RAM PRESSURE FEEDING SUPER-MASSIVE BLACK HOLES

3	Bianca M. Poggianti ¹ , Yara Jaffe' ² , Alessia Moretti ¹ , Marco Gullieuszik ¹ , Mario
4	Radovich ¹ , Stephanie Tonnesen ³ , Jacopo Fritz ⁴ , Daniela Bettoni ¹ , Benedetta Vulcani ^{5,1} ,
5	Giovanni Fasano ¹ , Callum Bellhouse ^{6,2} , George Hau ² , Alessandro Omizzolo ⁷
6	¹ INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Padova, vicolo dell'Osservatorio 5, 35122 Padova, Italy, ² European Southern
7	Observatory, Alonso de Cordova 3107, Vitacura, Casilla 19001, Santiago de Chile, Chile, ³ Carnegie Observatory, 813
8	Santa Barbara Street, Pasadena, CA91101, USA, ⁴ Instituto de Radioastronomia y Astrofisica, UNAM, Campus
9	Morelia, A.P. 3-72, C.P. 58089, Mexico, ⁵ School of Physics, The University of Melbourne, Swanston St & Tin Alley
10	Parkville, VIC 3010, Australia, ⁶ University of Birmingham School of Physics and Astronomy, Edgbaston,
11	Birmingham, England, ⁷ Vatican Observatory, Vatican City State
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1. FIRST PARAGRAPH

When supermassive black holes at the center of galaxies accrete matter (usually gas), 14 they give rise to highly energetic phenomena named Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN)^{1,2}. 15 A number of physical processes have been proposed to account for the funneling of gas 16 towards the galaxy centers to feed the AGN. There are also several physical processes 17 that can remove (strip) gas from a galaxy³, and one of them is ram pressure stripping 18 in galaxy clusters due to the hot and dense gas filling the space between galaxies⁴. We 19 report the discovery of a strong connection between severe ram pressure stripping and 20 the presence of AGN activity. Searching in galaxy clusters at low redshift, we have 21 selected the most extreme examples of jellyfish galaxies, which are galaxies with long 22

tentacles of material extending for dozens of kpc beyond the galaxy disk^{5,6}. Using the 23 MUSE spectrograph on the ESO Very Large Telescope, we find that 6 out of the 7 24 galaxies of this sample host a central AGN, and two of them also have galactic-scale 25 AGN ionization cones. The high incidence of AGN among the most striking jellyfishes 26 may be due to ram pressure causing gas to flow towards the center and triggering the 27 AGN activity, or to an enhancement of the stripping caused by AGN energy injection, 28 or both. Our analysis of the galaxy position and velocity relative to the cluster strongly 29 supports the first hypothesis, and puts forward ram pressure as another, yet unforeseen, 30 possible mechanism for feeding the central supermassive black hole with gas. 31

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2. MAIN TEXT WITH FIGURES

Black holes of different sizes are very common in the Universe. It is now well established that most, if not all, galaxies host at their center a supermassive black hole of a few million to a few billion solar masses^{7,8}. When a black hole accretes matter, it converts the gravitational energy of the accreted matter into mechanical and electromagnetic energy, giving rise to some of the most energetic astrophysical phenomena: Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN).

One of the central questions regarding AGN is why if supermassive black holes are present in most galaxies, only a small fraction of these are AGN, i.e. why only a few of them are accreting matter. It is believed that the black hole growth must be episodic, last typically $10^7 - 10^8$ yr and that it must be related to a mechanism that drives efficiently gas to the galaxy center. Major mergers of two galaxies are among the best candidates for the most luminous AGN⁹, while galaxy internal instabilities (e.g. driven by galaxy bars) or fast tidal encounters between galaxies might account for less luminous systems^{10,11}.

⁴⁵ A prerequisite for AGN activity is therefore the availability of gas in the galaxy disk to feed the

⁴⁶ black hole. In the current cosmological paradigm, the interstellar medium present in the galaxy disk
⁴⁷ gets consumed by the formation of new stars but is continuously replenished by the cooling of hot
⁴⁸ gas present in the galaxy dark matter halo¹².

