Report of the Bundesdeutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Veränderliche Sterne (BAV)

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Abstract Activities of the variable star observer group Bundesdeutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Veränderliche Sterne (BAV) are described.

1. Introduction

The Bundesdeutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Veränderliche Sterne (BAV) was founded in 1992 when the variable star observers in Germany unified their former East and West German organizations. The roots of the earlier organizations go back to 1950, and the AAVSO served as a model for them. Observations were and are being sent to AAVSO Headquarters. In recent years, the number of observations from Germany were second only to observations from the United States.

Besides long period and irregular variables, eclipsing binaries and RR Lyrae stars were part of our program from the very beginning, leading to new findings on variability types and/or periods. New variables were also discovered. Dieter Lichtenknecker's efforts to find neglected eclipsing variables resulted in the most comprehensive database of minimum times for these stars worldwide. To honor his work, the BAV database today bears his name. Results of our work are published in the *BAV Rundbrief* and *BAV Mitteilungen*. About 60% of the *Mitteilungen* are published in the *Information Bulletin on Variable Stars* (IBVS).

In the 1980s we saw an interlude of photoelectric photometry with photomultipliers. Now more and more observers equip their telescopes with CCD cameras, leading to more accurate observations of short-period variables. Also the number of timings increases because the telescopes can work in a quasi-automatic mode.

2. Addendum, 2006

The programs described ten years ago are being continued by BAV observers. Since 1997, 12,332 timings of minima and maxima of various types of variables have been published. Among them are 5,136 observations of eclipsing binaries and RR Lyrae variables obtained with CCDs. They were published in eleven issues of the IBVS. In addition, many variables were discovered and announced in the IBVS. Over 150 new variables were discovered by Klaus Bernhard from Linz, Austria, alone.