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The Reclassification of Asteroids from Planets to Non-Planets

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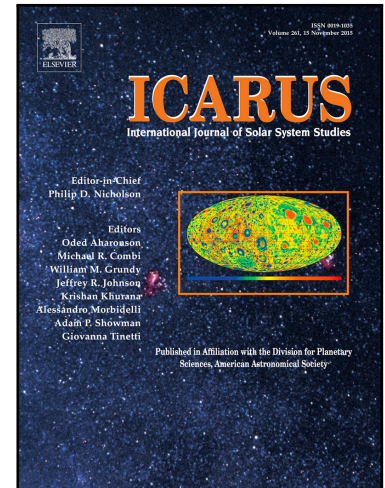
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Highlights

- The literature on asteroid classification is reviewed from 1801 to the present.
- Scientists considered asteroids to be planets until the 1950s.
- Thousands of asteroids sharing orbits was not debarring from planet status.
- They were reclassified as non-planets on the basis of geophysical characteristics.
- Taxonomical terms like *planet* are determined by the scientific process, not voting.

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