
BOOK REVIEW

*THE DISCOVERY OF STARS: HOW WE
CAME TO KNOW ARE*

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The *Discovery of the Stars* (Bohigas, 2020) is a popular book accessible to people with an intermediate or higher educational level. It uses a historical narrative to facilitate the presentation of the most modern and reliable results about the nature, origin, evolution, and end of the stars.

This text presents the most outstanding facts in the history of astronomy until the end of the 19th century. It then describes how we began to know the Earth's size and the distance to the Moon and the Sun until it shows a map with the spatial distribution of stars that are up to hundreds of millions of light-years away. The third chapter relates how we determined the intrinsic luminosity, temperature, and chemical composition of the stars after we knew the nature of light and the structure of matter. Next, the work presents the tools we use to measure the size and mass of stars. The combination of these five parameters indicates that they are composed of a plasma that reaches a central temperature of 15 million degrees in the Sun and one billion in higher mass evolved stars.

The next three chapters talk about the origin, evolution, and end of the stars. It begins by mentioning that its formation is a process in which rotation and gravity are the main agents, as Immanuel Kant said in the 18th century. We can see that the evolution of stars is determined by reactions of nuclear fusion that take place in their interior and that the possibility of these reactions depends on the stellar mass. It describes the evolution of stars of different mass until they end their existence as white dwarfs, neutron stars, or black holes. The book ends with some reflections on the future of research in stellar astrophysics.

REFERENCES

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