

TESS Discovers Its Tiniest Planet To Date



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What is the science question?

Can TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) find small exoplanet candidates for atmospheric follow-up studies?

What was the finding?

L 98-59b is the smallest confirmed TESS planet yet. It resides in a system with at least two other planets, L 98-59c and L 98-59d.

What is the impact?

- The nearness and brightness of the host star make the planets top candidates for atmospheric follow-up studies by future missions like JWST.
- All three worlds could have Venus-like atmospheres.
- L 98-59d has the potential to host a Neptune-like atmosphere.

Why does it matter to non-scientists?

Studying other planetary systems may help us answer questions about our own, like why Earth became habitable when Venus did not.

