



M51 or the Whirlpool Galaxy. This is a bright spiral galaxy fairly close to us. To the north of M51, at the top of the image, is a companion galaxy which is being disrupted by the gravitational tidal forces of the main galaxy. The image was obtained using the Prime Focus Camera of the William Herschel Telescope (WHT) at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, La Palma, Spain. The blue-band image was acquired by the Crown Prince of Spain. Credit: Javier Méndez and Nik Szymanek.

