



# Swift monitoring of the central X-ray source in RCW 103

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The X-ray source 1E 161348-5055 lies at the centre of the 2-kyr-old supernova remnant RCW 103. Owing to its 24-ks modulation, orders-of-magnitude flux variability over a few months/years, and lack of an obvious optical counterpart, 1E 161348-5055 defies assignment to any known class of X-ray sources. Starting from April 2006, Swift observed 1E 161348-5055 with its X-ray telescope for 2 ks approximately once per month. During the five years covered, the source has remained in a quiescent state, with an average observed flux of  $1.7 \times 10^{-12}$  erg/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (1-10 keV), about 20 times lower than the historical maximum attained in its 1999-2000 outburst. The long time-span of the Swift data allows us to obtain an accurate measure of the period of 1E 161348-5055 [ $P = 24030.42(2)$  s] and to derive the first upper limit on its period derivative ( $|dP/dt| < 1.6 \times 10^{-9}$  s/s at 3 sigma).

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