

Eris

Ice cold killjoy...

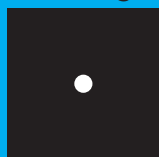


In 2005 the tenth planet was found, or was it? Eris caused Pluto to be 'degraded'.

distance to the Sun (2009): 14,470,000,000 km
 distance to the Sun (average): 10,123,300,000 km
 diameter: 2340 km
 orbital period ('year'): ca. 557 years
 inclination of orbit: 44°
 number of moons: 1

100 x larger:

distance
(scale)
145 m



size
(scale)
0.023 mm

Eris

In July 2005 the discovery of a new ice world was announced, one that is slightly larger than Pluto. Pluto had always been a strange planet: too small and with a peculiar orbit. This was emphasized by the discovery of more icy dwarfs. But as long as it was the largest of the icy bodies its position as 9th planet was unaffected. The new object changed all that. It spoiled Pluto's fun...

In August 2006 the International Astronomical Union introduced a new class of heavenly bodies: the **dwarf planets**. The new object was named Eris. Eris, Pluto and the asteroid Ceres were the first official dwarf planets. Makemake and Haumea were added to the class in 2008. There will probably be more soon, for an object in orbit around the Sun and at least 500 km in diameter easily meets the conditions. We already know several, like Quaoar, Orcus and Sedna.

Eris is also a member of the 'Scattered Disc Objects' (SDO's), objects with chaotic, eccentric and inclined orbits, ranging from the outer Kuiper Belt to within the Inner Oort Cloud. In September 2005 a moon was discovered around Eris: Dysnomia.

Scale 1:100 billion: 1 cm in scale model = 1 million km in reality.
 Abbrev.: d = days; m = min; h = hours; s = sec; dist. = distance

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scale model
 solar system
 1:100 billion

Eris

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