

Review of: "A Case for Nature in Long-Haul Space Exploration"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The text is well written, and its main purpose is to recommend and defend the incorporation of biophilic design in the planning of future manned space missions and even, why not, in some ongoing ones. The reasons for this are well founded in the references cited in the text.

Biophilic design deals with the incorporation of elements from nature into the environments where people are present and live. The text describes the importance of this for people's general well-being and presents references that corroborate that exposure to nature decisively impacts good cognitive performance, which assumes special importance in the case of long term manned space missions, as argued by the authors.

Particularly, I do not see this text as a scientific paper, due to the lack of the conventional structure of these (with description of methodology, results, conclusions, etc.). Even so, the suggestion presented captured my attention by its importance. I don't believe that anyone would disagree with it. In this sense, I reinforce the mentioned recommendation for the planning of future missions and some current ones (thinking about missions extended missions on board a space station) by the various institutions and space agencies.

The article also presents a simple proposal that could be applied from now, using the already existing on-board equipment. In fact, it would be interesting to know what sort of biophilic design already exists or could be applied on the ISS (International Space Station). It would be a perfect place to test different biophilic approaches. The view that most of us space scientists currently have on this subject, that is, on the presence of nature in manned space environments, is somewhat confined to a bunch of edible plants on a shelf inside a greenhouse. This paper shows the importance of changing this view in the missions to come.