

Noted Scientist Thinks Thousands of Planets May Have Inhabitants

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PASADENA, Calif. (UPI) — A noted scientist here believes thousands of planets in the Milky Way may be inhabited by beings who are the intellectual equivalent of man.

Geochemist Harrison Brown, of the California Institute of Technology, said he has calculated that there may be hundreds of millions of planets within the galaxy, and that many of these are likely to be bathed by life-giving light from their suns. He said they also possibly have temperatures similar to those of earth and Mars.

"Man's intellectual equivalent may occupy thousands of planets in the Milky Way galaxy," said Dr. Brown, foreign secretary of the National Academy of Sciences and a member of its space board.

A recent government-sponsored investigation he made using "observed facts" and calculations indicates favorable conditions for life "in the galaxy" may be far more plentiful than generally thought possible, Dr. Brown said.

"If planetary systems are in-

deed extremely abundant, one might conclude that man is not alone in this galaxy," said Brown, whose research was supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "Searching for evidences of such intelligent life forms may indeed prove to profitable and exciting."

His conclusions are based partly on the observed fact that little stars are considerably more plentiful than big ones, and partly on calculations indicating that virtually every visible star should have a planetary system.

To help determine the validity of his conclusions and speculations, Dr. Brown urges that efforts be intensified to find planets outside the solar system.

"If it develops that planetary systems are indeed as abundant as indicated," he said, "the search for intelligent extraterrestrial life is placed in a somewhat different perspective.

"One might conclude that life forms may be both abundant and diverse," Dr. Brown said.