Suppression of star formation in the central 200 kpc of a $z = 1.4$ galaxy cluster

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ABSTRACT

We present the results of an extended narrow-band H$\alpha$ study of the massive galaxy cluster XMMU J2235.3−2557 at $z = 1.39$. This paper represents a follow-up study to our previous investigation of star formation in the cluster centre, extending our analysis out to a projected cluster radius of 1.5 Mpc. Using the Near InfraRed Imager and Spectrograph on Gemini North Telescope we obtained deep $H$ narrow-band imaging corresponding to the rest-frame wavelength of H$\alpha$ at the cluster’s redshift. We identify a total of 163 potential cluster members in both pointings, excluding stars based on their near-infrared colours derived from VLT/HAWK-I imaging. Of these 163 objects 14 are spectroscopically confirmed cluster members, and 20 per cent are excess line emitters. We find no evidence of star formation activity within a radius of 200 kpc of the brightest cluster galaxy in the cluster core. Dust-corrected star formation rates (SFRs) of excess emitters outside this cluster quenching radius, $R_Q \sim 200$ kpc, are on average $\langle$SFR$\rangle = 2.7 \pm 1.0$ $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$, but do not show evidence of increasing SFRs towards the extreme 1.5 Mpc radius of the cluster. No individual cluster galaxy exceeds an SFR of 6 $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$. Massive galaxies (log $M/^*/M_\odot > 10.75$) all have low specific SFRs (SSFRs, i.e. SFR per unit stellar mass). At fixed stellar mass, galaxies in the cluster centre have lower SSFRs than the rest of the cluster galaxies, which in turn have lower SSFRs than field galaxies at the same redshift by a factor of a few to 10. For the first time we can demonstrate through measurements of individual SFRs that already at very early epochs (at an age of the Universe of $\sim 4.5$ Gyr) the suppression of star formation is an effect of the cluster environment which persists at fixed galaxy stellar mass.

Key words: galaxies: clusters: individual: XMMU J2235.3−2557 – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: high-redshift – galaxies: star formation.

1 INTRODUCTION

High-redshift galaxy clusters provide unique astronomical environments in which to investigate how stellar mass accumulated in galaxies when the universe was only a few billion years old. Galaxies in high-density regions tend to be older and form stars on shorter time-scales than those in low-density regions (Butcher & Oemler 1984; Dressler et al. 1997; Poggianti et al. 1999; Thomas et al. 2005). Therefore, the dense regions of distant galaxy clusters are ideal environments not only to study the first massive galaxies in the universe, but also to study what happens to galaxies as they enter high-density regions.

It is well established in the $z < 1$ universe that star formation activity in galaxies decreases with increasing environmental density (Demarco et al. 2005; Jørgensen et al. 2005; Tanaka et al. 2005; Marcillac et al. 2007; Patel et al. 2009; Finn et al. 2010), such that the centres of galaxy clusters show populations of massive red galaxies with old stellar populations and no evidence of ongoing star formation. The vast majority of star formation seen in low-redshift galaxy clusters, therefore, comes from infalling galaxies before they are suffocated by the cluster environment (Verdugo, Ziegler & Gerken 2008; Haines et al. 2011).

There is some controversy as to whether the star formation–density relation reverses at $z > 1$ (Elbaz et al. 2007; Cooper et al. 2010).
2008; Hilton et al. 2010; Tran et al. 2010) or whether the period between $1 < z < 2$ is the one when environmental factors begin to dominate the shutdown of star formation in the highest overdensities (Strazzullo et al. 2010; Bauer et al. 2011a; Grützbauch et al. 2011).

In the RDCS J1252.9−2927 cluster at $z = 1.24$, Tanaka et al. (2009) find a population of star-forming galaxies at the outskirts of the cluster, which are absent from the cluster core. These results differ from the work of Hayashi et al. (2010) who observe one of the most distant clusters known, XMMSX J2215.9−1738 at $z = 1.46$, and find no evidence for decreasing star formation rates (SFRs) towards the cluster core.

Most observations of high-redshift clusters have not been able to determine SFRs uniquely for each cluster galaxy and have relied on broad-band colours to determine the behaviour of galaxies in distant clusters (Kurk et al. 2009; Hilton et al. 2010; Papovich et al. 2010; Tran et al. 2010). Evidence for high SFRs in the centres of $z = 1.4$–1.6 clusters was found by Tran et al. (2010) and Hilton et al. (2010), whereas other authors report the presence of old stellar populations in high-$z$ cluster galaxies: Henry et al. (2010) identify a galaxy cluster at $z = 1.75$ via its X-ray emission and suggest that the stellar population of the brightest cluster galaxy has formed in a single burst at $z \sim 5$. They also argue that a population of galaxies following the red sequence in the colour–magnitude diagram (i.e. old, passively evolving galaxies) might be already present in this cluster. A similar conclusion is reached by Tanaka, Finoguenov & Ueda (2010) who find a possibly X-ray detected concentration of red galaxies at $z \sim 1.6$, although Pierre et al. (2012) find that the X-ray emission is dominated by a point source rather than an extended hot intracluster medium (ICM). The epoch around $z \sim 1.5$ then seems to be critical to study the build-up of the red sequence and the influence of the environment on the suppression of star formation in galaxies in the early Universe.

