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NOVA IN OPHIUCHUS

On objective prism plates taken by N.Sanduleak at Cerro Tololo InterAmerican Observatory I have found a nova in the following position (1900.0):

α	δ
$17^h36^m.2 \pm 0^m.2$	$-24°56' \pm 3'$

The quoted uncertainties are estimated maximum values. The position is about 10' from V 553 Ophiuchi, a nova which reached maximum in 1940 (cf. Burwell and Swope, Pub.A.S.P. 53, 343, 1941).

The following magnitudes have been derived from the objective prism plates by calibrating image density against a magnitude sequence defined by NGC 6494:

	B	V
July 7, 1967	11,9	--
" 12, "	--	11.0

The redness of the spectrum in the 5000 - 6800 Å region is sufficient to explain the B(July 7) - V(July 12) magnitude difference as interstellar reddening, without appeal to photometric variation during that time period.

The Palomar prints are so crowded in the region of this star that is is not possible to identify the pre-outburst nova image on them, but the nova must have been fainter than V ~ 18 at minimum. The visual spectrum is a good match for a typical nova about 1½ magnitudes below, and following, maximum light, which therefore must have been near V = 9,5, presumably some time during the first half of 1967.

December 31, 1968

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