4	Narrow loophole for H_2 -dominated atmospheres on habitable rocky planets around M dwarfs
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10	ABSTRACT
11	Habitable rocky planets around M dwarfs that have H ₂ -dominated atmospheres, if they exist, would
12	permit characterizing habitable exoplanets with detailed spectroscopy using JWST, owing to their
13	extended atmospheres and small stars. However, the H_2 -dominated atmospheres that are consistent
14	with habitable conditions cannot be too massive, and a moderate-size H ₂ -dominated atmosphere will
15	lose mass to irradiation-driven atmospheric escape on rocky planets around M dwarfs. We evaluate
16	volcanic outgassing and serpentinization as two potential ways to supply H_2 and form a steady-state
17	H ₂ -dominated atmosphere. For rocky planets of $1-7 M_{\oplus}$ and early, mid, and late M dwarfs, the
18	expected volcanic outgassing rates from a reduced mantle fall short of the escape rates by $> \sim 1$ order
19	of magnitude, and a generous upper limit of the serpentinization rate is still less than the escape rate
20	by a factor of a few. Special mechanisms that may sustain the steady-state H ₂ -dominated atmosphere
21	include direct interaction between liquid water and mantle, heat-pipe volcanism from a reduced mantle,
22	and hydrodynamic escape slowed down by efficient upper-atmospheric cooling. It is thus unlikely to find
23	moderate-size, H ₂ -dominated atmospheres on rocky planets of M dwarfs that would support habitable
24	environments.

- Keywords: Exoplanet atmospheres Exoplanet surfaces Extrasolar rocky planets Super Earths 25 — Exoplanet evolution — Transmission spectroscopy 26
 - 1. INTRODUCTION

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Rocky planets with H₂-dominated atmospheres would 28 be ideal targets for atmospheric characterization via 29 transmission spectroscopy, because of their large atmo-30 spheric scale height that causes large expected spectral 31 features (e.g., Miller-Ricci et al. 2008; Seager & Dem-32 ing 2010; Greene et al. 2016). A moderately irradiated 33 rocky planet with a H₂-dominated atmosphere may have 34 surface pressure and temperature consistent with liq-35 uid water (Pierrehumbert & Gaidos 2011; Wordsworth 36 2012; Ramirez & Kaltenegger 2017; Koll & Cronin 37 2019). Such potentially habitable worlds sustained 38 by H₂-dominated atmospheres, if they exist around M 39 dwarfs, would unlock the opportunity to study extra-40 solar habitability with spectroscopy (e.g., Seager et al. 41

2013), as TESS and ground-based surveys have found 42 temperate rocky planets around M dwarfs (e.g., Sebas-43 tian et al. 2021; Kunimoto et al. 2022), and JWST has 44 provided the sensitivity to analyze any H₂-dominated at-45 mospheres on them with a wide spectral coverage (e.g., 46 47 Batalha et al. 2018). Here we ask: Are such worlds likely? 48

To have surface liquid water, the H₂-dominated atmo-49 sphere cannot be much larger than ~ 10 bar, because the 50 surface temperature is primarily a function of the size of 51 the atmosphere (this is valid for the stellar irradiation 52 of $200 - 1400 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ (Koll & Cronin 2019)). The exact 53 size and irradiation limit depends on the cloud albedo 54 effect (e.g., Popp et al. 2015). This moderate-size atmo-55 sphere is much smaller than the massive H₂-dominated 56 atmospheres proposed to explain the sub-Neptune-sized 57 low-density planet population, which are typically 1%58 planet mass or $> 10^4$ bar (e.g., Rogers et al. 2023). A 59 10-bar H₂ atmosphere would only add $< \sim 0.1 R_{\oplus}$ to 60 the planetary radius, which can be accommodated by 61

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typical uncertainties in planetary mass, radius, and Fe
content (Luque & Pallé 2022).

