

## Obituary

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### JOSE L. SERSIC (1933–1993)

José Luis Sérsic was born in Bella Vista in the Province of Corrientes, Argentina, on 1933 May 6, and died in Villa Carlos Paz, Argentina, on 1993 July 19. He graduated in Astronomy from La Plata University in 1956 and the following year he accepted a position in Córdoba Observatory where he developed major scientific contributions to southern hemisphere extragalactic astronomy. He excelled as researcher and teacher being Member of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Investigations (CONICET) and full Professor of Astronomy in the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1964. He was author of more than a hundred original papers published in international and Argentinian journals. Among his most important research works is the *Atlas de Galaxias Australes* published in 1968, the first atlas of southern galaxies which contains essential photometric and morphological information mainly obtained in the Bosque Alegre Astrophysical Station of Córdoba Observatory. Several research works were produced by students under his advice, such as the studies of galaxies with peculiar nuclei later known as Sérsic-Pastoriza nuclei. He taught Extragalactic Astronomy at the Faculty of Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics of the National University of Córdoba during three decades. His lecture notes ‘Extragalactic Astronomy’ resulted in a standard textbook on the subject. He actively participated in the development of the Instituto de Astronomía y Física del Espacio (IAFE) in Buenos Aires, and the Complejo Astronómico El Leoncito (CASLEO) in San Juan, presently the most important centre for astronomical observation in Argentina. More recently he had organized and directed a CONICET research programme, the ‘Programa sobre Investigaciones en Astronomía Teórica y Experimental’ (IATE). This programme develops theoretical and observational research in galaxy spectrophotometry, cosmology and galaxy formation as well as instrumental developments including an observing station in Antarctica.

Sérsic was well-known and respected throughout the international astronomical community. He was without doubt the master of Extragalactic Astronomy of South America; his great personality, his legacy, will never be forgotten.

DR DIEGO GARCIA LAMBAS