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NEW FLARE STAR

The serendipitous discovery of a new flare star on an ultraviolet plate taken with the 1.2m UK Schmidt Telescope at Siding Spring Observatory, Australia, is reported.

A new guiding facility on the 1.2m UK Schmidt Telescope allows the telescope to track a fast moving comet during a long exposure. The telescope is moved at a pre-programmed rate of offset from the guide star, calculated from the known direction and speed of the comet across the sky. Consequently, all star images appear as trails with identical micro-irregularities in their signatures. Any non-trailed or unusual image can be easily identified.

The flare was noticed on a 90 minute U plate using the previously described technique on Comet Crommelin. The flare star was identified visually on the SERC J Southern Sky Survey. A flare of about 1.5 mag. above a quiescent B_J magnitude of approximately 16.5 ± 0.5 occurred at $8^h 36^m 30^s \pm 30^s$ LST on April 4th, 1984. It lasted for approximately 8 minutes by which time it had returned to within 0.3 mag of $J = 16.5$. The colour from the Palomar sky survey is consistent with that of a dM star.



$\alpha = 5^h 42^m 33.3^s$
 $\delta = -20^\circ 05' 02.5''$
(1950.0)

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