Temperate planets around M dwarfs receive intense 64 high-energy irradiation from host stars because of their 65 close-in orbits, and this intense irradiation can drive 66 hydrodynamic escape from a H₂-dominated atmosphere 67 (e.g., Salz et al. 2016; Kubyshkina et al. 2018a,b). The 68 high-energy irradiation will be measured by a bevy of 69 new spacecraft (Ardila et al. 2022; France et al. 2023). 70 We are thus motivated to determine the lifetime of a 71 moderate-size H₂ atmosphere – permitting surface liq-72 uid water – on a large rocky planet orbiting an M dwarf 73 against hydrodynamic escape, and evaluate the geologic 74 processes that could resupply the H_2 atmosphere. 75

76 2. ATMOSPHERIC ESCAPE

The hydrodynamic escape rate, $f_{\rm es}$ (kg s⁻¹), can be approximated by the energy-limited escape rate formula,

$$f_{\rm es} = \frac{\eta_{\rm es}(F_{\rm X} + F_{\rm EUV})\pi R_{\rm p}^3 a^2}{KGM_{\rm p}},\qquad(1)$$

where $F_{\rm X}$ and $F_{\rm EUV}$ are the stellar fluxes in X-ray (5-100 79 Å) and extreme ultraviolet (EUV, 100-1240 Å), a > 1 is 80 the ratio between the X-ray/EUV absorbing radius and 81 the (optical) planetary radius, $K \leq 1$ is a factor that 82 accounts for the Roche lobe effect (Erkaev et al. 2007), 83 and $\eta_{\rm es}$ is the escape efficiency. Recent hydrodynamic 84 escape models find the escape efficiency to be in a range 85 of 0.1 - 0.25 for solar-abundance atmospheres (Salz et al. 86 87 2016) and Equation (1) is a good approximation of the full hydrodynamic calculations in the Jeans escape pa-88 rameter regime for temperate rocky planets (Jeans es-89 cape parameter = 25 - 60, Kubyshkina et al. 2018a,b). 90 For a conservative estimate of the escape rate, we adopt 91 $\eta_{\rm es} = 0.1, a = 1, \text{ and } K = 1.$ 92

As shown in Table 1, we pick GJ 832, GJ 436, and 93 TRAPPIST-1 as the representative stars for early M, 94 mid M, and late M dwarfs. Their emission spectra in 95 X-ray, Lyman- α , FUV, and NUV bands have been mea-96 sured, and their emission spectra and fluxes in the EUV 97 band can be inferred from these measurements (Peacock 98 et al. 2019a,b). We find that the lifetime of a 10-bar H_2 99 atmosphere on a rocky planet that receives Earth-like 100 insolation from these stars would be uniformly < 0.1101 Ga. Thus, a source of H_2 would be needed to maintain 102 such an atmosphere. 103

3. VOLCANIC OUTGASSING

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We first consider volcanic outgassing as the source of H₂ (e.g., Liggins et al. 2020). The volcanic outgassing rate, f_{og} (kg s⁻¹), can be modeled by the following equation,

$$f_{\rm og} = \eta_{\rm og} V x_{\rm H},\tag{2}$$

where V is the rate of magma generation, $x_{\rm H}$ is the hydrogen content (wt %) of magma that degasses, and $\eta_{\rm og}$ is the outgassing efficiency. We do not expect the outgassing efficiency to be close to unity because, even though extrusive volcanism (magma that reaches and degases at the planetary surface) can probably degas effectively (but often not completely), intrusive volcanism (magma that does not reach the surface) probably degases poorly, especially for H₂ (to be detailed later in this section). For Earth, the extrusive:intrusive ratio is typically 3:1 to 10:1 (White et al. 2006), and so as a fiducial value, we assume $\eta_{\rm og} = 0.1$.

The rate of volcanism can be estimated for a rocky planet by modeling its thermal evolution history. We adopt the geodynamics model of Kite et al. (2009) for the rate of volcanism, which used a melting model from pMELTS (Ghiorso et al. 2002) for the plate tectonic mode and Katz et al. (2003) for the stagnant lid mode (Table 2). Focusing first on the planets around field M dwarfs, we take the 4-Gyr age values for the rate of volcanism. The values for the plate tectonic and stagnant lid modes are similar. Detailed models of mantle convection in the stagnant-lid regime predict that volcanism would cease much sooner than what Table 2 indicates (Noack et al. 2017; Dorn et al. 2018), but this model uncertainty does not impact the conclusion of this paper. For volcanic outgassing to sustain the atmosphere, it is required that $f_{es} = f_{og}$. With f_{es} and V, we derive the required $x_{\rm H}$ and list the values in Table 1.

