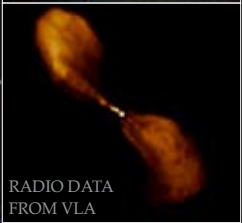


X-RAYS FROM
NASA'S CHANDRA



OPTICAL DATA
FROM ESO



RADIO DATA
FROM VLA

CENTAURUS A

Centaurus A, also known as NGC 5128, is a galaxy with a supermassive black hole at its core. This giant black hole is responsible for the huge jet of material blasting out of the galaxy, which is seen in X-rays.

Centaurus A is located about 14 million light years from Earth. It is found in the constellation that shares its name, representing a mythical half-man, half-horse creature.

The dark bands across the center of the galaxy were likely created when Centaurus A merged with another galaxy perhaps 100

million years ago. The jet probably occurred much more recently.

These jets are thought to be powered by material falling toward a black hole, combined with the effects of strong magnetic fields and rapid rotation.



More at: <http://chandra.harvard.edu>