

# SHOTGLAS

## I. The ultimate spectroscopic census of extreme horizontal branch stars in $\omega$ Centauri<sup>★,★★</sup>

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Received 29 March 2018 / Accepted 19 June 2018

### ABSTRACT

The presence of extreme horizontal branch (EHB) and blue hook stars in some Galactic globular clusters (GGCs) constitutes one of the remaining mysteries of stellar evolution. While several evolutionary scenarios have been proposed to explain the characteristics of this peculiar population of evolved stars, their observational verification has been limited by the availability of spectroscopic data for a statistically significant sample of such objects in any single GGC. We recently launched the SHOTGLAS project with the aim of providing a comprehensive picture of this intriguing stellar population in terms of spectroscopic properties for all readily accessible GGCs hosting an EHB. In this first paper, we focus on  $\omega$  Cen, a peculiar, massive GGC that hosts multiple stellar populations. We use non-LTE model atmospheres to derive atmospheric parameters ( $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$  and  $N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$ ) and spectroscopic masses for 152 EHB stars in the cluster. This constitutes the largest spectroscopic sample of EHB stars ever analyzed in a GGC and represents  $\approx 20\%$  of the EHB population of  $\omega$  Cen. We also search for close binaries among these stars based on radial velocity variations. Our results show that the EHB population of  $\omega$  Cen is divided into three spectroscopic groups that are very distinct in the  $T_{\text{eff}} - \log g$  plane. The coolest sdB-type stars ( $T_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 30\,000$  K) have a hydrogen-rich atmosphere, populate the theoretical EHB region in the  $T_{\text{eff}} - \log g$  plane, and form 26% of our sample. The hottest sdO-type stars ( $T_{\text{eff}} \gtrsim 42\,000$  K) make up 10% of the sample, have a hydrogen-rich atmosphere and are thought to be in a post-EHB evolutionary phase. The majority of our sample is found at intermediate temperatures and consists of sdOB stars that have roughly solar or super-solar atmospheric helium abundances. It is these objects that constitute the blue hook at  $V > 18.5$  mag in the  $\omega$  Cen color-magnitude diagram. Interestingly, the helium-enriched sdOBs do not have a significant counterpart population in the Galactic field, indicating that their formation is dependent on the particular environment found in  $\omega$  Cen and other select GGCs. Another major difference between the EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen and the field is the fraction of close binaries. From our radial velocity survey we identify two binary candidates, however no orbital solutions could be determined. We estimate an EHB close binary fraction of  $\approx 5\%$  in  $\omega$  Cen. This low fraction is in line with findings for other GGCs, but in sharp contrast to the situation in the field, where around 50% of the sdB stars reside in close binaries. Finally, the mass distribution derived is very similar for all three spectroscopic groups, however the average mass ( $0.38 M_{\odot}$ ) is lower than that expected from stellar evolution theory. While this mass conundrum has previously been noted for EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen, it so far appears to be unique to that cluster.

**Key words.** stars: atmospheres – stars: horizontal-branch – subdwarfs – stars: fundamental parameters – binaries: close – globular clusters: individual: NGC 5139

### 1. Introduction

Galactic globular clusters (GGCs) were long considered simple stellar populations. However, in the last decade, spectroscopic and photometric studies demonstrated that these stellar systems are much more complex. Almost all the GGCs studied so far host multiple generations of stars, showing more or less pronounced light-element abundance enhancements and anti-

correlations (O–Na, Mg–Al; Carretta et al. 2010; Gratton et al. 2012).

The peculiar GGC  $\omega$  Cen (NGC 5139) is the most massive known in our Galaxy, with  $M = 2.5 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$  (van de Ven et al. 2006). It not only shows the light-element abundance enhancements and anti-correlations typical of a cluster, but also hosts (at least) three separate stellar populations with a large undisputed spread in metallicity (Norris & Da Costa 1995; Norris et al. 1996; Suntzeff & Kraft 1996; Kayser et al. 2006; Villanova et al. 2007; Calamida et al. 2009; Johnson & Pilachowski 2010). Another peculiar property of  $\omega$  Cen is the splitting of the main-sequence (MS). *Hubble* Space Telescope (HST) photometry revealed that the  $\omega$  Cen MS bifurcates into two main components, the so called blue-MS (bMS) and the red-MS (rMS; Anderson 2002; Bedin et al. 2004). A spectroscopic follow-up

\* Based on observations collected at the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, Chile (proposal IDs 076.D-0810 (FORs\_MB), 075.D-0280(A), 077.D-0021(A) (FLAMES), 386.D-0669, 091.D-0791 (FORs2.6), 093.D-0873(A), 095.D-0238(A) (VIMOS), 081.D-0139(A) (FORs1.6)).

\*\* An extended version of Table B.3 are only available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to [cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr](http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr) (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/qcat?J/A+A/618/A15>.

study by [Piotto et al. \(2005\)](#) showed that bMS stars are more metal-rich than rMS stars. These authors then suggested that bMS stars constitute a helium-enhanced sub-population in the cluster due to their bluer colors compared to the more metal-poor rMS stars. The presence of stellar sub-populations with different metallicities and helium abundances in a cluster also affects more advanced stellar evolutionary phases, and influences the morphology of the core-helium-burning horizontal branch (HB) and its blue extension, the extreme horizontal branch (EHB). The occurrence of EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen (as well as in other massive GGCs with complex multiple populations, such as NGC 2808) cannot be explained by canonical evolution ([D’Cruz et al. 1996](#)).

EHB stars are low-mass objects ( $M \sim 0.5 M_{\odot}$ ) with effective temperatures  $T_{\text{eff}} \gtrsim 20\,000$  K. Among the Galactic field population, they are usually referred to as hot subdwarf (or hot subluminous) stars. They are classified according to spectral type into two main categories, sdB and sdO. The transition between the types takes place at effective temperatures around 38 000 K, above which the He II lines prominently appear in the optical spectra. The stars in this transition region are sometimes referred to as sdOB (see also Sect. 2.2 of [Heber 2009](#) for more details on the spectral classification of hot subdwarfs). The high temperature of these stars is associated with the fact that we are essentially observing a naked He-burning core, since the surrounding hydrogen-rich envelope is extremely thin ( $M < 0.02 M_{\odot}$ , not massive enough to sustain significant hydrogen shell burning).

A key aspect in the evolutionary history of any hot subdwarf star is the loss of almost all of its hydrogen envelope. The generally accepted scenario is that this important mass loss happens during the red giant branch (RGB) phase prior to the helium flash ([Faulkner 1972](#)). However, the physical reasons behind the unusually high mass loss are not fully understood. One possible way to strip the outer hydrogen layers of an EHB progenitor is via binary interactions (including a common-envelope and/or Roche-lobe overflow phase), during which the companion accretes a significant amount of the hot subdwarf progenitor’s mass ([Han et al. 2002, 2003](#)). Such scenarios are successful at explaining the origin of a large fraction of field sdBs; indeed, about half of them are found in close binary systems ([Maxted et al. 2001](#); [Napiwotzki et al. 2004](#); [Copperwheat et al. 2011](#)), and others ( $\sim 20$ – $30\%$ ) reside in wider systems ([Ferguson et al. 1984](#); [Stark & Wade 2003](#)) with periods longer than 500 days ([Vos et al. 2017](#)).

However, the situation is more complicated for single sdB stars. Evolutionary models can produce such objects when the mass loss on the RGB is artificially increased<sup>1</sup>, but the physical mechanisms able to produce the necessary strong mass loss are not well understood ([D’Cruz et al. 1996](#); [Brown et al. 2001](#)). Identifying a suitable mechanism for enhanced mass loss in single stars is especially important when considering the formation of EHB stars in globular clusters, where binaries are notoriously rare ([Moni Bidin & Piotto 2010](#)). So far, only one binary candidate has been spectroscopically confirmed in NGC 6752 ([Moni Bidin et al. 2015](#)). Single sdB stars can also be formed via the merger of two low mass He-WDs ([Han et al. 2002, 2003](#)). This formation channel is particularly relevant for hot subdwarfs in globular clusters, as it is expected to be dominant in old ( $> 10$  Gyr) stellar populations ([Han 2008](#)).

$\omega$  Cen hosts a large and complex EHB population. The HB not only extends to very blue colors, but also to magnitudes fainter than that of the canonical EHB in the color-magnitude

diagram (CMD; [Whitney et al. 1994](#); [D’Cruz et al. 2000](#); [Brown et al. 2001](#)). The special population found below the EHB is termed the “blue hook” due to its characteristic shape in the ultraviolet CMD. Spectroscopic observations of blue hook stars in  $\omega$  Cen revealed that they have an atmosphere enriched in helium, as well as carbon ([Moehler et al. 2007, 2011](#); [Latour et al. 2014b](#)). The origin of this peculiar population is the subject of many debates and various scenarios have been proposed to explain its existence.

One scenario suggests that the blue hook stars in  $\omega$  Cen are the progeny of a second generation of stars enriched in helium ( $Y \approx 0.4$ ; [Lee et al. 2005](#); [D’Antona et al. 2005, 2010](#)). The progenitors of these stars should populate the cluster bMS, a possibly helium enhanced stellar sub-population. The higher helium content of this generation of stars could explain the atmospheric helium enhancement of the blue hook objects as well as their lower luminosity. However, [Yaron et al. \(2017\)](#) showed that even when taking into account the proposed helium enhancement, an increased mass loss on the RGB is additionally needed in order to populate the very hot end of the EHB.

Another proposed scenario predicts that some stars experience the helium flash only after having evolved away from the RGB ([Castellani & Castellani 1993](#); [D’Cruz et al. 1996](#); [Lanz et al. 2004](#)). A consequence of this delayed flash is extra mixing between the helium-rich material in the core and the hydrogen-rich superficial layers, producing an atmosphere not only enriched in helium, but also in carbon. The carbon enrichment observed in the spectra of blue hook stars in  $\omega$  Cen supports this scenario. However, the late-flash models predict surface abundances of helium and carbon higher than those measured ([Brown et al. 2001](#); [Cassisi et al. 2003](#); [Miller Bertolami et al. 2008](#)), and diffusion effects such as gravitational settling must be taken into account in order to reconcile the observed and predicted abundance ([Ungrau 2005](#)).

The main deficiency of both scenarios is that they do not explain the physical mechanism behind the enhanced mass loss required on the RGB. [Lei et al. \(2013, 2015, 2016\)](#) investigated possible mechanisms and showed that if the star is initially part of a wide-binary system ( $P \sim 900$ – $4600$  d), the mass loss on the RGB can be tidally enhanced sufficiently to delay the helium-flash. [Lei et al. \(2016\)](#) estimated that binaries with periods below 1400 d could have survived dynamical encounters during the evolution of  $\omega$  Cen. Dynamical encounters could themselves produce tidal stripping through Roche-Lobe overflow ([Pasquato et al. 2014](#)). [Soker \(1998\)](#) suggested that the presence of planets (within  $\lesssim 5$  AU of the star) may also lead to enhanced mass-loss due to interactions with the envelope during the RGB phase. An additional factor was considered by [Sweigart \(1997\)](#) and more recently investigated in detail by [Tailo et al. \(2015\)](#), whereby rotation increases the core mass of EHBs and the mass-loss along the RGB, shifting the EHB stars toward brighter magnitudes and bluer colors. This happens because rotation tends to cool down the interior of the star and subsequently slow down the evolution along the RGB and delay the helium-flash. Invoking a He-enhanced ( $0.35 \leq Y \leq 0.38$ ), metal poor ( $0.0006 \leq Z \leq 0.001$ ) progenitor population making up 24% of the cluster population, [Tailo et al. \(2016\)](#) were then able to use population synthesis models to reproduce the EHB and blue hook of  $\omega$  Cen quite successfully.

Understanding the formation of EHB stars in GGCs remains a challenge. It is now important to improve the observational constraints on EHB stars in GGCs, and to obtain statistically significant samples of EHBs with both photometric and spectroscopic data available. We recently started a long-

<sup>1</sup> This is done by increasing the mass-loss efficiency parameter  $\eta$  in the Reimers formula  $\dot{M} = -4 \times 10^{-13} \eta \frac{RL}{M}$ .

term project, SHOTGLAS<sup>2</sup>, aimed at characterizing the origin of EHB stars in GGCs. In this first SHOTGLAS paper we paint the most comprehensive picture to date of the properties of EHB (and blue hook) stars in the peculiar GGC  $\omega$  Cen. While atmospheric parameters for EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen have already been derived in previous studies, the number of objects included in those samples was rather limited (between 35 and 45 individual stars in Moehler et al. 2011, Moni Bidin et al. 2012, Latour et al. 2014b, and Randall et al. 2016). Of course, the results of these individual studies can be pooled to yield a larger total sample, however the latter will be somewhat inhomogeneous since the parameters derived suffer from systematics caused by the use of different spectrographs and model atmospheres (Moni Bidin et al. 2012; Latour et al. 2014b).

In this work, we present our analysis of previously unpublished spectra obtained with the FORS1 and VIMOS spectrographs at the Very Large Telescope (VLT, ESO). We supplement these new samples with a re-analysis of all relevant previously published spectroscopic samples of EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen (see above), which comprise spectra obtained with the FORS2 and FLAMES spectrographs at the VLT. While we cannot avoid the systematics caused by the use of different instruments, by doing the analysis with the same model atmospheres and fitting technique we ensure that the results are as consistent as possible. This way we derive atmospheric parameters for the largest sample of EHB stars ever analyzed in a single GGC. We note that the term EHB is used quite loosely in this paper to refer to the bluest and faintest morphological part of the CMD, including the blue hook region. Our EHB sample includes canonical EHB stars in their helium-core burning evolutionary phase, as well as late-flasher and post-EHB objects.

In addition to the spectroscopic study, we search for close binaries among the EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen observed with the VIMOS spectrograph. Our VIMOS observations were explicitly designed for a radial velocity (RV) analysis, and therefore the spectra were obtained over multiple epochs. While similar RV surveys have been conducted before among HB stars in a few globular clusters (e.g., NGC 6752, NGC 5986, NGC 2808, and M 80; Moni Bidin et al. 2006, 2009, 2011b), searches for EHB binaries in  $\omega$  Cen (e.g., Moehler et al. 2011) have so far been inconclusive. However, Kaluzny et al. (2007) found a peculiar post-common-envelope eclipsing binary in  $\omega$  Cen, slightly redder than the blue HB in the cluster CMD, where the secondary less luminous component is a very low mass ( $0.14 M_{\odot}$ ) pre-helium-core white dwarf.

The paper is structured as follows: the spectroscopic observations are described in Sect. 2, while the methods used to derive radial velocities, atmospheric parameters, and stellar masses are explained in Sect. 3. This is followed by our results on the atmospheric parameters, mass and radial velocity distributions, and the binary fraction in Sect. 4. We then discuss the results in Sect. 5 before summarizing and concluding.

## 2. Observational material

### 2.1. The VIMOS data

The candidate EHB sample for the VIMOS observations was selected in the same way as the original EFOSC2/FORS2 sample of Randall et al. (2016). Based on the merged ACS/WFI catalog presented in Castellani et al. (2007), we selected EHB stars from ACS where available (using a cut

in magnitude of  $17.8 < F435W < 19.8$  mag and in color of  $-0.3 < F435W - F625W < 0.2$  mag), and from WFI in the outer regions of the cluster not covered by ACS (using a cut in magnitude of  $17.8 < B < 19.8$  mag and a cut in color of  $-0.3 < B - V < 0.2$  mag). The resulting EHB candidates were overplotted on the VIMOS mask centered on  $\omega$  Cen. The pointing was adjusted so that the largest possible number of EHB targets fell into the four VIMOS quadrants and then the slit assignment was done automatically by the VMMP software. Targets identified as being of special interest from the Randall et al. (2016) sample (the pulsators and those EHB stars with the highest helium abundances; 12 stars in total) were given a higher priority in the FIMS fitting algorithm than the remaining EHB candidates. After the automatic slit assignment each target was checked by eye for apparent crowding using the pre-imaging, and targets that were severely crowded especially by bright nearby stars were discarded. Additional slits were then added manually for other EHB candidates not selected by the algorithm, the sole criteria being an acceptable level of crowding and the geometrical restrictions posed by the VIMOS mask specifications. A total of 102 stars were selected this way.

Since the main aim of the VIMOS observations was to find close EHB binaries based on relative radial velocity shifts on a time-scale of hours, the individual exposure times were kept to 10 min, which we deemed a reasonable compromise between getting sufficient  $S/N$  and not smoothing any radial velocity shifts too much. A group of three exposures were consecutively executed in an hour-long Observing Block, each Observing Block being observable independently to facilitate scheduling at the VLT. We obtained a total of 42 useful exposures at 14 epochs between June 2014 and February 2016, obtaining spectra of widely varying quality, depending on the observing conditions. Please see Table B.1 for a log of the observations. We used the VIMOS MOS setting with the HR Blue grism and a slit width of  $0.8''$  throughout.

The observations were reduced with the VIMOS pipeline, using the default parameters except for using a linear fit instead of a quadratic fit to describe the slit curvature. We encountered severe issues with the wavelength calibration, especially for the VIMOS quadrants 2 and 3, due to the dearth of lines toward the blue end of the arc lamp spectrum. This is a common problem for VIMOS spectra taken with the HR blue grism. The net result was that the pipeline did not manage to find a wavelength solution for a significant number of spectra, which precluded them from being extracted. For some of the spectra that were successfully extracted, we found the wavelength calibration to be inaccurate blueward of  $4300 \text{ \AA}$  based on the wavelength solution for the arc spectra. Redward of that the wavelength solution looked fine, therefore we have reason to believe the wavelength calibration of the science spectra is also satisfactory in that regime.

Given the crowdedness of the field and the strong variations in atmospheric conditions from one epoch to the next all the science target spectra extracted by the pipeline had to be identified, inspected and evaluated individually. Only spectra that showed characteristics of an EHB star (broad Balmer lines, otherwise relatively featureless spectrum apart from some He lines, continuum distribution characteristic of a blue star) were kept for the radial velocity analysis (see Sect. 3.1). This visual inspection may have also excluded binaries with a very bright, early main sequence companion; however since such binary systems would be expected to have long orbital periods on the scale of months or years our observations would not have been sensitive to them. In total, our VIMOS RV sample encompasses 75 stars, for each of which anywhere between 3 and 40 usable spectra were obtained.

<sup>2</sup> Spectroscopy of HOT GLobular cluster Aging Stars.

For the analysis of the stellar atmospheric parameters the bar was set higher in terms of quality. Only individual spectra with a  $S/N \geq 20$  and free of visible pollution or artifacts were combined using the IRAF scombine task. The combined spectra were discarded if they presented obvious signs of pollution by neighboring stars. This implies that EHB stars with a main sequence binary companion typical of the long-period binaries in the field would also have been excluded from the spectroscopic sample. This yielded a spectroscopic sample of 67 stars for which we obtained averaged spectra with typical  $S/N \sim 40\text{--}60$ . The VIMOS spectra have a wavelength resolution of  $\Delta\lambda \sim 1.6 \text{ \AA}$  and cover the 3500–5500  $\text{\AA}$  range, but some of them are truncated due to the position of the star on the VIMOS quadrant. The full wavelength range allows fitting of the Balmer lines from  $H_{11}$  to  $H_{\beta}$  as well as some He I and II lines. For stars with wavelength calibration problems toward the blue end we fitted only the lines redward of 4300  $\text{\AA}$ . The 67 stars selected for atmospheric parameter analysis are referred to as the VIMOS sample in the remainder of this paper.

## 2.2. The FORS data

We obtained spectra of EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen in service mode in April and May 2008 using the FORS1 spectrograph on the UT1 Telescope of the VLT. We used the 1200B grism in MOS mode with slit widths of  $0.5''$  and exposure time of 2700 s. The stars were observed during seeing conditions of  $0.8''$  or better. The observation log is presented in Table B.2. The data reduction was performed using the FORS pipeline<sup>3</sup> up to the stage of obtaining rectified, wavelength-calibrated and rebinned frames. The sky background was then manually fitted and removed and the subsequent spectral extraction was performed using standard MIDAS routines. The individual spectra have  $S/N \sim 40\text{--}50$ . Some stars were observed two or three times, in which case the individual spectra were combined together using the IRAF scombine task. The spectra have a resolution of  $\Delta\lambda \sim 1.6 \text{ \AA}$ . Although the nominal wavelength coverage is  $\approx 3650\text{--}5200 \text{ \AA}$ , many of the spectra are truncated at the blue or red end depending on their position on the CCD. Nevertheless, the majority of the spectra could be fitted up to the Balmer line  $H_{10}$  (3797.9  $\text{\AA}$ ) in the blue and have sufficient wavelength coverage to include He I lines and He II  $\lambda 4686$ . We obtained spectra of 21 stars, however two of them could not be used due to poor wavelength calibration affecting most of the spectral range.

Because the main goal of these observations was to measure carbon and nitrogen abundances in blue hook stars, the targets were selected from the faintest part of the EHB. The selection was based on the position of the blue hook in the  $U$  vs  $U - V$  CMD using WFI photometry (Castellani et al. 2007). The blue hook region was defined using the position of EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen with a helium abundance known to be close to or above the solar value (from Moehler et al. 2007). This corresponds roughly to  $18.4 < V < 19.3$  and  $-1.8 < U - V < -1.2$  mag in our Fig. 7. The 19 stars from this sample are labeled FORS1.6 (where 1.6 refers to the spectral resolution) in the remainder of this paper.

## 2.3. Previously published data

We complemented the new spectroscopic observations described above with previously published spectra from the samples of

Moehler et al. (2011), Moni Bidin et al. (2012) and Randall et al. (2016). The observations are described in detail in the respective publications, but we briefly summarize the main characteristics of these three additional samples here.

