

## HCO<sup>+</sup> IN THE HELIX NEBULA

L. N. ZACK and L. M. ZIURYIS, *Department of Chemistry, Department of Astronomy, and Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 85721.*

The  $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$  transition of HCO<sup>+</sup> is currently being mapped across the planetary nebula NGC7293, the Helix Nebula, using the Arizona Radio Observatory (ARO) 12m telescope. The spatial resolution at 89 GHz, the  $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$  transition frequency, is 70 arcsec and the map will encompass the region  $\sim 1000 \text{ arcsec} \times 800 \text{ arcsec}$  with spacings of 35 arcsec. Approximately 10% of the map has been completed, and the data already indicate that HCO<sup>+</sup> emission is widespread across the Helix Nebula and has a complex kinematic structure that often differs from that of CO. The extended distribution of HCO<sup>+</sup> also suggests that dense clumps may exist throughout the nebula. The chemistry of old planetary nebulae may be more active than previously thought.