Monthly Notices of the ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY LETTERS

Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. **414,** L90–L94 (2011) doi:10.1111/j.1745-3933.2011.01062.x

The discovery of the T8.5 dwarf UGPS J0521+3640

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Accepted 2011 April 7. Received 2011 April 7; in original form 2011 March 11

ABSTRACT

We have carried out a search for late-type T dwarfs in the UKIRT Infrared Deep Sky Survey Galactic Plane Survey 6th Data Release. The search yielded two persuasive candidates, both of which have been confirmed as T dwarfs. The brightest, UGPS J0521+3640, has been assigned the spectral type T8.5 and appears to lie at a distance of 7–9 pc. The fainter of the two, UGPS J0652+0324, is classified as a T5.5 dwarf and lies at an estimated distance of 28–37 pc. Warm-*Spitzer* observations in IRAC channels 1 and 2, taken as part of the GLIMPSE360 Legacy Survey, are available for UGPS J0521+3640 and we used these data with the near-infrared spectroscopy to estimate its properties. We find best-fitting solar metallicity BT-Settl models for $T_{\rm eff} = 600$ and 650 K and $\log g = 4.5$ and 5.0. These parameters suggest a mass between 14 and $32 M_{\rm J}$ for an age between 1 and 5 Gyr. The proximity of this very cool T dwarf, and its location in the Galactic plane, makes it an ideal candidate for high-resolution adaptive optics imaging to search for cool companions.

Key words: surveys – brown dwarfs – stars: low-mass.

1 INTRODUCTION

The growing sample of very cool T dwarfs (e.g. Warren et al. 2007; Burningham et al. 2008; Delorme et al. 2008; Burningham et al. 2009; Delorme et al. 2010; Goldman et al. 2010; Lucas et al. 2010; Mainzer et al. 2011) is providing a crucial test bed for atmospheric model grids that span the stellar, substellar and planetary regimes (Marley et al. 2002; Saumon & Marley 2008; Allard, Homeier & Freytag 2010). A number of recent discoveries (e.g. Folkes et al. 2007; Artigau et al. 2010), including the very cool and nearby T dwarf UGPS J0722−0540 (Lucas et al. 2010), demonstrate that despite the technical challenges associated with identifying rare red objects in the Galactic plane, it is a feasible region in which to identify such targets. Nearby T dwarfs in the Galactic plane offer a number of advantages that make them ideal for detailed study. In addition to their relative brightness compared to more distant sources, the greater likelihood of the proximity to stars bright enough to act as natural guide stars or tip-tilt stars for laser guide star observations makes cool brown dwarfs in the Galactic plane ideal for high-resolution imaging campaigns aimed at identifying cool substellar neighbours and dynamical benchmark systems (e.g. Liu, Dupuy & Ireland 2008; Dupuy, Liu & Ireland 2009a,b).

In this Letter, we present the results of a new search of the UKIRT Infrared Deep Sky Survey (UKIDSS; Lawrence et al. 2007) Galactic Plane Survey (GPS; Lucas et al. 2008) 6th Data Release for nearby late-type T dwarfs which allows for candidates in the colour range $-0.1 < H - K < +0.1$ that were excluded by the search reported in Lucas et al. (2010).

2 CANDIDATE SELECTION

Late T dwarfs have a fairly wide spread of near-infrared colours that includes objects with $(J - H) > 0$ or $(H - K) > 0$. A quite restrictive selection [$(J - H) < -0.2$, $(H - K) < -0.1$] was employed to

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Table 1. UKIDSS discovery coordinates for the targets and the proper motions for UGPS J0521+3640.

Object	α	δ	Epoch	Equinox	$\mu_{\alpha\cos\delta}$/mas yr^{-1}	μ_δ/mas yr^{-1}
UGPS J0521+3640	05:21:27.27	+36:40:48.6	2007.82	J2000	513 ± 10	-1507 ± 10
UGPS J0652+0324	06:52:27.71	+03:24:31.0	2007.83	J2000		

Table 2. Summary of photometry for UGPS J0521+3640 and UGPS J0652+0324.

