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Observations of the Dolidze and Dolidze-Dzimselejsvili Open Clusters

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The list of designations for open clusters is quite long but they all represent interesting observing challenges for the deep sky observer. In 1961 V.M. Dolidze published his catalog of open clusters (Astr. Cirk. 224, 18-22) and they are listed in a number of different databases and atlases with the "Do" designation. In 1966 both V.M. Dolidze and G. Dzimselejsvili published a shorter catalog of 11 open clusters (Astr. Cirk. 282, 7-8) and they are listed with the "DoDz" designation. Many, but not all, of both groups lie in rich areas of the summer and winter Milky Way. As such many are a bit difficult to distinguish as an entity and some are indicated as "probably not a cluster" or a "possible asterism" in the *Deep Sky Field Guide* (DSFG; 2nd Ed, Cragin & Bonanno).

If one is looking for a little variety as well as a challenging observing program, I recommend the Do and Do-Dz open clusters.

Dolidze Open Clusters

Do-1, Cygnus, 20h 08m, +36 33

73x, 20-inch f5 Faint cluster with close to a dozen stars.

Do-2, Cygnus, 20h 09m, +41 22

73x, 20-inch f5 Not very bright. Very spread out and no concentration though can make it out from the rest of the field. About a dozen stars.

Do-3, Cygnus, 20h 15m, +36 49

73x, 20-inch f5 Easy to find. Shows as an arc of stars with a cluster at one end. It is small with a bit of separation from the field.

Do-4, Cygnus, 20h 18m, +36 45

73x, 20-inch f5 Off the corner of an asterism that is shaped like a lopsided square. A small grouping of about half a dozen stars.

Do-5, Cygnus, 20h 20m, +39 22

73x, 20-inch f5 Mostly a straight string of stars

with a couple off of the string.

Do-6, Cygnus, 20h 21m, +41 22

73x, 20-inch f5 Easy to find by "cluster hopping". About 10 stars in what appeared to me as a stick figure of a Scottie dog.

Do-8, Cygnus, 20h 24m, +42 16

73x, 20-inch f5 Small grouping: SE 3 stars in a row with two brighter plus West is a pair of faint stars and West of that 4 stars with 3 forming a triangle pointing towards the beginning of the cluster.

Do-9, Cygnus, 20h 26m, +41 54

73x, 20-inch f5 Small cluster but it stands out. One brighter star with 5 fainter ones adjacent to it.

Do-10, Cygnus, 20h 26m, +40 07

73x, 20-inch f5 A bit brighter cluster with 10 or so stars that form an elongated circle with some fainter ones in the middle.

Do-11, Cygnus, 20h 26m, +41 25

73x, 20-inch f5 Small grouping in the same field as Cr-421 that forms a gentle arc of stars and just about stands out. A couple of bright stars in the middle of the group.

Do-13, Cassiopeia, 0h 50m, +64 08

73x, 20-inch f5 Not well detached from field and is spread out. *Uranometria* (2nd ed.) seems to have it east of where it should be.

Do-14, Taurus, 4h 07m, +27 34

73x & 282x, 20-inch f5 Surrounds 14 Tauri. Seems to be two strings of stars. Higher magnification shows a tight grouping of 3 in a circlet.

Do-15, Auriga, 5h 05m, +34 50

73x, 20-inch f5 Easy to find. A loose aggregation of stars. There are 5 stars in a pentagon-shaped

ring with a string or two coming off of two of them. Probable asterism.

Do-16, Auriga, 5h 15m, +32 43

73x, 20-inch f5 Easy to find. A scattering of stars with no particular shape. Hard to tell where it stops and the background begins.

Do-17, Orion, 5h 22m, +07 07

47x, 10-inch f4.5 This is another open cluster made of a triangle on one side. Can almost be in the same field as Do-19 and Do-21. May be asterism (DSFG).

Do-18, Auriga, 5h 24m, +33 17

73x & 282x, 20-inch f5 Seems questionable. Not bright nor does it stand out.

Do-19, Orion, 5h 23m, +08 10

47x, 10-inch f4.5 Definitely would not have picked it out without the description from the Observer's Guide.

Do-20, Auriga, 05h 29m, +33 41

73x, 20-inch f5 Almost an asterism. A handful of stars that can be differentiated from the field stars.

Do-21, Orion, 5h 27, +07 04

47x 10-inch f4.5 Seven of the stars form a complete circle.

Do-22, Monoceros, 06h 23, +04 39

282x 20-inch f5 Easy to find adjacent to 8 Monoceri. About a half a dozen brighter stars with 3 separated from the other 3. Not much else seen in between but probably stars are there and maybe they can be seen at a darker location. Appears to be a loose grouping. DSFG = probably not a cluster.

Do-23, Monoceros, 06h 43, +00 01

282x 20-inch f5 Composed of 5 stars and another in the center. Not too descriptive.

Do-24, Monoceros, 06h 44, +01 45

282x 20-inch f5 Grouping is not much to write home about. A bit harder to delineate.

Do-25, Monoceros, 06h 45, +00 18

73x 20-inch f5 Dropped down from the Rosette Nebula to find this one. The cluster stands out well with about 30 stars of varying magnitudes. A rough "V" shape with the point being more blunted or squarish. Stars seem to flare out in 2

directions from that.

Do-26, Canis Minor, 7h 30m, +11 57

282x 20-inch f5 6 Canis Minoris is part of the cluster. It is a poor grouping and would not have picked it out otherwise. Few brighter members make a circlet of sorts. Hard to tell if stars outside of that are also members.

