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RS OPHIUCHI

Y. Andrillat and L. Houziaux, Observatoire de Haute Provence, communicate: "Spectra of the recurrent nova RS Oph have been obtained during Aug. 17-19 in the ranges 759-800, 837-878, and 982-1020 nm at 0.1-nm resolution. The broad and violet-shifted emission wings mentioned by Ijima (IAUC 5302) are no longer observed. All lines are narrow (0.3-0.5 nm FWMH). Monochromatic magnitudes in the continuum are 9.45 (787 nm), 10.47 (850 nm), 10.36 (880 nm), and 9.54 (1 micron), somewhat brighter than at minimum light. The following fluxes (x 10E-12 erg cmE-2 sE-1) of Fe II emission lines were observed: 771.1 nm, 0.42; 786.8 nm, 1.98; 999.7 nm, 0.36; these fluxes have been corrected for E(B-V) = 0.8. The brightest line is O I at 844.6 nm (2.63 x 10E-12 erg cmE-2 sE-1). The Paschen decrement is very mild, since from P7 to P17 the flux varies from 1.8 to 0.47 x 10E-12 erg cmE-2 sE-1. The Ca II triplet is quite conspicuous, but no forbidden lines are detected."

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N. Lund, A. J. Castro-Tirado, and S. Brandt, on behalf of the Granat WATCH team (Danish Space Research Institute, Lyngby; and Space Research Institute, Moscow), report: "A short-duration x-ray transient, GRS 1943-052 (R.A. = 19h43m, Decl. = -5.2, equinox 1950.0, error radius 1 deg), was recorded by the WATCH all-sky x-ray monitor on Oct. 16.48 UT. The x-ray flux rose in 20 s, reaching a peak flux of about 10 times that of the Crab Nebula in the 6- to 15-keV energy band, and thereafter decayed below the detection limit in 50 s. Follow-up observations are encouraged."

SUPERNOVA 1991bd IN UGC 2936

J. Mueller reports her independent discovery of this object (cf. IAUC 5367), which was at mag about 16.5 on a blue plate exposed by J. D. Mendenhall and herself with the 1.2-m Oschin Telescope on Oct. 15 UT during the course of the second Palomar Sky Survey. A spectrogram obtained by M. Mateo and I. Reid on Oct. 16 with the 5-m Hale Telescope (+ double spectrograph) suggests that this is a type-II supernova.