From the EHB spectra presented in Randall et al. (2016) we selected the 38 “clean” spectra that were analyzed in Latour et al. (2014b). These spectra do not show signs of pollution by a main sequence companion or nearby star. The spectra were collected with the FORS2 spectrograph using the multi-slit (MXU) mode and the 600B grating. They have a wavelength resolution of  $\sim 2.6 \text{ \AA}$  and nominally cover the 3400–6100  $\text{\AA}$  range, however some spectra are shortened at one end due to their position on the CCD. For most of the stars in this sample, the lines of the Balmer series (from  $H_{\beta}$  up to  $H_{11}$ ) as well as the strong He I and II lines from He I  $\lambda 4026$  to He II  $\lambda 5412$  are available for constraining the atmospheric parameters. Since this spectroscopic sample was obtained to provide a mapping of the instability strip, the target selection favored the hotter part of the EHB domain ( $T_{\text{eff}} \geq 30\,000 \text{ K}$ ). In the following, we refer to this sample as FORS2.6 (where 2.6 refers again to the spectral resolution).

The spectra analyzed in Moni Bidin et al. (2012) were also collected with the FORS2 spectrograph in MXU mode with the 600B grating. Their resolution and wavelength coverage are essentially the same as that of the FORS2.6 sample. The authors obtained spectra of stars covering the whole blue part of the cluster’s HB. From their whole sample we selected the 37 targets with  $T_{\text{eff}} > 20\,000 \text{ K}$  as determined by Moni Bidin et al. (2012). We further inspected the spectra and found that four of them (91573, 97034, 157531, 175847)<sup>4</sup> show conspicuous signs of pollution by a cooler object according to the criteria described in Randall et al. (2016). Thus, we kept 33 spectra from that sample, which we will refer to as FORS\_MB.

Finally, the spectra from Moehler et al. (2011) were obtained using the multi-object fiber spectrograph FLAMES+GIRAFFE on the VLT. These spectra have a resolution of  $\sim 0.7 \text{ \AA}$  and a wavelength coverage of 3964–4567  $\text{\AA}$ . This shorter spectral range offers a more limited set of spectral lines that can be used to derive atmospheric parameters; the two Balmer lines  $H_{\gamma}$  and  $H_{\delta}$  and three He I lines, 4026  $\text{\AA}$ , 4388  $\text{\AA}$ , and 4471  $\text{\AA}$ . Moehler et al. (2011) observed stars along the blue HB of  $\omega$  Cen and we selected from that sample the 45 objects with  $T_{\text{eff}} > 20\,000 \text{ K}$ . These spectra will be referred to as the FLAMES sample.

Figure 1 shows a representative spectrum from each of the five observed samples (VIMOS and FORS1.6 being the new observations, FORS2.6, FORS\_MB and FLAMES constituting the previously published data). The spectra were shifted to rest wavelengths, and the positions of the Balmer and helium lines are indicated. We note that the VIMOS spectrum shown in this figure suffers from the wavelength calibration problem mentioned in Sect. 2.1. The spatial distribution across the cluster of the stars from all five samples can be seen in Fig. 2. The targets are well distributed across the cluster and one can notice that a significant number of stars were included in more than one sample.

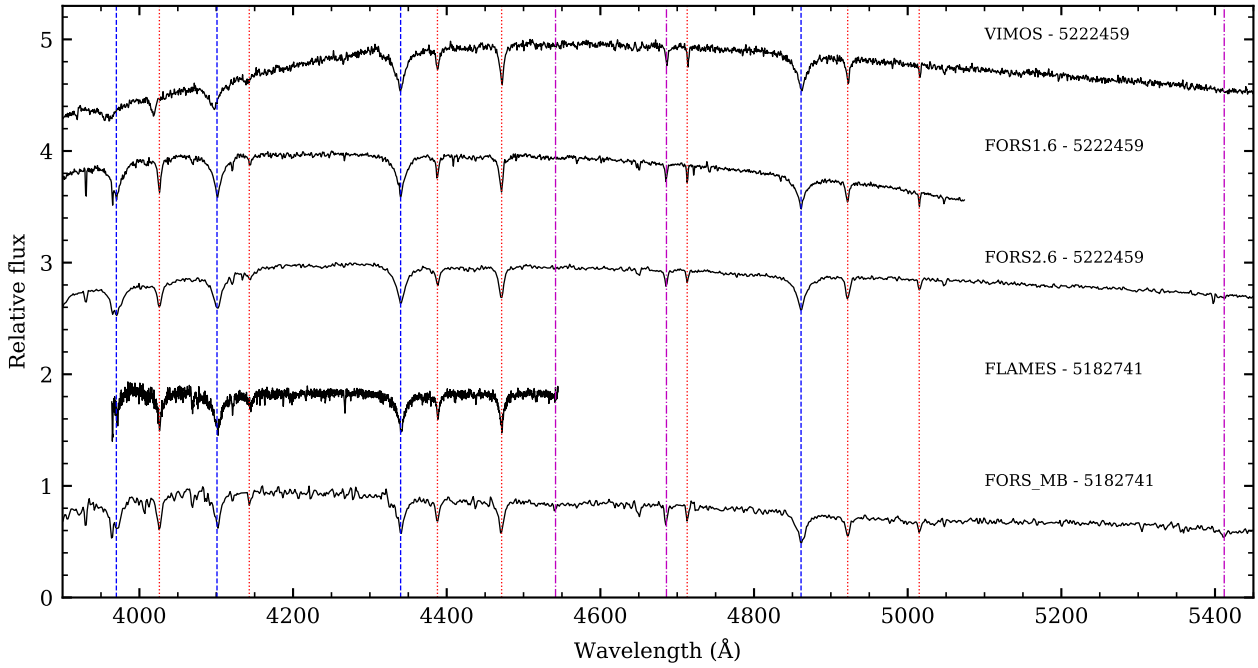
## 3. Analysis method

### 3.1. Radial velocity determination

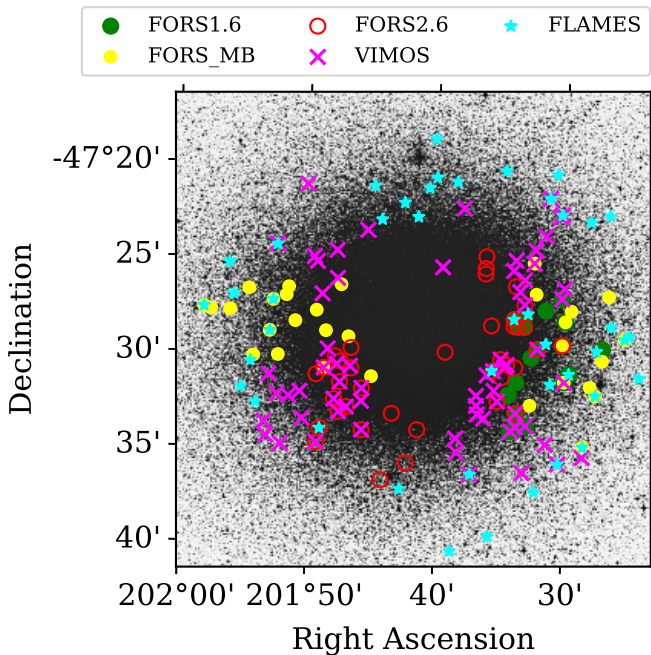
We measured the radial velocities for the FORS2.6 and FORS1.6 spectra, as well as for the individual VIMOS spectra. The RVs

<sup>3</sup> Version fors1/4.2.5.

<sup>4</sup> IDs used in Moni Bidin et al. (2012).



**Fig. 1.** Observed spectra from the different samples for two stars: 522459 from the VIMOS, FORS1.6, and FORS2.6 samples, and 5182741 from the FLAMES and FORS\_MB samples. The spectra have been corrected for radial velocity and have been shifted to rest wavelengths. The position of the main Balmer (dashed), He I (dotted), and He II (dash-dotted) lines are indicated. The VIMOS spectrum of 522459 suffers from an inaccurate wavelength calibration blueward of 4300 Å.



**Fig. 2.** Spatial distribution of the stars included in the spectroscopic sample.

of the FORS\_MB and FLAMES spectra were available from the literature, so we simply retrieved the published values. For the other samples, the RVs were determined by fitting a set of mathematical functions (Gaussians, Lorentzians, and polynomials) to the spectral lines using the FITSB2 routine [Napiwotzki et al. \(2004\)](#). Those three functions match the continuum, the line, and the line core, respectively and mimic the typical profile of spectral lines. The profiles are fitted to all lines simultaneously

using  $\chi^2$ -minimization and the RV shift with the associated  $1\sigma$  error is measured. Heliocentric corrections were applied to the RVs.

For the FORS2.6 and FORS1.6 spectra, we used the strongest Balmer lines ( $H\beta$ ,  $H\gamma$ ,  $H\delta$ ) and, depending on the effective temperature and helium abundance, the He II 4686 Å line, and the He I lines at 4026 Å, 4472 Å, and 4922 Å. We excluded He I because of the blending with the interstellar Ca II H line.

The VIMOS spectra were collected as part of a RV survey to look for close binary systems among the EHB stars of  $\omega$  Cen, therefore particular care was taken with the wavelength calibration procedure and arc lamp exposures were taken at the end of each one-hour observing block. Unfortunately, due to a lack of appropriate emission lines in the arc lamp spectrum toward the blue end of the VIMOS data, the wavelength calibration in this region is considered to be less reliable. To measure the RVs, we therefore only considered lines with rest wavelengths longer than  $\sim 4300$  Å. Depending on the effective temperature and the helium abundance of the individual stars we used the  $H\beta$  and  $H\gamma$  lines, as well as the previously mentioned helium lines. Each fit was inspected visually and outliers caused by noisy spectra, cosmic rays and other artifacts were excluded. The average  $1\sigma$  uncertainty per measurement is about  $13 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Heliocentric corrections were applied to the RVs and mid-JDs. In total, we obtained RVs for  $\sim 1800$  individual VIMOS spectra for 75 different stars.

One of the advantages of studying stars in a globular cluster is that the radial velocity of the cluster is well known. This information was used to correct for systematic shifts in the VIMOS spectra taken at different nights. We calculated the average RV of all stars observed in one night and compared it to the mean RV of  $\omega$  Cen ( $232.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , [Harris 1996](#), 2010 edition). Typical deviations from the mean RV of  $\omega$  Cen were on the order of  $\pm 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  or less. Only for the last observing night the systematic shift was somewhat higher ( $+22 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ), but still of the

same order as the statistical uncertainties. We then corrected the individual RVs measured for each night by the systematic shift determined.

According to the VIMOS manual, the internal accuracy of the wavelength calibration is about 0.3 pixels, not considering flexure effects. The HR blue grism we used has a dispersion of  $0.51 \text{ \AA px}^{-1}$ , which translates to a systematic RV uncertainty of about  $10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . To also account for some flexure during the observations we added  $15 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  in quadrature to the statistical uncertainties. This systematic uncertainty is also consistent with the night-by-night shifts of the average RV we detected. The uncertainties on the RVs of individual spectra are of importance for the computation of the false-detection probability (see Sect. 4.4).

### 3.2. Models and fitting procedure

We derived the atmospheric parameters of the stars by fitting the observed spectra with the grid of NLTE model atmospheres presented in Latour et al. (2014b). We recall that these models are computed using the public code TLUSTY and SYNSPEC (Lanz & Hubeny 2007; Hubeny 1988) and include, besides H and He, a solar amount of C, N, and O as metallic elements. However two small changes were made with respect to the models used in Latour et al. (2014b). Firstly, we extended the grid by computing a few additional models at lower temperature and lower  $\log g$  to provide a better parameter coverage, since some of our observed samples include stars cooler than those analyzed in Latour et al. (2014b). Our grid now covers a  $T_{\text{eff}}$  range from 20 000 to 58 000 K (in steps of 2000 K) and a  $\log g$  range from 4.8 to 6.4 (in steps of 0.2 dex) for helium abundances  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  from  $-4.0$  to  $0.0$  dex (in steps of 0.5 dex). Since the parameter ranges at which the helium-enriched stars are found were well covered by the original grid, we did not extend it for the models having  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H}) = 0.5, 1.0$  and  $1.5$ . These helium-rich models thus cover the original range from 26 000 to 58 000 K and  $\log g$  of 5.2–6.4. Secondly, we recomputed the synthetic spectra by including only hydrogen and helium lines. Some relatively strong lines of carbon and oxygen are blended with the Balmer (especially  $H_{\delta}$ ) lines and affect the fitting procedure when they are absent from the observed spectra, especially at the higher resolution of the FORS1.6 and FLAMES spectra. The differences in the atmospheric parameters derived with both sets of synthetic spectra are however small when comparing the results of Latour et al. (2014b) with our new parameters for the FORS2.6 sample. We fitted all the spectra included in the five spectroscopic samples with our model grid using the Balmer and helium lines available within the observed spectral range of each spectrum. The lines of both observed and model spectra are normalized and then simultaneously fit using a  $\chi^2$  minimization technique similar to that described by Saffer et al. (1994).

All the individual fits were inspected and we discarded a few cases where the quality of the spectra ( $S/N$ , reduction artifacts) and the resulting fits were very poor. In the case of stars present in two or three samples, we paid particular attention to discrepant atmospheric parameters from one spectrum to the next, and when the fit to one spectrum was poor we discarded it. The atmospheric parameters of the stars observed in more than one sample were then averaged. After performing this selection, our sample includes 198 individual spectra of 152 distinct stars, of which 40 are included in two or three samples. The resulting atmospheric parameters of the stars are presented in Table B.3, and their positions in the various  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$ , helium planes are presented in Figs. B.1 and B.2, color-coded by observed sample as well as in Figs. 4–6 color-coded by spectroscopic group (see Sect. 4.2).

*Error estimates on the atmospheric parameters.* Since many stars are present in more than one observed sample, we looked for differences and systematics in the atmospheric parameters derived from the different spectra. An extensive discussion of this is presented in Appendix A and we report here only some results relevant to our uncertainty estimates for the atmospheric parameters. The formal errors returned by the fitting procedure only provide a lower limit for the uncertainties on the atmospheric parameters. To estimate the true uncertainties associated with the observational data (which are affected by the spectral resolution and wavelength coverage), we computed the ratio of the difference between each of the three atmospheric parameters derived for each pair of spectra of the same star and the corresponding formal error (see Eq. (A.1)). If the uncertainties are realistic, this ratio should be normally distributed with a standard deviation of one. For each of the three atmospheric parameters we found a standard deviation larger than one, indicating that – as expected – our formal errors underestimate the true uncertainties. From the standard deviations we estimated correction factors of 2.5 for  $T_{\text{eff}}$ , 1.6 for  $\log g$  and 1.8 for  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$ , and applied these to the statistical errors in order to obtain more realistic uncertainties. These corrected errors are the ones provided in Table B.3. However, in some cases where the formal errors are already large (e.g., on the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  of the hottest stars or on  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  of stars with a low helium abundance) such a correction might overestimate the uncertainties.

### 3.3. Mass measurements

Masses for the stars in our sample were computed by combining synthetic magnitudes with the observed WFI magnitudes. We first created grids of synthetic magnitudes ( $m$ ) in the  $V$  and  $B$  band using spectra from our model grid described in Sect. 3.1. Magnitudes relative to the spectrum of Vega were computed using the Python package Pysynphot (Lim et al. 2015) and zero point corrections were applied as described in Appendix B of Lim et al., but using the  $V$ -band correction of Bohlin (2007). Our synthetic fluxes are expressed in terms of the Eddington flux,  $H_{\lambda}$ , and since the synthetic flux is independent of the radius, our synthetic magnitudes  $m$  are related to the absolute magnitudes ( $M$ ) via the relation

$$M = m - 2.5 \log \left( \frac{4\pi R^2}{d^2} \right) \quad (1)$$

where  $R$  is the radius of the star and  $d$  the distance of 10 pc. We used the  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$  and  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  derived for every star to retrieve the appropriate synthetic magnitude from our grid using trilinear interpolation.

In a second step, we rewrite Eq. (1) in terms of the stellar mass ( $M_*$ ) using the relation

$$R^2 = \frac{GM_*}{g} \quad (2)$$

and combine it with the equation of the true distance modulus ( $\mu_0$ )

$$\mu_0 = V - M_V - A_V \quad (3)$$

where  $V$  is the observed WFI magnitude, and  $A_V$  the visual extinction defined as  $3.1E(B - V)$ . Finally, we derived the stellar masses (presented in Table B.3) using a distance modulus  $\mu_0 = 13.71 \pm 0.09$  (Braga et al. 2016) and a reddening index  $E(B - V) = 0.11 \pm 0.01$ . The uncertainties on the masses were

computed via error propagation and we considered the uncertainties on  $\mu_0$ ,  $E(B - V)$ ,  $\log g$  and the synthetic flux  $m$ . The uncertainty on  $m$  was obtained by considering the uncertainty on  $T_{\text{eff}}$ , which is the parameter dominating the emergent flux. We also estimated the reddening of each target by comparing the observed  $(B - V)$  colors with the theoretical colors computed from our synthetic  $B$  and  $V$  magnitudes, and report the values in the last column of Table B.3.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. RV distribution

In addition to the radial velocities measured for the VIMOS, FORS2.6 and FORS1.6 spectra, we collected the values presented in the literature for the FORS\_MB and FLAMES spectra (Moni Bidin et al. 2012; Moehler et al. 2011). For the VIMOS spectra, we used the average RVs presented in Table 1. For the stars found in more than one sample, we computed the average RV and used it as the final, representative RV. The resulting RVs for all stars are found in Table B.3. For stars with more than one RV value (from different spectra), we also provide the standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of the individual measurements. This is meant to indicate how well, or not, the individual measurements agree with each other. The average RV of the whole sample is  $229.7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , the observed dispersion (one standard deviation) is  $\sigma = 20.3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , and the standard error on the average is  $1.6 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Figure 3 shows the RV distribution as well as a gaussian curve with the mean and dispersion indicated in the caption. The mean RV of our sample is quite close to that of the cluster ( $232.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , Harris 1996, 2010 edition). This is a good agreement, considering that our spectra have only moderate resolution, and that the RV measurements mostly rely on wide or weak spectral features.

A few stars in our sample have RVs rather far from the average value: seven stars lie outside the  $2\sigma$  interval, which is consistent with the expected value of 5% of the sample for a normal distribution. However, two stars lie outside the  $3\sigma$  interval. As some of these stars might not be members of the cluster, we looked at their position in the  $V$  vs.  $U - V$  CMD and in the F435W vs F435W–F625W CMD (for stars with ACS photometry), and at their derived masses (since a star at a different distance would present an anomalous mass). We did not find the “outliers” to have peculiar colors or masses in comparison with the rest of the sample, except for one star, 5062474, which has the lowest RV ( $164 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ) as well as the reddest colors in the WFI and ACS CMD, and for which we derived a rather high mass ( $0.72 \pm 0.38 M_{\odot}$ ). The observed spectrum is not particularly good (see Fig. 1 in Latour et al. 2014b), thus explaining the large uncertainty on the mass. Although this star has some peculiar properties, we nevertheless keep it in our sample.

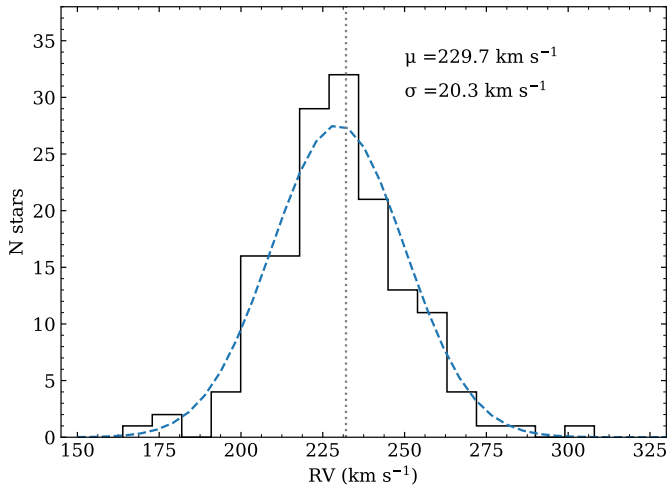
### 4.2. Atmospheric parameters

It was previously reported in Latour et al. (2014b) that the EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen can be divided into three different groups according to their atmospheric parameters. That result was based on a sample of 38 stars. Looking at the distribution of our extended sample in the  $T_{\text{eff}} - \log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  plane (Fig. 4) we distinguish the same pattern with three prominent spectroscopic groups. There is a first group of helium-poor stars found at  $T_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 30\,000 \text{ K}$ , corresponding to an sdB spectral type. We will refer to these as the H-sdBs, to highlight that their atmosphere is enriched in hydrogen. A second group of stars with higher

**Table 1.** Radial velocity statistics for 75 EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen from the VIMOS data.

