Life

Life is a wonder of its own. It conceivably struck this planet at least some 3.7 billion years ago,[1] arguably the consequence of a phospholipidic layer-bound *quantum leap* in a soup of organic precursors.[2] From that singular moment on, little has been spared in guise of amazement.[3]

The first factual evidence of life on Earth appears inscribed in the fossil record some 3.5 billion years ago. It consists mainly of microfossils and ancient rock structures in Greenland and Australia called stromatolites,[4] the product of the metabolism of photosynthesizing cyanobacteria.

> There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.

How ironic that one of the best models to understand this order of things is actually one of its most harrowing violations: cancer.

Cancer

[1] J. William Schopf, Anatoliy B. Kudryavtsev, Andrew D. Czaja, and Abhishek B. Tripathi. Evidence of archean life: Stromatolites and microfossils. *Precambrian Research*, 158(3–4):141–155, October 2007. ISSN 0301-9268. doi: 10.1016/j.precamres.2007.04.009. URL `http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301926807001209`

[2] Ohtomo et al., 2014; and Miller and Urey, 1959

[3] [**(alias?)**]

[4] Ohtomo et al., 2014; and Noffke et al., 2013

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