

Image: Hubble spots feathered spiral

July 2 2020



Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, J. Lee and the PHANGS-HST Team;
Acknowledgment: Judy Schmidt (Geckzilla)

The spiral pattern shown by the galaxy in this image from the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope is striking because of its delicate,

feathery nature. These "flocculent" spiral arms indicate that the recent history of star formation of the galaxy, known as NGC 2775, has been relatively quiet. There is virtually no star formation in the central part of the galaxy, which is dominated by an unusually large and relatively empty galactic bulge, where all the gas was converted into stars long ago.

NGC 2275 is classified as a flocculent (or fluffy-looking) [spiral galaxy](#), located 67 million light-years away in the constellation of Cancer.

Millions of bright, young, blue stars shine in the complex, feather-like [spiral arms](#), interlaced with dark lanes of dust. Complexes of these hot, blue stars are thought to trigger [star formation](#) in nearby gas clouds. The overall feather-like spiral patterns of the arms are then formed by shearing of the gas clouds as the galaxy rotates. The spiral nature of flocculent galaxies stands in contrast to the grand-design spirals, which have prominent, well defined-spiral arms.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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