

The Pluto Occultations on 14th and 19th of July 2016

Preliminary Overview of Observations

Wolfgang Beisker (on behalf of the European Pluto Occultation Team)

Two occultations by Pluto on the 14th and 19th of July have been observed throughout Europe. The first one (stellar magnitude about 16) was aimed to be the pathfinder for the central flash of the second (stellar magnitude about 14).

Because of the weather situation, many stations throughout Europe were able to observe the occultations. In an unprecedented effort, it was possible by Bruno Sicardy and his team to calculate the central line of the occultation on the 19th. The publication of the first GAIA position of the target star on the 19th by the GAIA team allowed us in combination with the observations on the 14th to pinpoint the central line very precisely. It happened to be, that the line moves farther south to northern Africa and the Canaries. In all parts of central Europe it was possible to observe the following occultation.

This report will give just a rough overview of what has been observed, without a detailed analysis.