Data of the sky region at the time of the observation.....**SQM-L 21.3 IR -5º Temperature 24º**
Data of the night.....**Sun alt: -16.7º Moon alt: -28,2º**
Data of the object .....**Alt: 51.3º Az: 149.7º**
Telescope .....**Stargate 18”**

NGC 6426. Quest

- ☐ Size
- ☐ Brightness difference (balanced)
- ☐ Spherical shape
- ☐ Resolution of stars in the core
- ☐ Row of central stars
- ☐ ‘Y’ near the core
- ☐ Outer arcs
- ☐ Two reddish stars
- ☐ Concentric arcs
- ☐ Division in the central row

Image orientation: N at 6 o'clock, W at 9 o'clock, S at 12 o'clock and E at 3 o'clock.

Israel Pérez de Tudela Vázquez

NGC 6426

Ophiuchus 17h 44m +03º 10’

Herschel 615

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Nagler 31mm (70x - 1º 10’ - 6.6mm)

The star field in which NGC 6426 is found is quite rich in stars, with a beautiful double star in this eyepiece field. This double-star is composed of HD161262A and HD161262B, separated by 8”, of magnitudes 8.54 and 10.52, spectral type G6(IV) and A2(V) respectively. Thus HD16126262A is a yellow subgiant and the second a blue dwarf. It is very nice to see the contrast of these two separate stars at such close range. NGC 6426 is framed between three stars at 12 o'clock (southern region) and one star at 5 o'clock (northeastern region). If you move the object a little to the north, you will see 61 Oph. It is another much brighter double, composed of 61 OphA and 61 OphB of magnitudes 6.18 and 6.54. They are 13” apart and have the same spectral type A0(IV), i.e. blue subgiants. It is worth taking NGC 6426 out of the field centrality to enjoy both doubles.

The globular cluster is quite small, occupying not even a tenth of the field. Its shape is clearly spherical. And as for the brightness, it is very faint. I can only identify it thanks to the averted vision and it seems to show two levels of brightness, but it is so small and faint that I find it difficult to confirm.

What I can see is that its brightness is not uniform and has a mottled structure, although I can not resolve any star in its interior or exterior.

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NGC 6426

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Herschel 615

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Nagler 22mm (98x - 50’ - 4.7mm)

Undoubtedly NGC 6426 requires magnification to show its details. Although I still can't get great details out of the cluster, thanks to this eyepiece I can clearly differentiate the two brightness levels, showing a significant increase in the center of the cluster.

The view of the cluster with HD161262 is a joy because it is a very fine double star with very different colors.

Thanks to the gain in magnification I think I am starting to resolve some stars in the cluster, few yet. It also seems to show some sort of structure in its more central part, as if there is a less luminous area, leaving a sort of ‘*gap*’ in the center of the cluster.

I always have to use the averted vision to be able to bring out details.

Israel Pérez de Tudela Vázquez

NGC 6426

Ophiuchus 17h 44m +03º 10’

Herschel 615

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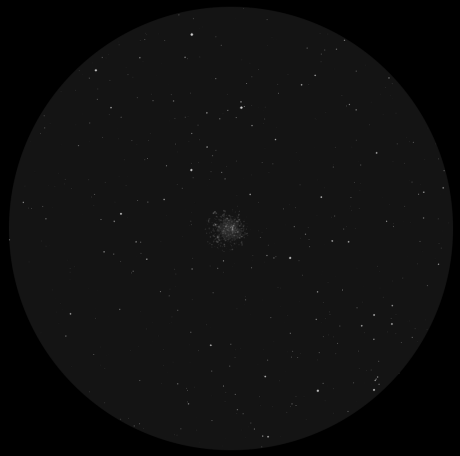

Delos 14mm (154x - 28’ - 3mm)

How wonderful! Now with the 14mm I am able to resolve the stars that make up the globular cluster.

It has also significantly increased the number of stars I am able to observe in the cluster field.

I confirm 4 brighter stars within the cluster that are easily resolvable but are not in the center of the cluster. Rather they are at one end spread out as follows, there are three stars following the S-N axis of the cluster (from 12 o'clock to 6 o'clock as I see it in my eyepiece), but in the E region (at 3 o'clock in my eyepiece). Then there is another star of a similar magnitude to these three at 10 o'clock (S-W region).

