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Discovery of a Probable Nova in M81

ATel #10290; **R. Belligoli, F. Castellani, C. Marangoni, F. Marziali (OMB-CAV), K. Hornoch (Ondrejov), M. Henze (CSIC-IEEC), G. Sala, J. Jose, J. Figueira (UPC-IEEC), M. Hernanz (CSIC-IEEC), H. Kucakova (Charles University), S. C. Williams (Lancaster), H. Meusinger (TLS), M. J. Darnley (LJMU), A. Kaur, D. H. Hartmann (Clemson), A. W. Shafter (SDSU)**
on **20 Apr 2017; 09:28 UT**

Credential Certification: *Martin Henze (henze@ice.cat)*

Subjects: Optical, Nova, Transient

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The extended M81 nova monitoring collaboration reports the discovery of a probable nova in M81 on pair of co-added 3900-s and 4200-s unfiltered CCD frames taken on 2017 Apr. 18.799 UT and 18.848 UT, respectively with the 0.4-m telescope at the Monte Baldo Observatory, Verona, Italy (MBO). The probable nova is also visible on a precovery R-band image taken on Apr. 18.086 UT with the 0.80-m telescope Joan Oro (TJO).

The object designated PNV J09551279+6900093 is located at R.A. = 9h55m12s.79, Decl. = +69o00'09".3 (equinox 2000.0), which is 109.4" west and 225.8" south 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
2017-04-16.857	<21.3		C	OND
2017-04-17.086	<21.5		R	TJO
2017-04-18.086	20.0	0.3	R	TJO
2017-04-18.801	19.9	0.3	C	MBO

The MBO 0.4-m is a Ritchey-Chretien F/8 telescope at the Monte Baldo Observatory, Ferrara di Monte Baldo, Verona, Italy. It uses a Moravian Instruments G4-9000 CCD camera (with a Kodak KAF-9000 sensor). 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 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 MBO photometry is based on the [NOMAD catalog](#). The TJO photometry is based on the [SDSS DR7 photometry catalogue](#). The unfiltered OND photometry was calibrated against R-band comparison stars from [Perelmuter & Racine \(1995\)](#).

[Discovery image](#)

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R. E. Rutledge, Editor-in-Chief rrutledge@astronomerstelegram.org

Derek Fox, Editor dfox@astronomerstelegram.org

Mansi M. Kasliwal, Co-Editor mansi@astronomerstelegram.org