

**SIRIUS IN ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN LITERATURE:
FROM THE ORPHIC *ARGONAUTICS* TO THE *ASTRONOMICAL*
TABLES OF GEORGIOS CHRYSOCOCCA**

The brightest star of the night sky, visible from all Greece, especially during clear winter nights is Sirius, Alpha Canis Majoris (α CMa). Due to its intense light, Sirius had one of the dominant positions in mythology, legends and traditions of most ancient people. Greeks were not an exception: The original Greek name 'Seirios' meant sparking, shining, fiery or burning. In this review article the references of the many ancient classic authors and poets, Greeks and Romans, who wrote about Sirius are examined and the problem of its 'red' color arising from these references is discussed.