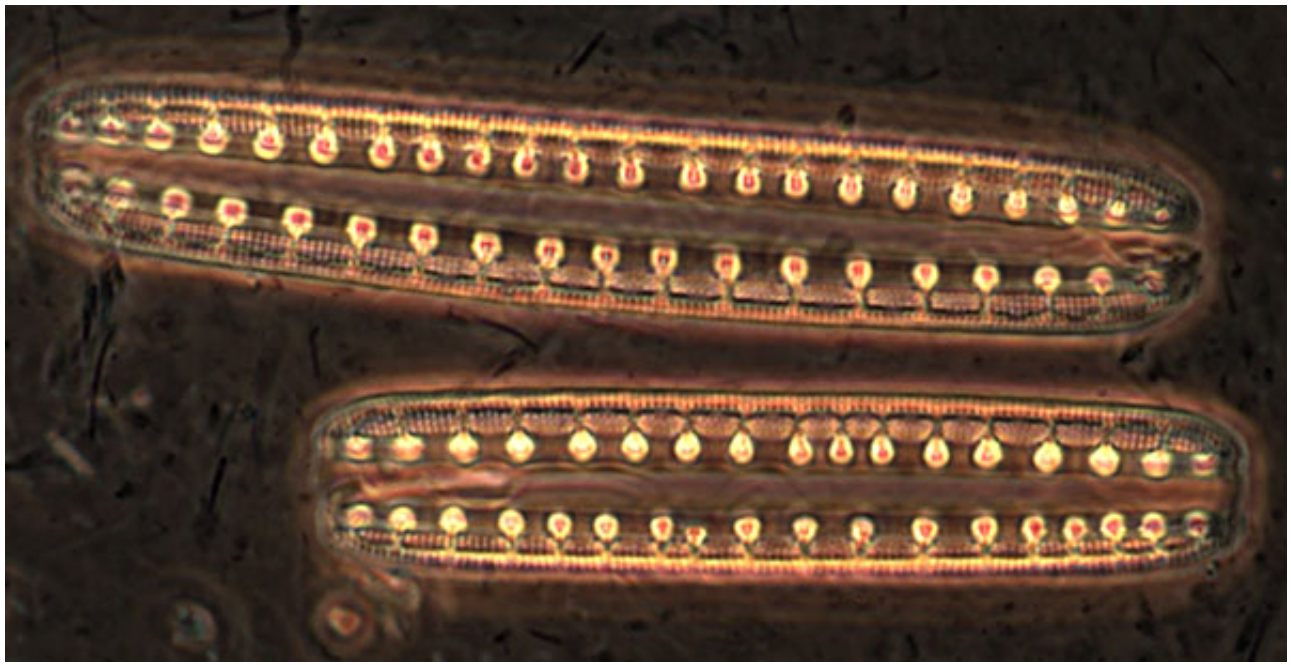
Extremophiles

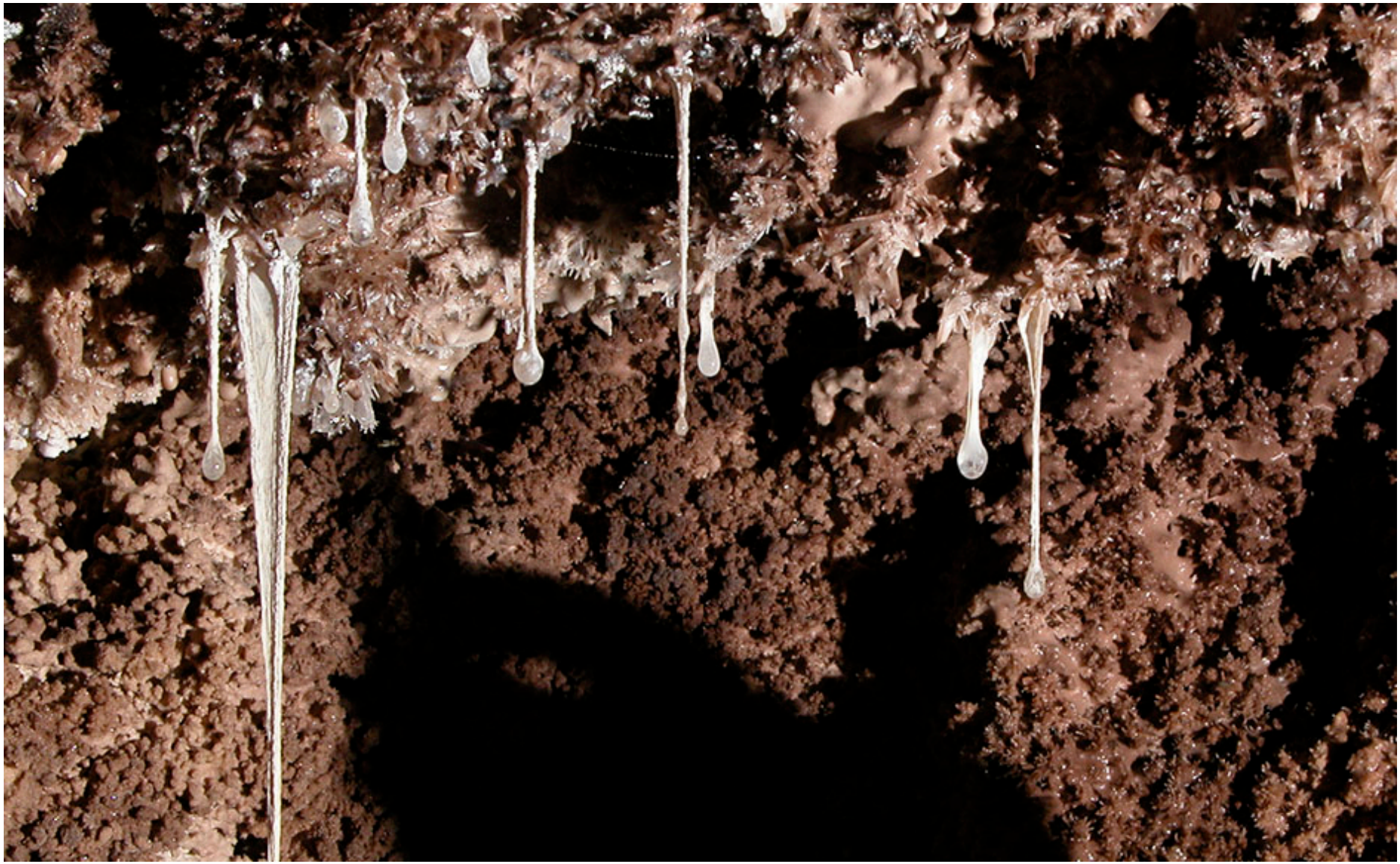
Life is found in some extreme environments on Earth: places where it's hot, cold, dark, acidic, salty or there's no oxygen.



Organisms that live in particularly tough environments are called **extremophiles**.

