

TOI-7166 b: a habitable zone mini-Neptune planet around a nearby low-mass star

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ABSTRACT

We present the discovery and validation of TOI-7166 b, a $2.01 \pm 0.05 R_{\oplus}$ planet orbiting a nearby low-mass star. We validated the planet by combining *Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite* and multicolour high-precision photometric observations from ground-based telescopes, together with spectroscopic data, high-contrast imaging, archival images, and statistical arguments. The host star is an M4-type dwarf at a distance of ~ 35 pc from the Sun. It has a mass and a radius of $M_{\star} = 0.190 \pm 0.004 M_{\odot}$ and $R_{\star} = 0.222 \pm 0.005 R_{\odot}$, respectively. TOI-7166 b has an orbital period of 12.9 d, which places it close to the inner edge of the Habitable Zone of its host star, receiving an insolation flux of $S_p = 1.07 \pm 0.08 S_{\oplus}$ and an equilibrium temperature of $T_{\text{eq}} = 249 \pm 5$ K (assuming a null Bond albedo). The brightness of the host star makes TOI-7166 a suitable target for radial velocity follow-up to measure the planetary mass and bulk density. Moreover, the physical parameters of the system including the infrared brightness ($K_{\text{mag}} = 10.6$) of the star and the planet-to-star radius ratio (0.0823 ± 0.0012) make TOI-7166 b an exquisite target for transmission spectroscopic observations with the *James Webb Space Telescope*, to constrain the exoplanet atmospheric compositions.

Key words: exoplanets – planets and satellites: detection – stars: individual – stars: late-type – stars: low-mass.

1 INTRODUCTION

Over the past two decades, exoplanet science has experienced an extraordinary expansion, with more than 6000 confirmed planets reported to date.¹ This rapid growth has been largely driven by dedicated space missions, such as *Kepler* (W. J. Borucki et al. 2010) and the *Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite* (TESS; G. R. Ricker et al. 2015), as well as extensive ground-based surveys and radial velocity programmes. These efforts have revealed an unexpected diversity of planetary systems and populations. Within all these planets, sub-Neptune-sized ($1.5\text{--}4.0 R_{\oplus}$) are among the most common yet enigmatic planetary populations known to date,

with no Solar system analogues. Their origin and internal structure remain poorly understood, lying at the transition between rocky super-Earths and gas-rich Neptunes (e.g. L. A. Rogers 2015; J. L. Bean, S. N. Raymond & J. E. Owen 2021). In particular, their bulk compositions, atmospheric retention, and formation pathways are key open questions in exoplanet science. Around M dwarfs, these planets are especially interesting: their transits produce large signals, their radial velocity amplitudes are enhanced by the low stellar masses, and their habitable zones are located at short orbital periods (J. F. Kasting, D. P. Whitmire & R. T. Reynolds 1993; R. K. Kopparapu 2013). These factors make them prime targets for precise mass measurements and detailed atmospheric studies. Indeed, the *James Webb Space Telescope* (JWST) is investing considerable amount of time on these candidates such as GJ 3470 b (T. G. Beatty et al. 2024), GJ 1214 b (E. Schlawin et al. 2014), K2-18 b (N. Madhusudhan et al. 2023), TOI-270 d (M. Holmberg & N. Madhusudhan 2024), LHS 1140 b (M. Damiano et al. 2024), and

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¹ <https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/index.html>

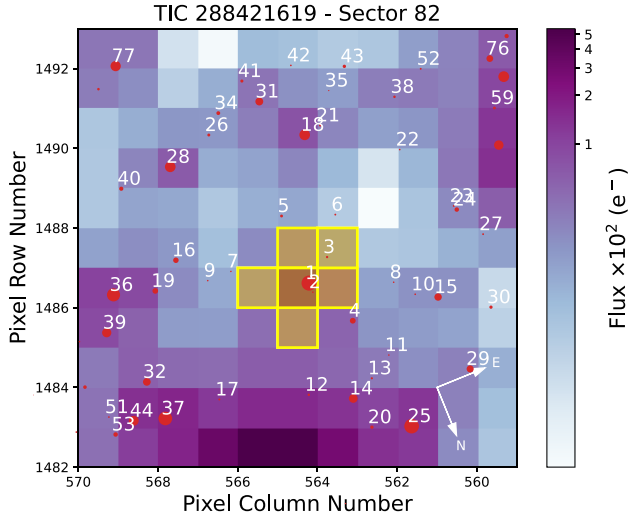


Figure 1. *TESS* target pixel file image of TOI-7166 observed in Sectors 82 made by *tpfplotter* (A. Aller et al. 2020). Red dots show the location of *Gaia* DR3 sources and the yellow shaded regions show the photometric apertures used for photometric measurements extraction.

L 98–59 d (A. Gressier et al. 2024) among others; we refer the reader to N. Madhusudhan et al. (2025a) for a recent review of *JWST* observations of sub-neptunes. Of particular interest is the case of K2-18b, its nature as a water-rich Hycean planet (N. Madhusudhan et al. 2023; R. Hu et al. 2025) and the subsequent claim of a detection of dimethyl sulfide as a potential biosignature in its atmosphere (N. Madhusudhan et al. 2025b), has produced one of the hottest debates today, with a series of independent studies refuting both the hycean hypothesis (see, e.g. O. Shorttle et al. 2024; N. F. Wogan et al. 2024; A. Werlen et al. 2025) and the detection of any biomarker in its atmosphere (see, e.g. R. Luque et al. 2025; S. P. Schmidt et al. 2025; K. B. Stevenson et al. 2025; L. Welbanks et al. 2025).

All of these highlight the community’s interest in this puzzling planetary population and underscore the importance of identifying well-suited sub-Neptunes orbiting nearby M dwarfs to build benchmark systems for testing formation, evolution, and habitability models, as well as to enable future atmospheric characterization with state-of-the-art facilities such as the *JWST* and/or upcoming Extremely Large Telescopes.

In this context, this study reports the discovery of TOI-7166 b, a temperate sub-Neptune-sized planet orbiting an M4-type star identified by *TESS*. We characterize its host star by combining spectral energy distribution (SED) fitting with low-resolution spectroscopy, and we validate its planetary nature using space- and ground-based photometry along with statistical arguments. TOI-7166 b has a radius of $\sim 2.01 R_{\oplus}$ and orbits its host star every 12.9 d, placing it in the habitable zone and receiving an insolation of $S \sim 1.07 S_{\oplus}$. The combination of the planet’s properties and the brightness of its host star makes TOI-7166 b an excellent candidate for precise mass determination and detailed atmospheric characterization, placing it among the most promising sub-Neptunes known to date for such studies.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the observations used in this study and the stellar characterization. Section 3 presents the validation of the planetary signal, while Section 4 details the global photometric modelling. Additional planet searches and *TESS* detection limits are discussed in Section 5. Finally, we outline the prospects for future follow-up observations in Section 6 and summarize our conclusions in Section 7.

2 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA ANALYSIS

2.1 *TESS* data

The host star TIC 288421619 (TOI-7166) was observed by *TESS* (G. R. Ricker et al. 2015) in Sector 82 for 27 d from 2024 August 10 to September 5 with 120-s and 200-s cadences, in Camera #1 and CCD

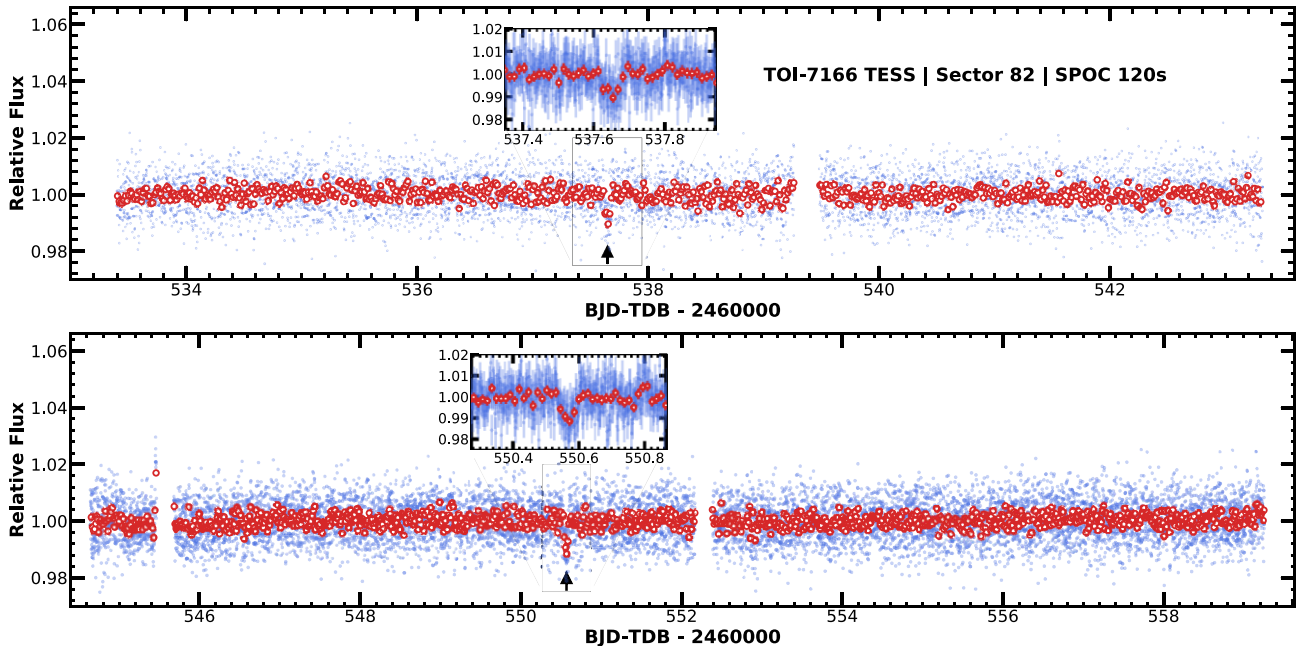


Figure 2. *TESS* PDC-SAP flux measurements extracted from the 2-min cadence data of TOI-7166. The target was observed in sector 82. The blue points show the 2-min data, and the red points show the 20-min binned data. The transit locations of TOI-7166 b are shown with black arrows and zoom boxes.