Arc volcanoes on Earth, which are formed by flux melting caused by release of water from subduction of plates rich in hydrated materials, have magmas that contain 1 - 7 wt % water (e.g., Rasmussen et al. 2022). The water content in the mid-ocean ridge basalt and the ocean island basalt is lower by 1 - 2 orders of magnitude (Dixon et al. 2002). Complete outgassing of 1 - 7wt % water in the form of H₂ would provide an $x_{\rm H}$ of 0.1 - 0.8 wt %. We consider this to be a very generous upper limit; comparing it with Table 1 shows that it is very unlikely for volcanic outgassing to sustain the H₂ atmosphere.

The hydrogen content of the magma for degassing depends on the oxygen fugacity of the magma and the pressure at which degassing takes place. We use the magma degassing and speciation model of Gaillard & Scaillet (2014) to calculate $x_{\rm H}$ for the typical volatile content of terrestrial magmas and a wide range of oxygen fugacities (Figure 1). The H₂ content is higher for a more reducing magma and when degassing at a lower pressure. In addition to counting the H₂ degassing, one may also include the potential for atmospheric photochemistry to post-process CO to form H₂, via CO + H₂O \longrightarrow CO₂ +

Star	Type	F (erg	$s^{-1} cm^{-2}$)	$f_{\rm es} \ (10^4 \ {\rm kg \ s^{-1}})$		Life of 10-bar atmos (Gyr)			Required $x_{\rm H}$ (wt %)			
		X-ray	EUV	$1 M_{\oplus}$	$3~M_\oplus$	7 M_\oplus	1 M_{\oplus}	$3~M_\oplus$	$7~M_\oplus$	1 M_{\oplus}	$3~M_\oplus$	7 M_{\oplus}
GJ 832	M1.5	2.17	149	3.1	2.3	2.2	0.05	0.07	0.09	9.2	1.7	0.35
GJ 436	M3.5	8.71	229	4.9	3.6	3.4	0.03	0.04	0.06	14	2.7	0.54
TRAPPIST-1	M8	171	1097^{*}	26	19	18	0.006	0.008	0.01	77	14	2.9

Table 1. Escape rates and lifetimes of a 10-bar H₂ atmosphere, and the required hydrogen content in magma for degassing to sustain this atmosphere, on a hypothetical rocky planet of an M dwarf. The distance between the planet and the star results in a bolometric stellar flux the same as Earth's insolation (i.e., the 1-AU equivalent distance). The X-ray fluxes (5-100Å) are measured by XMM-Newton (Loyd et al. 2016; Ehrenreich et al. 2015; Wheatley et al. 2017) and the EUV fluxes (100-1240Å) are based on PHOENIX synthetic spectra guided by FUV and NUV observations (Peacock et al. 2019a,b). *Bourrier et al. (2017) reported a much lower EUV flux (126 erg s⁻¹ cm⁻² at TRAPPIST-1 e) based on Lyman- α measurements, but using this lower value does not change the conclusion of this paper.

Mode	Plate tectonics			Stagnant lid			
Age (Gyr)	2	4	6	2	4	6	
$1 M_{\oplus}, 1 R_{\oplus}$	8	1.5	0.5	7	1.5	0	
$3 M_{\oplus}, 1.3 R_{\oplus}$	-	2	0.7	-	2.5	0	
7 M_{\oplus} , 1.7 R_{\oplus}	-	4	1	-	3.5	0.7	

Table 2. Rate of volcanism (the mass of magma production divided by the mass of planet, in unit of current Earth's value $3.7516 \times 10^{-19} \text{ s}^{-1}$), based on the parameterized model of Kite et al. (2009). Dashes correspond to the heat-pipe tectonic regime.

 H_2 . The complete post-processing means that degassing 161 1 mole CO would be equivalent to degassing 1 mole H_2 , 162 and this situation is shown as dashed lines in Figure 1. 163 However, $x_{\rm H}$ predicted by the geochemical model, even 164 when including the CO conversion, is at least one order 165 of magnitude lower than the minimum required $x_{\rm H}$ for 166 a 7- M_{\oplus} planet around an early M dwarf (Table 1). This 167 again indicates that volcanic outgassing is unlikely to 168 sustain an H_2 atmosphere. 169