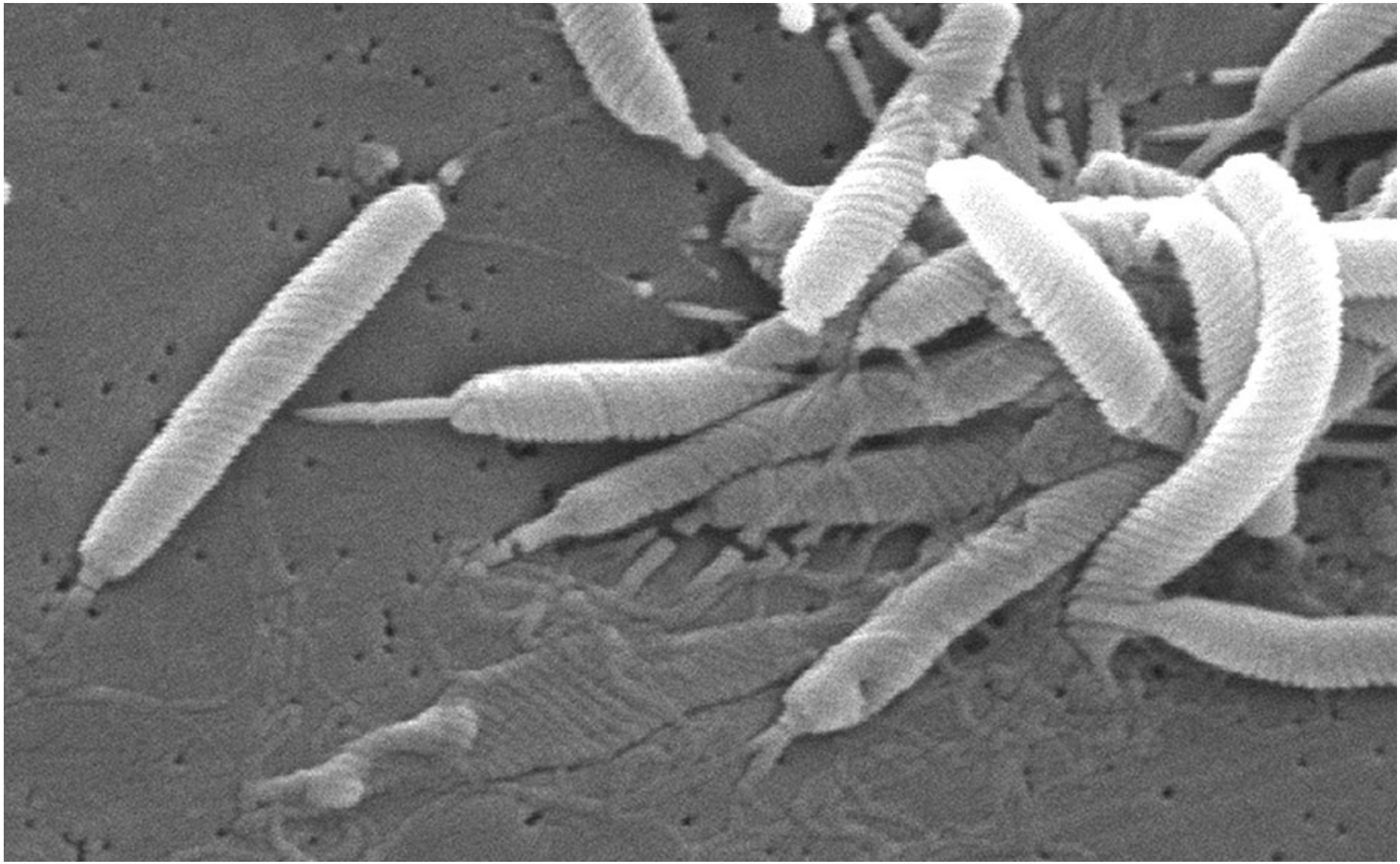
Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone National Park

