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POSSIBLE NOVA IN OPHIUCHUS

S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan, reports the discovery of another possible nova (mag 11.3) in Ophiuchus by K. Nishiyama (Kurume, Fukuoka-ken, Japan) and F. Kabashima (Miyaki-cho, Saga-ken, Japan) on two unfiltered 30-s CCD frames (limiting mag 13.6) taken on May 31.608 and 31.609 UT using a 105-mm $f/5.6$ camera lens. Their confirming unfiltered CCD images (limiting mag 18.5) with a 40-cm reflector taken around May 31.628 yield the following precise position: $\alpha = 17^{\rm h}33^{\rm m}29^{\rm s}.67$, $\delta = -27^\circ 01'16''.4$ (equinox 2000.0); their image from May 31.795 yields position end figures $29^{\rm s}.64$, $15''.9$. They add that nothing is visible at this position on Digitized Sky Survey red images. NSV 22564 is located some $2'$ away. Following posting of this object on the Central Bureau's unconfirmed-objects webpage, several other observers have obtained confirming photometry and astrometry of the new variable. Additional magnitudes for this possible nova, from unfiltered CCD images unless otherwise noted: 1985 May 13, [19.5 (Digitized Sky Survey red plate taken at the European Observatory, via C. Jacques and E. Pimentel, Belo Horizonte, Brazil); 1991 Aug. 11, [20: (U.K. Schmidt Telescope red plate, via E. Guido and G. Sostero, Remanzacco, Italy); 2008 May 11.661, [13.6 (Nishiyama and Kabashima); 20.649, [12.6 (Nishiyama and Kabashima); 25.688, [11.8 (Nishiyama and Kabashima); 31.765, 11.1 (K. Kadota, Ageo, Japan, 25-cm reflector); 31.795, 11.4 (Nishiyama and Kabashima); June 1.540 and 1.595, 11.7 (K. Itagaki, Teppo-cho, Yamagata-ken, Japan, 60-cm reflector); 1.576, 11.3 (Kadota); 2.022, $R \simeq 11.7$ (H. Mikuž, Crni Vrh Observatory, 19-cm reflector); 2.23, $B = 13.9$, $V = 12.8$, $R = 11.4$ (Guido and Sostero, remotely with a 25-cm reflector near Mayhill, New Mexico); 2.39, $V = 12.8$ (Jacques and Pimentel, remotely with a 25-cm reflector near Mayhill). All of the non-discoverer observers above have also provided astrometry for this apparent nova, yielding position end figures $29^{\rm s}.61 \pm 0^{\rm s}.01$, $14''.5 \pm 0''.3$. Guido and Sostero have posted an image of this transient at the following URL: `http://tinyurl.com/4vj2qz`.

COMET P/2008 J3 (McNAUGHT)

Additional observations have led to improved orbital elements that show this comet (cf. *IAUC* 8942) to be of short period: T = 2009 Mar. 11.043 TT, q = 2.27346 AU, e = 0.41559, $\omega = 5^\circ.035$, $\Omega = 9^\circ.764$, $i = 25^\circ.400$ (equinox 2000.0), P = 7.67 years (from *MPEC* 2008-K54).

2008 June 2 *Daniel W. E. Green*