

# 20 Best Carbon Stars

A curated selection of the finest carbon stars for visual observation. These deep-red gems are among the most colorful objects in the sky, best appreciated through binoculars or a small telescope.

## 20

Objects

Cygnus · Draco · Virgo · Canes Venatici · Pisces · Lepus · Hydra · Auriga · Cancer · Orion · Aquila · Sculptor

Visibility scored for: **150mm Reflector** · Bortle 4

## 1 Y Canum Venaticorum La Superba

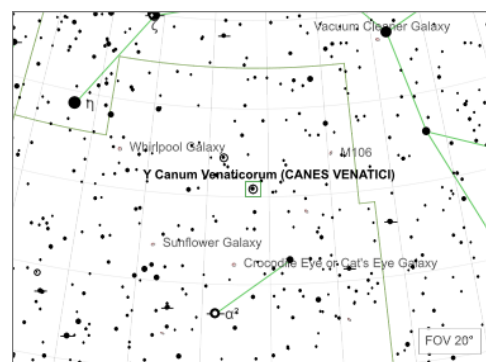
• Variable Star · Canes Venatici

Position RA 12h 45m 7.8s Dec +45d 26' 25"  
 Magnitude 5.0 mag

### Notes

The most famous carbon star. Intensely red color, easily visible in binoculars. One of the reddest naked-eye stars. Semi-regular variable (4.8-6.3 mag).

Observed



## 2 TX Piscium 19 Piscium

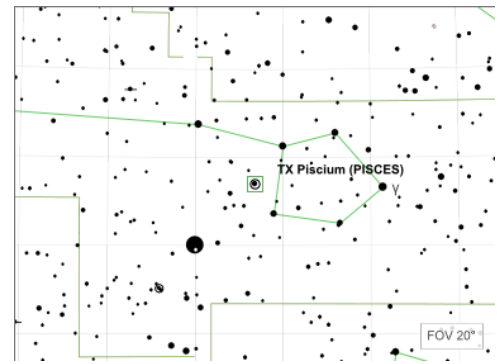
• Variable Star · Pisces

Position RA 23h 46m 23.5s Dec +3d 29' 12"  
Magnitude 5.0 mag

Notes

Naked-eye carbon star with deep orange-red color. One of the brightest and easiest carbon stars. Slight variability (4.8-5.2 mag).

Observed



### 3 R Leporis Hind's Crimson Star

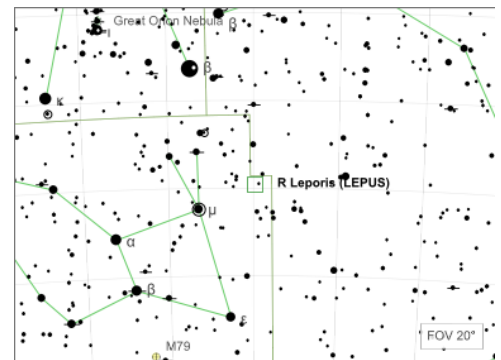
• Variable Star • Lepus

Position RA 04h 59m 36.4s Dec -14d 48' 23"  
Magnitude 7.7 mag

Notes

One of the reddest stars in the sky. Named by J.R. Hind in 1845. Mira variable (5.5-11.7 mag, period ~427 days). Best color near maximum brightness.

Observed



### 4 U Hydrae

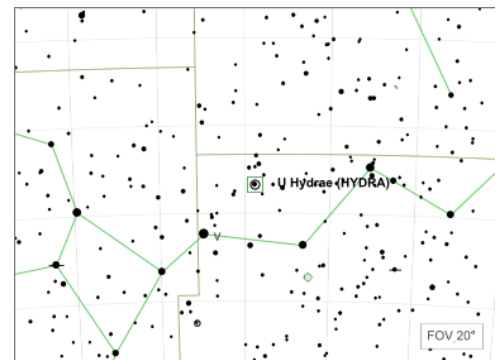
• Variable Star • Hydra

Position RA 10h 37m 33.3s Dec -13d 23' 4"  
Magnitude 5.3 mag

Notes

Bright carbon star with striking deep red color. Semi-regular variable (4.7-6.2 mag). Easily found with binoculars.