We report here on the first observations of individual star-forming galaxies beyond the virial radius of the massive cluster XMUM J2235.3−2557 (XMUMU2235) at $z = 1.393$, which represents a follow-up study to our previous investigation of Hα emission within the central $\sim 500$ kpc of this cluster presented in Bauer et al. (2011a). The XMUMU2235 cluster at $z = 1.393$ is the most massive distant galaxy cluster known at these high redshifts. It was discovered by the XMM–Newton X-ray space telescope by Mullis et al. (2005). Rosati et al. (2009) confirm cluster membership of 34 individual galaxies in XMUMU2235 based on spectroscopic data and both Jee et al. (2009) and Rosati et al. (2009) estimate the projected mass of the cluster to be around $9 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$. Near-infrared (near-IR) observations were taken of the cluster by Lidman et al. (2008), while rest-frame ultraviolet (UV) properties have been investigated by Strazzullo et al. (2010).

In this paper, we present narrow-band H (1.57 μm) observations of XMUMU2235, which correspond to the wavelength region where galaxies in this cluster emit Hα. We measure for the first time individual SFRs for 163 likely cluster galaxies in XMUMU2235 out to a cluster radius of 1.5 Mpc. In Section 2, we describe the near-IR observations of the cluster, data reduction and the calculation of SFRs. We discuss our results in Section 3, present a discussion in Section 4 and end with a summary and conclusions in Section 5.

Throughout the paper we assume the standard A cold dark matter cosmology, a flat universe with $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.73$, $\Omega_M = 0.27$ and a Hubble constant of $H_0 = 72$ km s$^{-1}$ Mpc$^{-1}$.

2 DATA AND METHODS

2.1 Observations and data reduction

The observations were carried out with the Near InfraRed Imager and Spectrometer (NIRI; Hodapp et al. 2003) on Gemini North Telescope. This instrument is equipped with an H narrow-band filter at a wavelength of $\lambda = 1.57 \mu$m, which corresponds to the central wavelength of the Hα $\lambda 6563$ Å emission line at the cluster redshift of $z = 1.39$. This enables us to obtain rest-frame Hα imaging and individual SFRs of the cluster members with a minimum amount of integration time compared to spectroscopically derived Hα SFRs. The cluster area was imaged with two different pointings of adjacent fields of $\sim 2$ arcmin on each side. One pointing is centred on the brightest cluster galaxy (BCG) and the second one is located in the north-east of the cluster centre, where a second concentration of spectroscopically confirmed cluster members was found in the literature (Rosati et al. 2009).

The two pointings were obtained in two different observing programmes, GN-2007B-Q-79 for the central pointing and GN-2010B-Q-75 for the pointing of the cluster outskirts. The data obtained in the first programme are fully described in Bauer et al. (2011a). In this paper, we present the data obtained in the follow-up programme observed in the period from 2010 July to September and then combine data from both programmes for the analysis and discussion throughout the rest of the paper.

We obtained H narrow-band observations (corresponding to Hα), as well as H broad-band observations at $\lambda = 1.65 \mu$m to measure the underlying continuum. The total integration time was split into single exposures of 120 s in the H narrow-band and 30 s in the H broad-band filter. The field of view for each single frame is 120 × 120 arcsec with a pixel scale of 0.1162 arcsec pixel$^{-1}$. Each set of 10 frames was dithered following a specific pattern to facilitate the removal of bad pixels and cosmic rays. The total numbers of frames observed in the narrow-band and broad-band filters were 374 and 108 frames, respectively.

The data for the outskirts of the cluster were reduced in an identical manner to those used for the central region, as described in Bauer et al. (2011a). In brief, the data reduction steps consist of the standard bias subtraction, flat-fielding, sky subtraction and co-adding of the single exposures into a combined image that is used for the source detection. The sky subtraction is the most critical step in this procedure, since the sky background in the near-IR is bright and variable on short time-scales. We find that the best technique to account for these effects is to co-add the science frames of five adjacent exposures into a sky frame, after subtracting all detected sources.

Finally, the reduced science frames were combined, using only frames with a good sky subtraction and without residuals of fringing, first-frame-bias pattern or sky variability. This resulted in 362 combined individual exposures in narrow-band and 102 individual exposures combined to create the broad-band image. The final total exposure times are 51 min in the H broad-band image of the cluster outskirts region and 724 min in the H narrow-band filter (compared to 55 and 424 min of the central frame in broad- and narrow-band, respectively).

The area covered by the pointing towards the outskirts of the cluster is $2.11 \times 2.29$ arcmin or 4.83 arcmin$^2$, which is larger than the area of the central pointing of $1.6 \times 1.64$ arcmin or 2.62 arcmin$^2$ due to a different dither pattern used. The total covered area of the
XMMU2235 cluster is then 7.45 arcmin$^2$. The dithering introduces image areas with different depths, mainly around the edges of the cluster outskirts field. This is taken into account in the source extraction (see Section 2.2) by using the local background rms to determine the threshold for extracting a source. The physical distance from the cluster centre which we cover with our observations is ∼400 kpc in all directions and up to ∼1.5 Mpc towards the northeast in the pointing of the cluster outskirts.

Fig. 1 shows the $H$ broad-band image of the total covered area of both pointings. The pixel scale of 0.1162 arcsec pixel$^{-1}$ and the angular distance scale at $z = 1.39$ of 8.618 kpc arcsec$^{-1}$ give a scale of about 1 kpc pixel$^{-1}$. The right-hand panel of Fig. 1 shows $H$ narrow-band postage stamps of all objects identified as narrow-band excess emitter (see Section 2.3), which are the most likely objects to be cluster members, as will be further discussed in Section 2.3. The size of each stamp is 10 arcsec corresponding to about 85 kpc on each side. The images indicate the presence of varied morphologies from very compact to more extended objects. However, we do not investigate the morphologies of the excess emitters here, since the resolution of our images is not high enough to reliably determine galaxy morphologies. This will be the focus of a future study using high-resolution imaging data from the *Hubble Space Telescope*.

