## May's Suggested

 Constellation - but which one?Have you recognised it yet?

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That's right - Leo

## May's Suggested Constellation



## A SERIES OF 50 No. 28

## OUT INTO SPACE

Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D., Sec. Royal Astronomical Society

## LEO

Leo (Lion), fifth sign of the Zodiac, is bounded on the West by Cancer, on the East by Virgo. It is easy to locate . . . a straight line from the Pole Star to Plough Pointers leads to Leo. February to end of June is good time for viewing, but evenings in March and April are best. Principal and very prominent star is Regulus also known as Cor Leonis (Lion's Heart) or Royal Star. Regulus, Gamma Leonis and several smaller stars form a group shaped like a sickle. From near these stars most of November meteor showers known as Leonids radiate.
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## Where is it?



## Messier Objects in Leo



M65 (NGC 3623) Spiral Galaxy
Distance 24 million light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.3
Apparent Dimension 9 arc minutes Discovered 1780 Pierre Méchain


1966 Anglo-Australian Observatory Photograph by David Malin

M66 (NGC 3627) Spiral Galaxy
Distance 21.5 million light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.1 Apparent Dimension 9 arc minutes Discovered 1780 Pierre Méchain

## The 'Leo Triplet'

## M65

These two Messier galaxies, together with a nearby NGC galaxy (and bow did Messier miss that?) form a nice grouping, beloved by amateur astronomers and known as the
$\qquad$ Leo Triplet.

## M66

- NGC6328


## Messier Objects in Leo (contd)

> Distance 26 million light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.3 Apparent Dimension 5 arc minutes Discovered 1781 Pierre Méchain $$
\text { M105 (NGC3379) }
$$ Elliptical Galaxy

M95 (NGC3351) Barred Spiral Galaxy
Distance 26.5 million light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.7 Apparent Dimension 7 arc mins Discovered 1781 Pierre Méchain

M96 (NGC3368) Spiral Galaxy
Distance 26.5 million light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.2 Apparent Dimension arc mins

- Disçovered 1781 Pierre Méchain


## Caldwell Object in Leo

## C40 (NGC3626) Lenticular Galaxy



Visual Brightness Magnitude 11
Apparent Dimension 3 arc minutes
Discovered 1784 William Herschel

