

Results of the IMO Video Meteor Network – March 2017

Sirko Molau, Abenstalstr. 13b, 84072 Seysdorf

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In the last few years, the observers enjoyed favorable observing conditions in March, and 2017 was no exception. 47 out of 75 cameras that joined the IMO network in this month, collected twenty or more observing nights. Even our Slovenian observers, which are often hampered by poor weather, experienced perfect observing conditions and collected up to 31 observing nights. The overall effective observing time was slightly above 10,000 hours and thereby above the average of the previous years. The mean of 1.8 meteors per hour is one of the smallest values we ever recorded – only in March 2014 and 2015 it was still below with an average of 1.7 meteors per hour.

In the absence of relevant meteor showers, we had a quick look at the flux density of the Anthelion source and sporadic meteors. Figure 1 compares the activity of both sources in the course of the month, whereby ANT (green, right axis) were one order of magnitude weaker than SPO (red, left axis). Note that the Anthelion source is about twice as active in the middle of March compared to begin and end (whereby we omitted an outlier on March 19/20 caused by insufficient data), whereas sporadic activity is almost constant. After all, the Anthelion source is in reality a collection of smaller “streamlets” which are difficult to separate from one another. So, the increased activity at mid-March could be related to such a “streamlet”.

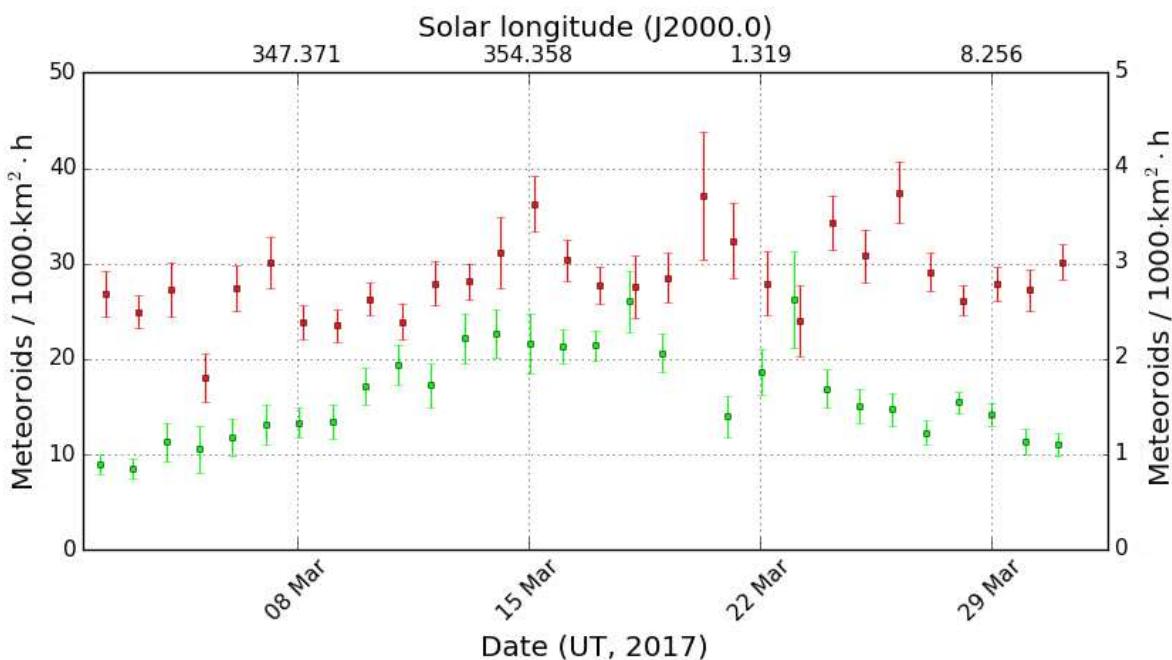


Figure 1: Flux density profile of the Anthelion source (green, right axis) and sporadic meteors (red, left axis) in March 2017, derived from video data of the IMO Network.

It was not possible to obtain reliable r-values from the March 2017 data alone, because there were too few Anthelion meteors. However, we may average the population index over the last six years which has the additional advantage, that lunar phase dependent fluctuations are smeared out.

Figure 2 shows for sporadic meteors (red) an almost constant population index of about 2.7 with only minor scatter. Due to the smaller number of meteors, the scatter and error bars are bigger in case of the Anthelion source, but otherwise there are no systematic variations. The average is only 0.1 smaller than in case of sporadic meteors, i.e. the brightness distributions deviate only marginally from one another.

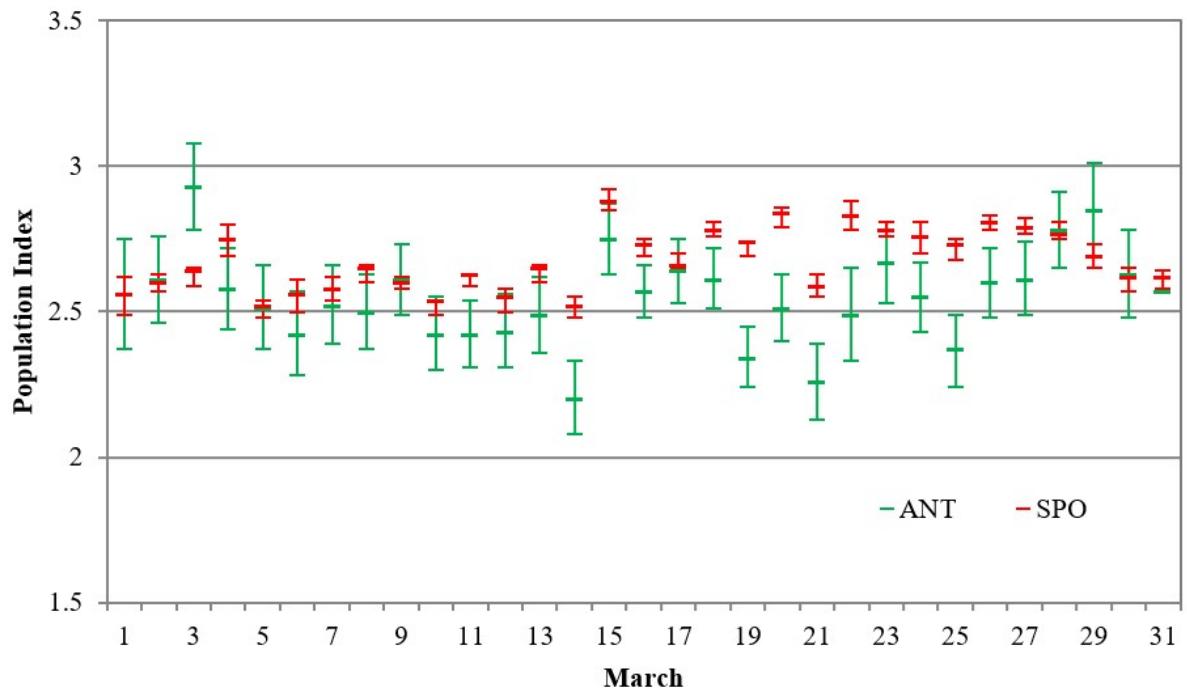


Figure 2: Average population index of the Anthelion source (green) and sporadic meteors (red) in March 2012-2017, derived from video data of the IMO Network.

