

Approaches to the Detection of Life Outside the Solar System

It would have extremely far-reaching effects to find even a single instance of an extrasolar planet that has been altered by the evolution of life. The entire force of the scientific method might then be applied to deduce natural laws from numerous instances of the same phenomena. Life on Earth is simply one example from which it is impossible to extrapolate to other systems, despite Earth's amazing diversity. To solve the fundamental problem of comprehending the distribution of life in the cosmos, those other systems must be discovered in order to get out of this conundrum.

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