methane ice worm



snottite

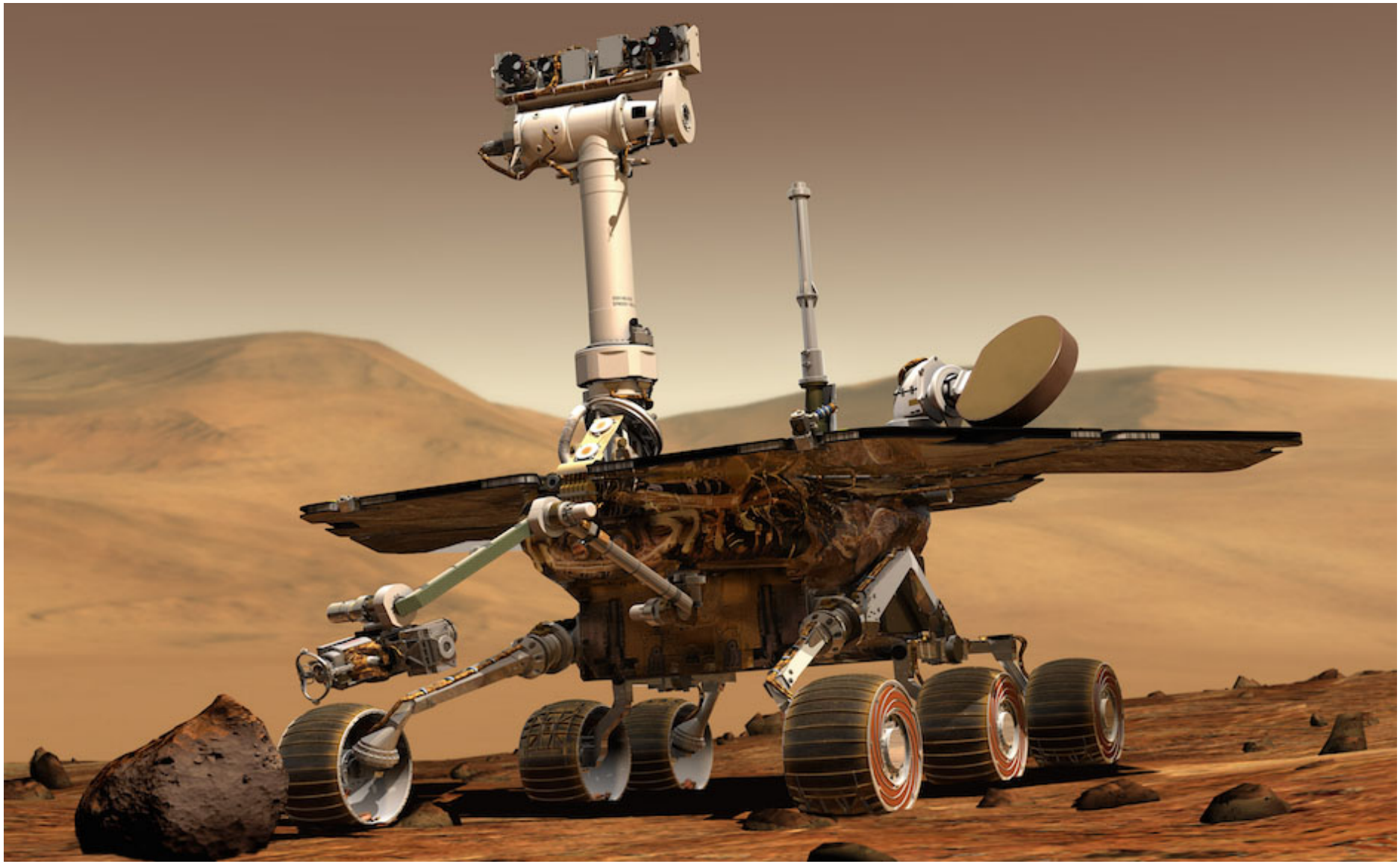
scaly-foot gastropod



Helicobacteria pylori