Observed



### 5 UU Aurigae

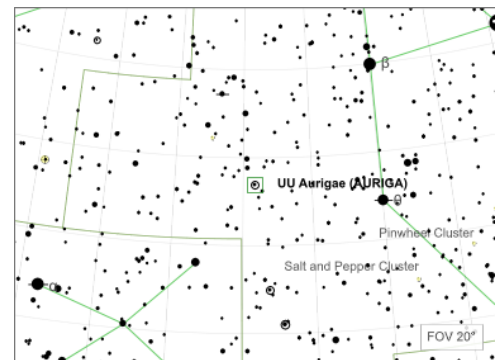
• Variable Star • Auriga

Position RA 06h 36m 32.8s Dec +38d 26' 44"  
Magnitude 5.7 mag

Notes

Bright carbon star in a rich Milky Way field. Semi-regular variable (5.1-6.8 mag). Vivid red-orange color.

Observed



## 6 X Cancri

• Variable Star · Cancer

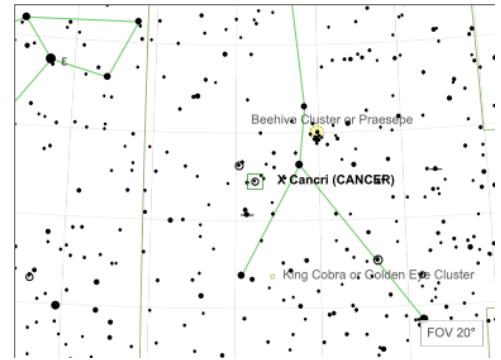
Position RA 08h 55m 22.9s Dec +17d 13' 54"

Magnitude 6.3 mag

### Notes

Beautiful red carbon star near the Beehive Cluster (M44). Semi-regular variable (5.6-7.5 mag). Nice color contrast with nearby field stars.

Observed



## 7 W Orionis

• Variable Star · Orion

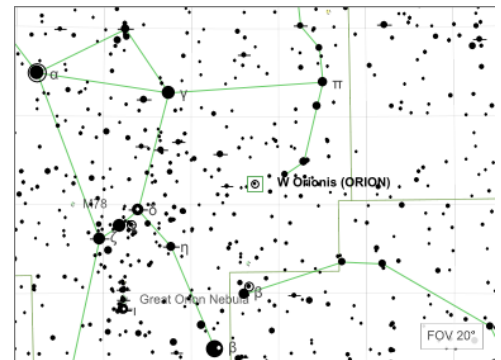
Position RA 05h 05m 23.7s Dec +1d 10' 40"

Magnitude 6.7 mag

### Notes

Splendid red carbon star near the celestial equator. Semi-regular variable (5.9-7.7 mag). Easy binocular target in a rich star field.

Observed



## 8 V460 Cygni

• Variable Star · Cygnus

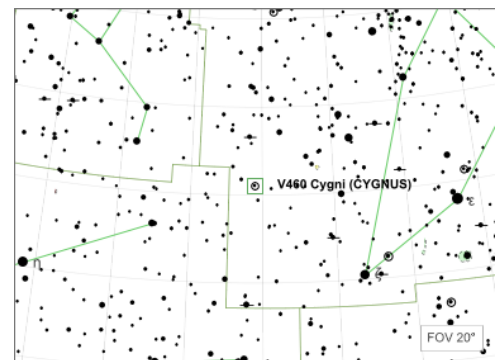
Position RA 21h 42m 1.1s Dec +35d 30' 36"

Magnitude 6.2 mag

### Notes

Bright carbon star with subtle variability (5.6-7.0 mag). Located in a beautiful Milky Way field. Nice binocular object.

Observed



## 9 V Aquilae

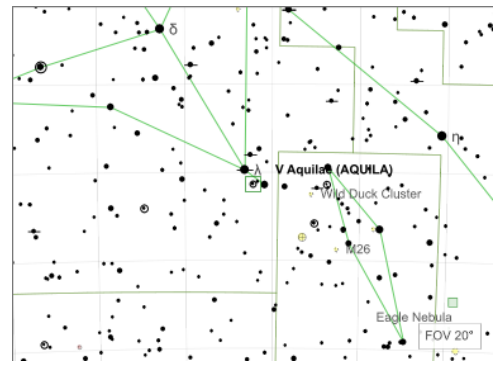
• Variable Star · Aquila

Position RA 19h 04m 24.2s Dec -5d 41' 5"  
Magnitude 7.3 mag

Notes

Deep red carbon star in a rich summer Milky Way field. Semi-regular variable (6.6-8.4 mag). Excellent small telescope target.

