

Dragon's Egg Nebula

Source: TH

Astronomers have been puzzled by a **nebula**, nicknamed the **Dragon's Egg**, which comprises a **cloud of gas and dust** enveloping a <u>binary star system</u>.

- The Dragon's Egg Nebula formed due to the intense stellar winds emitted by a massive, hot central star.
- One of the stars in the pair of binary stars has a magnetic field, while the other does not, which is unusual for massive stars.
- The magnetic star is about **30 times** more massive than the Sun, while its companion is about **26.5 times** more massive than the Sun.
- The researchers believe the system started as a **triple star system about 4-6 million** years ago.
- The merger of the two innermost stars ejected gas and dust into space, forming the nebula around 7,500 years ago.
- The nebula contains an unusually large amount of nitrogen due to the merger.

Read more...

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