New Planetary Nebulae and Candidates from Multicolour Multiwavelength surveys

M. Kronberger1, G. H. Jacoby2, A. Acker3, F. Alves1, D. J. Frew4, D. Goldman5, P. Guillem6, D. Harmer7, S. Lige1, L. Mulato1, Q. A. Parker8,9, D. Patchick1, L. Sabin10, S. Zoll11

1 DSH collaboration, 2 GMT/O / Carnegie Obs, 3 Université de Strasbourg, 4 Macquarie University, 5 MQAMastro, 6 Astrometry, 7 UNAM, 8 NOAO, 9 AAO, 10 Universidad de Guadalajara
e-mail: markus.kronberger@mpm.mpg.de

Introduction

During the past decade, the Deep Sky Hunters (DSH) [1,5] and other pro-am collaborations [2] have been searching for unidentified planetary nebulae (PNe) by scanning multicolour images of the Digitized Sky Survey (DSS) and other publicly available digital resources (SDSS, GALEX, WISE), or by inspecting [5][II]/[III] narrowband images of the Milky Way taken with modern CCD cameras.

Identification of PN candidates outside of the MASH and IPHAS survey regions (object: Pa 9 [6,7]). Left: False-colour image generated from DSS-I images taken in the Blue, red and near-IR. Middle: WISE multi-colour image [4,9:2; B:2; M:1] Hα + [N II] image.

Thus far, 210 PNe candidates were identified in a region of 5000°. More than 80% of these were found in fields complementary to those covered by the Hα surveys that were conducted recently at INT (IPHAS [3]; |b| > 5°) and AAO/UKST (SHS [4]; |b| < 10°) for the northern and southern Galactic Plane and that have led to the discovery of about half of the >3000 Galactic PNe that are known to date [5].

Current status

More than 150 objects from our initial target list were imaged so far during several observing campaigns at SPM, KPNO, OHP and other facilities using Hα and [O III] narrowband filters. Of these, 106 were confirmed possible or likely PNe, with a considerably high fraction of spherical shells (20%). Subsequent spectroscopic observations of 73 of the 106 objects demonstrated that 64 are true PNe. This gives a success rate of more than 60% for discovering a PN with our technique, starting mostly from available broadband data.

New PN candidates

In the past two years, additional 37 PN candidates have been identified as previously unknown possible and likely PNe. Many of the new candidates were discovered on mid-IR imagery provided by the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE), including several objects located within the IPHAS and SHS survey areas that are too faint to be shown on the survey images. The objects Pa 55, Pa 14 and Pa 18 have already been confirmed as True PNe from broadband spectra taken with the SPM 2.1-m telescope.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>ID</th>
<th>RA (J2000)</th>
<th>DEC (J2000)</th>
<th>size arcsec</th>
<th>type notes</th>
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<td>07 05 21.5</td>
<td>17 42 09.0</td>
<td>≈10 x 10</td>
<td>(4)</td>
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<td>07 12 10.2</td>
<td>20 00 34.5</td>
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<td>07 12 10.2</td>
<td>20 00 34.5</td>
<td>≈5 x 5</td>
<td>(1)</td>
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</table>


Narrow images of new PN candidates

Narrowband images of newly identified PN candidates. Unless otherwise noted, R = [N II] , G R = [O III]

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