

# An Organism Survives Antarctica, and Maybe Mars

By JEFFREY KLUGER



Planet Mars  
Stocktrek / Corbis

**Say what you will about the simple, uninteresting lives of microorganisms, they're tough little critters.** You try surviving for a million and a half years without heat, food or sunlight and see how you do. A team of National Science Foundation researchers just discovered a species of Antarctic organisms that has accomplished exactly that — and the microbes' unlikely survival can tell us a lot not just about the adaptability of life on Earth, but the prospects for it on Mars.

The fact that organisms can survive in extreme — **seemingly lethal** — conditions is nothing new. Researchers have found creatures living at boiling vents on the floor of the ocean, in desert sands that virtually never see **water; fossilized** remains of microorganisms have even been found inside of rocks. Antarctic life, **however**, has always been a more complex matter. Antarctica was once a warmer, wetter land than it is now, but continental migration pushed it from place to place, leaving it — for the current epoch at least — at the bottom of the planet, where it became little more than a frozen desert.

A team led by microbiologist Jill Mikucki of Dartmouth College, set out to look for any such hangers.....

Comment: Pay special attention to the highlighted:

- 1- Stormy beginning of the introduction.
- 2- The application of "dash" in the sentence.
- 3- The application of transition (however) in the middle of the sentence rather than at the beginning of the sentence.