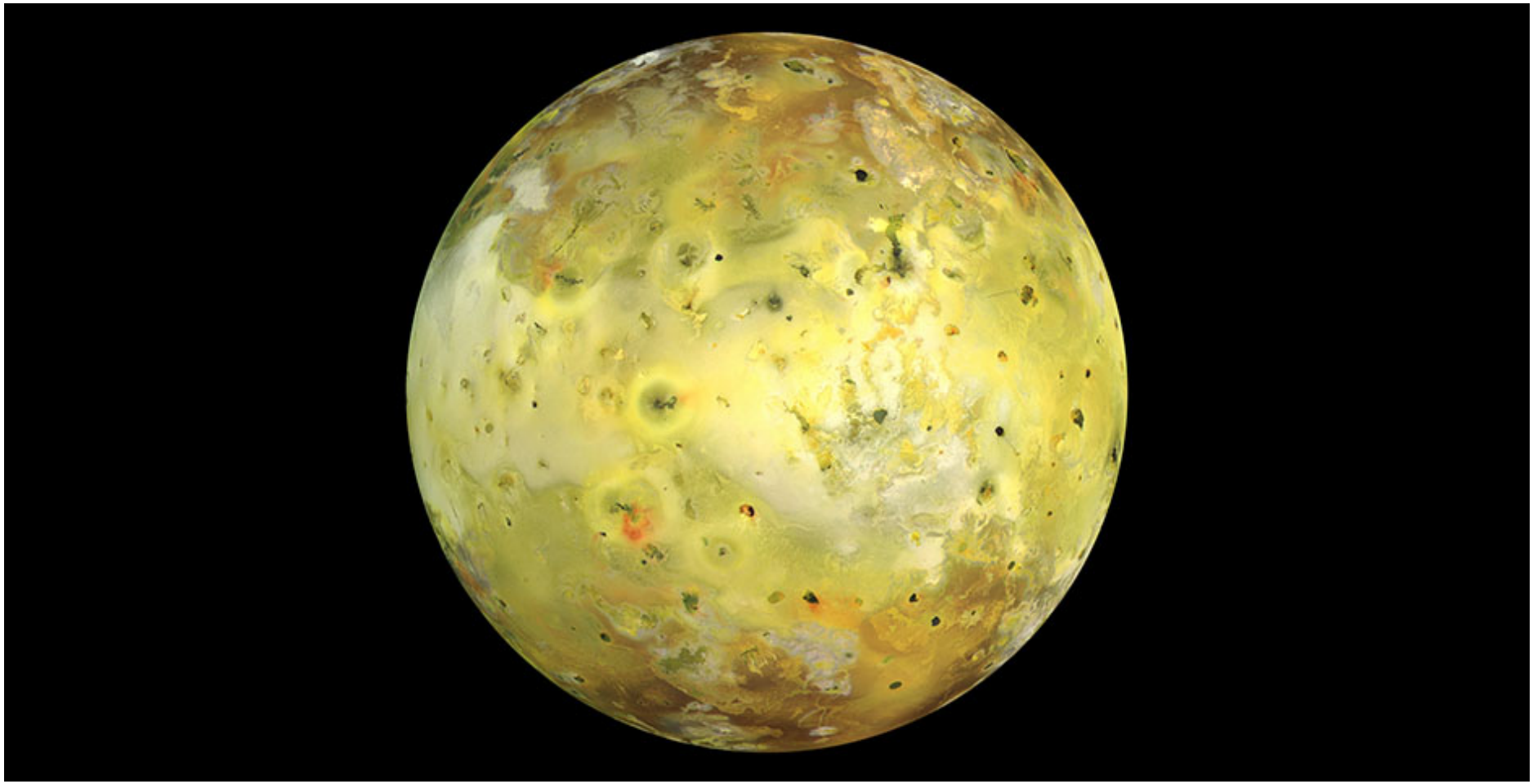
water bear (Tardigrade)

Could there be life on other planets, such as Mars?

