

Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope
Comparative magnitudes of certain stars

1843

☉ March 5th at 12^h

α Cent II γ Argus II β Cent I α Gemin II β Gemin I γ Gemin
 α Leonis II α Hydra I γ Leonis II β Leonis II δ Leonis III θ Leonis

2nd March 9th at 10^h

α Cent II γ Argus II β Cent I α Gemin III β Gemin I γ Gemin

☉ March 12th at 10^h

γ Argus α Centauri III β Centauri I α Gemin II β Gemin γ Gemin
Moonlight, some clouds

☉ March 13th at 11^h

α Centauri γ Argus I α Centauri III β Centauri I α Gemin III β Gemin
Moonlight, clear sky

4th March 16th

α Centauri III γ Argus I α Centauri II β Centauri I α Gemin II β Gemin γ Gemin
Gemin has great advantage in being so much further from the Moon than the other stars.
Bright moonlight, clear sky

☉ March 18th

α Centauri III γ Argus II α Centauri III β Centauri I α Gemin II β Gemin γ Gemin
Clear sky, bright moonlight: if the stars of comparison Gemin is further from the Moon, γ & Centauri closer: so that the stars are not with much.

☉ March 25th

α Centauri II γ Argus I α Centauri III β Centauri I α Gemin II β Gemin γ Gemin
 α Leonis II α Hydra I γ Leonis II β Leonis II δ Leonis III θ Leonis

4th March 30th

γ Argus I α Centauri III β Centauri I α Gemin II β Gemin γ Gemin

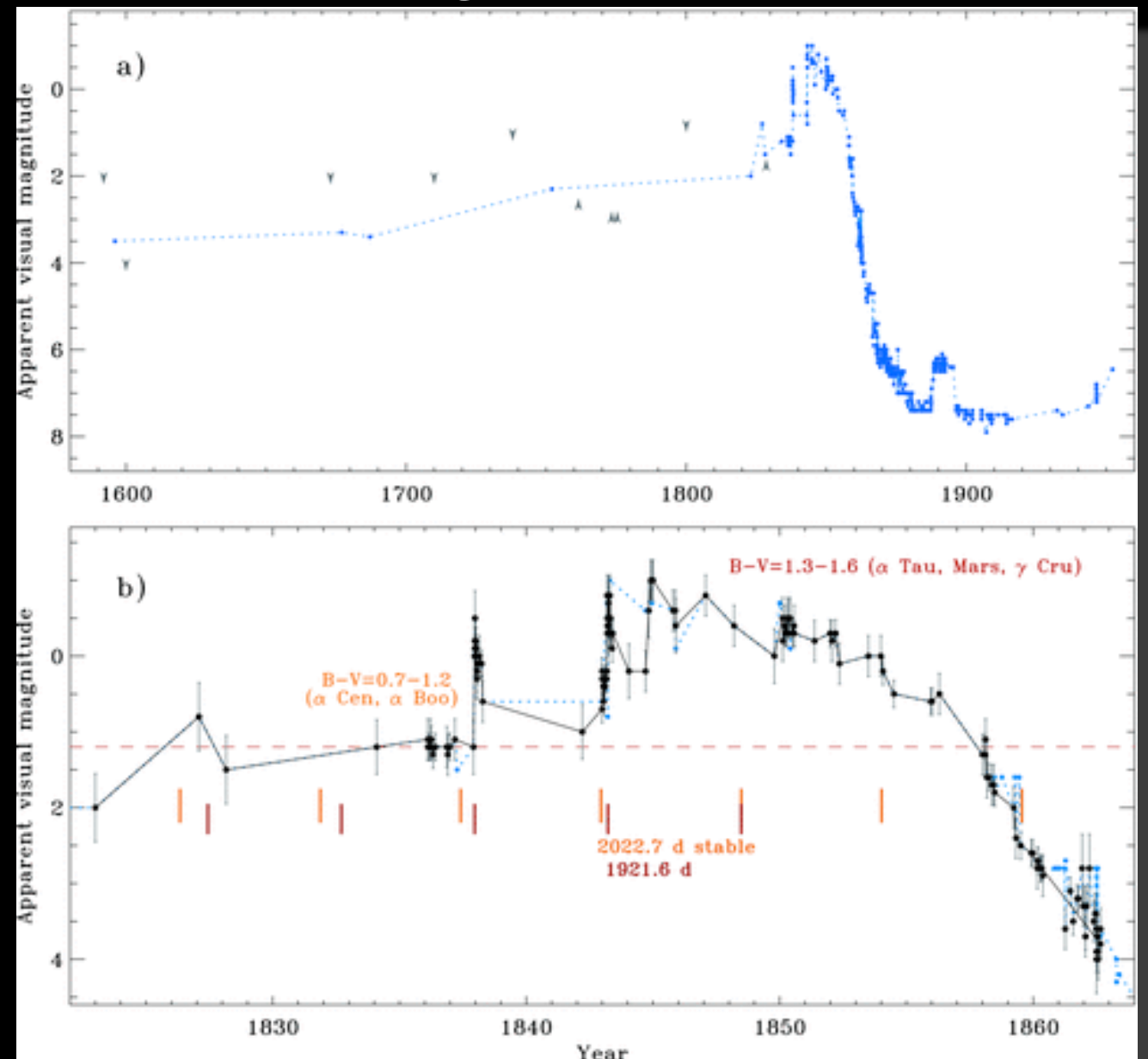
α Leonis II α Hydra II β Leonis I δ Leonis II θ Leonis