Object	$J_{\rm UKIDSS}$	$H_{\rm UKIDSS}$	$K_{\rm UKIDSS}$	[3.6]	[4.5]	$J-H$	$H-K$	$H-[4.5]$
UGPS J0521+3640	16.94 ± 0.02	17.28 ± 0.04	17.32 ± 0.09	15.30 ± 0.06	13.36 ± 0.03	-0.34 ± 0.04	-0.04 ± 0.1	3.92 ± 0.05
UGPS J0652+0324	17.24 ± 0.02	17.50 ± 0.04	17.52 ± 0.09			-0.26 ± 0.04	-0.02 ± 0.1	

detect UGPS 0722−0540 in order to minimize the number of false positive candidates with colours similar to normal stars. Inspection of the two colour diagrams in fig. 9 of Burningham et al. (2010) shows that T8.5 and T9 dwarfs typically have $(H-K) \approx 0$ and $(J-H) < -0.2$. A query of the 6th UKIDSS GPS Data Release at the WFCAM Science Archive (Hambly et al. 2008) showed that the number of candidates in the gpsSource catalogue is increased only modestly if the $(H-K)$ colour selection is relaxed to $(H-K) < +0.1$, provided that all the other selection criteria employed in Lucas et al. (2010) remain in place. The number of candidates requiring visual inspection rises much more rapidly if this colour-cut is relaxed further or if the $(J-H)$ selection is relaxed.

We therefore searched the colour space $-0.1 < (H-K) < +0.1$, $(J-H) < -0.2$ for additional late T dwarfs. We note that this search would miss unusually red objects such as the T8.5 dwarfs ULAS J1302+1308 and Ross 458C which have $(H-K) = 0.32$ and 0.11, respectively. In other respects, the search was identical to that carried out in Lucas et al. (2010) to which the reader is referred to for an explanation of the logic behind the selection criteria.

This selection yielded 12 candidates. Two of these, UGPS J0521+3640 and UGPS J0652+0324, passed the visual inspection of the FITS images and have no optical counterpart in either the IPHAS (Drew et al. 2005) or the POSS USNO-B1.0 archive. These two were therefore selected for spectroscopic observation. An additional search was run that removed the requirement for the coordinate shifts between the three passbands to be smaller than 0.3 arcsec and included all sources with $H-K < 0.1$ mag that satisfy the other criteria above. This search produced only three additional candidates, all of which were identified as image defects upon the inspection of the FITS images.

3 OBSERVATIONS

The near-infrared discovery images of UGPS J0521+3640 were obtained on 2007 October 25, whilst UGPS J0652+0324 was observed on 2007 October 29. Follow-up imaging to measure proper motions was obtained using the Near Infrared Camera Spectrometer (NICS) on the National Telescope Galileo (TNG) on La Palma during the nights of 2011 February 8 and January 28, respectively. The data were processed using the standard NICS pipeline.[1] Additional WFCAM (Casali et al. 2007) imaging for both targets was obtained on 2010 November 21 and further images were obtained for UGPS J0521+3640 on 2011 February 2, 18 and 19. The WFCAM data were processed using the standard pipeline (Irwin et al. 2004). The x, y coordinates of the targets in all frames were converted to the standard coordinate system of the discovery frames using a simple linear model. The relative proper motion for all objects was found from linear fits to the standard coordinates at different epochs. We were unable to determine a self-consistent motion for UGPS J0652+0324 from the three epochs of data available. A correction to an absolute system was estimated from the median difference between measured relative proper motions and published values of PPMXL (Roeser, Demleitner & Schilbach 2010) objects in the field. The derived proper motion for UGPS J0521+3640 was corrected for an assumed parallax of 125 mas. The UKIDSS coordinates and proper motions are given in Table 1. The SIMBAD and SuperCOSMOS (Hambly et al. 2001) data bases were searched for targets to which UGPS J0521+3640 may be a common proper motion companion, but no viable candidates were identified.

