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THE ORBITAL PERIOD OF RR PICTORIS

The first photoelectric observations of the exnova RR Pic have been obtained by van Houten (1966, BAN 18, 439) revealing a "Cepheid-like" variation with a period near 3.5 hours. Mumford (1971, ApJ 165, 369) confirmed van Houten's period but he was not able to improve it due to the unknown cycle difference between the two epochs. New photoelectric observations with the 1m telescope of the European Southern Observatory (La Silla, Chile) in Dec. 1972 (UBV) and in Jan. 1974 (high speed mode, white light) confirm the variations reported above and render possible the determination of a unique cycle relation between all available observations. The resulting elements for the light maximum of RR Pic are

$$\text{HJD (Max)} = 2438815.379 + 0.1450255 \cdot E$$

± 3 ± 2 (m.e.)

with a mean O-C of $0^{\text{d}}.006$ for a single observation of a maximum. There is no indication for systematic deviation among the observing epochs or for a changing period. The mean amplitude of the lightcurve was $0^{\text{m}}.23$ but the periodic variation was always superimposed on erratic variations up to $0^{\text{m}}.1$ on a time scale of a few minutes. - A more detailed discussion of the observations of RR Pic will be published elsewhere.

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