ID	Spectral type	No. of spectra	RV <sub>average</sub> ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$\Delta$ RV <sub>stdev</sub> ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$\ln p$
5125408	He-sdOB	28	238.5	29.1	-11.68
5131557	He-sdOB	10	204.1	46.2	-10.22
5034421	sdO	24	237.9	32.1	-9.07
5132323	He-sdOB	24	217.1	35.5	-7.31
5150273	He-sdOB	25	229.3	26.2	-6.25
157448	sdB	20	229.2	31.2	-5.75
5097663	He-sdOB	13	238.6	28.1	-5.62
5262593	sdB	24	193.7	26.7	-4.22
5153131	He-sdOB	18	258.3	30.2	-4.17
5196769	sdO	30	250.1	28.6	-4.15
5128088	sdO	19	230.5	27.6	-4.14
5307782	He-sdOB	22	238.3	24.9	-4.05
5341196	He-sdOB	22	226.0	26.4	-3.96
5214452	He-sdOB	34	258.3	22.1	-3.85
5276767	He-sdOB	20	213.3	24.1	-3.56
5094098	He-sdOB	26	236.8	24.4	-3.55
5338760	sdB	19	199.8	31.8	-3.46
5268317	He-sdOB	23	223.6	24.1	-3.46
5131824	sdB	25	201.5	26.5	-3.3
5039935	He-sdOB	9	239.3	23.8	-2.98
5180639	He-sdOB	26	263.0	24.6	-2.97
155799	He-sdOB	21	243.8	22.1	-2.95
5222459	He-sdOB	24	218.2	22.6	-2.88
5148322	He-sdOB	32	241.5	21.6	-2.69
5207762	He-sdOB	17	250.3	30.1	-2.59
5156440	He-sdOB	18	260.3	23.8	-2.5
5283552	sdB	25	228.8	23.4	-2.46
274052	He-sdOB	18	237.0	22.8	-2.37
5121885	sdO	40	242.0	21.4	-2.36
5306037	He-sdOB	27	212.5	22.9	-2.18
5123061	He-sdOB	32	220.6	21.5	-1.97
5165122	He-sdOB	37	246.2	20.8	-1.79
5091999	sdB	9	224.8	23.7	-1.74
5032350	He-sdOB	10	177.7	22.9	-1.73
5166220	sdO	32	256.6	21.3	-1.71
5119720	He-sdOB	29	237.5	21.2	-1.67
168035	sdB	40	214.5	23.4	-1.6
176008	He-sdOB	8	264.5	24.7	-1.55
5193651	sdB	35	219.1	22.8	-1.5
257150	sdB	32	224.4	20.1	-1.21
5138707	He-sdOB	21	214.0	22.0	-1.18
165943	He-sdOB	31	236.9	19.8	-1.14
5296709	sdO	22	219.6	22.0	-1.13
5136690	sdB	34	231.6	23.4	-1.08
5170422	He-sdOB	26	249.5	21.5	-1.06
170679	He-sdOB	31	226.4	20.0	-1.0
5299498	sdB	7	269.8	20.8	-0.89
5226206	He-sdOB	16	203.0	21.7	-0.8
5137388	He-sdOB	19	233.5	18.3	-0.7
281063	sdO	32	271.3	21.7	-0.68
5183041	He-sdOB	19	222.2	23.0	-0.64
5370155	He-sdOB	28	247.9	18.8	-0.64
182549	sdB	6	219.9	18.8	-0.63
5142759	He-sdOB	29	211.7	17.7	-0.61
183403	sdB	11	218.2	17.5	-0.58
177825	sdB	31	231.6	20.2	-0.56
177238	sdO	3	198.6	16.4	-0.5
5094822	He-sdOB	32	253.5	16.3	-0.46
5238307	sdB	33	234.2	24.7	-0.44
5359493	He-sdOB	26	227.8	17.2	-0.43
5124244	He-sdOB	21	248.1	19.5	-0.41
5151410	He-sdOB	20	219.0	23.5	-0.4
165237	He-sdOB	31	249.0	18.7	-0.38
5102767	He-sdOB+MS	12	233.1	15.2	-0.29
264670	He-sdOB	11	228.1	17.9	-0.27
254318	He-sdOB	38	221.3	15.2	-0.18
5347296	He-sdOB	4	227.0	11.7	-0.18
5317711	sdO	12	265.5	14.3	-0.15
5141232	He-sdOB	37	232.5	15.5	-0.14
5103569	He-sdOB	37	233.9	16.1	-0.11
273649	He-sdOB	40	219.6	14.8	-0.08
5111007	He-sdOB	33	232.0	14.8	-0.04
5295674	He-sdOB	34	246.5	14.7	-0.04
5179481	sdB	40	262.9	16.5	-0.01
5114452	sdO	9	207.4	8.3	0.0

helium abundances, mainly super-solar ( $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H}) \gtrsim -1.0$ ), can be found at  $T_{\text{eff}}$  between  $\sim 33\,000$  and  $43\,000 \text{ K}$ . The stars in this group show a clear trend of increasing helium

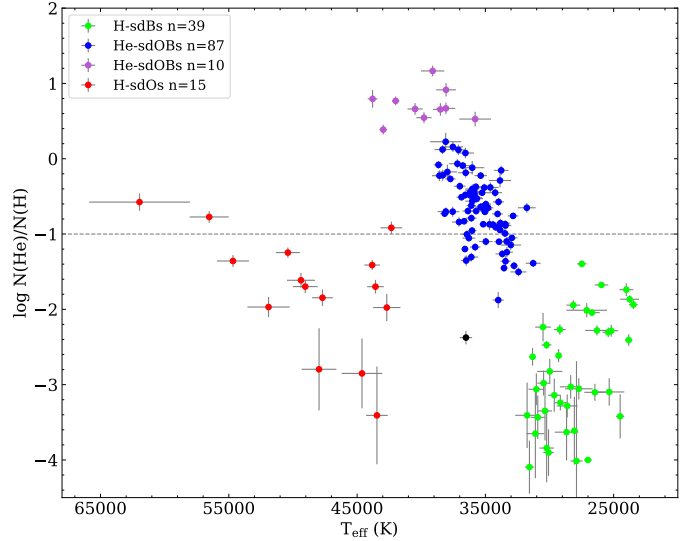


**Fig. 3.** Distribution of heliocentric radial velocities for the 152 stars of our sample. The dashed curve shows the resulting best-fitting gaussian to our data and the dotted line indicates the RV of the cluster ( $232.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , Harris 1996, 2010 edition).

abundance with effective temperature. In the smaller sample of Latour et al. (2014b), three stars out of the 25 forming that group had a helium abundance below solar. In our extended sample, it becomes clear that this group of “helium-enriched” stars is not strictly helium-rich but also extends to helium abundances slightly below solar. Nevertheless, we refer to this group of stars as the He-sdOBs. Interestingly, the ten most helium-rich objects of this group seem to distinguish themselves with the peculiarity that the helium abundance versus temperature correlation vanishes. Although we plot these most helium-rich objects with a distinct color (purple) in some of the following figures, we consider them part of the He-sdOB group. While the bulk of the He-sdOBs shows a rather tight  $T_{\text{eff}} - \log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  correlation, the situation is different among the H-sdBs, which have a much larger scatter in their helium abundances. This large scatter in helium abundance is also observed among hydrogen-rich sDBs of other clusters (see Fig. 8 of Moni Bidin et al. 2012).

The third group comprises the hottest stars, corresponding to an sdO spectral type. These stars are mostly helium-poor and also seem to show a correlation between helium abundance and temperature. However, one must be careful in interpreting this feature since the three most helium-poor objects are from the FLAMES sample (see also Fig. B.2), where the spectral range does not cover any He II lines and only two Balmer lines were used to derive the atmospheric parameters (which also explains the large uncertainties). We identify the stars from this group as the H-sdOs, since the majority of them have an atmosphere enriched in hydrogen. Finally, there is one star (plotted in black in Fig. 4) that could not be associated with any of the group described above. This particular object is part of two samples (FORS\_MB and FLAMES) and the parameters derived from both spectra are in good agreement.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of our stars in the  $\log g - T_{\text{eff}}$  diagram with theoretical models from the BASTI database<sup>5</sup> (Pietrinferni et al. 2006) overplotted. We selected a Zero-Age Horizontal Branch (ZAHB) and a Terminal Age Horizontal Branch (TAHB) sequence for a normal helium content,  $Y = 0.24$ , and a metallicity representative of the  $\omega$  Cen stellar population

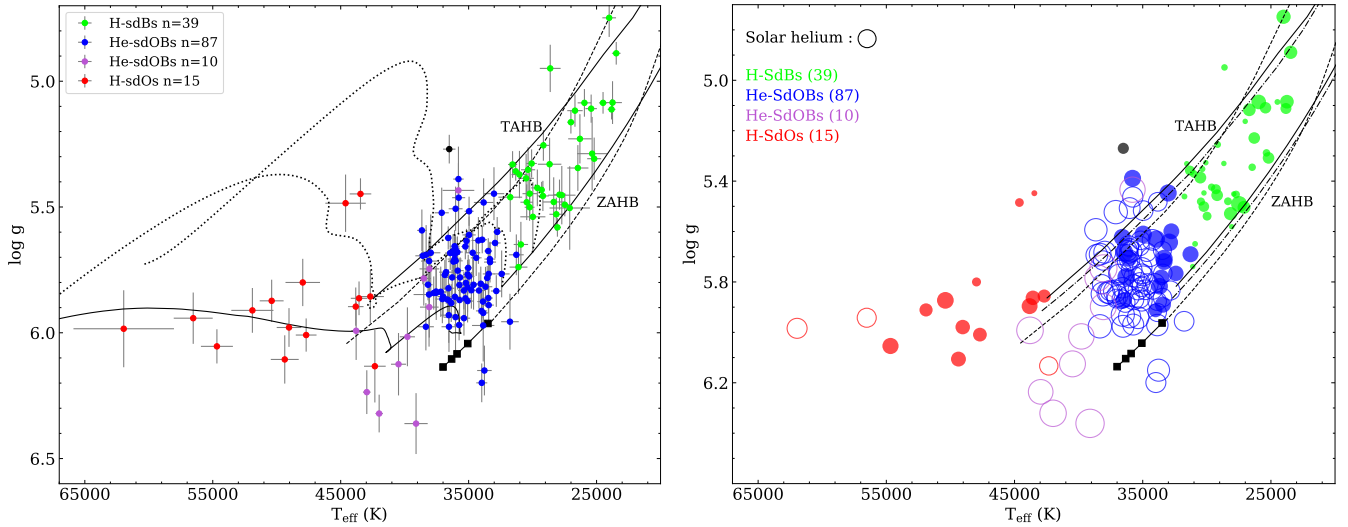


**Fig. 4.** Helium abundance as a function of effective temperature for the 152 stars in our sample. The spectroscopic groups mentioned in the text are plotted in different colors. The dashed line represents the solar helium abundance. The error bars used for individual stars are the statistical uncertainties returned by the fitting procedure.

( $Z = 0.0003$ ,  $[M/H] = -1.8$ , solid lines), as well as a ZAHB and TAHB for a helium-enhanced stellar mixture ( $Y = 0.40$  and  $Z = 0.0002$  ( $[M/H] = -1.8$ ), dashed lines). The right panel of Fig. 5 shows an additional ZAHB and TAHB for a different metallicity,  $Z = 0.002$  ( $[M/H] = -0.96$ , dashed-dotted lines), and normal helium content ( $Y = 0.24$ ). The ZAHB is the starting point of the He-core burning, while the TAHB represents the end of helium burning in the center of the star. These two sequences define the He-core burning region that is considered the evolutionary EHB region. After leaving the EHB, the star starts to burn helium in the outer shell, with the post-EHB evolution proceeding around 10 times faster than the EHB phase. The EHB models represent stars with masses in the canonical range  $0.488 - 0.510 M_{\odot}$ . While the position of HB stars predicted by the helium-enhanced models is quite different to that of the normal helium models for stars with  $T_{\text{eff}} < 20\,000 \text{ K}$ , the difference is not very pronounced for the EHB domain shown in the plot. These models can be referred to as canonical in the sense that they do not result from a delayed helium-flash. Stars experiencing a late flash and the resulting mixing of the helium-rich core material with the hydrogen envelope will end up having higher effective temperatures.

The majority of the stars (from the H-sdB and the He-sdOB groups) are sitting on the EHB, as would be expected for He-core burning objects. Although both groups are found along the EHB, there is a clear gap between them, which could be explained by the gap in  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and  $\log g$  predicted between the hottest canonical EHB models and the models undergoing a delayed He-flash (Moehler et al. 2011; Brown et al. 2001). Following the delayed He-flash, the hydrogen that survived the process is expected to diffuse toward the surface, causing the star to become colder as a hydrogen layer builds up on the surface (Miller Bertolami et al. 2008). To illustrate this, we plotted a sequence of ZAHB models (black squares) computed by adding a hydrogen-rich layer (of varying mass:  $0$ ,  $10^{-7}$ ,  $10^{-6}$ ,  $10^{-5}$ , and  $10^{-4} M_{\odot}$ ) to the surface of a late-flasher model that consists almost entirely of helium (96%) and carbon (3–4%; see Sect. 5 of Moehler et al. 2002 for a detailed description of the models). The hydrogen layer has the

<sup>5</sup> <http://albione.oa-teramo.inaf.it/>



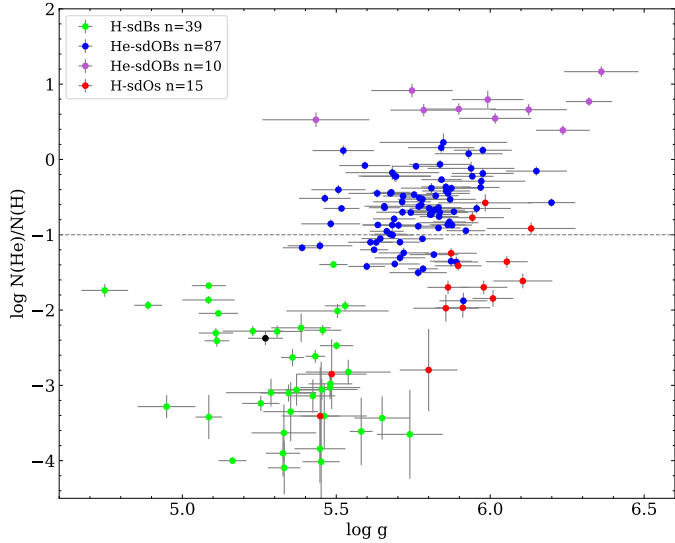
**Fig. 5.** *Left panel:* position of the stars in the  $\log g - T_{\text{eff}}$  diagram. The spectroscopic groups are plotted as in Fig. 4. The error bars used for individual stars are the statistical uncertainties returned by the fitting procedure. The ZAHB and TAHB sequences are plotted for two different helium contents  $Y = 0.24$  (solid lines) and  $Y = 0.40$  (dashed lines) and a metallicity of  $[M/H] = -1.8$ . Canonical evolutionary tracks with  $Y = 0.24$  are shown for models having  $0.498$  and  $0.5 M_{\odot}$  (dotted curves). The connected squares represent a series of ZAHB models computed by adding a hydrogen-rich layer to the surface of a late-flasher ZAHB model. The squares indicate hydrogen layer masses (with decreasing temperature) of  $0, 10^{-7}, 10^{-6}, 10^{-5},$  and  $10^{-4} M_{\odot}$  (Moehler et al. 2002). An additional late-flasher evolutionary track is plotted (solid curve), corresponding to the  $Z = 0.001$  and  $M = 0.491 M_{\odot}$  shallow-mixing case of Miller Bertolami et al. (2008). *Right panel:* similar to the left panel, but here the size of the circles is proportional to the logarithmic helium abundance, super-solar and sub-solar abundances being represented by open and filled circles respectively. The circle size for the solar helium abundance is shown for reference. The ZAHBs and TAHBs are plotted as in the left panel, with an additional sequence at a metallicity of  $[M/H] = -0.96$  and  $Y = 0.24$  added (dash-dotted lines).

effect of reducing the effective temperature of the star by increasing the shielding of the hot core and changing the atmospheric opacity. According to this scenario, our group of stars with the highest helium abundances (plotted in purple) with on average higher  $T_{\text{eff}}$  than the other He-sdOBs could be newly born late-flashers, while the other He-sdOBs would have already undergone some level of diffusion.

In the left-hand panel of Fig. 5 we display evolutionary tracks for canonical models with a normal helium abundance and masses of  $0.498$  and  $0.5 M_{\odot}$  (dotted curves; taken from the BASTI database), as well as a late hot flasher evolutionary track (solid curve, taken from Miller Bertolami et al. 2008, the shallow mixing case for  $Z = 0.001$  and  $M = 0.491 M_{\odot}$ ). An interesting difference between the canonical and late-flasher evolution is in the post-EHB region: while canonical models predict a rise in luminosity after core-helium exhaustion, the post-EHB evolution of the late flasher proceeds at a relatively constant surface gravity due to the thinner hydrogen envelope. The hydrogen-rich stars lying above the TAHB (including the one star that could not be associated with a specific spectroscopic group) are likely in the He-shell burning post-EHB phase, their low surface gravity matching the predictions from the canonical post-EHB tracks. The hottest H-sdOs, which are found around  $\log g = 6.0$ , could be the progeny of the He-sdOBs, given that diffusion leads to a decrease in atmospheric helium abundance over time. This idea was already suggested by Latour et al. (2014b), who found that the He-sdOBs and the H-sdOs show the same correlation between the helium and carbon abundances (see their Fig. 7). Figure 6 presents our stars in the helium – surface gravity plane, where the H-sdBs and He-sdOBs are also well separated, the latter being found at higher gravities. Looking at the number of stars included in the three spectroscopic groups, we find that the He-sdOB stars account for 64% of the sample, the H-sdBs for 26% and the H-sdOs for the remaining 10%. Our full

spectroscopic sample combines data from five observed samples that were subject to different selection criteria, as described in Sect. 2. For instance, the FORS1.6 and FORS2.6 samples are biased toward hotter stars, and indeed, these two samples show the lowest fractions of H-sdBs. The sample least likely to be affected by selection effects is FORS\_MB, as it targeted the HB of  $\omega$  Cen all the way from the blue edge of the RR Lyrae gap to the hot end of the EHB (see Moni Bidin et al. 2012). This sample indeed includes a larger fraction (33%) of H-sdBs and slightly fewer He-sdOBs ( $\sim 57\%$ ).

*The blue hook.* An important aspect of the HB morphology of  $\omega$  Cen is the presence of its prominent blue hook that is most conspicuous in the UV CMD (D’Cruz et al. 2000; Brown et al. 2016). This particular feature has been studied mostly in  $\omega$  Cen and NGC 2808, where it was attributed to the presence of helium enriched stars (D’Cruz et al. 1996; Brown et al. 2010; D’Antona et al. 2010). However, very few of these blue hook objects have been observed spectroscopically (Moehler et al. 2002, 2004; Brown et al. 2012). The main reason for this is that they are best identified in UV CMDs which rely on space observations (nowadays mainly with the *Hubble* Space Telescope). These observations usually target the dense central region of globular clusters that cannot be easily resolved using ground-based observations. On the other hand, spectroscopic data are mostly obtained with ground-based telescopes for stars found in the outskirts of the clusters where crowding is less severe; this is also the case for the EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen, as illustrated in Fig. 2. Given the large size of our sample, we thought it worthwhile to plot the position of the targets according to spectroscopic group in the optical CMD (Fig. 7). A few stars have redder colors than the bulk of the EHB in the  $V, U-V$  CMD, which is likely due to inaccurate WFI photometry since these stars are found among the bulk of EHB stars when using the ACS photometry. As expected, the faintest part of the EHB consists predominantly of

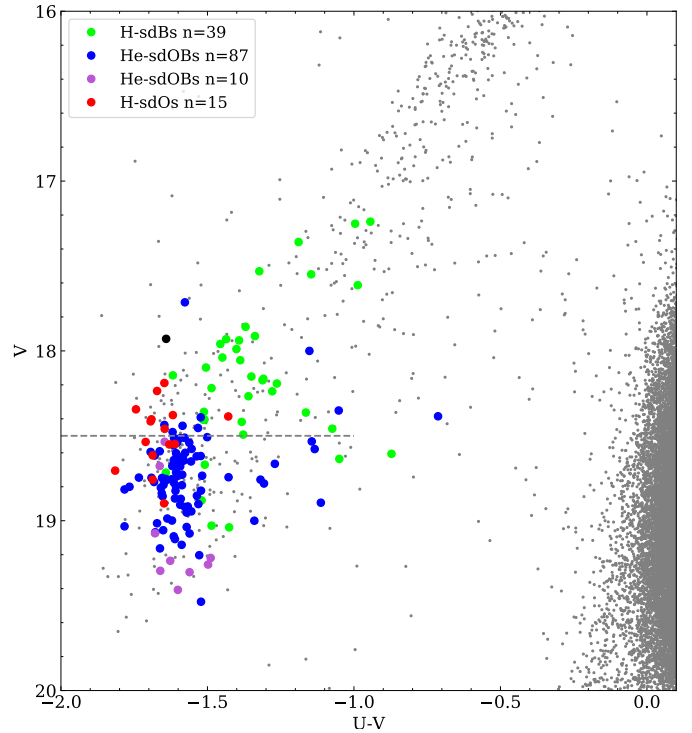


**Fig. 6.** Helium abundance as function of the surface gravity derived for the 152 stars of the sample. The spectroscopic groups are plotted as in Fig. 4. The error bars used for individual stars are the statistical uncertainties returned by the fitting procedure.

