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PHOTOELECTRIC EPOCH OF MINIMUM LIGHT, V566 OPHIUCHI

V566 Ophiuchi (BD+5°3547, HD 163611) is a contact binary system which undergoes complete eclipses. Secondary eclipse is total. Bookmyer (P.A.S.P. 88, 473, 1976) noted that the period had increased after being constant for at least 11 years and that there were small variations in the shape of the light curve.

The present observations were made on the night of 11-12 June 1978 with the 0.5 m Cassegrain telescope at Palomar Observatory. The photometer housed standard B,V filters and a 1P21 photomultiplier refrigerated with dry ice. A digital counter was used for the intensity measurements, and the time of each observation was obtained from a strip chart tracing. A WWV receiver was utilized to calibrate the chart. BD+4°3553 was used as a comparison star, and no corrections were made for differential extinction.

The measurements yielded 46 observations with the B filter and 70 with the V filter, with each observation being the average of two consecutive ten-second integrations. The primary eclipse curve is well defined by the observations. An epoch of minimum light, JD Hel. Min. I = 2443671.8964, was determined by the method of bisecting chords connecting points of equal magnitude on the opposing branches to find the temporal mean. A residual of  $+0.^d0390$  was calculated from the ephemeris given by Bookmyer (A.J. 74, 1197, 1969), JD Hel. Min. I = 2436744.4200 +  $0.^d40964091 E$ . This represents an increase in the O-C values since the studies by Bookmyer (1976) and Dawson and Narayanaswamy (P.A.S.P. 89, 47, 1977).

It is important that the period behavior of V566 Oph be followed and that additional light curves be observed and compared with earlier observations.

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