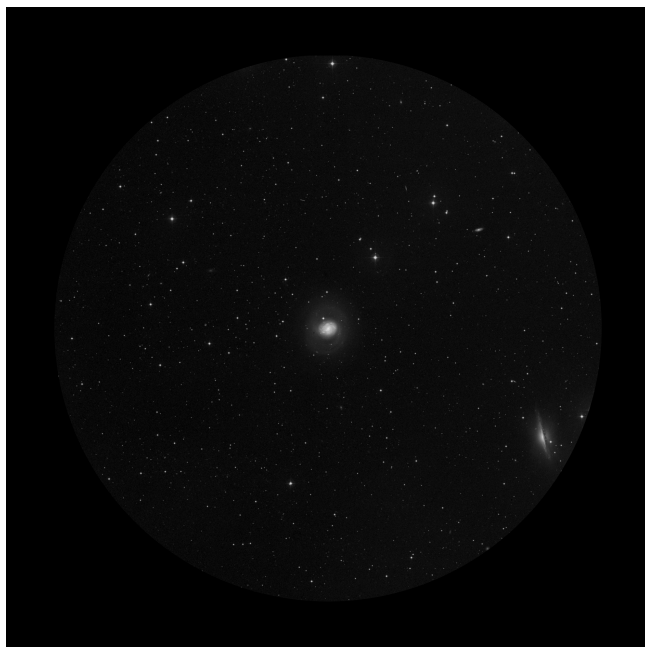


Data of the sky region at the time of the observation **SQM-L 21.85 IR -14° Temperature 9°**
Data of the night **Sun alt: -54.7° Moon alt: -64.2°**
Data of the object **Alt: 50.9° Az: 165.3°**
Telescope **Stargate 18"**



Nagler 31mm (70x - 1° 10' - 6.6mm)

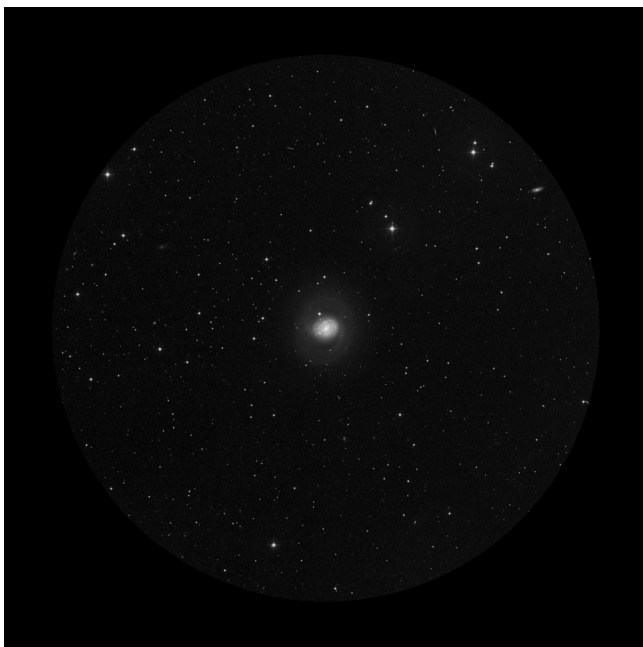
Despite the low magnification and the small size of the galaxy with this eyepiece you can already see that it is a very beautiful object with a lot of detail. It makes a nice play with a bright reddish star that seems to me to be to the north of the galaxy.

The size of the galaxy in the eyepiece is quite small, I don't think it occupies more than a tenth of the eyepiece.

It has a very bright, almost point-like nucleus and then a much fainter halo, all very round in shape, both the nucleus and the outer halo. With a little lateral vision one can see a difference in brightness between the outer regions of the halo and the inner ones. Clearly the halo is like a kind of '*ring*' that surrounds a much fainter region

until reaching the nucleus, which is extremely bright compared to the rest of the galaxy. That is, describing the galaxy from the outside to the inside, it would be, a slightly brighter ring surrounding the entire galaxy of a small thickness, perhaps 1/10 the size of the galaxy, then a much fainter region that also surrounds the galaxy to finish seeing a very bright central area, and very punctual.

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Nagler 22mm (98x - 50' - 4.7mm)

What a wonderful galaxy!

Now I pay more attention to the nucleus of the galaxy, and when I use the averted vision I get more detail. A halo appears around the point nucleus that is brighter than the outer halo, turning the nucleus from a point into a small circle. It is not very big but compared to the point nucleus I saw before it has a good size. So the galaxy would be more like this outer halo with a slightly brighter ring on the outside and then a bright

area in the center that is concentrated in an even brighter point nucleus.

On the other hand the galaxy no longer seems to me totally round but somewhat oval on one of its axes. I keep adding magnifications to discover more details, especially in its central region which seems very interesting.

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Delos 14mm (154x - 28' - 3mm)

Thanks to the higher magnifications the galaxy gains in complexity.

The image of the galaxy grows and with it I confirm that it is not totally round but rather oval as if it *lay* on the background of stars between 12° and 22° (between half of 45° and half of half of 45°, that is more or less the scale I follow; 0° galaxy in front of us, 90° galaxy totally edge-on, and between those two extremes I wonder if it is half, or half of the half, to be able to describe it better).

Now I seem to see even some kind of structure between the outermost part of the galaxy and the inner part, I think I see a kind of union between the outer zone (the ring) and the bright part of the nucleus. Like two very faint arcs starting from the outer zone and joining the bright nucleus.

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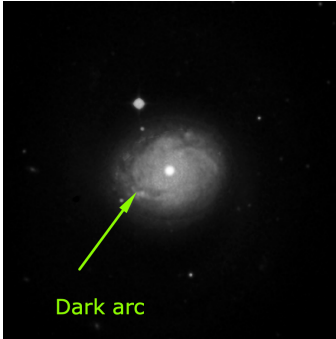
With this eyepiece the part that strikes me the most is the bright area of the core, previously it always seemed uniform but now I see a kind of dark arc, very close to the bright core that divides its bright area in two. It is as if it were a very narrow band of dust dividing the bright zone inside the nucleus.

That is, the galaxy looks to me at these magnifications with the following structure from the inside out. A VERY bright, point-like, almost stellar nucleus, now a very narrow dark arc surrounding it, then continuing the bright zone in the center, which is followed by a fainter zone ending with a zone of

brightness again (the aforementioned ring) in its outermost part, never as bright as the central zone but brighter than the part between the ring and the bright zone of the nucleus.



Ethos 10mm (216x - 27' - 2.1mm)



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Telescope **Stargate 18"**



Ethos 8mm (270x - 22' - 1.7mm)

With these magnifications everything described above is more magnified but I also lose the fainter parts.

What strikes me most now is that band of dark dust, as it seems to me that it surrounds the nucleus, because I do not know if more than surrounding it is as if it were a parenthesis that encloses it.

And also the core itself, that bright area gives a beautiful impression of pearl embedded in a sea of light.

It is spectacular, as if it was *sinking* surrounded by an intense brightness that in a couple of places is cut by this dark area of the dust band, or what I guess will be a dust band. A very suggestive and beautiful image.

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Delos 4.5mm (480x - 9' - 1mm)

At this magnification I have not obtained new details, I am quite tired after almost 6 hours of observation and the truth is that it is almost difficult for me to focus correctly.