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Zwicky 8338: A galaxy cluster located almost 700 million light years from Earth. (Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/University of Bonn/G. Schellenberger et al; Optical: INT

Caption: An extraordinary ribbon of hot gas trailing behind a galaxy like a tail has been discovered using data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory. This ribbon, or X-ray tail, is likely due to gas stripped from the galaxy as it moves through a vast cloud of hot intergalactic gas. With a length of at least 250,000 light years, it is likely the largest such tail ever detected. The newly discovered tail is seen in this composite image of X-rays (blue) and optical data (yellow).

Scale: Image is 3.6 arcmin across (about 700,000 light years)

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory