

TITLE: Astrobiology at the Trinidad Pitch Lake.

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Astrobiology of bioastronomy is the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and fate of life throughout the universe. This project explores aspects such as the age of the Earth followed by the evolution and possible origins of life. The diversity and culture of life are firstly explored, with special emphasis being made on the ability of certain microorganisms to thrive under extreme conditions known as extremophiles. This is the foundation of the project, as by using experimental analysis; it would create an insight to whether or not life can exist on other planetary bodies in our solar system. Methods used to search for existence of life are researched, noting their progress to the present time. The diversity of microbiological life surviving in extreme conditions is examined in the experimental conditions of the Pitch Lake at La Brea in Trinidad. These results are discussed and a feasibility study of the investigations of such astrobiological experiments on the campus of the University of the West Indies is presented.