Mystery Behind Venus' Extreme Dryness

Source: TH

Recently, scientists have suggested that a reaction, called the **HCO+ Dissociative recombination Reaction (DR)** that occurs above the surface of **Venus**, is responsible for the disappearance of water in the planet.

- DR occurs when HCO+ absorbs an electron and breaks up into CO and a hydrogen atom which then escapes into space, losing out water without evaporation.
    - **Other reasons cited by scientists:**
        - **Venus' harsh atmosphere** caused by a greenhouse effect from CO2.
        - **Venus' proximity to the Sun** (heat and UV rays breaking down water molecules into H and O2 atoms).
- **Venus (Earth's twin)** is the second planet from the Sun, and the sixth largest planet.
    - It is the **2nd brightest** natural object in the night sky after the Moon.
        - Venus has no moon or satellite of its own.
    - Only Venus and Uranus rotate in a **clockwise direction** on their axis, while others rotate in anti-clockwise direction.
    - A day on Venus is actually longer than a year, as it takes longer for Venus to complete one rotation on its axis than to orbit the Sun.

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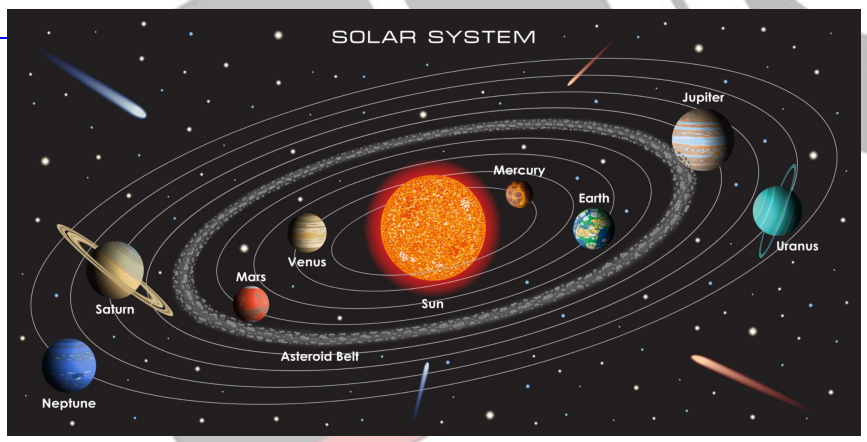

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