#2. For our global analysis, we used the Pre-search Data Conditioning Simple Aperture Photometry flux (PDC-SAP; J. C. Smith et al. 2012; M. C. Stumpe et al. 2012, 2014), constructed by the *TESS* Science Processing Operations Center (SPOC; J. M. Jenkins et al. 2016) at the Ames Research Center, from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes,² as they are already calibrated for any instrument systematics and crowding effects. We extracted the normalized TOI-7166 fluxes using the LIGHTKURVE (Lightcurve Collaboration 2018) Python package. Fig. 1 shows the *TESS* FOV including the *TESS* aperture photometric and the location of nearby *Gaia* DR3 sources (Gaia Collaboration 2021). Fig. 2 shows the *TESS* photometric data for TOI-7166. The transit events are highlighted by the black arrows and zoom boxes.

2.2 Ground-based data

All ground-based photometric time-series were scheduled based on the *TESS* Transit Finder tool, which is a customized version of the TAPIR software package (E. Jensen 2013). These are summarized in the following sections. Figs 3 and C1 show the observed transit light curves. Table A1 presents the ground-based observation log.

2.2.1 SPECULOOS-North and SPECULOOS-South observations

We used the SPECULOOS (Search for habitable Planets Eclipsing ULtra-cOOl Stars; L. Delrez et al. 2018; M. Gillon 2018; D. Sebastian et al. 2021; A. Y. Burdanov et al. 2022) 1 m network to observe five transits of TOI-7166.01. These observations were obtained with a 2K×2K Andor iKon-L cameras with a pixel scale of 0.35 arcsec and a FOV of 12 arcmin × 12 arcmin. Three transits were observed with SPECULOOS-South located in Paranal, Chile. The first transit was observed with SPECULOOS-South/Ganymede on UTC 2025 June 8 in the Sloan-*z'* with an exposure time of 13 s. Second and third transits were observed on UTC 2025 June 20 with SPECULOOS-South/Io and SPECULOOS-South/Europa in the Sloan-*g'* (exposure time of 140 s) and Sloan-*z'* (exposure time of 13 s) filters, respectively. SPECULOOS-North/Artemis observed two full transits in the Sloan-*g'* and *I + z'* filters on UTC 2025 July 3 and 29 with exposure time of 140 s, and 13 s, respectively. Data processing and photometric measurements were performed using the PROSE³ pipeline (L. J. Garcia et al. 2022).

2.2.2 TRAPPIST-South observations

We observed one full transit of TOI-7166.01 with the TRAPPIST-South (TRAnsiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope; M. Gillon et al. 2011; E. Jehin et al. 2011) telescope on UTC 2025 June 20. It is equipped with a 2K×2K FLI Proline detector with a pixel scale of 0.65 arcsec and a FOV of 22 arcmin × 22 arcmin. The observations were conducted in the *R_c* filter with an exposure time of 140 s.

2.2.3 LCOGT-Im0 observations

The Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope (LCOGT; T. M. Brown et al. 2013) 1.0-m network was used to observe three transits

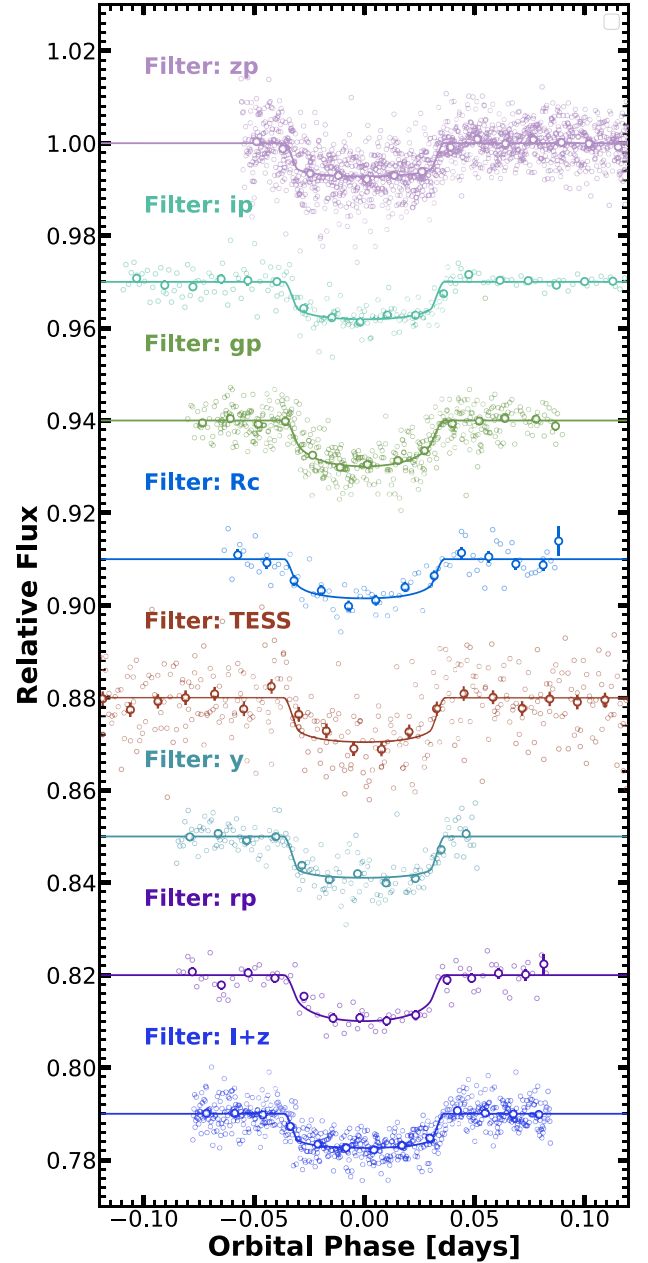


Figure 3. *TESS* and ground-based phase-folded transit light curves of TOI-7166 b. The coloured data points show the relative flux, and the coloured solid lines show the best-fitting transit model superimposed. The transit light curves are shifted along y-axis for visibility.

of TOI-7166.01. The telescopes are equipped with 4096 × 4096 SINISTRO Cameras, with an image scale of 0.389 arcsec per pixel and a FOV of 26 arcmin × 26 arcmin. First transit was observed on UTC 2025 June 8 in the Sloan-*i'*, the second transit was observed on UTC 2025 July 3 in the Sloan-*r'* (but the transit was not included in our global fit because of low S/R), and the last one was observed on UTC July 16, 2025 in the Sloan-*r'* filter. LCOGT data processing and photometric analysis were performed using BANZAI pipeline (C. McCully et al. 2018) and ASTROIMAGEJ software (K. A. Collins et al. 2017), respectively.

²<https://archive.stsci.edu/missions-and-data/teess>

³Prose: <https://github.com/lgrcia/prose>.

2.2.4 TTT observations

Three transits of TOI-7166.01 were observed with the Two-metre Twin Telescope facility (TTT) during July 4, 16 and 29 nights. TTT is located at the Teide Observatory on the island of Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain). Currently, it includes two 0.8m telescopes (TTT1 and TTT2) and a 2.0m telescope (TTT3) on altazimuth mounts. We used TTT1 telescope, that has two Nasmyth ports with focal ratios of $f/D = 6.8$ and $f/D = 4.4$ equipped with a QHY411M⁴ CMOS cameras (M. R. Alarcon et al. 2023). The QHY411M have scientific Complementary Metal–Oxide–Semiconductor (sCMOS) image sensors with $14K \times 10K$ $3.76 \mu\text{m pixel}^{-1}$ pixels. This setup, in the $f/D = 6.8$ focus, provides an effective FoV of $30 \text{ arcmin} \times 20 \text{ arcmin}$ (with an angular resolution of $0.14 \text{ arcsec pixel}^{-1}$). Science images were taken using the Sloan- g' and Sloan- r' filters on UTC 2025 July 4.

TTT3 is a 2-m $f/6$ Ritchey–Chrétien telescope that is currently in its commissioning phase. An Andor iKon-L 936 $2k \times 2k$ camera is mounted at the Nasmyth 2 focus, equipped with a back-illuminated $13.5 \mu\text{m pixel}^{-1}$ BEX2-DD CCD sensor, resulting in a field of view of $7.85 \text{ arcmin} \times 7.85 \text{ arcmin}$ and a plate scale of $0.23 \text{ arcsec pixel}^{-1}$. Science images were taken using the Sloan- g' and y filters. All the images were bias, dark, and flat-field corrected in the standard way, and photometry extraction was performed using the PROSE pipeline. The TTT1 and TTT2 data are not included in the final global analysis due to the low S/R and large photometric error bars.

2.2.5 AUKR T80 observation

We observed two transits of TOI-7166 b on UTC July 29 and August 24, 2025 using the 80 cm Prof. Dr Berahitdin Albayrak Telescope (T80) at the Ankara University Kreiken Observatory (AUKR), in the Sloan- i' filter. The telescope is equipped with a 1024×1024 Apogee Alta U47+CCD camera, providing a field of view of $11 \text{ arcmin} \times 11 \text{ arcmin}$. Data reduction and differential photometry were performed with the ASTROIMAGEJ (AIJ) software (K. A. Collins et al. 2017).

