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OBSERVATIONS OF THE CARBON STAR V493 MONOCEROTIS

The object V493 Mon (Maffei 1966) has recently been identified as an extremely red $(B-V) > 6.0$ carbon star (Kalinowski, Burkhead and Honeycutt 1974). The possibility exists that V493 Mon, located approximately 2.5 minutes of arc from the center of the old open cluster Trumpler 5 Kalinowski 1975, is a highly evolved, low mass cluster member ($M < 1.4 M_{\odot}$). Observations which would aid in determining the star's variability class may help settle the question of cluster membership.

A program to monitor V493 Mon's variability photoelectrically in V, R and I will begin this fall at Indiana University. Supplementary observations by other interested observers would be appreciated. The star's coordinates are $\alpha = 6^{\text{h}}35^{\text{m}}10^{\text{s}}.2$, $\delta = +9^{\circ}26'56''$ (1975.0). Previous photoelectric measures, in March, 1974, yielded $V = 13.6$, $V-R = 3.8$, and $V-I = 5.6$. Sparse (and preliminary) photographic data reveal a variation in V between 13.5 and 14.8.

Interested participants are requested to contact me, relating the specifics of their observations, at the address given below. I can supply a limited number of finding charts to observers planning programs. The field around V493 Mon is very crowded (contamination on small scale plates prevented Maffei from discerning the star's highly unusual nature) and investigators are cautioned that the previously published declination (Epoch 1900.0) for the star is in error by approximately 2 minutes of arc.

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References:

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