Circular No. 8972

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
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V1309 SCORPII = NOVA SCORPII 2008

S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan, reports the discovery by K. Nishiyama (Kurume, Fukuoka-ken) and F. Kabashima (Miyaki-cho, Saga-ken) of a bright star (mag 9.5) on unfiltered CCD images obtained on Sept. 2.4594 UT with a 0.40-m *f*/9.8 reflector, the presumed nova being located at $\alpha = 17^{\rm h}57^{\rm m}32^{\rm s}.93 \pm 0^{\rm s}.01$, $\delta = -30°43'10''.1 \pm 0''.1$ (equinox 2000.0). Nothing is visible at this position on their unfiltered CCD frames taken on Aug. 20.476 (limiting mag 12.8) and 21.470 (limiting mag 12.1) using a patrol camera (+ 105-mm-f.l. *f*/5.6 lens). They note nearby USNO-B1.0-catalogue stars at position end figures $33^{\rm s}.221$, $10''.56$ (red mag 12.7) and $33^{\rm s}.015$, $10''.39$ (red mag 14.8). Additional independent discoveries also were reported from survey images obtained with digital cameras and telephoto lenses by Y. Sakurai (Mito, Ibaraki-ken, Japan; via Nakano; nova at mag 9.7 on Sept. 3.4) and by Guoyou Sun (Qufu, Shandong, China) and Xing Gao (Urumqi, Xinjiang, China) in the course of the Xingming Observatory Nova Survey (mag $\approx$ 10.5 on Sept. 2.6). Following posting on the CBAT unconfirmed-objects webpage, several other observers sent observations of V1309 Sco that were included with additional discovery details on *CBET* 1496. Additional selected magnitudes (mostly from unfiltered CCD images) for the nova: 1958 Apr. 18, [19.0 (red Palomar Sky Survey, via C. Jacques and E. Pimentel, Belo Horizonte, Brazil); 2008 July 30, [12 (Sakurai); Aug. 14, 20, 21, and 30, [13.5: (Sun and Gao); 30.783, [14.5 (D. Chekhovich, S. Korotkiy, and T. Kryachko, Karachay-Cherkessia, Russia); 31, [13.5: (Sun and Gao); Sept. 2.735, 10.5 (Chekhovich *et al.*); 3.512, 9.0 (Nishiyama and Kabashima); 4.489, 8.3 (Nishiyama and Kabashima); 5.483, 7.1 (Nishiyama and Kabashima). N. N. Samus, Institute of Astronomy, Moscow, informs us that this nova has been assigned the designation V1309 Sco.

H. Naito, Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory, reports that low-resolution spectra of V1309 Sco were taken on Sept. 3.49 and 4.47 UT by M. Fujii (Ibara, Okayama, Japan, 0.28-m reflector; range 400–800 nm, resolution $R \sim 500$) and on Sept. 5.47 by Naito with the 2.0-m NAYUTA telescope (+ MALLS; range 410–670 nm, $R \sim 1200$). The spectra show a smooth continuum with some absorption lines and strong Balmer emission lines, which indicate that this object is indeed a classical nova. The expansion velocities derived from the FWHM of Hα are somewhat slow (670 km/s on Sept. 3.49, 670 km/s on Sept. 4.47, and 470 km/s on Sept. 5.47). The spectrum also shows an interstellar Na D absorption line (EW = 0.6 nm). The ratios of Hα to Hβ are 10 on Sept. 4.47 and 6.7 on Sept. 5.47.

2008 September 6 *Daniel W. E. Green*