# ABSORPTION MEASUREMENTS WITH RIOMETER

Data Summary Nº 5 for the period July through September 1964

by M. A. SETTE

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REPORT Nº LAFE-22 October, 1964

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Comissão Nacional de Atividades Espaciais São José dos Campos São Paulo — Brasil C.N.Pq.

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### RIOMETER MEASUREMENTS

### DATA SUMMARY Nº 5

### I - INTRODUCTION

This summary is a catalogue of reduced riometer data, for the period of observations from July through September 1964 at São José dos Campos.

This summary will also show (fig. 1) a "quiet-day" curve for Sao Jose dos Campos station which was obtained from the available data since the riometer was set in operation at this site, on March 15 1963.

The dotted part of the "quiet-day" curve indicates that section of the curve which will need future corrections for errors that became apparent while reduction of the riometer data was performed in terms of daily absorption.

For each month, the value of absorption is tabulated for the first minute of each hour to the nearest 0.1 db, and the total number of readings for the month as well as the median and quartiles value are indicated in the same table. See for instance Tables II through VII. Note that fig. 2 also shows the monthly medians mentioned above

A listing of the registered solar flares and related absorption effects during the period under consideration is presented in the Table I.

### II - DESCRIPTION OF THE EQUIPMENT

RIOMETER: The riometer (Relative Ionospheric Opacity Meter) is a device for measuring ionospheric absorption using the cosmic noise method.

A high gain and stable receiver is switched automatically between one antenna and a noise diode at a given switching frequency -(340 cps).

The antenna which in our station is an east-west four elements Yagi, points vertically and receives the cosmic noise. If there is a difference between the antenna power and the noise diode power, a square wave at the switching frequency appears at the detector of the receiver. The detector output is a DC voltage which has an am plitude that is proportional to the difference between the antenna and the diode signal. The voltage is used to adjust the current of a servo diode in order to reduce the above mentioned difference to zero. The diode noise power is proportional to the current which in turn is di rectly proportional to the antenna noise power. The diode current is recorded in a common pen recorder.

The riometer is calibrated daily by connecting a test noise diode in place of the antenna and passing different value of current rea dings of the riometer. The frequency used of 30 Mc/s is low enough to be sensitive to the non-deviative absorption effects of the lower ionosphere and yet it is sufficiently high so that a signal is detectable even under heavy ionospheric disturbances.

# **III - MEASUREMENTS TECHNIQUE**

In the cosmic noise method already mentioned, the absorption is measured by comparing the signal actually received with the signal that would be received in the same system at the same sidereal time under conditions of zero absorption.

In order to measure the absorption it is necessary to establish the local "quiet-day" curve. This curve is obtained from the riometer recording in the hours before the sunrise, when absorption is low. The values of current observed are transferred to the corre sponding sidereal time. The highest reliable readings are considered points of the "quiet-day" curve, which is assumed, as pointed before, to represent values of zero absorption condition.

Using the "quiet-day" curve, one can obtain the absorption in db at any given time by the relation:

$$A (db) = 10 \log_{10} Ir/Iq$$

where:

Ir = power noise actually received at a given time

Iq = power noise from the "quiet-day" curve for the corre sponding sidereal time.

# IV - TYPE OF SCALING AND DATA REDUCTION

In reducing the riometer data, scaling TYPE I (URSI - AGI Committee 1958) has been used.

The absorption during the first minute of each hour of every day throughout a given period of observation is recorded and then aver aged. The results give a picture of the daily and seasonal variation of absorption.

The data reduction was performed in the following manner:

The "quiet-day" curve, assumed to represent zero absorption, was plotted as well as curves of constant ratio  $(I_0/I)$ , in order to obtain a set of parametric curves for given values of absorption in db.

The actual values of current for each hour are translated to the correct sidereal time and the value of absorption in db is obtained from the parametric curves mentioned above.