### 2.2 Source detection, completeness limits and SFRs

The source detection is done separately in the two pointings due to different exposure times and noise characteristics of the two images. The photometry of galaxies in the central pointing we use here is derived by Bauer et al. (2011a). To obtain the photometry of galaxies in the cluster outskirts pointing we use the same detection parameters as described in Bauer et al. (2011a). Sources are detected in both the $H$ broad-band and narrow-band images using SExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996). To ensure that the different depth of broad-band and narrow-band images does not affect the results, fluxes are measured within the same fixed aperture in both images. We do not apply a correction for differences in the point-spread function (PSF) since both images have a very similar PSF of ∼0.55 arcsec. We run SExtractor in dual mode, i.e. simultaneously on the broad-band and narrow-band image, detecting sources in the broad-band image and measuring photometry using the same parameters in both images. The same procedure is repeated using the narrow-band image as the detection image, in order to detect pure emission-line sources that might be too faint to be detected in broad-band. The two catalogues are then combined to obtain the final source catalogue shown in Table 1. The procedure of detecting...
sides in both bands ensures that our sample is not biased towards H\(_\alpha\) emitting galaxies.

After excluding obvious spurious sources, known foreground galaxies and saturated stars, we obtain 82 objects in the central pointing (including cluster member candidates and confirmed members) and 119 objects in the outskirts pointing. We identify in total 14 spectroscopically confirmed cluster members taken from Mullis et al. (2005), Lidman et al. (2008) and Rosati et al. (2009), by comparing the published images (fig. 1 in each paper) to our Fig. 1. Using our detection criteria (requiring three adjacent pixels to have a value >3\(\sigma\) of the background variation), all objects detected in the narrow-band image (72 objects) are also detected in the broad-band image. The source extraction on the broad-band image yielded 48 additional detections, resulting in the total number of 119 objects quoted above.

In the subsequent analysis we distinguish spectroscopically confirmed members (referred to as ‘confirmed members’) and all other detections by showing confirmed members in red in the plots. The objects surrounded by an extra magenta circle in Fig. 1 are galaxies identified as having excess line emission and are therefore most likely to be cluster members, as will be discussed in Section 2.3.

The completeness limits of our broad-band and narrow-band images are estimated by placing artificial point sources in images with the same noise characteristics and object PSF as the observed images. The artificial sources are detected in the same way as the observed sources. The counts in both observed and artificial image are then compared to obtain the 95 per cent completeness limit. This procedure is fully described in Bauer et al. (2011a). We obtain a 95 per cent completeness limit of \(H_{\text{AB}} = 24.4\) in the broad-band and \(H_{\text{narrow, AB}} = 23.5\) in the narrow-band, which is very similar to the depth of the central pointing of \(H_{\text{AB}} = 24.2\) and \(H_{\text{narrow, AB}} = 23.4\). The similar image depths despite the longer exposure times of the outskirts pointing is due to worse observing conditions in the second observing run.

The procedure to obtain SFRs from the calibrated narrow-band magnitudes is fully outlined in Bauer et al. (2011a). After calibrating the broad- and narrow-band zero-points with standard star observations, we apply a one magnitude dust correction (Kennicutt 1983), a statistical correction for the contribution of [N\(_\II\)] emission (Tresse et al. 1999) and convert the resulting H\(_\alpha\) fluxes to SFRs using the Kennicutt, Tamblyn & Congdon (1994) relation. The transformation between luminosity and SFR is known to vary by a factor of \(\sim 2.5\), introducing an error of \(\sim 30\) per cent. This was accounted for in the errors given for all SFRs reported in Table 1. Note, however, that this does not include any uncertainty introduced by the extinction correction, which we cannot constrain well with the present data. Based on the magnitude limits described above in Section 2.2, we find a 5\(\sigma\) limiting H\(_\alpha\) luminosity of \(L_{\text{line}} = 1 \times 10^{41}\) erg s\(^{-1}\), which corresponds to a 5\(\sigma\) SFR = 1.1 M\(_\odot\) yr\(^{-1}\).
galaxies are objects with EW > 20 Å and excess line emission of Σ > 3, which are identified as open magenta circles in Fig. 2.

Of all the detected objects, 32 satisfy the criteria to be considered excess line emitters and are therefore more likely to be members of the cluster. Postage stamps of these 32 galaxies are shown in the right-hand panel of Fig. 1. The red points in Fig. 2 show spectroscopically confirmed cluster members, which are all on the bright end (H_narrow < 22) of the distribution of narrow-band magnitudes of detected objects. Even though these objects are spectroscopically confirmed as cluster members, only three of the 14 satisfy the criteria for being excess Hα line emitters associated with the cluster. It is clear that while this method is a good test to identify the most likely cluster candidate members with excess line emission when no spectroscopic confirmation is available, if a galaxy in the cluster does not have excess line emission [i.e. it is not star forming or an active galactic nucleus (AGN)], it will not be identified as a member of the cluster by this technique. Lidman et al. (2008) argue that galaxies in the central region of XMMU2235 are very likely to be cluster members based on the near-IR colour–magnitude relation and the low likelihood of finding foreground or background galaxies in the narrow colour interval. We will investigate the likelihood of cluster membership based on colour in the next subsection.

