

## Proxima Centauri has Earth-sized planet 比邻星附近发现类似地球的行星

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从天文学的角度来讲，距太阳系最近的适宜人居住的星球或许就在我们附近。一组科学家通过调查发现，有一颗地球大小的行星正绕着离太阳系最近的恒星——比邻星的轨道运行，且它所处的位置可能为该星球表面产生液态水提供条件。请听 David Shukman 的报道。

Until 20 years ago, no one knew there were planets **beyond** the ones we have in our own **Solar System**. But thousands have recently been discovered **orbiting distant stars**. And **the Holy Grail** has been defined (as) one that might **conceivably** be **habitable** and, ideally, as close to us as possible.

Proxima b is slightly larger than Earth and orbits its star at the right distance for **liquid water** to exist at the surface. That might mean that life is possible there. On the other hand, the planet would be **vulnerable to** massive **flares** of radiation.

Proxima b is just over four **light years** away, so it would take something like 70,000 years to get there with a **conventional** rocket. Although there are ideas for far more **rapid space travel**.

## 词汇表

<b>beyond</b>	比……更远，远于
<b>Solar System</b>	太阳系
<b>orbiting</b>	（天体）沿（恒星或行星的）轨道运行着
<b>distant stars</b>	遥远的恒星；远方的星球
<b>the Holy Grail</b>	极难找到或得到的事物（原意为“圣杯”）
<b>conceivably</b>	有可能
<b>habitable</b>	适于居住的，可居住的
<b>liquid water</b>	液态水
<b>vulnerable to</b>	容易受……影响的
<b>flares</b>	（近似耀斑的）能量爆发
<b>light years</b>	光年
<b>conventional</b>	常规的，普通的
<b>rapid</b>	快的，迅速的
<b>space travel</b>	太空旅行

## 测验

请听报道并回答下列问题。

1. How large is Proxima b compared to Earth?
2. How long would it take to get to the planet with a conventional rocket?
3. True or false? *There might be life on Proxima b.*
4. Which word in the text means 'the top layer or outer part of something'?

## 答案

1. How large is Proxima b compared to Earth?

**It is slightly larger than Earth.**

2. How long would it take to get to the planet with a conventional rocket?

**It would take about 70,000 years to get to the planet with a conventional rocket.**

3. True or false? *There might be life on Proxima b.*

**True. Proxima b orbits around its star at the right distance for liquid water to exist, which might mean that life is possible there.**

4. Which word in the text means 'the top layer or outer part of something'?

**Surface.**