Mairan's Nebula



Isaac Newton Telescope + WFC



M43 is actually a part of the Great Orion Nebula, M42, which is separated from the main nebula by an impressive, turbulent dark lane. First discovered in 1731 by Jean-Jacques Dortous de Mairan, M43 is occasionally known as de Mairan's Nebula. The image shown here is a 300-second exposure in $H\alpha$ combined with colour information from an amateur CCD image.

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Credit: Nik Szymanek and Simon Tulloch.