

S33 Observing report

www.s33.org

One tough nut cracked in Bootes

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Date and Time:	May 15, 2005 – 23.00 LT
Seeing <1-10 Seeing Scale (10 best)>:	5
Transparency <1-10 Scale (10 best)>:	5
Location of site:	Annen, The Netherlands – 53N 6E
Site Clasification:	Village backyard
Sky darkness:	4
Conditions:	Astronomical twilight
Moon:	half-Moon in Leo
Telescope:	Celestron C11, 11" f/10 SCT
Mount:	Losmandy G-11
Eyepieces:	Nagler 9mm type-1 + TV powermate 2x
Magnification:	620x
Diagonal:	2" unknown Japanese brand

Eta Crb (Struve 1937)

Yesterday, around sunset, the sky cleared up completely. I took the change and put the C11 up in my backyard. The bright Moon made serious deepsky observing impossible so I dedicated the session to doubles. Most interesting was the split of Eta CrB (0.8" in 1999 according to WDS).

This split was absolutely a tough one, probably because of the brightness of both components, which results in large airy disks.

Eta CrB was split @ 620x. Most of the time the pair was seen elongated to snowman-shaped and only few and short moments the airy disks popped into focus and showed up separated.

Afterwards I checked the S33 CrB-project from 2003 and saw Steve Bodin's information on Eta and realized that this pair had closed in since then. I asked Steve if he could determine the WDS-prediction of the current separation, and he could:

0.46".

This explains the difficulty of the split. It is also interesting to compare with my own Eta-observation of 2003, which is also in the S33-CrB-project, and which mentions relatively easy splits of this pair.

See: <http://www.carbonar.es/s33/Serpens/Struve-1937-eta-crb.html>