The following qualifying symbols have been used for values obtained indirectly from the record:

C = failure of equipment

- S = interference
- U = value uncertain

I = value interpolated

### V - ABSORPTION EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH SOLAR FLARES

The Sun's ionizing radiation during solar flares is normally enhanced and reaches the lower level of the ionosphere encreasing the absorption through the D-region producing the attenuation of the cosmic noise reaching the antenna. Sometimes prior to the observation of attenutation and depending on the relative position of the Sun and antenna beam, one observes an increase in the flux of energy reaching the antenna as a result of the Sun's HF radio emissions, during solar bursts of intensity greater than 1.

Some flares occuring during the local sunlight hours could be clearly related to absorption effect showed in the riometer records.

The information on solar flares, published on the Solar Geo - physical Data - Part B - of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory was used to analyse the absorption effects on the riometer records. There is a good correlation between the increase in absorption and solar flares accompained by ionospheric effects S - SWF (sudden drop-out and slow recovery).

For the period of observation, July through September 1964, the solar activity was quite low and there were no observed flares which produced absorption effects.

	1		TABL		
Date			Burst		
1964	Туре	In- ten- sity	Time	Interval	Frequence range Mc / s
July, 7	III	1 +	1420:30	1421:30	15 - 41
August, 2	III	1+	1 <b>7</b> 26:15	1727:30	7 - 41
22	III	1	1557:30	1558:15	20 - 41
	III	2	1603	1604:45	7 - 41
. •				4 	¢
					1

- 3 -

# VI - MAGNETIC BREMSSTRAHLUNG FROM RELATIVISTIC ELECTRONS

We expected to make measurements on the excess signal component from the Synchroton radiation of high energy particles trapped in the earth's magnetic field after July 9, 1962 detonation over Johns ton Island. This was not possible however, due to the fact that our riometer was set in operation on March 16, 1963, that is eight months after the detonation. Since the decay of the bremsstrahlung radiation has a time constant of about sixty days, the excess radiation component was already reduced by that time to about 20% of its original value.

This excess signal already reduced in its strenght was not easily noticeable over the background signal.

In fact the values of the "quiet-day" curve for this station, taken from the riometer records during the hours of low absorption are affected by this excess signal component.

It is hoped that using next years ZERO absorption levels, one might be able to go back in time and establish the above mentioned contribution.

### VII - "QUIET-DAY" CURVE

The "quiet-day" curve for this station has been obtained from all the available data from the operation of the riometer during a period of relatively low absorption. However in this procedure it seems that some errors have been introduced in the "quiet-day" curve.

A portion of the curve which shows low value of current comes as consequence of including values obtained from hours when the absorption was low but could not be disregarded or considered equal to ZERO.

The whole "quiet-day" curve is being revised continuously using data corresponding to local time between 0300 AM and 0600 AM , when the absorption is low,

So far, however the results presented on monthly absorption showing negative values of absorption, should be considered as qual itative rather than quantitative information of absorption.

This riometer has been in operation regularly since March 16, 1963. Some equipment failures occurred for short periods during the months of July and December 1963 and also May 1964. After each time the equipment failed it was recalibrated and reset, but the output did not repeat exactly the former characteristics.

The available data used in deducing the "quiet-day" curve came from the receiver operating with different set of parameters. The variation on the level of the absorption from one month to the other could be related to the change in the receiver gain.

Some more data from regular operation of the riometer will be necessary to introduce a correction factor for the level of the "quietday" curve in order to make all the readings comparable.

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### VIII - CONCLUSION

Except for very strong interference produced by thunder storms, typical of the summer period in this latitude, this station is placed in a very quiet location.

The riometer records are quite free from man made interferences.

Due two reasons mentioned before, there are some errors in the "quiet-day" curve; this report presents the data as a provisional average of monthly absorption.

More results with consistent operation of the riometer are needed and will provide data for a detailed study of the seasonal varia tion of non-deviate absorption.

This station will continue its operation and will provide data on ionospheric absorption in a cooperative program for the Interna tional Quiet Sun Year (1964 - 1965).

Data will be sent to the World Data Center, as established in the Guide to International Data Exchange, CIG - IQSY Committee.

