ESO VACANCY

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have luminosities and properties similar to galaxies seen at intermediate redshifts (e.g. Guzman et al., 1997). Moreover, they are among the least massive/luminous galaxies that are possible probes also at high redshifts. The sample of LBCGs presented here is not representative of classical BCGs but can be regarded as a reference sample for high redshift LBCGs, for which, moreover, observations present a serious bias. Even if there are evolutionary processes that make distant galaxies unique, the evolutionary history of a galaxy is not only a time-dependent parameter but it may also strongly depend on the environment. Furthermore, LBCGs can be thought of as nearby sites which mimic galaxy interaction, merging and the star triggering in higher-density environments of the young universe.

These local dwarf galaxy mergers may be the best analogues of hierarchical build-up of more massive galaxies at high redshifts.

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