fried planets presented by science at

NASA astronomers have just caught a star
in the act of devouring one of its

planets bd+ 48 740 a red giant they observed using the nine point two meter

hobby Eberly telescope at the McDonald Observatory in Texas appears to have the

fumes of a scorched planet in its atmosphere this is consistent with a rocky world recently destroyed could the

same thing happen to Earth yes indeed

says Alex Vulcan a member of the research team from Penn State University

a similar fate may await the inner
Planets in our solar system when the Sun becomes a red giant some 5 billion years from now researchers who specialize in stellar evolution have long known that the inner planets are in danger when the Sun's core runs out of hydrogen fuel for nuclear fusion to keep the fires burning the Sun will begin to fuse hydrogen outside the core in a layer closer to the stellar surface this will turn the Sun into a red giant at least 200 times wider than it is today Mercury, Venus, Earth and possibly even Mars could
be engulfed the fate of Earth is not a
certainty however some researchers
believe that Earth's orbit might spiral
outward keeping the planet at a safe
distance from the approaching Inferno
this could happen if solar winds carry
away a significant fraction of the sun's
mass in the years leading up to the red
giant phase on the other hand the Sun
might expand so quickly that our planet
has no chance to escape earth would get
caught in the sun's rapidly advancing
atmosphere and spiral inward to oblivion
observations of red giant BD +48 7:40
lend credence to the second possibility

our detailed spectroscopic analysis of BD + 48 740 reveals that the red giant contained an abnormally high amount of lithium says Monica Adamov who led the study at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun Poland because lithium is easily destroyed in stars finding lots of it in an old red giant is unexpected the most likely source is a planet. Volscian explains it is probable that the lithium production in BD + 48 740 was triggered by a mass the size of a planet that spiraled into the star and heated up while the star was digesting.
it the team found another piece of
evidence to BD plus 48 740 has a gas
giant planet 1.6 times bigger than
jupiter which has not yet been devoured
the Big Planet has a highly elliptical
orbit in fact it is the most elliptical
orbit ever found for a planet around an
older star its orbit which almost surely
started out circular was probably
altered by some catastrophic event like
its star having an inner planet for
lunch
one day he says our own solar system may
end up the same way in five billion
years the fried planet could be earth

until then for breaking science news

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