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A new theory on the origin of lunar water

October 6, 12:50 PM - Houston Space News Examiner - Mark Whittington

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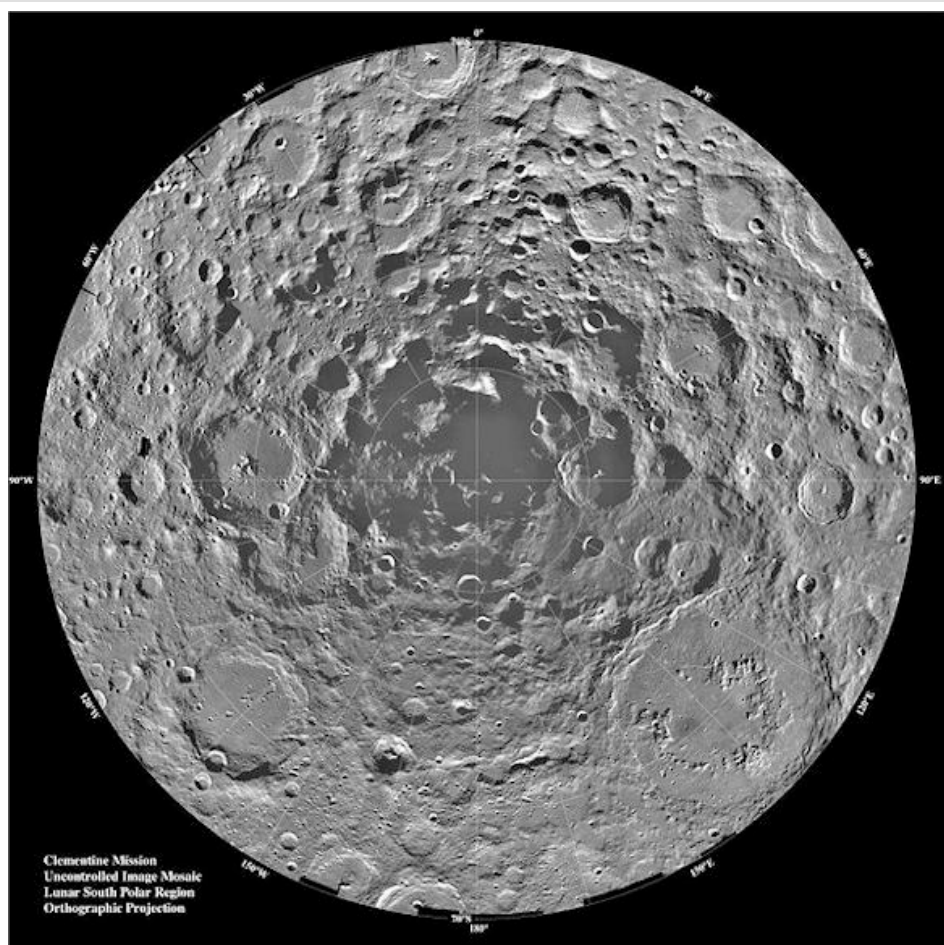
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Lunar South Pole Courtesy NASA

The recent [discovery of water in lunar topsoil](#) has scientists trying to figure out where the water came from. The theories that are more prominent suggest that the water came from outside the

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Moon, either from hydrogen from solar wind combining with oxygen bound in lunar soil, or from the remnants of comet impacts.

[Astrophysicist Arlin Crotts of Columbia University has a third theory](#). Crotts suggests that the water found in the lunar top soil has seeped up from the interior of the Moon, through fissures and cracks, pushed out by the immense pressure inside the Moon. Crotts has submitted a paper describing and defending his theory to an academic journal where it is being peer reviewed prior to publication.


Crott's theory is disputed by other scientists, while others are waiting for the publication until casting judgment. In any case, no one seems to be suggesting (for now) water in abundance in the Lunar interior.


Naturally further study, consisting of missions to the Moon, will be needed to study the question of lunar water. Certainly these would include a robotic lander with an instrument package, but prospecting for lunar water also seems to be a good job for future astronaut explorers.

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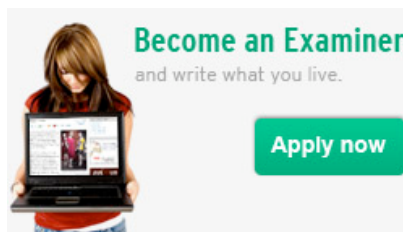
Brad Sylvester says:

I'm still voting for comet impacts as the primary source of lunar water. I'm not buying this theory that there's an abundance of deep lunar water seeping up.

October 6, 1:47 PM

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