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Independent Discovery of an Apparent Nova in M81

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on 27 Feb 2017; 12:05 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 3510-s unfiltered CCD frame taken on 2017 Feb. 24.119 UT with the 0.65-m telescope at Ondrejov. The candidate is also detected on 2x120s R filter and 2x600s H α filter images taken with the 2-m Alfred-Jensch-Telescope of the Tautenburg observatory (TLS) in the subsequent night. The clear H α detection indicates that this object is most likely a nova.

The object designated PNV J09563149+6907301 was first announced and designated AT2017blf by F. Castellani et al. ([see here](#)) and is located at R.A. = 9h56m31s.49, Decl. = +69o07'30".1 (equinox 2000.0), which is 312.1" east and 215.0" 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
2017-02-19.962	<21.9		C	OND
2017-02-24.119	20.1	0.2	C	OND
2017-02-24.864	20.2	0.3	H-alpha	TLS
2017-02-24.875	20.5	0.3	R	TLS
2017-02-26.928	20.3	0.2	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 2-m TLS of the Tautenburg observatory, Germany, was operated in Schmidt camera mode using a 2k x 2k CCD with a 0.7 x 0.7 sq. deg field of view. The unfiltered photometry was calibrated against R-band comparison stars from Perelmuter & Racine (1995). The TLS R and H α magnitudes were both calibrated using the [SDSS DR7 photometry catalogue](#).

[Discovery image](#)

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