



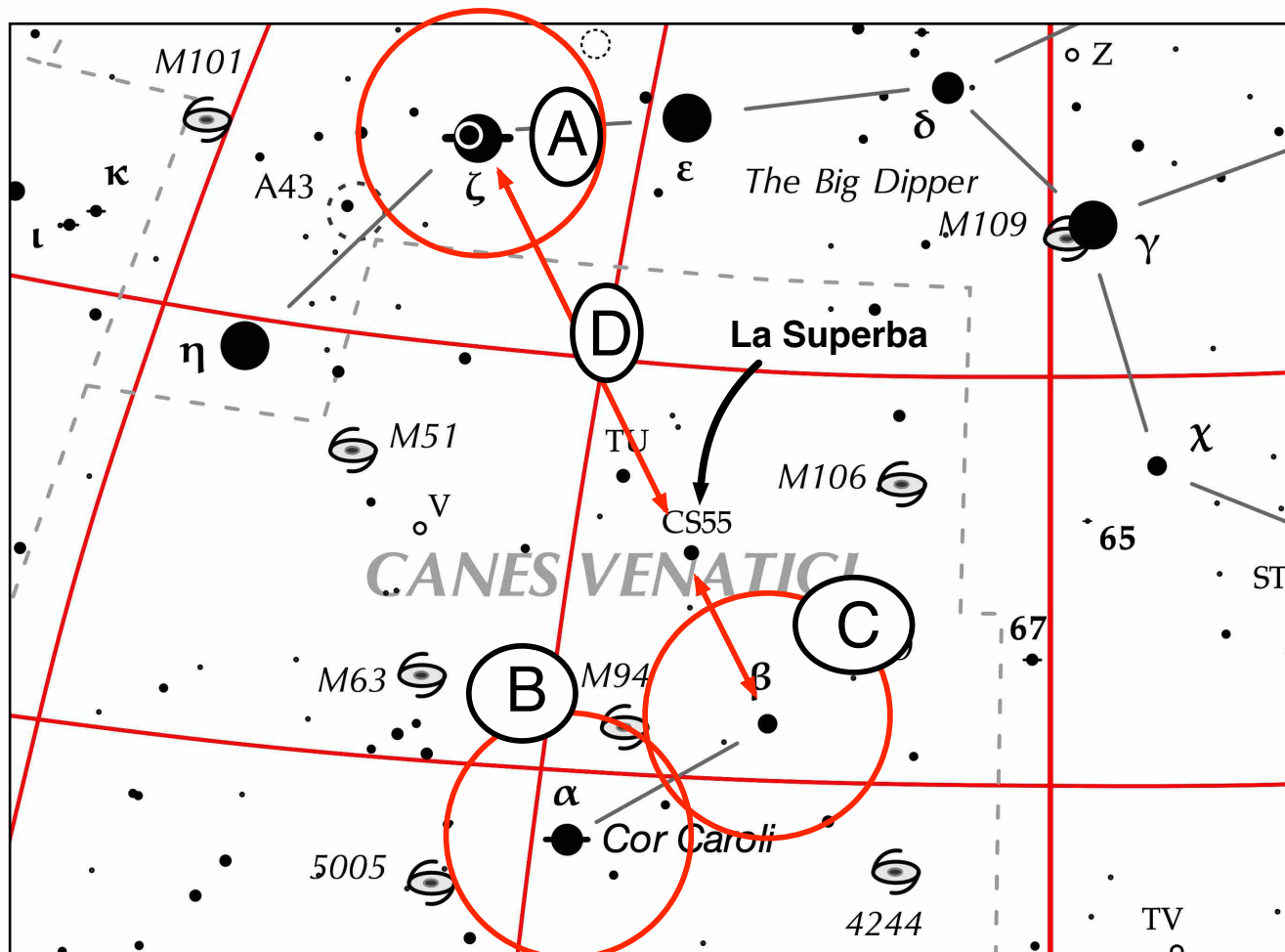
A Springtime Attraction:

La Superba!

A beautiful, very red star



also known as Y Canum Venaticorum, AL Carbon Star 55



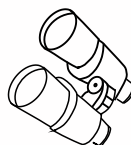
How to find "La Superba"

- 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.

Repeat every week. Do you notice a change in brightness and in color?

Appearance in binoculars or a telescope:

- Between 4.8 and 6.3 magnitude
- Redder than Betelgeuse.



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

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