### Acknowledgement :

The riometer in operation at this site was provided to us by the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories (Mr. S. Horowitz) through the Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, California(Dr.Rolf B. Dyce). Copies of our recordings are sent regularly to SRI. We do appreciate this opportunity for participating in their program of Global Riometer Measurements.

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MEAN VALUE OF ABSORPTION DURING THE FIRST MINUTE OF EACH HOUR

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Freq 30 Mc/s Bandwidth 30 Kc/s Diode Load Resist 750 ohm Audio Threshold 3 Int Time 4 sec ACG Time 4 sec	18	0,60	0202		0.30	0.20	040	0.60	050	0.40	0.40	0.40	040	V.40	040	090			
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	16	0.60	0.40	0.605	040	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0-20	0.60	0.60	010	0.60	0.60	0.60			
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Lat	14	090	0.60		040	0.40	0.40	0.70	0.50	090	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.50			
Lat	13	0.60	0.60	0.40	0.60	0.40	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.90	0.50			
	12	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40		050		0.40	_		
	11	0:30	0.40	0.30	2.40	0.20	010	0.10	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.50	0.20	220	010			
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н ж	01	0.10	5 0.50	0	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.20	02.30	0.00	0.10	0.10			
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TABLE II

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18		0.50	0.20	0.20	010	020	020	0.20	0.40	0.30	0.20	010	010	0.30	030	010	0.20	31	030	0.20	0.20
81		940	0.30	0.40	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.60	0.60	010	0.40	040	040	0.40	030	0.20	030	51	040	0.40	0.30
17		0.60	0.50	040	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.70	0.40	0.40	0.40	040	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.40	31	0.60	020	040
97		0.60	0.60	0.70	090	040	050	0.60	000	090	050	0.50	050	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.50	31	0.60	0.60	050
15		0.40	0.50	0.70	050	0.40	050	0.50	0.00	0.60	0.60	0.60	040	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	31	D.60	0.50	040
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Month: July Year: 1964

