

HOT WHITE DWARFS FROM THE SALT SURVEY OF HELIUM-RICH HOT SUBDWARFS

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A spectroscopic survey of helium-rich hot subdwarfs is being carried out with the Southern African Large telescope (SALT). The first data release provided methods, classification and analyses for ~ 100 stars. Some 300 stars have now been observed and classified. Survey selection was based on stars classified as He-sdB, He-sdOB and He-sdO or their equivalents in various catalogues of hot subdwarfs. These low-resolution classifications have broad error margins; consequently the sample includes a number of stars which turn out to be white dwarfs, including classical DB white dwarfs through to very hot DO and DAO white dwarfs, some of which are new to science. We report on these observations.