

Observations of a Supernova in NGC 4536 from La Silla

On March 2, 1981, the Soviet astronomer Tsvetkov at the Sternberg Astronomical Institute discovered a supernova in the Sc galaxy NGC 4536. Its photographic magnitude was 12.3 (IAU Circular No. 3580). It was one of the brightest supernovae in recent years; in fact it was so bright as to be easily observable with the International Ultraviolet Explorer, and Dr. N. Panagia, on behalf of the ESA-SRC team for SN observations urged the ESO staff on La Silla to make optical observations of this object. These observations have been organized by T. Danks.

A Schmidt plate of the field was taken on March 10 by Guido Pizarro (Fig. 1). M.-P. Véron was observing on the photoelectric 1 m telescope; she was able to obtain a UBV measurement on March 12 (06.15 UT). The visual magnitude was then $V = 11.93$, which corresponds to an absolute magnitude $M_V = -20.66$ if the galactocentric radial velocity of the galaxy is 1646 km s^{-1} (Sandage and Tammann 1981, a revised Shapley-Ames catalogue of bright galaxies) and $H_0 = 50 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. This seems to be exceptionally bright, even for a type I supernova (IAU Circular No. 3584). Subsequent measurements by T. Danks have shown that 3 weeks later, the brightness of the supernova had decreased by a full magnitude ($V = 12.90$ on April 1, $V = 13.09$ on April 4).

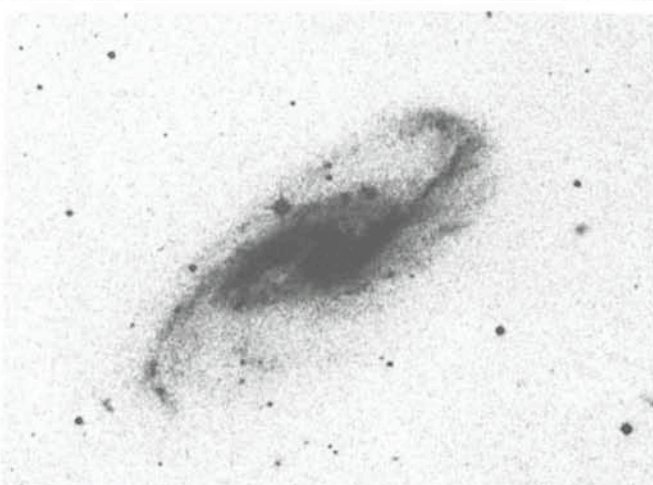
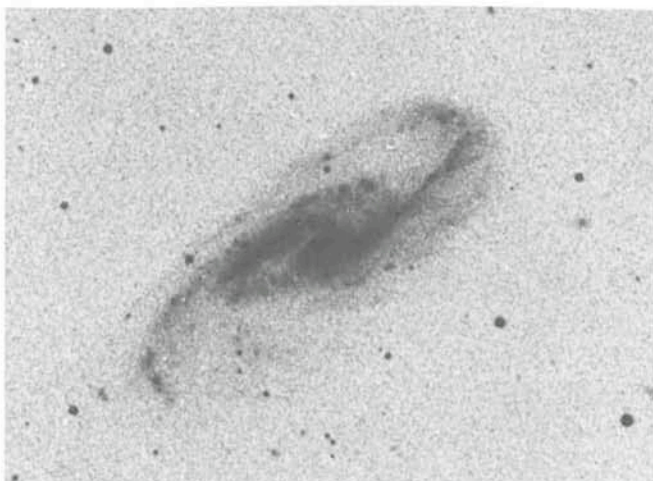


Fig. 1: Upper panel: an enlargement of the blue Palomar Sky Survey print showing the galaxy NGC 4536. Lower panel: the same field from a Schmidt Plate taken on March 10 by Guido Pizarro on an unfiltered Ila-O emulsion. The exposure time was 30 minutes. The supernova is clearly seen NE of the nucleus.

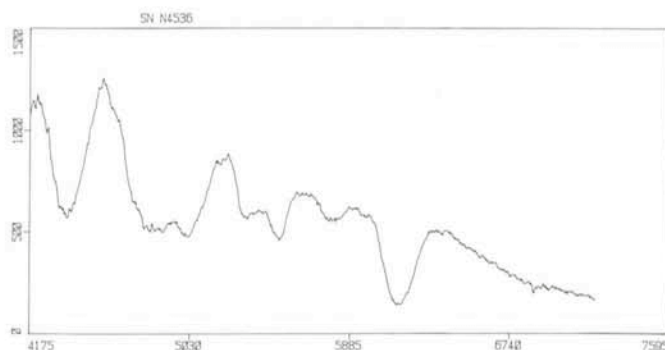


Fig. 2: Spectrum of the supernova obtained on March 13 with the Boller and Chivens spectrograph attached to the ESO 1.5 m telescope. The vertical scale is in units of $10^{-16} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$; the horizontal scale in Angströms.

Spectra have been obtained by M.-P. Véron and P. Véron on four consecutive nights (March 11, 12, 13 and 14) with the Boller and Chivens spectrograph and the IDS attached to the 1.5 m telescope. The dispersion was 171 \AA/mm and the resolution about 10 \AA . One of these spectra is shown in Fig. 2. They show broad emission features at wavelengths 4614, 5202, 5669 and 6346 \AA (IAU Circular No. 3584).

P. Salinari from the Astrophysical Observatory in Arcetri and A. Moorwood have made infrared measurements in the J ($1.25 \mu\text{m}$), H ($1.65 \mu\text{m}$) and K ($2.20 \mu\text{m}$) bands, with the 3.6 m telescope on the nights of March 17 and 22. They have noted a larger decay in the J band ($\Delta J = 0.82 \text{ mag}$) than in the two others in this 5-day interval (IAU Circular No. 3587).

It is hoped that these observations, together with the IUE observations made on March 9, 10 and 11 (IAU Circular No. 3584) and the many others made throughout the world will help understanding better these objects.

P. V.

ALGUNOS RESUMENES

La inauguración de la sede de ESO en Garching

Durante varios años los departamentos europeos de ESO se encontraban ubicados en parte en Ginebra y en parte en Hamburgo. Esta separación de la organización hacía difícil su administración. Hace aproximadamente cinco años el gobierno alemán ofreció la construcción de un edificio para la ESO en el campus de la Sociedad de Max Planck en Garching cerca de Munich. El departamento de administración se trasladó inmediatamente desde Hamburgo a oficinas provisionales en Garching, y una vez terminada la construcción del edificio, hace alrededor de seis meses, el centro europeo de ESO encontró su hogar definitivo.

El día martes 5 de mayo de 1981 se llevó a efecto la inauguración de la nueva sede con la presencia del Presidente de la República Federal de Alemania, Karl Carstens. A la ceremonia asistieron más de 200 invitados, representantes diplomáticos, administradores y científicos de ESO y otros países, inclusive Italia y Suiza; se espera que estos dos últimos países formarán parte de la Organización dentro de algunos meses.