Observed



## 10 RY Draconis

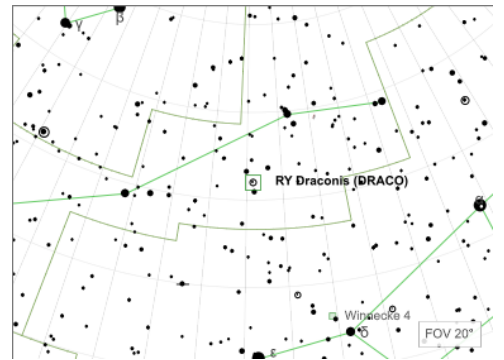
• Variable Star • Draco

Position RA 12h 56m 25.9s Dec +65d 59' 40"  
Magnitude 6.8 mag

Notes

Circumpolar carbon star for northern observers, visible year-round. Semi-regular variable (6.0-8.0 mag). Rich red color.

Observed



## 11 R Sculptoris

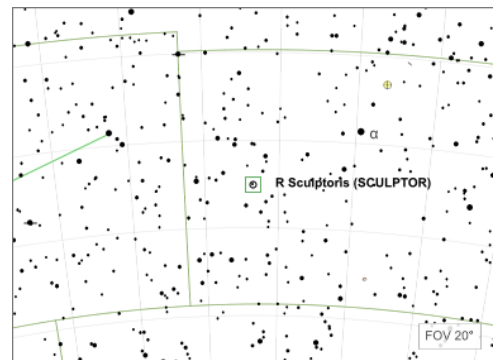
• Variable Star • Sculptor

Position RA 01h 26m 58.1s Dec -32d 32' 35"  
Magnitude 6.5 mag

Notes

Southern-sky carbon star with a detached shell of ejected material (discovered by ALMA). Semi-regular variable (5.8-7.7 mag).

Observed



## 12 WZ Cassiopeiae

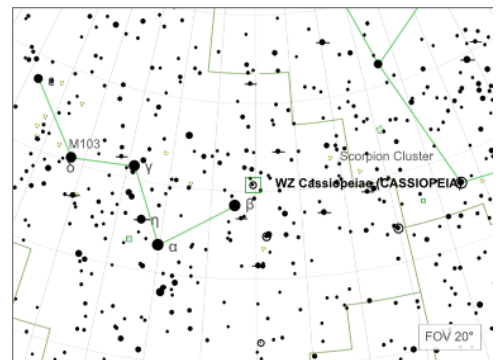
• Variable Star • Cassiopeia

Position RA 00h 01m 15.9s Dec +60d 21' 19"  
Magnitude 7.5 mag

Notes

Deep red carbon star forming a lovely color-contrast pair with a blue companion. Semi-regular variable (6.9-8.5 mag). Circumpolar.

Observed



## 13 T Lyrae

• Variable Star · Lyra

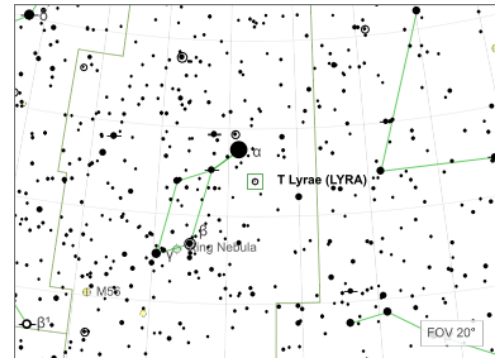
Position RA 18h 32m 20.1s Dec +36d 59' 56"

Magnitude 8.3 mag

### Notes

Extremely red carbon star near Vega. Irregular variable (7.5-9.3 mag). One of the most deeply colored stars in the northern sky.

Observed



## 14 V Coronae Borealis

• Variable Star · Corona Borealis

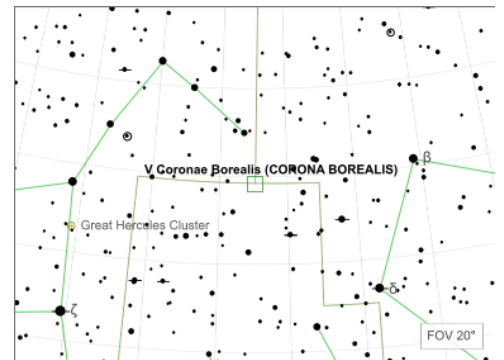
Position RA 15h 49m 31.3s Dec +39d 34' 18"

Magnitude 8.5 mag

### Notes

Mira-type carbon star with large amplitude (6.9-12.6 mag, period ~358 days). Deep red at maximum. Plan observations around predicted maxima.