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TABLE III

P. R. - CNPq Comissão Nacional de Atividades Espaciais São José dos Campos - SP - Brasil

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MEAN VALUE OF ABSORPTION DURING THE FIRST MINUTE OF EACH HOUR

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	23	0.20	0.20	010	010	v	0.10	0.20	010	0.10	010	0.20	020	010	0.20	010					
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Freq 30 Mc/s Bandwidth 30 Kc/s Diode Load Resistor - 750 ohm Audio Threshold 3 Int. Time 4 sec ACG Time 4 sec	21	0.20	0.20	0.20	01.0	U	0.10	0.10	0.1.0	010	0.10	0.20	010	0.20	0.20	010				1	
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17	0.10	0	0.20	010	010	01.0	0.0		010	0.30	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	090	0.50	0.50	0.60	050	040	020	0.10	010
13	0	070	0	0	010	01.0	010	010	050	05.0.	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.60	050	050	0.70	0.50	0.30	010	010	0.10
19	010	01-0	0	010	0.30	010	0.20	010	020	0.40	0.50	0.50	050	0.40	070	0.60	5060	080	0.70	0.70	0.40	0.20	610	010
20	0.10	0	040	0.40	0.50	040	0.30	0.50	0.50	0.70	0.70	0.70	050	0.90	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.403	0.40	040	010	0,10	0.10	010
21	6.10	010-	0.30	010	0.30	0.2 0	0.20	0.10	0.30	0.10	0.60	050	0.40	040	0.50	0.40	0	V0203	0.40	0.30	0	01.0	0.10	010
22	0-10	0	0.20	0.20	030	020	020	020	0.30	04.0	050	0.20	000	040	050	0.50	040	0:20	040	0.30	010	010	010	010
23	01-0	5	0.20	0.20	020	010	01.0	010	040	0.40	a50	0.30	0.60	0.60	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.50	0.50	040	01.0	020	0.10	0.10
24	01-0	0	0.10	0.20	0.20	010	010	020	0.30	0.40	0.50	04-5	040	040	090	09.0	0.70	01.0	050	0.40	020	020	0.10	0.10
25	010	0	0.20	070	0.30	010	01.0	070	0.30	0.40	050	050	090	090	090	0.60	0.60	0:20	040	0.40	010	010	0.10	010
26	010	0	01.0	020	0.30	020	01.0	070	0.30	0.40	0.90	0.60	0.70	01:0	020	0.60	0.60	050	0.30	0.30	010	010	0.10	0.10
27	0	0	010	010	040	010	0.10	070	0.30	050	090		050	010	0.7.0	0.40	0.60	09.0	0.70	0.40	030	010	0.10	0.10
8	010	0	0.20	01.0	0.30	010	0.10	020	040	050	0.50	040	02.0	0.70	010	01.0	0.70	0.50	0.70	0.70	000	020	010	0.10
23	010	0	0.10	0.10	0.30	010	0.20	0.20	0.40	0.50	0.40	040	0.70	01.0	0.20	090	0.50	0.60	0:20	0.60	5010	0407	0202	010
20	0,0	010	0.20	0.10	0.30	030	0.30	0.20	040	0.60	090	0.60	010	0.40	0.70	0.6 0	0.50	040	290	0.605	0.60	0.30	010	0.10
1971 1971	010	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20	020	0.20		0.40	0.00	0.60	0.60	ა	ა	J	0.6 0	0.50	0.50	090	030	040	0.20	020	220
Count	29	29	19	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	28	28	29	30	29	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
ğ	are	0.0	070	0.20	0.30	0.20	020		030	040	040	050	090	09.0	0.70	0.60	04.0	0.00	040	040	040	0.30	0.10	010
Mediad	0-10	0	020	010	0.20	010	010	0.10	0.20	0.30	050	0.90	0.50	040	0.60	0.60	050	0.50	040	0.30	020	0.1-0.	010	0.10
EQ T	510	0	010	0.10	0.0	010	010	0	010	0.20	040	040	050	040	050	050	040	040	040	0.10	010	010	01.0	0.10

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P. R. - CNPq Comissão Nacional de Atividades Espaciais São Jośé dos Campos - SP - Brasil

MEAN VALUE OF ABSORPTION DURING THE FIRST MINUTE OF EACH HOUR

			1	
Mc/s Kc/s ohm ec ec	22	020	-	Ū
- 30] - 750] - 4 s	21	000		
lstor	20	5050	200	
d Resi eshold	19	5000	202	
Freq.       30 Mc/s         Bandwidth       30 Kc/s         Diode Load Resistor       750 ohm         Audio Threshold       3         Int. Time       4 sec         ACG Time       4 sec	18	000	242	
Freq Band Diod Audi Int. 7 ACG	17	040	1 200	
	16	1	040	
<b>b</b>	15		0.50	
Lat	06         07         08         09         10         11         12         13         14         15         16         17         18         19         20         21         22	010 200 2000 000 000 000 030 030	0.60	
23912 45951 22.59 11.79 623m	13	T	0.70	
Lat 23912'4. Long 45951'3 DIP 22. 59S Mag. Lat 11. 79S Alt 623m	12	Ţ	0.70	
	11		0.60	
Lat	10	T	0.60	
Lat. Long DIP. Mag. Alt.	60		040	- S
_	80		030	~~~~
- SJ - September - 1964 - Mark II	10		000	2
- SJ - Septemb - 1964 - Mark II	90		0000	242
			0101	
	04		040	27
Station	01 02 03 04 05		010 040 040 040 040 040	
tation Ionth . ear iomet	02		000	
Σ×Κ Ν	01		1	
	8	-	222	