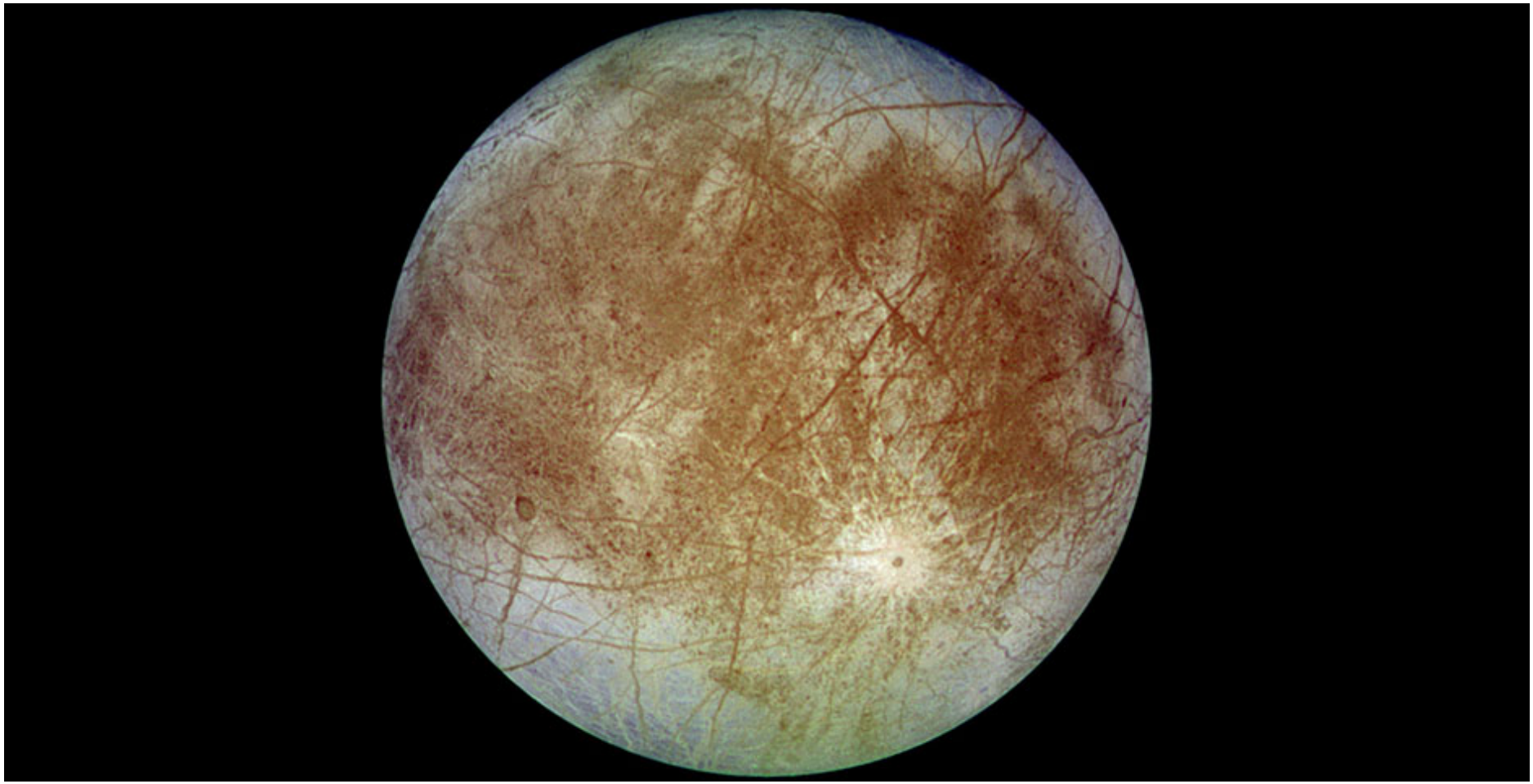


How could we find out?

Some scientists believe Jupiter's moons are the best place to look for life in the Solar System.



