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**Constraints to the evolution of Ly-alpha bright galaxies
between $z=3$ and $z=6$**

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Abstract Galaxies at high redshift with a strong Ly-alpha emission line trace massive star formation in the absence of dust, and can therefore be regarded as a prime signature of the first major starburst in galaxies. I will report results of the Ly-alpha search within the Calar Alto Deep Imaging Survey (CADIS). With imaging Fabry-Perot interferometer CADIS detects emission lines in three waveband windows free of night-sky emission lines at 700nm, 820nm, and 920nm with a typical emission flux detection limit of $F_{\text{lim}} > 3 \times 10^{-20} \text{ W m}^{-2}$. Candidate Ly-alpha-emitting galaxies are selected from the total emission line sample, which contains more than 97% of objects at $z < 1.2$, by the absence of flux below the Lyman limit (B-band "dropouts"), and the non-detection of secondary emission lines in narrow band filters. For four of eight observed Ly-alpha candidates the emission line detected with the Fabry-Perot has been verified spectroscopically at the VLT. When compared to Ly-alpha surveys at $z < 3.5$ even the upper limits set by our list of candidates show that bright Ly-alpha galaxies are significantly rarer at $z > 5$ than the assumption of a non-evolving population would predict. Therefore we conclude that the Ly-alpha bright phase of primeval star formation episodes reached its peak at redshifts $3 < z < 6$.