However, there are several physical processes concurring to remove gas from galaxies especially in 49 dense environments such as galaxy clusters and groups³. Ram pressure stripping due to the pressure 50 exerted by the intergalactic medium on the galaxy interstellar medium is considered the most efficient 51 of such processes⁴. The galaxy loses its gas because the ram pressure overcomes the local binding 52 energy, and in those regions of the galaxy where gas is removed, the formation of new stars is 53 inhibited. However, before quenching the star formation, ram pressure can produce an enhancement 54 of the star formation rate, as thermal instabilities and turbulent motions provoke the collapse of 55 molecular clouds 13,14 . 56

The most spectacular examples of galaxies undergoing gas stripping by ram pressure are the so called "jellyfish galaxies", named this way because they have "tentacles" (tails) of gas and newly born stars that make them resemble the animal jellyfishes^{5,6}.

In this work, we show that there is a close link between strong ram pressure and AGN activity 60 in jellyfish galaxies, establishing for the first time a probable causal connection between the two 61 phenomena. Our findings are based on GASP (GAs Stripping Phenomena in galaxies with MUSE¹⁵, 62 http://web.oapd.inaf.it/gasp), which is an ESO Large Program aimed at studying where, how 63 and why gas can get removed from galaxies. GASP studies 94 z=0.04-0.07 galaxies in clusters, groups 64 and the field selected from optical images to have unilateral debris and asymmetric morphologies 65 suggestive of gas-only removal mechanisms. Spatially resolved gas and stellar kinematics and physical 66 properties are obtained with the MUSE spectrograph on the Very Large Telescope. 67

For the present work, we have selected all the cluster jellyfishes observed so far by GASP which have striking tails/tentacles of ionized gas, as seen by MUSE in the H α line in emission at 6563 angstrom (Å). We have selected those galaxies whose H α tentacles are at least as long as the galaxy stellar disk diameter (see Extended Data Table 1). These are all massive galaxies, with stellar masses between $\sim 4 \times 10^{10}$ and $\sim 3 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$.

The H α velocity maps of the 7 galaxies selected are shown in Figs. 1 and 2 ((b) and (c) panels) and contrasted with the corresponding stellar velocity maps ((a) panels). The figure illustrates the long extraplanar ionized gas tentacles extending out to between ~ 20 and ~ 100 kpc.

In contrast, the stellar velocity field is regular and shows that the stellar kinematics is undisturbed by the force acting on the gas. The comparison between the gaseous and stellar morphologies and velocity maps shows that these galaxies are undergoing a gas-only removal mechanism due to the impact of the intracluster medium (ICM) such as ram pressure stripping. Ram pressure calculations supporting this hypothesis for some of these galaxies are presented in the individual galaxy studies^{15,16,17}.

⁸² The main result is shown in Fig. 3. We use standard diagnostic diagrams of emission-line ratios ⁸³ to assess the mechanism responsible for the gas ionization. The gas emitting in H α can be ionized ⁸⁴ by different mechanisms: photons by young hot stars (Star-forming), the central AGN (AGN), a ⁸⁵ combination of the two (HII-AGN Composite) and Low Ionization Nuclear Emission-line Region ⁸⁶ (LINER) that might be due to a low-luminosity AGN or other mechanisms such as shocks or old ⁸⁷ stars. To discriminate among Star-forming/HII-AGN Composite/LINER/AGN emission, we use the ⁸⁸ classification proposed by^{18,19,20,21}.

According to the MUSE line ratios, the galaxy central regions are powered by AGN emission in JO201, JO204, JW100, JO206 and JO135. In JO194, the central emission is LINER-like, as it is in a slightly larger annular region surrounding a star-formation dominated ring. In contrast, line ratios in JO175 are consistent with photoionization by star formation in the center and throughout most of the disk and tails. Thus, the great majority (5/7) of our jellyfishes host an AGN that is evident from the MUSE spectra. This is at odds with the fact that only 3% of emission-line galaxies with a spectroscopic classification in clusters at low redshift show evidence for AGN activity²² (this fraction is only slightly higher, ~ 8%, among field galaxies²³). The AGN in our galaxies are responsible for the ionization in a central region that is generally quite extended, up to 10kpc in diameter (e.g. JO201, Fig. 3).

