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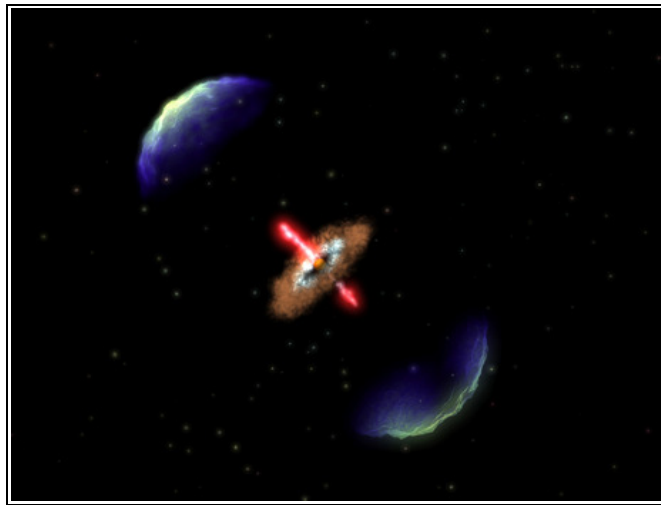
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December 3, 2008--Brown dwarfs--dim objects between planets and stars in mass--form like stars, new evidence from Smithsonian's Submillimeter Array ground telescope shows.

The instrument detected molecules of carbon monoxide shooting outward from the object known as ISO-Oph 102 (above).

Such gases are usually seen flowing from young stars, but the object is too small to be a star--making it a brown dwarf.

The findings suggest that brown dwarfs and stars "share the same formation mechanism," experts say.

—Image by ASIAA

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