

NASA/CR-97- 205844

FINAL
SUMMARY
10-17
01-23-97

Final Report for
"Planetary Habitability"
Grant No. NAGW-1911

October 1, 1991 - June 30, 1997

Submitted by

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This grant was entitled "Planetary Habitability" and the work performed under it related to elucidating the conditions that lead to habitable, i.e. Earth-like, planets. Below are listed publications for the past two and a half years that came out of this work. The main thrusts of the research involved: 1) showing under what conditions atmospheric O₂ and O₃ can be considered as evidence for life on a planet's surface, 2) determining whether CH₄ may have played a role in warming early Mars, 3) studying the effect of varying UV levels on Earth-like planets around different types of stars to see whether this would pose a threat to habitability, and 4) studying the effect of chaotic obliquity variations on planetary climates and determining whether planets that experienced such variations might still be habitable.

Several of these topics involve ongoing research that has been carried out under a new grant number, but which continues to be funded by NASA's Exobiology program.

Publications resulting from Grant NAGW-1911

- Kasting, J.F. O₂ concentrations in dense primitive atmospheres: commentary, Planet. Space Sci. **43**, 11-13, 1995.
- Kasting, J.F. Fit for life: climate stability on Earth and the implications for life elsewhere, Science Spectra, issue 2, pp. 32-36, 1995.
- Kasting, J.F. Habitable zones around stars: an update, in Circumstellar Habitable Zones, L.R. Doyle, ed., Travis House Publications, Menlo Park, CA, pp. 17-28, 1996.
- Williams, D.M., J.F. Kasting, and K. Caldeira. Chaotic obliquity variations and planetary habitability, in Circumstellar Habitable Zones, L.R. Doyle, ed., Travis House Publications, Menlo Park, CA, pp. 43-62, 1996.
- Kasting, J.F. Planetary atmosphere evolution: Do other habitable planets exist and can we detect them? Astrophys. Space Sci. **241**, 3-24. Reprinted in: The Search for Extra-Solar Terrestrial Planets: Techniques and Technology, J. M. Shull, H.A. Thronson, and S.A. Stern, eds., Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht (1997), pp. 3-24, 1996.
- Williams, D.M., J.F. Kasting, and R.A. Wade. Habitable moons around extrasolar giant planets, Nature **385**, 234-236, 1997.
- Kasting, J.F. Environmental constraints on the origin of life, Commentarii **4**, N. 3, pp. 133-147, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Rome. Reprinted in: Encyclopedia Italiana (in press), 1997.
- Kasting, J.F. Habitable zones around low mass stars and the search for extraterrestrial life, Origins of Life **27**, 291-307, 1997.
- Kasting, J.F. Warming early Earth and Mars (Perspective), Science **276**, 1213-1215, 1997.
- Kasting, J.F., D.C.B. Whittet, and W.R. Sheldon. Ultraviolet radiation from F and K stars and implications for planetary habitability, Origins of Life **27**, 413-420, 1997.