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PI PISCIS AUSTRINI

This star was announced as a Cepheid variable of amplitude 0.3 mag and period 7.975 by Strohmeier et al. (1965). However, Petit (1972a,b) pointed out that the star's spectral type is FO IV-V, making it extremely doubtful that it could be a Cepheid. Janot-Pacheco (1974a,b) made seven photoelectric observations of π PsA that showed no variations in excess of the photometric errors. Bopp et al. (1970) found the star to be a single-lined spectroscopic binary of period 178.3.

During October and November 1975, the writer made 6 photoelectric observations of π PsA with 61- and 91-cm telescopes at Cerro Tololo Interamerican Observatory. The y filter of the Strömgren four-color system was used, and the nearby star HR 8760 AB was chosen as comparison star. The heliocentric times of observation and magnitude differences (variable minus comparison) are given below:

710.561 -1.321 712.634 -1.320 728.581 -1.325 729.591 -1.324 731.648 -1.335

If the star is variable at all, the evidence of Janot-Pacheco and the present work indicates that the amplitude is less than 0.02 mag. The earlier observations of Strohmeier et al. must be erroneous or refer to another star. It seems

improbable that they could represent an eclipse of the primary star.

The writer thanks G. Wallerstein for suggesting these observations.

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References:

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