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**A step towards the molecular
detection of life on Mars**

Susana O. L. Direito

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“It is human nature to stretch, to go, to see, to understand.

Exploration is not a choice, really; it is an imperative.”

Michael Collins, Astronaut

The sky is not the limit!

Dedicated to the loving memory of my father: António Júlio Direito

And to my wonderful mother and to my sweet sister