0634

Rosette Nebula

Quick Facts:

Distance: 5,200 light-years **Size: 130 light-years**

Constellation: Monoceros

A large ionized hydrogen (H II) region and stellar nursery. Roughly circular and over a degree across, at its center and born from the nebula is the very young galactic cluster NGC 2244. The hot, superluminous blue giants in the cluster emits lots of UV radiation, which is responsible for the ionization of the nebula and its visible appearance. Located in the Perseus Arm of the Milky Way.

Find it: Sweep approx 15 degrees due west of Procyon to the cluster and nebula. GOTO: NAMED OBJECTS.

Image by David Moug. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.