Three of our galaxies (JO201, JO204, JW100) have two spectral components with different veloci-99 ties. The two components correspond to gas at different velocities that are seen in projection along 100 the line of sight. Interestingly, the two components in JO201 are both powered by the AGN in the 101 central region, while the two components of JO204 have a quite different spatial distribution: while 102 the second component is AGN-dominated in the central region, the first component (JO204a) has 103 an AGN-powered extraplanar region, extending up to 15kpc away from the stellar isophotes, that 104 appears to be an AGN-ionization cone along the tails. Similarly, regions illuminated by the AGN 105 are seen out to large galactocentric distances in the disk of JO135, and 6kpc in projection outside 106 of the stellar disk to the north. Therefore, JO204 and JO135 possess a galaxy-scale ionization cone 107 powered by the AGN. 108

The case of JO194 is more doubtful, as the LINER-like emission can be due either to a low luminosity 109 AGN or to other sources of ionization. The spatial distribution of the LINER-like emission favors the 110 AGN origin. Chandra (0.3-8keV) X-ray luminosities (Extended Data Table 1) support our MUSE 111 findings for AGN in JO194 as well as in JO135, JW100, JO201 and JO206, the latter two being very 112 X-ray luminous sources with $L_X = 7.3 \times 10^{41} \,\mathrm{erg \, s^{-1}}$ and $L_X = 7.7 \times 10^{42} \,\mathrm{erg \, s^{-1}}$, respectively. An 113 independent proxy for the AGN luminosities are the [OIII]5007 luminosities, listed in 114 **Extended Data Table 1.** The conclusion that AGN emission is widespread in our jellyfish sample 115 is further reinforced in the summary diagram in Extended Data Figure 1. 116

¹¹⁷ The high incidence of AGN among the most striking jellyfish galaxies uncovers a link between

¹¹⁸ nuclear activity and strong ram pressure stripping. Two scenarios can be envisaged. In the first one, ¹¹⁹ the ram pressure is capable of funneling the gas towards the galaxy center, causing gas accretion ¹²⁰ onto the central black hole and triggering the activity. Hydrodynamic simulations have found that ¹²¹ when galactic gas interacts with the non-rotating ICM it can lose angular momentum and spiral into ¹²² the central region of a galaxy^{24,25,26}. Another possible method by which ram pressure stripping could ¹²³ feed an AGN is inflow of gas towards the galactic center generated by oblique shocks in a disk that ¹²⁴ is flared due to the magnetic field ²⁷.

The second scenario foresees the AGN injecting a large amount of energy into the ISM, thus decreasing its binding energy and making it more easily stripped, or even directly ejecting it from the galaxy²⁸. In this case the AGN feedback would increase the efficiency of ram pressure, and is an important component producing the striking jellyfish appearance.

To discriminate between these two hypotheses, we show in Fig. 4 the location of our jellyfishes in a projected position vs. velocity phase-space diagram. The expected ram pressure increases with the ICM density, which gets higher going to the cluster center, and with the square of the differential velocity⁴. Thus, the most favorable conditions for ram pressure are at low radii and high Δv_{cl}^{29} , where most of our jellyfishes are located (Fig. 4, see also Methods).

Thus, the phase-space diagram strongly supports the hypothesis that it is ram pressure that triggers the AGN, and not viceversa. If the AGN were making the ram pressure efficiency anomalously high, there is no reason this should happen at the observed, most favorable location in the phase-space diagram. This does not exclude that the energy injected by the AGN contributes to an efficient gas loss, and helps creating the spectacular tails we observe, with a sort of "AGN-feedback" in a cycle of ram pressure triggering AGN favoring ram pressure. Simulations of ram pressure stripping including an AGN do not exist yet, but would be very valuable for interpreting our discovery.

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5. AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

All authors contributed to the interpretation of the observations and the writing of the paper. 216 B.M.P. led the project and performed the data analysis. Y.J. performed the phase-space analysis. 217 A.M. carried out the stellar kinematics analysis. M.G. did the data reduction. M.R. contributed 218 to the data analysis. S.T. provided the discussion on simulations. J.F. did the SINOPSIS analysis. 219 D.B. and G.F. helped in the preparation of the observations. B.V. performed a comparison of the 220 stellar population analysis and prepared the GASP web page. C.B. performed the two component 221 KUBEVIZ analysis of JO201. G.H. did the data reduction for JO201. A.O. selected the JW100 222 target. 223

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6. AUTHORS INFORMATION

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The authors declare no competing financial interests.

²²⁷ Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to bianca.poggianti@oapd.inaf.it.

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7. MAIN FIGURE LEGENDS

Fig. 1 TITLE: MUSE stellar velocity map and H α map for JO201, JO204 and JW100. MUSE stellar velocity map ((a) panels) and H α velocity map ((b) and (c) panels) of our jellyfish galaxies. JO201, JO204 and JW100 have regions with two line components separated in velocity, and their gas velocity maps are plotted separately (panels b) and c)). Contours in all panels are stellar isophotes and indicate where the galaxy stellar disk is. In the a) panels, the scale in kpc is indicated

²³⁴ by a bar and the arrow points in the direction of the cluster center. North is up and east is left.

