



Using data from the Spitzer space observatory, Dr. Susana Iglesias-Groth, a researcher from The Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC), has found evidence for the existence of the amino acid **tryptophan in the interstellar material in a nearby star-forming region**. Amino acids are commonly found in meteorites and were present during the formation of our solar system. This new work could indicate that these protein-building agents—that are key to the development of life—exist naturally in the regions where stars and planetary systems form.

These spectral analyses were in Perseus molecular complex in the IC348 star system, a star-forming region that lies 1,000 [light years](#) away from Earth.

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