

**"The Darkest Exoplanet Yet"**  
**By Raphael Rosen**  
**Sky & Telescope Magazine**  
**August 19, 2011**

Think you know everything there is to know about the crazy zoo of alien worlds beyond our solar system? Think again. Two astronomers have just added another weirdo to the list: an exoplanet darker than coal.

The planet, called TrES-2b, orbits an 11<sup>th</sup> -magnitude star located about 718 light-years from Earth in the constellation Draco. The planet zooms around its star at a distance of only about 3 million miles; as a result, surface temperatures on the planet exceed 1,800°F (1,000°C). Astronomers David Kipping (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics) and David Spiegel (Princeton University) relied on data from the Kepler telescope to study how the planet's reflected light changes as the planet orbits its star. The results will appear in the *Monthly Notices* of the Royal Astronomical Society.

For the full article, go to:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/community/skyblog/newsblog/128070653.html>