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V459 VULPECULAE = NOVA VULPECULAE 2007 No. 2

S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan, reports the discovery by Hiroshi Kaneda (Sapporo, Japan) of an apparent nova (mag 8.7) on three 4-s unfiltered CCD frames taken on 2007 Dec. 25.35 UT using a Nikon D40 digital camera (+ 105-mm *f*/2.5 lens), with an apparent independent discovery made by A. Tago at mag 8.3 on his two patrol frames taken on Dec. 26.38 using a Canon 20D digital camera (+ Pentax 105-mm *f*/3.2 lens). Nakano's measurement of the variable from Tago's image yielded the position $\alpha = 19^{\mathrm{h}}48^{\mathrm{m}}08^{\mathrm{s}}.81$, $\delta = +21°15'29''.9$ (equinox 2000.0) and mag 7.8. Additional CCD magnitudes: Dec. 8, [10–11 (Kaneda); 26.342, 7.1 (K. Itagaki, Yamagata, Japan, 0.60-m *f*/5.7 reflector; position end figures $08^{\mathrm{s}}.84$, $27''.6$); 26.355, 7.7 (Kaneda; position end figures $08^{\mathrm{s}}.89$, $26''.8$). Kaneda and K. Kadota (Ageo, Japan) note that a USNO-B1.0-catalogue star has position end figures $08^{\mathrm{s}}.871$, $26''.81$ and mag ~ 20. Spectroscopy by numerous observers, as reported by H. Yamaoka and U. Munari on *CBETs* 1181 and 1183, confirm the object as a nova. Visual magnitude estimates for V459 Vul by A. Pereira, Cabo da Roca, Portugal: Dec. 26.79, 8.0; 27.79, 7.7; 30.80, 7.9.

V723 CASSIOPEIAE

S. Mazuk, R. J. Rudy, D. K. Lynch, A. M. Gilbert, and T. R. Prater, The Aerospace Corporation; R. B. Perry, Langley Research Center, NASA; R. C. Puetter, University of California, San Diego; G. Schwarz, West Chester University; and C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota, report 0.47- to 2.5-μm spectroscopy of V723 Cas (cf. *IAUC* 8676) on 2007 Dec. 15 UT using VNIRIS on the Lick 3-m telescope. This long-lived, super-soft x-ray source is faint but has retained its high-excitation spectrum, showing emission lines of [Fe X], [Fe XI], and C VI.

M31N 2007-12b

Rudy, Lynch, Prater, Mazuk, Gilbert, Puetter, and Perry report that spectroscopy, obtained as above, of the apparent nova 2007-12b in M31 (cf. `http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau/CBAT_M31.html`) on 2007 Dec. 15 UT shows a remarkably bright Hα line of very high equivalent width. Owing to the low signal-to-noise ratio on this faint object, no continuum was detectable, and the only other emission lines seen were Paβ, Paγ, Paδ, and He I 1.0830-μm. The FWHM of these lines were about 5000 km/s — notably broad for a nova. The FWZI of Hα was $\sim$ 6800 km/s.

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