5th April 5th

γ Argus II α Centauri III β Centauri I α Gemin I β Gemin II γ Gemin

α Leonis II γ Leonis II α Hydra I β Leonis I δ Leonis II θ Leonis

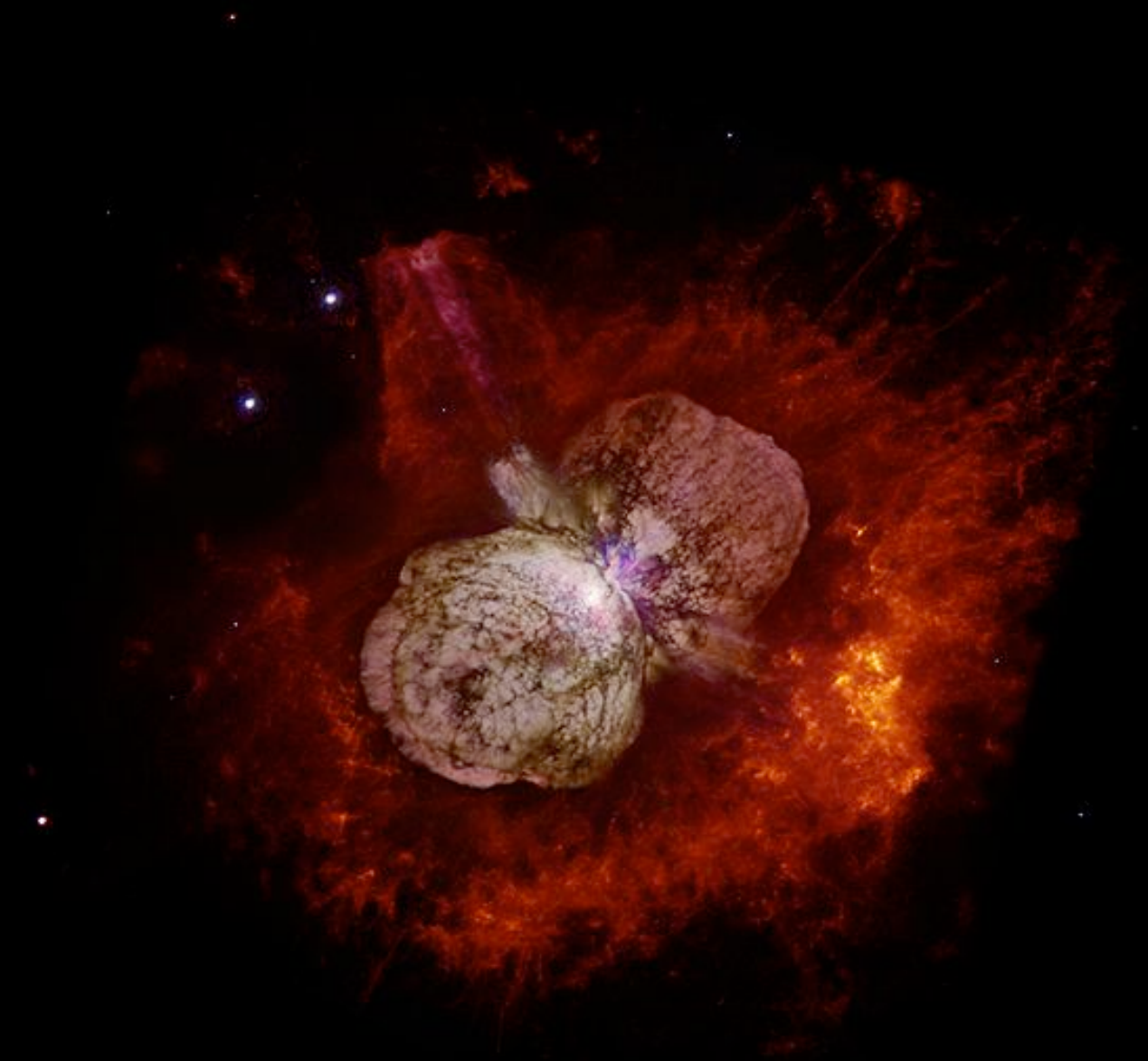
historical lightcurve of η -Car



Frew 2004, Smith & Frew 2011

light echoes of η -Carinae

fossil record:
the Homunculus nebula



N. Smith, NASA, HST

light echoes of η -Carinae