



# Discovery and Follow-up of a Nearby Galaxy from the Arecibo Zone of Avoidance Survey

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The Arecibo L-Band Feed Array Zone of Avoidance (ALFA ZOA) Survey has discovered a nearby galaxy, ALFA ZOA J1952+1428, at a heliocentric velocity of +279 km s<sup>-1</sup>. The galaxy was discovered at low Galactic latitude by 21-cm emission from neutral hydrogen (Hi). We have obtained follow-up observations with the EVLA and the 0.9-m SARA optical telescope. The Hi distribution overlaps an uncataloged, potential optical counterpart. The Hi linear size is 1.4 kpc at our adopted distance of  $D = 7$  Mpc, but the distance estimate is uncertain as Hubble's law is unreliable at low recessional velocities. The optical counterpart has  $m_B = 16.9$  mag and  $B - R = 0.1$  mag. These characteristics, including  $M_{HI} = 107.0 M_{\odot}$  and  $LB = 107.5 L_{\odot}$ , if at 7 Mpc, indicate that this galaxy is a blue compact dwarf, but this remains uncertain until further follow-up observations are complete. Optical follow-up observations are ongoing and near infrared follow-up observations have been scheduled.

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