There remains potential for galaxies identified as having excess emission in Hα at z = 1.4, to instead be interloping objects at different redshifts; for instance, they could be galaxies with [O iii] emission at z ~ 3.2 or [O ii] and Hβ at z ~ 2.2. Although a high fraction of contamination by a high-redshift galaxy population seems unlikely due to their generally faint Hα narrow-band magnitudes, there still might be a significant amount of contamination in the sample of excess emitters. For instance, Sobral et al. (2012) simultaneously analysed Hα and [O ii] narrow-band emitters in an untargeted survey at a redshift of z = 1.47 and found the interloper fraction to be ~30–40 per cent. Since we are studying one of the most massive concentrations of galaxies in the early Universe, we expect the fraction of contaminants to be lower than in a general field sample. Additionally, we consider candidates that are most likely to be cluster members based on their near-IR colours (Section 2.4) separately in the analysis to minimize the effect of contamination on our results.

Galaxies that are significantly fainter in the narrow-band than expected from their broad-band magnitude can be seen in Fig. 2 as galaxies with negative (H - H_narrow) colours, which would subsequently result in negative SFRs. Note however that we have set those values to SFR = 0 to avoid unphysical negative SFRs. The faint narrow-band magnitudes could be caused by stellar absorption of Hα. We have computed the (H - H_narrow) colours expected from stellar absorption using the Spectral Energy Distribution (SED) of Vega and find a value of (H - H_narrow) = -0.13. This corresponds well to the measured negative colours of the brighter galaxies in our sample, for example the four bright confirmed members in the cluster centre, which show values of (H - H_narrow) from -0.06 to -0.2. Note that the expected negative colours are also of the order of the typical photometric error of ~0.1 mag. The presence of Hα absorption was also suggested by Rosati et al. (2009), who found evidence for the presence of older stellar populations in the stacked spectra of cluster members in the cluster centre. However, the faint narrow-band magnitudes could also be caused by a strong non-Hα absorption feature in foreground galaxies. Galaxies at z ~ 0.85 would have calcium triplet absorption lines at λλλ 8498, 8542, 8662 Å that would fall into the λ 1.57 μm narrow-band filter.

2.4 Cluster membership through colour selection

We now assess the likelihood of the cluster member candidates through their broad-band (J - H) and (H - K) colours and their location in the (J - K) colour–magnitude diagram. For this purpose we use additional J- and K-band imaging obtained with the HAWK-I instrument. These data are fully described in Lidman et al. (2008). The source detection and photometry was carried out using the same parameters as for the H-band NIRI data described above, using an aperture with 1 arcsec radius to extract magnitudes in J and K. The sources were then matched to the NIRI catalogue with a 1.5 arcsec matching radius. We find an average separation between matching sources of 0.25 arcsec with an rms of 0.17 arcsec. The resulting (J - K) colours for all objects are given in Table 1. The images do not overlap entirely with our H-band data and objects that are outside the field of view of the HAWK-I images are given a value of (J - K) = 99. Only nine objects from our total narrow-band sample are not observed in J and K, while all of the remaining sources from our sample are detected in J and K.

Fig. 3 shows all sources in the near-IR colour–magnitude and colour–colour diagrams. Lidman et al. (2008) identified a tight correlation between near-IR red colour and brightness for galaxies in the XMMU2235 cluster which is a result of galaxies harbouring old, evolved stellar populations. They obtained a fit of the cluster’s red sequence, which is plotted as a long-dashed line in Fig. 3. Galaxies that are redder than 0.2 mag bluerward of the red sequence are marked with red squares in Fig. 3, and account for 45 per cent of our sample. These galaxies are likely to be cluster members since the likelihood to find foreground galaxies in this colour range is very
Figure 3. Colour–magnitude relation (a) and colour–colour diagram (b) of cluster candidates and confirmed members. Left-hand panel: \((J − K)\) versus \(K\) magnitude; right-hand panel: \((J − K)\) versus \((H − K)\) colour. The symbols are as follows: red solid circles – spectroscopically confirmed cluster members; cyan crosses – likely stars and foreground objects \((K < 17.4)\); blue crosses – all other detections; magenta circles – excess emitters; red boxes – red sequence galaxies. The cluster red sequence fit of Lidman et al. (2008) is shown as a long-dashed line. Red sequence galaxies are defined as galaxies redder than 0.2 mag blueward of this red sequence fit. The error bars in panel (a) indicate average photometric errors in each magnitude bin.

2.5 Final galaxy sample selection

The full sample of detected sources comprises 201 objects; however, in the analysis in the following sections of this paper we exclude objects unlikely to be cluster members according to the following criteria. Likely stars are identified via their colour \([J − K] < 0.9\) described above, and via the source extraction parameter \(\text{CLASS\_STAR}\), which uses the light distribution and width of the PSF to identify stars. In order to minimize the chance of excluding unresolved galaxies, we require this parameter to be \(\text{CLASS\_STAR} > 0.8\) in the \(H\)-band images and \(\text{CLASS\_STAR} > 0.98\) in the higher resolution \(K\)-band images. Likely foreground galaxies are also excluded through their brightness, cross-checked by visual inspection of the images. We exclude all objects that are brighter than the BCG in the \(K\)-band \((K < 17.4)\), which affects eight objects in our sample. All of these are resolved galaxies with disc-like morphologies and significantly larger sizes than the BCG. We therefore conclude that these objects are most likely foreground galaxies and remove them from the analysis. None of the objects excluded due to their brightness are excess emitters and all of their measured SFRs are consistent with zero within the errors.

After applying the above cuts, we obtain a final sample of 163 objects, which are listed in Table 1, whereas all excluded objects are shown in Table 2 (the full tables are available in electronic form only). Note that the comparison of our data with the HAWK-I images reveals a small offset in the astrometric solution, which we have corrected by matching bright sources in the two images. This results in slightly different coordinates listed in Tables 1 and 2 and the coordinates listed for the same objects in table 1 of Bauer et al. (2011a).