2.2.6 OSN-1.5m observation

We used the T150 at the Sierra Nevada Observatory in Granada (Spain) to observe one full transit of TOI-7166 b on UTC 2025 July 29 in the Johnson–Cousin I and V filters. The telescope is equipped with a $2K \times 2K$ Andor iKon-L BEX2DD CCD camera with a pixel scale of 0.232 arcsec , resulting in a total FOV of $7.9 \text{ arcmin} \times 7.9 \text{ arcmin}$. The data calibration and photometric extraction were performed using the PROSE pipeline and the ASTROIMAGEJ software. Unfortunately, the data set was affected by adverse weather conditions and is therefore not included in the global analysis.

2.3 High-resolution imaging

To obtain high-resolution imaging for TOI-7166, we utilized the Zorro speckle interferometric instrument, mounted on the 8-m Gemini South telescope. High-resolution imaging is critical to assess the local environment of an exoplanet host star and determine if a line of sight or bound close companion star is present. The presence of such a companion provides ‘third-light’ contamination of the observed transit, leading to incorrect derived properties for the exoplanet and

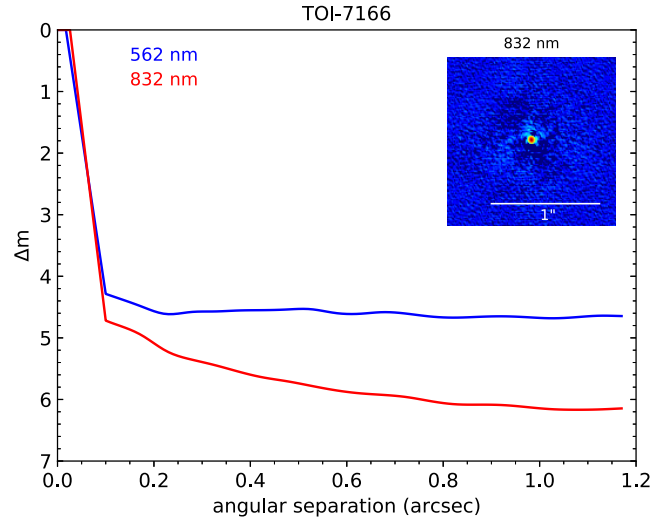


Figure 4. The figure shows 5σ magnitude contrast curves in both filters as a function of the angular separation out to 1.2 arcsec. The inset shows the reconstructed 832 nm image of TOI-7166 with a 1 arcsec scale bar. TOI-7166 was found to have no close companions from the diffraction limit ($0.02''$) out to 1.2 arcsec to within the magnitude contrast levels achieved.

its host star (D. R. Ciardi et al. 2015; E. Furlan & S. B. Howell 2017, 2020).

TOI-7166 was observed with Zorro on UTC 2025 July 3. Zorro provides simultaneous speckle imaging in two bands (562 and 832 nm), yielding output data products that include robust 5σ magnitude contrast curves and a reconstructed image (N. J. Scott et al. 2021). Eight sets of 1000×0.06 second images were obtained for TOI-7166 and the images were processed using our standard reduction pipeline (S. B. Howell et al. 2011). Fig. 4 presents the final 5σ magnitude contrast curves and the 832 nm reconstructed speckle image for TOI-7166. We find that TOI-7166 is a single star with no companion brighter than 5–6 mag below that of the target star from the Gemini Telescope 8-m telescope diffraction limit (20 mas) out to 1.2 arcsec. At the distance of TOI-7166 ($d = 35.4 \text{ pc}$), these angular limits correspond to spatial limits of 0.7–42 au.

2.4 Spectroscopic data and stellar physical properties

2.4.1 SED fitting

We performed an analysis of the broad-band SED analysis of the star together with the *Gaia* DR3 parallax (with no systematic offset applied; see, e.g. K. G. Stassun & G. Torres 2021), in order to derive an empirical measurement of the stellar radius, following the same procedures described in K. G. Stassun & G. Torres (2016), K. G. Stassun, K. A. Collins & B. S. Gaudi (2017), and K. G. Stassun et al. (2018a). We pulled the near-infrared W1–W3 magnitudes from *WISE* together with the zy magnitudes from *Pan-STARRS*, the $G_{BP}G_{RP}$ magnitudes from *Gaia*, and the JHK_S magnitudes from 2MASS. We also utilized the absolute flux calibrated spectrophotometry from *Gaia*. Together, the available photometry spans the full stellar SED over the wavelength range $0.4\text{--}10 \mu\text{m}$ (see Fig. 5).

We performed a fit using PHOENIX stellar atmosphere models (T. O. Husser et al. 2013), with the free parameters being the effective temperature (T_{eff}) and metallicity ($[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$). The extinction, A_V , was fixed at zero due to the proximity of the system. The resulting fit (Fig. 5) has a reduced χ^2 of 2.8, with a best-fitting $T_{\text{eff}} = 3100 \pm 75 \text{ K}$, and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.1 \pm 0.2$. Integrating

⁴<https://www.qhyccd.com/>

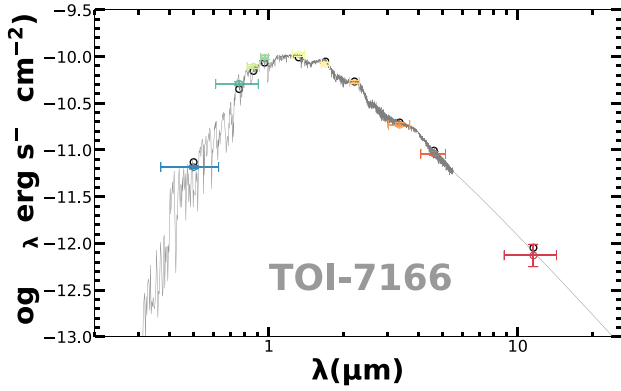


Figure 5. Spectral energy distribution of TOI-7166. The coloured points with error bars represent the observed photometric measurements. The black circles are the model fluxes from the best-fitting PHOENIX atmosphere model. The absolute flux-calibrated *Gaia* spectrophotometry is shown as the grey swathe.

the model SED gives the bolometric flux at Earth, $F_{\text{bol}} = 1.158 \pm 0.055 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Taking the F_{bol} together with the *Gaia* parallax directly gives the bolometric luminosity, $L_{\text{bol}} = 0.00448 \pm 0.00021 L_{\odot}$. The stellar radius follows from the Stefan–Boltzmann relation, giving $R_{\star} = 0.232 \pm 0.013 R_{\odot}$. In addition, we can estimate the stellar mass from the empirical relations of A. W. Mann et al. (2019), giving $M_{\star} = 0.217 \pm 0.007 M_{\odot}$.

2.4.2 IRTF/SpeX observations for TOI-7166

We observed TOI-7166 on 18 May 2025 with the SpeX spectrograph (J. T. Rayner et al. 2003) on the 3.2-m NASA Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF). We used the short-wavelength cross-dispersed (SXD) mode and the $0''.3 \times 15$ arcsec slit aligned to the parallactic angle to gather a spectrum covering 0.80–2.42 μm with a resolving power of $R \sim 2000$ and 2.5 pixels per resolution element. Conditions were clear with seeing of $0''.8$. We collected six 200 s exposures at an airmass of 1.0, nodding in an ABBAAB pattern. Science observations were preceded by six 20 s exposures of the A0 V telluric standard HD 192538 ($V = 6.5$) at a similar airmass and followed by the standard SXD calibration set. Data reduction was carried out with SPEXTOOL v4.1 (M. C. Cushing, W. D. Vacca & J. T. Rayner 2004), following the standard approach (e.g. K. Barkaoui et al. 2023, 2024, 2025b; M. Ghachoui et al. 2023, 2024). The resulting spectrum (Fig. 6) has a median per-pixel S/R ratio of 79.

We analyzed the SpeX SXD spectrum of TOI-7166 using the SpeX Prism Library Analysis Toolkit (SPLAT; A. J. Burgasser & Splat Development Team 2017) and referring to the IRTF Spectral Library (M. C. Cushing, J. T. Rayner & W. D. Vacca 2005; J. T. Rayner, M. C. Cushing & W. D. Vacca 2009). The spectrum shows a strong match to the M4 V standard Ross 47, and we adopt a near-infrared spectral type of $M4.0 \pm 1.0$ accordingly. Using the H₂O–K₂ index (B. Rojas-Ayala et al. 2012) and *K*-band Na I and Ca I features in conjunction with the A. W. Mann et al. (2013) relation, we derive a stellar iron abundance of $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.20 \pm 0.12$, suggestive of subsolar metallicity.

2.4.3 Shane/Kast observations for TOI-7166

We observed TOI-7166 with the Kast double spectrograph (J. S. Miller & R. P. S. Stone 1994) on the 3m Shane telescope at Lick

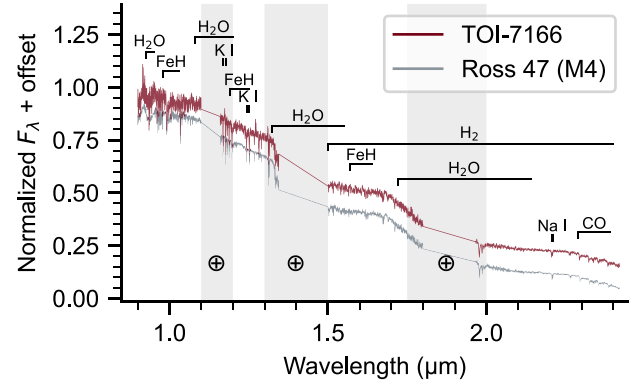


Figure 6. SpeX SXD spectrum of TOI-7166 (red) alongside the M4 V standard Ross 47 (grey). Prominent atomic and molecular features of M dwarfs are annotated, and regions of strong telluric absorption are shaded.

