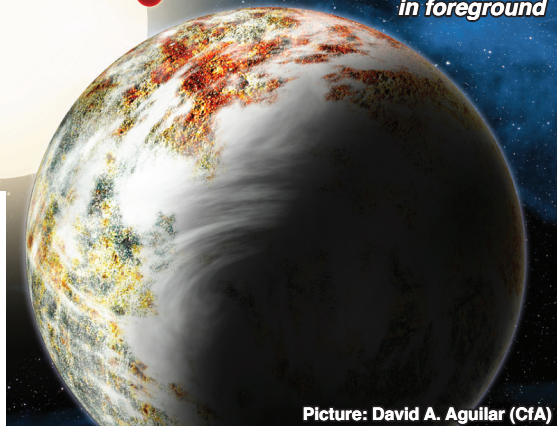


# New “mega-Earth” planet type discovered

Scientists have discovered a new type of potentially habitable planet, which they have dubbed a “mega-Earth”. The distant, rocky world – known as Kepler-10c – has a mass about 17 times that of Earth

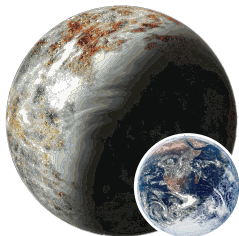
*Artist's Impression of Kepler-10 system, with Kepler-10c in foreground*



Picture: David A. Aguilar (CfA)

## Size of Kepler-10c

Planet should have evolved over time into Jupiter-like gas giant. However, Kepler-10c has remained rocky, confounding current understanding of how planets form



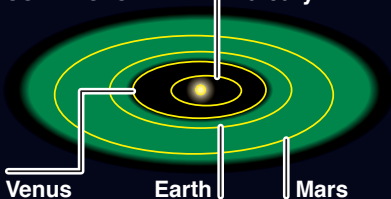
Kepler-10c Earth

## COMPARISON

	Kepler-10c	Earth
Diameter	29,000km	12,742km
Orbital period	45 Earth days	365.3 days
Star system age	11bn years	4.6bn years
Average temperature	Over 200°C	15°C
Surface gravity	Three times that of Earth	
Distance from Earth	560 light years	
First discovered	May 2011	

**Habitable zone:** Kepler-10c unlikely to support life due to proximity to its parent star, but its discovery broadens number of potentially habitable planets

## SOLAR SYSTEM



## KEPLER-10 SYSTEM

