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SUPERNOVA 2005az IN NGC 4960

R. Quimby, P. Mondol, P. Hoeflich, and J. C. Wheeler, University of Texas; and C. Gerardy, Imperial College, report the discovery of an apparent supernova in unfiltered CCD images taken on Mar. 28.21 (at mag $\sim$ 17.4) and 31.45 UT (mag $\sim$ 16.9) using the 0.45-m 'ROTSE-IIIb' telescope at the McDonald Observatory. The new object is located at $\alpha = 13^{\rm h}05^{\rm m}46^{\rm s}.97$, $\delta = +27^{\circ}44'08''.4$ (equinox 2000.0), which is $8''.0$ west and $5''.5$ north of the center of NGC 4960. A co-addition of ROTSE-IIIb images taken between 2004 Dec. 15 and 2005 Jan. 14 (limiting mag $\sim$ 18.6) shows nothing at this position. The new source is not present on ROTSE-IIIb images taken on Mar. 20.23 (limiting mag $\sim$ 17.4).

SUPERNOVA 2005ba IN NGC 3746

S. Kildahl, Hokksund, Norway, reports the discovery by A. Danielsen (Langhus, Norway), M. Steine (Blaker, Norway), and himself of an apparent supernova (mag $\sim$ 17.5) on unfiltered images taken with a 'Celestron 14' reflector at Veggli, Norway, on Apr. 1.92, 2.84, and 3.062 UT. The new object is located at $\alpha = 11^{\rm h}37^{\rm m}42^{\rm s}.58$, $\delta = +22^{\circ}00'38''.9$ (equinox 2000.0), which is $14''.6$ west and $4''.0$ north of the nucleus of NGC 3746. SN 2005ba was not detected in an earlier image taken by O. Trondal with the Tenagra II 0.81-m telescope on 2004 Dec. 12.38 (limiting mag $\sim$ 19.0).

SUPERNOVAE 2005al AND 2005au

M. Salvo and B. Schmidt, Australian National University (ANU); and J. Christiansen, University of New South Wales, write that a spectrum (range 407–570 nm) of SN 2005al (cf. *IAUC* 8488), taken with the ANU 2.3-m telescope (+ Double-Beam Spectrograph) at Siding Spring Observatory on Feb. 28.59 UT, shows it to be a type-Ia supernova around maximum light.

M. Modjaz, R. Kirshner, and P. Challis, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics; and T. Matheson, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, report that a spectrogram (range 350–740 nm) of SN 2005au (cf. *IAUC* 8496), obtained by P. Nutzman on Mar. 31.27 UT with the F. L. Whipple Observatory 1.5-m telescope (+ FAST), shows it to be a type-II supernova, probably within a few weeks past explosion. The spectrum consists of a blue continuum and P-Cyg lines of Hα and Hβ. Adopting the NED recession velocity of 5592 km/s for the host galaxy, the expansion velocity derived from the minimum of the Hβ line is about 9000 km/s.

2005 April 3 *Daniel W. E. Green*