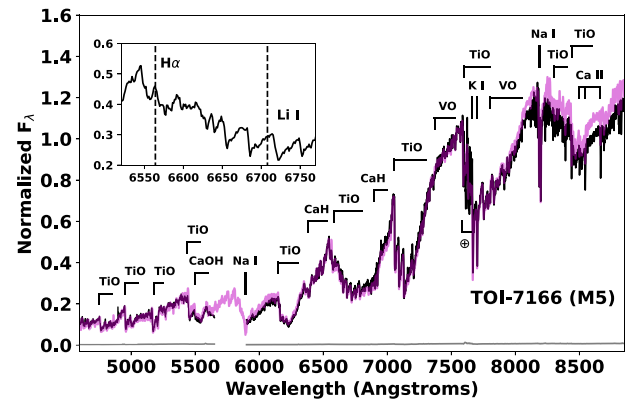


Figure 7. Shane/Kast optical spectrum of TOI-7166 (black line) compared to its best-fitting M5 SDSS spectral template from J. J. Bochanski et al. (2007, magenta line). Key spectral features are labelled, including regions of residual telluric absorption (\oplus). The inset box shows the 6520–6770 Å region encompassing H α (weak emission) and Li I features (not present). The gap in the Kast spectrum between 5600 and 5900 Å corresponds to the gap between that instrument's blue and red channels.

Observatory on 27 July 2025 (UT) in clear conditions with $1''.2$ seeing. We used the $1''.5$ slit aligned to the parallactic angle to obtain blue and red optical spectra split at 5700 Å by the d57 dichroic, and dispersed by the 600/4310 grism and 600/7500 grating, resulting in spectral resolutions of $\lambda/\Delta\lambda \approx 1100$ and ≈ 1500 , respectively. We obtained a single 1200 s exposure in the blue channel and two 600 s exposures in the red channel at an average airmass of 1.2. The nearby G2 V star HD 211 476 ($V = 7.0$) was observed afterward at a similar airmass for telluric absorption calibration, and the spectrophotometric calibrator BD28+4211 (J. B. Oke 1990) was observed shortly thereafter for flux calibration. We used HeHgCd and HeNeArHg arc lamp exposures to wavelength calibrate our blue and red data, and flat-field lamp exposures for pixel response calibration. Data were reduced using the kastredux code⁵ using standard settings. The resulting spectra have median signals-to-noise of 38 at 5425 and 141 at 7350 Å.

The reduced spectrum is shown in Fig. 7, compared to the best-fitting M5 dwarf SDSS spectral template from J. J. Bochanski et al. (2007). TOI-7166 is slightly bluer than this template, indicating a

⁵<https://github.com/aburgasser/kastredux>.

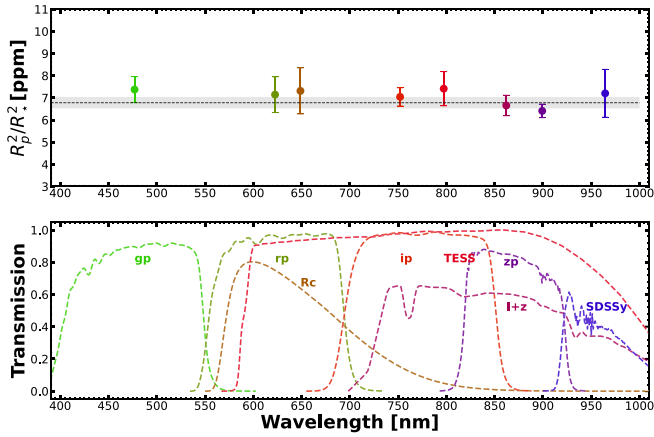


Figure 8. *Top panel:* Measured transit depths of the planet in different filters (coloured dots highlighted with error bars) obtained from our global analysis for TOI-7166 b. The horizontal black line corresponds to the depth obtained from the achromatic fit with a 1σ error bar (shaded region). All measurements agree with the common transit depth at 1σ . *Bottom panel:* Transmission for each filter.

slightly earlier type. Index-based classifications based on methods described in I. N. Reid, S. L. Hawley & J. E. Gizis (1995), J. E. Gizis (1997), E. L. Martín et al. (1999), S. Lépine, R. M. Rich & M. M. Shara (2003), and F. C. Riddick, P. F. Roche & P. W. Lucas (2007) indicate $M4.5 \pm 0.5$ as a more accurate spectral type that encompasses the near-infrared classification. We detect weak $H\beta$ (4861 Å) and $H\alpha$ (6563 Å) emission, the latter with an equivalent width $EW = -1.21 \pm 0.12$ Å, corresponding to $\log(L_{H\alpha}/L_{bol}) = -4.52 \pm 0.08$ using the χ factor relation of S. T. Douglas et al. (2014). The presence of weak $H\alpha$ emission indicates an activity age $\lesssim 7$ Gyr based on the kinematic sample of A. A. West et al. (2008), or $\lesssim 4$ Gyr based on the mass-dependent relation of E. K. Pass et al. (2024) assuming $M = 0.15 M_{\odot}$. The absence of detectable Li I absorption at 6708 Å rules out a substellar mass and age less than ~ 30 Myr. We measure the metallicity index $\zeta = 1.080 \pm 0.005$ (S. Lépine et al. 2013), which corresponds to a roughly solar metallicity of $[Fe/H] = +0.11 \pm 0.20$ using the A. W. Mann et al. (2013) calibration, albeit formally

consistent with the slightly subsolar metallicity inferred from the near-infrared spectrum.

3 PLANET VALIDATION

3.1 TESS data report

The transit search was performed with the SPOC pipeline (J. M. Jenkins 2002; J. M. Jenkins et al. 2010, 2020) using Sector 82 data on 2024 September 13. The pipeline found a transit signal at 12.92 d with a signal-to-noise ratio of 10.5. The *TESS* Science Office alerted the event on 2024 November 14 (N. M. Guerrero et al. 2021). The transit signal passed all diagnostic tests presented in the data validation reports (J. D. Twicken et al. 2018). The source of the transits was localized to 2.08 ± 2.97 arcsec from TOI-7166. It resulted in a transit depth of 8723.2564 ± 870.9261 ppm, duration of 1.5980 ± 0.2144 h, and an orbital period of 12.9228 ± 0.0030 d, which correspond to a planet with a radius of $R_p = 2.1 \pm 0.32 R_{\oplus}$.

3.2 Ground-based photometric follow-up for TOI-7166

We used the ground-based photometric observations to (i) confirm the event on the target, (ii) refine the transit ephemerides and (iii) measure the transit depth in different bands in order to validate the planetary nature. We conducted time-series observations in different bands, Sloan- g' , $-r'$, $-i'$, $-z'$, SDSSy, and *Rc* filters, covering a wavelength range from 4000 to 10000 Å. The aperture photometry was performed in uncontaminated small apertures of only a few arcseconds to exclude any neighbourhood objects. It resulted in no chromatic dependence across filters. Fig. 8 shows the measured transit depths in different bands.

3.3 Archival data for TOI-7166

We explored the archival science data for TOI-7166 to exclude any possible background stellar objects that could be blended with TOI-7166 in its current position. TOI-7166 has a relative high proper

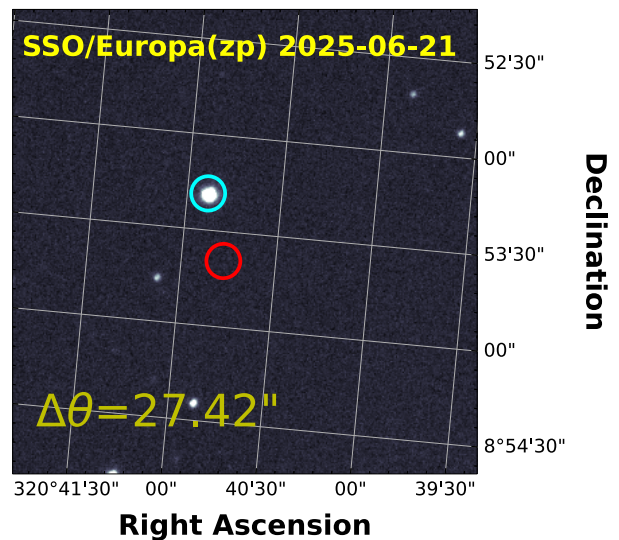
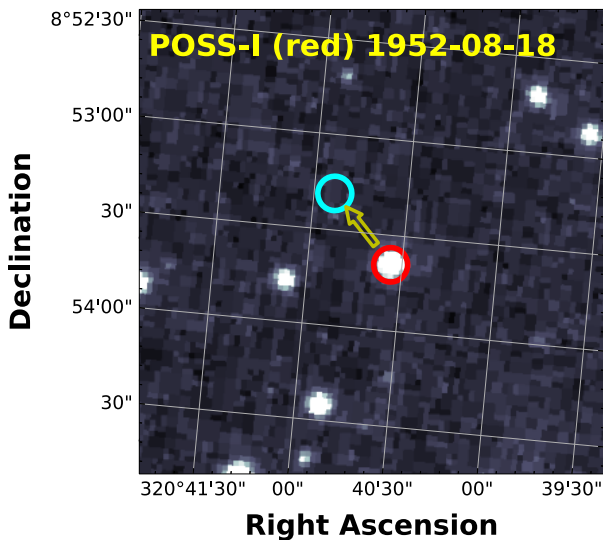


Figure 9. Evolution of TOI-7155 position. The *left panel* shows the red image from POSS-I taken in 1952. The *right panel* shows the *zp* image from SPECULOOS-South/Europa taken in 2025. The previous and current positions of the target are shown in red and blue circles, respectively.

