0955-b

Cigar Galaxy

Quick Facts:

Distance: 12 Million Light-years.

Size: 37,000 Light-years.

Constellation: Ursa Major.

Massive star formation has been triggered by gravitational interaction with its bigger neighbor M81. Hence it is called a starburst galaxy. Also known as Messier 82.

Find it: Sweep it up by using the northwest pointing diagonal of the bowl of the Big Dipper formed by Dubhe and Phecda. Sweep NW by an equal distance to find two faint patches on a north-south line. M82 is the smaller, fainter northern galaxy. GOTO: M (Messier).

Image: Robert Gendler. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.