Fig. 2 TITLE: MUSE stellar velocity map and H α map for JO206, JO135, JO194 and JO175. As Fig. 1 for the other 4 galaxies.

Fig. 3 TITLE: Diagnostic diagrams and maps for all jellyfishes. Spatially resolved diag-237 nostic diagrams ((a) panels) and maps ((b) panels) for all MUSE pixels where lines are measured 238 with a signal-to-noise > 3. For JO201, JO204 and JW100 the two components are presented sepa-239 rately and there are 4 panels per galaxy. In (a) panels, lines^{18,19,20} separate Star-forming, HII-AGN 240 Composite, AGN and LINERS. Only in the case of JW100, lines²¹ separate Star forming, AGN 241 and LINERs. Contours are stellar isophotes, as in Fig. 1. For each galaxy we have inspected both 242 the [OIII]5007/H β vs. [NII]6583/H α and the [OIII]/H β vs. [SII]6717/H α diagrams and found no 243 discrepancy of classification between the two. For convenience, we show only the spatially resolved 244 $[NII]6583/H\alpha$ plot for each galaxy, except for JW100 for which we use the $[SII]6717/H\alpha$ plot instead, 245 because at the JW100 redshift the [NII] line is contaminated by a sky line. 246

Fig. 4 TITLE: Differential velocity versus clustercentric distance. Phase-space diagram: 247 projected differential velocity with respect to the cluster median velocity, normalized by the cluster 248 velocity dispersion, versus the projected clustercentric distance, in units of cluster virial radius R_{200} . 249 The latter is defined as the projected radius delimiting a sphere with interior mean density 200 250 times the critical density of the Universe. In this plot, velocities and radii are lower limits to the 251 three dimensional velocity of the galaxy through the ICM and clustercentric distance, respectively. 252 The location of our jellyfishes is signposted by the stars. The only jellyfish with no AGN, JO175, 253 is marked with a white star. The number density of all cluster galaxies from the OMEGAWINGS 254 sample at each location in the diagram is color coded (see bar on the right hand side). The darker 255 orange regions trace the location of the oldest cluster members, that live near the cluster core (at low 256 $|\Delta v_{cl}|/\sigma_{cl}$) after having settled into the potential well. Thus, the position of the jellyfish galaxies in 257

phase-space implies that they are being stripped on first infall onto che cluster. The curve represents
the escape velocity in a dark matter halo³⁰.

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8. METHODS

In this work we adopt a standard concordance cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1} \, Mpc^{-1}}$, $\Omega_M = 0.3$ and $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$ and a stellar Initial Mass Function from³¹. The OMEGAWINGS spectroscopic catalog used to generate Fig. 4 is taken from³².

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8.1. Observations and line fitting

The galaxies analyzed in this paper have been observed by the GASP program with 1 or 2 (de-265 pending on the lenght of the tails) MUSE pointings of 2700sec each in service mode, with seeing 266 conditions < 1 arcsec. The MUSE spectrograph³³ has a 1'X1' field-of-view with 0.2"X0.2" pixels 267 with a spectral range 4800-9300Å at 2.6Å resolution. Prior to the analysis, the datacube is average-268 filtered in the spatial dimension with a 5X5 pixel kernel, corresponding to 1 arcsec (the upper limit 269 of the seeing)=0.8-1.1 kpc depending on the galaxy redshift. No smoothing nor binning is performed 270 in the spectral direction. The observations, data reduction and analysis tools are described in details 271 in 15 . 272

Emission lines in the datacube are fitted with gaussian profiles with KUBEVIZ³⁴, a public IDL software that uses the MPfit package and provides gas velocities (with respect to a given redshift), velocity dispersions and line fluxes. KUBEVIZ can attempt a single or a double component fit (see ¹⁶ for details). Three of the galaxies presented in this work – JO201, JO204 and JW100 – require a double component fit, for which we have shown velocity and diagnostic diagrams for each one of the two components separately. None of these galaxies have a broad component in permitted lines (Seyfert1), with H α widths (σ) up to a few hundreds km per sec.

In JO135, there is a small central region (white in Fig. 3) where a line gaussian (even double)

fit cannot be obtained. Inspecting the MUSE spectra, it is clear that this is due to the very strong asymmetry of the lines indicating a very powerful nuclear outflow. We note that the literature reports an 8kpc AGN outflow in another jellyfish galaxy, NGC 4569 in the Virgo cluster³⁵.