Table 1. Astrometry, photometry, and spectroscopy stellar properties of TOI-7166. (1): *Gaia* EDR3 (Gaia Collaboration 2021); (2) *TESS* Input Catalogue (K. G. Stassun et al. 2018b); (3) UCAC4 N. (Zacharias et al. 2012); (4) 2MASS (M. F. Skrutskie et al. 2006); (5) WISE (R. M. Cutri et al. 2021).

Star information		
<i>Target designations:</i>		
	TOI 7166	
	TIC 288421619	
	GAIA DR3 1740534092250753920	
	2MASS J21224308+0853259	
	LP 577–37	
Parameter	Value	Source
<i>Parallax and distance:</i>		
RA [J2000]	21:22:43.35	(1)
Dec [J2000]	+08:53:21.83	(1)
Plx [mas]	28.382 ± 0.022	(1)
μ_{RA} [mas yr ⁻¹]	260.21 ± 0.02	(1)
μ_{Dec} [mas yr ⁻¹]	-270.62 ± 0.02	(1)
Distance [pc]	35.23 ± 0.03	(1)
<i>Photometric properties:</i>		
<i>TESS</i> _{mag}	13.123 ± 0.008	(2)
<i>V</i> _{mag} [UCAC4]	15.79 ± 0.20	(3)
<i>B</i> _{mag} [UCAC4]	16.8	(3)
<i>R</i> _{mag} [UCAC4]	14.6	(3)
<i>J</i> _{mag} [2MASS]	11.41 ± 0.02	(4)
<i>H</i> _{mag} [2MASS]	10.86 ± 0.02	(4)
<i>K</i> _{mag} [2MASS]	10.60 ± 0.02	(4)
<i>G</i> _{mag} [Gaia DR3]	14.492 ± 0.001	(1)
<i>W1</i> _{mag} [WISE]	10.39 ± 0.02	(5)
<i>W2</i> _{mag} [WISE]	10.21 ± 0.02	(5)
<i>W3</i> _{mag} [WISE]	10.05 ± 0.06	(5)
<i>W4</i> _{mag} [WISE]	8.90	(5)
<i>Spectroscopic and derived parameters</i>		
<i>T</i> _{eff} [K]	3099^{+51}_{-50}	This work
log <i>g</i> _* [dex]	5.02 ± 0.02	This work
[Fe/H] [dex]	-0.20 ± 0.12	This work
<i>M</i> _* [M _⊙]	$0.190^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	This work
<i>R</i> _* [R _⊙]	$0.222^{+0.006}_{-0.004}$	This work
<i>L</i> _* [L _⊙]	$0.004103^{+0.000336}_{-0.000298}$	This work
<i>F</i> _{bol} [erg s ⁻¹ cm ⁻²]	$(1.158 \pm 0.055) \times 10^{-10}$	This work
<i>A</i> _v [mag]	0.1 ± 0.1	This work
ρ_* [ρ _⊙]	$17.36^{+0.96}_{-1.33}$	This work
Age [Gyr]	$\lesssim 4$ Gyr	This work
Optical SpT	M4.5 ± 0.5	This work
Near-infrared SpT	M4 ± 1	This work

motion of 375.7 mas yr⁻¹. We used the data from POSS-I/DSS (R. L. Minkowski & G. O. Abell 1963) in 1952 in the red filter and SPECULOOS-South in 2025 in the Sloan-*z'* filter, and spanning 73 yr. The target has shifted by 27".4 from 1952 to 2025. Fortunately, no background objects are detected in the current position of TOI-7166 (see Fig. 9).

3.4 Statistical validation of TOI-7166.01

We used the TRICERATOPS⁶ (S. Giacalone et al. 2021) package developed in PYTHON to compute the False Positive Probability, which allows us to identify whether a given candidate is a planet or a

nearby false positive. TRICERATOPS provides two output parameters, which are the FPP (False Positive Probability) and the NFPP (Nearby False Positive Probability). TRICERATOPS uses the phase-folded *TESS* or ground-based light curves of the candidate together with high-contrast imaging observations in order to improve our results. In this case, we used photometric observation from *TESS* sector 82 (Section 2.1), and high-resolution observation from Gemini-South/Zorro taken on UTC 2025 July 3 (Section 2.3). We obtained NFPP = 0 (i.e. the event was detected on the target, Section 3.2) and FPP = 0.0018 ± 0.0005 . TOI-7166 b is validated as a planet.

4 GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF PHOTOMETRIC DATA

Our global modelling of transit observations is based on the *TESS* (described Section 2.1) and ground-based data (described in Section 2.2), using the Metropolis–Hastings (MH) (N. Metropolis et al. 1953; W. K. Hastings 1970) technique implemented in *Trafit*, a revised version of the Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) code (see M. Gillon et al. (2014) for more details, and references therein). We followed the same strategy as described in K. Barkaoui et al. (2023, 2024, 2025b).

The transit data are fitted using the K. Mandel & E. Agol (2002) quadratic limb-darkening model, multiplied by a transit baseline, to correct systematic effects (time, FWHM, airmass, and background). For each transit light curve, the baseline is selected by minimizing the Bayesian information criterion (BIC; G. Schwarz (1978)). The photometric measurement error bars are re-scaled using the correction factor $CF = \beta_w \times \beta_r$, where β_r is the red noise and β_w is the white noise (M. Gillon et al. 2012).

For the global fit, the free parameters for transit modelling used are the orbital period, total transit duration, impact parameters, transit depth, and stellar density. We applied a Gaussian prior distribution to the stellar effective temperature (*T*_{eff}), surface gravity (log *g*_{*}), mass (*M*_{*}), radius (*R*_{*}), metallicity ([Fe/H]) and quadratic limb-darkening coefficients *u*₁ and *u*₂ (see Table B1). Given *T*_{eff}, [Fe/H], and log *g*_{*}, we computed the coefficients *u*₁ and *u*₂ using LDTK⁷ package (H. Parviainen & S. Aigrain 2015). During the fitting, we converted *u*₁ and *u*₂ coefficients into *q*₁ = (*u*₁ + *u*₂)² and *q*₂ = 0.5*u*₁(*u*₁ + *u*₂)⁻¹ proposed by D. M. Kipping 2013.

Two global MCMC analysis were performed. First one assuming a circular (*e* = 0) orbit and second one assuming an eccentric orbit. Our results favoured a circular orbit solution based on the Bayes factor. For each transit light curve, we performed a preliminary fit composed of one Markov chain with 5×10^5 steps to determine the correction factor (CF; M. Gillon et al. 2012) to be applied to the measurements' error bars. Then, we performed a final MCMC fit composed of five Markov chains with one million steps to constrain the final physical parameters of the system. We used the A. Gelman & D. B. Rubin (1992) statistical tests to check the convergence for each Markov chain. Our final solution for the circular orbit is presented in Table 2.

5 PLANET SEARCHES AND DETECTION LIMITS FROM THE TESS PHOTOMETRY

Using the available *TESS* data (see Section 2.1), we employed the SHERLOCK package (B. O. Demory et al. 2020; F. J. Pozuelos et al. 2020), to independently recover the candidate TOI-7166.01 and to

⁶TRICERATOPS : <https://github.com/stevengiacalone/triceratops>.

⁷LDTK : <https://github.com/hpparvi/ldtk>.

Table 2. Derived properties of the TOI-7166 b system with 1σ .

TOI-7166	
Parameter	Value
<i>Quadratic limb-darkening coefficients</i>	
$u_{1,\text{TESS}}$	0.31 ± 0.01
$u_{2,\text{TESS}}$	0.23 ± 0.05
$u_{1,\text{Sloan-z'}}$	0.24 ± 0.02
$u_{2,\text{Sloan-z'}}$	0.18 ± 0.05
$u_{1,\text{I+z'}}$	0.26 ± 0.02
$u_{2,\text{I+z'}}$	0.20 ± 0.04
$u_{1,\text{SDSSy}}$	0.22 ± 0.01
$u_{2,\text{SDSSy}}$	0.17 ± 0.04
$u_{1,\text{Sloan-i'}}$	0.34 ± 0.02
$u_{2,\text{Sloan-i'}}$	0.23 ± 0.06
$u_{1,\text{Sloan-r'}}$	0.54 ± 0.04
$u_{2,\text{Sloan-r'}}$	0.26 ± 0.06
$u_{1,\text{Sloan-g'}}$	0.57 ± 0.03
$u_{2,\text{Sloan-g'}}$	0.34 ± 0.06
$u_{1,\text{Johnson-Rc}}$	0.38 ± 0.02
$u_{2,\text{Johnson-Rc}}$	0.26 ± 0.04
<i>Derived planet parameters</i>	
Orbital period P [days]	$12.920636210^{+0.000000998}_{-0.000000998}$
Transit depth R_p^2/R_\star^2 [ppt]	6776^{+198}_{-194}
Planet-to-star ratio R_p/R_\star	0.0823 ± 0.0012
Planet radius R_p [R_\oplus]	$2.01^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$
Transit-timing T_0 [BJD _{TDB} – 2450000]	$10847.7427718 \pm 0.0000101$
Scaled semimajor axis a/R_\star	$59.98^{+1.09}_{-1.57}$
Orbital semimajor axis a [au]	0.06191 ± 0.00044
Orbital inclination i [deg]	$89.80^{+1.16}_{-1.05}$
Impact parameter b [R_\star]	$0.20^{+0.10}_{-0.12}$
Transit duration [min]	105 ± 1
Eccentricity e	0 [fixed]
Equilibrium temperature T_{eq} [K]	249 ± 5
Incident flux $\langle F \rangle$ [$\langle F_\oplus \rangle$]	$1.07^{+0.09}_{-0.08}$

explore the existence of additional signals that may have been missed by the official SPOC and QLP pipelines (see, e.g. G. Dransfield et al. 2024; S. Yalçinkaya et al. 2025; S. Zúñiga-Fernández et al. 2025). SHERLOCK is specifically designed to identify low-S/N transit-like features potentially attributable to planets, and it provides tools for candidate validation and preliminary characterization, as described in M. Dévora-Pajares et al. (2024).