4. SERPENTINIZATION

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We turn to serpentinization as an alternative source 171 of H₂. Serpentinization is water-rock reactions between 172 warm water and mafic and ultramafic rocks (usually 173 olivine-rich) in the fresh crust. This process probably 174 occurs on all rocky planets with liquid water, and it may 175 have produced H_2 -rich water on early Earth (Sleep et al. 176 2004) and H₂ and CH₄ on early Mars and on modern 177 Enceladus (Oze & Sharma 2005; Chassefière & Leblanc 178 2011; Batalha et al. 2015; Zandanel et al. 2021). 179

For an upper bound of the H₂ production rate from 180 serpentinization, we assume that 1 mole H_2 is produced 181 for every 3 moles Fe^{2+} oxidized, as the process can be 182 written as $H_2O + 3 \text{ FeO} \longrightarrow H_2 + \text{Fe}_3O_4$. We also as-183 sume that the fresh crust is entirely composed of olivine, 184 $(Mg_{0.9}Fe_{0.1})_2SiO_4$, and all Fe²⁺ is used by serpentiniza-185 tion to produce H_2 . The olivine has a molar mass of 186 146.9 g, and it contains 0.2 moles Fe^{2+} , corresponding 187



Figure 1. Degassing of H_2 from magma calculated by the magma degassing and speciation model of Gaillard & Scaillet (2014). We consider mid-ocean ridge basalt (MORB) with bulk H_2O content of 0.19 wt % and bulk CO_2 content of 0.16 wt %, degassing at the oxygen fugacities of FMQ-6 (corresponding to an undifferentiated planet) and FMQ-4 (corresponding to modern Mars), as well as ocean island basalt (OIB) with bulk H_2O content of 1 wt % and bulk CO_2 content of 0.3 wt %, degassing at the oxygen fugacities of FMQ-2.5. The solid lines count the degassing of H_2 and the dashed lines count the degassing of both H_2 and CO (with CO expressed in terms of its indirect effect on atmospheric H_2 , see text).

to 0.067 moles H₂, or a mass of 0.13 g. The correspond-188 ing $x_{\rm H}$ is thus 0.13/146.9 = 0.09 wt. %. In reality, the 189 fresh crust may not be entirely composed of olivine, and 190 the rate of serpentinization is limited by the rate of dis-191 solution of olivine in water (Oze & Sharma 2007), which 192 is a function of temperature, pH, water/rock ratio, and 193 the Fe/Mg composition of olivine (Wogelius & Walther 194 1992; Allen & Seyfried Jr 2003), as well as by the ex-195 tent of fracturing of the crust (Vance et al. 2007). We 196 thus expect the actual $x_{\rm H}$ provided by serpentinization 197 198 to be much smaller than 0.09 wt. %. However, even this generous upper bound falls short of the required $x_{\rm H}$ by 199

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at least a factor of 4 (Table 1). It is thus also unlikely
that serpentinization would sustain a moderate-size H₂
atmosphere on rocky planets around M dwarfs.

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5. AGE AND DISTANCE DEPENDENCY

So far we have assumed 4 Gyr for the planet age, which 204 broadly corresponds to the field M dwarfs. Now we con-205 sider the age dependency of the sources and sinks of H_2 206 and see if a steady-state H₂ atmosphere would be pos-207 sible on younger planets. Richey-Yowell et al. (2019) 208 recently presented the NUV, FUV, and X-ray fluxes of 209 M dwarfs in their habitable zones as a function of age, 210 and meanwhile, the EUV fluxes follow a similar age de-211 pendency as their FUV fluxes (Peacock et al. 2020). We 212 adopt an age dependency of $t^{-0.9}$ for the X-ray fluxes 213 and $t^{-1.3}$ for the EUV fluxes. Meanwhile, the rate of vol-214 canism can be much higher for young planets, when the 215 heat flux from the planetary interior is higher. We ex-216 plore an age dependency that varies between t^{-1} (based 217 on the model for Earth in Schubert et al. 2001) and 218 t^{-2} (based on the model for large rocky planets of Kite 219 et al. 2009). We consider an age as young as 1 Gyr. 220 Before that, the planet could have a residual primordial 221 H_2 atmosphere (Kite & Barnett 2020) and the stellar 222 high-energy output may have different age dependen-223 cies (Richev-Yowell et al. 2019). As shown in Figure 2, it 224 remains unlikely for volcanic outgassing or serpentiniza-225 tion to compensate for the intense atmospheric escape 226 of H_2 experienced by rocky planets of M dwarfs from 1 227 to 5 Gyr. 228

