

SYSTEM BOOK 2: XIBALBA

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Sample file

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INTRODUCTION

System Book 2: Xibalba is the second in a series of books by *Spica Publishing* that present a detailed planetary system with scientifically accurate physical data (given the state of knowledge at the time of writing) and an interesting setting to enable Referees to run exciting adventures there.

While designed for use with the current edition of the Traveller SF RPG rules, these books can be used for any science fiction role playing game as the specific rules involved have been kept to a minimum.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Traveller Core Rulebook: The World Creation chapter of the Traveller Core Rulebook will be helpful, however, this is not essential.

Outer Veil: While this product is intended to be generic, specific notes have been included in the Referee's Information on page 10 detailing how to incorporate Xibalba into Spica Publishing's *Outer Veil* setting.

References to Other Books: In this book, references to specific pages in other books and products are shown as the page number followed by a code for the relevant book, both in italics, thus: *28 TMB* or *(28 TMB)*.

- Traveller Core Rulebook: *TCR*
- System Book 1: Katringa: *SB1*
- Outer Veil: *OV*

Die Throw & Notation Conventions The die throw and notation conventions used in this book are the same as those described on 3 *TCR*.

Standard Time Units: When 'days', 'weeks', 'months', and 'years' are mentioned in the text, they refer to the Standard Time Units used on Earth (i.e. a 'day' is equal to 24 hours, a 'year' is equal to 365.25 'days', etc.).

Universal World Profiles (UWPs): Physical information about the bodies in the Xibalba system is presented in generic terms and as UWPs.

The 'S' world size code is used in one of the UWPs to describe one of the bodies here. 'S' means 'Small World' and is used for bodies that have a radius of less than 400 kilometres.

SYSTEM BOOK 2: XIBALBA

System Book 2: Xibalba is designed to be slotted into any high-tech interstellar science fiction setting, presenting a backwater system that harbours a strange mystery. Ships have disappeared; a deadly madness has claimed the population of a habitat and those who remain live with mysterious 'manifestations' as best as they can. Is the system really haunted by the ghosts of the dead as some believe? Or is there a more rational explanation for the unsettling events that occur in Xibalba?

ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book is divided into two chapters:

The Xibalba System

This chapter describes the white dwarf primary and its surviving family of planets that make up the Xibalba system.

History and Society: This section describes the colonisation history of Xibalba and its society, as well as important habitats and key events in its history.

Strange Phenomena: This section describes the mysteries and challenges that face the inhabitants of the Xibalba system.

Referee's Information

This chapter includes information for the Referee's eyes only, and includes advice on how to use the system in existing campaigns (including some Adventure Seeds), how to present the 'manifestations' that affect the inhabitants of the system, how to incorporate Xibalba into the *Outer Veil* setting, and some suggestions as to what is really going on in Xibalba.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Constantine Thomas has been world-building since the late 1980s. He has a doctorate in Planetary Science, has written two articles for *JTAS Online* and co-authored of Steve Jackson Games' *Transhuman Space: Under Pressure* and Spica Publishing's *System Book 1: Katringa*. He lives in British Columbia, Canada.

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THE XIBALBA SYSTEM

Xibalba is a bleak, empty system consisting of three charred rockballs, a dispersed asteroid belt and a superjovian gas giant orbiting the cooling corpse of a star.

The system's naming scheme is based on the Mayan underworld of Xibalba (*'shi-BAHL-ba'*) and the 'houses' within it that contained different trials to torment its victims, although the names have diverged slightly from the original Mayan. The system is generally referred to as 'the Xibalba system' or just 'Xibalba'. The asteroid belt is usually referred to as 'the Xibalba belt'. The primary star is named for the Mayan goddess of suicide.

