

Cometary Science in Bulgaria

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This presentation is a retrospective description of the development of cometary research in Bulgaria. It starts in the era of photoplates, and goes through the introduction of new instruments and observational methods, including CCDs, narrow-band imaging with specialized filters for cometary emissions and continuum windows, and the introduction of polarimetric and spectropolarimetric observations during the last several years. These developments will be illustrated by several case studies. Specific attention will be given to observed catastrophic events as the destruction of comet C/LINEAR (1999 S4) in July 2000, and the brightness surge of comet SW3, component B, in May 2006. An attempt will be made to establish a link between the interpretation of the presented observations and the new knowledge inherited from the Rosetta mission.
