

## Preface

“Brown Dwarfs,” the name of the first IAU Symposium dedicated to these once elusive substellar objects, represents their final emergence from anonymity to a prominent place in scientific endeavor. They are now cherished objects for many researchers, and they play a featured role in the schedules of many telescopes, both large and small.

The IAU Symposium 211 on Brown Dwarfs, held at the Outrigger Waikoloa Beach Hotel on the Big Island of Hawai‘i from 20 to 24 May 2002, brought together 150 researchers from 16 different countries. The aim of this meeting was to review current research on brown dwarfs and to foster collaborations for future work. This conference was the largest ever devoted to this kind of object. The symposium consisted of nine plenary sessions with a total of 82 speakers:

- Welcome speeches by Rolf Kudritzki (director of the Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai‘i) and Greg Fahlman (director of the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope), and a historical overview by Shiv Kumar.
- Origins of brown dwarfs: theory and observations (chaired by Ralph Neuhäuser).
- Brown dwarfs in open clusters: evolution and mass function (chaired by Antonio Magazzù).
- Brown dwarfs in the Milky Way (chaired by Tom Greene).
- Brown dwarfs around stars and other brown dwarfs (chaired by Sandy Leggett).
- Ultracool atmospheres, magnetic activity, and weather (chaired by Hugh Jones).
- Classification schemes and spectroscopic diagnostics (chaired by Thierry Forveille).
- Evolution of brown dwarfs (chaired by Didier Queloz).
- Future prospects (chaired by Eduardo Martín).

An evening panel session chaired by Alan Boss provided a forum to discuss issues related to the terminology of brown dwarfs and planets. The very lively discussion involved many participants. Some of them have contributed their views to this book of proceedings. The conference summary speech was delivered by Richard Jameson with his inseparable pint of beer. The last paper in this book

is a historical note from one of the pioneers of the field, Takenori Nakano, whose early work has almost been forgotten. In addition to the oral presentations, there were 52 posters on display throughout the conference, and one special session was devoted to viewing them. Many are included in this volume.

I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) for their inspiration and support. Besides the editor, the members of the SOC were Thierry Forveille, Tom Green, Hugh Jones, Antonio Magazzù, Tsevi Mazeh, Ralph Neuhäuser, Yakiv Pavlenko, Didier Queloz, and Takashi Tsuji. We are deeply indebted to the members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) who helped during the meeting: Sandrine Bottinelli, Andrew Pickles, Jana Pittichová, Karen Teramura, and Richard Wainscoat. We extend our thanks to the other LOC members for their help: Thierry Forveille, Naoto Kobayashi, Sivan Leoni, Mike Liu, Sandy Leggett, and Karen Meech.

I wish to express our gratitude to the public institutions that made this conference possible: the International Astronomical Union, the Institute for Astronomy (IfA) of the University of Hawai'i, the Subaru Telescope, the NASA Infrared Telescope, the Joint Astronomy Center, the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope, the Hawai'i Island Economic Development Board, and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

The symposium was proposed by IAU Commission 51 (Bioastronomy) through IAU Division III (Planetary Systems Sciences) and was supported by IAU Commissions 25 (Stellar Photometry and Polarimetry), 26 (Double and Multiple Stars), 30 (Radial Velocities), 34 (Interstellar Matter), 36 (Theory of Stellar Atmospheres), 37 (Star Clusters and Associations), and 45 (Stellar Classification). IAU and NASA provided funds to help participants travel to Hawai'i.

The IfA Publications Office (Louise Good and Karen Teramura) assisted enormously with the production of this book and provided excellent support for graphics and photos. The book would not have been as timely and as polished without their assistance. Sivan Leoni and Narayan Raja produced a very professional Web site for the symposium. Hans Zinnecker contributed some amusing pictures of the participants, not all of which could be published. Computer wizard Josh Hoblitt ensured network communications and smoothed the problems encountered during PowerPoint presentations. Jenny Lee and Chris Kaukali worked around many administrative hurdles and processed piles of paperwork to help the attendees. Joan Yanagihara secured the donations of goodies for participants. We thank KTA Super Stores and Kona Pacific Farmers Cooperative for their contributions. The Waikoloa Hotel staff provided very professional support and kindly permitted us to continue the sessions in the hot tub throughout the night.

A bunch of thanks go to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Conference Center, particularly Andrea Furuli and Judith Fox-Goldstein. Their experience in dealing with international conferences was a great asset to the meeting.

Finally, we wish to extend a special mahalo to those of Hawaiian ancestry on whose wonderful island we were privileged to be guests. Without their generous hospitality, this meeting would not have been possible.

*Eduardo L. Martín, Chairman, IAU 211  
Honolulu, Hawai'i, November 2002*