

Results of the IMO Video Meteor Network – June 2012

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2012/08/15

In June we managed once more to improve our observing results from the previous year significantly. The month, which still ranks last in our database due to the short northern hemisphere nights, presented mediocre weather in its first half. Starting from mid-June, however, almost all observers obtained long series of clear observing nights. In twelve June nights, more than 50 out of the 67 camera systems were active. On June 17, even 63 cameras were in operation. 37 cameras managed to obtain twenty or more observing nights in June. Grigoris Maravelias did not even miss a single night with his camera LOOMECON in Greece. In total, we accumulated over 5,500 observing hours and recorded more than 14,000 meteors, which is a plus of almost 50% compared to June 2011. So we recorded already more than 100,000 meteors in the first half of 2012, and the meteor season is only about to begin!

June is poor of strong but rich in minor meteor showers. Most famous are probably the June Bootids (170 JBO), which presented a number of unexpected outbursts (most recently in 1998 and 2004). In normal years, however, this shower is almost non-existent. Those 120 June Bootids that we recorded in the activity interval of 2012, yield a flux density of less than a tenth of a meteor per 1,000 km² and hour, which corresponds to a ZHR of well below one (figure 1). Thus, the shower was practically invisible in this year.

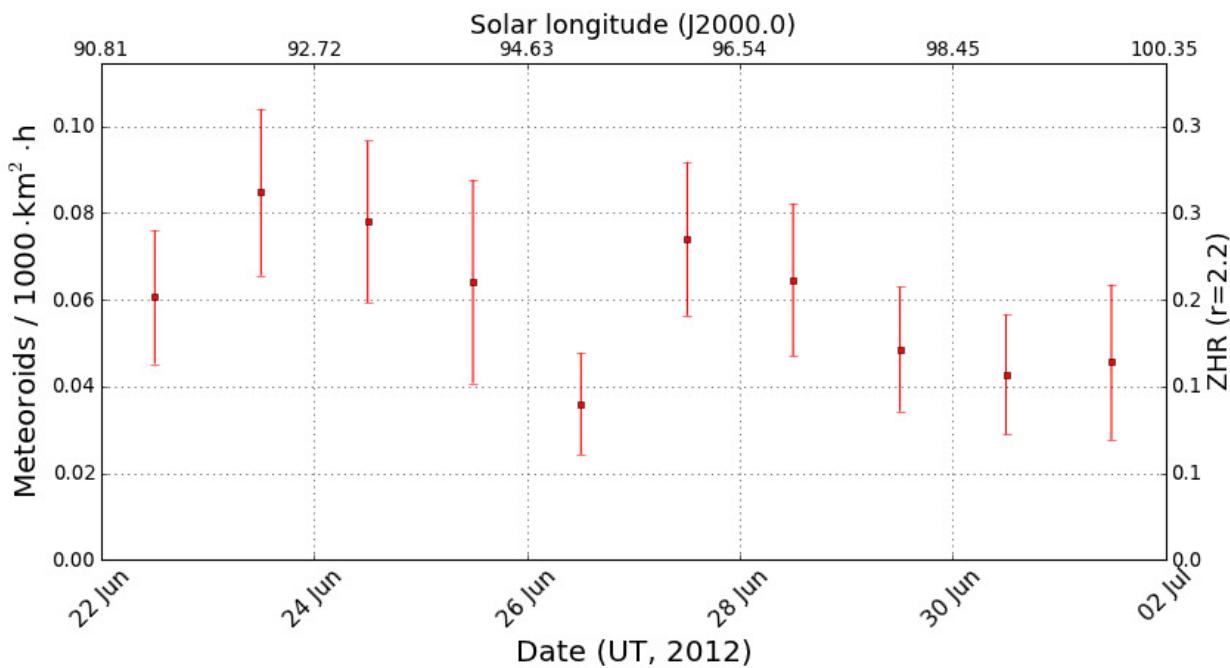


Figure 1: Flux density profile of the June Bootids in 2012.

More interesting is the case of the Daytime Arietids (171 ARI), one of the best-known daytime meteor showers, active in the first June decade. You err if you believe, that a daytime shower is only relevant for radar observers. This shower can also be detected in our video meteor database! In the recent analysis, the shower was found between June 5 and 10 with a rank of 27. Usually a shower with only 70 meteors would be regarded as a chance alignment of radiants. In this case, however, the low meteor count meets our expectations, as the Daytime Arietids can only be observed for about an hour at dawn. The radiant position shows only little scatter and the average position matches well to the MDC values. Only the velocity obtained by us is clearly larger than the reference value (table 1).

However, our values agree perfectly with results of the CAMS network, presented recently by Peter Jenniskens and colleagues in WGN. Between June 10 and 15, 2011, the three CAMS stations in California recorded four Daytime Arietids. The mean position and velocity of three meteors is given in table 1, too. The radiant drift was obtained from video data of Fujiwara, SonotaCo and Jenniskens. These values fit much better to our data than the MDC values – in particular the discrepancy in meteor shower velocity disappears. Jenniskens discussed different reasons, why the

MDC data (which are based on radar observations) have a lower velocity than observations in the optical domain, without getting to a conclusive explanation, though.

Table 1: Parameters of the Daytime Arietids from the MDC Working List, the paper of Jenniskens, and the analysis of the IMO Network 2012.

