

LEO

# ANTARES

1. EPISODE 1



	EARTH	ALDEBARAN-4	BETELGEUSE-6	ANTARES-5
Diameter	7,926 miles	8,157 miles	7,365 miles	7,954 miles
Surface gravity	1	1.2	0.89	1,001
Length of year	365 days	369 days	355 days	371 days
Length of day	23 hours 56 minutes	24 hours 36 minutes	23 hours 45 minutes	23 hours 41 minutes
Percentage sea/land	70/30	91/09	11/89	78/22
Relief: Max. height	29,029 feet (Everest)	15,682 feet (Saterjee)	31,972 feet (Van Gogh)	12,283 feet
Max. depth	37,795 feet	87,598 feet	17,585 feet	50,220 feet
Number of satellites	1	2	None	5

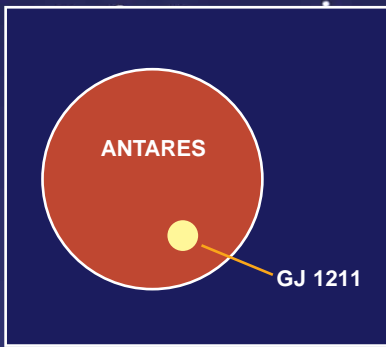
### Clarifications concerning the naming of the planet

The names of extra-solar planets are derived by using the name of the star they orbit followed by a number indicating the planet's position in order of distance from said star. Thus, planet Aldebaran-4 is the fourth planet of the star Aldebaran. Aldebaran-4 being the only habitable planet of the system, common usage has led to dropping the number 4 to call it simply Aldebaran, thus confusing the name of the star and that of the planet.

It would be easy to imagine that the same thing would happen with Antares and that said planet would be a satellite of the star Antares. And yet, such is not the case: Antares is a red giant star with a diameter 500 times bigger than our Sun. It has no habitable worlds. The target planet for Project Antares, in fact, orbits a different star named GJ 1211 (GJ = Gliese-Jahreiss Catalog) and should itself be named GJ 1211-5—a drab name that was not at all to the taste of the project leaders. It so happens that this star, when seen from Earth, is just in front of Antares and is even masked by the red giant's much higher luminosity. To direct a telescope at GJ 1211, therefore, it is necessary to point it first at scarlet Antares, and then, using filters, seek the small, yellow dot of GJ 1211. This is how, quite naturally, it was decided to call planet GJ 1211-5 "Antares." A usurped name, yes, but so much more elegant!



The star Antares,  
in the constellation Scorpius



The stars Antares and GJ 1211  
as seen from Earth



One of the first photographs of the planet "Antares."  
In the bottom left is the star Antares. On certain nights,  
it bathes the surface of the planet in a rather  
strong reddish glow.

