RevMexAA (Serie de Conferencias), **40**, 183–184 (2011)

SEARCH FOR NEW PLANETARY NEBULAE WITH THE IPHAS Hα SURVEY

L. Sabin,[1] R. L. M. Corradi,[2,3] A. Mampaso[2,3] and the IPHAS collaboration

RESUMEN

El censo INT fotométrico en H-alfa (IPHAS) finalizado recientemente, es una nueva herramienta que ayuda en la detección de Nebulosas Planetarias (NPs) al norte del plano Galáctico. De hecho, se ha escaneado ya un área del cielo de 1800 grados cuadrados en donde se han descubierto cientos de nuevas candidatas a NPs localizadas en el plano (que abarca desde el abarrotado y polvoso centro Galáctico hasta el área poco conocida del anticentro). El objetivo de IPHAS es llenar el hueco en la población general de NPs, de aquellas que se localizan en el plano Galáctico, y establecer así un nuevo censo. Presentamos el censo y algunos resultados preliminares sobre las NPs hasta ahora identificadas.

ABSTRACT

The now completed INT photometric H-alpha Survey (IPHAS) is a valuable resource to detect planetary nebulae (PNe) in the Northern Galactic Plane. An area of 1800 deg^2 of sky has been scanned and hundreds of new PN candidates have been discovered, from the direction of the crowded and dusty Galactic center to the less widely explored Galactic Anticenter area. The final goal is to provide a complete, surface-brightness limited census of PNe in the Galactic Plane. We present the survey and some preliminary results on PNe so far identified.

Key Words: planetary nebulae — surveys

1. INTRODUCTION

To date around 3000 PNe are known to exist in the Galaxy (Acker et al. (1992), Parker et al. (2005), Miszalski et al. (2008)). This may seem a large number but it is still much lower than the expected total PN population of the Milky Way. Indeed, a global population oscillating between ∼20000 and ∼50000 objects (Frew & Parker (2006), Moe & De Marco (2006)) is predicted, of which only ∼8000 only would be visible (Moe & De Marco 2006). Among the "missing" PNe are those highly reddened by the Interstellar Medium (ISM) and particularly those at low Galactic height which are more likely to suffer higher extinction, PNe with low surface brightnesses and therefore including (very) evolved objects, those located at large distances and barely recognizable as nebulae or unresolved (in the Anticenter region for example), and finally PNe located in crowded environments. A more complete census of PNe than available so far is therefore needed to understand the general properties of PNe such as their population size, evolutionary timescales, the Galactic abundance gradient, and to refine classification schemes related to PNe chemical composition, morphology and Galactic distribution.

2. IPHAS AND THE SEARCH FOR PNE

IPHAS[4] (Drew et al. 2005) is a fully-photometric CCD Hα survey carried out at the 2.5 m INT telescope at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos (ORM, La Palma, Spain). The instrument used was the Wide Field Camera with its 32 arcmin field of view and small pixel scale of 0.33"/pix. The portion of the Galactic Plane visible from the Northern hemisphere was mapped at a latitude range from $b = +5$ to $b = -5$ deg using a narrow-band Hα, and broad-band Sloan r' and Sloan i' filters. The strength of the survey also lies in its sensitivity limit, which allows the detection of compact sources between 13 mag $< r' <$ 20 mag, and extended source with an Hα surface brightness as low as $\simeq 2.5\times10^{-16}$ erg cm^{-2} s^{-1} arcsec^{-2} (Corradi et al. 2005).

The adopted PNe detection method varies according to the nebular size. Point source PN candidates are identified based on the IPHAS automated photometry according to their location in the IPHAS

[1]Instituto de Astronomía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 22860 Ensenada, B.C., Mexico (lsabin@astrosen.unam.mx).

[2]Departamento de Astrofísica, Universidad de La Laguna, E-38206 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain.

[3]Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, E-38200 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain.

[4]`http://www.iphas.org`.