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Venus: Comparative Planetology (Invited)

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The surface environment on Venus differs so much from that on Earth, even in such basic parameters as atmospheric temperature and pressure, that it initially appears defiant when we try to extrapolate from one to the other using known Physics. The atmospheric circulation on Venus, with phenomena like the zonal superrotation, polar vortex and dipole, presents similar challenges when we come to seek analogies with the Earth. The data currently being gathered by Venus Express was intended to shed light on these and related issues, and this talk will present a progress report.