

CARMENES. III. CARMENCITA, the input catalogue

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Abstract

CARMENES, the new near-infrared/optical high-resolution spectrograph for the 3.5 m Calar Alto Telescope, is expected to see its first light in early 2014. Before that, we must have chosen carefully the 300 M dwarfs to which CARMENES will look for terrestrial exoplanets with the radial-velocity method under guaranteed time. CARMENCITA, the CARMENES Cool dwarf Information and daTa Archive, our “input catalogue”, will be the most comprehensive database of M dwarfs ever built. It already contains dozens of parameters measured by us or compiled from the literature for over 1300 bright M dwarfs in the solar neighbourhood: coordinates, spectral indices, photometry at different bandpasses, parallaxes and spectro-photometric distances, rotational and radial velocities, H α equivalent widths, X-ray count rates and hardness ratios, close and wide multiplicity data, proper motions, Galactocentric space velocities, full references, and much more parameters. The private on-line catalogue, including preparatory science (i.e., high-resolution imaging, low- and high-resolution spectroscopy), will be eventually public as a CARMENES legacy.