Brown dwarfs come of age

Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, May 20-24, 2013

Scientific Organizing Committee

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Host Institution

Telescopio Nazionale Galileo/Fundación Galileo Galilei - INAF

FOREWORD

The international conference *Brown Dwarfs come of Age* was held in a extraordinary location in the south of Fuerteventura (Canary Islands), from May 20 to 24, 2013. The aim of this meeting was to present and discuss in a motivating atmosphere the abundant harvest of scientific results produced over the past 18 years since the discoveries of the first brown dwarfs. The participation of many young scientists made this conference especially lively and confirmed that this field of research is still blooming and promising.

An active Scientific Organizing Committee collaborated in selecting the invited talks and refining a stimulating scientific program. This was divided in 7 sessions, with the addition of a breathless poster advert session and a thorough panel discussion on the brown dwarf-exoplanet connection, featuring a challenging and amusing "planet/not a planet" poll. Eighty-two participants from 15 countries presented 47 oral contributions and 29 posters, on a schedule that also allowed plenty of free time for interaction.

An efficient and skillful Local Organizing Committee ensured a painless preparation and a smooth running of this meeting. In particular, this conference never would have taken place without Mave Martín, who played a crucial role in every step of the organization process. There are not enough words to acknowledge her dedicated effort and invaluable contribution.

The highlights of the social program were an unexpected karaoke night and a moonlit conference dinner in a beach by a lagoon, followed by an after-party dancing in the sand. Moreover, an entertaining public lecture, given by María Rosa Zapatero Osorio, attracted an interested audience from the whole island.

We thank the Fundación Galileo Galilei-INAF (operating the Telescopio Nazionale Galileo in La Palma), that offerered financial support to young scientists and colleagues from economically less privileged countries. We are also grateful to the local authorities (Cabildo de Fuerteventura, Patronato de Turismo de Fuerteventura, and Ayuntamiento de Pájara) for their contributions to this meeting, and to the extremely cooperative managers and staff of the R2 Río Calma Hotel.

This conference was inspired by Alcman, fr. 26[1]:

οὔ μ᾽ ἔτι, παρσενικαὶ μελιγάρυες ἱαρόφωνοι,
γυῖα φέρην δύναται· βάλε δὴ βάλε κηρύλος εἴην,
ὅς τ᾽ ἐπὶ κύματος ἄνθος ἅμ᾽ ἀλκυόνεσσι ποτήται
νηδεὲς ἦτορ ἔχων, ἁλιπόρφυρος ἱαρὸς ὄρνις.

Antonio Magazzù and Eduardo L. Martín

[1] see e.g. Vestrheim, G. 2004, Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies, 44, 5