

The constellation cannot be seen in its entirety till Crater is on the meridian. Argelander enumerates in it 75 stars; Heis, 153.

For an unknown period its winding course symbolized that of the moon; hence the latter's nodes are called the Dragon's Head and Tail. When a comet was in them poison was thought to be scattered by it over the world; but these fanciful ideas are now associated with Draco.

Al Sufi mentioned an early Arab figure, **Al H'ail**, the Horse, formed from stars some of which now belong to our Hydra, but more to Leo and Sextans.

The Water-serpent's gleaming bend.
Brown's *Aratos*.

α , 2, orange.

Alphard, **Alfard**, and **Alpherd**,—**Alphart** in the *Alfonsine Tables* and **Pherd** with Hyde,—are from **Al Fard al Shujā'**, the Solitary One in the Serpent, well describing its position in the sky. Caesius gave **Alpharad**, which on the Reuter wall-map was **Alphrad**; and a still more changed title is **Alphora**. The Arabs also knew α as **Al Fakār al Shujā'**, the Backbone of the Serpent; but Ulug Beg changed this to **Al 'Unk al Shujā'**, the Serpent's Neck; and it shared the Suhel of other bright stars as **Suhel al Fard**, and **Suhel al Shām**, the Solitary, and the Northern, Suhail.

Tycho first called it **Cor Hydrae**, the Hydra's Heart,—Riccioli's **Kalb Elhavich** and **Kalbelaphard**,—which, with the alternative **Collum Hydrae**, the Hydra's Neck, is current even now.

In China it determined the 8th *sieu*, and was the prominent star of the Red Bird that combined the seven lunar divisions of the southern quarter of the heavens. Its longitude is said to have been ascertained there in the 19th century before our era, but the statement may be questionable; as also that it was observed passing the meridian at sunset on the day of the vernal equinox during the time of the emperor Yao, about 2350 B. C. It culminates on the 26th of March.

β and ξ were the Chinese **Tsing Kew**, the Green Hill.

δ , ϵ , ζ , η , ρ , and σ , 3d to 5th magnitudes, on the head, were Ulug Beg's **Min al Azal**, Belonging to the Uninhabited Spot.

ϵ is a remarkable triple,—an 8th-magnitude $3\frac{1}{2}''$ from a 3.8-magnitude, the latter divided by Schiaparelli, in 1892, into two of nearly equal brightness $0''.2$ apart,—which probably form a rapid ternary system.

ι , a 4th-magnitude, was the Chinese **Ping Sing**, a Tranquil Star.

κ , a 5th-magnitude, and the stars of about the same brilliancy extending from it to β , with β Crateris, were Al Sufi's **Al Sharāsif**, the Ribs.