Out of the final sample of 163 objects, 14 are spectroscopically confirmed cluster members (listed first in Table 1) and 32 are narrow-band excess emitters and therefore the most likely cluster members, although the interloper fraction could be as high as \(\sim 30\) per cent according to the estimate of Sobral et al. (2012). We further constrain the sample of likely cluster members through near-IR colours using the fit to the red sequence of the cluster colour–magnitude relation by Lidman et al. (2008). Red sequence galaxies are defined as galaxies with \((J − K)\) colours redder than 0.2 mag blueward of the Lidman et al. (2008) fit and are likely to be cluster members, as described in Section 2.4. We find that 75...
Table 2. Properties of objects excluded from the sample due to the \((J - K)\) colour, \(K\)-band magnitude or \textsc{CLASS\_STAR} parameter (see the text). The full version of this table is available as supporting information with the online version of the paper.

| ID  | \(\alpha\) (hh mm ss) | \(\delta\) (dd mm ss) | \(H_{\text{broad}}\) MAG\_APER | \(H_{\text{narrow}}\) MAG\_APER | \(J - K\) MAG\_APER | \textsc{CLASS\_STAR} | \textsc{CLASS\_STAR} |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 26  | 22 35 21.6           | -25 57 49            | 23.76 ± 0.16                  | 24.45 ± 0.63                  | 0.73 ± 0.15         | 0.36              | 0.35              |
| 53  | 22 35 22.1           | -25 57 14            | 23.24 ± 0.11                  | 23.32 ± 0.23                  | 0.85 ± 0.08         | 0.36              | 0.41              |
| 62  | 22 35 20.2           | -25 58 17            | 22.99 ± 0.09                  | 22.99 ± 0.17                  | 0.61 ± 0.08         | 0.42              | 0.48              |
| 63  | 22 35 21.3           | -25 58 17            | 21.61 ± 0.05                  | 21.38 ± 0.07                  | 0.77 ± 0.02         | 0.73              | 0.84              |
| 66  | 22 35 21.0           | -25 57 01            | 23.51 ± 0.13                  | 23.93 ± 0.39                  | 0.68 ± 0.09         | 0.42              | 0.46              |

3 RESULTS

In the following, we present the SFRs derived from the \(H\) narrow-band imaging and investigate any possible correlations between the star-forming properties of the galaxies and SFR and their magnitude, distance from the cluster centre (as defined by the BCG) and stellar mass. This work extends the analysis presented in Bauer et al. (2011a) to much larger cluster-centric radii (1.5 Mpc here compared to the 500 kpc in Bauer et al. 2011a) as well as over a larger galaxy sample. Additionally, we make use of HAWK-I imaging of the cluster in the \(J\) and \(K\) bands described in Lidman et al. (2008).

Table 1 summarizes the resulting SFRs, magnitudes, colours and distances from the cluster centre for all objects we consider in this study, with spectroscopically confirmed cluster members listed first. The last column in Table 1 identifies excess line emitters via the \(\Sigma_1\)-level of excess emission as described in Section 2.3. The \(\Sigma\)-level is computed from the observed limiting magnitudes given in Section 2.2 and is set to zero if the required minimum EW of 20 Å is not reached.
Section 3.1 presents the derived SFRs as a function of magnitude (Fig. 4) and cluster-centric distance (Fig. 5), analogous to figs 4 and 5 in Bauer et al. (2011a). We include the data of the cluster centre in this analysis and present it together with the new observations of the cluster outskirts. In Section 3.2 we estimate the specific SFRs (SSFR), i.e. the SFR per unit of stellar mass, using a mass-to-light ratio \((M/L)\) applied to the deep \(K\)-band observations.

3.1 SFR as a function of magnitude and cluster-centric distance

We first analyse the correlation between the SFR and an intrinsic galaxy property, galaxy magnitude. Fig. 4 shows individual SFRs as a function of the \(H\) broad-band magnitude, which corresponds to a rest-frame wavelength of \(\sim 6900\) Å. The different subsamples defined in Section 2.5 are plotted separately: confirmed cluster members are shown as red dots, while all other objects are plotted as crosses. Additional symbols denote galaxies defined as excess emitters (blue with open magenta circles), galaxies on the red sequence (open red squares) and galaxies within the central \(R_Q = 200\) kpc (orange triangles). Galaxies with negative (\(H - H_{\text{normal}}\)) colours are marked with grey arrows.

We confirm the correlation between the SFR and \(H\)-band magnitude for confirmed cluster members found in the cluster centre in our previous study (Bauer et al. 2011a). A linear fit to the data of confirmed cluster members is plotted as a dash–dotted line. Brighter galaxies tend to have less (or no) star formation. The statistical significance of this correlation is \(2\sigma\), given by the Spearman rank-correlation coefficient \((\rho = 0.85)\) and its corresponding significance level for our sample size. The probability that the \(H\)-band magnitude and SFR are uncorrelated is then \(P = 4\) per cent. Assuming that the amount of star formation per unit stellar mass in a galaxy is constant – and that galaxy light traces stellar mass – we would expect that brighter galaxies exhibit higher SFRs. Our data however suggest the opposite: brighter (more massive) galaxies have less star formation and older stellar populations, while fainter (less massive) galaxies are still forming. This trend is commonly referred to as downsizing (e.g. Cowie et al. 1996) and will be further discussed in Section 3.2.