THE XIBALBA SYSTEM

UWP: Xibalba D000224-9 As Lo Ni G

Star: Ixtab (White Dwarf)

System Data

Orbit	Orbit (AU)	Name	UWP
–	–	Ixtab	D
I	4.59	Akabna	X700000-0
II	9.63	Balamna	E701224-9
III	16.40	Chamna	X800000-0
IV	26.70–33.00	Xibalba Belt	
	27.22	Nuevo Tikal	DS00224-9
V	67.35	Sisna	LGG

STELLAR DATA

Stellar Data

No. of stars in system	1
Star name (local)	Ixtab (<i>'ESH-tahb'</i>)
Spectral type	D (White Dwarf)
Age	3 billion years (1.3 as W.D.)
Star Colour	Blue-White
Mass	0.593 × Sol
Luminosity	0.0005 × Sol
Effective Temperature	8,000 Kelvin
Radius	0.01417 × Sol (9,864 km)
Metallicity	Solar

Ixtab was most likely a 2.04 solar mass A1 V star that formed about 3 billion years ago, evolved through its red giant phases and became a white dwarf about 1.5 billion years ago.

Relative Distances (AU)

From/To	Akabna	Balamna	Chamna	Nuevo Tikal	Caracol	Sisna
Akabna	–	5.28	18.32	20.73	21.25	70.83
Balamna	5.28	–	22.43	20.03	21.00	74.75
Chamna	18.32	22.43	–	19.89	18.70	52.50
Nuevo Tikal	20.73	20.03	19.89	–	1.928	63.57
Caracol	21.25	21.00	18.70	1.928	–	61.64
Sisna	70.83	74.75	52.50	63.57	61.64	–

Travel Times

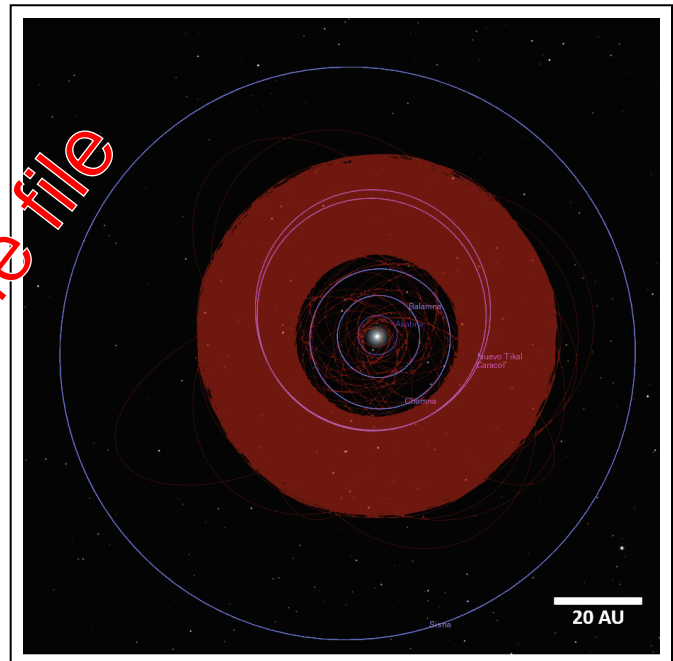
From/To	Akabna	Balamna	Chamna	Nuevo Tikal	Caracol	Sisna
Akabna	–	4.65	8.66	9.21	9.32	17.02
Balamna	6.57	–	9.58	9.05	9.27	17.48
Chamna	12.24	13.55	–	9.02	8.75	14.65
Nuevo Tikal	13.02	12.80	12.76	–	2.81	16.12
Caracol	13.18	13.11	12.37	3.97	–	15.88
Sisna	24.07	24.73	20.72	22.80	22.45	–

Times in the Travel Times table are shown in days and assume acceleration-turnover-deceleration. 1G acceleration travel times are shown in normal type; 2G acceleration times are shown in **bold** type.

Any planetary nebula that the star possessed has long since dissipated; these only survive for a few tens of thousands of years, at most. It is likely that Ixtab had at least one rocky world in a close orbit that was consumed during its giant phases; the orbits of the surviving planets expanded outwards as the star shed most of its mass in its final giant and planetary nebula phases. Ixtab is an otherwise fairly unremarkable white dwarf. Ixtab's current orbital zones are shown below.

Orbital Zones

Zone	AU
Inner	within 0.025
Habitable	0.025–0.055
Middle	0.055–0.139
Outer	beyond 0.139
100D jump limit	0.01315 AU (1,972,800 km)



This image shows the current orbital configuration of the major bodies in the Xibalba system (Sisna is the outermost blue orbit). The brown area shows the extent of the Xibalba belt.