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Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
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V1647 ORIONIS

D. K. Ojha, S. K. Ghosh, and S. S. Kaurav, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai; B. C. Bhatt and D. K. Sahu, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore; and A. Tej, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, report the following optical and near-infrared magnitudes of the young eruptive star V1647 Ori (cf. *IAUCs* 8284, 8354, 8396, 8600, 8681, 8694), made with the 2-m Himalayan Chandra telescope (+ HFOSC spectrograph and NIR camera) at Hanle (Ladakh) and the 2-m IUCAA Girawali telescope (+ IFOSC spectrograph) at Girawali (Pune): Sept. 14 UT, $V = 18.92 \pm 0.03$, $R = 17.03 \pm 0.02$, $I = 14.91 \pm 0.01$; Oct. 19, $J = 10.64 \pm 0.01$, $H = 9.01 \pm 0.01$, $K = 7.63 \pm 0.01$ (measured in a $7''.2$-radius aperture); Nov. 3, $V = 18.91 \pm 0.03$, $R = 17.09 \pm 0.02$. No significant variation in brightness of V1647 Ori was seen during the period of about two months since the recent new outburst phase (cf. *IAUCs* 8968, 8969). In comparison with the last reported quiescent phase (cf. Ojha *et al.* 2006, *MNRAS* **368**, 825), there has been a brightening of $\sim$ 3 magnitudes in R, and the infrared colors suggest that circumstellar matter of $A_v \sim 7.5$ mag has probably been cleared during this recent outburst. Flux-calibrated optical spectra of V1647 Ori obtained from Sept. 14–Dec. 5 show strong Hα emission with blue-shifted P-Cyg absorption and the Ca II triplet lines in emission. The dip in the P-Cyg profile appears to occur around 655.2 nm, which indicates an in-fall velocity of the order of $\sim$ 500 km/s. The equivalent widths of the Hα and Ca II lines are ~ -2.5 and -1.0 nm, respectively, which are similar to the values seen in the previous outburst (Ojha *et al.*, *op.cit.*). Regular monitoring of V1647 Ori is underway in optical and near-infrared wavebands.

COMET C/2008 R7 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 9003, an additional near-sun Kracht-group presumed comet was found by R. Kracht on SOHO website images ("discovery" image tabulated below). C/2008 R7 was stellar in appearance in C3, C2, and COR2-A images, peaking at mag $\sim$ 5.5 around Sept. 6.83 UT. Kracht suggests that C/2008 R7 may be identical with C/2002 S5, though B. G. Marsden notes that identity with C/2002 S11 is also possible (despite its proposed association with C/2008 G6).

Comet	2008	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2008 R7	Sept.	6.447	$10^h52^m.3$	$+7^\circ37'$	C3/2*	RK	2008-S67

2008 December 22 *Daniel W. E. Green*