We find no correlation between SFR and brightness for the excess emitters (magenta circles, \(P = 35\) per cent) or galaxies on the red sequence (red squares, \(P = 65\) per cent). Star formation activity has already ceased in the brightest galaxies in the cluster, which are located on the bright end of the red sequence, whereas objects that are still forming stars do so independently of their brightness. It is worth noting however that the SFRs are overall low, much lower than expected for galaxies at the cluster’s redshift (see e.g. Bauer et al. 2011b), which will be discussed in more detail in the following section. We find a median SFR for all galaxies in our sample of \((\text{SFR}) = 0.7 \pm 0.8\ M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\), although a significant amount of interlopers could artificially decrease this value. If we consider only galaxies located around the cluster’s red sequence (see Section 2.4), which are more likely to be cluster members than the general sample, we obtain a median SFR = 0.8 \pm 0.8 M_\odot yr\(^{-1}\), which is very similar to the value for the full sample. Taking only spectroscopically confirmed cluster members into account, we measure a median of \((\text{SFR}) = 1.3 \pm 1.9\ M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\), which is still low compared to the average SFR of field galaxies at similar redshifts.

To further compare the star formation activity within the cluster with the general field environment at the same redshift we compute the SFR density in \(M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\ Mpc^{-3}\). Due to the limited coverage of our observations in the cluster outskirts we restrict this analysis to the cluster centre. We assume that the observed volume can be approximated by a cylinder with the radius covered by the central pointing (\(\sim 0.5\) Mpc) and a depth of 1.5 Mpc, corresponding to \(\sim 1.5\) times the virial radius of the cluster (Rosati et al. 2009). The total SFR is then the sum of the individual SFRs of all galaxies detected within this area, resulting in SFR densities of \(\sim 50\ M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\ Mpc^{-3}\) for excess emitters (based on 19 galaxies) and \(\sim 15\ M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\ Mpc^{-3}\) for confirmed cluster members (based on 10 galaxies). This is a factor of \(\sim 10\) higher than the SFR density of the universe at \(z = 1.4\) of \(\sim 0.2\ M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\ Mpc^{-3}\) (Hopkins & Beacom 2006) due to the high galaxy number density of the cluster. Note however that the uncertainty of this estimate is very high due to the uncertainty of the individual SFRs (\(\sim 30\) per cent), the cluster volume as well as the contamination rate of up to 30 per cent in the sample of excess emitters.

Our previous study of galaxies in the cluster centre (Bauer et al. 2011a) revealed a lack of star formation within the inner 200 kpc of the cluster, and identified this as a quenching radius, \(R_Q\). We also noted the possibility for a steady increase in the SFR with the cluster-centric radius. With the new observations shown in Fig. 5 we can now trace activity three times farther out to a radius of 1.5 Mpc. However, we do not see evidence for an increase in the SFR with the distance from the cluster centre. Using again the Spearman rank-correlation test we find that the probability that the cluster-centric distance and SFR are uncorrelated is \(P = 66\) per cent for confirmed members, \(P = 36\) per cent for excess emitters and \(P = 42\) per cent for all candidates. We find that outside \(R_Q\), the SFRs of all galaxies with evidence of star formation remain at a constant level of \((\text{SFR}) = 2.7 \pm 1.0\ M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\). This is consistent with the average SFR found by Hayashi et al. (2010) for cluster galaxies in the XMMXCS J2215.9–1738 cluster at \(z = 1.46\). Note also that the average SFR value of cluster galaxies is much lower than the average value found for field galaxies at this redshift (Daddi et al. 2010; Bauer et al. 2011b), as discussed further in the following section.

3.2 Specific star formation rates

In the following we use the observed \(K\)-band magnitudes to obtain an estimate of the galaxy stellar mass. The central wavelength of the observed \(K\)-band represents a rest-frame wavelength of roughly 9200 Å, representative of the underlying evolved stellar population, and less affected by dust extinction than the shorter wavelength \(H\)-band whose rest-frame central wavelength is \(\sim 6900\) Å. We calculate a stellar \(M/L\) by assuming an evolved stellar population of the age of the Universe at the cluster’s redshift (4.5 Gyr) combined with 5 per cent by mass contribution from a young stellar population using the models of Worthey (1994). This relatively small contribution of young stars is motivated by the low SFRs of the galaxies in our sample.

We use exponentially declining star formation histories of the form \(\text{SFR} = \text{SFR}_0 e^{-t/\tau}\), with a star formation time-scale of \(\tau = 1 \times 10^9\) yr. Integrating over the last billion years, we find that an average galaxy with active star formation typical of galaxies within this sample (\(\sim 2M_\odot\ yr^{-1}\)) would have created \(\sim 3 \times 10^8\ M_\odot\) of stars over the last \(10^9\ yr\). Note that the \(M/L\) of a 4.5 Gyr old population at the rest-frame wavelength of 9200 Å is not significantly affected by changing the amount of young stars up to 10 per cent (Worthey 1994). It changes from \(M/L \sim 1.4\) assuming a 10 per cent contribution of young stars to \(M/L \sim 1.5\) for a contribution of 1 per cent. We adopt \(M/L = 1.5\) to obtain an estimate for the galaxy stellar mass (\(M^*\)) from the observed \(K\)-band magnitude. From this we estimate SSFRs as \(\text{SSFR} = \text{SFR}/M^*\).
The resulting SSFRs are shown in Fig. 6 as a function of the stellar mass. The symbols are the same as in Fig. 4, with confirmed members plotted as red dots, all other objects as crosses, excess emitters in blue with magenta circles, galaxies on the red sequence with red squares and galaxies within the central $R_Q = 200$ kpc marked with orange triangles. Upper limits are plotted as arrows for galaxies with SFR $< 0.5$ $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$.

