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'Alien stars more common than thought'

Chances of alien life existing beyond the Earth have been boosted by the discovery that the number of stars in the universe might be triple current estimates.



The two telescopes at the W.M. Keck Observatory on Mauna Kea, Hawaii

Photo: REUTERS

1:35PM GMT 01 Dec 2010

Astronomers have learned that small, dim stars known as red dwarfs are far more prolific than was previously thought.

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"There are possibly trillions of Earths orbiting these stars," said Dr van Dokkum.











