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V5579 SAGITTARII

R. W. Russell, R. J. Rudy, and D. K. Lynch, The Aerospace Corporation; C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota; and H. Marion, University of Texas and Texas State University, report observations of V5579 Sgr (cf. *IAUC* 8937, 8940) on May 9 UT at the Infrared Telescope Facility (+ SPEX; range 0.8–5.2 μm). D. Griep, IRTF, helped to acquire the data. The nova was at a very early stage of its spectral development, showing lines of O I, N I, and Ca II, and exceptionally strong lines of C I. Lines widths were ≈ 1600 km/s at FWHM. Fe II features were weak, but — despite that fact — this is almost certainly an “Fe II”-type of nova. Lines of neutral helium had not yet formed. The strongest lines in the infrared spectrum are the O I lines that are fluorescently excited by Ly β . These lines indicate a reddening of $E(B-V) = 1.2$, some of which may be local to the nova, which has already formed dust. In fact, the infrared continuum is dominated by thermal emission from dust at a single temperature of 1370 K.

NOVA OPHIUCHI 2008

K. Ayani and N. Murakami, Bisei Astronomical Observatory (BAO), write that low-resolution spectra (range 400–800 nm; resolution 0.5 nm at H α) of the apparent nova announced on *IAUC* 8947, obtained with the BAO 1.01-m telescope on May 26.7 UT, confirms that the object is a nova. They show H α emission (FWHM ~ 600 km/s) with a P-Cyg profile, its absorption minimum being blueshifted by 730 km/s with respect to the emission peak. H β and Fe II (multiplet 42) lines also have P-Cyg profiles, although the absorption component dominates on lines of shorter wavelength.

Further to *IAUC* 8947, S. Nakano reports that co-discoverers K. Nishiyama and F. Kabashima obtained additional unfiltered CCD frames with a 0.40-m reflector on May 26.562 UT, yielding mag 9.8 for the nova and position $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}39^{\text{m}}50^{\text{s}}.94$, $\delta = -23^{\circ}50'01''.0$ (equinox 2000.0). Nakano also forwards an unfiltered CCD observation by K. Kadota (Ageo, Japan, 0.25-m reflector) on May 26.609 that yielded mag 9.9 and a measured position identical to that above.

Visual magnitude estimate of N Oph 2008 by W. Vollmann, Vienna, Austria: May 26.969 UT, 10.4. Photoelectric V magnitudes by L. Elenin, Lubertsy, Russia, contributed by E. Waagen, AAVSO: May 26.457, 10.30; 27.380, 10.14.