

Star disappears every 27 years

WASHINGTON -- Every 27 years it happens. Some mysterious object comes between the supergıent star Epsilon Aurigae and Earth. You can't see it -- the invisible body leaves no trace of itself - but you know it's out there because the star's brightness slowly dıms.

The eclipse of Epsilon Aurigae a star 250 tımes bigger than the sun and 50,000 times as bright - is one of the classicial mysteries of modern astronomy. Among the longest of the known eclipses, lasting nearly two years and occurring only every 27.1 , it has bedeviled astronomers throughout the 20th century.
Is the star's d
Is the star's dark companion a swarm of meteorites, gas clouds, a hot star in a cold shell, a planetforming disk, or a black hole?
At varying times since the eclipsing pattern was first recognized in 1903, scientists have speculated about all of these. Today the most likely possibility appears to be a developing planetary system. Epsilon Aurıgae is again in eclipse, expected to return to full brightness in May
"I think chances are better than ever this time that we will discover ever this what's going on. We have all the advantages in terms of new technology. And it's our last chance to clear up this mystery before the century ends. The next eclipse won's start untıl 2009,' observes Dr. Robert E. Stencel of the astrophysics division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He is a coordinator of the worldwide eclipsemonitoring campaign.
The long time between echpses, along with the invisibility of the
object, makes Epsilon Aurigae "difficult for mere mortals to study. By the time just two eclipses have gone by, your career as an astronomer is about over," Stencel says.
What scientists know so far is that this eclipse of a binary star system is like no other. Usually there are two stars that simply move in front of each other.
This eclipsing body seems to be a very cool, spinning, dense disk of gas and dust that is extremely large, taking almost two years to move past the star. During the more than a year that it is completely across the star - blocking out about half its surface area - it cuts the star's brightness by half. The blinking or dimming was first noticed by a German amateur first noticed by 1821 although the astronomer in 1821, although the precise 27 -year pattern was not recognized until early this century. The 1982-84 eclipse is the seventh known.
Normally, the primary star in the Epislon Aurigae system is among the brightest in our galaxy, a massive FL supergiant star that is visible from Earth even though it is about 2,000 light years away. One light year, the distance light travels in a year is 5.8 trillion mules. Part of the constellation miles. Part of the constellation the anded are in the the unaided eye in the northern sky, not far from Gemun1 and Taurus. A careful observer can detect its slow brightening this winter and spring.
The price of being so big and bright is burning out quicker. The star probably has a life span of only a few hundred million years,
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| 1. | BLACK | 6. | PEACH |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2. | RED | 7. | GREEN |
| 3. | YELLOW | 8. | LT BROWN |
| 4. | BLUE | 9. | LTBLUE |
| 5. | BROWN | 10. | LT.GREEN |

TYRUS RAYMOND"TY" COBB WAS ONE OF AMERICAS GREATESTALL-AROUND BASEBALL PLPYERS. HE WAS CALLED THE"GEORGA PEACH AND WAS PLAYING BASEBALL BEFORE HE WAS 19. "TY" PLAYED WITH THE MAJOR LEAGUES FOR 25YRS WHERE HE EXCELLED AS A BATTER, A BRILLIANT FIELDER AND A GREAT BASE RUNNER.


