

Nova Vulpeculae 1976

G E D Alcock discovered his fourth nova on Oct 21. Sweeping began at 18.05 UT, and the star was recognised as a possible nova at 18.20. At 18.40 the discovery was reported to Milbourn, who confirmed it a few minutes later. A series of photographs was taken by Pennell, who is currently deriving a sequence.

The position of the nova is $20^{\text{h}} 27^{\text{m}}.1, +20^{\circ} 21'$ (1950). At discovery, Alcock gave the magnitude as 6.2. The region was last swept on Oct 15. Observations by Hurst during the evening gave a magnitude of about 7.1, based on Harvard magnitudes for comparison stars.

Harvard and Lick spectra have been reported as indicating the nova to be near maximum.

Photographers who may have covered this area recently are urged to examine their negatives and communicate their findings to Guy Hurst. Until Oct 29 his address will be 17 Sherwood Road, Mablethorpe (telephone Mablethorpe 2433).

Nova-like object in Ophiuchus

A report by Kuano has just been announced. On Sep 23.55, a star of mag 8.3pv was photographed at $18^{\text{h}} 00^{\text{m}}.9, +11^{\circ} 48'$ (1950). On Sep 24 it was still 8.8, on Sep 28 it had fallen to a visual mag of 10.5. Nothing was found on Sep 17. Photographers are urged to examine negatives of this region.

Possible new variable object in Cepheus

D Branchett (TA) reports observations of an object at $22^{\text{h}} 17^{\text{m}}, +63^{\circ} 05'$ (1950), as follows: Sep 18, mag $7\frac{1}{2}$; Sep 22, mag 8; Oct 2, mag 9; Oct 6, mag 10. Hurst reports a mag 9 object, possibly multiple, near the position on Oct 19. Photographers are urged to examine negatives of the region.

JAMES MUIRDER