

## How the Planets of Beta Canum *Didn't* Get Their Names

Official Name	French	German	Muret
Beta Canum 1	Neleus	Alcis (Rauzaz)	Simone
Beta Canum 2	Chloris	Alcis (Raftaz)	Brigitte
Beta Canum 3	Tectamus	Wulthus	Pamela
Beta Canum 4	Europa	Nerthus	Suzann
Beta Canum 5	Rhadamanthus	Woden	Karine
Beta Canum 6	Minos	Tiw	Anna
Beta Canum 7	Sarpedon	Donar	Jacqueline
Beta Canum 8	Zeus	Fullo	Sophie

Many visitors wonder what names the planets in the Beta Canum system have and are often astounded when told that they are named Beta Canum 1, 2, 3, ... The reason is (of course) human quarrelsomeness and nationalism.

When the system was first visited in 2181 the captain of the French squadron, Captain Aristide Muret claimed his right to name the planets. He named them after his girlfriends. Upon returning to Earth his superiors were dismayed by this 'frivolous' act. They regarded the names as "suggestions" and replaced them with a new official list (based on the family of the mythical king Asterion, another name for the star). Meanwhile the ARI had set up shop in the system and got wind of the controversy, so in 2182 they "corrected" the names as part of their extensive survey package they sent back.

The contradictory schemes caused a quarrel in ESA. Neither the French nor the Bavarians would budge. Eventually the British and Azanians asked the IAU to mediate. It tried weakly to reach an agreement but refused to take a side or give a counterproposal. Eventually it decided to give everything numerical names "until the co-discoverers can reach an agreement". 140 years later that has still not happened.

In the system people tend to use names depending on nationality. The French use the Asterion set, the Germans the Teutonic set, the English whatever suits them. When misunderstanding could be troublesome (like in traffic control) the official names are used. Unofficially many locals – regardless of nationality - use Captain Muret's names. They like to live on Suzann rather than BC4.