

COMMISSION 27 OF THE I. A. U.
INFORMATION BULLETIN ON VARIABLE STARS

Number 3063

Konkoly Observatory
Budapest
11 August 1987
HU ISSN 0374-0676

McNAUGHT'S VARIABLE AT $7^{\text{h}}23^{\text{m}}-03^{\circ}$ IS A MIRA STAR

In The Astronomer 23, no. 276 R. McNaught reported on a very red variable discovered by him at the position $7^{\text{h}}23^{\text{m}}12.60-3^{\circ}00' 21.5''$ (1950). In order to put an end to the discussion on the nature of this object I checked the photographic plates of the Sonneberg Sky Patrol of the years 1963 to 1987 mainly taken by H. Huth, and a sample of earlier exposures.

The variable is a Mira star. 22 maxima have been found on that material and led to the following elements:

$$\text{Max.} = 243\ 2918 + 377.5^{\text{d}} \cdot E .$$

On the patrol plates the object merges with a neighbouring $11^{\text{m}}.5$ uncoloured star, which is easily separated on the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey and on our longer focus exposures. Visual observers should however not confuse both stars (separation $0'.3$, the variable is the southern star and also pay attention to the bright cool carbon star BD $-2^{\circ}2101$ which precedes by 0.5 min. slightly south). The large amplitude, deduced from McNaught's data, is confirmed by our findings:

$$m_{\text{pg}} \approx 11.5 \dots > 21, m_{\text{pv}} \approx 8.8 \dots 18.$$

W. WENZEL

Sternwarte Sonneberg
Zentralinstitut für Astrophysik
der Akademie der Wissenschaften
der DDR