



a most bewildering deep sky object

Search for Messier 73 (NGC 6994)

Asterism or Open Cluster?



Navigate to Messier 73, NGC 6994:

1. Locate Nu and Epsilon Aquarii, the two southern stars of the bowl of Aquarius.
2. Using those two stars as reference points, triangulate to M73.
3. Two stars (6.5 and 6.6 magnitude) near the southern edge of the finder field point directly to M73.

Bonus:

4. The globular cluster M72 lies 1.5 degrees directly west of M73
5. The Saturn Nebula, the planetary nebula NGC 7009, lies 1.75 degrees to the northeast of M73.

Charles Messier (Oct 4 and 5, 1780)

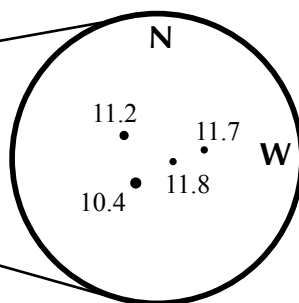
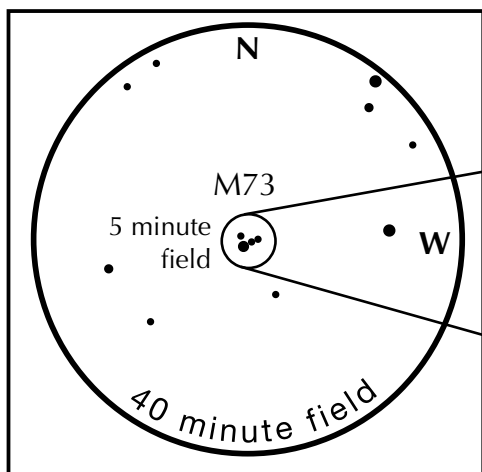
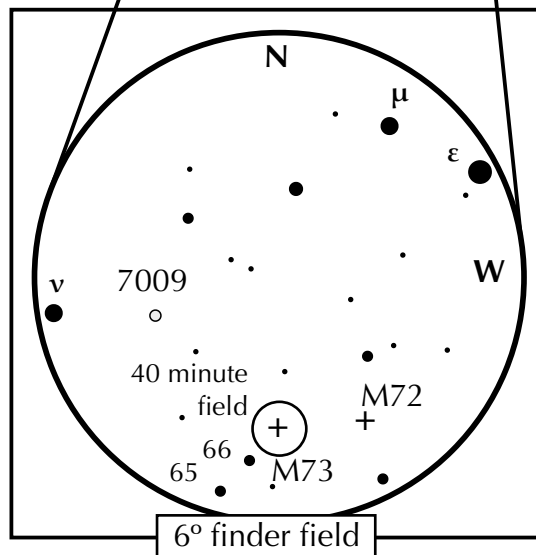
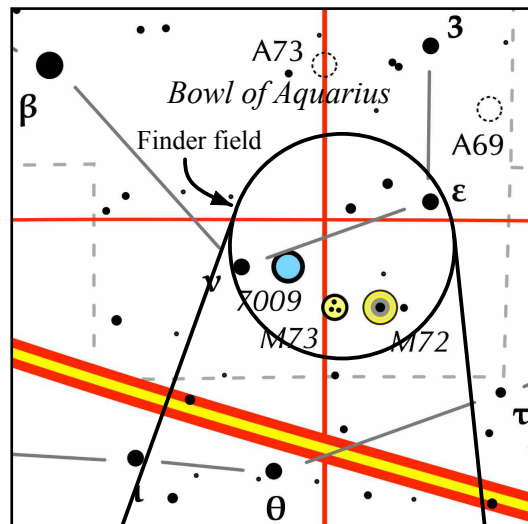
"A cluster of three or four small stars which resembles a nebula at first glance; containing very little nebulosity ..."

William Herschel (Sep 28, 1783)

"Consists of a few stars arranged in triangular form. No nebulosity among them."

Dreyer's New General Catalog (NGC 6994 = M73)

"Cluster, extremely sparse in stars, very little compressed, no nebula."



M73: 5 minute field

