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ARCHER 5 IDENTIFIED AS RZ Com

The announcement of the discovery of 24 variable stars in the region of the Coma star cluster was made by Archer (1959). Apparently none of these variables have been confirmed, hence they have not received variable star designations. However, some of the eclipsing binaries on Archer's list were included in The Fifth Edition of the Finding List for Observers of Interacting Binary Stars (Wood, et al., 1980).

While preparing finder charts to pursue observations of these variables, the present author noted several similarities between Archer's star number 5 and the known eclipsing binary RZ Com (BD +24^o2475). The argument that the two are one in the same is based upon the following considerations:

1. Archer noted that Prager (1929) had previously discovered Archer 5, but Prager's discovery eventually was designated RZ Com.
2. The 1950 coordinates of RZ Com agree precisely with those given by Archer for Archer 5.
3. The period of Archer 5 (d_{339}) agrees well with that of RZ Com ($d_{33850604}$).
4. Similar amplitudes are given for both stars.

Perhaps the confusion is partly due to the magnitude given for Archer 5 (9.6). Some of the 24 stars studied by Archer can be identified as BD and SAO stars. Comparison of Archer's magnitudes to catalog magnitudes show that Archer's estimates are about one magnitude too bright. This correction would cause Archer 5 and RZ Com to have about the same magnitude. It is hoped that the editors of future editions of the Finders' List will take these arguments into consideration and delete Archer 5 (number 1490 in the list).

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