

THE PECULIAR OBJECT He2-104

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He2-104 is an emission-line object classified as a symbiotic system or as a planetary nebula, following different authors. More recently, CCD images taken through narrow filters entered in H α , [N II], and [S II] indicate a bipolar morphology.

We have secured spectra of this object since 1986, as part of a program on southern symbiotic stars. The observations were made with a Cassegrain spectrograph attached to the 1.6 m telescope of the National Laboratory for Astrophysics, in Brasópolis, Brazil.

From the observed H α /H β and H γ /H β ratios, we derived a color excess of $E_{B-V} = 1.3$.

In order to derive the physical conditions in the emitting region, we have at our disposal the following line ratios: [S II] λ 6717/ λ 6730; [O II] λ 3728/ λ 7324; [N II] λ 5754/ λ (6548+6584); [O III] λ 4363/ λ (4959+5007). The curves of same line intensity ratio do not define a common region in the log n_e - log T_e plane, which suggests that the emitting gas is not uniform and the lines of ions of different excitations are formed in regions with distinct electron densities.

The electron temperature was estimated using the [C III] λ 1909 intercombination doublet and the recombination line C II λ 4267. However, instead of deriving the relative intensity to respect H β using absolute fluxes, we first calculate the IUE fluxes to respect He II λ 1640 and scaled them to H β considering the ratio He II λ 1640/ λ 4686 = 6.8 from a pure recombination theory. With this procedure we obtained an electron temperature $T_e \sim 10000$ K. Taking into account the uncertainties in the intensities of the lines, we cannot exclude a higher temperature and calculations using $T_e = 12000$ K will be also presented in order to verify the consequences of errors in the electron temperature.

Once the electron temperature is known, it is possible to estimate the electron density prevailing in the region where a given ion is formed using the above mentioned line ratios. The results are:

Ion	$T_e = 10000$ K	$T_e = 12000$ K	log I (eV)
[S II]	6300	6300	1.015
[O II]	1.4×10^4	1.0×10^4	1.134
[N II]	2.0×10^5	1.2×10^5	1.162
[O III]	8.4×10^6	3.5×10^6	1.545

To estimate the characteristic electron densities in the region where the ions Ne⁺², e⁺³, S⁺², Ar⁺², Ar⁺³, Ar⁺⁴ are dominant, we have used the correlation between the electron density and the ionization potential of the precedent ion derived from the results given above.

In order to derive the ionic abundances in such a stratified medium we used the statistical equilibrium equations; the density for any given ion is obtained from the correlation above mentioned. Once the ionic abundances are calculated, the elemental abundances can be obtained applying the ionization correction factor.

The final results for the abundances are:

Ratio	$T_e = 10000$ K	$T_e = 12000$ K
N/O	0.11	0.16
S/O	0.015	0.019
Ne/O	0.30	0.32
Ar/O	0.0014	0.0016
C/O	0.86	0.60

Our results then suggest an important density stratification throughout the nebula, with values ranging from $6 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ up to $8 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The analysis of our data indicates no important enrichment either of He or N.

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