Observed



## 15 SS Virginis

• Variable Star · Virgo

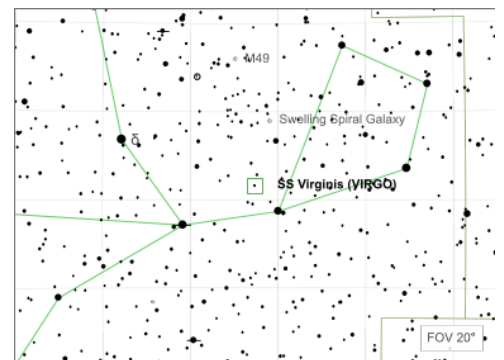
Position RA 12h 25m 14.4s Dec +0d 46' 11"

Magnitude 7.0 mag

### Notes

Mira-type carbon star near the celestial equator. Variable (6.0-9.6 mag, period ~364 days). Good color near maximum.

Observed



## 16 S Cephei

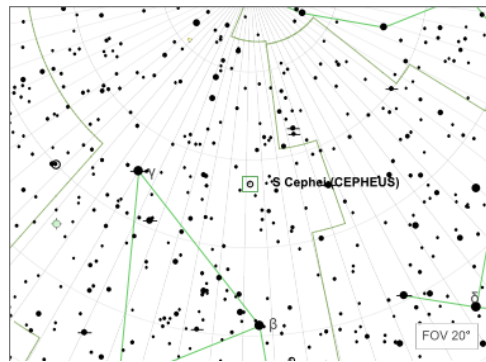
• Variable Star · Cepheus

Position RA 21h 35m 12.8s Dec +78d 37' 28"  
Magnitude 8.5 mag

Notes

Very red Mira-type carbon star near the north celestial pole. Variable (7.4-12.9 mag, period ~487 days). Circumpolar for most northern observers.

Observed



## 17 ST Camelopardalis

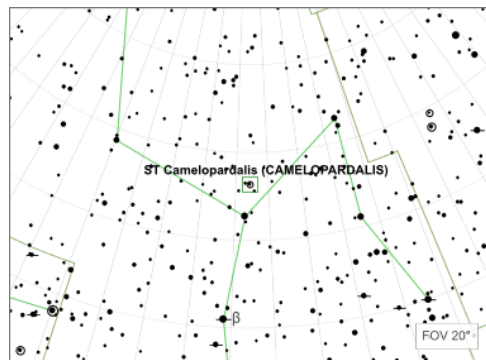
• Variable Star • Camelopardalis

Position RA 04h 51m 13.8s Dec +68d 10' 9"  
Magnitude 7.5 mag

Notes

Semi-regular carbon star (7.0-8.3 mag). Circumpolar, observable year-round from northern latitudes. Nice red-orange hue.

Observed



## 18 T Draconis

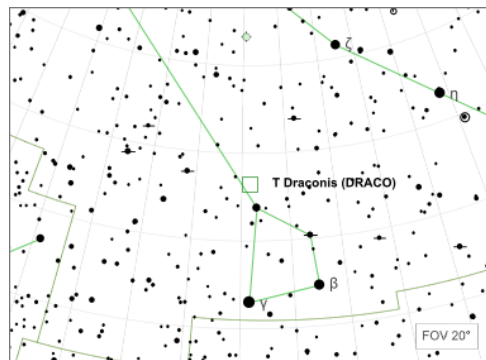
• Variable Star • Draco

Position RA 17h 56m 23.3s Dec +58d 13' 7"  
Magnitude 9.0 mag

Notes

Mira-type carbon star with dramatic variability (7.2-13.5 mag, period ~422 days). Very red at maximum. Requires a telescope.

Observed



## 19 TT Cygni

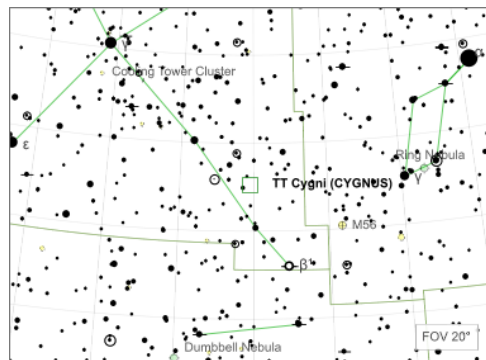
• Variable Star • Cygnus

Position RA 19h 40m 57.0s Dec +32d 37' 6"  
Magnitude 7.7 mag

Notes

Carbon star surrounded by a thin detached CO shell (discovered by radio observations). Semi-regular variable (7.5-8.0 mag). Steady red color.

Observed



## 20 RU Virginis

• Variable Star · Virgo

Position RA 12h 47m 18.4s Dec +4d 08' 41"

Magnitude 9.0 mag

### Notes

Mira-type carbon star (8.0-11.0 mag, period ~433 days). Deep red at maximum. Good target for monitoring with a small telescope.

Observed