He-rich objects. Moehler et al. (2002) identified the blue hook region in the optical CMD of  $\omega$  Cen as the region with  $V \geq 18.5$ , based on the distance-corrected magnitude at which the blue tail of the HB of the globular cluster NGC 6752 ends. NGC 6752 is well known to host a fair number of EHB stars, but these all have  $T_{\text{eff}} \leq 30\,000$  K and are helium-poor, thus it can be inferred that EHB stars fainter than those of NGC 6752 should constitute the blue hook population of  $\omega$  Cen. According to Fig. 7, the majority of our targets with  $V \geq 18.5$  indeed belong to the He-sdOB group and this magnitude limit provides a good (although not perfect) separation between H-sdB and He-sdOB stars. We thus confirm that the He-sdOBs account for the majority of the blue hook region. As for the H-sdOs (red circles), although they cluster on the blue side of the EHB (at low  $U-V$ ), they cannot be easily isolated from the other spectroscopic groups by their position in the CMD. On Fig. 7 we also see that the most He-rich stars (purple circles) are among the faintest objects, as expected from Brown et al. (2001). As discussed above, our spectroscopic samples are subject to selection effects and the He-sdOBs are likely overrepresented. Another estimate of the fraction of He-sdOBs present in  $\omega$  Cen can be made using the position of the stars in the CMD. We first calculated the number of stars in the WFI catalog (gray dots in Fig. 7) that are found in the blue hook region ( $V > 18.5$  and  $U-V < -0.5$ ), 216 stars, and in the EHB region ( $17.2 < V < 18.5$ ), 210 stars. Considering the fraction of He-sdOBs spectroscopically observed in each region (i.e., 85% in the blue hook region and 19% in the EHB region) we estimated a fraction of He-sdOBs of 52%. This number, although a rough estimate, should be less affected by selection effects than the higher fraction (57%–64%) obtained from our spectroscopic sample only.

#### 4.3. Mass distribution

Using the atmospheric parameters,  $V$  magnitudes and the distance to  $\omega$  Cen, we derived spectroscopic masses following the method described in Sect. 3.3. The resulting masses and their uncertainties are presented in Table B.3, and the total mass distribution is shown by the black histogram in Fig. 8. The dis-

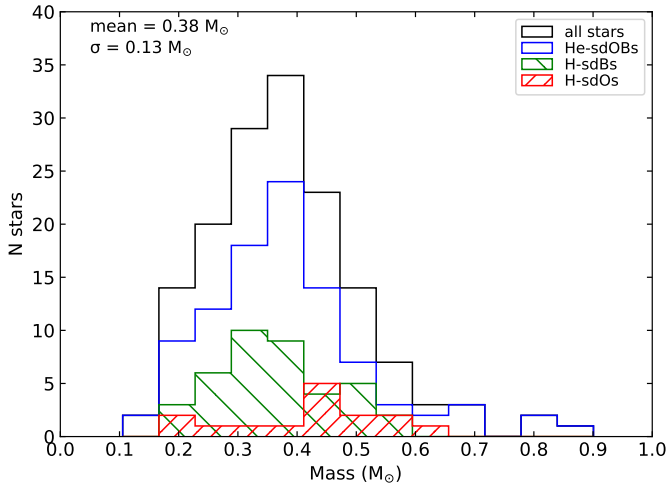


**Fig. 7.** Position of our stars colored according to spectroscopic group in the  $V$  vs  $U-V$  CMD. The dashed line represents the separation between the EHB and the blue hook region (Moehler et al. 2002).

tribution is characterized by a mean mass of  $0.38 M_{\odot}$  and a standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of  $0.13 M_{\odot}$ . This derived average mass is uncomfortably low given that the canonical value required to ignite helium in the core is  $\sim 0.45 M_{\odot}$ . However, low masses have been reported previously for HB and EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen (Moni Bidin et al. 2011a, 2012; Latour et al. 2017).

Figure 8 also shows the individual mass distributions of the three spectroscopic groups, namely the H-sdBs, He-sdOBs and H-sdOs. The most populous groups (He-sdOBs and H-sdBs) display a similar shape in their distribution, with the exception that no high-mass objects ( $> 0.6 M_{\odot}$ ) are found among the H-sdBs. This contrasts with the presence of some EHB stars with high spectroscopic masses reported by Moni Bidin et al. (2007, 2009) in NGC 6752 and M 80. The average masses of the stars in both spectroscopic groups are also similar, with a mean mass of  $0.38 M_{\odot}$  for the He-sdOBs and  $0.36 M_{\odot}$  for the H-sdBs. As for H-sdOs, their average mass is  $0.41 M_{\odot}$ . This is slightly larger (by  $0.03 M_{\odot}$ ) than the mean mass of the rest of the sample, but this difference is not as large as the one reported by Latour et al. (2017;  $0.13 M_{\odot}$ ) based on the FORS2.6 sample only. The mass of an EHB star consists almost entirely of its He-core, and the hydrogen envelope contributes to at most  $0.02 M_{\odot}$ . Given the conditions required to ignite helium under degenerate conditions, the possible range of core masses is not very extended and we do not expect the stars of different spectral groups to show statistically significant differences in masses. Moreover, given that the H-sdOs are thought to be the direct progeny of the cooler EHB stars, they are expected to have similar masses. In this regard at least our results are self-consistent<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> We performed  $t$ -Tests comparing the masses of each spectroscopic groups with the masses of all the other stars to check that the mass distributions are not statistically different.

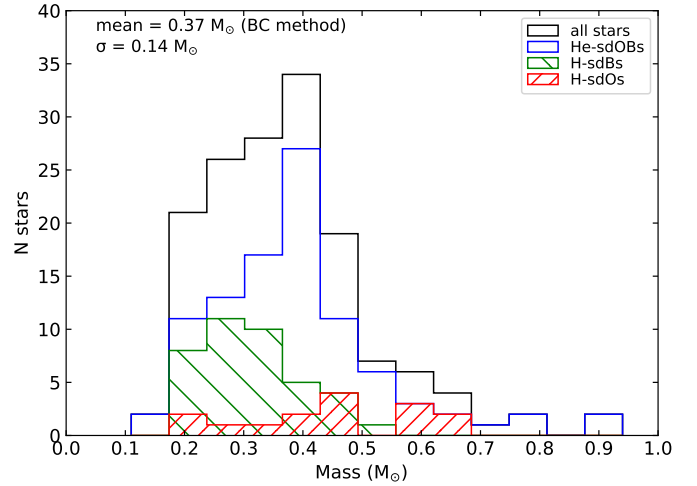


**Fig. 8.** Distribution of spectroscopic masses for all stars in the sample as well as separated for the three spectroscopic groups.

Our method for deriving the spectroscopic masses is based on the emergent flux predicted by our own grid of model atmospheres given the specific atmospheric parameters ( $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$ , and  $N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$ ) of each star. Some previous investigations used a bolometric correction to estimate the theoretical stellar flux required to derive the stellar mass (e.g., [Moni Bidin et al. 2012](#)). Since our own method led to stellar masses significantly lower than predicted from evolutionary models, we decided to re-compute our masses using the method presented in [Moehler et al. \(2017\)](#), using the bolometric corrections of [Flower \(1996\)](#). For consistency we used the same values of reddening and distance modulus as in Sect. 3.3.

The total mass distributions derived using the two different methods have a very similar shape (see Fig. B.3) and the average mass obtained with the bolometric correction (BC) method,  $0.37 M_{\odot}$ , is even slightly lower than the average mass of  $0.38 M_{\odot}$  obtained previously with the spectroscopic method. The use of an empirical BC for computing the masses has one obvious caveat; the correction (applied to the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  range of our EHB targets) is derived using hot main-sequence (MS) stars that have a solar helium abundance, but the stars in our sample have helium abundances varying from one thousandth to a hundred times solar. As this could induce some systematic effects on the derived masses, we also looked at the mass distribution and mean mass per spectroscopic group (Fig. 9). This is in fact more revealing than the average distribution as it highlights differences between the spectroscopic groups. The H-sdBs are found to have, on average, significantly smaller masses ( $0.31 M_{\odot}$ ) than the He-sdOBs ( $0.39 M_{\odot}$ ), while the H-sdOs appear to be even more massive ( $0.45 M_{\odot}$ ). Such large differences in mass between the three spectroscopic groups are not expected and undermine the reliability of the BC method when applied to stars with different helium abundances. In addition, the abundance patterns of hot subdwarfs are in general quite different from the solar abundances of the MS stars used for calibrating the bolometric corrections ([Geier 2013](#)).

Notwithstanding the differences in the individual masses obtained with the two methods, we are in both cases left with the puzzling conclusion that the masses derived for our EHB stars are on average smaller than those predicted from evolutionary models.



**Fig. 9.** Same as Fig. 8 but for masses computed using the bolometric correction method.

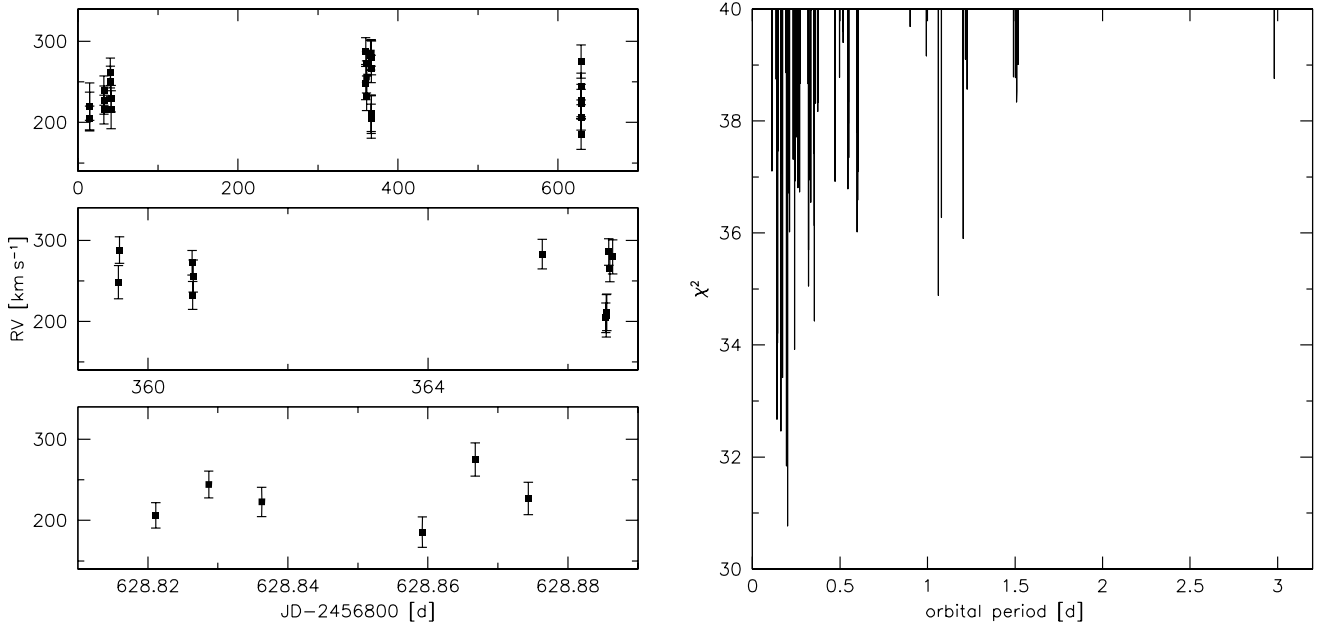
#### 4.4. Binarity

##### 4.4.1. Search for binaries in the VIMOS sample

In addition to the atmospheric parameters of our EHB stars, we are also interested in their radial velocity properties. Of particular interest is the apparent general lack of close binaries among EHB stars in globular clusters (e.g., NGC 6752, M 80, and NGC 2808, [Moni Bidin et al. 2006, 2009, 2011b](#)), compared to a fraction of about 50% among the field sdBs ([Maxted et al. 2001; Napiwotzki et al. 2004](#)). The closest binary systems observed in the field have periods ( $P$ )  $\sim 0.05$ – $0.3$  d and semi-amplitudes ( $K$ ) of typically  $50$ – $200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  while the longer period systems ( $P$  up to 10 days) have values of  $K$  down to  $40$ – $60 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  ([Kupfer et al. 2015](#)). Given the short exposure time (600 s), the multiple epochs (14) obtained over 32 months, and the typical uncertainties on the individual RVs ( $\pm 20 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ )<sup>7</sup>, our VIMOS observations are tailored to detect close binaries with properties similar to those in the field. Our VIMOS dataset is not only the largest ever obtained for this purpose in any globular cluster, but also the first to include blue hook stars.

To estimate the fraction of false detection produced by statistical fluctuations and the significance of the measured RV variations, we used the method described in [Maxted et al. \(2001\)](#). For each star we calculate the average velocity from all measured epochs and assuming this velocity to be constant, we calculate the  $\chi^2$ . Comparing this value with the  $\chi^2$ -distribution for the appropriate number of degrees of freedom we calculate the probability ( $p$ ) of obtaining the observed value of  $\chi^2$  or higher from random fluctuations around a constant value. The natural logarithm of the false-detection probability ( $\ln p$ ) is given in Table 1 for each of the 75 stars that are part of the RV survey. Table 1 also provides the average RV for each star, the standard deviation  $\sigma$  of the individual RVs as well as a spectral classification, which is especially useful for the stars that did not have their atmospheric parameters derived. We consider the detection of RV variability to be significant if the false-detection probability is smaller than 0.01% ( $\ln p < -9.2$ ).

<sup>7</sup> This includes both statistical and systematic uncertainties, see Sect. 3.1.



**Fig. 10.** *Left panel:* radial velocities measured for one of the close-binary candidates, 5125408. The different panels show different time ranges and as such illustrate the RV variations detected on different time scales. *Right panel:*  $\chi^2$  from the period fitting routine plotted against binary period. No unique orbital solution could be found.

We only found two stars among the full sample of 75 stars that show statistically significant RV variations according to this criterion. Star 5125408 shows a maximum RV shift of about  $100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and star 5131557 appears to have a maximum RV shift of about  $140 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Although both stars are part of the He-sdOB spectroscopic group, they are among the coolest and least He-rich stars of that group. Assuming circular orbits, sine curves were fitted to the RV data points of the two binary candidates in fine steps over a range of test periods. For each period the  $\chi^2$  of the best fitting sine curve was determined. The result is similar to a power spectrum with the lowest  $\chi^2$  indicating the most likely period (Geier et al. 2011). No unique solution could be found. The RVs measured for 5125408 as well as the  $\chi^2$  distribution are shown in Fig. 10. Since based on the maximum RV shifts measured the RV semi-amplitudes of both systems should be about  $60 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , the individual uncertainty of the RVs (about  $20 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ) might simply be too high to find a significant solution. Alternatively, the sampling of the RV curves might be insufficient to solve the orbit.

Assuming that these two targets are indeed binaries and the companions are white dwarfs with  $0.5 M_{\odot}$  (which is the case for many of the close companions to field sdBs, see Kupfer et al. 2015), the orbital periods would very likely exceed several days. If the companions are M dwarfs with  $0.1 M_{\odot}$ , which is also quite typical of field sdB binaries, the periods should be on the order of 0.1–0.2 days. In this case, characteristic sinusoidal variations caused by reflection effects and/or eclipses should be visible in the light curves of the binaries. The lack of such variations would be an indication for compact companions like WDs.

Here we consider these two stars to be close-binary candidates. Follow-up observations are needed to confirm their binary nature and put constraints on the orbital parameters. For the remaining 73 stars of our VIMOS sample, we can adopt the average RV uncertainty of  $20 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  as an upper limit for any RV variations. The upper limit for the RV semi amplitudes of hidden close binaries should then be about twice this number. As can be seen in Fig. 6 of Kupfer et al. (2015), this excludes most known

types of sdO/B close binaries. Any undetected binaries would have low-mass companions ( $<0.2 M_{\odot}$ ) and/or orbital periods of several days quite different from the known field population.

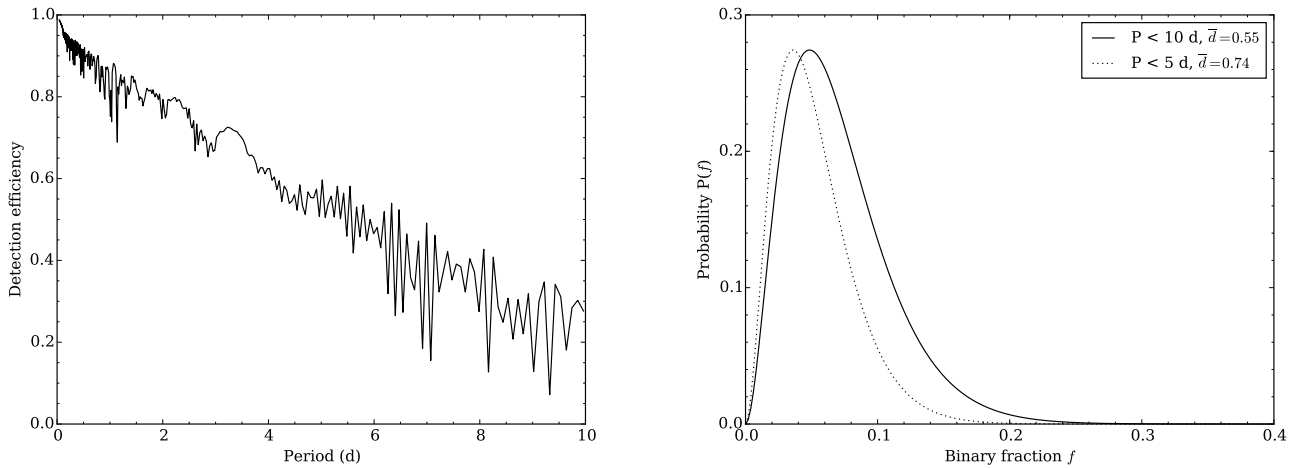
#### 4.4.2. Binary fraction among the EHB stars of $\omega$ Cen

The two binary candidates that we discovered among our VIMOS sample suggests a binary fraction  $f$  of about 2.7%, assuming that we detected all the binaries among our sample. However the detection efficiency ( $\bar{d}$ ) can never be 100% due to the possible inclinations of the systems, and it is also a strong function of the binary period. Given a fraction of binaries  $f$  in a sample of  $N$  stars and a detection efficiency  $\bar{d}$ , the probability of detecting  $N_B$  binaries is

$$P = \frac{N!}{(N - N_B)! N_B!} (\bar{d}f)^{N_B} (1 - \bar{d}f)^{N - N_B}. \quad (4)$$

With a detection efficiency of  $\bar{d} = 1$  and two detected binaries out of 75 stars, the probability function indeed peaks around 2.7%. However, a better estimate can be obtained by evaluating the detection efficiency of the VIMOS survey. For that we closely followed the method used by Maxted et al. (2001) in their study of field EHB stars to compute the detection efficiency at a given period  $P$  for each star in our sample. First, we assume masses of  $0.5 M_{\odot}$  for both the EHB and companion star. Such a companion mass actually corresponds to one of the peaks in the companion mass distribution for hot subdwarfs in the field and largely corresponds to WD companions (Kupfer et al. 2015; Kawka et al. 2015). We then compute the maximum value of the semi-amplitude  $K_{\max}$  (i.e., for an inclination of  $i = 90^\circ$ ) assuming a circular orbit. We used the observation times  $T_{\text{obs}}$  of the star to simulate a set of mock RVs of an hypothetical binary using the equation

$$v_{\text{rad}} = K_{\max} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{P}(T_{\text{obs}} - T_0)\right). \quad (5)$$



**Fig. 11.** *Left:* average detection efficiency versus period for the 75 stars of the VIMOS sample. *Right:* probability curve of having a binary fraction  $f$  in our VIMOS sample for binaries with periods shorter than 10 days (solid) and shorter than 5 days (dotted).

The mock RVs are then used to compute the  $\chi^2$  value of this hypothetical binary,  $\chi_{\max}^2$ , using the RV uncertainties of the actual observations. This calculation was repeated over 50 values of  $T_0$  to cover all possible orbital phases and averaged to  $\chi_{\max}^2$ . We can then compare the value of  $\chi_{\max}^2$  to the value required,  $\chi_{\text{crit}}^2$ , to satisfy our detection criterion ( $\ln p < -9.2$ ; see previous section). If  $\chi_{\max}^2 < \chi_{\text{crit}}^2$  then no binaries with that orbital period can be detected and  $d$  is zero. Otherwise, we calculate the semi-amplitude for which  $\chi_{\max}^2 = \chi_{\text{crit}}^2$ ,  $K_{\text{crit}}$ . For randomly oriented orbits,  $i$  is distributed as  $\cos i$ , so the detection efficiency for a given combination of observations, period and mass is  $d = \sqrt{1 - (K_{\text{crit}}/K_{\max})^2}$ . This way, we computed  $d$  for periods up to 10 days for every star in the VIMOS survey and took the average values to produce the detection efficiency curve presented in the left panel of Fig. 11.

To calculate the binary fraction of our sample using Eq. (4), the detection efficiency must be averaged over a certain range of periods. Ideally, one would compute a weighted mean of  $d$  over the period distribution of known binaries. Although the period distribution of EHB binaries in the field is rather well described, it is not at all clear that this can be blindly applied to globular clusters, especially considering the only EHB binary in a globular cluster that has a known orbital solution has quite peculiar characteristics (period and companion mass) when compared to the field population. We thus simply use the straight average of the detection efficiencies, which we calculated for periods up to 5 days ( $\bar{d} = 0.74$ ) and 10 days ( $\bar{d} = 0.55$ ). The resulting probability curves are illustrated in the right panel of Fig. 11, and peak at 3.6% for binaries with  $P < 5$  days and 4.8% for binaries with  $P < 10$  days. The probability curve reaches a 1% probability for a binary fraction of 14% and 18.5% for periods up to 5 and 10 days respectively. These values can be seen as a conservative upper limit on the binary fraction of our sample.

In addition to WD companions, low-mass M dwarfs stars are also common companions to hot subdwarfs in the field, where they are usually found in close orbits ( $P < 1$  d; Kupfer et al. 2015; Kawka et al. 2015). We computed additional detection efficiency curves assuming this time a  $0.13 M_{\odot}$  companion. A lower mass companion produces smaller RV variations, leading to a rather low detection efficiency of  $\bar{d} = 0.29$  for  $P < 1$  d. Such numbers would result in a most likely binary fraction of 9%, with an upper limit (1% probability) of 35%.