We first recovered the signal corresponding to the planetary candidate alerted by SPOC, TOI-7166.01, and a secondary signal that would correspond to an orbital period of 7.03 d and $\sim 1.20 R_\oplus$. We executed the vetting module for this secondary candidate and found no obvious false-positive source that may have produced the signal. In addition, SHERLOCK relies on TRICERATOPS (S. Giacalone et al. 2021) to conduct a statistical validation; in this case, the FPP and NFPP values were 0.42 and 0.09, respectively, placing the candidate in the ambiguous area out of the likely planet region, and close to the border with the nearby false positive area. Hence, to finally validate or refute this signal, we triggered a ground-based campaign using SPECULOOS-North/Artemis, LCOSSO-2m0/MuSCAT4, and LCOGT-1m0 telescopes, which resulted in no detection in any of our four trials, suggesting this signal is a false positive.

The lack of additional candidates may be explained by several possibilities (see, e.g. R. D. Wells et al. 2021; N. Schanche et al. 2022;

F. J. Pozuelos et al. 2023): (1) the system hosts no further planets; (2) additional planets are present but do not transit; (3) additional transiting planets exist, yet their orbital periods exceed the range investigated in this study; or (4) further transiting planets are present, but their signals remain undetectable due to the limited photometric precision of the available data. Scenarios (1) and (2) could be addressed with a high-precision radial velocity campaign, although such an analysis lies beyond the scope of this work. Scenario (3) can be tested by extending the observational baseline; unfortunately, no other *TESS* observations are planned. To explore the fourth scenario, we conducted injection-and-recovery experiments with the MATRIX code⁸ (M. Dévora-Pajares & F. J. Pozuelos 2022).

MATRIX explores a three-dimensional parameter space by building a grid of orbital periods, planetary radii, and transit epochs. Each three-parameter set defines a synthetic transit signal that is injected into the original *TESS* light curve. In our analysis, we adopted a grid of 60 orbital periods (1–15 d), 60 planetary radii (0.5–3 R_\oplus), and five transit epochs, yielding a total of 18 000 scenarios. For each of these scenarios, we applied a detrend with a bi-weight filter using a window

⁸The MATRIX (Multi-phAse Transits Recovery from Injected eXoplanets) package is open access on GitHub: <https://github.com/PlanetHunters/tkmatrix>.

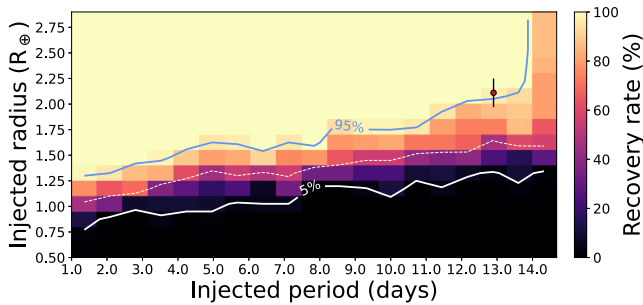


Figure 10. Results of the injection-recovery experiment conducted with MATRIX to determine the detectability of the planets in the *TESS* data. The colour scale represents recovery rates, where bright yellow indicates high recovery and dark purple/black indicates low recovery. The solid blue line marks the 95 percent recovery contour, the dashed white line indicates the 50 percent, and the solid white line shows the 5 percent. The red dot marks the nominal value for TOI-7166 b.

size of 0.5 d, which was found to be the optimal length during the SHERLOCK exploration. Then, the light curves are processed in the search for planets, where a synthetic planet is considered as retrieved when its found period and epoch differ by at most 1 per cent and up to 1 h from the injected values, respectively.

The results are displayed in Fig. 10. The transition region, that is, the region with recoveries of 50 per cent, gently increases from $1 R_{\oplus}$ at 1 d orbital period to $1.5 R_{\oplus}$ at 15 d orbital period. We found that Earth-sized planets become invisible for orbital periods longer than 3 d, and planets larger than $1.5 R_{\oplus}$ would be easily detectable for the full range of periods studied here, with recovery rates of 80–100 per cent; hence confirming the non-existence of any.

Additionally, we computed the Lomb–Scargle periodogram (N. R. Lomb 1976; J. D. Scargle 1982), which showed no indications of flaring activity or stellar rotation modulation in the *TESS* Sector 82 data of the target. This implies that the rotational period of the host star is probably longer than the *TESS* observation window for a single sector.

6 PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER FOLLOW-UPS

6.1 Planetary mass determination

Recent studies have quantified the observational thresholds required to infer planetary interiors from mass and radius measurements (see, e.g. C. Dorn et al. 2015, 2017; M. Plotnikov & D. Valencia 2020). From our best fit model, the measured radius of TOI-7166 b is $2.01^{+0.06}_{-0.05} R_{\oplus}$ (relative precision ~ 2.7 per cent). Following M. Plotnikov & D. Valencia (2024), assuming a rocky Earth-like planet, we would need a mass precision of 7–17 per cent for achieving iron-mass fractions and core-mass fractions within ± 10 –15 wt%. In the case of assuming a water-rich planet, the mass precision would be 5–15 per cent to keep the water-mass fraction within ± 10 –15 wt%. Then, we can adopt a conservative mass precision target of 15 per cent as the threshold required to enable a reliable first-order characterization of the planet’s internal structure.

Hence, to quantify the radial-velocity follow-up efforts required to measure the mass of TOI-7166 b with such a precision, we conducted a dedicated suite of simulations. To this end, we generated synthetic RV time series by randomly sampling observation dates within the allowed visibility window and evaluating the Keplerian signal

of the known planet assuming a planetary mass of $5.03^{+1.54}_{-1.04} M_{\oplus}$ derived by the SPRIGHT code (H. Parviainen, R. Luque & E. Palle 2024). In the absence of prior RVs for this target, the per-epoch uncertainty was modelled using an effective error (σ_{eff}) adopted directly from the literature for stellar analogues (similar spectral type, brightness, and T_{eff}) observed considering two state-of-the-art facilities: CARMENES and MAROON-X (see, e.g. A. Reiners et al. 2018; K. Barkaoui et al. 2025a).

We use N to represent the number of RV measurements in a planned observing campaign. For each set of N observations, we calculated the noiseless Keplerian RVs and then created 100 Monte Carlo simulations by adding Gaussian noise with a standard deviation of σ_{eff} . Then, each set of N simulated observations was fitted using the `curve_fit` function from the SCIPY library (P. Virtanen et al. 2020), treating planetary mass as a free parameter. While this approach is simpler than a full multiparameter Bayesian analysis, it enables us to roughly estimate how mass uncertainty changes with the number of measurements and helps approximate the number of observations required to achieve a desired mass precision. For simplicity, this method does not account for correlated noise, stellar activity, or multiple-parameter relationships. As a consequence, the derived number of measurements should be regarded as a lower limit, since the absence of these noise sources makes the simulation more optimistic than what is typically achievable in real observations. Nevertheless, during the calibration of this methodology by comparing simulated and real data, we found that for quiet stars, i.e. those with low levels of stellar activity (such as TOI-7166), the deviation between our model predictions and the actual mass determination is typically < 3 per cent. This provides confidence in the robustness and reliability of the procedure.

Using this method, we find that CARMENES would require approximately 400 observations to achieve the 15 per cent precision goal, which aligns with expectations given the target’s faintness for this instrument (see, e.g. I. Ribas et al. 2023). Since the object is visible for about five months each year, this would mean an observing campaign lasting around three observational semesters. In comparison, MAROON-X can achieve the same precision with only about 15 to 20 measurements, which could be completed in a single semester. This makes MAROON-X the optimal instrument for mass determination and enabling interior modelling for TOI-7166 b.

6.2 Atmospheric characterization

To quantify the suitability of transiting exoplanets for atmospheric characterization using the transmission spectroscopic observation, we used the transmission spectroscopy metric (TSM) introduced by E. M. R. Kempton et al. (2018). By combining the planetary parameters (radius R_p , mass M_p estimated from H. Parviainen et al. 2024), and equilibrium temperature T_{eq} , together with the infrared brightness of the host star J_{mag} , we find that TOI-7166 b has a TSM of 62^{+21}_{-14} . Right panel of Fig. 11 shows the TSM against the planetary equilibrium temperature for known transiting exoplanets with mass measurements and radius $R_p < 4 R_{\oplus}$ and stellar effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}} < 4000$ K. The diagram shows that TOI-7166 b is a suitable sub-Neptune-sized planet for detailed atmospheric characterization with the *JWST*.

