

H α Photographs of Southern Galaxies

A number of splendid photographs were recently obtained of selected southern galaxies, in the light of the H α line (6562 Å), by Drs. Courtès and Boulesteix (*Messenger* No. 14, p. 2). We here reproduce four of these that show an incredible number of H II regions, thanks to the superior resolving power of the 3.6 m telescope.

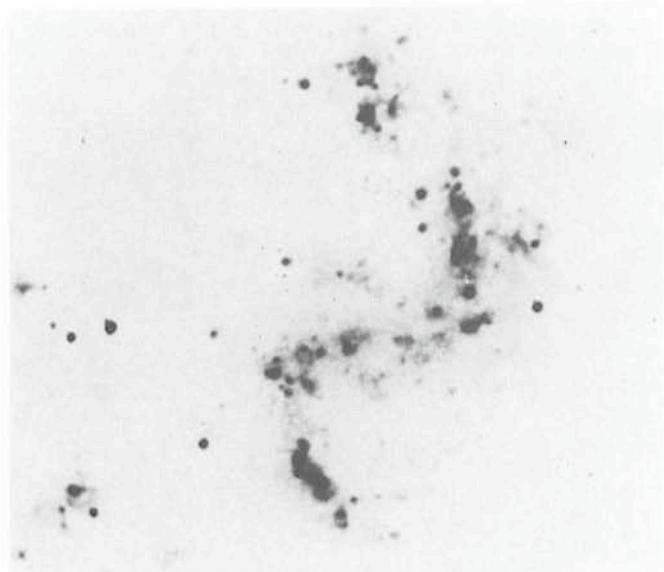


Fig. 1: NGC 1313, as photographed through a 15 Å wide H α filter with a focal reducer (f/8 to f/2), RCA two-stage magnetic intensifier and IIIa-J emulsion. This galaxy is a nearby irregular, Magellanic type and the "barred" structure is clearly visible on the photo. Exposure time 15 min.

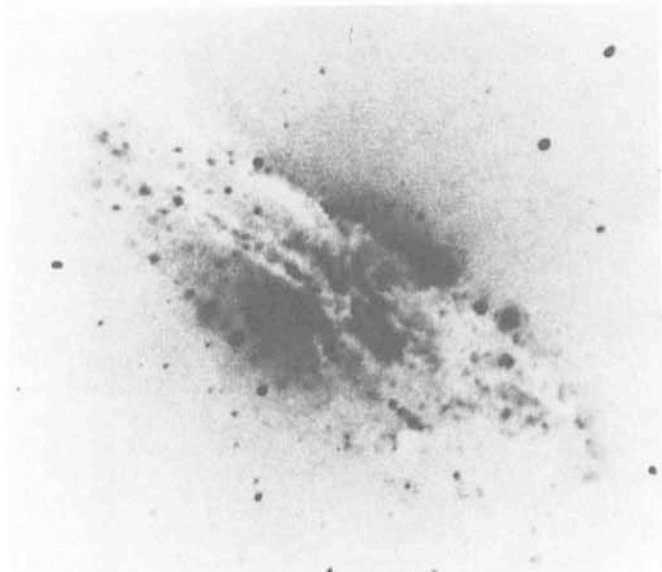


Fig. 3: Direct H α photograph of the giant galaxy NGC 5128 (the interferogram was shown on the frontpage of *Messenger* No. 14). Same equipment as NGC 1313. Exposure time 15 min. The giant H II complexes are clearly seen with a very good contrast.

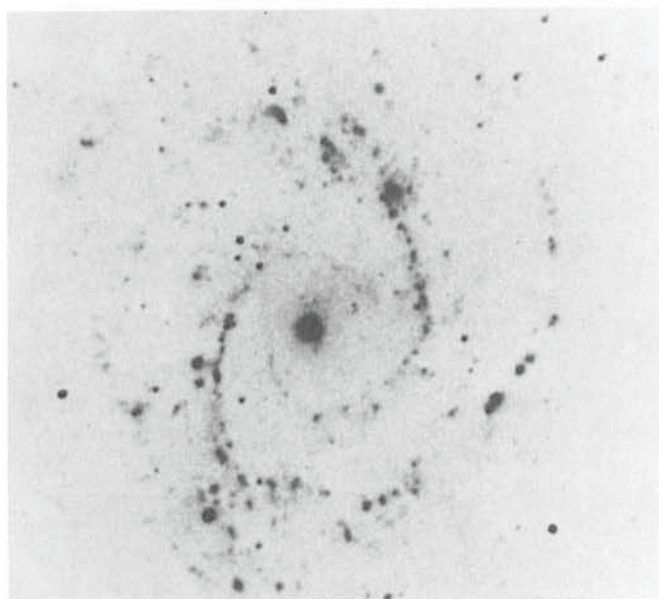


Fig. 2: NGC 2997 photographed with the same equipment; exposure time 10 min. Note the multiple arm spiral structure.

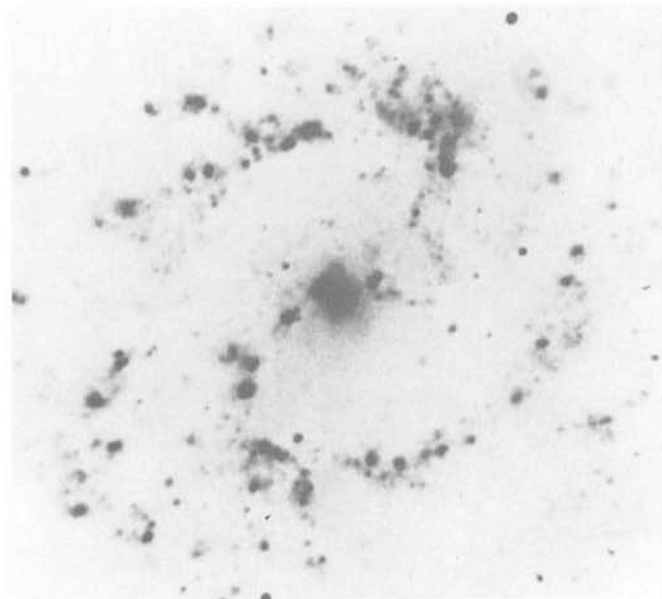


Fig. 4: NGC 5236 in the light of H α ; 20-min exposure. More than 600 (!) H II regions are detected on this plate.

NEWS and NOTES

No New Hildas and Thules, but...

In the last issue of the *Messenger* (No. 14), Drs. Schubart and Schmadel from Heidelberg informed us about a search with the ESO Schmidt telescope for "out-of-the-Ecliptic" minor planets. Some plates were obtained early in September 1978 at ecliptical

latitude 42° and a total of five interesting minor planets were found. Further plates have made it possible to improve the computed orbits and it now appears that (unfortunately) none are of the types looked for, i. e. Hilda- or Thule-type. Nevertheless, all the five are unusual and all have high orbital inclinations.

1978 PA belongs to the moderately rare Hungaria group, 1978 PC is most probably of the very rare Phocaea type and