

Orion’s lesser-known nebula takes centre stage

The NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope has taken a close-up view of an outer part of the Orion Nebula’s little brother, Messier 43. This nebula, which is sometimes referred to as De Mairan’s Nebula after its discoverer, is separated from the famous Orion Nebula (Messier 42) by only a dark lane of dust. Both nebulae are part of the massive stellar nursery called the Orion molecular cloud complex, which includes several other nebulae, such as the Horsehead Nebula (Barnard 33) and the Flame Nebula (NGC 2024).

The Orion molecular cloud complex is about 1400 light-years away, making it one of the closest massive star formation regions to Earth. Hubble has therefore studied this extraordinary region extensively over the past two decades, monitoring how stellar winds sculpt the clouds of gas, studying young stars and their surroundings and discovering many elusive objects, such as brown dwarf stars.

This view shows several of the brilliant hot young stars in this less-studied region and it also reveals many of the curious features around even younger stars that are still cocooned by dust.

This picture was created from images taken using the Wide Field Channel of Hubble’s Advanced Camera for Surveys. Images through yellow (F555W, coloured blue) and near-infrared (F814W, coloured red) filters were combined. The exposure times were 1000 s per filter and the field of view is about 3.3 arcminutes across.

Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA

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About the Image

Id:	potw1109a
Type:	Observation
Release date:	28 February 2011, 10:00
Size:	3873 x 3943 px

About the Object

Name:	Messier 43(http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/simbad/sim-id?ident=Messier+43)
Type:	Milky Way : Nebula : Type : Star Formation
Distance:	1400 light years(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light-year)
Constellation:	Orion
Category:	Nebulae(/images/archive/category/nebulae/)

Image Formats

-  Fullsize Original(/media/archives/images/original/potw1109a.tif)
32.0 MB 
-  Large JPEG(<https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/large/potw1109a.jpg>)
5.8 MB
-  Screensize JPEG(<https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/screen/potw1109a.jpg>)
204.4 KB

Zoomable

-  Zoomable(zoomable/)

Wallpapers

-  1024x768(<https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper1/potw1109a.jpg>)
215.6 KB
-  1280x1024(<https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper2/potw1109a.jpg>)
364.5 KB
-  1600x1200(<https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper3/potw1109a.jpg>)
568.2 KB
-  1920x1200(<https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper4/potw1109a.jpg>)
663.7 KB
-  2048x1536(<https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper5/potw1109a.jpg>)
1020.9 KB

Coordinates

Position (RA):	5 35 25.06
Position (Dec):	-5° 9' 49.81"
Field of view:	3.22 x 3.28 arcminutes
Orientation:	North is 75.0° left of vertical



J2000 ▾05 35 25.063 -05 09 49.82



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(<http://aladin.unistra.fr/>)

FoV: 2.17'

- ☒ Optical (DSS2)
- ☐ Infrared (2MASS)

Crossfade image:



Colours & filters

Band	Wavelength	Telescope
Optical V	555 nm	Hubble Space Telescope ACS
Optical Pseudogreen (V+I)		Hubble Space Telescope ACS
Infrared I	814 nm	Hubble Space Telescope ACS

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