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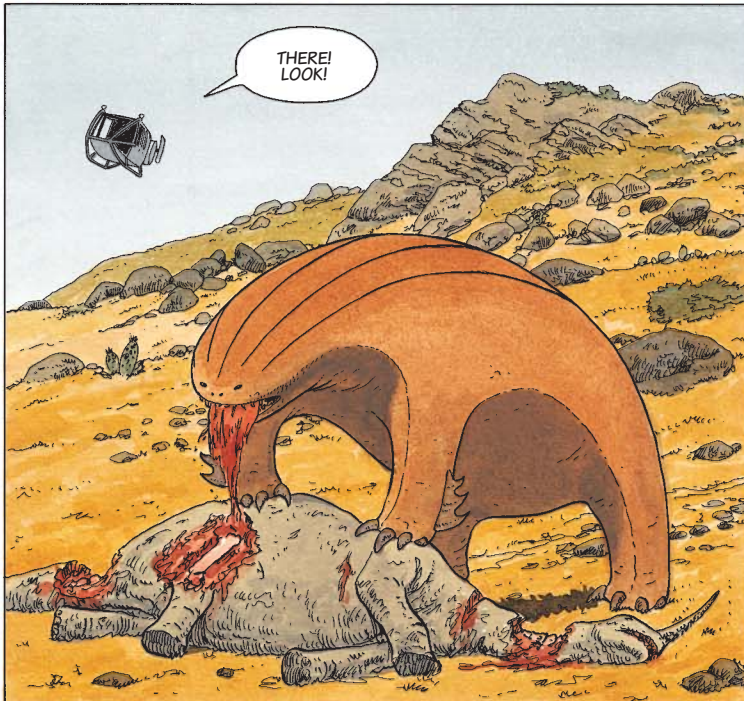
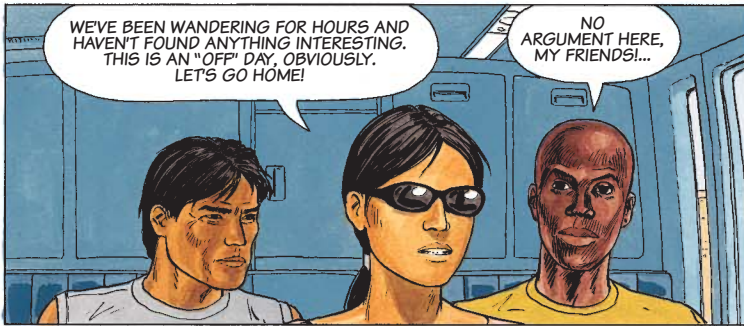
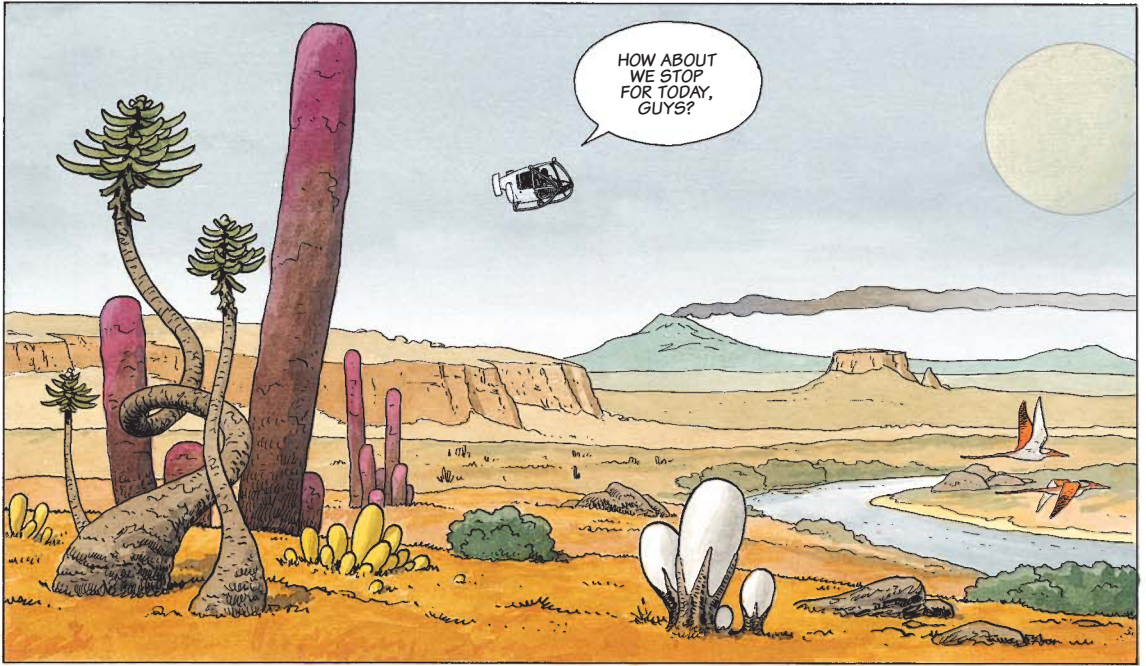
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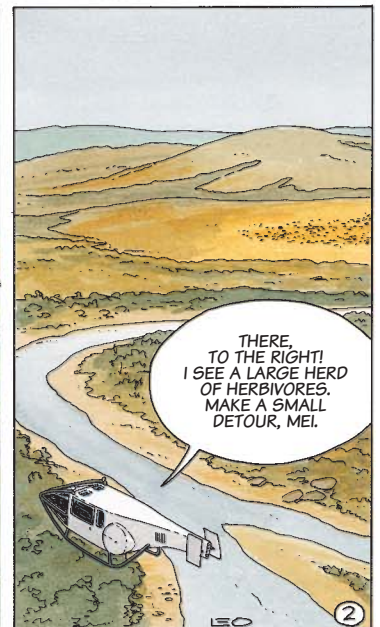
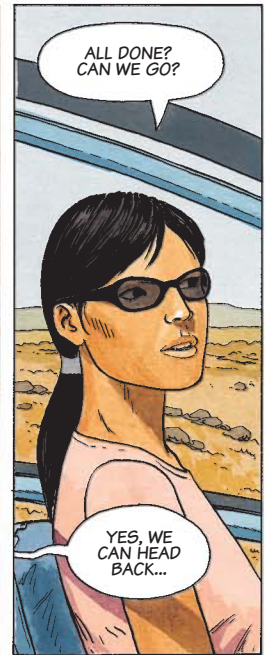
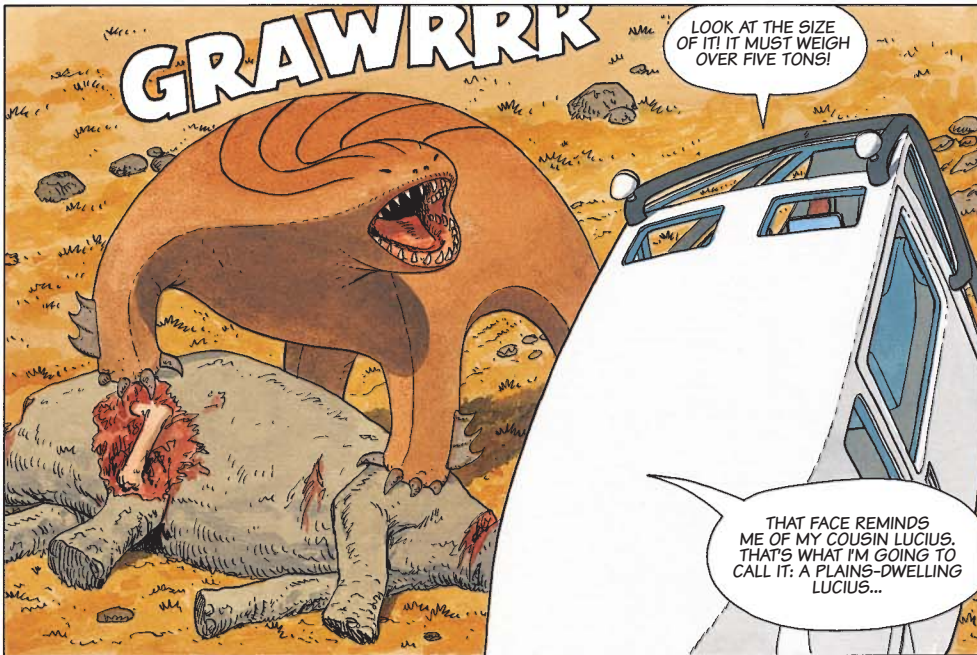
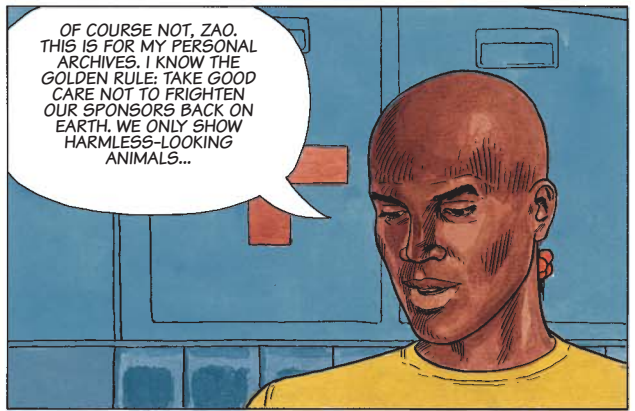
