

A POSSIBLE SUBDIVISION OF TYPE II PLANETARY NEBULAE

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A revision is made of the classification scheme of planetary nebulae proposed by Peimbert (1978), taking into account the observed heavy-element abundances and radial abundance gradients (Faúndez-Abans and Maciel, 1986; 1987a). A subdivision is proposed of type II PN into the subtypes a and b, according to their nitrogen abundances relative to hydrogen (Faúndez-Abans and Maciel, 1987b). Type IIa PN show a higher enrichment in nitrogen than type IIb, which present a nitrogen abundance close to the value of population I objects and a radial N/H gradient as well. This work was supported by CNPq and FAPESP (Brasil) and DICYT-USACH (Chile).

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