Warm-*Spitzer* IRAC [3.6] and [4.5] imaging of the region around UGPS J0521+3640 was obtained as part of the GLIMPSE360 legacy programme.[2] The [3.6] data were obtained on 2009 October 31, with AORkey 32886784, and the [4.5] data on 2009 October 30, with AORkey 32912896. The frame time in both cases was 12 s. The post-basic-calibrated-data (pbcd) mosaics generated by version 18.18.0 of the *Spitzer* pipeline were used to obtain aperture photometry. The photometry was derived using a 3.6-arcsec-radius aperture, and the aperture correction was taken from the IRAC handbook.[3] UGPS J0521+3640 is currently close enough to a bright star (36 arcsec north of north-west) that care had to be taken with the subtraction of the sky background. The choice of the sky background was investigated and found to lead to an uncertainty of the same size as that indicated by the noise statistics in the pbcd uncertainty image. The error quoted in Table 2 is the result of adding these random errors in quadrature to the 3 per cent error that accounts for systematic effects due to calibration uncertainties and pipeline dependencies.

Near-infrared spectroscopy of UGPS J0521+3640 and UGPS J0652+0324 was obtained using the Gemini Near InfraRed Spectrograph (GNIRS; Elias et al. 2006) mounted on the Gemini-North telescope. UGPS J0521+3640 was observed on the night of 2010 December 30 with a total integration time of 24 min. UGPS J0652+0324 was observed on the night of 2010 December 26 with a total integration time of 40 min. The targets were observed in cross-dispersed mode capturing the full 0.8–2.5 μm region with a 0.68-arcsec slit delivering a resolving power of $R \sim 1200$. The data were reduced using GNIRS routines in the Gemini IRAF package (Cooke & Rodgers 2005), using a nearby F star in each case for telluric correction. The telluric standard spectrum was divided by a

[1] http://www.tng.iac.es/news/2002/09/10/snap/

[2] http://www.astro.wisc.edu/sirtf/glimpse360/

[3] http://ssc.spitzer.caltech.edu/irac/dh/

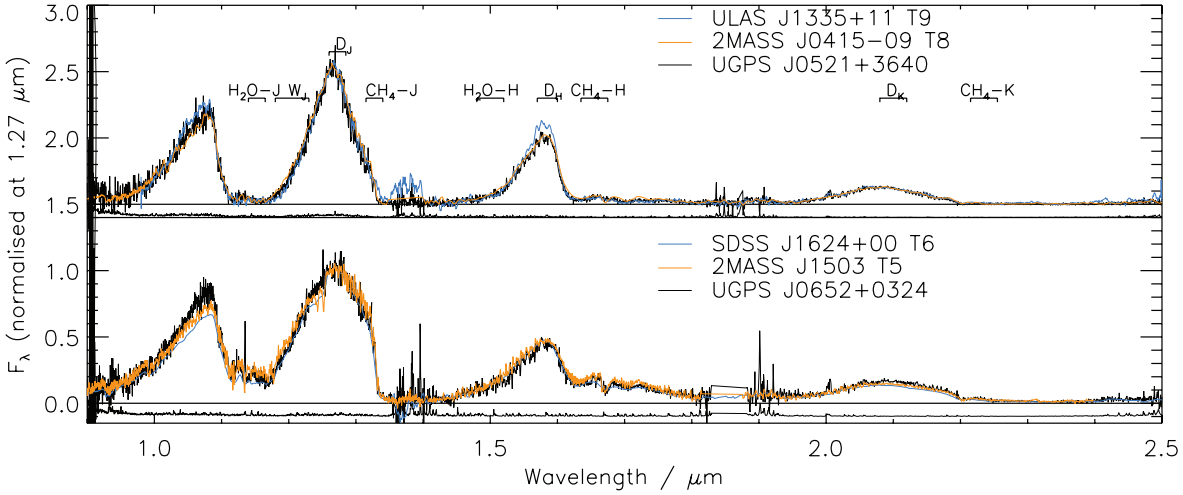

Figure 1. GNIRS spectra for the T dwarfs presented here compared to T-dwarf spectral-type templates taken from Burgasser et al. (2006) and Burningham et al. (2008).

