BRITISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION: VARIABLE STAR SECTION

CIRCULAR No.13

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The programme. Enclosed with this Circular are details of stars which may reasonably be considered to be currently under observation by the Section, and members are now asked to concentrate their attention on the stars on this list.

The programme still needs considerable revision. Many of these stars are now adequately observed by the AAVSO and other overseas groups. Commission 27 of the IAU has repeatedly drawn attention to the unnecessary duplication in the work of different variable star groups, for which there is little excuse, with some 20 000 named variables in the 1969 GCVS, and about 8000 unstudied variables in the two Catalogues of Suspected Variables, a large proportion of which would be suitable subjects for visual investigation.

A sudden discontinuity in our work is obviously undesirable. In revising the programme, 'hasten slowly' tactics will be adopted. Professional advice will be sought before deciding which new stars are to be taken on, and the programme will not be allowed to expand indefinitely.

A recent request for certain stars to be observed by the Section has been received from Dr. Richard Stothers, of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, whose work on semiregular supergiants will be known to members of the Binocular Sky Society. In collaboration with K.C. Leung, he has used published values of the periods of some of these stars to derive their luminosities and masses; in some cases, new values for the periods were derived from AAVSO observations. He now wishes to extend his investigations to other stars whose periods have not yet been properly determined, and has suggested that the VSS undertake their observation. The stars concerned are: UW Aql, TZ Cas, PZ Cas, V358 Cas, SW Cep, RW Cyg, AZ Cyg, BC Cyg, BI Cyg, V441 Cyg, RS Per, BU Per and UY Sct. Moreover, Drs. T.A. Lee (University of Arizona) and A.S. Wawrukiewicz (Western Kentucky University) are jointly engaged on a two-year photometric and spectroscopic programme on about 20 M-supergiant variables, most of which are already observed by British amateurs or mentioned above. This programme needs to be supplemented by a long series of observations covering many years, just to derive periods.

Preliminary charts and sequences for these stars are being drawn up, and experienced observers willing to check them are invited to contact the Acting Director.

<u>Publications</u>. Plans for bringing our publications up to date have been drawn up and approved by Council.

(1) Current observations will be published in duplicated annual Reports listing all estimates reported to the Section. For each observation, the information given will be the Julian Date (with two or more decimals for eruptive variables), the deduced magnitude, and an observer abbreviation. About 100 copies of these Reports will...

will be sent free of charge to observatories, scientific libraries and individual astronomers likely to be interested in the Section's work. Copies will be put on sale to members at a price probably not exceeding 50p. The first of these will detail results for 1970.

- (2) Unpublished observations prior to 1970 will be published in similar Reports dealing with one or more individual stars. Probably two or three of these Reports will be issued each year. After about 10 years, the backlog of unpublished estimates should be cleared.
- (3) Any observations which it proves impracticable to publish in such Reports (e.g. scattered estimates of stars not on the VSS programme) will deposited for reference in the BAA and RAS libraries. A description of this material will be published in the Journal, with an announcement of the availability at cost of photocopies of the lists.
- (4) Analyses of the observations of the semiregular and eruptive variables on our programme will appear in the Journal. With one report in each issue, these analyses will be brought up to date in about five years.
- (5) Observations of long period variables from 1940 to date will also be analysed. If funds can be found, it is hoped to publish this analysis as a Memoir, listing maxima and minima for each star, and giving mean light curves and a statistical discussion of possible period changes. If this does not prove possible, the work will be published in instalments in the Journal.
- A grant has been made to the Section to cover the cost of producing the first of the Reports mentioned in (1) and (2) above, but their future financing must come from sales to members. We will also be dependant on considerable voluntary clerical and typing assistance from members of the Section if these plans are to come to fruition.

<u>Chart errors</u>. All observers are asked to correct the following errors which occur in charts issued by the Section.

R Aql: Star 5 is not labelled on the 3° chart, but is correctly indicated on the 1° chart. The star labelled 20 on the 3° chart is in fact star 18.

S CrB: Star k is not labelled on some copies of the 9° chart, while others label it K. It is 91mm from the left-hand frame line and 4mm from the foot of the chart, i.e. about $1\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ N and slightly f F1 50 Boo. It should not be confused with star h (90mm, 47mm) which is not included in the current sequence. Star 1 (71mm, 70mm), about 48° S of U CrB, is also unlabelled.

SS Cyg: Star 70 is not shown on the 1° chart. It is 94mm from the left-hand frame line, and 63mm from the foot, i.e. about 2' Nf star f.

