

图片



Asteroid "Xida" Named After Northwestern University

On March 24, 2023, the "Xida" star naming ceremony was held at the Chang'an Campus of Northwest University.

Shu Degan, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and professor of the Department of Geology, Northwest University; Wu Xuefeng, Deputy Director of the Purple Mountain Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Zhao Haibin, Director of the Department of Planetary Science and Deep Space Exploration Research; Wang Jun, Deputy Director of the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences; more than 500 people including Vice Presidents Lai Shaocong, Xi Jiami, Zhang Yuanjun, Chairman of Xi'an Upstream Ecological Technology Co., Ltd. Dong Yun, and representatives of teachers and students of Northwest University participated in the event. The ceremony was presided over by Chang Jiang, member of the Standing Committee of the school's party committee, Vice President, and Commander-in-Chief of the 120th anniversary celebration.



529729 Asteroid "Xida" Photos

The "Xida" star was discovered on March 2, 2008 by the near-Earth object telescope of the Xuyi Astronomical Observatory of the Purple Mountain Observatory.

On the night of March 2, a new asteroid was discovered when the telescope was pointed at the constellation Gemini, when it was 302 million kilometers away from us. It was subsequently confirmed by multiple observations by ground-based telescopes such as the Mount Lemmon Sky Survey Project, the Pan-Stars Project, and the WISE space telescope, and its precise orbit was further calculated, which meets the international requirements for a new asteroid to be permanently numbered.

The International Minor Planet Center gave the number 529729 a permanent number in May 2019, and confirmed that the Purple Mountain Observatory has the right to discover and name the celestial body. In July 2022, the Purple Mountain Observatory nominated the International Astronomical Union to name the asteroid 529729 as the "Xida" star, and it officially passed the international approval in September.

At the ceremony, Academician Shu Degan read out the "Xida" star's international naming bulletin, and Wu Xuefeng read out the "Xida" star's naming certificate and delivered a speech. Zhao Haibin introduced the discovery process and related parameters of the "Xida" star.

Zhao Haibin introduced that the "Xida" star is numbered as asteroid 529729, which was discovered by Purple Mountain Observatory in March 2008. Its orbital eccentricity is 0.049, the orbital inclination is 6.595 degrees, and the orbital semi-major diameter is 3.044 astronomical units. It advances on the orbit at a high speed of 1.47 million kilometers per day. The longest distance from the earth is 627 million kilometers, and the closest is only 2.83 billion kilometers. In September 2022, the small celestial body naming working group officially approved the naming of asteroid 529729 as the "Xida" star.

Wu Xuefeng said in his speech that naming a planet is an international and permanent honor. Naming an asteroid after Northwestern University fully demonstrates the outstanding contributions of Northwestern University in education, science, culture, and social development. It has affirmed Northwestern University in the international academic field. He said that the Purple Mountain Observatory and Northwest University will further deepen the cooperation and contribute more to the national basic research work.

Northwest University

Northwest University started in 1902 as Shaanxi University Hall and Jingshi University Hall Accelerated Science School. It was called Northwestern University in 1912. In 1923, it was changed to National Northwest University. In 1937, the National Peking University, Peking Normal University, Beiyang Institute of Technology and Peking Research Institute, which moved westward to Shaanxi, formed the National Xi'an Temporary University. After the founding of New China, it became a comprehensive university directly under the Ministry of Education. In 1950, it was renamed Northwest University. In 1958, it was changed to be in charge of Shaanxi Province. In 1978, it was identified as a national key university. Now it is a national "Double First-Class" construction university, a national "211 Project" construction university, and a university jointly built by the Ministry of Education and Shaanxi Province.



Certificate Awarding Ceremony



"Xida" star certificates