## 5. Discussion

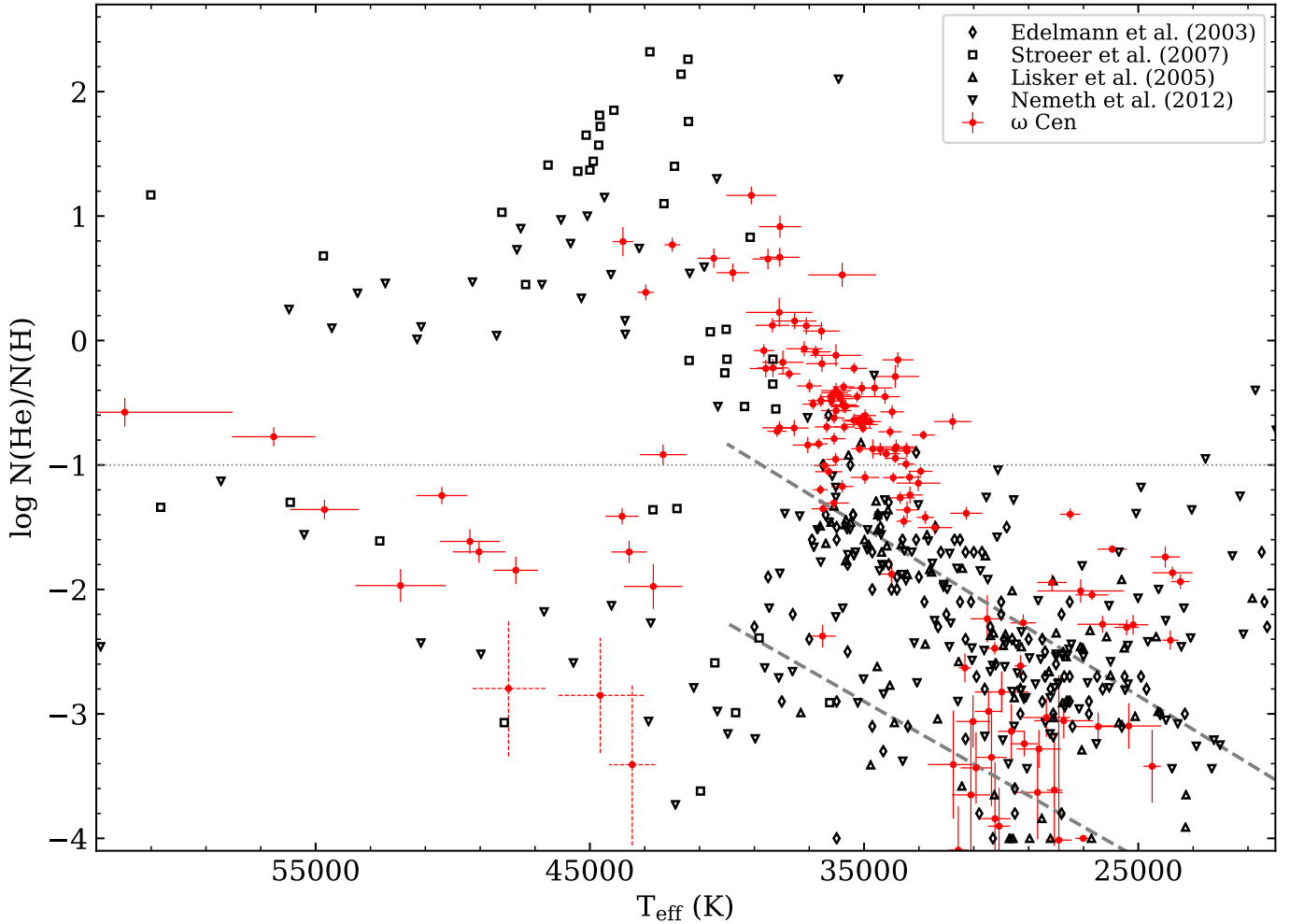
### 5.1. Contrasting the properties of the field and $\omega$ Cen EHB stars.

#### 5.1.1. Atmospheric properties

The populations of EHB stars in globular clusters and the galactic field are different in terms of spectroscopic properties and binary fractions. A good summary of the spectroscopic properties of hot subdwarfs from the galactic field population, based on the results of five major studies, is presented in Sect. 2.2 of Heber (2016). In short, the sdB stars ( $T_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 40\,000$  K) outnumber the sdOs by a factor of  $\sim 3$ , and the vast majority of sdB stars ( $\sim 95\%$ ) have a hydrogen-rich atmosphere (Heber 2009; Németh et al. 2012). The picture is however different among the sdO spectral type, where about two-thirds of the stars have an atmosphere that is strongly enriched in helium ( $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H}) \gtrsim -1.5$ ; Stroerer et al. 2007; Németh et al. 2012). Those stars are usually referred to as He-sdOs.

Our sample of EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen is the first in any globular cluster that is large enough to be comparable to surveys undertaken for the field EHB star population.

One of the main differences between the population observed in  $\omega$  Cen and that in the field lies in the helium composition of the stars with  $T_{\text{eff}}$  below 38 000 K. We illustrate this in Fig. 12, where we compare the distribution of our  $\omega$  Cen stars in the  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H}) - T_{\text{eff}}$  diagram with that of four samples (Edelmann et al. 2003; Lisker et al. 2005; Stroerer et al. 2007; Németh et al. 2012) representative of the field hot subdwarf population (see also Fig. 5 of Heber 2016). As mentioned above, in the galactic field these stars form a homogeneous group of helium-poor sdBs, while in  $\omega$  Cen the stars cooler than 38 000 K form two very distinct groups based on their temperature and helium abundance. In fact, stars with  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and helium abundance similar to the majority of the EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen (the He-sdOBs) are rare among the field population (see also Fig. 23 of Heber 2016), which consists mostly of hydrogen-poor sdBs. The distribution of the field sdBs follows a  $T_{\text{eff}} - N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  relation along two “sequences” identified by Edelmann et al. (2003) that are also indicated in Fig. 12. While our He-sdOBs also follow a clear  $T_{\text{eff}} - N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  trend, the helium abundances of the H-sdBs in  $\omega$  Cen are much more scattered. Among the hot



**Fig. 12.** Helium abundance versus  $T_{\text{eff}}$  for the EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen (red circles) and for hot subdwarf stars among the galactic field population from the samples of [Edelmann et al. \(2003\)](#), [Lisker et al. \(2005\)](#), [Stroeer et al. \(2007\)](#), and [Németh et al. \(2012\)](#). The three H-sdOs with uncertain parameters are indicated with dashed errorbars (see Sect. 4.2). The two helium –  $T_{\text{eff}}$  sequences identified by [Edelmann et al. \(2003\)](#) are shown in dashed lines.

subdwarfs in the galactic field, there is an important population of He-sdO stars showing an atmosphere even richer in helium than any of our  $\omega$  Cen stars. As can be inferred from Fig. 7, a higher helium content in the atmosphere results in a fainter magnitude. It therefore seems possible that such objects might have simply been missed in our spectroscopic observations, since in  $\omega$  Cen we are generally more limited by the magnitude of our targets than is the case for field star studies. However, looking more closely at the CMD we find that there are few stars fainter than our targets in the EHB of  $\omega$  Cen, therefore it would seem that  $\omega$  Cen does not harbour a significant population of these very He-rich sdOs.

The differences between the hot subdwarf populations of  $\omega$  Cen and the galactic field could be related to different formation mechanisms at play in both environments as well as to differences in the metallicity and age of the progenitor stars. The hot subdwarfs included in field surveys are mostly bright objects belonging to the galactic disk ([Altmann et al. 2004](#); [Martin et al. 2017](#)), thus they are likely to have younger and more metal rich progenitors than their counterparts in  $\omega$  Cen. [Latour et al. \(2014b\)](#) suggested that the  $\omega$  Cen He-sdOB population may have a counterpart among the galactic halo stars, an idea that was initially supported by the presence of similar objects in the SDSS sample, which is thought to contain more halo targets than other

studies in the field ([Hirsch 2009](#), P. Németh, priv. comm. 2014). However, the preliminary results of [Geier et al. \(2017b\)](#) could not confirm this hypothesis. The authors kinematically identified halo sdBs from the subdwarf catalog of [Geier et al. \(2017a\)](#) and found that only 23% of their sample corresponded to our He-sdOB type<sup>8</sup>. That fraction is larger than that of their disk sample (5%) but nowhere near as high as observed in  $\omega$  Cen.

In spite of the differences between the  $\omega$  Cen and the field populations, Fig. 12 highlights a common characteristic: the relationship between effective temperature and helium abundance in the sdB and sdOB stars. Although the majority of stars are found at different effective temperatures in the field and in  $\omega$  Cen, the stars with  $T_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 40\,000$  K show a clear positive correlation between  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and the helium abundance. This relation was first uncovered by [Edelmann et al. \(2003\)](#), who also found that a small fraction of the sdBs ( $\sim 10\%$ ) had a helium abundance about 1–1.5 dex lower than the other stars. The two “helium sequences” identified by [Edelmann et al. \(2003\)](#) are indicated in Fig. 12. Although this correlation between the effective temperature and helium abundance is well documented by the different surveys among field sdBs it is not yet fully understood ([O’Toole 2008](#)). In fact, the helium abundances

<sup>8</sup> We note that their sample only included stars with  $T_{\text{eff}}$  up to 40 000 K.

observed in sdBs are strongly influenced by diffusion processes. The abundances are larger than can be accounted for considering the balance between radiative levitation and gravity, thus an additional mechanism is needed to counteract gravitational settling (Michaud et al. 1989). For example, a weak stellar wind ( $\dot{M} \approx 10^{-13} - 10^{-14} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) could prevent the helium from sinking (Fontaine & Chayer 1997; Unglaub & Bues 2001). Also, weak turbulent mixing in the upper atmosphere can be invoked to explain the observed helium abundances (Hu et al. 2011; Michaud et al. 2011). Unglaub (2005) performed diffusion calculations and found that mass loss rates of  $\dot{M} \lesssim 10^{-14} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  can produce an atmospheric composition (of H and He) similar to that of the helium-enriched EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen and NGC 2808 (Moehler et al. 2004) if the initial ratio of H/He is  $\approx 0.02$ . This initial amount of hydrogen is larger than what is predicted by the late-flasher scenario Cassisi et al. (2003), but could be explained by the shallow-mixing case of Miller Bertolami et al. (2008) or by a lower mixing efficiency during the helium flash. However, the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  – helium correlation has not been specifically addressed in previous work and remains unexplained. Nevertheless, it seems clear that diffusion plays an important role in shaping this correlation that is definitely present, and similar, in both populations. The diffusion processes make it more difficult to directly connect the measured atmospheric abundances with the predictions from evolutionary models, since these do not usually include all the processes at play in the very thin photospheric layers.

### 5.1.2. Binarity

An important difference between the EHB populations of the field and  $\omega$  Cen concerns the fraction of stars in short binary systems ( $P \lesssim 10$  d). As reported in Sect. 4.4, our search for such systems among 75 EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen did not allow us to characterize any binary systems. We detected only two binary candidates that showed statistically significant RV variations, but for which no orbital solution was found. Our estimated binary fraction derived from the probability curve shown in Fig. 11 is about 5% with an upper limit of 18.5% at a confidence level of 99%. This applies to binaries with  $P < 10$  d and companion's mass of  $0.5 M_{\odot}$  and indicates a rather low fraction of short period binaries among the EHB stars of  $\omega$  Cen<sup>9</sup>. Our findings are in line with the lack of such binaries in other globular clusters, namely NGC 6752, NGC 5986, M 80, and NGC 2808 (Moni Bidin et al. 2006; 2009; 2011b), compared to a fraction of about 50% among the field sdBs (Maxted et al. 2001; Napiwotzki et al. 2004; Copperwheat et al. 2011). Besides the two binary candidates we found in our sample, only five other EHB star binary candidates are known in other GCs. Moni Bidin et al. (2009) reported the discovery of significant RV shifts with a maximum variation of  $26.9 \pm 7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  for the H-sdB 4175 in their study of NGC 5986. In NGC 2808, Moni Bidin et al. (2011b) found the three RV variable candidates 9519, 7700, and 55759 with maximum RV shifts of  $70 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ,  $40 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and  $60 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , respectively. The spectral type of those stars was not determined, but the temperatures derived from photometry indicate cool EHB objects ( $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 20\,000 \text{ K}$ ). Compared to the RV shifts detected for our two candidates, those shifts are somewhat lower.

The most interesting EHB binary candidate to date was found in NGC 6752 by Moni Bidin et al. (2008, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> Our survey would not have detected EHB stars in wide binaries; the amplitudes of such binaries are too low and they would in any case have been excluded by our selection criteria.

In addition to a significant RV shift of  $16.1 \pm 1.6 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  measured from high resolution spectra obtained with FLAMES-GIRAFFE, this sdB star shows the signature of a cool MS companion in its spectrum. Follow-up spectroscopy has been obtained and preliminary results indicate an orbital period of several days (Moni Bidin priv. comm.). This binary is therefore not only unique in a GC, but there is also no counterpart in the field population, because all solved sdB+MS binaries have periods of several hundred days (e.g., Vos et al. 2017).

Including the results presented here, a total of seven RV variable EHB stars are now known in three GCs, but none of them could so far be fit with a credible orbital solution. Although this has rarely been attempted before this work, a likely reason for this lack of orbital solution is the combination of rather small RV variations with rather long orbital periods on the order of several days. To solve such binary systems, more epochs of accurate RV measurements are needed.

The difference in age between the field and globular cluster populations has been invoked as an explanation for the striking difference in the close binary fractions, older systems favoring evolutionary channels forming EHB stars in wide binaries and/or single stars (Moni Bidin et al. 2008). Han (2008) predicted that for a stellar population older than 10 Gyr, the fraction of EHB stars in close binary systems ( $P < 5$  d, formed via a common-envelope channel) is below 3% and instead the dominant formation channel is the merger of two He-core white dwarfs (WD). The binary population synthesis models of Han (2008) do not make any prediction of the atmospheric properties of the stars produced, but the progeny of white dwarf mergers (He-WDs and hybrid CO(He) WDs) has been extensively studied in the context of the field He-sdOs, which are also mostly single stars (e.g., Webbink 1984; Justham et al. 2011; Zhang & Jeffery 2012). The models predict sdO stars ( $T_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 40\,000 \text{ K}$ ) that have an atmosphere enriched in helium and CNO-processed material (Saio & Jeffery 2000). Although He-sdOs are not common in  $\omega$  Cen, the work of Clausen & Wade (2011), Hall & Jeffery (2016) and Schwab (2018) suggests that mergers (of two He-WDs but also a He-WD + an M dwarf) could also produce cooler objects with a hydrogen-rich atmosphere. This could potentially explain the single H-sdBs in our sample.

### 5.1.3. Pulsation

A final difference between the field and the  $\omega$  Cen EHB population concerns the pulsating hot subdwarfs. For completeness, we briefly mention this topic but it is discussed at length in Randall et al. (2012, 2016). Among the field population, an estimated fraction of about 10% of H-sdBs around  $33\,000 \text{ K}$  show low-amplitude, multi-periodic luminosity variations with periods in the range 60–600 s (Fontaine et al. 2008; Billères et al. 2002; Østensen et al. 2010). These variations are explained by pressure modes excited by the  $\kappa$ -mechanism driven by an increased opacity of iron, and iron-like elements, in the subphotospheric layers of the star (Charpinet et al. 1997). No direct counterparts have so far been found in  $\omega$  Cen, however the cluster hosts a well-defined class of pulsating H-sdOs (Randall et al. 2009, 2011, 2016). Four of the five pulsators so far known are included in our sample (V1, V3, V4, and V5, indicated in Table B.3; V2 was excluded due to its spectrum being polluted). These stars have  $T_{\text{eff}}$  close to  $50\,000 \text{ K}$  according to their optical spectra. However, an analysis of low resolution UV *Hubble* Space Telescope Cosmic Origin Spectrograph<sup>10</sup> data of two of

<sup>10</sup> Program GO-13707, PI: Randall.

these pulsators indicated that their effective temperature may in fact be closer to 60 000 K (Latour et al. 2017)<sup>11</sup>. It is thus possible that the effective temperatures of all hot H-sdOs have been systematically underestimated (both in  $\omega$  Cen and the field). So far, these objects have no confirmed counterpart among the field sdO population (Johnson et al. 2014). It is not yet clear whether each of these types of pulsator in fact does not exist in the other environment, or whether we are simply limited by the observational data obtained so far.

## 5.2. The mass conundrum

Despite being faint and challenging to observe in spectroscopy, studying the EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen has a major advantage compared to the field population: the stars are all at the same, known distance. This important information (as well as the reddening) allows one to compute spectroscopic masses, essentially by comparing their observed magnitude with the flux predicted from model atmospheres. The results presented in Sect. 4.3 pose an obvious problem; our stars have masses that are on average too low to ignite helium in the core.

Many parameters are involved in the computation of the mass and we examined them to find a possible explanation for the systematic underestimation of the masses. The first important parameters are the temperature and surface gravity of the stars. Figure 5 shows that the majority of our stars (excluding the H-sdOs thought to be post-EHB objects) have fundamental parameters ( $T_{\text{eff}}$  and  $\log g$ ) in good agreement with those expected for helium-core burning stars of 0.48–0.50  $M_{\odot}$ . Our atmospheric parameters are also in good agreement with those derived from previous studies (Moehler et al. 2011; Moni Bidin et al. 2012). We thus consider them to be quite reliable. Two additional important quantities are the distance to the cluster and the average reddening. Both of these quantities have been extensively studied in the case of  $\omega$  Cen and the values derived from numerous studies are in good agreement (see Table 9 of Braga et al. 2016 for a summary). While  $\omega$  Cen is known to have differential reddening (Calamida et al. 2005), the variations across the cluster are rather small ( $\sim 10\%$ ), and since our stars are well-distributed around the cluster, using the average reddening should be an appropriate assumption. The absolute magnitude of the stars is computed using our own model atmospheres, which has the advantage of taking into account the derived helium abundance for each individual star. Our models account for NLTE effects and the opacity of C, N, and O, but the opacity of heavier metals is not considered. However, the second method we used for deriving the masses is based on an empirical bolometric correction and is independent of our models. The fact that both methods result in a very similar average mass indicates that the mass problem is not caused by the flux distribution of our models. As for the observed  $V$  magnitude, the offset of 0.2 mag that would be necessary to increase the average mass to 0.45  $M_{\odot}$  is too large compared to any possible systematic calibration errors ( $<4\%$ ) of the WFI  $V$  magnitudes (Castellani et al. 2007). As a check we recomputed the masses using the observed and synthetic  $B$  magnitudes and the corresponding extinction  $A_B$ , but this affected the average mass by only 2%.

Even though none of the above parameters alone appears to be able to cause a systematic underestimation of the masses on the scale observed, (unknown) smaller effects acting on

more than one parameter could still lead to systematically lower masses when combined together. The average uncertainty on the individual mass determination is 0.13  $M_{\odot}$ , a value similar to the standard deviation of our mass distribution, and an important contributor to this value is the uncertainty on  $\log g$ , which is on average 0.13 dex. For example, a shift of +0.1 dex in  $\log g$  would result in a mean mass of 0.47  $M_{\odot}$ . An underestimation of the surface gravity could be caused, for example, by missing opacities in our model atmospheres that would affect the Balmer line profiles. However these effects are not expected to be important below  $\sim 35$  kK (Latour et al. 2014a) and our derived masses do not show a trend with temperature.

Low masses have been derived previously for EHB (as well as HB) stars in  $\omega$  Cen by Moni Bidin et al. (2011a). Interestingly the authors reported that this low mass problem was encountered only for the stars in  $\omega$  Cen and not in the other three globular clusters for which stellar masses were measured in a similar way (NGC 6752, M 80 and NGC 5986; Moni Bidin et al. 2007, 2009). This is rather intriguing and it was suggested that there could be an intrinsic difference between the blue HB stars of  $\omega$  Cen and those of the other clusters.

Precise mass estimates of field hot subdwarfs are rather scarce but a small sample was put together by Fontaine et al. (2012). The mass estimates for these stars were obtained via asteroseismic modeling for pulsating stars, and via light curve and RV analyses for close-binary systems (mostly eclipsing binaries). From this sample of 22 stars, the average mass was found to be 0.47  $M_{\odot}$ , which is in excellent agreement with predictions from stellar evolution models. These two ways of deriving masses do not strongly rely on atmospheric modeling and are thus independent of our spectroscopic method. A mass distribution obtained using the methods applied to globular clusters for field EHB stars cannot be derived until we have accurate distances for a large sample of field hot subdwarfs. Luckily, such an analysis will soon be possible based on the second data release of *Gaia* and it will be very interesting to see whether the mass problem we have for  $\omega$  Cen is also encountered for the field population.

