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NR TRIANGULI AUSTRALIS = NOVA TRIANGULI AUSTRALIS 2008

Nicholas J. Brown, Quinns Rocks, Western Australia, reports his discovery of a possible nova (mag 9.2) on two T-Max 400 films taken on Apr. 1.73 UT with a 135-mm $f/2$ camera lens, giving the variable's position approximately as $\alpha = 16^{\text{h}}18^{\text{m}}47^{\text{s}}$, $\delta = -60^{\circ}27'57''$ (equinox 2000.0; uncertainty estimated as $\sim 10''$); Brown adds that no star is visible at this position on his film from Mar. 16.76 (limiting mag 11.5), and nothing is visible to mag ~ 14 in this position on the Digitized Sky Survey. A catalogued star of mag 13.5–14.0 is visible to the northwest of the variable. Brown's visual observation of the variable on Apr. 2.74 yields mag ≈ 9.0 ; he also estimated visual mag 10.1 on Apr. 4.695. Following posting on the Central Bureau's unconfirmed-objects webpage, A. Amorim, Florianopolis, Brazil, reports the following visual magnitude estimates for the variable: Apr. 3.158, 9.3; 4.097, 9.9. W. Liller, Viña del Mar, Chile, reports that a Technical Pan photo (limiting mag ~ 11.0) taken with an 85-mm camera lens on Mar. 31.33 through an orange filter shows a faint but definite image of the apparent nova at magnitude ≈ 10.5 ; nothing brighter than mag ~ 11 appears on a photo taken by Liller on Mar. 15. E. Guido and G. Sostero write that their remote imaging with a 0.31-m $f/9$ reflector of the Remote Astronomical Society (RAS) located near Moorook, Australia, on Apr. 4.86 yields the following precise position for the presumed nova: $\alpha = 16^{\text{h}}18^{\text{m}}48^{\text{s}}21$, $\delta = -60^{\circ}27'48''.9$ (equinox 2000.0; UCAC-2 catalogue reference stars). C. Jacques, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, also remotely obtained a 10-s unfiltered CCD image on Apr. 4.875 with an RAS 25-cm $f/6$ reflector at the Moorook Observatory, yielding mag 10.2 and position end figures $48^{\text{s}}20$, $49''.1$. Jacques adds that comparison with a European Southern Observatory red image taken on 1984 Apr. 6 shows nothing at this position (estimated limiting magnitude 19.2), the nearest visible star having position end figures $47^{\text{s}}99$, $45''.8$. N. N. Samus, Institute of Astronomy, Russian Academy of Sciences, informs us that this nova is being assigned the variable-star designation NR TrA.

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Visual total-magnitude and coma-diameter estimates: Mar. 6.08 UT, 12.7, $2\frac{1}{2}$ (J. J. Gonzalez, Leon, Spain, 0.20-m reflector); 29.07, 10.3, $8'$ (M. Goiato, Araçatuba, Brazil, 0.22-m refl.); 31.53, 10.2, $3\frac{1}{2}$ (K. Yoshimoto, Yamaguchi, Japan, 0.25-m reflector); Apr. 2.09, 9.5, $6'$ (Gonzalez, 25 \times 100 binoculars); 3.98, 8.9, $10'$ (Gonzalez, Asturias, Spain, 10 \times 50 binoculars).