

WHITE DWARFS WITH OXYGEN-RICH ATMOSPHERES

B.T. Gänsicke¹, D. Koester², J.Girven¹, J.R. Thorstensen³, T.R. Marsh¹, D. Steeghs¹

¹*University of Warwick*, ²*University of Kiel*, ³*Dartmouth College*

We report the discovery of two cool white dwarfs with helium-dominated oxygen-rich atmospheres, resembling the “classical” DQ white dwarfs, but with an abundance ratio $O/C > 1$. This abundance ratio that these white dwarfs have ONe cores with a very thin CO envelope, and very likely represent the progenies of intermediate mass stars near the core-collapse boundary. We will also present some preliminary results in better constraints on the white dwarf masses, which, if they are indeed ONe cores, are expected to be rather massive.