



## CLIMATE

### East Antarctica's ice is melting rapidly

**T**he vast majority of Antarctica's ice melt, which is responsible for at least 13.8 millimeters of sea level rise over the past 40 years, was long thought to come from the unstable West Antarctic Ice Sheet. Now, a study using 40 years of satellite imagery finds that the East Antarctic Ice Sheet is losing a substantial quantity of ice as well. Over the past 4 decades, that loss accounted for more than 30% of the sea level rise attributed to the continent, researchers report this week in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. East Antarctica, which has 10 times as much ice as the continent's western half, was long thought to be insulated from climate change because it rests on land, largely protected from warming ocean waters. A 2018 *Nature* paper estimated the region was actually gaining ice. If confirmed, the new results could dramatically reshape projections of sea level rise for the next century.

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