

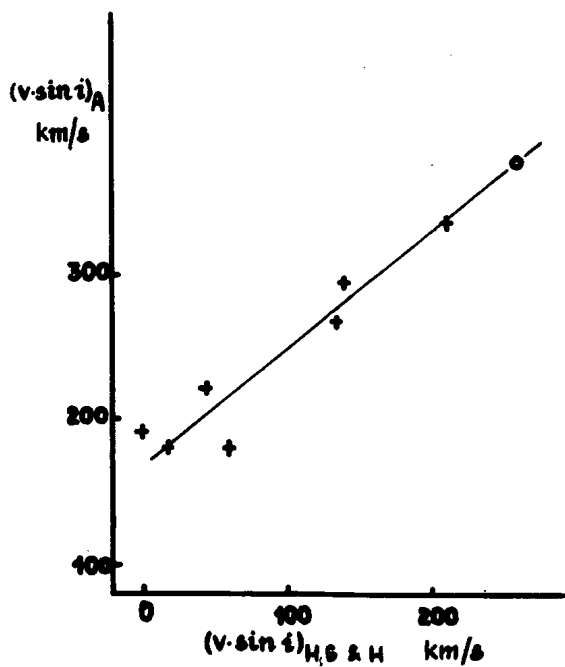
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ROTATIONAL VELOCITY OF RS (23) SEXTANTIS

This star was tentatively identified as a Beta Cephei variable (1) or "related to the Beta Canis Majoris stars" (2) because of the observed light and radial velocity changes. I have determined the projected velocity of rotation of RS Sex by using the two-prism spectrograph of



the 48" reflector of the Astrophysical Observatory at Asiago, Italy. The line-widths of neutral helium at Lambda 4471 and Lambda 4026 at half central depth have been measured on direct intensity tracings of 5 spectra (dispersion at H Gamma 42 A/mm) for RS Sex, and on 45 spectra (dispersion at H Gamma 42 and 13 A/mm) of 7 standard B2-3 stars (Iota Her, Eta Lyr, Theta Oph, Gamma Ori, 42 Cam, Eta Hya, Eta UMa). The reduced rotational velocities of the comparison stars have been plotted against known $v \cdot \sin i$ values given by Huang (3), Slettebak and Howard (4) (Fig.1). Using a linear correlation we obtained $v \cdot \sin i = 260$ km/s for RS Sex, which is an exceptionally high rotational velocity if the star is considered a Beta Cephei variable. Recently, however, Hill (5) observed Beta Cephei-type light variations in several broad-lined B stars in associations and galactic clusters; RS Sex probably belongs to this new kind of variables.

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