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During the last decade, more than one hundred previously unknown true, probable and possible planetary nebulae (PNe) have been published by amateur astronomers within the framework of the Deep Sky Hunters (DSH) project. The majority of candidates were found by scanning the Digitized Sky Survey (DSS) and other publicly available digital resources (SDSS, GALEX, WISE), or by inspecting [S II]/H α /[O III] narrowband images of the Milky Way taken with modern CCD imagers [1–5].

Distribution of the True, Likely, and Possible PNe of the DSH sample in an Aitoff–Hammer projection of the Galactic Plane. All objects presented in the plot either have been published previously [1–4] or are listed of the present contribution. Objects listed in the CGPN [8] and in the MASH-I [9], MASH-II [10] and IPHAS [11] catalogues are shown for comparison. Gaps in the DSH candidate distribution correspond to unsurveyed Milky Way regions.

Summary of the status of all DSH PN candidates discovered thus far. The individual rows summarize: (1) Spectroscopically confirmed (=True) PNe; (2) Likely and Possible PNe validated as H α and [O III] emitters from image data; (3) Likely and Possible PNe validated as H α emitters but lacking [O III] imagery; (4) Possible PNe lacking confirmatory H α + [O III] imagery and spectroscopy; (5) confirmed non-PNe .

Figure 1: Confirmation of the PN K99. The figure is divided into two main sections. The left section shows three color images of the PN K99: DSS (top left), WISE (bottom left), and a zoomed-in H-alpha image (top right). The right section shows a broadband spectrum (bottom right) and a zoomed-in H-alpha image (top right). The spectrum plot shows flux versus wavelength (Angstroms) from 4000 to 9000. The H-alpha image shows a bright central source with a 10'' scale bar. The zoomed-in H-alpha image shows a bright central source with a 10'' scale bar.

Alv 5, an old PN or possible mimic. A CSPN candidate is marked by an arrow.

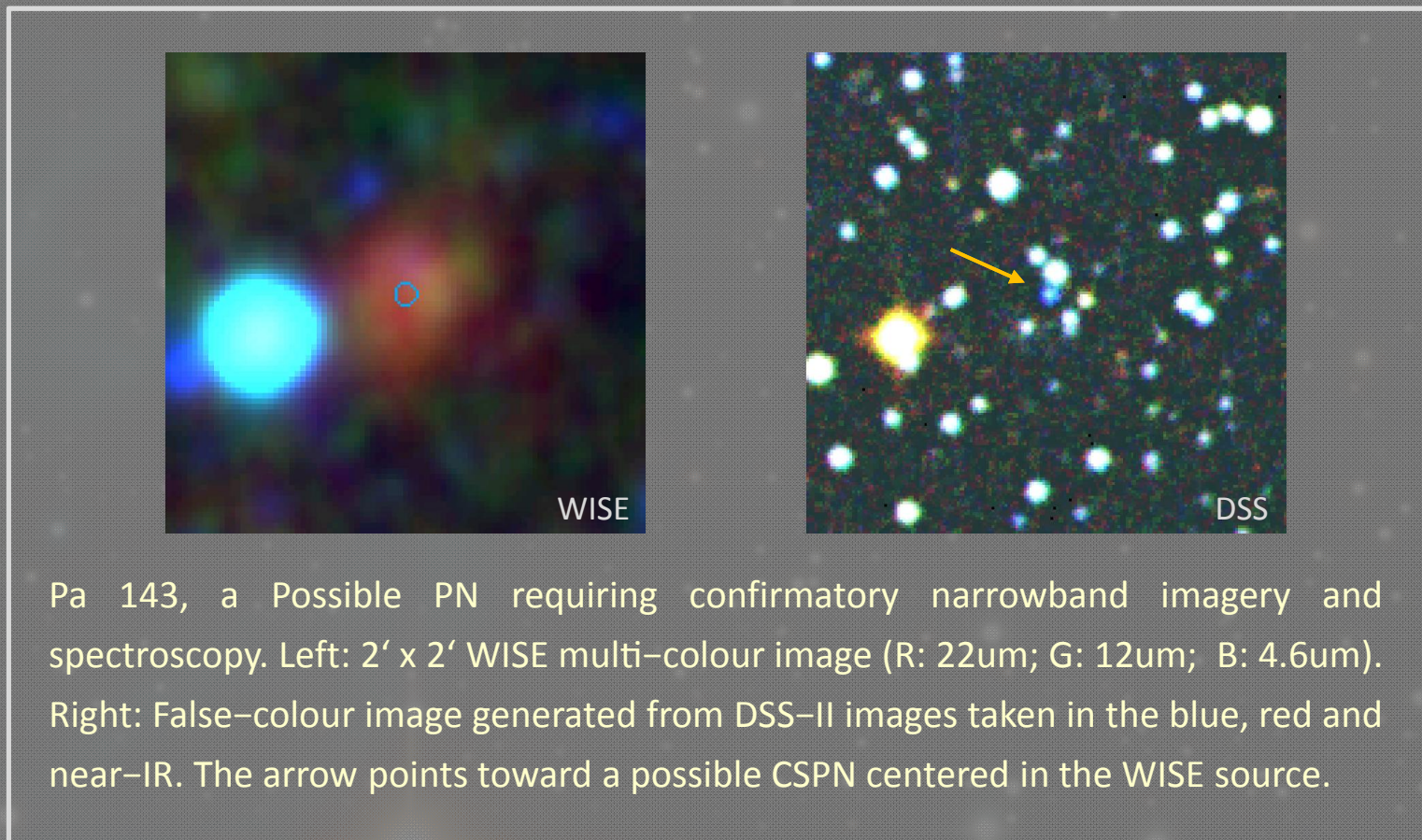


Figure 1 displays 12 narrowband images of Planetary Nebulae (PNe) arranged in a 6x2 grid. The columns are labeled 'True (T)', 'Likely (L)', and 'Possible (P)' in the first row. The rows correspond to different PNe: Kn 68, Kn 69, Pa 63, Kn 73, Kn 88, Kn 103, Pa 44, Pa 48, Kn 80, Pa 51, Pa 148, and Pa 56. Each image includes a scale bar (10'' or 30'') and a label for the filter used (e.g., T, L, P, H-alpha, [O III], [S II]).

The table below presents 162 previously unknown objects that were discovered during the past two years and are expected to be true, likely or possible PNe based on their morphologies, their spectral properties, and their characteristics at optical and infrared wavelengths. The majority of candidates are located within the boundaries of the SHS [6] and IPHAS [7] H α surveys and were discovered by combining mid-IR data from the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) with optical data from the IPHAS, SHS and DSS surveys, and with UV data from the GALEX mission. Object sizes found at optical wavelengths range from stellar to several arcmin. Not listed are another ~ 130 objects that we consider to be PN candidates based only on their mid-IR characteristics. We plan to obtain H α + [O III] images of these candidates, and confirmatory spectroscopy of the possible and likely PNe, during the next years.