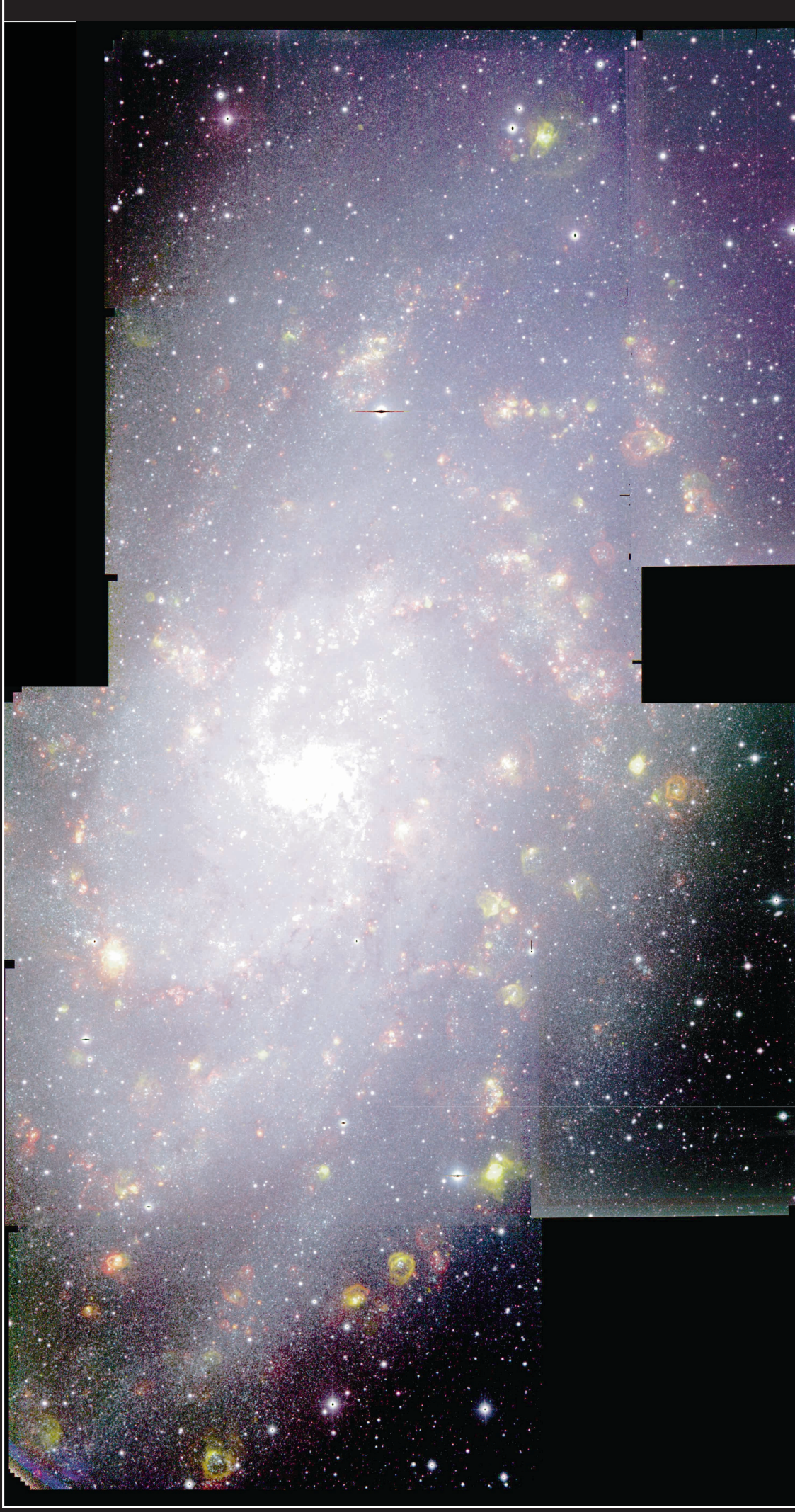


The Triangulum Galaxy



Isaac Newton Telescope + Wide Field CCD Camera

M33 or the Triangulum Galaxy is one of the finest examples of a spiral galaxy in the sky and is about one degree across. The galaxy is a member of the 30 or so galaxies of the Local Group and is close enough - about 2.5 million light years - for us to study the anatomy of a galaxy in great detail. Many individual bright stars pepper the delicate spiral arms which are in turn sprinkled with pink star-forming regions. Several of the clumps of bright stars and their associated nebulae are bright enough to have been catalogued as separate objects. The image shown here was obtained with the mosaic CCDs of the Wide Field Camera at the INT. The image is a composition of frames taken in three narrow bands: the green colour represents the galaxian emission in [OIII] nebular line, red is the H-alpha hydrogen emission and blue is mainly stellar light taken through a continuum filter centred at 555.0 nm (Stromgren Y). In only one observing night, and with two positionings of the telescope, it was possible to cover the whole galaxy which has a size of approximately one degree in the sky.

Credit: L. Magrini and M. Perinotto (University of Florence), R. Corradi (ING), and A. Mampaso (IAC).