Io



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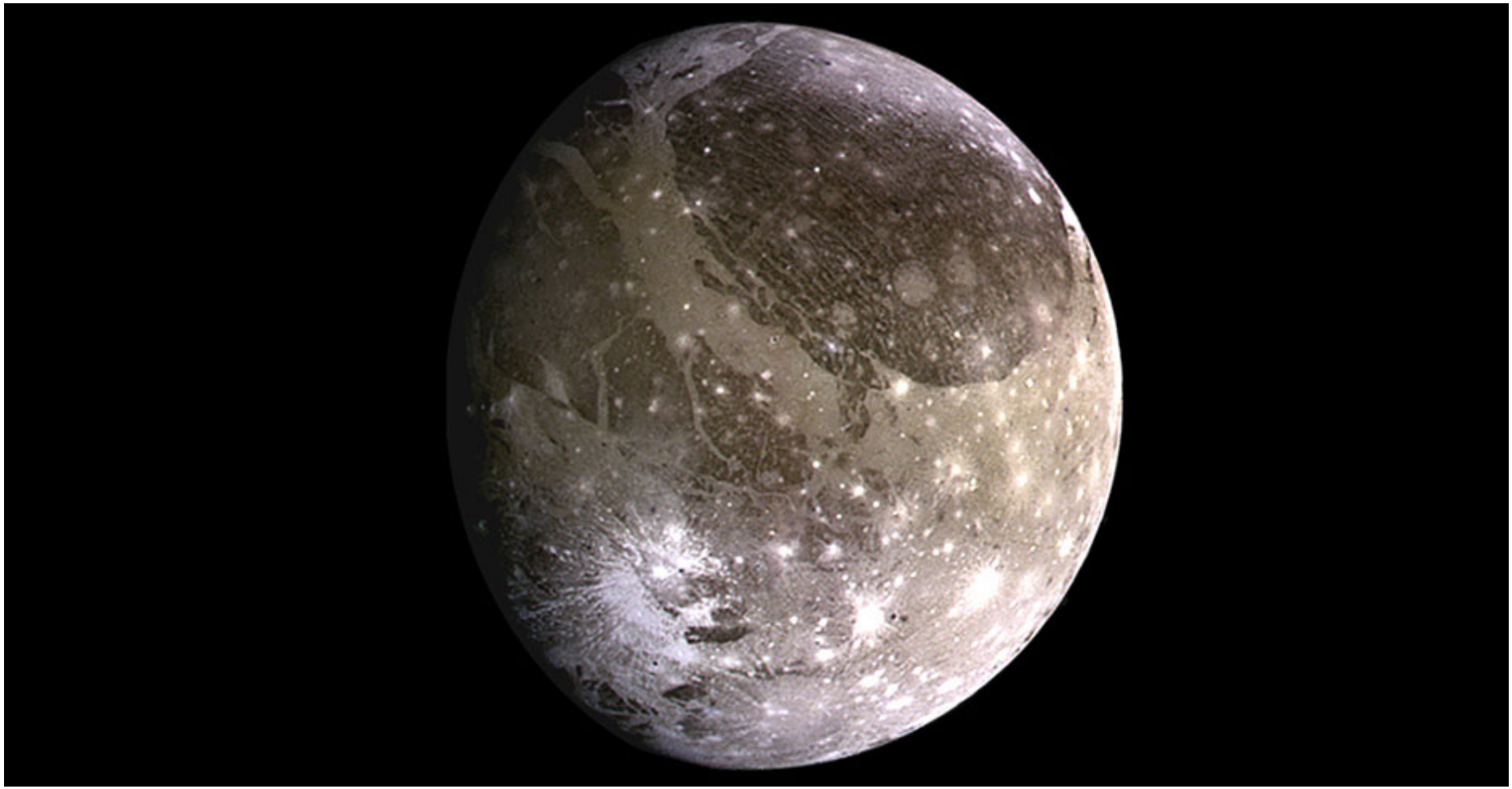
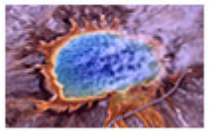


Ganymede

Callisto

Credits

Surirella (halophyte)
© D J Patterson



Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone Nat. Park
Jim Peaco, National Park Service

Methane ice worm
© NOAA

Snottite (subsurface bacteria) Cueva de las Sardinas
© Kenneth Ingham

Scaly-foot gastropod (Chrysomallon squamiferum)
© Chong Chen

Helicobacteria. CDC/Dr Patricia Fields,
Dr Collette Fitzgerald (PHIL #5715), 2004.

Water bear (Tardigrade)
© Darron Birgenheier

Curiosity's view of Martian soil and boulders
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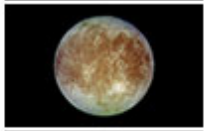
Artist's impression of a Mars rover on Mars
© NASA/JPL/Cornell University

Galilean satellites of Jupiter
© Jan Sandberg

Io
© NASA/JPL/University of Arizona



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Callisto
© NASA/JPL/DLR (German Aerospace Center)

Ganymede
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Exploring the Solar System 8: Extremophiles (presentation)

developed for the Department of Education Western Australia

spice
science teachers enrichment program

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