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The Astronomer

OCCULTATION SAO 162018 a nd
59 ELPIS

Gordon Taylor, R.G.O. has telephoned news that the original predictions for the above event placed the zone of visibility in Spain. However revisions secured a few days ago now suggest the event may well be visible from the British Isles.

The occultation is predicted for 1980 June 15 at 2h 17m UT +2m. The star is located at $18^{\text{h}}54.3^{\text{m}} -10^{\circ}01'$ (1950) and of magnitude 9.0. The predicted

visual magnitude of Elpis at this time is 11.7v although it is stressed that it is not necessary to observe the asteroid but only the star itself which means only modest equipment is needed. The diameter of the asteroid is uncertain by a factor of 3 but the maximum duration may be 0.3 minute and the maximum magnitude drop 2.8 magnitudes. It is suggested that observations begin 30 mins before the predicted time and continue for 30 minutes after, partly to cover uncertainties in the prediction but also to monitor for secondary events caused by any asteroidal satellite. Anyone situated in the British Isles might witness the event except perhaps for those further north who may still have light skies. Please send your reports to Mr. Taylor at the R.G.O. with a copy to the TA Editor, Guy M Hurst, 12, Clare Close, Earls Barton, Northampton, NN6 0PP. In the event that a positive occultation is seen please also telephone the Editor on June 15 between 2-6pm when he will be available on 0604 811030.

EDITORIAL HOLIDAY

The Editor will be absent on holidays from June 16 to June 21 and unavailable on an alternative number. The circulars will not be issued during this interval but the 'CABLE' system will continue under the direction of Peter Birtwhistle with Dave Branchett relaying messages under categories 'A' or 'B'. A follow-up circular will appear the following week if appropriate.

NOVA-LIKE OBJECT IN VULPECULA: Although a chart and extended sequence appears in the June TA (in press) latest results show a rapid decline with mag 11.8 by the end of May. Please label extra comparisons for later reductions if needed and a further chart will appear as soon as possible with extended sequence.

CIRCULARS: This circular carries a 'B' suffix to indicate issue only to UK subscribers ('A'=overseas only) as the event limit and time schedule is not appropriate for overseas subscribers.

GUY.M.HURST.

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