LABORATORY ABSORPTION SPECTRA OF CARBON MOLECULES FOR COMPARISON WITH DIB DATA

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The gas-phase electronic absorption spectra of several new carbon molecular systems could be observed in the laboratory allowing a direct comparison with astronomical DIB data. These include the non-linear carbon chains, $C_nH_4^+$ n=4,6,8, C_5H_5 isomers which absorb near the 4429 DIB, and large cyclic systems such as C_{18}, all with absorbtions in the visible.