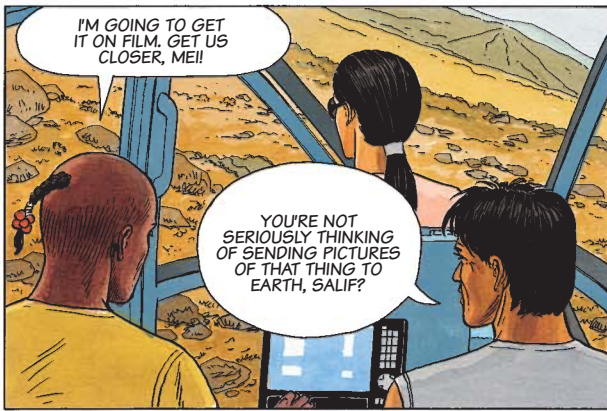
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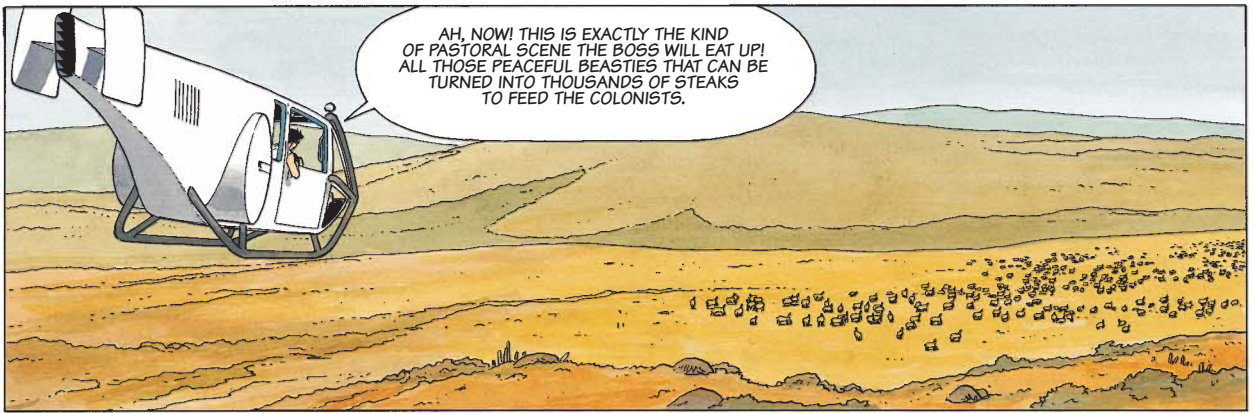
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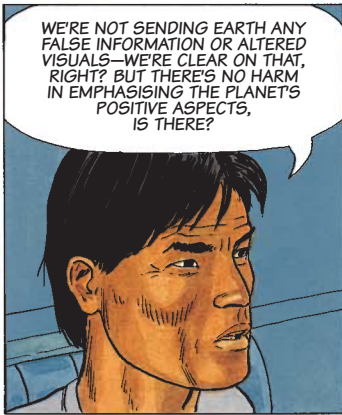
AH, NOW! THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PASTORAL SCENE THE BOSS WILL EAT UP! ALL THOSE PEACEFUL BEASTIES THAT CAN BE TURNED INTO THOUSANDS OF STEAKS TO FEED THE COLONISTS.



EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW THEIR MEAT IS ACTUALLY INEDIBLE...

BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT WE KNOW...

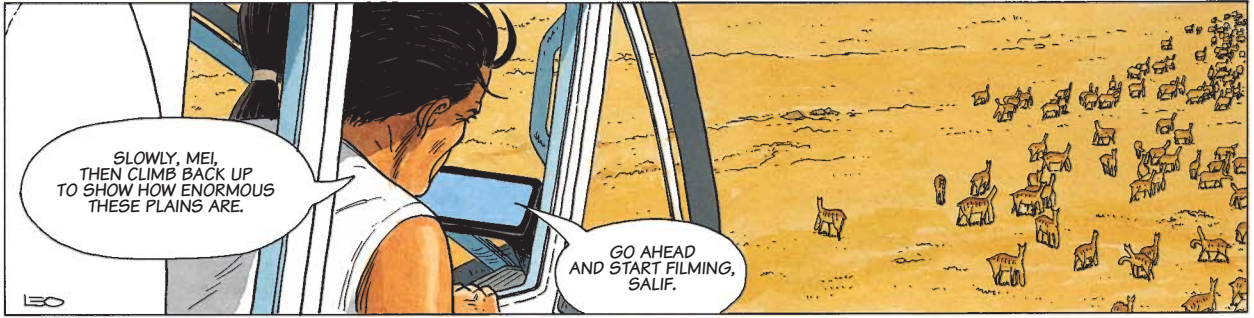
WE'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS A THOUSAND TIMES, MEI! OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON THE CONTINUATION OF PROJECT ANTARES. IF IT'S STOPPED, NO ONE WILL COME TO GET US. WE'LL SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES HERE, ON THIS WILD WORLD.



WE'RE NOT SENDING EARTH ANY FALSE INFORMATION OR ALTERED VISUALS—WE'RE CLEAR ON THAT, RIGHT? BUT THERE'S NO HARM IN EMPHASISING THE PLANET'S POSITIVE ASPECTS, IS THERE?



OK, OK, I'LL SHUT UP NOW...



SLOWLY, MEI, THEN CLIMB BACK UP TO SHOW HOW ENORMOUS THESE PLAINS ARE.

GO AHEAD AND START FILMING, SALIF.



HERE WE GO!



HEY! WHAT THE...?! STOP HERE, MEI!