The line intensities in Extended Data Figure 1 are measured from KUBEVIZ in mask mode, masking out all the spaxels outside of the region of interest. In this case KUBEVIZ was run in interactive mode, to verify visually the quality of the fit. The errorbars are computed propagating the KUBEVIZ errors on the line fluxes, and are small thanks to the very high signal-to-noise of the spectra.

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8.2. Analysis techniques

The results shown in Fig. 3 have been obtained from the datacube corrected both for Galactic 290 extinction and for intrinsic dust extinction calculated from the $H\alpha/H\beta$ ratio¹⁵ and after having 291 subtracted the stellar component using the spectrophotometric fits of the code SINOPSIS³⁶. This 292 code, fully described in ³⁶, searches the combination of single stellar population (SSPs) spectra 293 that best fits the observed equivalent widths of the main lines in absorption and in emission and 294 the continuum at various wavelengths, minimizing the χ^2 using an Adaptive Simulated Annealing 295 algorithm. The current version of SINOPSIS uses the latest SSPs model from Charlot & Bruzual (in 296 prep.) that have a higher spectral and age resolution than previous versions and cover metallicity 297 values from Z = 0.0001 to Z = 0.04. These models use the latest evolutionary tracks from³⁷ and 298 stellar atmosphere emission from a compilation of different authors. Moreover, SINOPSIS includes 299 nebular emission for the youngest (i.e. $age < 2 \times 10^7$ years) SSP, computed ingesting the original 300 models into the plasma simulation code CLOUDY³⁸. SINOPSIS provides spatially resolved maps 301 of stellar masses, star formation rates, star formation histories, luminosity-weighted ages and other 302 stellar population properties. The total galaxy stellar masses listed in Extended Data Table 1 are 303

³⁰⁴ computed summing up the stellar mass in each spaxel estimated from SINOPSIS.

The stellar kinematics is derived using the Penalized Pixel-Fitting code³⁹, with the method pre-305 sented in ¹⁵. This code fits the observed spectra with the stellar population templates by⁴⁰, using 306 SSPs of 6 different metallicities (from [M/H] = -1.71 to [M/H] = 0.22) and 26 ages, from 1 to 307 17.78 Gyr. After having accurately masked spurious sources (stars, background galaxies) in the 308 galaxy proximity, and having degraded the spectral library resolution to our MUSE resolution, we 309 performed the fit of spatially binned spectra based on signal-to-noise (S/N=10, for most galaxies), as 310 described in⁴¹, with the Weighted Voronoi Tessellation modification proposed by⁴². This yields maps 311 of the rotational velocity, the velocity dispersion and the two h3 and h4 moments using an additive 312 Legendre polynomial fit of the 12th order to correct the template continuum shape during the fit. 313

The gas velocity map (Figs. 1 and 2) is obtained from the absorption corrected cube average 314 filtering in the spatial directions with a 5×5 pixel kernel, plotting only spaxels with a $S/N_{H\alpha} > 4$. 315 The stellar map is shown for the Voronoi bins with a S/N > 10. We note that in Figs. 1 and 2 the 316 gaseous and stellar velocity zero points are coincident and correspond to the galaxy redshift listed in 317 Extended Data Table 1, except for JW100 where the stellar zeropoint is at redshift z=0.06214 because 318 gas and stars have a large systematic shift. The contours in Figs. 1 and 2 are logarithmically spaced 319 isophotes of the spectral continuum underlying $H\alpha$, thus are stellar isophotes, down to a surface 320 brightness $2.5 \times 10^{-18} \text{erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ Å}^{-1} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$. 321

As mentioned above, LINER-like emission-line ratios (above the solid line and to the right of the dashed line in Extended Data Figure 1) can originate from a variety of physical processes^{43,44,45,46}. In constrast, the Seyfert-like line ratios (above the solid line and to the left of the dashed line in Extended Data Figure 1) of JO201, JO204, JW100, JO206 and JO135 identify these galaxies as AGN. This conclusion is further strengthened by the equivalent widths of H α and [OIII]5007 measured from the integrated spectra of the region powered by the AGN, whose rest-frame, absorption-corrected values, given in Extended Data Table 1, are higher than the low values measured in LINERs⁴⁶, typically $EW(\text{H}\alpha) < 3 \text{ Å}.$

