ISO and other observations of Sakurai's object

S. Eyres[1], A. Evans[1], A. Salama[2], T Geballe[3], B. Smalley[1], T. Naylor[1], and D. Pollaco[4]

[1] Physics Department, Keele University
[2] ISO Operations Centre, Vilspa, Madrid
[3] Joint Astronomy Centre, Hilo
[4] Isaac Newton Group, La Palma

Abstract

'Sakurai's object' was at first believed to be a nova. However it turns out that this object is a very rare stellar event – a star undergoing its final He flash. We are undertaking an extensive ground-based programme of observations of this object, which are complemented by ISO observations. The first ISO SWS observation was obtained shortly after the star underwent large and dramatic changes. These observations are described and placed in the context of other observations of this unique object.