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Independent Discovery of an Apparent Nova in M81

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on 20 Feb 2017; 13:31 UT

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Subjects: Optical, Nova, Transient

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The M81 nova monitoring collaboration reports the independent discovery of an apparent nova in M81 on a co-added 5400-s unfiltered CCD frame taken on 2017 Feb. 19.962 UT with the 0.65-m telescope at Ondrejov (OND). The candidate was already faintly visible on a stack of 20x200s R filter CCD images obtained with the 0.80-m telescope Joan Oro (TJO) on Feb. 18.021 UT.

The object designated PNV J09553619+6906210 was first announced and designated AT2017axz by F. Castellani et al. ([see here](#)) and is located at R.A. = 9h55m36s.19, Decl. = +69o06'21".0 (equinox 2000.0), which is 16.2" east and 145.9" north of the center of M81 (see link to discovery image below).

Here we list the observing dates and corresponding photometry:

Date [UT]	Mag	Err	Filter	Telescope
2017-02-15.155	<21.8		C	OND
2017-02-18.021	21.7	0.4	R	TJO
2017-02-19.962	19.2	0.15	C	OND

The OND 0.65-m is a reflecting telescope at the Ondrejov observatory operated jointly by the Astronomical Institute of ASCR and the Astronomical Institute of the Charles University of Prague, Czech Republic. It uses a Moravian Instruments G2-3200 CCD camera (with a Kodak KAF-3200ME sensor and standard BVRI photometric filters) mounted at the prime focus. The TJO is a 80-cm Ritchey-Chretien F/9.6 telescope at the Observatori Astronomic del Montsec, owned by the Catalan Government and operated by the Institut d'Estudis Espacials de Catalunya, Spain. It uses a Finger Lakes PL4240-1-BI CCD Camera with a Class 1 Basic Broadband coated 2k x 2k chip with 13.5 microns square pixels. The unfiltered OND data was calibrated using photometric standards from the M81 globular cluster catalogue of [Perelmuter & Racine, 1995](#). The TJO photometry is based on the [SDSS DR7 photometry catalogue](#).

[Discovery image](#)

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