-State Universe
- ✓ Panspermia



Robert V. Wagoner (Standard U.), William A. Fowler (1911~1995, Nobel prize 1983), Fred Hoyle (1915~2001) and Donald D. Clayton (Clemson U.) in February 1967, between Sloan Laboratory and West Bridge Laboratory on the Caltech campus.

<http://photon.phys.clemson.edu/wwwpages/PhotoArchive/PhotoList/>

Panspermia --- Life is ubiquitous in the Universe. The Earth was seeded in the past, and is still being seeded, with microorganisms from comets.

2001 Jan --- balloon mission to gather microbes in the stratosphere (40 km up); studied by Wickramasinghe; a ton of them rained down to Earth; but could be of terrestrial origin too

2002 Dec --- published in *FEMS Letters* (a microbiology journal) by Milton Wainwright of analysis of the same sample → isolation of a fungus and two bacteria to have "notable differences in their detailed properties, possibly pointing to a different origin."

INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY OVER THE 2.9-3.9 μm WAVEBAND IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND ASTRONOMY

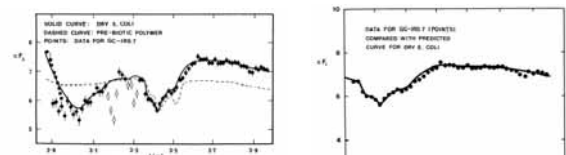
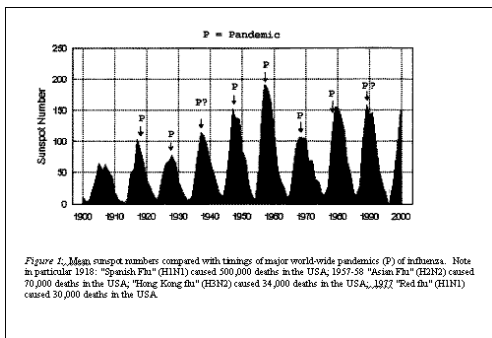


Fig. 2. The observed relative transmittance $T(\lambda)$ compared with two models: the solid curve and (dotted), 20% of which have equal weight, represent data for (S1) obtained in May 1982. The solid square represents data over the absorption wavelength range obtained on July 1986. The solid curve is the predicted curve for a mixture of water and ice. The dotted curve is the same but for a mixture of water and ice with a small amount of organic material. The size of the points represents the error of the measured curve in both wavelength and flux.

Hoyle et al. 1982, ApSS, 83, 405



How sunspot cycles (the black areas of chart) coincide with known influenza pandemics (noted with a P)

1918 Spanish

*I had a little bird,
Its name was Enza.
I opened the window,
And in-flu-enza.*



1957 Asian

1968 Hong Kong

1976 Swine

1977 Russian

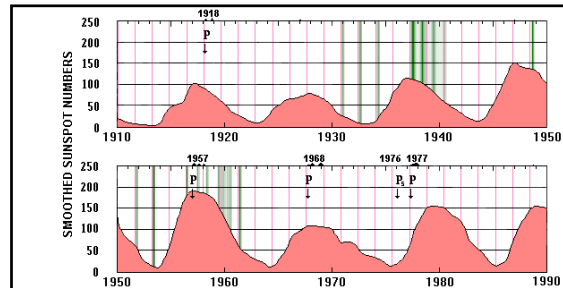
1997 Avian

Venus Inferior Conjunctions

Dates of Onsets

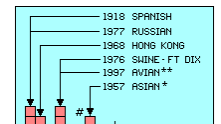
08 MAR 1918
15 JAN 1957*
30 OCT 1967
05 FEB 1976
15 MAY 1977
15 NOV 1996

2001 *Can J. Inf. Dis.* by Ken Tapping (Dominion Radio Ast. Obs.) and colleagues ---- historical records of flu pandemics and solar flare activity since early 1700s → a definite tendency for pandemics to occur during periods of solar maxima, and a statistical simulation suggested that the chance of the cycles being randomly coincidental was less than 2%



Venus inferior conjunction?

Legend: Smoothed sunspot numbers (orange area.) Venus inferior conjunctions with Earth (red vertical lines) Barber's bacterial invasions (green shaded vertical bars). Onset dates of influenza pandemics or pandemic scares (P's)



<http://www.ebicom.net/~rsf1/vel/1918ss.htm>

2002/04

584 Day Synodic Period

Donald R. Barber (Norman Lockyer Observatory News 01/1997): a *peculiar* sequence of air-borne/rain-water-borne yeast-like bacterial attacks on astronomical photographic plate emulsions at a British observatory from 1932 to 1963 ...



<http://www.ebicom.net/~rsf1/vel/1918.htm>

Venus has a negligible magnetic field → solar wind can disturb its atmosphere directly and blow away fractions of its upper atmosphere (including airborne particulate matter) *in comet-like fashion.* (Added 15 February 2003.)

In the new SARS claim, Wickramasinghe and Wainwright said the novel nature of the virus and the fact it was first detected in China point to the possibility of ET origins. The virus causing the disease might have arrived protected inside a comet, hung out in Earth's upper atmosphere for a while, then been dragged down by the high peaks of the Himalayas, according to the article.