How about a planet that is located further away from 229 the star than the 1-AU equivalent distance? Moving 230 the planets 2.6 times further away (or receiving 7 times 231 less irradiation, or $\sim 200 \text{ W m}^{-2}$) would still produce 232 a potentially habitable climate (Koll & Cronin 2019), 233 and this would reduce the escape rate by a factor of 7. 234 In this case, the escape rate is comparable to the upper 235 limit of serpentinization (Figure 2). However, the upper 236 limit assumes complete oxidization of Fe^{2+} in the fresh 237 crust and is thus unlikely. The utility of these distant 238 habitable worlds for observations is probably limited, as 239 they are less likely to transit and harder to find than the 240 closer-in planets. 241

242 6. POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS

The estimates above show that it is unlikely to sustain moderate-size H₂-dominated atmospheres on rocky planets around M dwarfs through volcanic outgassing or serpentinization. Here we explore alternative mechanisms that could result in large source fluxes of H₂.

First, the rate of hydrogen generation during serpentinization is controlled by the Fe content of olivine (Klein et al. 2013). In Section 4, we have assumed a Fe:Mg ratio of 1:9, corresponding to the terrestrial value. On Mars, however, the Fe:Mg ratio of crustal olivine can be $\sim 1:1$ (Koeppen & Hamilton 2008; Morrison et al. 2018). Such Fe-rich olivine could result in higher fluxes of H₂ from serpentinization than our estimates by a factor of ~ 5 , making it more likely for serpentinization to meet the H₂ escape flux.

Second, on a planet with plate tectonics but amagmatic spreading, water-rock interaction near the ridge axis could produce H₂. Our discussion of serpentinization so far assumes that water interacts with the products of volcanism/partial melting. However, water could interact directly with the mantle if it is exposed by amagmatic spreading. This mechanism occurs on Earth today at Gakkel Ridge and Southwest Indian Ridge and has the potential to generate more H_2 because the Fe content of mantle rock is greater than that of the crustal basalt. This mechanism would decouple serpentinization from volcanism and allow serpentinization to continue even after volcanism has shut down. The upper limit of H₂ production from this mechanism is then given by assuming (unrealistically) a 100% fayalite (Fe₂SiO₄), which would give an equivalent $x_{\rm H}$ of 0.6 wt. %. Suppose fractures, and therefore hot-water alteration, penetrate as far down into the subsurface on this amagmatic planet as the base of the oceanic crust on our planet, which is probably unrealistic because fractures should self-seal at shallower depths (Vance et al. 2007). Then the present-day terrestrial production of 20 km^3 /year of MORB, with full serpentinization, would correspond to 1×10^4 kg s⁻¹ of H₂ output. This is on the same order of magnitude as the lower end of the escape rate (Table 1), and could be higher for younger or larger rocky planets.

Third, Earth's heat flux of \sim 0.1 W m $^{-2}$ is \sim 10% in the form of advective cooling (magma moves upward and cools) and $\sim 90\%$ conductive cooling. This implies that the rates of volcanism could be $10 \times$ higher without excessively cooling Earth's mantle. Indeed, it has been hypothesized that heat-pipe tectonics occurred early in Earth's history (e.g., Moore & Webb 2013). Small variations in exoplanet mantle composition or exoplanet mantle volatile content, among other factors, could make melting easier at a given mantle temperature (Spaargaren et al. 2020), perhaps enabling heatpipe mode of planetary cooling even for planets that are as old as the Earth. If heat-pipe volcanism occurs then the amount of outgassing and serpentinization could be $\sim 10 \times$ greater than for an Earth-scaled plate-tectonics model, because $\sim 10 \times$ more eruptions would occur.