Source	Solar Longitude		Right Ascension		Deklination		Vinf	
	Mean [°]	Interval [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [km/s]	Drift [km/s]
MDC	77	-	40.2	+0.7	+23.8	+0.6	37.4	-
CAMS 2012	81	-	46.5	+0.87	+23.7	+0.07	43.8	-
IMO 2012	77	74-79	44.0	+1.0	+23.5	+0.1	43	-

In the following we want to briefly discuss further showers that were obtained by our recent analysis based on more than a million video meteors.

The phi Piscids (372 PPS) are detected between June 6 and July 31. From June 11 to July 25 the scatter in radiant position is small enough to assume a safe detection of this shower. Table 2 compares the parameters, which were obtained from more than 4,000 shower meteors, with the reference values from the MDC list. The fast shower reaches highest activity in early July, and between mid-June and mid-July the phi Piscids represent almost uninterruptedly the strongest source in the sky. Only in the second half of July, the shower is outnumbered by the Capricornids, Aquariids and Perseids.

Table 2: Parameters of the phi Piscids from the MDC Working List and the analysis of the IMO Network 2012.

Source	Solar Longitude		Right Ascension		Deklination		Vinf	
	Mean [°]	Interval [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [km/s]	Drift [km/s]
MDC	106	-	20.1	-	+24.1	-	63.9	-
IMO 2012	101	80-122	15.1	+0.8	+25.1	+0.5	68.5	0.0

Between June 10 and 15, the northern June Aquilids (164 NZC) can be found. With a rank of 14 this shower is close to the limits, but the small scatter in position and velocity are a clear sign for its existence. The basic parameters are given in table 3. They match only moderately to the MDC values – in particular the velocity does not fit well.

Table 3: Parameters of the northern June Aquilids from the MDC Working List and the analysis of the IMO Network 2012.

Source	Solar Longitude		Right Ascension		Deklination		Vinf	
	Mean [°]	Interval [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [km/s]	Drift [km/s]
MDC	86	-	298.3	-	-7.1	-	38.0	-
IMO 2012	81.5	79-84	292.0	+1.0	-11.7	-0.4	43	-

Another long-lasting shower starts on June 18 and ends on July 24. It resembles to the sigma Capricornids (179 SCA), but in particular the declination and velocity of our analysis (based on 2,400 meteors) deviate significantly from the MDC values (table 4). Between end of June and mid-July, the shower belongs to the most active sources in the sky. We found a small but consistent decrease of velocity in the activity interval. Highest activity is observed in the first decade of July.

Table 4: Parameters of the sigma Capricornids from the MDC Working List and the analysis of the IMO Network 2012.

Source	Solar Longitude		Right Ascension		Deklination		Vinf	
	Mean [°]	Interval [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [km/s]	Drift [km/s]
MDC	110	-	311.1	-	-14.5	-	29.1	-
IMO 2012	105	88-121	313.2	+0.83	-4.5	+0.23	41.6	-0.12

In the last decade of June, the fast shower of the delta Piscids (410 DPI) is active. With a rank of 7 the delta Piscids do not belong to the strongest sources, but the small scatter in the meteor shower parameters (based on 220 meteors) and the perfect match with the MDC values (table 5) make this shower a safe detection.

Table 5: Parameters of the delta Piscids from the MDC Working List and the analysis of the IMO Network 2012.

Source	Solar Longitude		Right Ascension		Deklination		Vinf	
	Mean [°]	Interval [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [km/s]	Drift [km/s]
MDC	92	-	10.9	-	5.5	-	70.9	-
IMO 2012	92	89-95	11.1	+0.4	5.1	+0.4	69.8	-

The c-Andromedids (411 CAN) are active for almost a month. Their activity interval starts on June 27 and ends on July 21. Our shower parameters are based on more than 1,800 shower meteors. They agree well to the MDC values (table 6). Also for this shower we found a small but consistent decrease in velocity. Highest activity is reached in the first decade of July.

Table 6: Parameters of the c-Andromedids from the MDC Working List and the analysis of the IMO Network 2012.

Source	Solar Longitude		Right Ascension		Deklination		Vinf	
	Mean [°]	Interval [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [km/s]	Drift [km/s]
MDC	110	-	32.4	-	48.4	-	60.1	-
IMO 2012	106	95-118	28.1	+1.13	46.3	+0.38	60.1	-0.11

The following four weak showers were detected as well:

- Between May 29 and June 3, the northern omega Scorpiids (66 NSC) are active. At the turn of the month, they are the strongest source in the sky.
- In early June, the June mu Cassiopeiids (362 JMC) can be detected. The shower has a rank of 17 and a large scatter in its parameters, but the good agreement to the MDC values supports the existence of this shower.
- The northern mu Sagittariids (67 NSA) are also active in the first half of June. Even though they have a rank of two and belong to the strongest sources between June 2 and 6, their parameters show strong variations from one night to the next. They are probably more like a diffuse radiation area.
- In the middle of June, the southern sigma Sagittariids (168 SSS) can be found, which are the strongest source at the Summer solstium.

Finally we would like to point to a possibly new shower, that is found at the turn of June/July with a rank of 7. Table 7 lists the basic parameters, based on 350 shower meteors. Please give us feedback if you can confirm this shower by other observations, before we will report it to MDC.

Table 7: Parameters of a possibly new meteor shower from the analysis of the IMO Network 2012.

Source	Solar Longitude		Right Ascension		Deklination		Vinf	
	Mean [°]	Interval [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [°]	Drift [°]	Mean [km/s]	Drift [km/s]
IMO 2012	100	96-104	252.5	-	53.6	-	23	-

