

Argelander enumerates 98 stars in the constellation, and Heis 162.

The 1515 *Almagest* and the *Alfonsine Tables* called it **Balaena**, but Firmicus said **Belua**, the Beast or Monster, a more appropriate name than ours. Bayer mentioned it as **Draco**, and drew it so, but without wings; he also cited for it **Leo**, **Monstrum marinum**, **Ursus marinus**, **Orphas**, and **Orphus**; and Grotius quoted **Gibbus**, Humped, from anonymous writers.

The Arabian astronomers of course knew the Greek constellation and called it **Al Ketuṣ**, from which have come **Elketos**, **Elkaitos**, and **Elkaitus**; but their predecessors, who had not heard of the Royal Family and its foe, separated these stars into three very different asterisms. Those in the head, α , γ , δ , λ , μ , ξ^1 , and ξ^2 , were **Al Kaff al Jidhmah**, the Part of a Hand, from a fancied resemblance to their Stained Hand, our Cassiopeia; η , θ , τ , ζ , and ν , in the body of our Cetus, were **Al Na'āmāt**, the Hen Ostriches; and the four in a straight line of 3° length across the tail, all lettered ϕ , were **Al Niḥām**, the Necklace.

The biblical school of the 17th century of course saw here the **Whale that swallowed Jonah**; and commentators on that great astronomical poem, the *Book of Job*, have said that it typified the **Leviathan** of which the Lord spoke to the patriarch. Julius Schiller thought it "**SS. Joachim and Anna**."

The **Easy Chair** has popularly been applied to it from the arrangement of its chief stars, the back of the chair leaning towards Orion.

Although an old constellation, Cetus is by no means of special interest, except as possessing the south pole of the Milky Way and the Wonderful Star, the variable Mira; and from the fact that it is a condensation point of nebulae directly across the sphere from Virgo, also noted in this respect.

α , 2.9, bright orange.

Menkar of the *Alfonsine Tables* of 1521, Scaliger's **Monkar**, and now sometimes **Menkab**, from **Al Minḥar**, the Nose, still is the popular, but inappropriate name, for it marks the Monster's open jaws. It is the prominent star in the northeastern part of the constellation, and culminates on the 21st of December.

Al Kaff al Jidhmah, found on the Borgian globe, is Ulug Beg's and Al Tizini's designation for it, taken from that for all the stars in the head; but modern lists apply this solely to γ .

In astrological days it portended danger from great beasts, disgrace, ill fortune, and illness to those born under its influence.

In China α , γ , δ , λ , μ , ν , ϕ , ξ^1 , and ξ^2 , were **Tseen Kwan**, Heaven's Round Granary.