

News from Betelgeuse

M. Montargès, A. Boccaletti , O. Flasseur, J. Milli , P. Kervella, A. de Koter, E. Bordier, A. Dupree, S. Ridgway

Although it is only the second-closest red supergiant (RSG), Betelgeuse is, by far, the most studied star of this class. This is probably due to its singular position in the Orion constellation. With a mass of 18–20 M_{sun} , it is expected to have close to 100 % chance to have formed in a binary system (Sana et al. 2012, Bordier et al. 2022). Multiplicity is a crucial matter for massive stars, particularly during the evolved stages: with the primary inflating, chances of interactions are spectacularly increasing. Over the past century, there have been several claims of companion detection for Betelgeuse, and it is even listed as a binary in the Washington Double Star catalog, although none has been confirmed... until recently. I will review the tentative detection of Betelgeuse B and its confirmation with VLT/SPHERE (which still needs a second epoch observation for absolute certainty), and present how it will probably change our perception of stellar multiplicity during the evolved stages.