



IC 1396

The southern part of the large diffuse nebula IC 1396 in the northern Milky Way band in the constellation Cepheus is full of dark and dense areas where stars are now being born. The 6th-magnitude star HR 8281 near the centre is of the hot O6-type; it is also a visual double star. The area is about 13° North-East of the well-known North America Nebula. This masked and enhanced monochrome reproduction was made at the photographic laboratories at the ESO Headquarters from a blue-sensitive plate (Illa-J emulsion) obtained with the 48-inch Oshin telescope at Palomar for the Second Palomar Survey, now being reproduced at ESO. Photographic work by H.-H. Heyer, ESO.