## 6. Conclusion

In this work we characterized the largest sample of EHB stars ever analyzed in a globular cluster in terms of spectroscopic properties. We derived atmospheric parameters for 152 individual stars, using new FORS and VIMOS observations, as well as previously published FORS and FLAMES spectra. This represents about 20% of the EHB population of  $\omega$  Cen, which consists of  $\approx 730$  stars up to about one degree from the cluster's center<sup>12</sup>. We also searched for RV variations in 75 stars that were observed over multiple epochs as part of the VIMOS survey. We summarize our results as follows:

- The EHB population of  $\omega$  Cen can be divided into three distinct spectroscopic groups that are best discernible in the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  – helium abundance plane. We divided our targets into H-sdBs (the coolest H-rich stars, 26% of our sample), H-sdOs (the hottest H-rich stars, 10% of the sample) and He-sdOBs, which are found at intermediate temperatures (33–43 kK) and have an atmospheric helium abundance close to or above the solar value. The He-sdOBs can be further subdivided into two sub-groups according to their helium abundance. The location of the spectroscopic groups on the CMD

<sup>11</sup> A similar discrepancy between effective temperatures determined from the optical and UV spectra has also been reported recently in the case of a UV-bright star in M 4 (Dixon et al. 2017).

<sup>12</sup> Using the ACS and DECam catalogs (Castellani et al. 2007; Calamida et al. 2017).

confirms that the He-sdOBs form the blue hook population of  $\omega$  Cen.

- The He-sdOBs found in  $\omega$  Cen are not well represented in the field. Surveys among the galactic disk population found some stars with similar atmospheric parameters, but their fraction ( $\sim 5\%$ ; Geier et al. 2017b) is much lower than in  $\omega$  Cen ( $\sim 52\%$ ). The galactic halo contains a larger fraction of these objects (23%), but still nowhere near as high as in  $\omega$  Cen. This suggests that the formation of the blue hook objects in  $\omega$  Cen (and by deduction probably in other clusters showing a blue hook, such as NGC 2808) is favored by the globular cluster’s particular populations and environment.
- There is a clear positive correlation between the helium abundance and effective temperature among the He-sdOBs. Such a correlation is also seen among the field sdBs, thus suggesting a common mechanism responsible. Although the  $T_{\text{eff}} - \text{He}$  relation has not yet been explained at the quantitative level, it is very likely governed by the diffusion processes taking place in the atmosphere. The gravitational settling of helium must be counteracted by another phenomenon, such as a weak stellar wind or the presence of turbulence in the upper atmospheric layers<sup>13</sup>. Even though diffusion modifies the initial atmospheric composition (such as the He and C abundance, which is observed to be lower than predicted by the late-flasher models), the initial composition will influence the subsequent equilibrium abundances (see e.g., Unglaub 2005).
- The mean mass of our EHB sample ( $0.38 M_{\odot}$ ) is significantly lower than the mass predicted by evolutionary models ( $\sim 0.5 M_{\odot}$ ). We find masses that are too low regardless of whether we use our own model atmospheres or a bolometric correction to estimate the absolute magnitudes. Interestingly, Moni Bidin et al. (2011a) derived similarly low masses for EHB and HB stars in  $\omega$  Cen, but not for targets in the other globular clusters included in their work. The mass conundrum remains unexplained, but so far it seems to be unique to  $\omega$  Cen.
- We estimate a close binary fraction of about 5% among the EHB stars of  $\omega$  Cen. Out of the 75 stars included in our VIMOS RV survey, two showed statistically significant RV variations, however no periodicity could be detected. This close binary fraction is lower than for field sdB stars, but in line with the low fractions found among the EHB and HB stars of other globular clusters. This indicates that the common envelope channel, which is responsible for the production of close-binaries among the field sdBs, does not significantly contribute to the formation of hot subdwarfs in  $\omega$  Cen.

The results presented in this paper clearly reveal that the population of EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen in fact has little in common with the hot subdwarf population in the galactic field. This strongly suggests that a large fraction of the  $\omega$  Cen EHB population owes its existence to the cluster’s particular environment. For example, an initial helium enrichment combined with rapid rotation might enhance the probability of delayed helium flashes and thus favor the formation of the He-sdOB (blue hook) stars, as suggested by Tailo et al. (2015). If such progenitors are peculiar to  $\omega$  Cen (and possibly other globular clusters), this would explain the relative lack of corresponding He-sdOBs in the field. In addition, the age of the cluster’s population likely affects the efficiency of the different EHB formation channels. As was shown by Han (2008), hot subdwarfs are preferentially formed

via mergers (instead of common-envelope ejection and Roche-lobe overflow) in populations older than about 10 Gyr. However, late flasher and merger events have also been invoked to explain the formation of field He-sdO stars, a population that has no direct counterpart in  $\omega$  Cen. Whether these two mechanisms indeed produce hot subdwarfs with quite different properties in the field compared to GGCs needs further investigation, both on the modeling and the observational front. On our side, we plan to continue the SHOTGLAS project with the aim of providing statistically significant spectroscopic constraints for several globular clusters with an observationally accessible EHB. This will form the observational basis for in-depth studies of different EHB formation scenarios and their relative importance in the different environments where these enigmatic stars are found.

*Acknowledgements.* We are most grateful to C. Moni Bidin for providing us with his observed spectra, to W. V. Dixon for help with the Pysynphot package, and to U. Heber and S. Dreizler for supporting this work. This work was supported by a fellowship for postdoctoral researchers from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awarded to M.L., who also acknowledges fundings by the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (grant 50 OR 1315) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (grant DR 281/35-1). S.G. acknowledges funding by Heisenberg program of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft under grant GE 2506/8-1. This study was supported by NASA through grant GO-13707 from the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is operated by AURA, Inc., under NASA contract NAS5-26666. This research has made use of NASA’s Astrophysics Data System. We also thank the referee, C. Moni Bidin, for his helpful comments.

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<sup>13</sup> The radiative forces on helium are essentially negligible.

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## Appendix A: Comparisons of atmospheric parameters derived from the various samples

Given that 40 stars are present in more than one observed sample, we compared the atmospheric parameters derived using the spectra from different samples. Indications of systematic shifts between literature results have been reported in previous studies and our combined sample allows us to investigate this issue more thoroughly. Latour et al. (2014b) reported that the He-rich stars in their sample were clustering at a higher temperature than those of Moehler et al. (2011), while Moni Bidin et al. (2012) found an offset in the helium abundances measured for the EHB stars in common between their sample and the FLAMES sample of Moehler et al. (2011). Because we analyzed all of our spectra in a homogeneous way, using the same model atmospheres and the same fitting procedure, a comparison of the atmospheric parameters obtained for a given star using spectra from different samples is sensitive to effects specifically associated with the observed spectra, such as wavelength coverage, resolution and possible background contamination. Among the 40 stars in common, 34 are found in two samples, and six are found in three samples.

For each observed sample we compared the resulting parameters in the following way: we selected all stars duplicated in any other sample and for each of these computed the difference between the  $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$ , and  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  derived for the different samples. The results are illustrated for each of the samples in turn in Figs. A.1–A.5. In addition, we computed the average differences (i.e.,  $\overline{\Delta T_{\text{eff}}}$ ) for each parameter and we report the results in Table A.1<sup>14</sup>. The number of parameter pairs included in each sample is also indicated in the second column of Table A.1<sup>15</sup>.

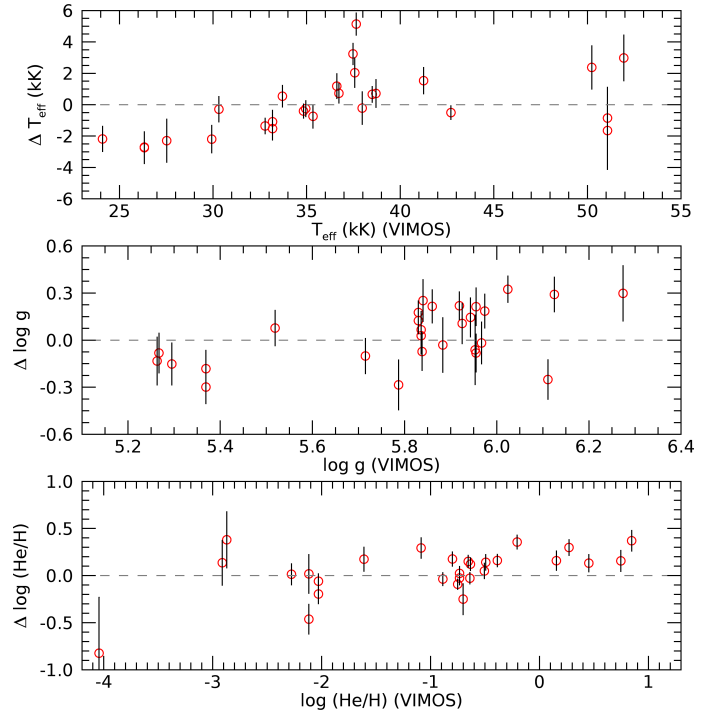
Our results indeed reveal a few systematic shifts. Concerning the temperature, the FLAMES and FORS\_MB samples (Figs. A.4 and A.5) show the largest deviations, with the FLAMES spectra returning lower than average  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values, while the FORS\_MB spectra return higher than average  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values. The fact that the FLAMES spectra return lower  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values, especially for the stars in the range 30–35 kK, agrees with the finding of Latour et al. (2014b) that the He-rich stars in the FLAMES sample of Moehler et al. (2011) have lower temperatures than in their FORS sample. We think that this apparent shift toward lower  $T_{\text{eff}}$  is induced by the absence of He II lines in the FLAMES spectral range, preventing the ionization equilibrium of helium to be considered (implicitly) in the fitting procedure. Regarding the FORS\_MB sample, more than one-third of the target pairings are with FLAMES spectra, which enhances the apparent  $T_{\text{eff}}$  shifts<sup>16</sup>. A look at Figs. A.1–A.5 reveals that for many stars, the parameters derived using the different spectra do not agree with each other within the statistical uncertainties. This suggests the presence of additional uncertainties that are likely related to the observational data, for example, resolution, wavelength coverage, data reduction. In case of correct uncertainties, the ratio of the temperature difference and its uncertainty ( $\sigma T$ )

$$\frac{T_2 - T_1}{\sqrt{\sigma T_1^2 + \sigma T_2^2}} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

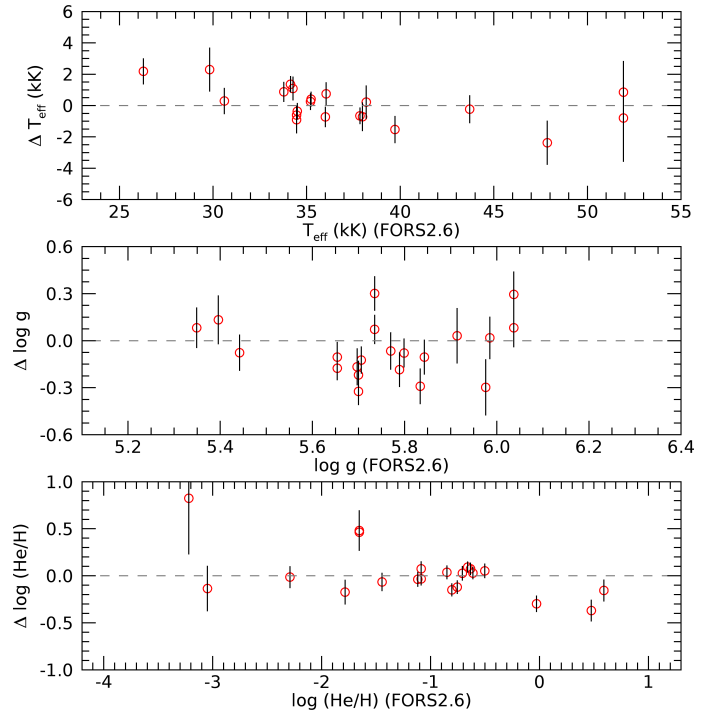
<sup>14</sup> The helium abundance determinations of the star 168035 (present in VIMOS and FORS2.6) were rejected in the computation of the average because of its very low helium abundance leading to an uncertain determination.

<sup>15</sup> We note that the number of pairs can be higher than the number of common stars in a sample since a star found in three sample provides two pairs of parameters to compare.

<sup>16</sup> Indeed,  $\overline{\Delta T_{\text{eff}}}$  decreases to 700 K when removing these six pairs.

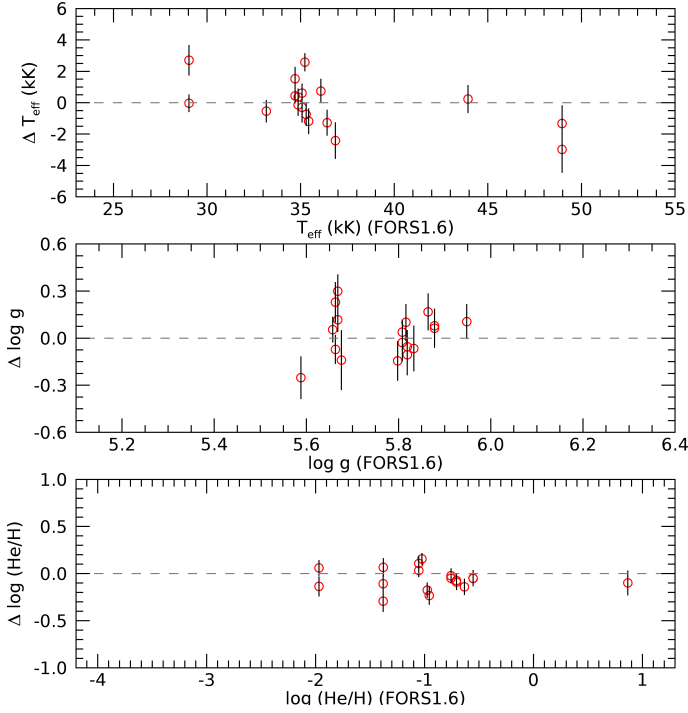


**Fig. A.1.** Comparison between the parameters ( $T_{\text{eff}}$ ,  $\log g$ , and  $\log n_{\text{He}}$ ) derived for the stars in common between the VIMOS sample and the other samples. The differences ( $\Delta$ ) are expressed in terms of the value derived with the VIMOS spectrum minus the value derived from the other sample, e.g.  $\Delta T_{\text{eff}} = T_{\text{eff}}(\text{vimos}) - T_{\text{eff}}(\text{other})$ .

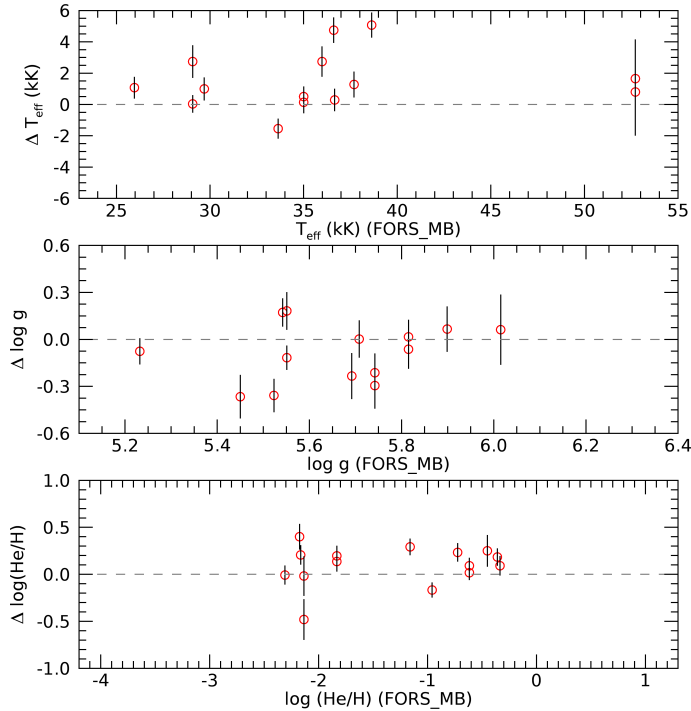


**Fig. A.2.** Same as Fig. A.1 but for the stars in common between the FORS2.6 sample and the other samples.

should be normally distributed with a standard deviation of one. However, the distribution of the Eq. (A.1) values for all pair of stars has a standard deviation of 2.5. To account for the additional observational uncertainties, we can multiply, for every star, the statistical uncertainty returned by the fitting procedure



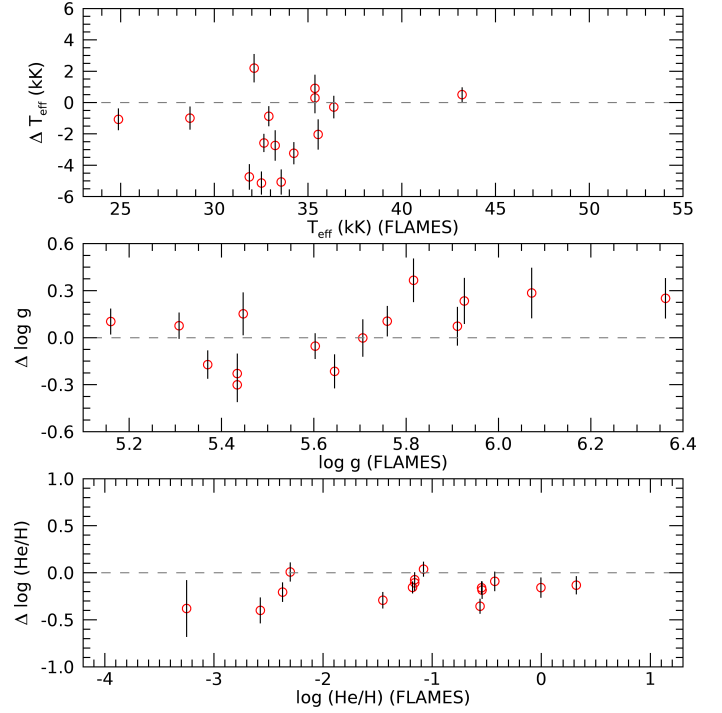
**Fig. A.3.** Same as Fig. A.1 but for the stars in common between the FORS1.6 sample and the other samples.



**Fig. A.4.** Same as Fig. A.1 but for the stars in common between the FORS\_MB sample and the other samples.

by a factor of 2.5. Considering that the average statistical uncertainty on  $T_{\text{eff}}$  is  $\sim 600$  K, the average total uncertainty on  $T_{\text{eff}}$  would be  $\sim 1500$  K.

Concerning the surface gravity, the two samples showing the largest shifts are the two lowest resolution FORS samples, which



**Fig. A.5.** Same as Fig. A.1 but for the stars in common between the FLAMES sample and the other samples.

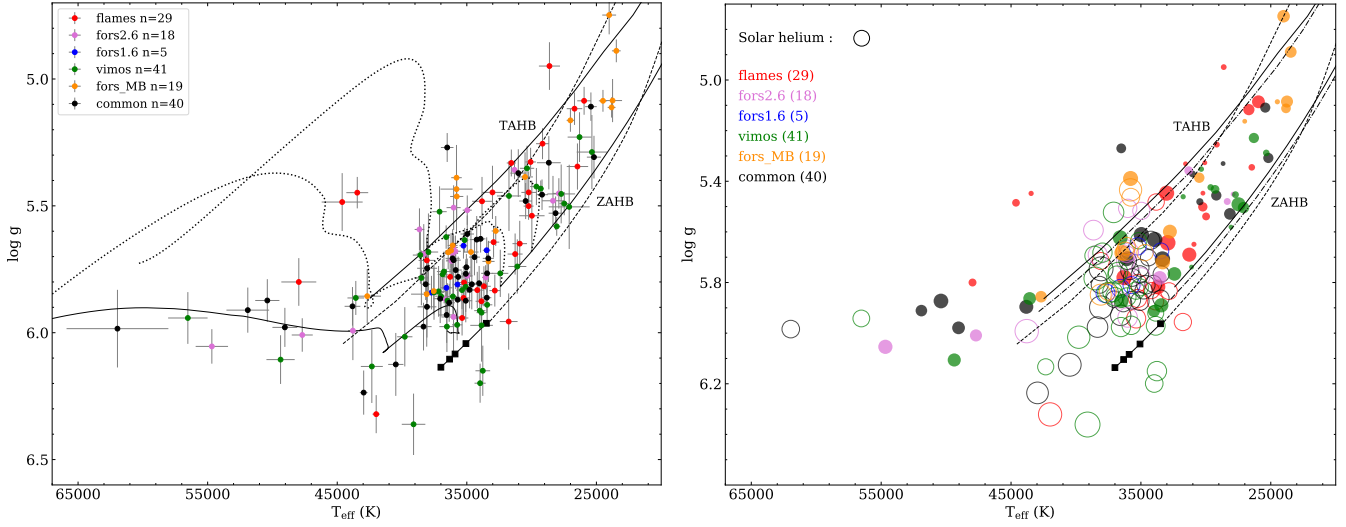
**Table A.1.** Parameter differences for the stars in common between different samples.

