

NGC4565, the Needle Galaxy

This is NGC4565, the Needle Galaxy, a spiral galaxy that is around 40 million light years from Earth and at least 100,000 light years wide. It is seen edge on to us in the Coma Berenices constellation. In this field of view it is surrounded by numerous smaller galaxies. For example some of the bigger, more obvious ones are NGC4562, IC3546, IC3571, IC3543. But many faint smudges are galaxies and a few are over 2 billion light years away (upper left edge of the galaxy - the small, faint yellow/orange blobs).

This image is the result of 5 hours of exposures (63x300s), between mid May and early June, with a one shot color camera on a C11 at F6.3, processed with PixInsight. I had collected over 9 hours of exposures but had to throw out 4.5 due to thin clouds that passed over at times, leaving a slightly mottled image. This proved to be too difficult to process out so I went back and threw out all but the ones that had no mottling or glows around stars and started over.

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