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A COMMENT ON THE SLOW NOVA IN SCORPIUS

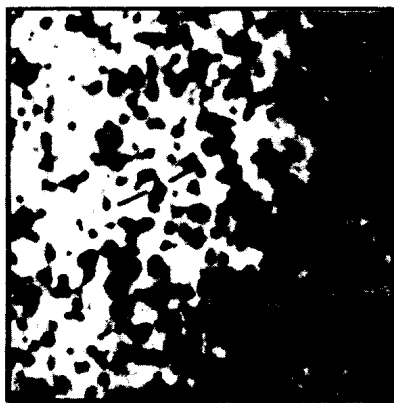
An object, supposed to be a slow nova, was reported by Sanduleak, Stephenson and MacConnell in IBVS No.1376. We looked for the star in our plate files and found two plates covering the region of the nova, both taken with the Uppsala Southern Schmidt telescope at Mt Stromlo Observatory. One is a blue prism plate, taken July 18, 1966. This plate does not show any emission from the star. The other is a red direct plate, taken August 27, 1968. This plate is in Figure 1 compared with a copy from the red chart of Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (POSS), kindly submitted to us by Dr. Sanduleak. It is from this figure clear, that the star was several magnitudes brighter in 1968 than when the POSS plate was taken. If it really is a nova, it is then likely that the explosion took place during the first half of 1967, i.e. just before the period covered by the plates of Sanduleak et al. We also note that the star is below the magnitude limit in the ESO-Würzburg atlas. However, more observations are needed to settle the question of the nature of the object and it is anxious that observers search their plate files accordingly.

With the star properly identified, we measured its position with the PDS machine of Lund Observatory. The result is

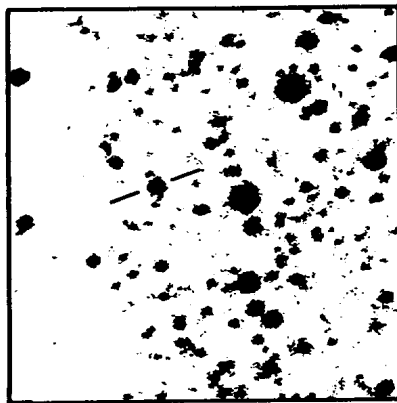
$$\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}40^{\text{m}}31^{\text{s}}8 \pm 0^{\text{s}}4$$
$$\delta = -36^{\circ}01'42'' \pm 6'' \quad (1950)$$

which slightly deviates from the position given by Sanduleak et al.

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a



b

Figure 1 a) Red chart from the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey.
b) Red plate (103a-E + RG 2) taken with the Uppsala Southern Schmidt August 27, 1968. The side of each chart is 3'.