Sample	# of pairs	$\overline{\Delta T_{\text{eff}}}$ (K)	$\overline{\Delta \log g}$	$\overline{\Delta \text{He}/\text{H}}$
VIMOS	28	3.9	0.035	0.080
FORS2.6	21	78.7	-0.057	-0.011
FORS1.6	18	-96.7	0.022	-0.061
FORS_MB	15	1464.1	-0.088	0.095
FLAMES	15	-1657.7	0.045	-0.180

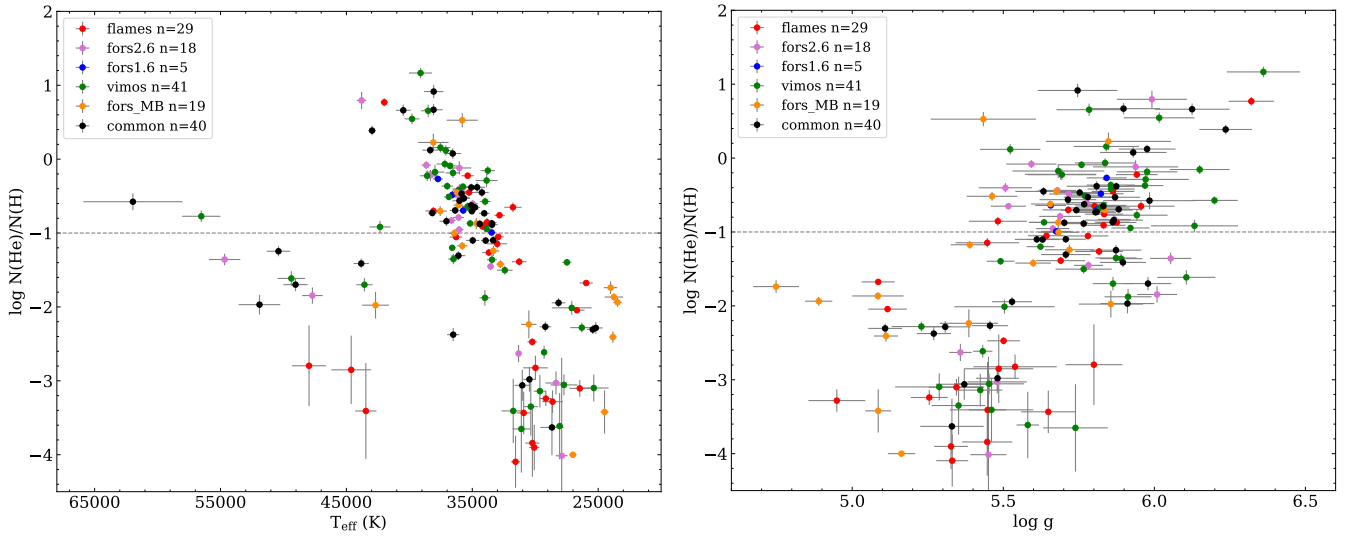
provide lower  $\log g$  values (by 0.057 and 0.088 dex) than the other samples. These shifts are however not significantly larger than the average of the statistical errors on the surface gravity (0.08 dex). Using the same method as for  $T_{\text{eff}}$ , we estimated a correction factor of 1.6 to apply to the statistical uncertainties in order to account for the observational component. This results in an average total uncertainty of 0.13 dex for the  $\log g$ .

For the helium abundance, there is an obvious shift in the parameters derived from the FLAMES sample whereby they are systematically lower (by an average of 0.18 dex) than those obtained from the other spectra. This was already noted by [Moni Bidin et al. \(2012\)](#), who suggested that the systematic differences in helium abundance could be due to the different spectral resolution, measurements based on lower resolution spectra resulting in higher helium abundances (by 0.2–0.25 dex in their comparison). Using the same method as for the other parameters, we obtain a correction factor of 1.8 for the uncertainties on the helium abundance, leading to an average total uncertainty of 0.2 dex for  $\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$ .

Appendix B: Additional material



**Fig. B.1.** *Left panel:* position of the 152 stars in the  $\log g - T_{\text{eff}}$  diagram. The samples are indicated by different colors and the common group includes the stars present in two or three samples. The error bars used for individual stars are the statistical uncertainties returned by the fitting procedure. The ZAEHB, TAEHB and the evolutionary tracks are as in Fig. 5. *Right panel:* same as the left panel but with the logarithmic helium abundance illustrated by the size of each circles, where super-solar and sub-solar abundances are represented by open and filled circles respectively. The circle size for a solar abundance is shown as an indication.



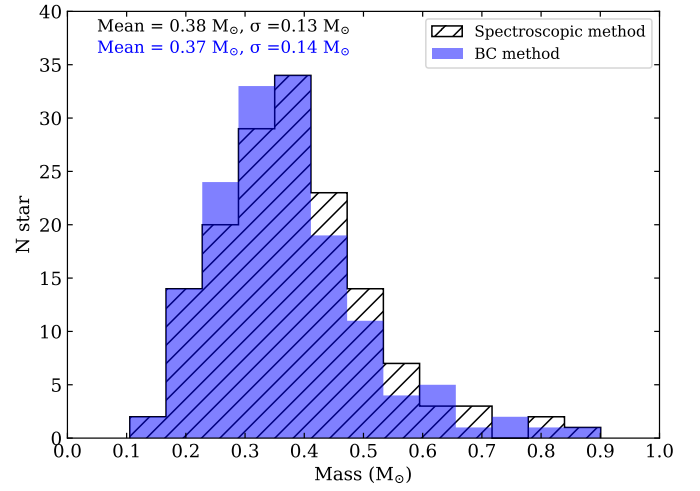
**Fig. B.2.** *Left panel:* helium abundance as a function of effective temperature for the 152 stars of our sample. The samples and uncertainties are presented as in Fig. B.1. *Right panel:* helium abundance as a function of the surface gravity.

**Table B.1.** Log of the VIMOS observations.

Exposure	Epoch	MJD	No. of spectra
rv_1	1	56813.9970847	67
rv_2	1	56814.0046662	64
rv_3	1	56814.01224724	61
rv_4	2	56832.00142376	62
rv_5	2	56832.0090002	62
rv_6	2	56832.01658093	62
rv_7	3	56840.05717539	75
rv_8	3	56840.06475274	75
rv_9	3	56840.07233286	74
rv_10	4	56840.99593468	58
rv_11	4	56841.0035155	58
rv_12	4	56841.01109309	61
rv_13	5	57159.07066157	54
rv_14	5	57159.07824265	54
rv_15	5	57159.08582304	54
rv_16	6	57160.12323767	69
rv_17	6	57160.13082294	66
rv_18	6	57160.13841248	66
rv_19	7	57165.11673919	65
rv_20	7	57165.12432017	64
rv_21	7	57165.13190114	63
rv_22	8	57166.0314756	60
rv_23	8	57166.03905219	57
rv_24	8	57166.04663305	60
rv_25	9	57166.07363816	65
rv_26	9	57166.08121647	44
rv_27	9	57166.08879755	35
rv_28	10	57166.1137898	24
rv_29	10	57166.12136683	41
rv_30	10	57166.12894791	48
rv_31	11	57194.06389226	42
rv_32	11	57194.07146679	45
rv_33	11	57194.07904432	42
rv_34	12	57215.99973784	35
rv_35	12	57216.00731525	20
rv_36	12	57216.01489586	27
rv_37	13	57428.31673457	48
rv_38	13	57428.32431726	57
rv_39	13	57428.33189659	64
rv_40	14	57428.3548221	65
rv_41	14	57428.36239923	72
rv_42	14	57428.36998041	72

**Table B.2.** Log of the FORS observations.

Exposure	MJD	Airmass	No. of spectra
1	54562.065786	1.4015	15
2	54562.202272	1.0895	15
3	54613.089094	1.1020	11

**Fig. B.3.** Distribution of the masses derived using the method described in this paper versus the method of [Moehler et al. \(2017\)](#) using the bolometric correction.

**Table B.3.** Spectroscopic sample of EHB stars in  $\omega$  Cen.

ACS ID	RA	DEC	Sample <sup>a</sup>	$T_{\text{eff}}^b$ (K)	$\log g^b$ ( $\text{cm s}^{-2}$ )	$\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})^b$ (dex)	$U$	$B$	$V$	$I$	ID (1)	ID (2)	RV <sup>c</sup> ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{RV}}$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	Mass ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$E(B-V)$
257150	201.763229	-47.542900	1	27482 ± 927	5.49 ± 0.07	-1.40 ± 0.08	16.959	18.121	18.238	18.369	...	...	224 ± 20	...	0.50 ± 0.11	0.11
264670	201.778290	-47.512329	1	33767 ± 1420	6.15 ± 0.16	-0.16 ± 0.11	17.474	18.780	18.781	18.666	...	...	228 ± 17	...	0.90 ± 0.34	0.24
5153131	201.807617	-47.497375	1	36076 ± 1227	5.86 ± 0.12	-0.42 ± 0.10	17.378	18.809	18.996	18.996	...	...	258 ± 30	...	0.35 ± 0.11	0.13
5137388	201.795517	-47.510567	1	33975 ± 1075	6.20 ± 0.12	-0.57 ± 0.10	17.675	19.128	19.203	19.115	...	...	233 ± 18	...	0.68 ± 0.22	0.17
5180639	201.873184	-47.537510	1	36497 ± 1050	5.87 ± 0.11	-1.35 ± 0.13	17.033	18.617	18.816	18.929	...	...	262 ± 24	...	0.41 ± 0.11	0.07
5196769	201.883987	-47.520283	1	56528 ± 3807	5.94 ± 0.16	-0.77 ± 0.14	16.600	18.168	18.344	18.373	...	...	250 ± 28	...	0.44 ± 0.17	0.13
5132323	201.887299	-47.573872	1	35372 ± 1127	5.83 ± 0.12	-0.64 ± 0.10	17.090	18.738	18.772	18.834	...	...	217 ± 35	...	0.40 ± 0.13	0.23
5179481	201.858093	-47.538803	1	29293 ± 545	5.43 ± 0.05	-2.61 ± 0.16	16.503	17.812	17.959	18.133	...	...	262 ± 16	...	0.50 ± 0.08	0.10
5183041	201.843475	-47.534912	1	39786 ± 1475	6.02 ± 0.19	0.55 ± 0.13	17.395	18.949	19.074	19.068	...	...	222 ± 22	...	0.41 ± 0.18	0.15
5156440	201.840149	-47.558643	1	39110 ± 2275	6.36 ± 0.19	1.17 ± 0.13	17.634	19.149	19.295	19.541	...	...	260 ± 23	...	0.81 ± 0.38	0.11
5121885	201.867691	-47.581158	1	43567 ± 1612	5.86 ± 0.11	-1.70 ± 0.16	16.542	17.944	18.189	18.383	...	...	242 ± 21	...	0.55 ± 0.15	0.05
5151410	201.889420	-47.561794	1	37180 ± 1667	5.84 ± 0.16	-0.07 ± 0.11	17.405	18.924	19.056	19.162	...	...	219 ± 23	...	0.29 ± 0.11	0.13
274052	201.797760	-47.503815	3	36018 ± 1357	5.51 ± 0.14	-0.40 ± 0.11	17.301	18.725	18.823	18.767	...	...	206 ± 18	43.4	0.18 ± 0.06	0.17
5165122	201.792831	-47.552532	1,3	35034 ± 780	5.74 ± 0.08	-0.70 ± 0.07	17.160	18.601	18.775	19.000	...	...	234 ± 15	16.3	0.33 ± 0.08	0.09
5170422	201.782700	-47.548168	1,3	38174 ± 880	5.81 ± 0.10	-0.73 ± 0.08	16.922	18.352	18.454	18.408	...	...	247 ± 16	2.9	0.45 ± 0.11	0.17
5039935	201.762848	-47.531593	1,3	40481 ± 1470	6.12 ± 0.20	0.66 ± 0.14	16.134	19.171	19.477	20.046	...	...	236 ± 20	3.7	0.35 ± 0.17	-0.03
5034421	201.799026	-47.541382	1,3(V1)	49041 ± 2400	5.98 ± 0.12	-1.70 ± 0.16	16.813	18.269	18.459	18.519	...	...	234 ± 24	2.3	0.49 ± 0.15	0.11
281063	201.812347	-47.514126	1,3,4(V5)	51902 ± 4120	5.91 ± 0.14	-0.97 ± 0.24	16.957	18.349	18.386	18.230	...	156638	261 ± 22	24.7	0.42 ± 0.16	0.27
5119720	201.791504	-47.526360	1,3	33458 ± 868	5.86 ± 0.09	-0.87 ± 0.09	17.203	18.695	18.856	19.095	...	...	229 ± 17	10.7	0.45 ± 0.11	0.09
5141232	201.762360	-47.568230	1,3	35077 ± 880	5.77 ± 0.09	-0.62 ± 0.08	17.134	18.578	18.739	18.968	...	...	212 ± 15	27.6	0.37 ± 0.09	0.10
5124244	201.821182	-47.579502	1,3	38341 ± 1557	5.98 ± 0.15	0.12 ± 0.10	17.250	18.892	19.033	19.193	...	...	232 ± 16	21.8	0.40 ± 0.14	0.12
254318	201.757507	-47.392712	1	36595 ± 672	5.62 ± 0.07	-1.20 ± 0.07	17.395	18.648	18.665	18.460	...	...	221 ± 15	...	0.26 ± 0.05	0.26
273649	201.796875	-47.410667	1	35168 ± 732	5.64 ± 0.08	-0.87 ± 0.07	16.937	18.377	18.540	18.735	...	...	219 ± 14	...	0.32 ± 0.07	0.10
5226206	201.795822	-47.435371	1	33431 ± 1002	5.89 ± 0.11	-1.36 ± 0.12	17.390	18.703	18.945	19.366	...	...	203 ± 21	...	0.44 ± 0.13	0.02
5299498	201.826202	-47.416374	1	28062 ± 697	5.58 ± 0.06	-3.61 ± 0.81	17.360	18.776	18.880	19.097	...	...	269 ± 20	...	0.33 ± 0.06	0.13
5295674	201.822281	-47.420811	1	36765 ± 1360	5.76 ± 0.12	-0.09 ± 0.09	17.378	18.933	18.999	18.966	...	...	246 ± 14	...	0.26 ± 0.08	0.20
5370155	201.836258	-47.353096	1	35745 ± 990	5.97 ± 0.10	-0.37 ± 0.08	17.501	19.019	19.163	19.342	...	...	247 ± 18	...	0.38 ± 0.09	0.12
5094822	201.815491	-47.449116	1	36861 ± 965	5.77 ± 0.10	-0.51 ± 0.08	16.868	18.330	18.391	18.373	...	...	253 ± 16	...	0.46 ± 0.12	0.21
5307782	201.874130	-47.406052	1,5	42960 ± 748	6.24 ± 0.14	0.39 ± 0.12	17.015	18.599	18.678	18.686	181678	...	241 ± 24	4.2	0.84 ± 0.28	0.20
157448	201.567551	-47.426430	1	31747 ± 2322	5.46 ± 0.22	-3.41 ± 0.78	16.929	18.122	18.192	18.120	...	...	229 ± 31	...	0.37 ± 0.22	0.19
5283552	201.552780	-47.434372	1	26302 ± 2295	5.23 ± 0.16	-2.28 ± 0.12	16.588	17.827	17.989	18.078	...	...	228 ± 23	...	0.37 ± 0.18	0.06
5338760	201.507812	-47.378567	1	27099 ± 3950	5.50 ± 0.27	-2.01 ± 0.17	17.543	18.885	19.029	19.157	...	...	199 ± 31	...	0.26 ± 0.21	0.08
5296709	201.540955	-47.419601	1,4	61960 ± 9822	5.98 ± 0.24	-0.58 ± 0.21	16.712	18.162	18.403	18.573	66703	113991	223 ± 26	37.8	0.46 ± 0.27	0.07
5317711	201.526382	-47.395874	1	42330 ± 2120	6.13 ± 0.23	-0.92 ± 0.15	17.250	18.688	18.898	19.101	...	...	265 ± 14	...	0.55 ± 0.30	0.08
5097663	201.558792	-47.444893	1	37962 ± 1875	5.68 ± 0.24	-0.17 ± 0.17	16.933	18.357	18.511	18.529	...	...	238 ± 28	...	0.33 ± 0.19	0.12
5268317	201.504288	-47.450394	1,2	36018 ± 1383	5.71 ± 0.15	-0.56 ± 0.10	17.056	18.596	18.747	18.970	54377	...	245 ± 16	30.3	0.31 ± 0.12	0.12
5276767	201.501160	-47.441540	1	36537 ± 1455	5.98 ± 0.16	-0.19 ± 0.12	17.477	18.873	19.092	19.348	...	...	213 ± 24	...	0.40 ± 0.15	0.04
5306037	201.539047	-47.408272	1	36993 ± 1115	5.86 ± 0.13	-0.37 ± 0.09	17.258	18.712	18.869	18.945	...	...	212 ± 22	...	0.36 ± 0.11	0.11
5347296	201.633057	-47.372486	1	38583 ± 1462	5.69 ± 0.18	-0.22 ± 0.13	17.439	18.765	18.758	18.883	...	...	227 ± 11	...	0.26 ± 0.11	0.28
5262593	201.552444	-47.456291	1,3	30460 ± 1230	5.48 ± 0.11	-2.98 ± 0.30	16.546	17.810	17.938	18.028	...	...	226 ± 21	46.4	0.53 ± 0.17	0.12
177238	201.603104	-47.414402	3(V3)	47700 ± 2027	6.01 ± 0.11	-1.85 ± 0.20	16.825	18.328	18.536	18.739	...	...	223 ± 17	35.5	0.50 ± 0.14	0.09
155799	201.564621	-47.417397	1	37104 ± 1380	5.52 ± 0.16	0.12 ± 0.13	17.390	18.904	19.068	19.175	75364	...	231 ± 22	16.7	0.14 ± 0.05	0.10
5341196	201.505798	-47.376869	1,5	36554 ± 1650	5.93 ± 0.18	0.08 ± 0.13	17.343	18.858	19.015	19.140	54733	...	221 ± 26	6.1	0.39 ± 0.16	0.10
5359493	201.521515	-47.362488	1,5	35081 ± 1231	5.87 ± 0.14	-0.38 ± 0.09	17.121	18.585	18.763	18.977	59786	...	228 ± 17	1.0	0.46 ± 0.15	0.08

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup> (1) VIMOS; (2) FORS1.6; (3) FORS2.6; (4) FORS\_MB; (5) FLAMES. The 4 pulsators are identified by their name according to Randall et al. (2016). <sup>(b)</sup> The errors include the correction factor determined in Appendix A. <sup>(c)</sup> Moehler et al. (2011) do not provide uncertainties on their RVs, thus no errors are provided for the stars exclusive to the FLAMES sample.

**References.** (1) Moehler et al. (2011); (2) Moni Bidin et al. (2012).

Table B.3. continued.

