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A POSSIBLE VARIABLE STAR NEAR IC 402^(*)

A star of 12 th magnitude (visual) situated 0.8 south from the IC402 (Sc) galaxy ($\alpha = 05^{\text{h}}03^{\text{m}}.9$, $\delta = -9^{\circ}10'0''$; 1950) is visible on the Palomar Sky Survey blue and red plates number 0898. The photographic magnitude of the galaxy derived from the P.O.S.S is 13.9 (Nilson, 1973) or 13 (Voroncov-Velyaminov et al., 1962, 1963, 1964, 1968).

During an observing run with the 1m telescope at ESO, La Silla (Chile) the star was not visible by eye through the UBVR photometer guiding system equipped with an RCA intensifier: the star was fainter than $m_v \approx 16.5$ on 23 January, 1988, at $01^{\text{h}}24^{\text{m}}$ (UT).

In the same conditions, the star was then visible on the following night, as confirmed on a CCD frame kindly obtained by J. Van Paradijs at the ESO 1.54 m telescope. Table I lists UBVR observations made during the two nights: January 24, at $01^{\text{h}}45^{\text{m}}$ (UT) and January 25, at $02^{\text{h}}23^{\text{m}}$ (UT).

Table I

	Jan.24, 1988	Jan.25, 1988
V	15.57	15.14
B-V	0.585	0.937
U-B	-0.242	-0.335
V-R	0.479	0.332
V-I	0.764	0.762

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References:

- Nilson, P.; 1973, Catalogue of Selected non UGC galaxies, Uppsala report No.5.
 Voroncov-Velyaminov, B.A., et. al, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1968, Morphological catalogue of Galaxies, Moscow State University, Moscow.

(*)based on observations made at ESO, La Silla (Chile)