

The activity of C-G at 3.5 AU from the Sun

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Abstract

Starting in early August the ROSINA instrument on board the Rosetta spacecraft [1] saw clearly cometary molecules above the spacecraft background. The COPS sensor, which measures the total density with its nude gauge, registered large density variations in line with the rotation period of the comet. Mapping this to the comet showed that especially the neck of the comet is very active whenever it comes into sunlight. However, the outgassing pattern is more complex. In this talk we give an overview on the measured density profiles along the Rosetta trajectory.

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References

[1] Balsiger H., Altwegg K., Bochsler P., et al. 2007, Sp. Sci. Rev., 128, 745.