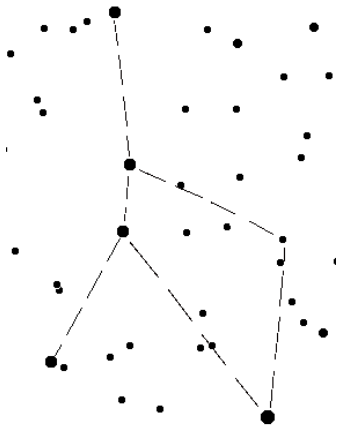


Cancer - The Crab



The Crab plays a minor role in the Labors of Hercules (Heracles in Greek). The second task that Hercules had to accomplish was to slay the Hydra. The Hydra was a multi-headed snakelike monster. Hercules grappled with it and slashed at it with his sword, but as soon as Hercules cut off one head of the monster, two more grew back. Hercules was able to defeat the Hydra only with the help of his charioteer. The Crab was sent by Hera to distract Hercules in the midst of the struggle with the Hydra. The Crab scuttled out from the swamp to bite at Hercules

feet with its claws, but Hercules crushed the Crab with his heel. The goddess Hera rewarded the Crab by placing it among the stars.