0719

τ Canis Majoris Cluster

Quick Facts:

Distance: 5000 Light-years. **Size: Approx 10 Light-years.**

Constellation: Canis Major.

A baby in age at only 5 million years, this naked-eye cluster is dominated by a supergiant blue star. Tau is a visible trinary with close faint companions, plus the primary is a spectroscopic binary. The cluster has over 60 members that can be seen in telescopes.

Find it: Above the rump of the Big Dog. Extend the line through Adhara and Delta Cma by 3 degrees NE. GOTO: NGC 2362.

Image by ESO. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.