7 CONCLUSION

We present the validation and discovery of TOI-7166 b system by the *TESS* mission. The system has been confirmed using multiband

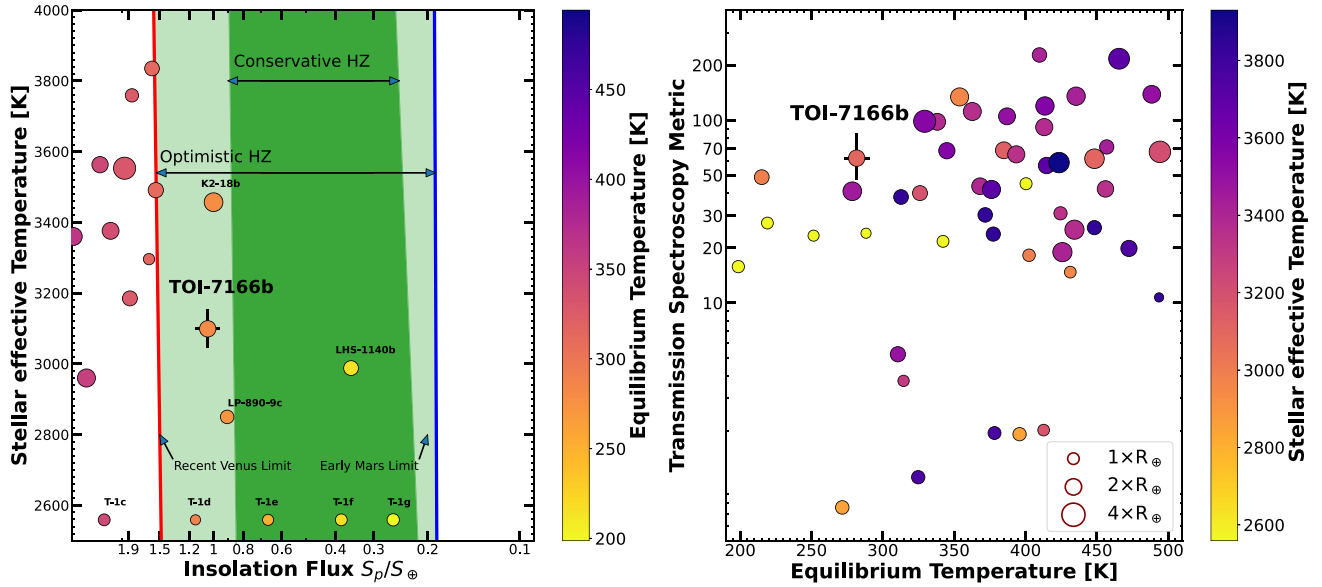


Figure 11. *Left panel:* Stellar effective temperature (T_{eff}) as a function of incident stellar flux (S_p) of known transiting exoplanets orbiting host stars cooler than 4000 K. The size of each point corresponds to the planet’s size, and the colour indicates its equilibrium temperature. The light green region denotes the optimistic habitable zone, bounded by a solid red line (recent Venus limit) and a solid blue line (Early Mars limit). The dark green region indicates the conservative habitable zone as defined by R. K. Kopparapu 2013. *Right panel:* Transmission spectroscopy metric (E. M. R. Kempton et al. 2018) against the planetary equilibrium temperature for the same sample displayed in the left panel. The points are coloured according to the stellar effective temperature. TOI-7166 b is highlighted by the error bars.

photometric observations collected with the SPECULOOS-North, SPECULOOS-South-1m0, TTT-2m0, TRAPPIST-South-0.6m and LCOGT-1m0 telescopes (see Section 2.2). We characterized the target by combining the spectral energy distribution (SED) together with spectroscopic observations obtained with IRTF/SpeX (Section 2.4.2) Shane/Kast (Section 2.4.3) instruments. We performed a global fit of the *TESS* data and ground-based multicolour observations to derive and constrain the physical properties of the TOI-7166 system (see Section 4). Table 1 shows the stellar properties (astrometric, photometric, and spectroscopic) of the target star. Table 2 shows the derived physical parameters of the system. The posterior distribution parameters of the system are shown in Fig. D1.

We find that TOI-7166 is a nearby M4-type at a distance of $d = 35.2$ pc, with an effective temperature of $T_{\text{eff}} = 3099 \pm 50$ K, a stellar mass of $M_{\star} = 0.190 \pm 0.004 M_{\odot}$, and a stellar radius of $R_{\star} = 0.222 \pm 0.005 R_{\odot}$, a surface gravity of $\log g_{\star} = 5.02 \pm 0.02$ dex and a metallicity of $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.20 \pm 0.12$ dex. TOI-7166 b is a mini-Neptune-sized planet completes its orbit in 12.92 d which places it close to the inner edge of the Habitable zone of its host star. It has a planetary radius of $R_p = 2.01^{+0.06}_{-0.05} R_{\oplus}$, an equilibrium temperature of $T_{\text{eq}} = 249 \pm 5$ K (assuming a null Bond Albedo), and an insolation of $S_p = 1.07 \pm 0.08 S_{\oplus}$.

The predicted radial velocity amplitude using the H. Parviainen et al. (2024)’s mass-radius relationship is found to be $K_{\text{RV}} = 4.24^{+2.11}_{-1.12} \text{ m s}^{-1}$. By combining the brightness of the star ($V_{\text{mag}} = 15.8$) and the predicted radial velocity amplitude, which make TOI-7166 a suitable target for radial velocity spectroscopic observation follow-up using the MAROON-X spectrograph (Section 6.1). We have observed a similar target with MAROON-X, TOI-2015 ($V_{\text{mag}} = 16.1$). Radial velocity measurements are presented in K. Barkaoui et al. (2025a). Moreover, combining the infrared brightness of the star ($J_{\text{mag}} = 11.4$ and $K_{\text{mag}} = 10.6$) together with the planet-to-star ratio $R_p/R_{\star} = 0.0823 \pm 0.0012$ makes TOI-7166 b a

favourable target for upcoming *JWST* observations for transmission spectroscopy.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The *TESS* photometric observations that we used in this work are available via the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST) and the ExoFOP-*TESS* platform. Our ground-based photometric time-series are also available via the ExoFOP-*TESS* platform.

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APPENDIX A: TOI-7166.01 OBSERVATIONS LOG

In this appendix, we list the ground-based observations of TOI-7166 b: Telescope, observation date, filter, exposure time, full width at half maximum (FWHM), photometric aperture, and detrended parameters that we use during our global analysis.

Table A1. TOI-7166.01 observations log.

Telescope	Date (UT)	Filter	Exptime [second]	FWHM [arcsec]	Aperture [arcsec]	Comment	Detrended parameter
SPECULOOS-S–1.0m/Ganymede	2025 June 8	Sloan- z'	13	3.8	2.0	Full transit	Time + FWHM
LCO-McD–1.0m	2025 June 8	Sloan- i'	160	1.9	3.5	Full transit	Time
SPECULOOS-S–1.0m/Europa	2025 June 20	Sloan- z'	13	1.8	2.6	Full transit	Time + FWHM
SPECULOOS-S–1.0m/IO	2025 June 20	Sloan- g'	140	2.8	2.7	Full transit	Time + Sky
TRAPPIST-S–0.6m	2025 June 20	Rc	140	2.5	4.4	Full transit	Time + Airmass
SPECULOOS-N–1.0m/Artemis	2025 July 4	Sloan- g'	140	1.1	1.7	Full transit	FWHM + Airmass
LCO-CTIO–1.0m	2025 July 4	Sloan- r'	150	2.6	5.0	Full transit	Time + dy
LCO-SAAO–1.0m	2025 July 16	Sloan- r'	150	2.0	4.3	Full transit	Time + FWHM
TTT3-2.0m	2025 July 4	SDSSy	60	1.1	2.1	Full transit	Time + FWHM + dx
TTT1-0.8m	2025 July 4	SDSSr, SDSSg	90,90	1.1,1.3	2.2,2.3	Not included	–
TTT3-2.0m	2025 July 16	SDSSg	60	1.4	1.8	Full transit	Time + dy
TTT3-2.0m	2025 July 29	SDSS gp	60	1.9	2.9	Full transit	Airmass + Time
SPECULOOS-N–1.0m/Artemis	2025 July 29	$I + z$	13	1.2	2.3	Full transit	Time
AUKR-T80	2025 July 29	Sloan- i'	100	2.4	4.8	Full transit	FWHM + Airmass
OSN-1.5m	2025 July 29	Ic, V	60,240	2.1, 2.8	4.6, 5.6	Not included	–
AUKR-T80	2025 Aug 24	Sloan- i'	120	3.1	6.8	Full transit	FWHM + Airmass

Table B1. Priors for the joint modelling of the transit light curves of TOI-7166 b. Normal priors are indicated as $\mathcal{N}(\text{mean}, \text{standard deviation})$ and uniform distribution are indicated as $\mathcal{U}(\text{lower bound}, \text{upper bound})$.

