

REMOTELY CONTROLLED OBSERVATIONS OF TRANSIENT LUMINOUS EVENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE FROM SOPRON, HUNGARY IN 2008

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Transient luminous events (TLEs) are brief optical emissions in the 50-100 km height range above active thunderstorms. The first TLE observations from Sopron [16.58E, 46.68N], Hungary were in 2007. Basically the same hardware was used in 2008 as in 2007, i.e. a Watec 902H2 Ultimate camera with Computar 8mm F08 aspheric lens (HG0808FCS-HSP), KIWI OSD GPS time inserter, Conceptronic Home Video Creator USB 2.0 digitizer device (CHVIDEOCR) and the UFO Capture real time event detection software. Direction of active thunderstorms was determined from lightning data provided quasi realtime by the LINET lightning detection network. The main achievement was in 2008 that the camera was now in a fixed position and it was remotely directed towards thunderstorms within the viewing range of 500-600 km. This resulted in easier operation of the system and extension of the season of observation. More than 70 TLEs, sprites and sprite halos have been captured during 4 months of operation between July and October, 2008. On the poster, detailed description of the system upgrade, summary and experiences of the observations and examples of captured TLEs are presented.

sprite, sprite halo, optical observation

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