Fig. 6 shows that among galaxies in the XMMU2335 cluster, higher stellar mass galaxies have lower SSFRs, a common result from broader field galaxy samples at similar redshift (Cowie et al. 1996; Brinchmann & Ellis 2000; Bauer et al. 2005; Juneau et al. 2005). Regardless of their position in the cluster, star formation is effectively shut off for all massive galaxies with log $M^*/M_\odot > 10.75$. Galaxies within the central $R_Q = 200$ kpc have a wide range of stellar masses, but show a clear offset towards low (below average) or only limiting values of SSFR. For galaxies with log $M^*/M_\odot < 10.75$, the tendency is for those within $R_Q = 200$ kpc to have lower SSFRs. A Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test gives a probability of $P = 5$ per cent that the SSFRs of galaxies inside and outside of $R_Q$ follow the same distribution. Galaxies with lower stellar mass and outside of the quenching radius are building up stellar mass via star formation, while massive galaxies or those in the cluster core are not.

In Fig. 6 we also show average SSFRs of typical field galaxies in the redshift range of $1.5 < z < 2$. These samples are drawn from Bauer et al. (2011b) (triangles) and Pérez-González et al. (2008) (pentagons); the former is based on SFRs determined from rest-frame UV observations, while the latter uses SFRs determined from IR data. The rest-frame UV SFRs are based on Hubble Space Telescope observations in the $z$-band and are significantly deeper than the IR observations, reaching a limiting SFR of $0.3$ $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ at $z = 1.5$, comparable to the limiting SFR in this study. Although the scatter between the individual SFRs derived from UV and IR data is considerable (Bauer et al. 2011b), the average SFRs (and SSFRs) of the whole sample are consistent. Fig. 6 shows that the median values of both UV- and IR-based SSFRs of the Bauer et al. (2011b) study are clearly offset from the SSFRs of galaxies in our cluster sample by a factor of $\sim 5-10$.

We conclude that galaxies in the cluster centre have lower SSFRs than the rest of the cluster galaxies, which in turn have lower SSFRs than field galaxies at the same redshift by a factor of a few for log $M^*/M_\odot < 10.75$ galaxies, and up to a factor of $> 10$ for massive galaxies.

4 DISCUSSION

We have presented a detailed look at the properties of individual galaxies in the massive galaxy cluster, XMMU2235, at $z = 1.39$. The number of studies of individual galaxy clusters at high redshifts is increasing and as such, it is important to compare results presented here to other distant clusters to see if consistent results are being found.

It remains challenging to solidly identify clusters at $z > 2$, but several studies have found high concentrations of sources around radio galaxies (Pentericci et al. 1997; Kurk et al. 2004; Venemans et al. 2007; Hatch et al. 2011; Tanaka et al. 2011) or from overdensities in IR observations (Gobat et al. 2011). Although it is not likely that these are virialized systems, they show a variety of star formation activities in their cores, from galaxies with strong emission lines (e.g. Tanaka et al. 2011) to those that show red galaxies with old stellar populations (e.g. Gobat et al. 2011). It is evident that many of these clusters are still in an active phase of the galaxy formation process and it is most likely that these types of systems will become something like XMMU2235 at $z = 1.39$ and eventually the most massive clusters observed in the local universe.

In recent years many clusters in the redshift range of $1.3 < z < 1.75$ have been found and studied in detail. Again, a variety of techniques have been used to detect these massive high-redshift systems, but interestingly, whether or not the galaxies in their cores harbour exclusively old stellar populations with no evidence of new star formation seems to be dependent on how the cluster was detected. For instance, almost all clusters detected so far by X-ray emission show evidence for a lack of star formation activity in their cores based on narrow-band observations (Bauer et al. 2011a), or by using photometric colours to identify red galaxy populations coincident with the peak of the X-ray emission (Henry et al. 2010; Hilton et al. 2010; Fassbender et al. 2011; Nastasi et al. 2011; Santos et al. 2011). This is probably due to the correlation between X-ray luminosity and total cluster mass and the fact that the most massive structures are the first to form. The more massive a structure is the earlier it collapses, giving the environment more time to transform galaxies via ram pressure stripping (Gunn & Gott 1972) or merging (e.g. Mihos & Hernquist 1994). Similarly, the higher the density of the hot ICM, the more effective is the stripping of the cold gas within galaxies and hence the quenching of star formation (see also Larson, Tinsley & Caldwell 1980).

A notable exception to this statement is the study of Hayashi et al. (2010) of the X-ray detected cluster XMMXCS J2215.9-1738 at $z = 1.46$. The authors find no decrease in the emission of narrow-band [O II] within galaxies in the cluster core and interpret this as evidence of AGN activity that suppresses star formation among galaxies in the cluster. In a different study of the same cluster (XMMXCS J2215.9-1738), Hilton et al. (2010) see evidence of star formation in galaxies at the exact cluster-centric radius we have identified as $R_Q \sim 200$ kpc, but no star formation within that radius. Also, in a recent study of the X-ray detected galaxy cluster XMMU...
J1007.4+123 at $z = 1.55$, Fassbender et al. (2011) conclude that although the red sequence is not yet in place in the core of the cluster, there is a spatial density peak of red galaxies coincident with the X-ray emission.

