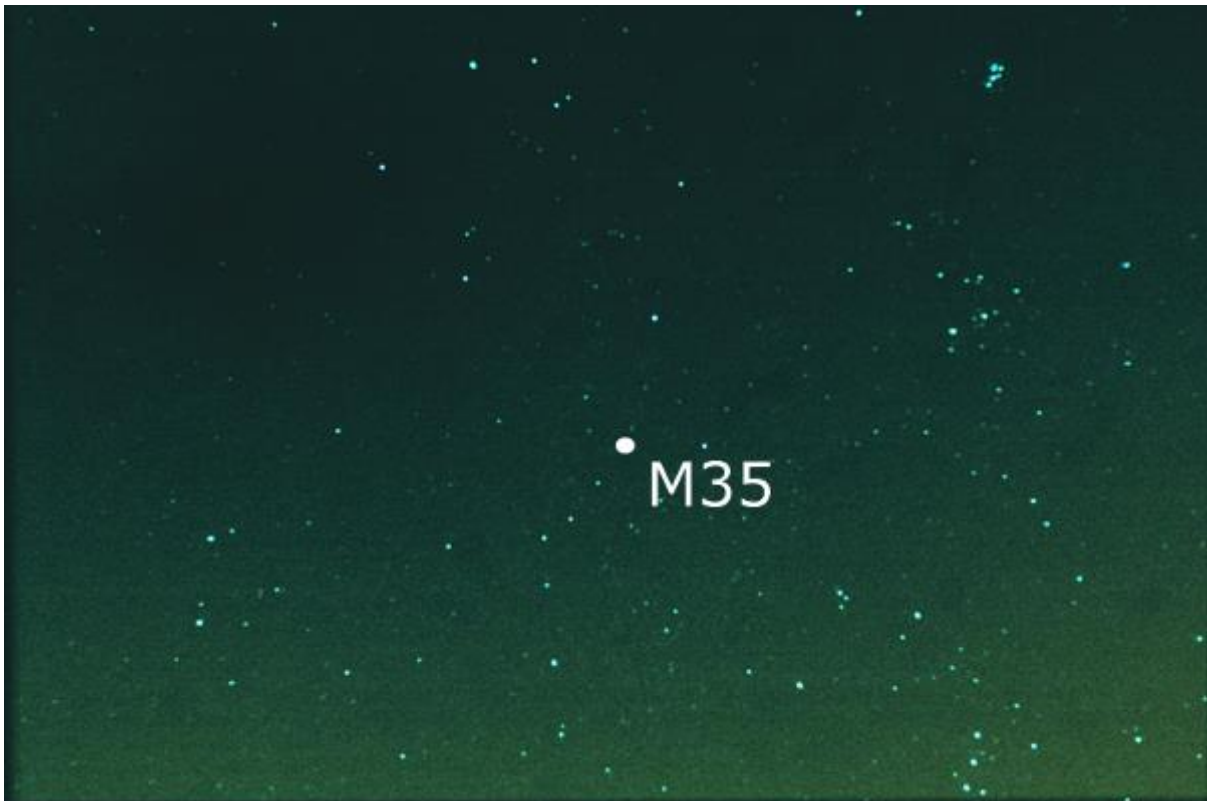


M35

Having researched, visited and re-visited each of the Messier objects at least once, most of them appear as faint smudges of light, with a small telescope. This is not true with M35, an open star cluster in Gemini. It is not as well-known as many similar objects and just about totally unknown to non-astronomers.

You can see it clearly in just about any pair of binoculars, although it is not usually visible with unaided eyes, except for people with sharp eyes and clear skies. It is an easy target from northern temperate latitudes but is rather difficult from 35 degrees south of the equator. M35 is near the “feet” of Gemini, near the borders with Taurus and Orion.



Even small binoculars, such as a pair with 30mm lenses and a magnification of 8x can show some individual stars and larger binoculars and small telescopes show more stars. Through a medium-sized telescope, such as a 5” reflector, the view is simply breathtaking. As M35 is quite large, being just smaller than the apparent size of the full moon, as seen from Earth, high magnification is not helpful, as it means that you can only see part of it at one time. You should aim for a field of view of about 40 arcminutes.

M35 is also a suitable target for astrophotography and doesn’t need a lot of expensive equipment. I took this photograph with a DSLR camera at 135mm focal length, 8 seconds’ exposure and ISO 6400.

