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3I/ATLAS image released by Japanese space agency? Interstellar object's shocking visual sparks global interest

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Synopsis
3I/ATLAS image claimed to be released by Japanese space agency has gained attention online. The alleged visual of the interstellar comet was shared on social media. The image, said to be based on spectrum analysis, remains unverified till now but has raised curiosity about 3I/ATLAS, its discovery, interstellar origin, observation methods and scientific importance.

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3I/ATLAS image released by Japanese space agency shows possible visual representation of interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS, based on spectral and imaging data. Pic Credit: X/@NYCryptoKing

3I/ATLAS image claimed to be released by Japanese space agency has created wide discussion among astronomy followers and researchers. A post online claimed that Japan's space agency has released a possible image of the **interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS**, created using spectrum and imaging data. Although the claim has not been officially confirmed, the image has renewed global interest in the **3I/ATLAS comet**, its discovery, **interstellar origin**, movement, and visibility from Earth. The object, officially classified by **NASA and ESA** as an interstellar comet, continues to be one of the most closely observed celestial visitors in 2025.

3I/ATLAS image released by Japanese space agency?

A social media post has sparked global attention after claims that a 3I/ATLAS image released by the Japanese space agency shows the most realistic visual of the interstellar comet so far. The image, reportedly based on data and spectrum analysis, has not been officially confirmed by space authorities.

A user on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) shared the image with the caption, "Japanese space agency releases possible image of 3I/ATLAS based on imagery data and spectrum analysis. This is the most realistic image available so far."

— NYCryptoKing (@NYCryptoKing)

Officials have not yet verified the authenticity of the claim, but the image has reignited public interest in the mysterious

interstellar comet known as 3I/ATLAS.

3I/ATLAS interstellar comet discovery

Comet 3I/ATLAS was discovered on **July 1, 2025**, by NASA's **Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS)** telescope in **Rio Hurtado, Chile**. According to the NASA Center for Near Earth Object Studies (CNEOS), the comet's orbital path traces back beyond our solar system, making it an **interstellar object**.

NASA stated that **3I/ATLAS** is the **third known interstellar visitor**, after **1I/'Oumuamua** in 2017 and **2I/Borisov** in 2019. The letter "I" in its name represents "interstellar," while "3" indicates its sequence of discovery.

3I/ATLAS Origin and Interstellar Journey

NASA scientists explained that the comet's hyperbolic orbital path confirms its **interstellar origin**. This path means it does not circle the Sun and will never return once it leaves the solar system.

The European Space Agency (ESA) described such comets as "outsiders," suggesting they carry physical evidence from distant star systems. Every planet, moon, and comet within our solar system formed from the same nebula, but interstellar objects like **3I/ATLAS** come from beyond that origin.

3I/ATLAS Movement and Visibility

Comet 3I/ATLAS travels at more than **210,000 kilometers per hour**, too fast to be caught by the Sun's gravity. After passing its **closest point to the Sun on October 30, 2025**, it is now moving away and entering the visible range of the **morning sky**.

Skywatchers can begin looking for it from **early November**, near the **low eastern horizon before dawn**. It will not be visible to the naked eye, but can be seen through a **medium telescope**.

During **November and December 2025**, it will be visible in the early morning sky. Its **closest approach to Earth** was approximately **1.8 astronomical units** (around 270 million kilometers).

Scientific Importance of 3I/ATLAS

The 3I/ATLAS image released by the Japanese space agency adds new focus on this rare comet's study. Scientists believe its composition could contain **carbon dioxide** and **ice materials** formed in cold star systems.

Astronomers are using the comet to understand the **formation of celestial bodies** in other star systems. Since it does not pose any **threat to Earth**, it offers a safe chance to study an **interstellar object** firsthand.

NASA has confirmed that **3I/ATLAS poses no risk** and will maintain a safe distance from Earth throughout its passage.

3I/ATLAS Observation Tips for Skywatchers

To observe 3I/ATLAS, use a **medium-sized or large telescope** in a **dark, low-light area**. Look toward the **eastern sky before sunrise**.

The best viewing opportunities are expected between **November and December 2025**. Astronomy enthusiasts can also join **local observatories or skywatching clubs** to share observation equipment and data.

This may be the only chance for the current generation to observe a **visitor from another star system**.

Why did 3I/ATLAS interstellar comet turn green and hide tail?
A new image of **3I/ATLAS interstellar comet** has drawn global attention. The comet is glowing green and appears to be hiding its tail, but scientists say this is a normal part of its journey through the solar system.

Why the comet's tail seems to be missing?
In the image, the comet looks like it has no tail. Qicheng Zhang, a researcher at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona, noted that the tail is still there but positioned **directly behind the comet** from our viewpoint. This alignment makes it appear as though the tail has vanished.

A faint glow on one side of the comet shows the presence of the hidden dust tail. The tail curves slightly to the left and is seen almost head-on from Earth.

Recent online posts claim that a new image of 3I/ATLAS was leaked from NASA. The photo allegedly shows structural details of the comet. Japanese observers also reportedly captured a breathtaking view. Scientists are still verifying these claims and studying the comet's path, composition and origin.

Following 3I/ATLAS' Journey
Space enthusiasts can track 3I/ATLAS in real time using NASA's "Eyes on the Solar System" tool. This platform visualizes its path through the solar system and its ongoing trajectory.

December 19 Observation Window
3I/ATLAS will reach its closest point to Earth on **December 19, 2025**, allowing detailed observation by **ground-based telescopes, Hubble, and the Webb telescope**. These observations will confirm whether the object is still a single body or has fragmented completely.

FAQs
Q1. What is the 3I/ATLAS image released by Japanese space agency?

It is a possible visual of the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS, reportedly created using imagery and spectrum data, though it has not been officially verified.

Q2. Why is comet 3I/ATLAS important for scientists?

3I/ATLAS is an interstellar comet that helps scientists study the composition of objects from other star systems, offering insights into how planets and comets form in different regions.

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