



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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**VLA J2130+12:** A binary system containing a quiescent black hole about 7,200 light years from Earth.  
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/Univ. of Alberta/B.Tetarenko et al; Optical: NASA/STScI; Radio:  
NRAO/AUI/NSF)

**Caption:** By combining data from Chandra and several other telescopes, astronomers have identified the true nature of an unusual source in the Milky Way galaxy. This discovery implies that there could be a much larger number of black holes in the Galaxy that have previously been unaccounted for. The main panel shows X-rays from Chandra (purple) that have been overlaid on an optical image from Hubble. The insets show the source is bright in radio waves, but can only be giving off a very small amount of X-rays. These pieces of information indicate the source contains a black hole with a few times the mass of the Sun.

**Scale:** Main image is 2.6 arcmin across (about 5.4 light years); inset image is 6 arcseconds across (about 0.2 light years)

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*