Flare star patrols. Attention is drawn to the notice in the June issue of the Journal concerning the forthcoming IAU patrols on UV Cet and EV Lac. We hope that all experienced observers will take part: even as little as half an hour's "stare" will be a valuable contribution. Preliminary charts may be obtained from the Acting Director.

 \underline{T} Cassiopeiae. The Acting Director would be grateful if all members who have observed this star so far this year would communicate details of their estimates to him as soon as possible.

Gamma Cassiopeiae. Comparison stars to be used for this novalike variable, with their photoelectric V magnitudes, are:

Alpha Per 1.80 Alpha And 2.07 Gamma Cyg 2.22 Beta Cas 2.26 Alpha Peg Beta Ari Beta UMa Alpha Cep 2.43 Epsilon Cyg 2.46 Delta Cas

Visual estimates by JAS observers indicate that it has been slowly brightening since 1959, while photoelectric observations show a reddening. The spectroscopic appearance in recent years has resembled that observed shortly before this star's shell episode in 1935, when it rose to 1.5m. In view of the likelihood of the ejection of a second shell, and the convenience with which this star can be observed with the naked eye, it is hoped that all observers will keep watch on it. To avoid errors resulting from differential atmospheric absorption, comparison stars at the same altitude as the variable should be used whenever possible.

BD +320 3848. Variation of this star in Cygnus has been recorded by one member, but estimates by other observers are needed, to determine whether it should be placed in the suspect category. The 1950 position is 20h 29m 30s, +320 30'. The star is shown in Atlas Borealis as a K-type star about 6' horth of the irregular variable AD Cygni (10.0-10.5pg, Sp S5), and its magnitude is listed as 9.3 in the BD. Would anyone who is willing to participate, and would like charts and details of comparison stars, please communicate with: E. Waring, 1 Little Stoke Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol 9.

Telescopic meteors. The following notes relate to the completion of telescopic meteor report forms, one of which is enclosed with this Circular. Further supplies may be obtained from the Acting Director.

Give to the nearest whole number. MAGNITUDE:

TYPE: 00 = entered and left field
a0 = began in field and left field
0a = entered field and ended in field
aa = began and ended in field

DIRECTION OF MOTION: PA to the nearest 100, measured anticlockwise from North.

SPEED: Very swift/swift/average/slow/very slow.

FIELD CENTRE: To lm in RA and 1° in Dec, for 1950. The position of the variable star, even if not at the field centre, will be sufficiently accurate, even with binoculars.

If the co-ordinates of the field centre are those of a variable, name the star here so that the position can be checked. NOTES:

Mr. Ginman has requested that observers do not use a separate form for each instrument or eyepiece, but record those most frequently used at the head of the form, and record any variations clearly in the 'Notes' column. Forms should be returned soon after June 30 in each year to the acting Director, who will check them, forward them to the Meteor Section, and report totals in the Circulars. An active variable star observer may only see one telescopic meteor a week on average, but if all VSS members take the trouble to record those they see we should collect several hundred sightings each year.

Acknowledgement. The Acting Director is very grateful to Messrs. Storm Dunlop and J.C. Smith for undertaking the production of the Section Circulars. Members are reminded that they may submit notes on observational problems and unusual activity in stars they are following, or suggest topics for discussion. All contributions should be sent to the Acting Director.

MINIMA OF ECLIPSING BINARIES: 1972 July-September

The following predictions have been produced by a computer program written by Dr. Peter Owen, and run at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. The elements used are those of the 1969 GCVS, except for the following stars which have been adjusted by the stated amounts from recent observations: TV Cas (-.013d), U Cep (+.020), VW Cep (-.064), GK Cep (-.040), TW Dra (-.011), AR Lac (+.015), DM Per (-.017), IZ Per (+.030), HU Tau (+.014), W UMa (-.055).

Timings are badly needed for the following, for which the predictions may be considerably in error: V822 Aql, WW Aur, AR Aur, RS CVn, EI Cep, V477 Cyg, BH Dra, S Equ, RX Her, U Oph, V451 Oph, V566 Oph, EE Peg, SZ Psc, RW Tau, CD Tau, TX UMa, Z Vul.

II distinguishes a secondary minimum.

