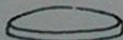


PART 4: UFO'S - PHENOMENOLOGICAL ASPECTS

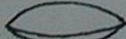
Since I have made a first hand study of only a dozen sightings, the phenomenology described in this section will necessarily be based on descriptions of reports collected by others, particularly NICAP, APRO, UFOIRC, and Vallee. There is, unfortunately, no central file of reports accessible to the interested scientist, although large numbers of reports are in the hands of the organizations mentioned above. (The extensive Air Force files are of very limited use, from what I can tell, because of the extremely inconsistent quality of investigation.) In an unfortunate number of cases the report consists of little more than a narrative. My experience with the Newton sightings suggests that quantitative information is available if the investigator takes the trouble to personally make an on-site study. True, it may not be the quality of an instrumented sighting, but enough quantitative data are available to permit meaningful study of sighting reports.

NICAP's document "The UFO Evidence" contains a summary of patterns in appearance and behavior as determined from cases they had studied through 1963. Regarding appearance, the most common type is a disc shape, followed by spherical, oval/elliptical, cylindrical, and triangular. The breakdown of NICAP's 575 cases goes as follows

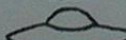
Disc	26 %	149 cases
Round	17 %	96 cases
Oval/elliptical	13 %	77 cases
Cylindrical	8.3%	48 cases
Triangular	2 %	11 cases
Other (Radar, light source, not stated)	33.7%	194 cases



Obviously, there may be some mis-classification within the first three groups because of projective effects.



Discs may be coin-shaped or lens shaped (double convex).



The domed disk is plano-convex, (sometimes double convex) with a smaller radius bulge atop the convex side. The



saturn disk is a sphere or oblate spheroid with a thin ring projecting from the equator. Similar objects are