

IAU Transactions

XXVIII A

IAU Transactions  
**XXVIII A**

Proceedings of the International Astronomical Union

# Reports on Astronomy

Reports on  
Astronomy

*Edited by*

Corbett

Ian F. Corbett



ISSN 1743-9213

Proceedings of  
the International  
Astronomical Union

International Astronomical Union



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TRANSACTIONS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION  
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REPORTS ON  
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*COVER ILLUSTRATION*

ASTRONOMERS USING ESO'S EXOPLANET HUNTER HARPS HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A RICH HAUL OF MORE THAN 50 NEW EXOPLANETS, INCLUDING 16 SUPER-EARTHS, ONE OF WHICH ORBITS AT THE EDGE OF THE HABITABLE ZONE OF ITS STAR. BY STUDYING ALL THE HARPS PLANETS FOUND SO FAR, THE TEAM HAS FOUND THAT ABOUT 40% OF STARS SIMILAR TO THE SUN HAVE AT LEAST ONE PLANET LIGHTER THAN SATURN. (*Source: European Southern Observatory, <http://www.eso.org/public/news/eso1134/>*)

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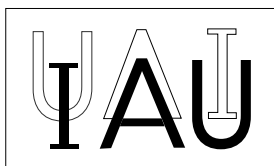
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REPORTS  
ON  
ASTRONOMY

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION  
VOLUME XXVIII A

Edited by

**IAN F. CORBETT**  
*General Secretary*



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom  
32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeset in System L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2 $\epsilon$

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

This journal issue has been printed on FSC-certified paper and cover board. FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Please see [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) for information.

ISBN 9781107019874 hardback  
ISSN 1743-9213

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## Preface

As background information to the IAU XXVIII General Assembly in Beijing 20–31 August 2012, these Transactions provide an account of what has been happening within the IAU through the words of the Presidents and Chairs of the Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups which make up the working levels of the IAU. These were completed towards the end of 2011 and provide a narrative record of activities over the triennium 2009–2011. For a variety of reasons, not all the Commissions and Working Groups submitted reports.

It is my pleasure to thank those IAU Division and Commission Presidents and Working & Program Group chairpersons who have provided these reports and the staff of the IAU Secretariat, Mme Vivien Reuter and Mme Jana Žilová, for their continued invaluable assistance in making the IAU function. We look forward to a most memorable XXVIII General Assembly in the historic city of Beijing.

*Ian F. Corbett*  
*IAU General Secretary*  
*Paris, January 2012*