TAB	· .		VI		1	ı	ł	10	1~	14	، اد	51	01	-	10	1.	1	4	I		i	I	1
23	0.30	0.305	010	010	010	د   ;	U	020	020			2	010	010	020								
22	020	020	010	0.20	0.0	د ا	0	0.30	2000		000	010	0.10	020	0.20	ľ	5						
21	020	5020	020	040	020		ر ا	020	202	, , ,	000	0.10	0.10	0.10	020		0.50						
20	5080	0205	020	040	1			0.20	2050	2	030	010	010	010	030		0.0					T	
19	5020	030	040	000	V0.704		, .	0 50		2	0.70	0.10	010	0.10	000		0.70				T	T	
18	040	\$020		2010		ŝ	, s	010		0.70	0.90	040	030	000	040		0.50						
17	040		000				, ,	0,00		27	0.07	0.70	0.30	000	2	0.70	0.70				T		
16	040	5000		200	24.0	2.0	ہ د	, ,		212	100	0.70	0.30	0.0		20	010						
15	0.50	+	_		2	140	- ، اد	- ا		08.0	0.90	0.80	030	44		24	0.50					-	_
14	0.20				v	0.40	<del>ا</del> ر		ן י	080	0.70	0.60	020		2.4	0.90	0.60					_	
13	010	0.4 5	5	0.40	0.00	0.40	J ,		ノ	0.70	0.60	ں ں	040		2.2	0.50	0.60			t			
12	0 70	+-		24.5	0.40	0.30	<u>ا</u> د	<del>ا</del> د	J	0.40	0.40	0.40	070		2	050	0.40		-				
=	0.0	+-	24.0	200	0.30	0:0	ـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ	- ا د	_	0.60	040	0.40	0.2.0		22	0.30	0.30			1			
10	26.0	+	2	050	0.50	0.40	ა ა	۔ د	ა ა	090	0.50	0.9 0			3	040	0.40		T	┫			<b>†</b>
60		1.00	0 1	020	05.0	0.30	ა ა	J	<del>ا</del>	0.40	0.50	010		\$	0.30	0.40	0.20			1			
80		202	040	0.40	0.30	0.30	- -	- ا د	-	040	040	050		2	060	0.90	060						
-	+-	_		_		0.20	- -	- ა	۔ ار	0.40	0.30	0.50		240	0.20	0.20	0:30		┢	-			+-
0 90		070	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	<u>ں</u>		۔۔ ر	040	000		22.0	070	e io	0.10	0.10		t			-	┢
05 0				0.203	010	010	J	- -	۔ د	0.20	ļ	_	4	0.10	0	0.10	0.10	-	╋			┢━	┿╸
04 0			0.40	0	0.10	0.10		<u>ہ</u>	c	0.2.0		1	+	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	-					┢
03 0	+		0.20	0	0.20 (	0.30 (			J	0.20 0	1		+	0.10	0.10	010	0.10	-	┥			+-	+
02 0		0.30	0.30	0	0.30 0	010 0	۔ د	ں د	ს	030	L	⊥	-	0.10	010	0	-	╀	+			┢	+-
01 0	$\perp$	0.30	- 	05	0.10	0.10	J	ں		040	+-		0.30	0.10	01.0	010	+-	╀	+			╞	╀
0 00	$\rightarrow$	0.20		030 0	010 0	0	0	<u>ں</u>		0 020	1	1	+	0100	010	020	1				-	╀	+-
	+	0	_	20	0					┝	10	╀	-	12		14	<u> </u>	╀	-		-	+	+
Hour	Day		69	3	4	<sup>cr3</sup>	9	-	œ	þ				-	-	Γ							

