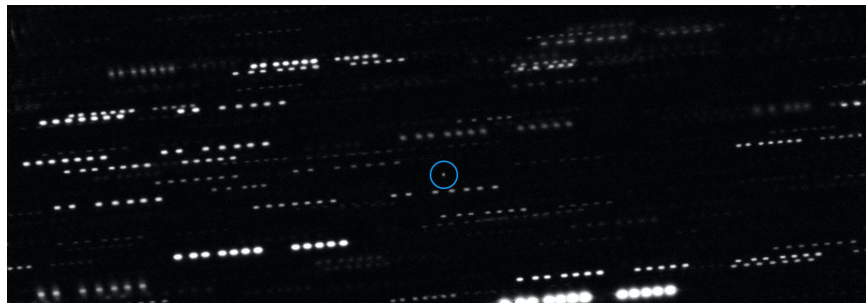
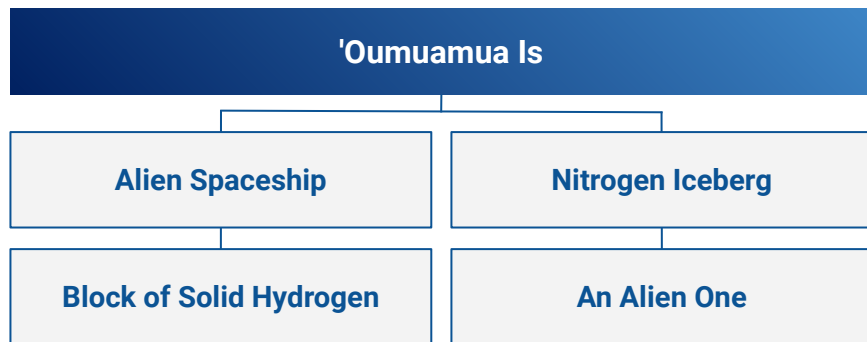


'Oumuamua



The interstellar object 'Oumuamua is circled by faint star trails that have been muddled as telescopes have tracked the moving comet. Astronomers observed the strange visitor for 11 days before it became too dim to see.

What then is **'Oumuamua**? The discussion goes on, and given the lack of data, speculation is easy.



Discovery

11/2017 U1 'Oumuamua was discovered by the University of Hawaii's Pan-STARRS1 telescope on October 19, 2017. Originally classified as a comet, observations showed it behaved like an asteroid after it slingshot past the Sun on September 9, 2017 at 196,000 mph (87.3 kilometres per second). New measurements showed it was accelerating, indicating it behaves more like a comet. 'Oumuamua (pronounced oh MOO-uh MOO-uh) means 'a messenger from afar arriving first' in Hawaiian.

Overview

This interstellar intruder, which has visited our Solar System for the first time, is a cigar-shaped, rocky object (lacking water and ice) with a reddish hue (as a result of cosmic ray radiation). Before stumbling upon our star system by accident, this unusual object had been roving through the Milky Way for hundreds of millions of years. This phenomenon was described in detail by Avi Loeb in his bestseller "Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth".