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A DEEP MINIMUM OF MV LYRAE

The nova-like star MV Lyrae (Mc Rae +43^o1) has been observed on plates taken with the 67/90/215 cm Schmidt telescope of the Asiago Astrophysical Observatory since 1968. The star was considered as a possible old nova by Greenstein (1). Walker observed rapid fluctuations and a slower variation between B_{λ} 12.7 and 14.0 (2). On the Asiago plates (103a-O + GG 13) the star shows irregular variations from 12.1 to 12.9.

Rather surprisingly, however, during August and September 1979 MV Lyrae suddenly declined from 15.7 to 18.0. The last magnitudes derived by the Asiago material were:

1978 Aug. 2	12.5 B
" 11	12.9
1979 Aug. 13	15.7
" 29	18.0
Sep. 27	18.0

The sudden decline to 18.0 rules out the possibility that the star may be an old nova.

A programme of photometric and spectroscopic observations of the variable is now in progress. Radio, UV and X-ray observations of this very interesting variable should be highly desirable.

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References:

- (1) Greenstein, J.L., PASP 66, 79, 1954
- (2) Walker, M.F., PASP 66, 71, 1954