The rest of the cluster is uniformly cloudy, maintaining the round shape I saw at lower magnification.

It is nice to look at because it is a good challenge to look at something so faint and get detail.

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NGC 6426

Ophiuchus 17h 44m +03º 10’

Herschel 615

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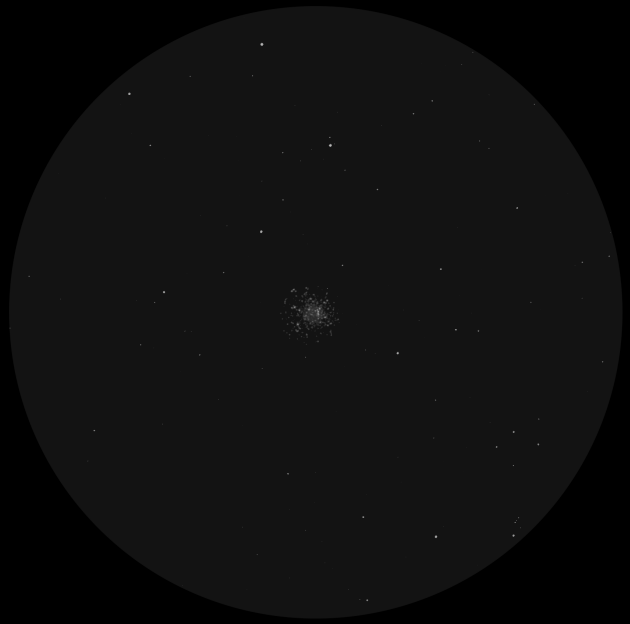

Ethos 10mm (216x - 27’ - 2.1mm)

With the 10mm the image is still beautiful and it is even easier to resolve the stars that make up the object. I now see that indeed the stars I detected previously were the brightest in the cluster and that they were close to its core, although slightly displaced, and that is what generated the two brightness levels I observed at lower magnifications.

You can still observe HD161262 in the same field as the cluster if you pull it out of the center of the eyepiece and it is a gorgeous view of double and cluster.

Shame the sky I have does not show a very dark sky and with that the contrast is not as great as it could be.

Israel Pérez de Tudela Vázquez

NGC 6426

Ophiuchus 17h 44m +03º 10’

Herschel 615

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The 8mm doesn't give me a much better image than I was getting before and that's why I decide not to spend a lot of time and jump to the last of my eyepieces.

Ethos 8mm (270x - 22’ - 1.7mm)

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NGC 6426

Ophiuchus 17h 44m +03º 10’

Herschel 615

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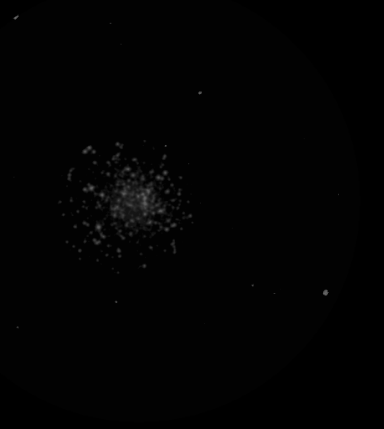

Now is when I have obtained the best image of the cluster. The change has been radical. I check that the night must have a very good seeing, because I manage to focus the stars even with 480x, and they are still punctual.

Now I count up to a dozen stars that are resolved inside. The shape of the arms of the cluster reminds me of a five-armed starfish, with a large round body and then some small thin arms that come out of it, first with a triangular base that narrows until it reaches the end of it.

The object comes to occupy almost half of the eyepiece, and despite how faint it is, such a small exit pupil and so much magnification has caused a very significant contrast. So much so that I indicate in my voice notes that this is the best view I have of this object.

It is a marvel to be able to discover its structure and details in its stars, and that this fact has been in the last of my eyepieces. Undoubtedly, NGC 6426 requires good skies, atmospheric stability and magnification to enjoy it in all its splendor.

Delos 4.5mm (480x - 9’ - 1mm)