



### Evening sky in JULY 2013

Overhead the constellation of Scorpion dominates the winter skies. The "heart" of the Scorpion, Antares, is a red supergiant star approximately 550 light years distant. It has a radius 883 times that of our Sun. If Antares was at the centre of our Solar System, its outer surface would lie between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Sagittarius (the Archer), lies to the east of the Scorpion and Corvus, the Crow, to the west. To the north is Hercules, framed by a large triangle of three bright stars, Arcturus, Vega and Altair. They are respectively, in the constellations of Boötes (Herdsman), Lyra (Lyre) and Aquila (Eagle). High in the south are the Pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri, "pointing" to Crux (Southern Cross).

Planet Mercury is in Gemini (Twins) and visible just after sunset in early July only. Planet Saturn is in Virgo (Maiden) and close to its brightest star, Spica. Planet Venus is in Cancer (Crab), moving into Leo (Lion) by midmonth. Towards month end Venus, the "evening star", moves rapidly relative to Regulus, the "heart" of the Lion, as it climbs higher in the west.

The Moon is in the evening sky from July 11 until July 25.