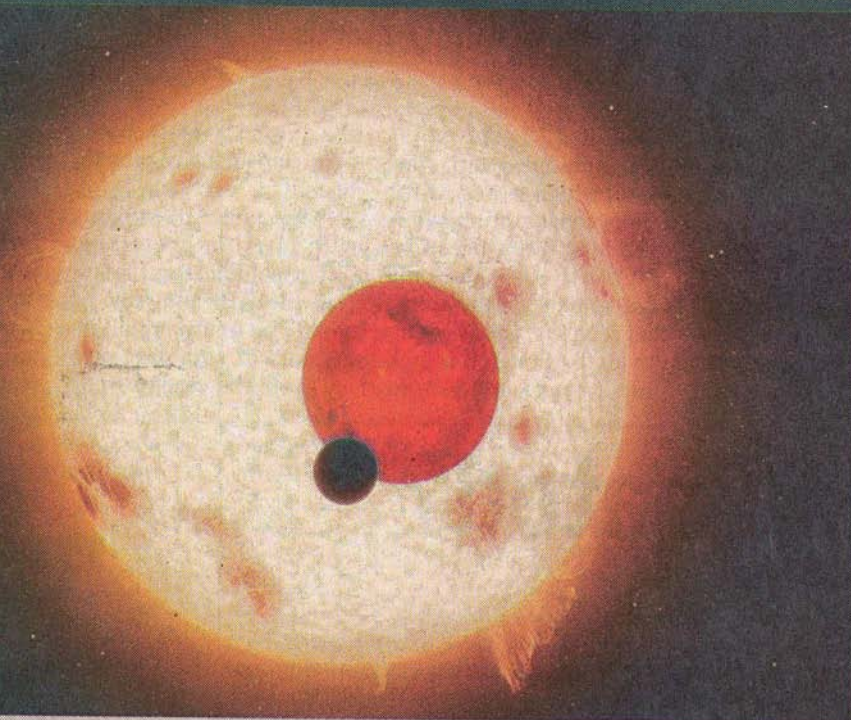


NASA DISCOVERS PLANET THAT HAS TWO SUNSETS



Kepler 16b is the first planet, astronomers say, that is definitely seen orbiting two stars at once

LINK TO STAR WARS

The official name of the new planet is Kepler 16b, but astronomers are already referring to it informally as Tatooine, after the home planet of Luke and Anakin Skywalker in the George Lucas *Star Wars* movies, which also had two suns.

200 light years

from earth, planet is size of Saturn. It is believed to be a frozen world of rock and gas

229 days per orbit by planet. Stars also orbit each other

20.5 days time taken for stars to eclipse each other

ONE STAR is about two-thirds the size of our sun, the other about a fifth the size of our sun.

An artist's depiction of Kepler 16b with the two stars.

AP

THE PLANET has a double sunrise and a double sunset. Sometimes the orange sun rises first. Sometimes it is the red one, although they are never far apart in the sky.

A TEAM of astronomers using NASA's Kepler planet-hunting spacecraft announced the discovery on Thursday in a paper published online in the journal *Science*.

KEPLER, LAUNCHED in 2009, is on a mission to determine the fraction of stars in the galaxy that have Earth-like planets. It scrutinises a patch of some 1,55,000 stars.