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COMET P/2005 GF_8 (LONEOS)

An apparently asteroid object discovered by the LONEOS project (discovery observation below) and linked by G. V. Williams, Minor Planet Center, first with apparently asteroidal Apr. 3 Siding Spring observations (and designated 2005 GF_8 on *MPS* 130867) and later with Apr. 7 LINEAR and Apr. 11 Spacewatch observations, was posted on the 'NEO Confirmation Page' on Apr. 11. Following a request to the Spacewatch observers, J. Scotti and M. Block report that their CCD images taken on Apr. 12.32–12.35 show the object (in the glare of a bright background star) as having a tail toward the east-southeast of the apparently stellar condensation. G. R. Jones (Tucson, AZ, 0.40-m reflector) reports that a $12''$ tail in p.a. 305° is visible on his CCD images from Apr. 13.2 (noting a red magnitude for the object of 17.5). P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, England, 0.30-m reflector) writes that his CCD images taken on Apr. 11.96 and 12.08 in poor seeing show the object to be less concentrated than a star of similar brightness, with a diameter of $6''$-$9''$.

2005 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Apr. 2.42548	$14^{h}03^{m}47^{s}.65$	$-14^{\circ}19'53''.5$	17.8

The available astrometry, the following elliptical orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-G88.

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 2005\ \text{Aug.}\ 19.609\ \text{TT} & \omega = 286^{\circ}.248 & & \\ e = 0.52072 & \Omega = 315.009 & \Big\} 2000.0 & \\ q = 2.81341\ \text{AU} & i = 1.186 & & \\ a = 5.87012\ \text{AU} & n^{\circ} = 0.069300 & P = 14.2\ \text{years} & \end{array}$$

SUPERNOVA 2005ba IN NGC 3746

R. J. Foley, M. Ganeshalingam, D. S. Wong, B. J. Swift, and A. V. Filippenko, University of California, Berkeley, report that inspection of CCD spectra (range 330–1000 nm), obtained Apr. 11 UT with the Shane 3-m telescope at Lick Observatory, shows that SN 2005ba (*IAUC* 8503) is of type II, probably within 2–3 weeks after the explosion. The spectrum consists of a blue, relatively featureless continuum with P-Cyg H lines. Adopting the NED redshift of 9022 km/s, the expansion velocity derived from the minimum of the Hβ absorption line is $\sim$ 11000 km/s.

2005 April 13 *Daniel W. E. Green*