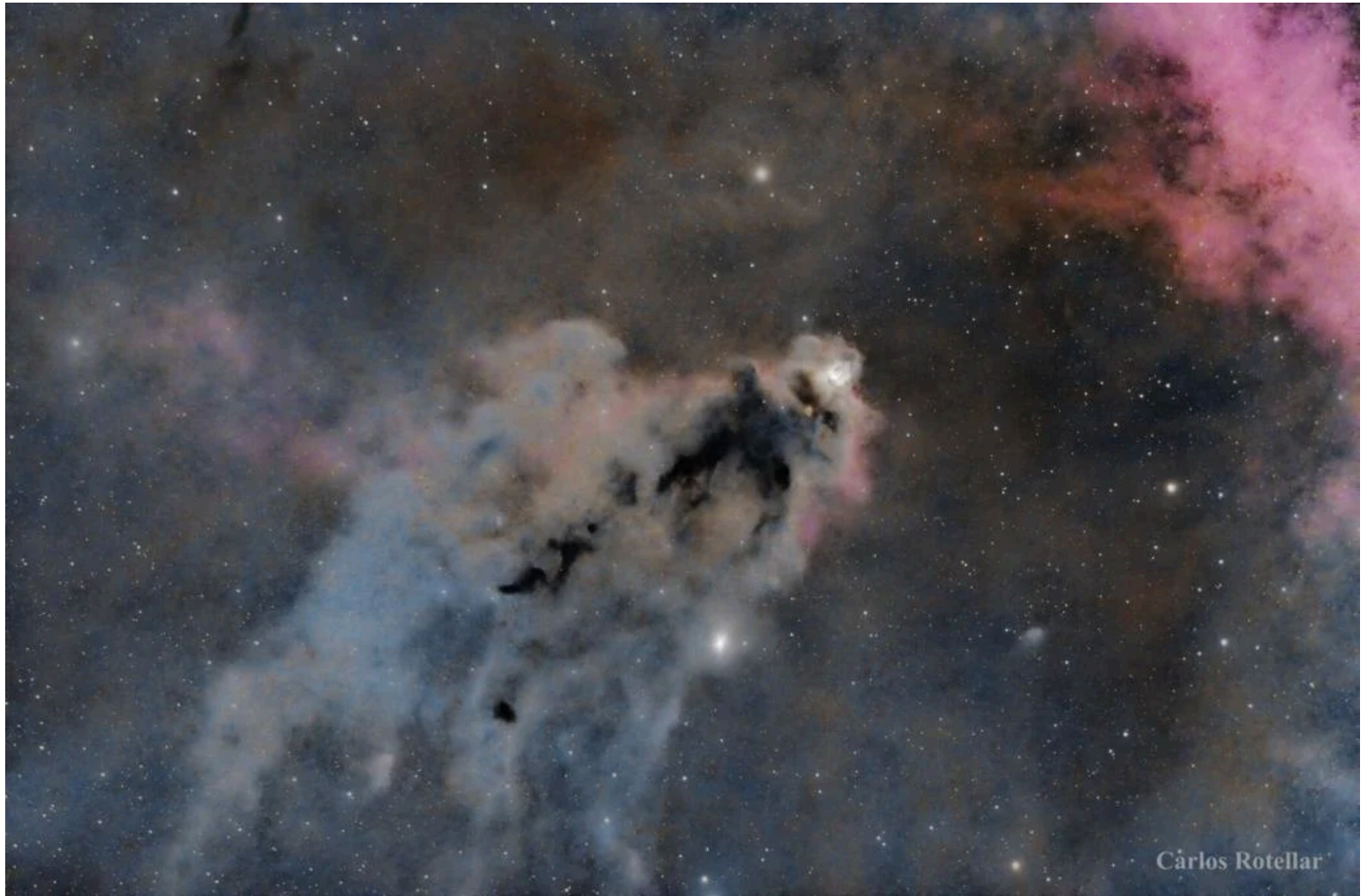


[https://www.bgdailynews.com/community/bogeyman-nebula-a-spooky-space-showcase/article\\_4b455b84-a245-53e9-9e4a-2f10659a024a.html](https://www.bgdailynews.com/community/bogeyman-nebula-a-spooky-space-showcase/article_4b455b84-a245-53e9-9e4a-2f10659a024a.html)

# Bogeyman Nebula a spooky space showcase

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The Boogeyman Nebula was discovered by William Herschel in 1787.

Carlos Rotellar

Halloween is around the corner and space has plenty of spooky objects that we can use to celebrate this day.

The Boogeyman Nebula is a faint dark nebula located in the constellation Orion. It lies near the Milky Way plane, at a distance of 500 light years from earth, and has a diameter of 10 light years. It was discovered by William Herschel in 1787 and it is also known as LDN 1622 in Lynds Dark Nebula catalog.

In the image we can see a monster like figure rising from a cloud of dust, giving this nebula its nickname. The dark figure is a region of very thick dust and gas which is blocking the light from a hydrogen cloud that lies behind it. Next to the Boogeyman's left arm we can see a bright reflection nebula (vdB 62) which is reflecting the light of a nearby star. This image is the result of integrating 15 hours of exposures.

Boogeyman comes from the Middle English word "bugge or bogge," which means a frightening specter. "Bogeyman is a monstrous imaginary figure used in threatening children" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

Boogeyman stories are known from at least the 15 century and probably before that time period. The Bogeyman seemed to be invented to deter children from entering the dark woods. "If you go into the woods at night, the bogeyman will get you!" Today the Bogeyman is used to frighten children into good behavior.

In Spain the Boogeyman is "El Hombre del Saco" (The Old Man of the Sack) that wanders the streets after dark in search of children to take them away in a sack!

Happy Halloween!

*– Dr. Carlos Rotellar is a Bowling Green nephrologist who has had an interest in astrophotography and has been taking images of the universe from his driveway for several years. Website: [Skyastrophotos.com](http://Skyastrophotos.com).*