Parameter	Value
<i>Stellar parameters</i>	
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,\text{TESS}}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.31, 0.01)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,\text{TESS}}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.22, 0.05)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,\text{Sloan}-z'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.24, 0.02)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,\text{Sloan}-z'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.19, 0.05)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,I+z'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.26, 0.02)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,I+z'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.20, 0.04)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,\text{SDSSy}}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.22, 0.01)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,\text{SDSSy}}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.17, 0.04)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,\text{Sloan}-i'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.3450, 0.019)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,\text{Sloan}-i'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.24, 0.067)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,\text{Sloan}-r'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.56, 0.033)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,\text{Sloan}-r'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.28, 0.085)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,\text{Sloan}-g'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.56, 0.033)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,\text{Sloan}-g'}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.28, 0.08)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{1,\text{Johnson}-\text{Rc}}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.38, 0.02)$
Quadratic Limb-darkening $u_{2,\text{Johnson}-\text{Rc}}$	$\mathcal{N}(0.25, 0.04)$
Effective temperature, T_{eff} [K]	$\mathcal{N}(3100, 50)$
Surface gravity, $\log g_*$ [dex]	$\mathcal{N}(5.02, 0.02)$
Metallicity, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ [dex]	$\mathcal{N}(-0.20, 0.12)$
Stellar mass, M_* [M_\odot]	$\mathcal{N}(0.190, 0.004)$
Stellar radius, R_* [R_\odot]	$\mathcal{N}(0.220, 0.006)$
<i>Planetary parameters</i>	
Orbital period, P [days]	$\mathcal{U}(12.9, 12.95)$
Impact parameters, b	$\mathcal{U}(0., 0.8)$
Transit timing, T_0 [BJD-TDB]	$\mathcal{U}(2460847.7, 2460847.8)$
Transit depth, R_p^2/R_*^2 (ppt)	$\mathcal{U}(6, 10)$

APPENDIX B: PRIORS FOR THE JOINT MODELLING OF THE TRANSIT LIGHT CURVES OF TOI-7166

In this appendix, we present the parameter priors for the joint modelling of the transit light curves using the MH technique implemented in *Trafit* code.

APPENDIX C: TESS AND GROUND-BASED TRANSIT LIGHT CURVES

In this appendix, we show individual transit light curve observed from SPECULOOS-North/-South, TRAPPIST-South, LCOGT-1m0, TTT1, TTT3, OSN-1.5m, and AUKR-T80 telescopes.

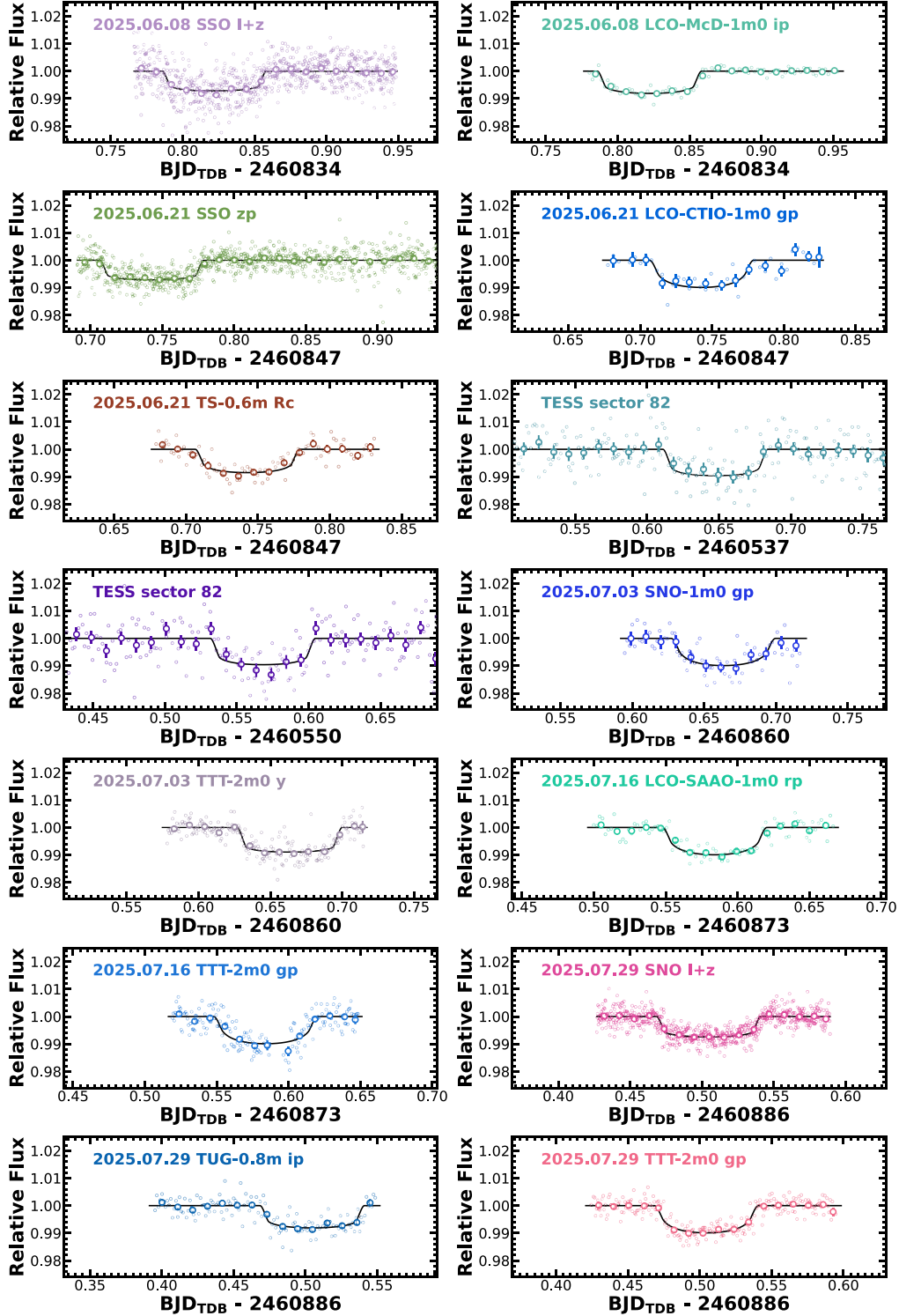


Figure C1. *TESS* and ground-based transit light curves for TOI-7166 b. The coloured data points show the relative flux and the black lines show the best-fitting transit model superimposed.

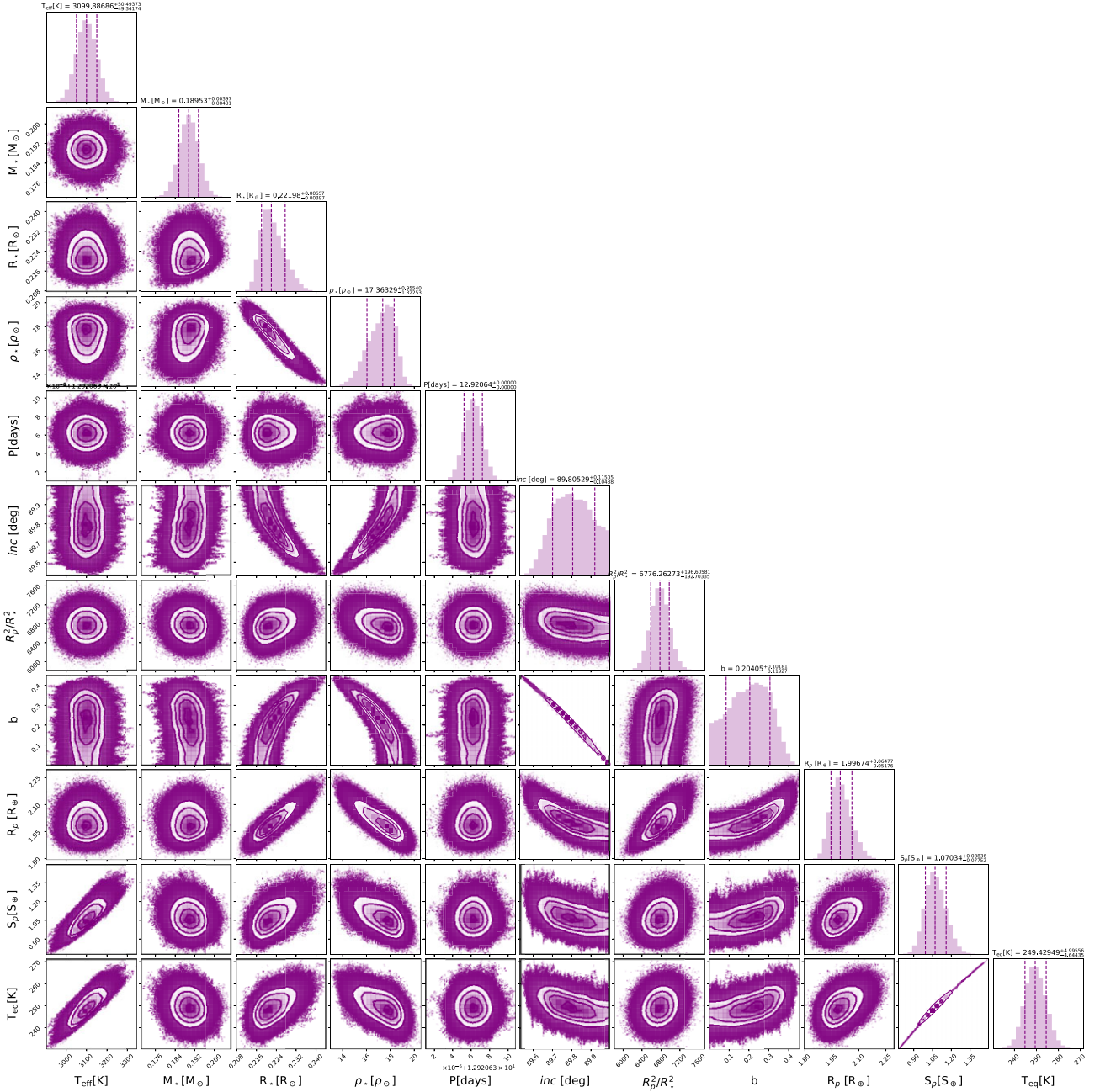


Figure D1. Corner diagram of the posterior probability distribution from the our global analysis for the stellar and planetary parameters.

APPENDIX D: TRANSIT FIT POSTERIOR DISTRIBUTIONS.

In this appendix, we show the corner diagram of the posterior probability distribution of the stellar and planetary physical parameters from our global MCMC analysis.

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