0536

Pinwheel Cluster

Quick Facts:

Distance: 4500 Light-years.

Size: Approx 15 Light-years.

Constellation: Auriga.

It's less that 25 million years old, too young for it to have any red giants among its 60 members. Also called Messier 36, it's one of 3 Messier galactic clusters in or near the pentagon of Auriga.

Find it: Sweep 6 degrees north of Elnath, then go 2 degrees east.

GOTO: M (Messier).

Image by SEDS. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.