

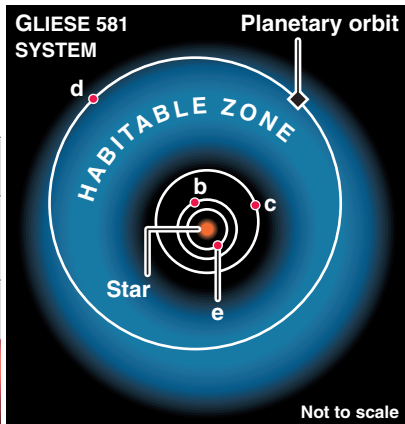
Smallest Earth-sized exoplanet yet discovered

Researchers have reported finding the smallest-ever planet in a different solar system. They also realised that a nearby planet was in the prime habitable zone for potential life

1 *Gliese 581 e*: New planet is only about twice the mass of our Earth

2 *Gliese 581 d*: Discovered in 2007, now understood to be in habitable zone where liquid water could exist

3 *Gliese 581*: Red dwarf star is 20.5 light-years away in constellation **Libra**



	Mass (Earth = 1)	Orbit (days)	Date of discovery
e	1.9	3.15	2009
b	16	5.4	2005
c	5	13	2007
d	7	66.8	2007