blackbody spectrum of an appropriate $T_{\rm eff}$ after removing hydrogen lines by interpolating the local continuum. The rectified standard spectrum was then used to correct for telluric absorption and to provide relative flux calibration. The overlap regions between the orders in the *Y*, *J* and *H* bands agreed well, suggesting that the relative flux of the orders is well calibrated. The resulting *YJHK* spectra are shown in Fig. 1.

4 ANALYSIS

4.1 Spectral types

We have classified the two T dwarfs presented here following the scheme of Burgasser et al. (2006), with the extension to T9 as discussed in Burningham et al. (2008). Spectral typing index ratios for the targets presented here is given in Table 3. In Fig. 1, we compare our targets to appropriate spectral-type templates. Both the spectral typing index ratios and the template comparison suggest a type of T5.5 ± 0.5 for UGPS J0652+0324. The spectrum of UGPS J0521+3640 appears to be intermediate between the T8 and T9 spectral-type templates 2MASS J0415−09 and ULAS J1335+1130, respectively. Its W_J index lies towards the upper end of the range defined for T9 in Burningham et al. (2008) and is most similar to the value found for the T8.5 dwarf Wolf 940B, whilst its H_2O–*H* index has a value towards the lower range of the T8 bracket. The other indices that were defined by Burgasser et al. (2006) are degenerate for types T8 and T9. The NH_3–*H* index, defined by Delorme et al. (2008), does not easily map on to the T dwarf classification system for earlier types since it is degenerate for types ≤T8 (Burningham et al. 2008). However, its value for UGPS J0521+3640 (0.597 ± 0.003) is intermediate between the values found for T7–T8 dwarfs and those typically seen for T9 dwarfs, suggesting that a later than T8 classification is justified. Based on these considerations, we assign a spectral type of T8.5 ± 0.5 for UGPS J0521+3640.

Applying the spectral type versus M_J relations of Marocco et al. (2010), we thus estimate the distances of $8.2^{+1.2}_{-1.0}$ and 32^{+5}_{-4} pc for these objects. The uncertainties on these distances are derived from the uncertainties in the polynomial coefficients quoted by Marocco et al. (2010). We have not included the uncertainty due to our ±0.5 subtype spectral-typing precision. For the coolest dwarfs, the spectral type–M_J relation is sufficiently steep that a half subtype uncertainty can have a large effect on the inferred distance. In the case of UGPS J0521+3640, we find that a T8–T9 range in spectral type corresponds to a distance bracket of 5.9–11.4 pc.

4.2 Properties of UGPS J0521+3640

In Fig. 2, we show the near-infrared colour versus spectral type plots and a $H-K$ versus $H-[4.5]$ colour–colour plot for T7–T10 dwarfs, placing UGPS J0521+3640 in context within the wider sample. Both $H-K$ and $J-K$ colours (the latter often discussed in terms of the J/K ratio) have been suggested as useful metallicity and gravity diagnostics. Poor agreement between the model atmospheres and observations of the flux ratio between the *K* band and the *J* and *H* bands (e.g. Burningham et al. 2009, 2011) precludes their use for making absolute estimates for gravity or metallicity, but they allow useful relative comparisons between objects. The location of UGPS J0521+3640 on the plots in Fig. 2 suggests that its metallicity and gravity are within the range of values seen for other T8–T9 dwarfs.

