

COMMISSION 27 OF THE I. A. U.
INFORMATION BULLETIN ON VARIABLE STARS

Number 3331

Konkoly Observatory
Budapest
24 May 1989
HU ISSN 0374 - 0676

SEARCH FOR OPTICAL BRIGHTENINGS OF THE X-RAY TRANSIENT
EXO 0748 - 676

The transient X-ray source EXO 0748 - 676 detected by Parmar et al. (1985) was identified with a faint (≥ 17 mag.) but variable ($\Delta m \geq 6$ mag.) star by Wade et al. (1985). The optical object exhibits a spectrum resembling those of other low-mass binary X-ray transients and luminous cataclysmic variable stars, such as nova-like variables and dwarf novae in outbursts.

The error box of EXO 0748 - 676 was examined on 351 plates (representing roughly 350 h of monitoring time) taken at the southern stations of the Bamberg Observatory in the years 1963 - 1976. The typical limiting magnitudes on the plates are between 13 and 15 (m_B). The proposed optical candidate is invisible on all investigated plates and, similarly, no other variable optical phenomena were found. We conclude that either the brightenings of the object are infrequent or the maxima are fainter than $m_V \sim 14$.

RENÉ HUDEC

Astronomical Institute
Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences
251 65 Ondřejov
Czechoslovakia

References:

- Parmar, A.N., White, N.E., Giommi, P., and Haberl, F. 1985, IAU Circ., No.4039.
Wade, R.A., Quintana, H., Horne, K., and Marsh, T.R. 1985, Publ. Astron. Soc. Pacific, 97, 1092.