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COMET C/2005 B1 (CHRISTENSEN)

E. J. Christensen reports his discovery of a comet (discovery observation below; 10″ tail in p.a. 250°) on images taken with the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope in the course of the Catalina Sky Survey. Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', J. Young reported that his CCD images taken through moderate cirrus clouds with the Table Mountain 0.6-m reflector on Jan. 16.5 UT show a 5″ coma and a broad tail 25″ long spanning p.a. 240°–260°. M. Tichý found the object to be diffuse with a tail in p.a. 255° on images taken by himself and J. Tichá with the Kleť 1.06-m telescope.

2005 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Jan. 16.46322	$14^h28^m27^s.36$	$+19°00'31''.6$	17.4

The available astrometry, the following very uncertain parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-B13.

$$T = 2005\text{ Feb. }14.399\text{ TT} \qquad \omega = 34°.624$$
$$\Omega = 192.641 \quad 2000.0$$
$$q = 5.28914\text{ AU} \qquad i = 86.060$$

COMETS C/2004 W7–W11, X4–X9 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 8458, following are the initial observations of additional comets found on SOHO website images (XG = X. Gao; RM = R. Matson; SF = S. Farmer, Jr.); all are Kreutz sungrazers except for C/2004 W10 (which belongs to the Marsden group) and C/2004 X7 (which does not belong to a known group).

Comet	2004 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2004 W7	Nov. 24.096	$15^h51^m.3$	$-24°34'$	C3/2	TH	2005-A12
C/2004 W8	24.129	15 59.8	−22 18	C2	XL	2005-A12
C/2004 W9	28.435	16 18.7	−23 07	C2	XG	2005-A12
C/2004 W10	29.102	16 18.4	−21 20	C2	RK	2005-A13
C/2004 W11	30.618	16 28.8	−23 32	C2	RM	2005-A13
C/2004 X4	Dec. 2.971	16 35.9	−25 46	C3/2	SF	2005-A13
C/2004 X5	4.976	16 50.6	−24 19	C2	TH	2005-A13
C/2004 X6	6.643	16 58.2	−24 30	C2	TH	2005-A40
C/2004 X7	7.185	17 01.4	−21 35	C2	RK	2005-A40
C/2004 X8	8.811	17 08.2	−24 47	C2	RM	2005-A40
C/2004 X9	13.242	17 27.7	−25 04	C2	KB	2005-A40

  Daniel W. E. Green