

MASS-LOSS EVENTS IN THE PULSATING CENTRAL STAR OF LONGMORE 4

Howard E. Bond

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, U.S.A.

Werner et al. (1992) discovered a spectacular transient change in the spectrum of the nucleus of the PN Lo 4, during which the normal PG 1159 spectrum became that of a [WC] Wolf-Rayet star. In order to determine whether this type of sudden mass-loss event recurs, and if so how often, I have been monitoring the spectrum of Lo 4 since 2003, using service observing time on the SMARTS 1.5-m telescope at Cerro Tololo. Typically a spectrum is obtained once every 1-3 months. A second transient mass-loss event was observed in 2006, confirming that these ejections do recur. I will speculate on mechanisms that cause these events in a pulsating GW Vir-type PN central star.