HELIUM-RICH SUBDWARF B STARS

A. Ahmad¹ and C.S. Jeffery¹

¹Armagh Observatory, College Hill, Armagh BT61 9DG. N. Ireland.

A very small fraction of subluminous B stars have spectra dominated by lines of neutral helium, commonly known as helium-rich subdwarf B (He-sdB) stars. Although perceived as a single class, their properties are in fact very diverse, including both apparently single stars and a close binary pair – the double He-sdB system PG1544+488. We will review what is known about the properties of He-sdB stars, and how these fit with various ideas concerning their origins. We will present a short summary of multi-wavelength studies of these stars and discuss some interesting objects.