



**Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center**

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Alpha Centauri: A triple star system about 4 light years from Earth.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/University of Colorado/T.Ayres; Optical: Davide De Martin/Mahdi Zamani Tafreshi)

Caption: A new Chandra study involving long-term monitoring of Alpha Centauri indicates that any planets orbiting the two brightest stars are likely not being pummeled by large amounts of X-ray radiation from their host stars. This is important for the viability of life in the nearest star system outside the Solar System. Chandra data from May 2nd, 2017 are seen in the pull-out, which is shown in context of a visible-light image taken from the ground of Alpha Centauri system and its surroundings.

Scale: The image is about 2 arcmin across (2.4×10^{-4} light years) (2.3 billion km).

Chandra X-ray Observatory HRC Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory