

## **Photometric and spectroscopic observations of (132524) 2002 JF56: fly-by target of the New Horizons mission**

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The New Horizons spacecraft flew -by the asteroid {132524} 2002 JF 56 on June 13, 2006. To further enhance the knowledge about this asteroid and to facilitate the cross-calibration of the instruments onboard the spacecraft, ground-based observations of {132524} 2002 JF 56 have been performed on May 25, 30 and 31, 2006 at the ESO Very Large Telescope. These observations were carried on about two weeks before the distant fly-by, when the asteroid was at heliocentric distance of 2.5 AU. A set of R broad band images and reflectance spectra were taken each night with the FORS2 instrument; each observational cycle spans a time interval of about one hour per night. The reflectance spectra of {132524} 2002 JF 56 resemble those of S-type asteroids. From the photometry of the asteroid, an effective diameter of about 2.3 km is estimated and a lower limit for the axis ratio of  $(1.19 \pm 0.02)$  is determined.