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Cn 1-2 (=PK 326 -10⁰1)

The emission line object Cn 1-2 is listed in the Catalogue of Galactic Planetary Nebulae by Perek and Kohoutek (1967) under the designation (326 -10⁰1) but is actually a symbiotic star. It is misidentified on the finder chart in Perek and Kohoutek, but a correct identification is given in Allen's (1984) Catalogue of Symbiotic Stars. Cn 1-2 is also known as Henize 1242 and He 2-177. Relatively few observations of Cn 1-2 have been made since its first description by Annie J. Cannon (1921). Webster (1966;1973) and Allen (1984) established its identity as a symbiotic star which is also confirmed by recent IUE observations (Feibelman 1988). The IUE spectrum is practically identical to that of V1016 Cyg and very similar to HM Sge, both of which had dramatic increases in brightness by about 5 magnitudes in 1965 and 1975, respectively. Webster (1973) gives an approximate V magnitude of 12.5 for Cn 1-2, with minor fluctuations in emission line strengths.

If Cn 1-2 experienced a brightening similar to that of V1016 Cyg and HM Sge prior to 1921, it would represent a southern counterpart to such objects and may form an important link to these unusual symbiotics. However, the apparent constancy in brightness of Cn 1-2 (though greatly under-observed during the past half century) may also signal a very long wait for major changes to occur in V1016 Cyg and HM Sge. Because of the importance of these objects to the understanding of stellar evolution and their spectral similarity to Cn 1-2, observations of Cn 1-2 over a wide range of wavelengths appears to be desirable in the hope of predicting the future development of symbiotics of this type.

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