THE DISTANCE TO THE S DOR TYPE STAR HR CARINAE

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ABSTRACT. The distance of HR Carinae is determined with the reddening distance method, resulting into $r \sim 5$ kpc.

The distance of HR Car is usually taken to be ~ 2.5 kpc (Viotti, 1971). With this distance and a reddening $E(B-V)_J \sim 1$ (van Genderen et al. 1990) the absolute magnitude turned out to be much too low compared with other S Dor type stars. Applying Wolf's (1989) amplitude luminosity relation, the probable distance turned out to be r ~ 6 kpc (van Genderen et al., 1990).

Therefore a check by the reddening distance method with the aid of photometry of neighbouring stars was necessary. About 60 stars within an area with a radius of 10' around HR Car (limiting magnitude ~ 14.5) were measured with the VBLUW photometer mounted on the 90-cm Dutch telescope at the ESO, Chile. It appears that HR Car fits satisfactorily in the $E(B-V)_J/r$ diagram with r ~ 5 kpc, which agrees with the new value mentioned above.

Adopting $M_{bol} = -9.5$ (for r = 6 kpc) and $T_{eff} \sim 14000$ K (van Genderen et al. 1990) the position of HR Car in the theoretical HR diagram is now consistent with other S Dor type stars.

References

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