

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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"Can a 'Bad' Sequence Star Be a Variable?"

All stars in the AAVSO Visual Observing Program are listed in the AAVSO Validation File*. Some AAVSO variable star charts show stars indicated as "Var" or "Var?". These suspect stars need to be observed regularly and observations reported to Headquarters. Some of these suspect stars have already been assigned AAVSO designations in the Validation File, and those designations should be used when reporting observations. For those suspect stars not already in the Validation File, the conventions followed there should be used to assign designation and name when reporting observations. Some comparison stars may not match the sequence magnitude assigned, and these, too, should be monitored on a regular basis.

For the observer's convenience, the AAVSO Validation File designations and names of these objects may be noted separately or directly on the edge of the appropriate chart(s). Before adding permanent notations for objects not in the Validation File, however, check first with Headquarters to make sure your designations and names match the ones they are using. I overlay a 5-line typewriter correction tape along one edge of the chart and record the data thereon. This notation on the chart also serves as a reminder to give the star regular attention.

Should you observe variability in these objects, send a copy of your data to Headquarters. If the "Var" or "Var?" star is not variable, the chart committee should learn of this fact and use your data in updating the chart.

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*Ask Headquarters for your copy of the Validation File (please include \$1.00 for copying/postage). Use it to update the AAVSO designation numbers and names of charts on hand so your monthly reports will be in complete agreement with the Validation File. This will greatly expedite data compilation at Headquarters.