

# EPHEMERAL LAKES

Name

Professor

Course name

Date



**Prime-Essay.net**  
*Custom writing service since 1998*

## “Far-off Cousin of Part-Time African Lake Found on Titan”

ESA, Noordwijk

**Astronomy.com**

<http://www.astronomy.com/News-Observing/News/2012/04/Far-off%20cousin%20of%20part-time%20African%20lake%20found%20on%20Titan.aspx>

April 20, 2012

This article deals with the astronomical research. The author gives the information about the ephemeral lakes – “large, shallow depressions that sometimes fill with liquid” (2012). He compares Ontario Lacus with Etosha Pan. Ontario Lacus is situated in Titan’s southern hemisphere. Titan is known to be the moon of Saturn. As for Etosha Pan, this lake is situated in Namibia, Africa. The observances, which were made by the Cassini orbiter, prove that natural features of their land surfaces and conditions of climate are similar.

The author accents that Saturn’s moon is only one known planet, except Earth, that has stable liquids on its surface (2012). Academia used to consider Ontario Lacus to be filled with liquid propane, methane and ethane. Nevertheless, the new researches prove that the scientists were mistaken.

The author gives information about the resemblance of cycles between Earth and Titan. The only difference is that a water cycle is essential for our planet, while Saturn’s moon has a hydrocarbon cycle. The cycle of Titan is based on nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon.

The following article contains the photos of Ontario Lacus and Etosha Pan. They illustrate the ephemeral lakes that are so alike despite of being so far from each other.

The article “Far-off Cousin of Part-Time African Lake Found on Titan” includes the words of Nicolas Altobelli about the planetology. He is convinced that comparative planetology is the key to understanding the structure of other planets. However, we do not have all the necessary equipment to investigate the surfaces and the cycles of distant worlds. That is why one has to find other ways to research the bodies of the Solar System. With the help of comparative planetology, the scientists had the possibility to come to find “cousin” of an African lake on the distant Titan.

## References

Noordwijk, (2012). Far-off cousin of part-time African lake found on Titan. *Astronomy.com*.

Retrieved from

<http://www.astronomy.com/News-Observing/News/2012/04/Far-off%20cousin%20of%20part-time%20African%20lake%20found%20on%20Titan.aspx>