

Massive Black Hole 12bn Times Bigger than Sun Discovered



Astronomers have just discovered a super-massive black hole weighing as much as 12 billion suns. Thankfully, it's in a galaxy far, far away (12.8 billion light years from Earth, to be precise). According to National Geographic, the black hole grew to its mammoth size 875 million years after the big bang, when the universe was just 6% of its current age, a rate of growth unknown before. The international team of researchers, who published their findings in Nature this week, couldn't see the black hole itself – because no light can escape it – but instead spotted a giant ball of energy, known as a quasar, that heats up the closer it gets to the vacuum. The quasar's brightness tells astronomers how powerfully its gas is being heated and therefore how large the nearby black hole

is. The Independent