

X22a Big Three Dragons: Molecular Gas in a Bright Lyman-Break Galaxy at $z = 7.15$

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We report ALMA Band 3 observations of CO(6-5), CO(7-6) and [C I](2-1) in B14-65666 (“Big Three Dragons”), one of the brightest Lyman-Break Galaxies at $z > 7$ in the rest-frame ultraviolet continuum, far-infrared continuum, and emission lines of [O III] 88 μm and [C II] 158 μm . None of CO(6-5), CO(7-6) and [C I](2-1) are detected, whose 3σ upper limits on the luminosities are about 50 times fainter than the [C II] luminosity. Based on three methods of i) [C II] luminosity and a [C II]-to-H₂ conversion factor reported in local metal-poor dwarf galaxies, ii) a dust mass and metallicity-dependent dust-to-gas mass ratio, and iii) a dynamical mass estimate, we obtain the molecular gas mass (M_{mol}) to be $(0.05 - 11) \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$, which is consistent with its upper limit inferred from the non-detection of mid- J CO and [C I](2-1). Albeit with large uncertainty in M_{mol} , we estimate a high molecular gas-to-stellar mass ratio (μ_{gas}) of 0.65 – 140 and a short gas depletion time (t_{dep}) of 2.5 – 550 Myr, which are broadly consistent with extrapolations of μ_{gas} and t_{dep} as functions of redshift, specific-star formation rate, and stellar mass as reported in previous studies. The short t_{dep} partly reflects the starburst nature of the target, likely to be induced by a major-merger event. B14-65666 can be an ancestor of a passive galaxy at $z \gtrsim 4$ if no gas is fueled from outside the galaxy.