ACS ID	RA	DEC	Sample <sup>d</sup>	$T_{\text{eff}}^b$ (K)	$\log g^c$ ( $\text{cm s}^{-2}$ )	$\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})^b$ (dex)	$U$	$B$	$V$	$I$	ID (1)	ID (2)	RV <sup>c</sup> ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{RV}}$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	Mass ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$E(B-V)$
5131824	201.596558	-47.529964	1	31104 ± 1750	5.74 ± 0.17	-3.65 ± 1.06	17.384	18.433	18.458	18.048	...	...	201 ± 26	...	0.57 ± 0.26	0.23
5136690	201.577499	-47.511143	1	25347 ± 2937	5.29 ± 0.23	-3.10 ± 0.33	17.586	18.680	18.636	18.326	...	...	231 ± 23	...	0.25 ± 0.17	0.26
5125408	201.523087	-47.578598	1	32418 ± 1552	5.77 ± 0.15	-1.50 ± 0.11	17.371	18.720	18.902	19.146	...	...	238 ± 29	...	0.37 ± 0.15	0.07
182549	201.612274	-47.553101	1	30353 ± 1382	5.35 ± 0.14	-3.35 ± 0.71	16.733	18.113	18.219	18.469	...	...	219 ± 18	...	0.30 ± 0.12	0.15
183403	201.613800	-47.536694	1	29630 ± 1215	5.42 ± 0.12	-3.14 ± 0.40	16.526	18.081	18.144	18.262	...	...	218 ± 17	...	0.41 ± 0.13	0.18
177825	201.603867	-47.556538	1	27718 ± 2685	5.45 ± 0.19	-3.06 ± 0.25	17.035	18.322	18.418	18.489	...	...	231 ± 20	...	0.38 ± 0.22	0.14
5111007	201.474808	-47.589355	1	33860 ± 975	5.92 ± 0.10	-0.95 ± 0.07	17.147	18.612	18.806	18.918	45734	...	243 ± 14	16.6	0.52 ± 0.14	0.06
5142759	201.568619	-47.567245	1,2	35710 ± 1277	5.87 ± 0.13	-0.53 ± 0.10	17.139	18.610	18.789	18.966	77044	...	219 ± 12	11.1	0.43 ± 0.15	0.08
5131557	201.639801	-47.574520	1	49373 ± 1077	6.11 ± 0.12	-1.88 ± 0.19	17.143	18.543	18.729	18.927	...	...	204 ± 46	...	0.55 ± 0.18	0.08
5114452	201.638382	-47.586830	1	39373 ± 2727	5.91 ± 0.15	-1.61 ± 0.18	16.937	18.351	18.548	18.826	...	...	207 ± 8	...	0.60 ± 0.23	0.10
5094098	201.552414	-47.603844	1	38506 ± 1410	5.78 ± 0.17	0.65 ± 0.15	17.742	19.107	19.303	19.534	71099	...	250 ± 24	19.4	0.21 ± 0.08	0.07
5032350	201.613647	-47.545490	1	37532 ± 1975	5.84 ± 0.17	0.16 ± 0.12	17.955	19.071	19.477	19.649	...	...	177 ± 22	...	0.20 ± 0.08	-0.14
170679	201.591019	-47.532055	1	35085 ± 1462	5.82 ± 0.16	-0.68 ± 0.11	17.444	18.624	18.578	18.252	...	...	226 ± 19	...	0.48 ± 0.19	0.31
176008	201.600601	-47.518524	1	33861 ± 2185	5.97 ± 0.23	-0.29 ± 0.16	17.609	19.065	19.236	19.433	69899	...	229 ± 26	...	0.43 ± 0.23	0.14
5150273	201.549225	-47.562553	1,2	38066 ± 1927	5.75 ± 0.21	-0.92 ± 0.16	17.609	19.065	19.236	19.433	69899	...	229 ± 26	...	0.21 ± 0.10	0.09
5148322	201.562164	-47.563770	1,2	33435 ± 1147	5.77 ± 0.12	-0.89 ± 0.10	17.096	18.464	18.619	18.847	74566	...	239 ± 15	3.4	0.45 ± 0.14	0.10
5166220	201.562378	-47.551682	1,2,3(V4)	50395 ± 2333	5.87 ± 0.13	-1.25 ± 0.12	16.721	18.205	18.415	18.568	74659	...	249 ± 16	9.4	0.39 ± 0.13	0.09
5193651	201.500046	-47.523582	1,2,4	28147 ± 1350	5.53 ± 0.11	-1.94 ± 0.12	16.894	18.248	18.404	18.569	53153	92018	217 ± 19	10.7	0.45 ± 0.14	0.08
5214452	201.543167	-47.502560	2	35259 ± 777	5.66 ± 0.08	-0.64 ± 0.06	17.028	18.460	18.643	18.780	67585	...	249 ± 14	11.9	0.31 ± 0.07	0.08
5222459	201.535385	-47.494991	1,2,3	34049 ± 1068	5.80 ± 0.11	-0.73 ± 0.08	17.381	18.825	18.952	18.995	64729	...	221 ± 14	8.9	0.35 ± 0.10	0.13
5238307	201.592453	-47.514717	1,3	25187 ± 1371	5.31 ± 0.13	-2.28 ± 0.14	17.734	18.656	18.606	18.583	...	...	243 ± 17	12.6	0.28 ± 0.10	0.26
168035	201.586395	-47.541367	1,3	28671 ± 2295	5.33 ± 0.17	-3.63 ± 0.68	16.593	17.931	18.098	18.263	...	...	202 ± 20	16.5	0.36 ± 0.18	0.08
5091999	201.620468	-47.605801	1,3	31027 ± 1540	5.37 ± 0.15	-3.06 ± 0.38	17.161	18.536	18.670	18.882	95401	...	218 ± 23	8.9	0.20 ± 0.08	0.12
165943	201.582718	-47.504475	1,3	36361 ± 1091	5.88 ± 0.12	-0.69 ± 0.08	17.349	18.770	18.916	19.040	...	...	238 ± 16	2.8	0.38 ± 0.12	0.12
5103569	201.506409	-47.595497	1,5	35856 ± 1183	5.75 ± 0.12	-0.47 ± 0.08	16.928	18.396	18.591	18.749	55158	...	242 ± 16	12.6	0.39 ± 0.11	0.07
5123061	201.474258	-47.580219	5,4	36099 ± 1357	5.71 ± 0.13	-1.31 ± 0.10	16.936	18.398	18.616	18.808	45556	81531	226 ± 25	8.5	0.34 ± 0.12	0.06
5138707	201.574615	-47.509209	1,3	38075 ± 1820	5.90 ± 0.19	0.67 ± 0.14	17.806	19.202	19.407	19.992	...	...	207 ± 17	8.9	0.25 ± 0.11	0.06
165237	201.581421	-47.520538	3	43793 ± 952	5.99 ± 0.19	0.80 ± 0.21	16.889	18.416	18.535	18.744	...	...	233 ± 18	22.2	0.54 ± 0.23	0.17
5200280	201.493988	-47.516590	5,2	33938 ± 926	5.63 ± 0.09	-1.10 ± 0.07	17.389	18.595	18.533	18.305	51359	...	210 ± 10	11.7	0.34 ± 0.08	0.33
5249172	201.566086	-47.469170	5,2,3	34967 ± 1303	5.61 ± 0.12	-1.10 ± 0.09	16.899	18.313	18.513	18.692	75981	...	225 ± 8	20.1	0.32 ± 0.10	0.07
5226217	201.502853	-47.491199	2,3,4	34787 ± 1026	5.83 ± 0.12	-0.65 ± 0.09	17.313	18.724	18.906	19.130	53945	98857	209 ± 21	12.8	0.37 ± 0.11	0.08
204071	201.654999	-47.498909	3	28351 ± 2127	5.48 ± 0.16	-3.03 ± 0.28	16.861	18.055	18.173	18.281	...	...	233 ± 17	...	0.49 ± 0.23	0.12
5139614	201.790863	-47.508301	3	27898 ± 1177	5.45 ± 0.10	-4.01 ± 2.39	17.613	18.868	19.039	19.207	...	...	222 ± 18	...	0.21 ± 0.06	0.06
5243164	201.566101	-47.475098	3	31322 ± 547	5.36 ± 0.06	-2.63 ± 0.21	16.847	18.206	18.359	18.444	75993	...	240 ± 10	28.2	0.25 ± 0.04	0.11
5180753	201.595352	-47.475014	3	33548 ± 667	5.78 ± 0.08	-1.45 ± 0.09	17.012	18.437	18.746	18.942	...	...	202 ± 10	...	0.41 ± 0.09	-0.05
5142999	201.817123	-47.567085	3,5	33343 ± 1066	5.71 ± 0.11	-1.10 ± 0.09	17.217	18.549	18.735	19.008	164808	...	225 ± 11	5.1	0.35 ± 0.10	0.07
5164025	201.723480	-47.553406	3	34964 ± 1027	5.78 ± 0.11	-0.60 ± 0.09	17.466	18.878	19.037	19.241	...	...	260 ± 13	...	0.28 ± 0.08	0.10
5205350	201.565934	-47.511494	3	34966 ± 877	5.52 ± 0.09	-0.65 ± 0.08	17.012	18.462	18.616	18.804	...	...	252 ± 11	...	0.23 ± 0.06	0.11
5242504	201.560898	-47.475719	3,2	35667 ± 1216	5.78 ± 0.13	-0.53 ± 0.09	17.215	18.657	18.824	19.032	74057	...	246 ± 10	3.6	0.34 ± 0.11	0.10
264057	201.776947	-47.514145	3	36092 ± 1042	5.69 ± 0.11	-0.79 ± 0.09	17.280	18.721	18.871	19.239	...	...	220 ± 13	...	0.26 ± 0.07	0.12
5142638	201.690079	-47.567398	3	35880 ± 1045	5.68 ± 0.10	-0.44 ± 0.08	17.342	18.811	18.919	19.001	...	...	271 ± 12	...	0.24 ± 0.06	0.16
5102280	201.704132	-47.596725	3	36037 ± 852	5.66 ± 0.09	-0.95 ± 0.09	16.856	18.357	18.441	18.432	...	...	219 ± 13	...	0.36 ± 0.08	0.19
177711	201.603806	-47.429600	3	36185 ± 1070	5.72 ± 0.10	-0.49 ± 0.08	17.299	18.427	18.351	18.049	...	...	284 ± 16	...	0.44 ± 0.11	0.34
5220684	201.564041	-47.440182	3	36657 ± 830	5.87 ± 0.09	-0.83 ± 0.08	17.093	18.573	18.748	19.045	...	...	262 ± 12	...	0.42 ± 0.10	0.10
5062474	201.777328	-47.496262	3	36025 ± 2352	5.94 ± 0.23	-0.12 ± 0.16	17.672	18.570	18.385	17.886	...	...	163 ± 17	...	0.72 ± 0.38	0.44
5047695	201.822342	-47.519772	3	38323 ± 1392	5.69 ± 0.19	-0.22 ± 0.13	17.514	18.932	19.075	18.358	...	...	247 ± 11	...	0.19 ± 0.09	0.13
5085696	201.736816	-47.611923	3	38655 ± 927	5.59 ± 0.13	-0.08 ± 0.09	17.316	18.747	18.744	18.603	...	...	227 ± 12	...	0.21 ± 0.07	0.28
5242616	201.552444	-47.475616	3,2	43823 ± 1520	5.90 ± 0.12	-1.41 ± 0.12	16.921	18.427	18.551	18.497	70950	...	205 ± 12	22.0	0.42 ± 0.13	0.17

Table B.3. continued.

ACS ID	RA	DEC	Sample <sup>a</sup>	$T_{\text{eff}}$ (K)	$\log g^b$ ( $\text{cm s}^{-2}$ )	$\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})^b$ (dex)	$U$	$B$	$V$	$I$	ID (1)	ID (2)	RV <sup>c</sup> ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{RV}}$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	Mass ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$E(B-V)$
177614	201.603729	-47.424793	3	54676 ± 3125	6.05 ± 0.11	-1.36 ± 0.14	16.928	18.446	18.615	18.610	...	...	272 ± 18	...	0.45 ± 0.13	0.14
5368114	201.678329	-47.355011	5	30234 ± 965	5.50 ± 0.09	-2.47 ± 0.09	16.855	18.117	18.164	18.106	115194	...	229	...	0.46 ± 0.12	0.20
5374166	201.641983	-47.349293	5	29158 ± 1247	5.26 ± 0.10	-3.24 ± 0.18	16.488	17.723	17.858	17.993	102600	...	213	...	0.37 ± 0.11	0.11
5040549	201.644745	-47.673519	5	26689 ± 1502	5.12 ± 0.10	-2.04 ± 0.07	16.801	18.028	18.151	18.242	103563	...	205	...	0.24 ± 0.08	0.11
5406338	201.670563	-47.311852	5	31273 ± 1450	5.69 ± 0.13	-1.39 ± 0.09	17.084	18.504	18.621	18.831	112475	...	232	...	0.43 ± 0.16	0.13
5352738	201.710190	-47.368271	5	25950 ± 1317	5.09 ± 0.09	-1.68 ± 0.06	16.295	17.231	17.239	17.237	126350	...	227	...	0.55 ± 0.16	0.21
5332719	201.739243	-47.383190	5	31565 ± 887	5.33 ± 0.08	-4.09 ± 0.63	16.667	17.949	18.055	18.115	137299	...	217	...	0.31 ± 0.08	0.16
5369336	201.749069	-47.353909	5	36288 ± 1252	5.78 ± 0.11	-1.05 ± 0.08	17.186	18.646	18.794	19.037	141008	...	226	...	0.34 ± 0.10	0.12
5235851	201.883286	-47.481960	5.4	29196 ± 1162	5.46 ± 0.10	-2.27 ± 0.12	16.907	18.195	18.267	18.216	183592	229084	239 ± 30	8.3	0.40 ± 0.11	0.17
5173726	201.900894	-47.544926	5	30916 ± 1405	5.65 ± 0.14	-3.43 ± 0.52	17.080	18.545	18.688	18.807	186476	...	236	...	0.38 ± 0.15	0.11
5208245	201.908035	-47.508541	5	47966 ± 3372	5.80 ± 0.15	-2.80 ± 0.98	16.890	18.260	18.705	18.704	187534	...	217	...	0.26 ± 0.10	0.08
5294343	201.936386	-47.422180	5	29981 ± 2452	5.54 ± 0.22	-2.82 ± 0.30	17.075	18.565	18.717	18.801	191111	...	225	...	0.30 ± 0.19	0.10
5264144	201.879150	-47.454666	5.4	36514 ± 1212	5.27 ± 0.09	-2.38 ± 0.16	16.288	17.764	17.929	18.112	182772	234333	239 ± 30	2.6	0.23 ± 0.06	0.12
5257714	201.969009	-47.460850	5.4	25424 ± 1121	5.11 ± 0.09	-2.31 ± 0.12	16.208	17.430	17.531	17.430	194383	233133	213 ± 30	5.9	0.46 ± 0.13	0.12
5235130	201.415817	-47.482506	5	33681 ± 1322	5.82 ± 0.13	-1.26 ± 0.09	16.995	18.411	18.602	18.775	29850	...	240	...	0.50 ± 0.17	0.07
5243680	201.439774	-47.474403	5	30225 ± 1412	5.45 ± 0.13	-3.84 ± 0.82	16.890	18.229	18.405	18.526	35828	...	199	...	0.32 ± 0.12	0.08
5341114	201.443649	-47.376816	5	44619 ± 3952	5.49 ± 0.18	-2.85 ± 0.83	16.760	18.127	18.378	18.633	36669	...	205	...	0.19 ± 0.09	0.05
5221335	201.458237	-47.495911	5	33020 ± 2002	5.45 ± 0.17	-1.15 ± 0.12	17.024	18.417	18.600	18.739	40846	...	255	...	0.22 ± 0.10	0.08
5191522	201.517944	-47.525745	5	26463 ± 2065	5.34 ± 0.15	-3.10 ± 0.20	17.199	18.296	18.363	18.507	58774	91573	213 ± 30	4.9	0.34 ± 0.15	0.16
5227178	201.524353	-47.490322	5	43454 ± 2110	5.45 ± 0.10	-3.41 ± 1.17	16.564	18.029	18.236	18.392	60820	...	226	...	0.20 ± 0.06	0.09
5254427	201.548111	-47.464264	5	30078 ± 1015	5.33 ± 0.09	-3.90 ± 0.55	16.590	17.870	18.556	18.749	65373	...	232	...	0.37 ± 0.10	0.06
172304	201.594086	-47.514648	5	28623 ± 2035	4.95 ± 0.15	-3.28 ± 0.28	16.255	17.271	17.251	17.102	86429	...	206	...	0.33 ± 0.15	0.27
5078284	201.711899	-47.619541	5	33828 ± 1907	5.48 ± 0.15	-0.86 ± 0.11	16.979	18.389	18.541	18.752	126892	...	229	...	0.24 ± 0.10	0.11
5336346	201.692383	-47.380478	5	35366 ± 1210	5.94 ± 0.11	-0.22 ± 0.08	17.660	18.852	19.000	19.392	120119	...	230	...	0.42 ± 0.12	0.11
5186047	201.919846	-47.531506	5	35253 ± 1255	5.86 ± 0.11	-0.45 ± 0.08	17.023	18.511	18.577	18.390	189080	...	235	...	0.52 ± 0.15	0.19
5377817	201.668640	-47.345703	5	41994 ± 715	6.32 ± 0.12	0.77 ± 0.10	17.730	19.141	19.219	19.370	111785	...	239	...	0.66 ± 0.19	0.20
5268490	201.930328	-47.450127	5	38087 ± 1585	5.72 ± 0.14	-0.70 ± 0.10	17.034	18.656	18.800	18.858	190398	...	233	...	0.27 ± 0.09	0.13
5197853	201.402451	-47.518871	5	31770 ± 1720	5.96 ± 0.18	-0.65 ± 0.12	17.182	18.645	18.838	19.001	26774	...	213	...	0.62 ± 0.29	0.05
5232426	201.422150	-47.485092	5.4	34615 ± 1615	5.81 ± 0.16	-0.38 ± 0.12	17.350	18.803	18.987	19.186	31400	100171	228 ± 30	1.7	0.33 ± 0.13	0.07
5182741	201.458923	-47.535099	5.4	34236 ± 1347	5.63 ± 0.15	-0.45 ± 0.10	17.058	18.521	18.678	18.807	41074	89638	229 ± 30	2.3	0.30 ± 0.11	0.10
5333076	201.468033	-47.382702	5	35212 ± 1167	5.80 ± 0.10	-0.65 ± 0.08	17.204	18.580	18.791	18.998	43520	...	227	...	0.37 ± 0.10	0.05
5381809	201.512680	-47.341492	5	32839 ± 1042	5.83 ± 0.10	-0.76 ± 0.07	16.789	18.258	18.436	18.515	56896	...	236	...	0.64 ± 0.18	0.07
5047902	201.595901	-47.660110	5	33876 ± 1120	5.88 ± 0.10	-0.87 ± 0.07	17.109	18.543	18.716	18.966	87161	...	236	...	0.51 ± 0.15	0.08
5384240	201.579010	-47.338970	5	34194 ± 1265	5.83 ± 0.12	-0.91 ± 0.08	17.039	18.453	18.623	18.839	80690	...	217	...	0.50 ± 0.16	0.09
5249607	201.552963	-47.468742	2	35722 ± 915	5.81 ± 0.10	-0.69 ± 0.08	17.134	18.619	18.756	18.888	71204	...	196 ± 7	...	0.38 ± 0.10	0.13
5247607	201.499390	-47.470615	2.4	34410 ± 1053	5.70 ± 0.12	-0.88 ± 0.10	17.065	18.467	18.646	18.796	52905	103232	219 ± 19	7.1	0.36 ± 0.11	0.08
5257735	201.524918	-47.461021	2	33466 ± 752	5.68 ± 0.08	-0.99 ± 0.08	17.049	18.472	18.649	18.810	60969	...	228 ± 7	...	0.35 ± 0.08	0.08
5223089	201.4530623	-47.494194	2	37054 ± 1360	5.87 ± 0.15	-0.84 ± 0.12	16.921	18.319	18.514	18.665	38670	...	227 ± 19	25.7	0.51 ± 0.20	0.08
5182383	201.572433	-47.535667	2	36576 ± 1162	5.82 ± 0.12	-0.48 ± 0.09	17.781	18.964	18.894	18.524	78393	...	224 ± 6	...	0.33 ± 0.10	0.34
5192767	201.562485	-47.524570	2	37728 ± 995	5.84 ± 0.11	-0.27 ± 0.08	17.317	18.756	18.853	18.855	74644	...	255 ± 8	...	0.35 ± 0.09	0.17
5257577	201.491806	-47.461132	4	35797 ± 3095	5.43 ± 0.28	0.53 ± 0.17	17.760	19.151	19.258	19.041	...	105290	237 ± 30	...	0.11 ± 0.07	0.15
5270645	201.443527	-47.447819	4	38094 ± 3022	5.85 ± 0.33	0.23 ± 0.21	17.497	18.967	19.108	19.181	36725	108102	237 ± 30	5.7	0.28 ± 0.22	0.12
5271711	201.537659	-47.446865	4	37548 ± 1315	5.84 ± 0.15	-0.70 ± 0.12	17.095	18.975	18.651	18.630	...	108309	228 ± 30	...	0.41 ± 0.15	0.60
251042	201.750732	-47.521118	4	35796 ± 1015	5.39 ± 0.10	-1.17 ± 0.09	16.137	17.541	17.714	18.000	...	154412	232 ± 30	...	0.38 ± 0.10	0.10
5069716	201.780869	-47.486443	4	34681 ± 1462	5.68 ± 0.16	-0.87 ± 0.14	16.395	19.233	19.170	19.611	...	166106	223 ± 30	...	0.21 ± 0.08	0.33
280071	201.810272	-47.481472	4	36438 ± 1010	5.68 ± 0.11	-1.00 ± 0.09	17.007	18.460	18.508	18.509	...	167821	247 ± 30	...	0.35 ± 0.10	0.23
5255164	201.822739	-47.463608	4	23829 ± 755	5.11 ± 0.06	-2.41 ± 0.14	...	17.600	17.589	17.474	...	173876	262 ± 30	...	0.49 ± 0.10	0.22
270816	201.791092	-47.440907	4	42686 ± 2657	5.86 ± 0.17	-1.98 ± 0.32	17.071	18.576	18.758	18.907	...	181428	308 ± 30	...	0.33 ± 0.14	0.11
5213165	201.904282	-47.503742	4	36220 ± 1002	5.68 ± 0.11	-0.45 ± 0.08	16.901	18.402	18.595	18.719	...	224916	223 ± 30	...	0.32 ± 0.09	0.07

Table B.3. continued.

ACS ID	RA	DEC	Sample <sup>d</sup>	$T_{\text{eff}}^b$ (K)	$\log g^b$ ( $\text{cm s}^{-2}$ )	$\log N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})^b$ (dex)	$U$	$B$	$V$	$I$	ID (1)	ID (2)	$\text{RV}^c$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$\sigma_{\text{RV}}$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	Mass ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$E(B-V)$
5213936	201.872253	-47.503036	4	36095 ± 950	5.66 ± 0.10	-0.62 ± 0.08	17.112	18.619	18.754	18.807	...	225063	258 ± 30	...	0.26 ± 0.07	0.13
5245132	201.850220	-47.473099	4	32768 ± 790	5.60 ± 0.09	-1.42 ± 0.09	16.848	18.011	18.000	17.888	...	230786	203 ± 30	...	0.56 ± 0.14	0.27
5255018	201.935120	-47.463570	4	35780 ± 1272	5.46 ± 0.13	-0.52 ± 0.11	16.859	18.342	18.478	18.481	...	232593	214 ± 30	...	0.22 ± 0.08	0.13
5255436	201.959717	-47.463112	4	23463 ± 842	4.89 ± 0.07	-1.94 ± 0.10	16.170	17.279	17.359	17.305	...	232682	205 ± 30	...	0.37 ± 0.08	0.12
5268276	201.862000	-47.450474	4	24015 ± 1337	4.75 ± 0.12	-1.74 ± 0.15	16.403	17.495	17.549	17.598	...	235103	236 ± 30	...	0.22 ± 0.08	0.16
5273495	201.910889	-47.444885	4	27006 ± 725	5.16 ± 0.07	-4.00 ± 0.50	16.495	17.814	17.931	17.970	...	236142	212 ± 30	...	0.32 ± 0.07	0.12
5275033	201.859039	-47.443348	4	24494 ± 795	5.09 ± 0.07	-3.42 ± 0.53	16.626	17.592	17.613	17.528	...	236428	199 ± 30	...	0.43 ± 0.09	0.19
5174292	201.544006	-47.544468	4	23752 ± 1830	5.09 ± 0.14	-1.87 ± 0.09	16.575	17.772	17.913	18.052	...	87776	205 ± 30	...	0.34 ± 0.14	0.06
5212417	201.450882	-47.504456	4	30507 ± 1522	5.39 ± 0.16	-2.24 ± 0.34	17.115	18.351	18.493	18.596	...	95987	180 ± 30	...	0.25 ± 0.11	0.11
5189642	201.466141	-47.527626	4	33326 ± 1172	5.72 ± 0.13	-1.24 ± 0.12	17.087	18.468	18.680	18.866	43148	91164	208 ± 30	26.9	0.38 ± 0.13	0.05