

X35a     **The star formation properties of merging galaxies at  $z < 2.5$  and separations 3-15 kpc**

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We present a study of the influence of galaxy mergers at  $0.3 < z < 2.5$  on star formation. Mergers are selected from the CANDELS/3D-HST catalog using the algorithm developed in Lackner et al 2014. The galaxy nuclei have projected separation between 3-15 kpc. We found no significant difference between the star formation activity in merging and non-merging galaxies and found that only 9% of the merging galaxies are starbursts based on their position in the star formation main sequence. The lower-mass members in the mergers have higher sSFR than their high-mass counterparts suggesting that merging has a more dramatic impact on the star formation activity in the low-mass companions. This sample of mergers is likely still in a early stage and are yet to reach the maximum level of star formation activity.