

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910953315003321
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Titolo	Dictionary of Minor Planet Names // by Lutz D. Schmadel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin, Heidelberg : , : Springer Berlin Heidelberg : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2012
ISBN	9786613768971 9781280997365 1280997362 9783642297182 3642297188
Edizione	[6th ed. 2012.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1457 p.)
Disciplina	523.44/03 523.4403
Soggetti	Astronomy Solar system Planetary science Environmental sciences Physics Astronomy, Observations and Techniques Space Physics Planetary Science Environmental Physics Astronomy, Cosmology and Space Sciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Volume 1 -- Foreword to the Sixth Edition -- Foreword to the First Edition -- Preface to the First Edition -- Preface to the Sixth Edition -- Introduction -- Catalogue of Minor Planet Names and Discovery Circumstances -- Appendices -- References -- Index of Minor Planet Names -- Volume 2 -- Catalogue of Minor Planet Names and Discovery Circumstances -- Appendices -- References -- Index of Minor Planet Names. .

The quantity of numbered minor planets has now well exceeded a quarter million. The new sixth edition of the Dictionary of Minor Planet Names, which is the IAU's official reference work for the field, now covers more than 17,000 named minor planets. In addition to being of practical value for identification purposes, the Dictionary of Minor Planet Names provides authoritative information on the basis of the rich and colorful variety of ingenious names, from heavenly goddesses to artists, from scientists to Nobel laureates, from historical or political figures to ordinary women and men, from mountains to buildings, as well as a variety of compound terms and curiosities. This sixth edition of the Dictionary of Minor Planet Names has grown by more than 7,000 entries compared to the fifth edition and by more than 2,000 compared to the fifth edition, including its two addenda published in 2006 and 2009. In addition, there are many corrections, revisions and updates to the entries published in earlier editions. This work is an abundant source of information for anyone interested in minor planets and who enjoys reading about the people and things minor planets commemorate.
