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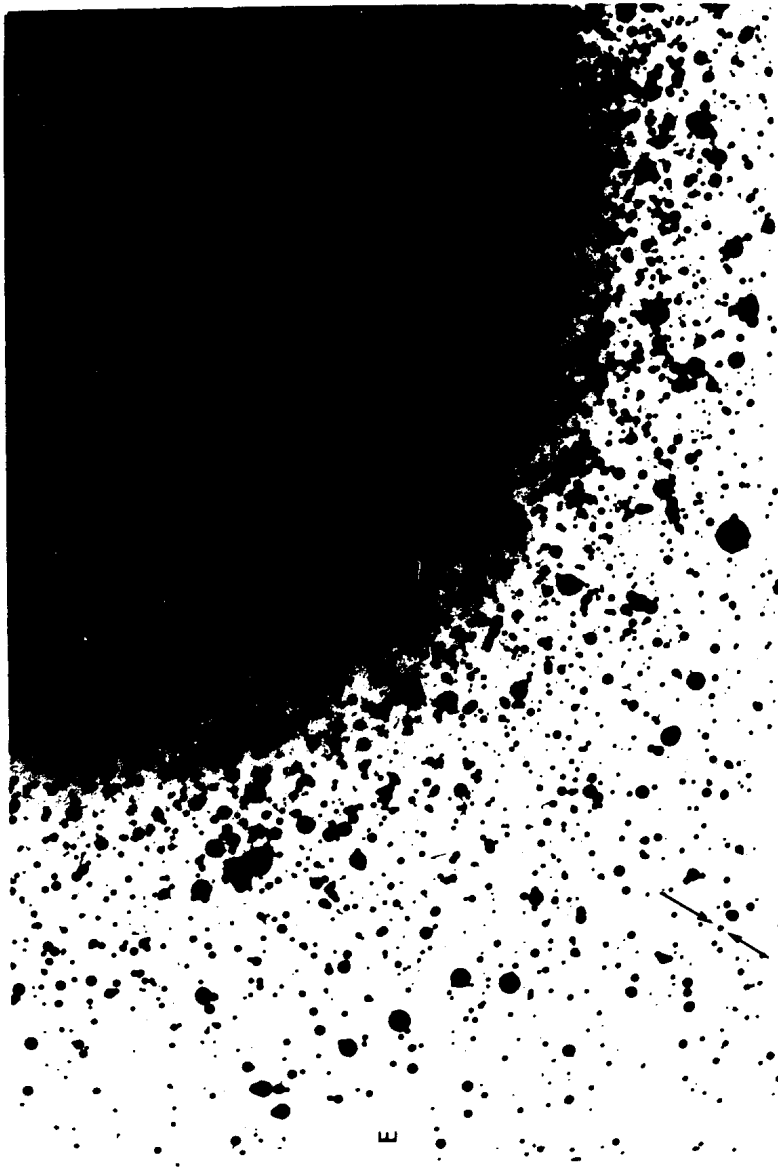
Konkoly Observatory  
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FAINT VARIABLE IN THE FIELD OF NGC 6397

There has been renewed interest recently in the incidence of close binary systems in globular clusters (see, for example, Niss et al. 1978; Liller, 1978, Alexander and Budding, 1979). Motivated by this interest, 10 plates of the relatively near ( $\approx 2$  kpc) globular cluster NGC 6397 were taken last year with the 74" reflector at Sutherland. A few plates were also received from other sources. Numerous examples of suspicious objects were subsequently found, but no very convincing cases of variability of the sought type have been discovered so far. A fuller presentation of this work will be given elsewhere.

The main purpose of the present note is to call attention to one of the more prominent variables which was recently picked up in the cluster halo. Its position is indicated on the accompanying chart. Details of its magnitude variation on the 10 Sutherland plates are given below. Cannon's (1974) sequence was used in calibrating the iris photometer readings and, to the accuracy of the determination ( $\approx 0^m,05$ ), it is regarded that the arrangement of filters and emulsions used corresponds to standard B and V.

With the apparent tendency to faintness it seems unlikely that the variable could be a close binary system; in any case, its magnitude would probably make it too bright to be a binary of the sought type. However, it may be interesting to trace the variable on other plates and determine any periodicity. In connection with this work we would like to remark that any long exposure plates or film copies of such plates of NGC 6397 which could be sent to the authors would be gratefully received.



J. D. 244+	Magnitude	J. D. 244+	Magnitude
3603.542	16.47 B	3608.664	15.83 B
3603.635	16.10 V	3609.550	16.50 B
3607.519	16.38 B	3609.588	16.35 B
3608.571	15.64 B	3609.641	16.52 B
3608.616	16.12 B	3609.667	16.47 B

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Cannon, R. D.: 1974, *Mon. Not. R. Ast. Soc.*, 167, 557  
Liller, M. H.: 1978, *I.B.V.S.* No. 1527  
Niss, B., Jorgensen, H. E., Lausten, S.: 1978, *Astron. Astrophys. Suppl.*