Date GMAT	Star Dat	e GMAT	Star	Date	GMAT	Star
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Jul	y con	tinued:							-			
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	13	V566 Oph	II	11	VW Cep		14	VW Cep		14	RX Her II	
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	112	S Equ	_ 09	085	VW Cep 11		09	V566 Oph			15 3	TX UMa	==
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	1 2 14	AM Ceb T	1	1/2	OK Ceb		11	VW Cep V822 Aql		22	083	U Oph	
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	15	W UMA IZ Per U Cep		14	w uma		09	RX Her			12	VW Cep	
06	09	U Cep		4-1	TOTAL TO		10	CK Cer			12	GK Cep S Equ	
	10	U Cep VW Cep	13	09	VW Cep		12	VW Cer W UMa			142	S Equ W UMa	
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	132	VW Cep	TT	121 142	VW Cep W UMa	20	00	TIME CO.		26	15 07½	U Cep	
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	1经	El Cep W UMa	14	10	TW Cos		09	IZ Per			08 082 102 102 11	EE Peg	
07	14호 08호	7566 Oph		12	VW Cen		103	Beta Per	c		10 ⁷	GK Cep	
U/	09 2	VW Cep	II	123	AR Aur	II	112	VW Cer	II c		102	Z Vul	
	11	IZ Per		13	HU Tau		11 🚡	u Her	c		11	VW Cep	
	122	DM Per		14	W UMa		14号	W UMa	a		142	IM Aur	
				4-1	TOT COM	TT	15	TOW Con	n		745	VW Cep	11
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Septer DATE 27	mber continued: CMAT STAR 09 CK Cep 09 RX Her	STAR DATE CK Cep 28 RX Her	11½ 13	STAR IM Aur VW Cep	DATE 29 II	GMAT 12 12 12 14 15 16 08 11	STAR AI Dra VW Cep IZ Per W UMa VW Cep VW Cep W UMa		GMAT 12 12 15 15 15 15 16	STAR RZ Cas VW Cep II W UMa
	10½ 13 14 15	VW Cep II CD Tau 29 VW Cep W UMa	15 08 09 2 11	W UMa DM Per VW Cep W UMa						GK Cep II VW Cep BH Dra

STARS IN THE PROGRAMME OF THE B.A.A. V.S.S. IN 1972 (excluding eclipsing binaries)

