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NOVA MUSCAE 1983

Two pre-discovery photos of Nova Muscae 1983 have been received from K.M. Harrison, Director, Astrophotographic Section, Astronomical Society of Victoria (Australia). Both were taken on Ektachrome 400 film, hypersensitized in 8 % hydrogen at 25° for 24 hours. They were taken during a field trip to Rochester, Northern Victoria. Details are:

No. 1. 15 January, 1983, 14<sup>h</sup>20<sup>m</sup> U.T. Exposure 15 minutes with Olympus lens 50 mm at f2.8 fitted with minus U.V. filter, and mounted on a Celestron 8. Taken by E. Gainsford.

No. 2. 15 January, 1983, 15<sup>h</sup>05<sup>m</sup> U.T. Exposure 10 minutes with Olympus 50 mm lens at f2.8 mounted on a 30 cm reflector. Taken by S. Pattie.

Slides from these photos have been examined by P.M. Kilmartin and A.C. Gilmore, Mount John University Observatory, Lake Tekapo, N.Z. Comparison was made with CPD -65°1708 and CPD -67°1858 for which spectra, colour index and SP<sub>v</sub> magnitudes are respectively: K5; 2.06; 7.88 and Ma; 1.77; 7.59 (1). The extreme redness of the nova and the absence of stars with similar colour index made estimates of the magnitude of the nova difficult. Kilmartin and Gilmore place the magnitude as between 7.6 and 7.9 on both photos.

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Reference:

- (1) 1966. Annals Cape Obs. XXI. Cape Photographic Catalogue for 1950.  
Zones -64° to -80°.