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TWO NEW VARIABLE STARS IN THE BRIGHT STAR CATALOGUE

HR 3655 (HD 79193, 21 Hya)

In the course of determining Strömberg indices for bright southern O-GO stars, Grønbech and Olsen (1976) found differing values for 21 Hya on two nights. Since this star ($V = 6^m3$) was reported to be a double-lined spectroscopic binary with a period of 7.75 days by Chauville (1975), a search for eclipses was undertaken in late 1976 with the Danish 50 cm telescope at ESO, La Silla, Chile.

Observations on 16 nights gave parts of three eclipses, indicating a period of 7.750 days. The primary minimum is 0^m47 deep in y with a duration of not more than 8 hours. Secondary minimum lasts at least 5 hours, is at least 0^m24 deep in y and is displaced to phase 0.54, indicating an eccentric orbit.

Cowley (1968) classifies 21 Hya as A3m, and the metallicity is confirmed by the large m_1 -index $m_1 = 0.238$. The secondary spectrum is very faint, but must be later, since $b-y$ in primary minimum is 0.025 redder than outside eclipse.

Based on the observations reported here, 21 Hya has recently been named KM Hya. A full lightcurve is presently being obtained.

HR 119 (HD 2724)

This star ($V = 6^m2$) was chosen as one of the comparison stars for the eclipsing binary AG Phe. Later reductions have shown HR 119 to be variable, with the observations spreading over 0^m04 in y .

A period-analysis of 346 observations gives a possible period of 0^d.174. There are indications that the amplitude is variable, but no reliable over-tones were found. HR 119 is most likely a Delta Scuti star.

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