Fourth, N-, O-, and C-bearing molecules mixed in the H₂-dominated atmosphere may substantially reduce

 10^{7} 10^{7} 7 ${\rm M}_\oplus$ Planet $3 M_{\oplus}$ Planet 10⁶ 10⁶ Source/Sink of H_2 [kg s⁻¹] Source/Sink of H_2 [kg s⁻¹] Late M Late M 10⁵ 10⁵ Mid M Mid M Escape/7 Escape/7 Early M Early M 10⁴ 10⁴ Serpentinization Outgassing 10³ 10³ Serpentinization Outgassing 10² 10² 10¹ 10 2 5 2 1 3 4 1 3 4 5 Age [Gyr] Age [Gyr]

Figure 2. Comparison between sources and sinks of H_2 on rocky planets around M dwarfs. The grey areas show the range of escape rates depending on the type of the host star. The dark grey area is for a planet that locates at the 1-AU equivalent distance, while the light grey area is for a planet that locates 2.6 times farther away (i.e., receiving 7 times less irradiation). The outgassing rates encapsulate the plausible range from a highly reduced mantle (informed by Figure 1), with the lower bound corresponding to $x_{\rm H} = 0.005$ wt % and t^{-1} scaling, and the higher bound corresponding to $x_{\rm H} = 0.02$ wt % and t^{-2} scaling. The rate of serpentinization is a very generous upper limit (Section 4).

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the escape rate. The escape rate and efficiency calcula-302 tions have been based on solar-abundance atmospheres 303 (Kubyshkina et al. 2018a,b). However, H₂-dominated 304 atmospheres sustained by volcanism should also have 305 H_2O , CO/CH_4 , and N_2/NH_3 at the levels that exceed 306 the solar abundance (Liggins et al. 2022). Recently, 307 Nakayama et al. (2022) show that with an N₂-O₂ atmo-308 sphere, cooling from atomic line emissions (of N, N⁺. 309 O, O^+) and radiative recombination can prevent rapid 310 hydrodynamic escapes for XUV irradiation fluxes that 311 are up to $1000 \times$ the modern Earth value. It is thus con-312 ceivable that an H₂-dominated atmosphere richer in N, 313 O, and C would be more stable. The challenge is that 314 the N-, O-, and C-bearing molecules are separated from 315 H_2 by diffusion (typically at ~ 1 Pa) and can be largely 316 depleted in the upper atmosphere. It is thus unclear 317 whether 10% non-H₂ species (which would still allow 318 for a low molecular weight atmosphere for transmission 319 spectroscopy) would slow down the hydrodynamic es-320 cape sufficiently to achieve long-term stability. 321

Lastly, there could be transient episodes of high vol-322 canism and serpentinization that support H₂-dominated 323 atmospheres. A leading hypothesis for why Early Mars 324 sometimes had lakes is that a lot of H_2 was emitted 325 transiently from the subsurface by volcanism or serpen-326 tinization (Wordsworth et al. 2021). The amount of H_2 327 needed to warm up Mars by H₂-CO₂ collision-induced 328

absorption is now well understood (Turbet et al. 2020), 320 and the H₂ flux needed is approximately 10^4 kg s⁻¹. 330 A large rocky planet could have $10 \times$ the surface area of 331 Mars and thus plausibly $10 \times$ the amount of serpentiniza-332 333 tion. This process-agnostic (but model-dependent) scaling hints at short-term source fluxes sufficient for H₂-334 dominated atmospheres on a 7- M_{\oplus} planet (Figure 2). 335

7. SUMMARY

From the analyses presented above, we conclude that rocky planets around M dwarfs rarely have potentially habitable conditions accompanied by H₂-dominated atmospheres. This is because, forming a potentially habitable environment will require a moderate-size (~ 10 bar) 341 atmosphere, but such an atmosphere is removed quickly by stellar X-ray and EUV irradiation, and could only 343 exist on the planet as a steady-state atmosphere with replenishment. However, neither volcanic outgassing nor serpentinization provides the required H_2 source that would maintain such a steady-state atmosphere. Rocky planets around M dwarfs could have massive H₂ 349 atmospheres, but to have a stable and moderate-size 350 H₂ atmosphere consistent with habitability would require special circumstances such as direct interaction 352 between liquid water and mantle (e.g., near a ridge axis undergoing amagmatic spreading), heat-pipe volcanism 353 from a highly reduced mantle, or hydrodynamic escape 354

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quenched by efficient atomic line cooling. These special 355 mechanisms to sustain the moderate-size H₂ atmosphere 356 are generally more effective on large rocky planets (e.g., 357 \sim 7- M_{\oplus} planets exemplified by LHS 1140 b) than on 358 Earth-sized planets. Generally, N₂-CO₂ or other high-359 mean-molecular-weight atmospheres should probably be 360 considered as the default assumption when planning 361 for future spectroscopic observations of rocky planets 362 around M dwarfs. 363

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