

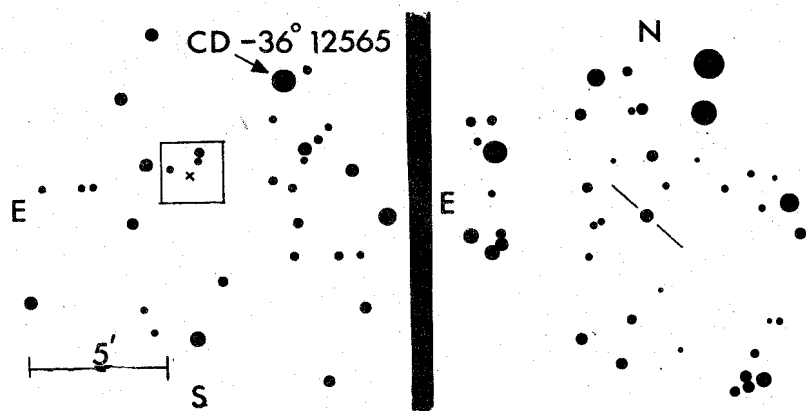
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A NOVA IN CORONA AUSTRALIS

On objective-prism plates, taken about two years ago with the Curtis Schmidt telescope on Cerro Tololo, we have just discovered a star showing the spectrum of a nova in the early nebular stage of development. The approximate 1900 coordinates are: RA= 18^h18^m0, D= -37°03', $l_{II} = 356^{\circ}9$, $b_{II} = -11^{\circ}1$.

The visually estimated relative strengths of the emission lines are given below along with the data describing the plates. No direct plates are available.



30 June 1967, IIa0, 11^m exp.
 580 A mm⁻¹ at H_γ

30 July 1967, 103aF+GG14, 9^m exp.
 1000 A mm⁻¹ at H_α

λ	Int.	λ	Int.	λ	Int.
5007	5	4363	10	H _α	10
4959	2	H _γ		5755	2
H _β	5	H _δ	5	5007	5
4686	2	H _ε	2	4959	2
4640	5	H _ζ	1		

We estimate that on 30 June 1967 the star had m_{pg} about 13. According to the criteria given by McLaughlin (1), the spectrum at that time should correspond to a development stage about 5 magnitudes down from maximum light. Thus we presume that the nova attained about the 8th magnitude several months prior to our observations. Our two charts (an enlargement of the insert is on the right) identify the best candidate as the prenova which appears on the Palomar Survey southern extension chart 8626. We estimate the red magnitude to be about 17 which would give the nova a total range of about 9 magnitudes.

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(1) McLaughlin, D.B., Stellar Atmospheres, ed. J.L. Greenstein (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), chap. 17.