

PRELIMINARY DECLARATION

GEOS is a European group of variable star observers which has performed more than 550 000 visual estimates from 1974 to 1977. The initials stand for "Groupe : Etude et Observation Stellaire" and "Gruppo Europeo di Osservazione Stellare" .

One of the essential characteristics of GEOS is the very wide range in types of the variable stars it studies by visual photometry. As a matter of fact, experience has shown us that photometry through visual estimates conducted with the Argelander method can be applied efficiently in nearly all fields (even for the observation of low amplitude stars), provided that the observing sessions are programmed, the number of estimates is as large as possible and the estimates are processed statistically on a computer.

During the last five years, the results obtained on all types of variable stars have been issued in the "Notes Circulaires" (in abbreviate : "GEOS NC") in the form of miscellaneous notes together with informative material for GEOS members.

The most important results will as from now appear separately in several different sets of new circulars : the "GEOS CIRCULARS", while the "Notes Circulaires" will retain their roll of a liaison bulletin between the GEOS observers and will keep on giving partial results or results which are not sufficiently confirmed.

This particular set of GEOS CIRCULARS, referred to as GEOS EB, is devoted to Eclipsing Binaries. Its purpose is to publish :

- timings of minima
- first or revised ephemerides
- first or revised orbital elements
- mean light curves
- monographs

GEOS EB will be issued on a non-periodical basis according to need but at least twice a year.

The GEOS observers cooperate with the BBSAG and publish their own timings in the BBSAG BULLETINS, when the stars concerned are EA or EB stars with an amplitude larger than 0.5 mag, in conformity with the provisions of article 3 of the BBSAG Statutes. On the other hand, the GEOS observers will publish in the GEOS CIRCULARS timings for EA and EB stars with an amplitude smaller than 0.5 mag and for all EW variables.

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