We have estimated the properties of UGPS J0521+3640 by comparison with the latest BT Settl model grid (Allard, Homeier &

Table 3. Spectral typing index ratios for UGPS J0521+3640 and UGPS J0652+0324 as defined by Burgasser et al. (2006) and extended to T8+ by Burningham et al. (2008). The W_J ratio was defined by Warren et al. (2007), whilst the NH_3–*H* ratio was defined by Delorme et al. (2008).

Object	H_2O–*J*	CH_4–*J*	W_J	H_2O–*H*	NH_3–*H*	CH_4–*H*	CH_4–*K*
U0521	0.028 ± 0.001	0.147 ± 0.001	0.269 ± 0.001	0.151 ± 0.002	0.597 ± 0.003	0.103 ± 0.001	0.036 ± 0.002
	≥T8	≥T8	T9	T8	>T8	≥T8	≥T7
U0652	0.199 ± 0.002	0.361 ± 0.001	0.491 ± 0.002	0.325 ± 0.003	0.671 ± 0.001	0.362 ± 0.002	0.182 ± 0.002
	T5	T5/6	<T7	T5/6	<T8	T5/6	T5/6

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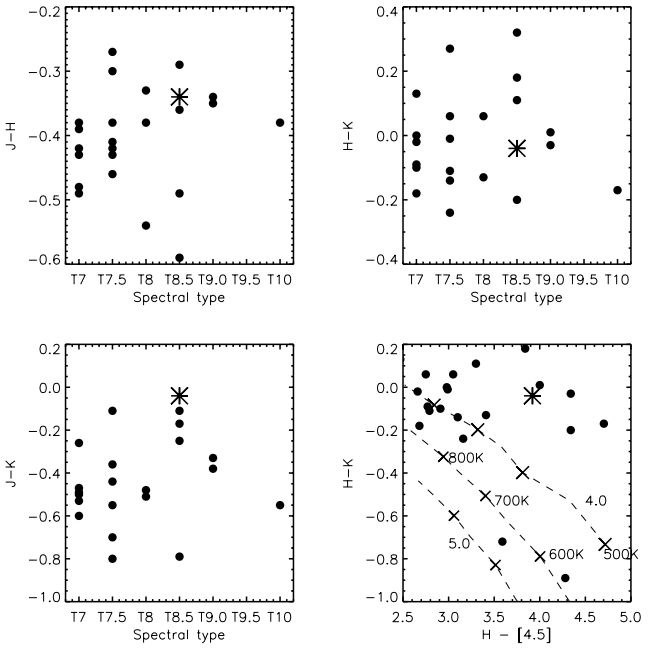

Figure 2. Colour versus spectral type plots for T7–T10 dwarfs with MKO photometry, along with a $H - K$ versus $H - [4.5]$ colour–colour plot shown in the bottom right-hand panel. Synthetic colours for solar metallicity (Saumon et al. 2006, 2007) are shown as the solid lines with the crosses indicating 100-K intervals. The lower left-hand line corresponds to $\log g = 4.0$, the middle line corresponds to $\log g = 4.5$ and the upper right-hand line corresponds to $\log g = 5.0$. UGPS J0521+3640 is shown with an asterisk.

Freytag 2010) for solar metallicity and a reasonable $T_{\rm eff}$ and gravity range (based on the experience of objects of similar spectral type). We have used the same method as described in Burningham et al. (2011), which is an adaptation of the Cushing et al. (2008) method for fitting model spectra that incorporates flux information from photometric data points (e.g our warm-*Spitzer* photometry). The lack of a known parallax for our target means that we can only consider the case of the freely scaled model spectra and cannot use the bolometric luminosity to better constrain the properties. Prior to fitting the models, the target spectrum was placed on an absolute flux scale using the J-band photometry. Scaling by the noisier Y, H and K photometry provided consistent results.

