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V1721 AQUILAE = NOVA AQUILAE 2008

H. Yamaoka, Kyushu University, reports the discovery by K. Itagaki (Yamagata, Japan) of a variable star on his CCD survey image taken on Sept. 22.5 UT with a 0.21-m reflector; a confirming unfiltered CCD image taken on Sept. 22.586 with a 0.60-m reflector yields mag $\sim$ 14.0 and the following precise position: $\alpha = 19^{\rm h}06^{\rm m}28^{\rm s}.58$, $\delta = +7°06'44''.3$ (equinox 2000.0). Additional magnitudes from Itagaki (via S. Nakano): 2007 Nov. 2.396, [17.0; Sept. 22.586, 14.0; 24.489, 14.1; 27.445, 15.8; 29.529, 16.5; Oct. 1.38759, 16.7; 2.421, 16.9; 3.433, 17.1. The 2MASS catalogue contains a very faint star with position end figures $28^{\rm s}.60$, $44''.5$. Following posting on the Central Bureau's unconfirmed-objects webpage, V. Nevski (Vitebsk, Belarus, 0.30-m reflector) reports that an unfiltered CCD image obtained on Sept. 22.8 yields red mag 14.0 and position end figures $28^{\rm s}.59$, $44''.6$ for the variable, adding that nothing is visible at this position on Digitized Sky Survey images from 1951 July 5 and 1987 July 30 (limiting mag $\approx$ 20). E. Y. Hsiao, M. L. Graham, C. J. Pritchet, and D. D. Balam, University of Victoria, report that a spectrogram (range 390–703 nm, resolution 0.3 nm), obtained on Sept. 23.16 using the 1.82-m Plaskett Telescope, exhibits a strongly increasing continuum from 600 to 703 nm with a broad and flat-topped emission (HWZI $\sim$ 2700 km/s, 6.5 nm) at the position of Hα; additional details are given on *CBET* 1512. E. Kazarovets reports that the GCVS team assigns the designation V1721 Aql to this object.

L. A. Helton and C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota; and K. Vanlandingham and G. J. Schwarz, West Chester University, report on Boller-and-Chivens spectroscopic observations (range 380–900 nm; resolution $\sim$ 0.28 nm) of this nova that were obtained at the Steward Observatory Bok 2.29-m telescope on Sept. 25.19 and 25.25 UT. Hα exhibits a very broad (FWHM = 6450 km/s) tri-peaked profile with emission components at +3020, −140, and −3550 km/s. Permitted oxygen makes an appearance at 777.3 and 844.6 nm with broad (FWHM $\sim$ 7600 and 7500 km/s, respectively), tri-peaked structure similar to Hα. The spectrum is heavily reddened with a complete absence of any emission features blueward of Hα. The high reddening is confirmed by the extinction maps of Schlegel *et al.* (1998, *Ap.J.* **500**, 525), which indicate exceedingly high reddening along this line-of-sight but suffer from very large uncertainties since $b \sim 0$. Comparison with other novae at a similar early evolutionary state imply $E(B{-}V) = 3$ and a likely distance of 5 kpc, assuming a maximum absolute V magnitude of −9.

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