Clusters detected from methods other than X-ray emission, likely to be non-virialized, less massive structures, seem to show no evidence for having exclusively red or non-star-forming galaxies at their core. For example, the cluster ClG J0218.3−05101 at $z = 1.62$ was discovered from Spitzer IR observations by Papovich et al. (2010) and a follow-up study by Tran et al. (2010) finds a high level of star formation activity in the core of this cluster based on Spitzer-based IR SFRs and SED fitting. Recently Pierre et al. (2012) investigated the X-ray emission of this cluster and did not find strong evidence for extended X-ray emission. Another instance comes from an overdensity in the Galaxy Mass Assembly ultra-deep Spectroscopic Survey (GMASS) redshift distribution found by Kurk et al. (2009). They identified a massive structure called CI 0332−2742 at $z = 1.6$, and while the galaxies in this structure show a strong colour bimodality, it is not conclusive that the red galaxies concentrate towards the centre of the region.

We conclude that our result of suppressed star formation across the entire cluster but specifically within the central region of XMMU2335 is in agreement with the results found for most other massive X-ray detected clusters at high redshift. However, for the first time we can demonstrate with the measurements of individual SFRs that the suppression of star formation is an effect of the cluster environment which persists at fixed galaxy stellar mass. One issue to consider when interpreting these results is that our observations of the outskirts of XMMU2335 from $R = 800$−1500 kpc only cover one diagonal region outwards from the cluster core and so do not encompass the entire annulus. This region was targeted because it hosts a set of spectroscopically confirmed cluster members. It is possible that the presence of a filament or lack of structure in this region might bias our results in some way. It is more likely, however, that we miss star-forming galaxies in the cluster outskirts, a fact that would not change the above conclusions.

5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We determine SFRs in the most massive galaxy cluster at high redshift ($z > 1$) known to date, XMMU2235 at $z = 1.39$ (Mullis et al. 2005; Rosati et al. 2009). This cluster was previously found to be mainly composed of an evolved galaxy population through the analysis of broad-band colours (Lidman et al. 2008) or spectral stacking techniques (Rosati et al. 2009). This is the first study to determine the star formation activity of individual galaxies out to a large cluster radius of 1.5 Mpc. We use deep narrow-band imaging obtained using NIRC on the Gemini North Telescope, which corresponds to the wavelength of the Hα emission line at the redshift of the cluster. We find the following results.

1. We directly measure the SFRs of individual objects out to a cluster radius of $\sim 1.5$ Mpc down to a sensitivity of SFR $\sim 1$ M$_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$. Excluding likely stars and foreground galaxies we find a sample of 163 galaxies over a surface area of $\sim 7.45$ arcmin$^2$ ($\sim 1.7$ Mpc$^2$), of which 14 galaxies are spectroscopically confirmed cluster members. A total of 32 out of the 163 galaxies are identified as excess line-emission galaxies and therefore most likely to be cluster members. We also find a high fraction of galaxies in our sample (46 per cent) consistent with being on the cluster’s well-developed red sequence, which are likely to be passive cluster members with evolved stellar populations.

2. Including all observed galaxies, we measure a median SFR of 0.7 M$_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ with a scatter of 0.8, consistent with the SFRs found for intermediate redshift clusters [e.g. ESO Distant Cluster Survey (EDisCS) clusters at 0.4 < $z$ < 0.8] and a factor of $\sim 10$ lower than field galaxies at 1 < $z$ < 2. Despite the high fraction of contaminants in our sample, this statement is still valid if we consider only galaxies on the cluster’s red sequence, which have a median SFR of $\langle SFR \rangle = 0.8 \pm 0.8$ M$_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$, or spectroscopically confirmed members only ($\langle SFR \rangle = 1.3 \pm 1.9$ M$_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$). Galaxies identified as excess emitters have a median SFR of $\langle SFR \rangle = 2.7 \pm 1.0$ M$_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$. Note also that the highest SFRs in the cluster of $\sim 6$ M$_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ are still lower than the median SFR of field galaxies at this redshift; however, it is worth noting that the dust correction remains a major source of uncertainty in this result.

3. In the cluster core, all galaxies show suppressed or no evidence of star formation, regardless of stellar mass. The environmental influence in the sample is that at fixed stellar mass, galaxies in the cluster core have lower SSFRs than the rest of the cluster galaxies, which in turn have lower SSFRs than field galaxies at the same redshift. We observe this effect out to $\sim 1.5$ Mpc, i.e. more than the virial radius of the cluster.

4. We do not see a continuous increase of the SFR with the distance from the cluster core. We argue that the star formation might not only be continuously suppressed as galaxies approach the cluster centre, but that there is a quenching radius ($R_Q \sim 200$ kpc) within which star formation is rapidly shut off. This could be caused either by interaction with the ICM (ram pressure stripping) or frequent high-velocity encounters (harassment) caused by the high galaxy density in the cluster centre where the crossing time at $R_Q$ is $0.25$ Gyr.

5. We find evidence that the suppression of star formation in the cores of early galaxy clusters might be related to how the cluster was detected. In particular, the presence of extended X-ray emission from a hot ICM seems to suppress the star formation activity of cluster galaxies, whereas clusters that are detected via different methods harbour galaxies with active star formation throughout the cluster. This effect could be caused by processes related to the total mass of the parent structure as well as by the direct influence of the ICM on the gas content of cluster members.

We conclude that star formation in this cluster is effectively shut off in the cluster centre already at $z = 1.39$, when the universe was only $\sim 4.5$ Gyr old. Galaxies at larger radii from the cluster centre are moderately forming stars, but not reaching the average SFR of field galaxies at this redshift. This suggests that the red sequence is built up from the inside out, starting at redshifts $z > 2$ in the most massive galaxy clusters.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this paper:

Table 1. Properties of detected objects in both pointings, cluster centre and outskirts.

Table 2. Properties of objects excluded from the sample due to the \((J - K)\) colour, \(K\)-band magnitude or CLASS_STAR parameter.

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