(excluding eclipsing binaries)											
500		EXTREME	MEAN	TYPE	PERIOD		ED APERTURE				
STAR	HARVARD	RANGE	RANGE	(FileToki)		Gen. Use	Faint Min.				
	DESIGN.	RANGE			409 ^d	8	12				
* R And	001838	6.0-14.9	6.9-14.3	M	409	8	10				
RX And	005840	10.3-13.6		z cam	(14)		4				
R Aql	190108	5.7-12.0	6.1-11.5	M	293	3 8	18				
UU Aql	195109	11.4-15.9		UG	(56)	6	10				
R Ari	021024	7.5-13.7	8.2-13.2	M	187	6	10				
R Aur	050953	6.7-13.7	7.7-13.3	M	458	6	10				
* X Aur	060450	8.0-13.6	8.6-12.7	M	164	6	12				
SS Aur	060547	10.5-14.8		UG	(56)		8				
R Boo	143227	6.7-12.8	7.2-12.3	M	223	4	12				
S Boo	141954	8.0-13.8	8.4-13.3	M	271	5	8				
* U Boo	144918	9.8-13.0		SRb	201	ر	3				
V Beo	142539	7.0-11.3		SRa	258	8	20				
V Cam	054974	8.5-16.0	9.9-15.4	M	522	6	10				
X Cam	043274	7.4-13.7	8.1-12.6	_ M	143	10	12				
Z Cam	081473	10.2-14.5		Z Cam (E)	(22) (15:)	15	20?				
* AF Cam	032458	13.4-(17.0		ŪĠ		4	8				
R Cas	235350	5.5-13.0	7.0-12.6	M	431 611	12	18				
S Cas	011272	7.9-15.2	9.7-14.8	М	445	3	5				
T Cas	001755	7.3-12.4	7.9-11.9	M	405	4	5 6				
W Cas	004858	8.2-12.4	8.8-11.8	M		15	20				
* HT Cas	010359	13.5-17		UG	(107)		-				
* Gamma Cas	005060	1.6- 3.0		NI	_	-	_				
Rho Cas	234956	4.1- 6.2		RCB?	487	3	6				
S Cep	213678	7.4-12.9	8.3-11.2	M	388	_	3 3 12				
T Cep	210868	5.4-11.0	6.0-10.3	M	332	-	3				
* Cmicron Cet	021403	2.0-10.1	3.4- 9.3	M)) ²	_	12				
R CrB	154428	5.8-14.8		RCB	360	5	8				
* S CrB	151731	6.5-14.0	7.3-12.9	M	(29 000)	_	3				
* T CrB	155526	2.0-10.8	7 -	Nr	238	- 6	12				
* W CrB	161138	7.8-14.3	8.5-13.5	M M	426	6	12				
R Cyg	193449	6.5-14.2	7.5-13.9	M M	323	8	20				
* S Cyg	200357	9.3-16.0	10.3-16.0	M	465	4	8				
U Cyg		6.7-11.4	7.2-10.7	SRb	131	-	2				
W Cyg	213244	5.0- 7.6		UG	(52)	3	4				
SS Cyg	213843	8.2-12.1	F 0 47 /	M	407	3 4	12				
Chi Cyg		3.3-14.2	5.2-13.4	M	277	4	5				
S Del		8.3-12.3	8.8-12.0	NЪ	-	<u> -</u>	4?				
HR Del		3.5-12?	7.6-12.4	M	246	3	10				
R Dra		6.9-13.0 12.0-15.5	1.0-12.4	Z Cam	(13)	12	18				
AB Dra		6.0-14.0	7.1-13.5	M	370	5 4	12				
R Ger		8.8-14.2	1	UG (E)	(102)	4	12				
U Gen		6.8-13.6	8.0-12.8	M	165	5	10				
T Her		6.5-13.4	7.5-12.5		405	5	8 10				
U Her		8.5-13.2	9.2-12.4		107						
* SS Her		3 -11	4.5- 9.5	M	388	_	3 3				
* R Hys	40 4044	4.4-11.3	5.8-10.0	M	313	_	18				
R Lee			12 646	UG	(23)	8 6	12				
R Ly			7.9-13.8		379	6	10				
W Ly			7.9-12.2		196	12	20				
AY Ly				ŪG	(24)		2				
* U Mo				RVb	92	-					
* RS Op				Nr	77.0		5 6				
v no op ro U		10 (6.3-12.0	M _ M	372	4 8	12				
* CN Or	0.00			Z Cem	(19)	12	18				
cz or				UG	(27)		10				
R Pe			7.8-13.	2 M	378	5 8	10				
RU Pe	_			UG	(66)	J	.0				
1.0 1.0											

	R	Per	032335	8.1-14.8	8.7-14.0	M	210	6	12	
		Per	021558	7.9-11.1		SRo	810	4	5	
	100	Per	020657	12.3-15.6		Z Cam	(17)	12	18	
				11.9-17.3		UG	(360)	12	40	
		Per	020356			RVa	140	_	2	
		Sct	1842 <u>05</u>	5.0-8.4	(0 17 4	M	357	6	12	
*		Ser	154615	5.7-14.4	6.9-13.4		771	Ž	10	
*	T	Tau	041619	9.6-13.5		InT	=_	4	10	
	RV	Tau	044025	9.8-13.3		R₩ъ	79	ь		
	SU	Tau	054319	9.5-16.0		RCB	_	4	20	
		Tri	023033	5.5-12.6	6.2-11.7	M	266	3	6	
		UMa	103769	6.7-13.4	7.5-13.0	M	302	5	12	
	S		123961	7.4-12.3	7.8-11.7	M	226	4	6	
	T		123160	6.6-13.4	7.7-12.9	M	257	6	12	
	_				1.01-12-7	UG	(17)	10	12	
	SU		080362	11.0-14.5		UG	(459)	8	18	
	SW		082953	10.6-15.8	2 1 12 2			6	10	
	S	UMi	153378	8.0-12.9	8.4~12.0	M	326 770	-	10	
*	S	Vir	1327 <u>06</u>	6.3-13.2	7.0-12.7	M	378	5	10	

The above data are mostly taken from the 1969 GCVS. An asterisk preceding the star name indicates that the star was seriously under-observed in 1971. The Harvard Designation comprises the hours and minutes of RA, and degrees of Dec (underlined if negative), for epoch 1900. Thus R and is at approximately 0 18 , +38 . The periods given are mean values; where the period is subject to very considerable variation, a typical value is given in brackets.

The recommended apertures (in inches) are not to be interpreted too rigidly. Smaller instruments can do useful work on the brighter stages, and may suffice to detect the star at minimum, especially in the hands of an experienced observer. Purists may multiply by 2.54, to obtain cm.