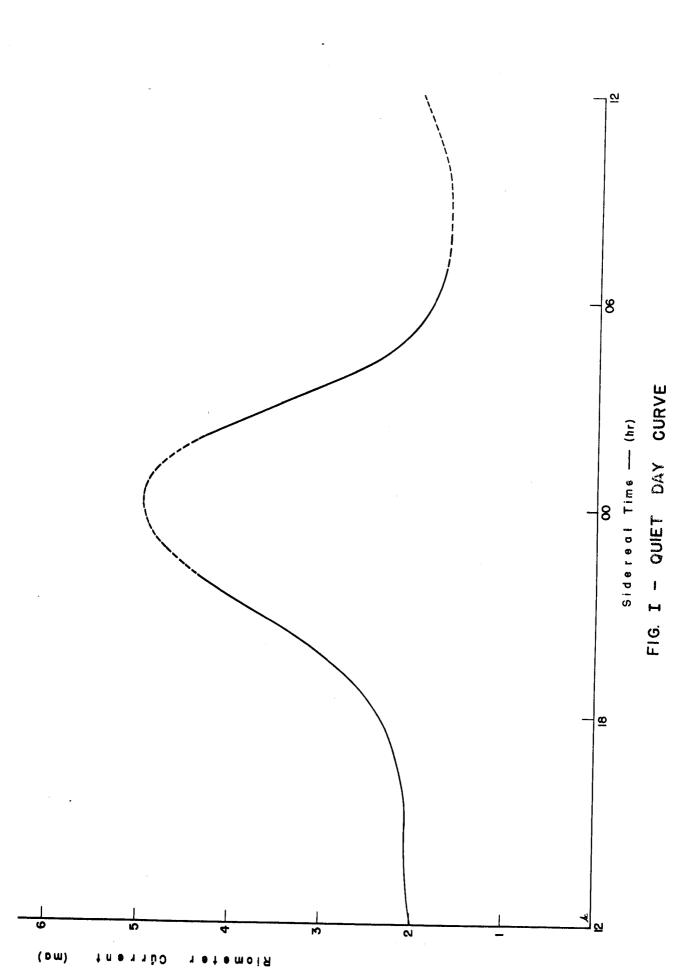
TIME - UT

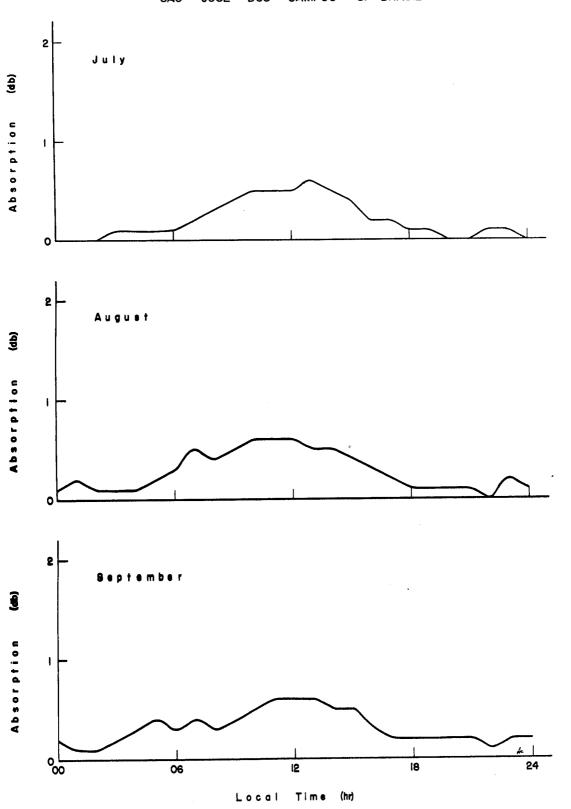
**Month:** September **Year: 19**64

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TAB	E VII	
23	0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20	
22	020 020 030 030 030 030 030 030 030 030	
21	0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20	
50	0.20 0.20 0.30 0.30 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20	
19 2	0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30 0.30	
18	050 050 050 050 050 050 050 050 050 050	
		l
17	4600	
16		
15	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	
14		4
13	666666666666666666666666666666666666666	-
12	0.40 0.40 0.40 0.40 0.50 0.50 0.50 0.50	
11	0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000	0.30
10	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	020
60	0400 0300 0300 0300 0300 0300 0300 0300	010
80		0.40
01 0	0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.20 0.40 0.40 0.40	050
0 90	010 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	010
	010 010 010 000 010 000 000 000 000 000	010
05	010 010 010 010 010 010 010 010 010 010	0.10
10		c/0
03		00
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		010
ę		
	Day 16 16 17 17 17 18 20 22 22 22 22 22 22 23 23 23 23 23 23 23	<u>LQ</u>

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## SÃO JOSE DOS CAMPOS SP-BRASIL

