

NGC 6914 and a group of reflection nebulae



Isaac Newton Telescope + Photographic Prime Focus Camera



Reflection nebulae are clouds of dust which are simply reflecting the light of a nearby star or stars. Reflection nebulae are also usually sites of star formation. They are blue because the scattering is more efficient for blue light. Reflection nebulae and emission nebulae are often seen together and are sometimes both referred to as diffuse nebulae. Show here is NGC 6914 and a group of reflection nebulae. This picture was produced by combining images taken separately in red, green and blue light. This complex process was necessary because colour films are not sensitive enough to record very faint objects. This photograph is therefore an accurate reflection of the colours of the universe, much as the eye might see them if it could be made a million times more sensitive.