We find that the goodness-of-fit statistic, G, is minimized for the cases where $T_{\rm eff} = 600$ K and $\log g = 4.5$, and $T_{\rm eff} = 650$ K and $\log g = 5.0$. These values for $T_{\rm eff}$ are broadly consistent with the location of UGPS J0521+3640 on the $H - K$ versus $H - [4.5]$ colour–colour plot shown in Fig. 2, although, as has been noted previously, the models predict colours that are too blue in $H - K$. These properties correspond to a mass of 14–32$M_{\rm J}$ and a radius of approximately 1.0–0.8$R_{\rm J}$ for ages of 1–5 Gyr on the COND evolutionary model grid (Baraffe et al. 2003), although an age of 10 Gyr and a mass of 35$M_{\rm J}$ would be implied by a moderately higher surface gravity that is not resolved by our model grid. These best fits are found for scaling factors that correspond to the distance-to-radius ratios of $d/R = 8.00$ and 9.78 pc/$R_{\rm J}$, respectively. These are consistent with the photometric distances determined in Section 4.1, with implied distances of 8 and 7.8 pc for the inferred radii in each case. This suggests that the distance derived for the T8.5 classification in Section 4.1, without the inclusion of the ±0.5 subtype uncertainty, of $8.2^{+1.2}_{-1.0}$ pc is a reasonable best estimate for the distance to UGPS J0521+3640.

At this distance, the proper motion of UGPS J0521+3640 ($\mu_{\alpha\cos\delta} = 513$ mas yr^{-1}, $\mu_\delta = -1507$ mas yr^{-1}) corresponds to a tangential velocity $V_{\rm tan} = 60$ km s^{-1}. This is at the upper end of the distribution for T dwarfs reported by Vrba et al. (2004), implying that this source is unlikely to be very young (e.g. <1 Gyr) and supporting our estimated age range of 1–5 Gyr.

5 SUMMARY

We have searched the 6th Data Release of the UKIDSS GPS for late-type T dwarfs and have identified two such objects with types T5.5 and T8.5. The T8.5 dwarf, UGPS J0521+3640, appears to lie at a distance of less than 10 pc and as such is an ideal candidate for high-resolution imaging searches for cool companions and detailed characterization. We have used archival warm-*Spitzer* observations and the latest BT Settl model grid to estimate that UGPS J0521+3640 is cooler than 700 K, with best-fitting models at $T_{\rm eff} =$ 600 and 650 K.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank our colleagues in the GLIMPSE360 team for providing this deep panoramic Legacy data set, which complements the UKIDSS GPS excellently. We thank Barbara Whitney, Brian Babler and Robert Benjamin for a helpful discussion of the *Spitzer* photometry. We thank Janet Drew for checking our candidates against the IPHAS data. This study is based on observations made under project A22TAC_96 on the Italian Telescopio Nazionale Galileo (TNG) operated on the island of La Palma by the Fundación Galileo Galilei of the Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica at the Spanish Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos of the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias and on observations obtained via program GN-2010B-Q-41 at the Gemini Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under a cooperative agreement with the NSF on behalf of the Gemini partnership: the National Science Foundation (United States), Science and Technology Facilities Council (United Kingdom), National Research Council (Canada), CONICYT (Chile), Australian Research Council (Australia), Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia (Brazil) and Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva (Argentina). SKL's research is supported by the Gemini Observatory. CGT is supported by ARC grant DP0774000. ACD-J is supported by a Fondecyt postdoctorado fellowship, under project number 3100098. This research has made use of the SIMBAD data base, operated at CDS, Strasbourg, France, and has benefited from the SpeX Prism Spectral Libraries maintained by Adam Burgasser at http://www.browndwarfs.org/spexprism. JG, GK and BS are supported by RoPACS, a Marie Curie Initial Training Network funded by the European Commissions Seventh Framework Programme. NL acknowledges funding from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation through the Ramón y Cajal fellowship number 08-303-01-02 and the project number AYA2010-19136. The authors wish to recognize and acknowledge the very significant cultural role and reverence that the summit of Mauna Kea has always had within the indigenous Hawaiian community. We are most fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct observations from this mountain.

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