THE BLACK EYE GALAXY

The Black Eye Galaxy (also designated Messier 64) is a relatively isolated spiral galaxy located 17 million light years away in the northern constellation of Coma Berenices. A dark band of absorbing dust in front of the galaxy's bright nucleus gave rise to its nicknames of the "Black Eye" galaxy. M64 is composed of two concentric, counter-rotating systems. While all the stars in M64 rotate in the same direction as the interstellar gas in the galaxy's central region, gas in the outer regions, extending to about 40,000 light-years, rotates in the opposite direction. The dusty eye and bizarre rotation are likely the result of a billion year old merger of two different galaxies. (Information from wikipedia and apod.nasa.gov)

This observation of the Black Eye galaxy was made with the College of Charleston 24 inch CDK PlaneWave telescope and an Apogee Aspen CG16M CCD. The image of M64 is acomposite of 3 filters in the visible range: B (blue), G (green) and R (red). The exposure times were 6x1.5min B / 6x1.5min G / 6x1.15min R

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