

The Astronomer

Section 1. TA Circulars Service.

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MONTHLY

Possible Nova in Hercules

H. Kosai, Tokyo Astronomical Observatory, telexes that Sugano and Honda have observed a possible nova in Hercules at the following position:

RA 18^h 41.^m 3 DEC +15° 15' (1950)

The object was observed on 1987 January 27.84722UT at visual magnitude 8.0 and subsequently on January 28.8UT at magnitude 7.5.

The chart opposite shows the reported place of the object and the following preliminary sequence is available for the labelled comparison stars:

The field is shown on the following charts: AAVSO Atlas No 72, SAO Atlas 63.

LATER: JAN 30.26 UT, 7.6 (MURST)

Comet Terasako (1987d)

Discovery details of this comet appeared in EWC 88a which was issued on January 26 to selected overseas observers in view of the very difficult location of the field.

The following orbital elements are available:

T = 1986 Dec. 25.059ET

$$\text{Peri} = 193^{\circ}95$$

Node = 96.43

$$q = 0.3785 \text{ AU}$$
$$\text{Incl} = 41.01$$

Ephemeris:

Time	RA	Dec	Earth	Sun	Elong	m1	m2
Jan 30	23 ^h 55 ^m 65	-27° 11'.66	1.371	0.961	44.0	8.0	8.0
Feb 4	00 25.64	-24 02.54	1.442	1.056	46.6	8.5	8.5
9	00 51.43	-20 54.82	1.526	1.150	48.4	9.0	9.0
14	01 13.78	-17 55.62	1.619	1.242	49.5	9.4	9.4
19	01 33.35	-15 08.50	1.721	1.332	50.0	9.9	9.9
24	01 50.70	-12 34.77	1.827	1.420	50.0	10.3	10.3

Calculations of the prediscovery ephemeris shows that the comet may have reached mag 4 around Dec 22 when the solar elongation was less than 1° .

Comet Nishikawa-Takamizawa-Tago (1987c)

The following selected observations have been reported:

Jan 26.75UT, 8.2 (15.6cm spec, Bouma, Netherlands); 28.80, 8.4 (15x80B, Hurst, Basingstoke); 29.75, 8.5 (20.3cm S-C, Schmeer, W.Germany); 29.80, 8.2 (Hurst).

Extension to ephemeris on EWC 88:

Feb 21	23 ^h 34 ^m .19	- 0° 34'.79	Earth	1.892	Sun	1.050	Elong	22.0	m1	8.6
23	23 33.17	- 0 50.80		1.923		1.053		19.7		8.6
25	23 32.19	- 1 06.23		1.953		1.056		17.4		8.6

The comet will probably be almost impossible to observe in late February..

The following predisccovery ephemeris is given in the hope that photographers may have images on patrol films:

1986 Dec	5	8 ^h 04.85	+32° 07.45	Earth	0.745	Sun	1.598	Elong	134.7	m1	8.3
	10	7 17.32	+36 11.39		0.615		1.542		148.7		7.8
	15	5 59.82	+39 34.54		0.519		1.487		162.3		7.3
	20	4 15.25	+38 40.68		0.480		1.434		154.6		6.9
	25	2 39.71	+32 08.71		0.509		1.382		132.5		6.9
	30	1 36.12	+24 08.72		0.593		1.332		112.5		7.1

More precise calculations can be provided if dates and times of possible exposures covering the areas are quoted. The magnitudes are uncertain as the comet may have undergone a flare when discovered.

