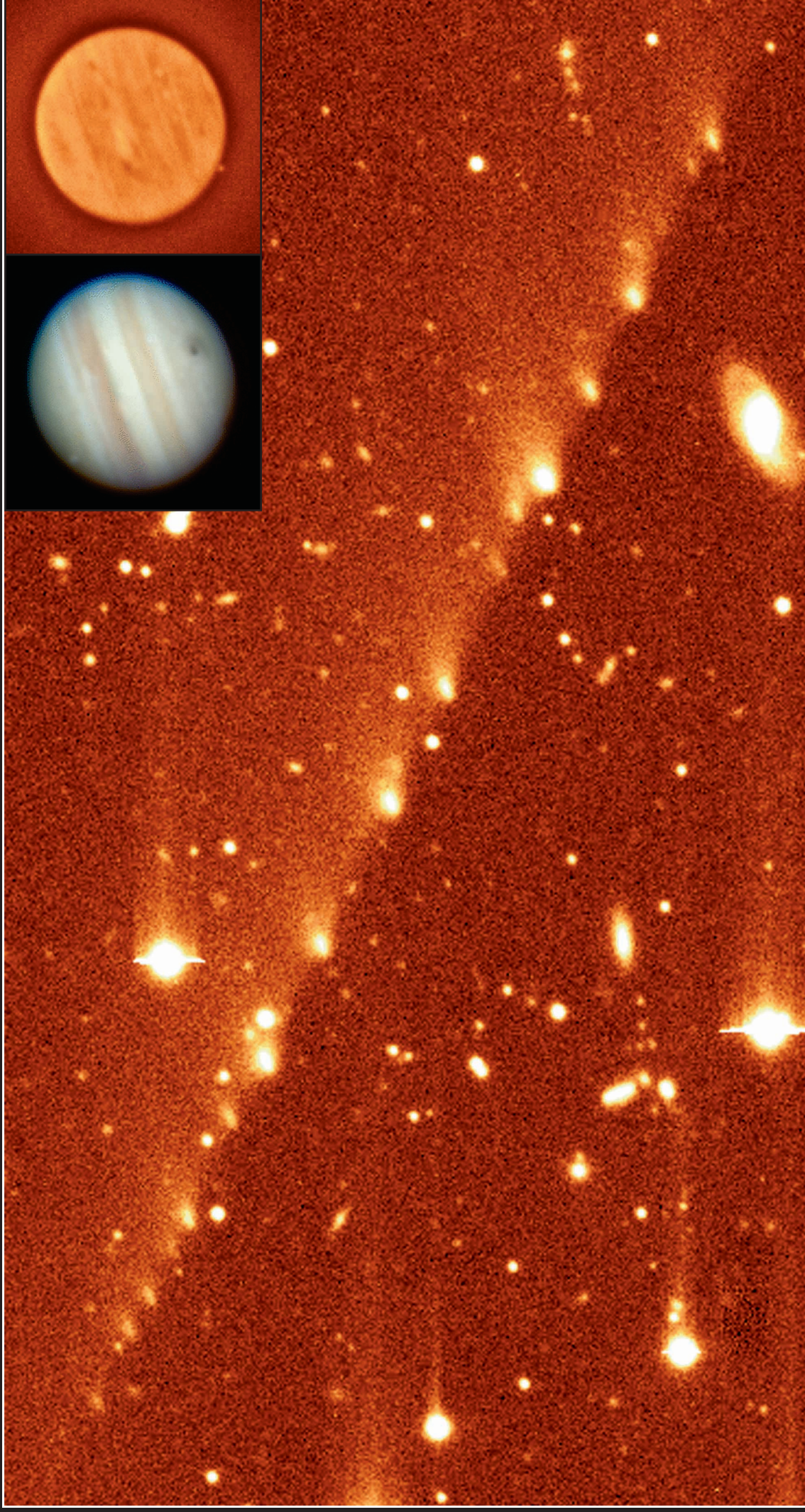


Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9



On 1994 July 16-22, over twenty fragments of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 collided with the planet Jupiter. The comet, discovered the previous year by astronomers Carolyn and Eugene Shoemaker and David Levy, was observed by astronomers at hundreds of observatories around the world as it crashed into Jupiter's southern hemisphere. Images obtained from the 1-m Jacobus Kapteyn Telescope clearly showed the ejecta plume of debris rising over the planet's limb from the impact site of fragments L and G (inset pictures). At the same time the 2.5-m Isaac Newton Telescope was used to observe spectroscopic emission from the vaporised comet, revealing some of its constituent elements. Images shown here were taken using the JKT.

Credit: Alan Fitzsimmons (Queen's University of Belfast).

1994

