

Space Chat Podcast 19th June, 2026 Topics



Topics:

- **Active black holes are more common than we thought**

Astronomers have created a comprehensive census of active galactic nuclei (AGN), galaxies powered by a feeding central black hole. The new census, led by data pipeline developer Mugdha Polimera at the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, began while she was a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, working with two major galaxy survey teams. The study shows that some 2% to 5% of dwarf galaxies host active black holes, some five times more than found in most prior work.

<https://www.astronomy.com/science/active-black-holes-are-more-common-than-we-thought/>

- **NASA fails to re-establish contact, decommissions MAVEN**

NASA has ended its attempts to reconnect with the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft and begun decommissioning the orbiter, closing the book on a mission that spent over a decade studying how Mars lost its atmosphere.

<https://www.astronomy.com/science/nasa-fails-to-reestablish-contact-decommissions-maven/>

- **Could Earth have sent life to Jupiter's moon Europa?**

Could Earth have seeded Jupiter's moon Europa with bacterial life, where it could have taken hold in Europa's ocean and perhaps evolved into something more? That's the hypothesis of a new paper in the International Journal of Astrobiology by Zaza Osmanov of the Free University of Tbilisi in Georgia.

<https://phys.org/news/2026-06-earth-life-jupiter-moon-europa.html>