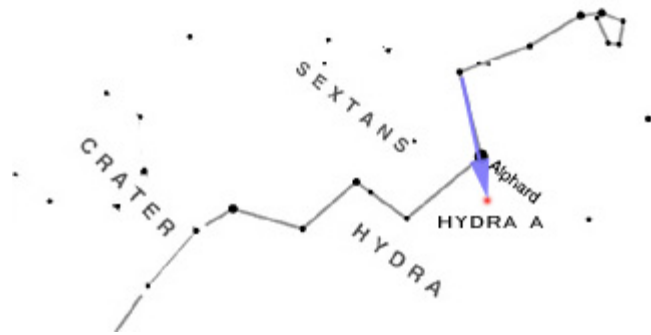


Hydra - The Watersnake

The monstrous Hydra figures in the second Labor of Hercules.

The Hydra was a multiheaded snakelike monster. The Hydra was difficult to kill, because when one head was cut off, two more heads grew back out of the stump of the old one.



Hercules was able to slay the monster with the aid of his charioteer, who burned the stumps with a torch as Hercules cut off the heads of the monster. It was said that one of the heads of the monster was immortal. So after cutting off that head, Hercules buried it under a large rock.

After slaying the monster, Hercules cut open its body and soaked the heads of his arrows in the poisonous blood of the monster's body.