

What's surfacing about Bennu?

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The recent NASA mission to asteroid Bennu, OSIRIS-REx, is bringing back samples gathered on the surface of a dark, water-rich asteroid. In the process of collecting those samples, it discovered that Bennu has a surface that, on the surface, doesn't make sense: it looks like it is covered with boulders, but it absorbs heat like a powder. What's going on, and how did it get that way? Our measurements of the most likely analog meteorite type, CM carbonaceous chondrites, suggest a surprising answer.