Do-27, Ophiuchus, 16h 37m, -08 56

73x, 20-inch f5 Three stars in a row as an asterism off-center of the cluster. Faint (10-11 magnitude) stars with a row of 5 above the asterism and more above that. A spread out cluster with a large range of magnitudes.

Do-28, Scutum, 18h 25m, -14 39

47x 10-inch f4.5 Very loose open cluster and hard to differentiate from the rest of the field.

Do-29, Scutum, 18h 31m, -06 37

47x, 10-inch f4.5 Seems to me to be a distinct cluster and in the same field as Do-31.

Do-30, Scutum, 18h 33m, -06 02

47x, 10-inch f4.5 Only two lines of stars; seems questionable as an open cluster. May be asterism (DSFG)

Do-31, Scutum, 18h 35m, -06 51

47x 10-inch f4.5 Could differentiate it as an entity though it may be asterism (DSFG) Also in the same field as Do-29.

Do-32, Scutum, 18h 40m, -04 05

47x, 10-inch f4.5 In the same field as Tr-35 and is noticeably larger.

Do-35, Aquila, 19h 25m, +11 40

73 & 282x, 20-inch f5 About a dozen stars spread around. In the middle is a tight double star (~2" separation). A very loose and open cluster.

Do-36, Cygnus, 20h 03m, +42 06

73x, 20-inch f5 A very open cluster with no concentration. DSFG = asterism. A ring of stars like a tree, with a string as a "trunk" and another string going off like a "root".

Do-37, Cygnus, 20h 03m, +37 41

73x, 20-inch f5 Small with a handful of brighter stars. DSFG = asterism.

Do-38, Cygnus, 20h 06m, +41 11

73x, 20-inch f5 Difficult to separate out from the star field. DSFG = asterism.

Do-39, Cygnus, 20h 16m, +37 55

73x, 20-inch f5 Broader cluster with no particular shape. Mixture of bright and faint stars.

Do-40, Cygnus, 20h 18m, +37 51

73x, 20-inch f5 Seems to be typical of Dolidze clusters with a rim of bright stars. A string of faint stars east of ring.

Do-41, Cygnus, 20h 19m, +37 45

73x, 20-inch f5 Not very concentrated. Has a couple of brighter members and more fainter ones in a haphazard shape.

Do-42, Cygnus, 20h 20m, +38 08

73x, 20-inch f5 Small grouping of stars adjacent to a right triangle asterism. DSFG = asterism.

Do-43, Cygnus, 20h 22m, +39 57

73x, 20-inch f5 Easy to find next to Sadr in Cygnus. Some imagination is needed. There seemed to be an oval ring of stars that may set it off. It is not that detached from the field. DSFG indicates a possible asterism rather than cluster.

Do-44, Cygnus, 20h 30m, +41 43

73x, 20-inch f5 A string of three stars with a group surrounding the second of the three stars. Looks like a broad "M". No concentration at all.

Do-45, Cygnus, 20h 41m, +36 37

73x, 20-inch f5 Difficult to star hop to. Cross hairs of finder on target. Bright stars form an almost complete circle. Fainter members inside and around it. Blends in with the field but brighter members set it off.

Do-46, Cassiopeia, 23h 22m, +55 46

73x, 20-inch f5 Could not distinguish it as a cluster. May be an asterism as indicated in DSFG.

Do-47, Cygnus, 20h 42m, +36 37

73x, 20-inch f5 Elongated in shape. Two bright stars may be on "tail" and nine others forming elongation.

Dolidze-Dzimselejsvili Open Clusters

DoDz-1, Aries, 2h 47m, +17 15

97x; 18-inch f5.17 This cluster is a finder object as well. Most of the stars are fairly bright and overall the cluster has an angular appearance.

DoDz-2, Orion, 5h 23m, +11 27

47x, 10-inch f4.5 I saw about nine stars in this open cluster.

DoDz-3, Taurus, 5h 33m, +26 31

98x, 18-inch f5.17 The cluster was smaller than DoDz-4 and had fewer stars.

DoDz-4, Taurus, 5h 36m, +25 57

98x, 18-inch f5.17 A very open, very loose, bright cluster surrounding a bright finder star.

DoDz-5, Hercules, 16h 27m, +38 04

70x, 13-inch f4.5 A very open cluster with not too many stars, maybe a dozen but fairly bright.

DoDz-6, Hercules, 16h 45m, +38 21

70x 13-inch f4.5 Small but obvious cluster. It seemed to be shaped like a "stirrup".

DoDz-7, Hercules, 17h 11m, +15 28

87x, 10-inch f4.5 There seems to be a mixture of bright and faint stars in this open cluster. There is a definite separation from the field.

DoDz-8, Hercules, 17h 26m, +24 12

47x, 10-inch f4.5 A very open and bright cluster. It is also a finder object.

DoDz-9, Hercules, 18h 08m, +31 32

70x, 13-inch f4.5 Large and a nice mixture of bright and faint stars and double stars.

DoDz-10, Cygnus, 20h 06m, +40 40

73x, 20-inch f5, Adjacent to Do-38. Elongated grouping flaring out from a brighter star. Fainter ones in the middle.

DoDz-11, Cygnus, 20h 51m, +35 54

73x, 20-inch f5 Stands out nicely from the rest of the field. Almost like a "plus sign" in shape with fainter members inside.