



Evening sky in May 2011

The stars directly overhead belong to the largest of all constellations, Hydra, the Water Monster. Slightly lower down towards the South is the smallest constellation, Crux, the Southern Cross. Alpha Centauri, the third brightest star in the night sky, is one of the Pointer stars, "pointing" to the top of the Cross. The False Cross lies West of Crux and is part of two constellations Carina, the Keel, and Vela, the Sails of the mythological ship, Argo. In Carina is Canopus, the second brightest star in the night sky. Lower down in the West we see the brightest star, Sirius, in Canis Major, the Big Dog. Above the northern horizon is the constellation of Leo, the Lion, with the bright star Regulus at its heart. Further to the East lies the fourth brightest star, Arcturus, in Boötes, the Herdsman. Higher up is Spica, the only bright star in the constellation of Virgo.

Scorpius makes its appearance above the eastern horizon, a sign that winter is on its way. Saturn is in the constellation of Virgo.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 7 May until 20 May.