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NOVA PUPPIS 1963

I found this object on plates from the Astrograph 400/1600 mm. The Nova is invisible 1962 Dec 5, 6, 7 (fainter than 17^m), bright 1963 Jan 20. On Sky Patrol plates invisibility was observed 1962 Dec 25 and 28, the star being fainter than 11^m; it appears first 1963 Jan 18, 7.8. Its behaviour seems to be that of a slow Nova: 1963 Jan 18, 20 about 0.6 brighter than CoD -28.5372 (8.3), Sp. A2, ptg. 8.4, Jan 30 about 8.5, Feb 23, 24, 27 8.0, March 17 8.0, March 23 about 10^m. On 20 Astrograph plates 1963 Dec 20 to 1964 Feb 14 the Nova is about 18^m, practically without further decline. The first rise probably occurred during the time of moonlight (full moon Jan 10, last quarter Jan 17, 1963). On Palomar Atlas the praenova is visible as a bluish star of about 18.5. Further information will be given in Astronomische Nachrichten.

Sonneberg Observatory, February 24, 1984.