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ONE LESS CARBON STAR

The irregular variable BX Aurigae is noted as belonging to the carbon class in the General Catalogue of Variable Stars, and, as such, is included in Stephenson's General Catalogue of Cool Stars (1973). Reference to a blue objective-prism plate in the observatory files, however, indicates that this object, while rather red and badly overlapped by another spectrum, is not a carbon star. To the writer's knowledge the first mention of BX Aurigae as a carbon star is in the 7th Supplement to the 1st edition of the GCVS (1955), and no later spectral type seems to have been determined. It seems not unlikely that a clerical error confusing this object with the well-known nearby carbon star RV Aurigae was responsible for the erroneous type.

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Reference:

Stephenson, C.B.: 1973, Publ. Warner and Swasey Obs. 1, No.4