Shocks induced by gas flows (in our case, by ram pressure) can give rise to line ratios that occupy 331 also the "AGN" locus in the diagnostic diagrams⁴⁷, however the spatial distribution of the AGN-332 dominated spaxels, at the galaxy center, makes it very unlikely this is due to ram pressure shocks 333 which would be observed at the shock fronts with the ICM), and strongly favors the AGN hypothesis. 334 The ram pressure can be computed⁴ as $P_{ram} = \rho_{ICM} \times \Delta v_{cl}^2$, where ρ_{ICM} is the ICM density and Δv_{cl}^2 335 is the differential galaxy velocity with respect to the cluster, as in Fig. 4. Figure 4 shows that most of 336 our jellyfishes are indeed in the conditions of strong ram pressure, being at very high (JO204, JO206, 337 $|\Delta v_{cl}|/\sigma_{cl} > 1$) or extremely high (JO201, JW100 and JO194, $|\Delta v_{cl}|/\sigma_{cl} > 2.5$) velocities, and very 338 small (projected) radii. JO135 is at a small projected clustercentric radius, but its relative radial 339 velocity is lower than the other AGN. However, its 3D velocity relative to the ICM might be much 340 larger if the tangential velocity (along the plane of the sky) is much higher than the radial velocity, 341 as suggested by Fig. 2. Moreover, JO135 is part of the Shapley supercluster and it is located at a 342 position where the two clusters A3532 and A3530 are merging, and this likely causes a ram pressure 343 enhancement⁴⁸. Interestingly, JO175, that is the only jellyfish with no evidence for an AGN, lies at 344 low relative radial velocity $|\Delta v_{cl}|/\sigma_{cl} \sim 0.3$. 345

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8.3. Code availability

³⁴⁷ This work made use of the KUBEVIZ software which is publicly available at

http://www.mpe.mpg.de/~dwilman/kubeviz/, of the Voronoi binning and pPXF software available at http://www-astro.physics.ox.ac.uk/~mxc/software/, and the SINOPSIS code that is publicly available under the MIT open source licence and can be downloaded from ³⁵¹ http://www.crya.unam.mx/gente/j.fritz/JFhp/SINOPSIS.html.

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8.4. Data Availability Statement

The MUSE data that support the findings of this study are part of the Phase3 data release of the GASP program and will be available in the ESO Archive at http://archive.eso.org/cms.html. The first GASP public data release, including the data regarding this article, will be released at the end of 2017.

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9. ADDITIONAL REFERENCES USED IN THE METHODS

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Title: Properties of GASP jellyfish galaxies. The IDs of our galaxies (as given by ¹⁴), their 397 host cluster name, cluster velocity dispersion^{30,49}, galaxy coordinates, redshifts, stellar masses, X-ray 398 luminosities (from ⁵⁰), GASP [OIII]5007 luminosities and rest frame emission-only equiva-399 lent widths (EWs) of H α and [OIII]5007 are listed in Extended Data Table 1. [OIII]5007 400 luminosities and EWs have been computed on the absorption-corrected integrated spec-401 tra of the AGN regions (LINER for JO194, and central star-forming region for JO175), 402 see the caption of Extended Data Figure 1. In case of galaxies with two components, 403 the [OIII] luminosity is the sum of the two luminosities and the two EWs are listed 404 separated by a slash. The sum of these two EWs can be thought of as a "total" EW. 405 Other properties of these galaxies (gas and stellar kinematics, stellar history, gas metallicity and 406 others) are the subject of dedicated publications 15,16,17 . 407

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11. EXTENDED DATA FIGURE LEGEND

Title: Summary diagnostic diagrams Extended Data Figure 1 Line ratio diagrams sum-409 marizing our findings showing the location of each galaxy in two different diagnostics diagrams 410 integrating the spectrum over the spatial region (identified from Fig. 3) dominated by AGN emis-411 sion (JO201, JO204, JW100, JO206, JO135), by LINER emission (JO194) and over the central 7×7 412 brightest spaxels in the case of JO175. Here we present both the [NII]6583/H α and the [SII]6717/H α 413 diagrams, to illustrate the good agreement between the two and to display also JW100 whose [NII] 414 line cannot be measured. Lines as in Fig. 3. The two components in JO201, JO204 and JW100 415 are shown as separate points. The errorbars are computed propagating the errors on the line fluxes 416 obtained by KUBEVIZ, scaled to achieve a reduced $\chi^2 = 1$ as described in¹⁵. 417







