



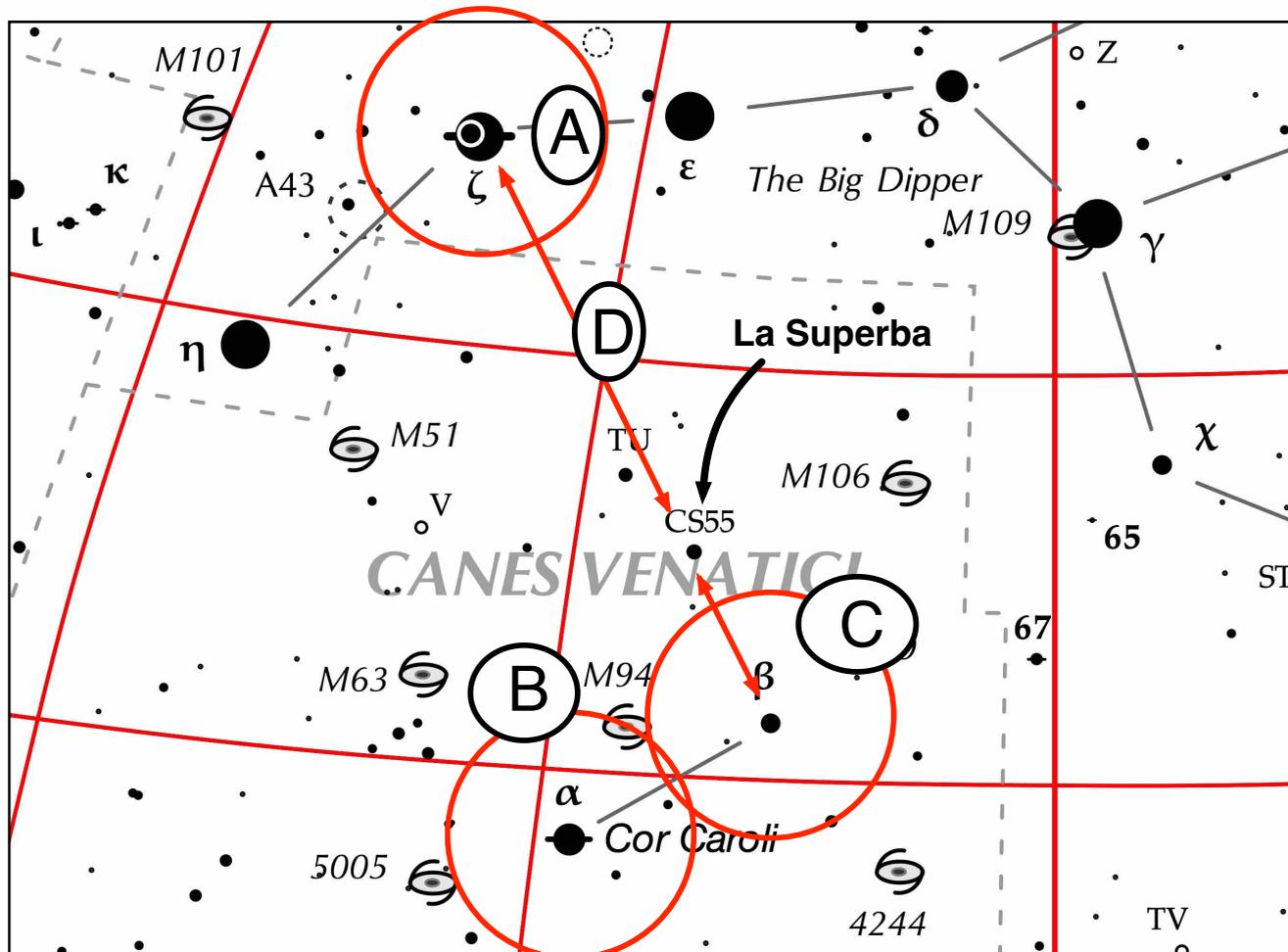
A Springtime Attraction:

La Superba!

A beautiful, very red star



also known as Y Canum Venaticorum, AL Carbon Star 55



How to find "La Superba"

- A. Find Zeta Ursae Majoris – also called Mizar – the next star to the end of the Big Dipper's handle.
- B. Locate Cor Caroli, Alpha Canum Venaticorum, near the center of the handle's curvature.
- C. Find 4.2 magnitude Beta to Alpha's northwest.
- D. Draw a line between Zeta and Beta.
- E. 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:

1. Between 4.8 and 6.3 magnitude
2. 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?