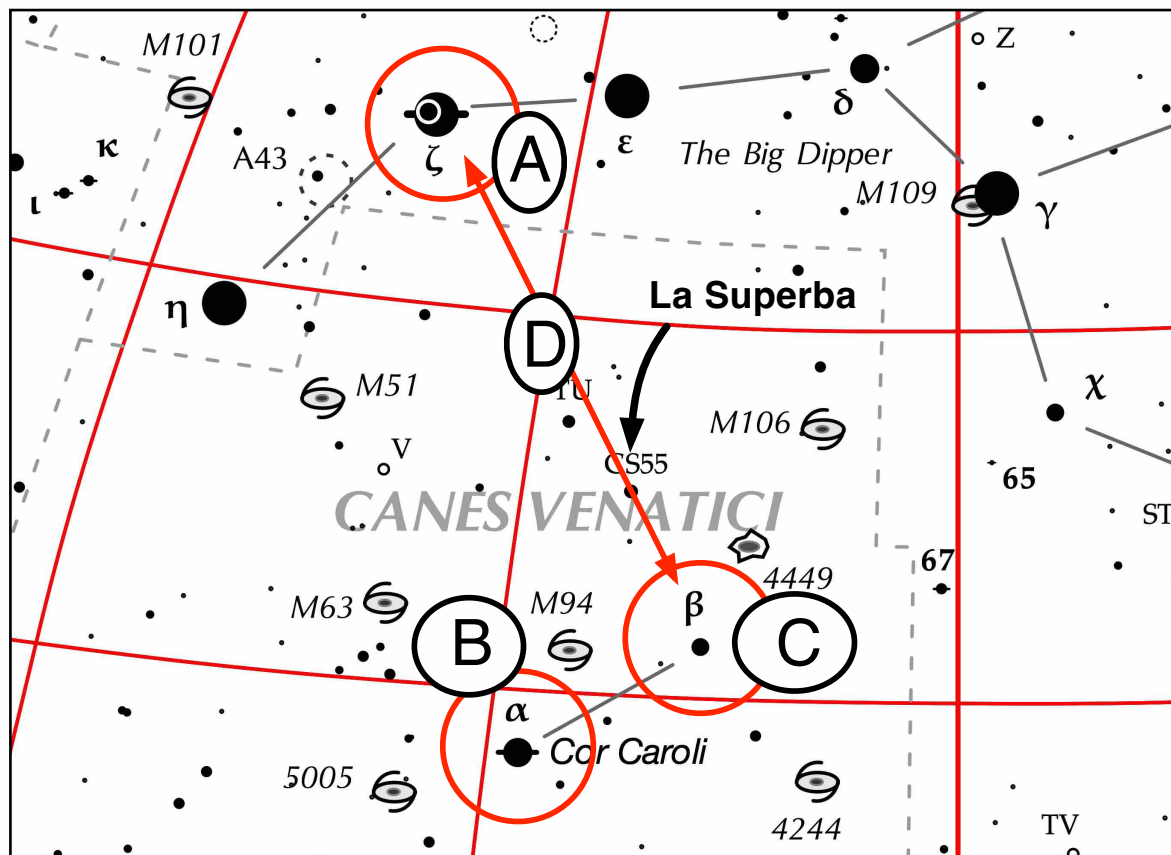


# A Springtime Attraction: La Superba!



*A beautiful, very red star*

also known as Y Canum Venaticorum, AL Carbon Star 55



Practice star hopping and triangulation ...

## How to find "La Superba"

- Find Zeta Ursae Majoris – also called Mizar – the next star to the end of the Big Dipper's handle.
- Locate Cor Caroli, Alpha Canum Venaticorum, near the center of the handle's curvature.
- Find 4.2 magnitude Beta to Alpha's northwest.
- Draw a line between Zeta and Beta.
- About 3/4 along this line shines La Superba.

## Physical Characteristics:

Distance: 760 light-years  
Radius: 350 suns; 3.3 AU  
(past the orbit of Mars)  
Temperature: 5000 F  
(sun = 10,000 F)  
Luminosity: 6200 suns

## Appearance in binoculars or a telescope:

- between 4.8 and 6.3 magnitude
- Redder than Betelgeuse.



**How bright  
and how red  
is La Superba  
to you?**