

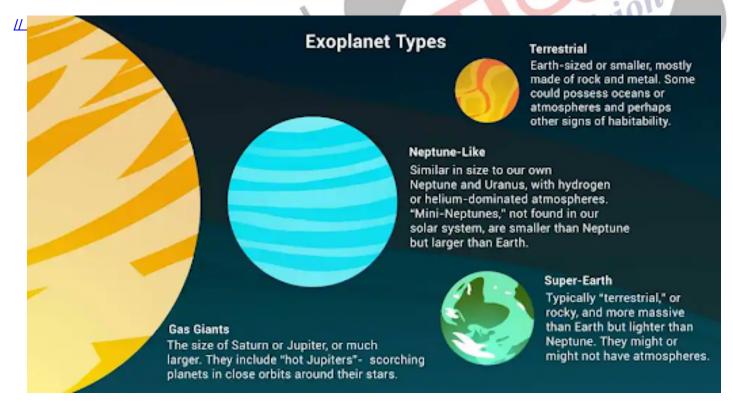
WASP-121b Exoplanet

Source: Earth

Astronomers have mapped the **3D atmosphere of exoplanet WASP-121b (Tylos),** located **900 light-years** away, using the **ESO's VL Telescope**, revealing **complex weather patterns and chemical composition.**

WASP-121b (Tylos):

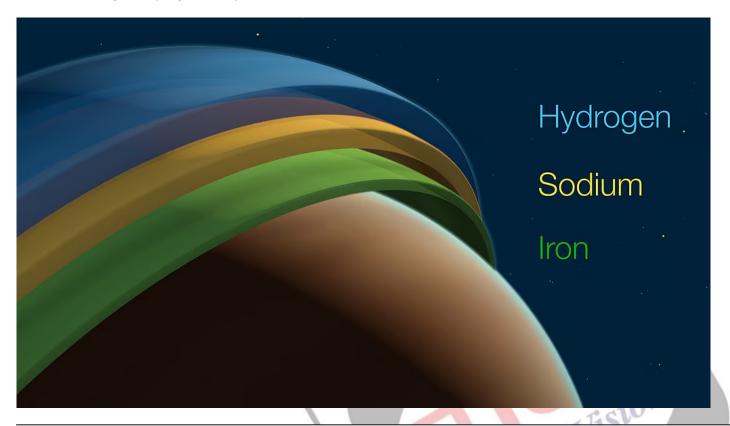
- It is a gas giant exoplanet discovered in 2016, orbiting the yellow-white F-type star WASP-121.
 - It has a size 1.87 times that of Jupiter and a mass 1.18 times greater.
- Type: It is an ultra-hot Jupiter (a gas giant orbiting its host star very closely), with an orbital period of just 30 Earth hours.



Key Findings:

- Extreme Climate Conditions: WASP-121b has extreme temperature contrasts due to tidal locking, with one hemisphere scorched and the other cooler, driving dynamic atmospheric patterns.
- **Jet Streams and Wind Patterns**: Powerful jet streams and winds with speeds, creating distinct atmospheric flows.
- Chemical Composition: Its atmosphere comprises iron, sodium, hydrogen, and titanium, with 3

distinct layers: iron winds at the base, a fast sodium jet stream, and hydrogen winds at the top, shaping its unique climate.



Read More: Detection of Barium in the Exoplanet Atmospheres.

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/wasp-121b-exoplanet