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AM Cas - A DWARF NOVA
WITH A VERY SHORT CYCLE-LENGTH

This object was discovered by Hoffmeister in 1928. Richter (1961, Veröff. Sternw. Sonneberg 4, 431) was the first who thought this object to be related to CN Ori, which is a well-known dwarf nova. On account of this supposal several slit spectrograms (image converter tube with UAGS) were gained in November 1983 during a full brightness cycle length at the 2 meter telescope of Karl Schwarzschild Observatory Tautenburg. They fully confirm that AM Cas is a dwarf nova belonging to the subclass Z Camelopardalis, with a very short cycle - length of only 9 days.

The minimum brightness is characterized by hydrogen emission lines (H_{α} line width about 3 nm), superposed onto a blue continuum. The weak excitation is remarkable in the spectra: apart from the hydrogen lines only traces of He I emissions can be established.

During the brightness eruption a nearly featureless blue continuum can be seen, where very weak H_{α} emissions are always present, but H_{β} is practically missing, eventually with a possible broad absorption.

A more comprehensive description of the spectral behaviour during a light cycle will be given elsewhere.

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