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## The speckle camera PISCO on the 1-meter Zeiss telescope of INAF-OAB

Marco Scardia, Jean-Louis Prieur, Laurent Koechlin, Eric Aristidi, Patricia Lampens, Anton Strigachev, Edouard Oblak, Maria Kurpinska-Winiarska, Mauro Ghigo, F. Mazzoleni, et al.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SPECKLE CAMERA PISCO IS NOW OPERATIONAL ON THE 1-METER  
ZEISS TELESCOPE OF I.N.A.F. - OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO DI BRERA  
AT MERATE, ITALY

PISCO is a speckle camera which belongs to Midi-Pyrnes Observatory (Toulouse, France) and was used from 1993 to 1998 with the 2-meter Bernard Lyot telescope of the Pic du Midi Observatory (France). Due to a change of policy of the time-allocation committee, it was no longer used after 1998 for regular observations of visual binaries. A group of European astronomers involved in the study of binary stars (from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, and Poland) were very disappointed by such a situation and decided to look for a new host telescope on which PISCO could be mounted and operated at regular times throughout the year. In 2000 they investigated the possibility of using PISCO with the 2-meter telescope of the National Astronomical Observatory of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences at Rozhen (Bulgaria). This project failed because of technical problems. In the summer of 2003, M. Scardia proposed to install this instrument on the 1-meter Zeiss telescope in Merate. In November 2003, PISCO and the intensified CCD camera of Nice University (France) were successfully installed at the Cassegrain focus of the Zeiss telescope under the supervision of J.L. Prieur and L. Koechlin, with the help of the OAB technical staff, during a memorable week of pouring rain! After a few weeks of tests performed by M. Scardia, PISCO became fully operational in January 2004. The subsequent observations have already confirmed the possibility of observing visual binaries with separations down to  $0''14$  and with luminosity differences up to 4 magnitudes between the components.

Scardia M., Prieur J.-L., Koechlin L., Aristidi E., Lampens P., Strigachev A., Oblak E., Kurpinska-Winiarska M., Ghigo M., Mazzoleni F., and Sala M..

## NOTES

- Errata in Information Circular No. 152
  - In the entry for WDS 22344+2623 (COU 540), the value of  $\omega$  should be 162.5, not 13.5.
- Others papers on double stars published in 2003
  - ALZNER, A.: *Micrometric measures of double stars from 1998.02 to 2002.92*. The Webb Soc. Double Star Section Cir. **11**, 10 (2003).
  - DOMMANGET, J.: *The Mass/Eccentricity Limit in Double Star Astronomy*. Journal of Astrophysics & Astronomy **24**, 99 (2003)
  - TOBAL, T. & PLANAS, J.: *OAG General Catalogue of 10.000 Measurements of Visual Double Stars (1970-2003 / J2000,0)*. Garraf Astronomical Observatory (Barcelona-Spain). December 2003

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The deadline for contributions to Information Circular No. 154 is:

October 15th 2004

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