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COMET P/2005 J1 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope in the course of the Siding Spring Survey; the discovery images (initial observation provided below) show the object as diffuse, and images taken on May 5.7 UT show it to be slightly diffuse with a faint tail $\sim 10''$ long to the west. Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page, A. C. Gilmore reports that CCD images taken on May 5.5–5.7 with the Mt. John 1.0-m reflector show the object to be slightly more diffuse than the images of surrounding stars.

2005 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 3.72216	$20^h15^m57^s.78$	$-28^\circ50'37''.9$	17.6

The available astrometry, the following preliminary elliptical orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-J32.

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2005\ \text{Apr.}\ 17.402\ \text{TT} & \omega = 338^\circ.980 & \\ e = 0.58018 & \Omega = 268.928 & 2000.0 \\ q = 1.53305\ \text{AU} & i = 31.824 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 3.65166\ \text{AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.141244 \qquad P = 7.0\ \text{years}$$

V1187 SCORPII

D. K. Lynch, R. W. Russell, and R. J. Rudy, Aerospace Corporation, report that spectroscopy (range 0.8–2.5-μm) of V1187 Sco (cf. *IAUC* 8380, 8382), taken with the Infrared Telescope Facility (+ SpeX) on Apr. 18.7 UT, shows that the object had faded considerably (K = 13.2 from the spectrum) and that the lines were still broad. H I and He I 1.0830- and 2.0581-μm were present (2900 km/s FWHM), as were some weak He II lines. There was a surprising lack of coronal lines, although the [Si VI] 1.9645-μm line was strong and appeared to be split into two strong, well-separated components. The unidentified novae lines at 1.19 and 1.55 μm were present. There was no evidence of thermal emission from dust.

COMET C/1997 J5 (SOHO)

Another faint Kreutz sungrazer (cf. *IAUC* 8524), stellar in appearance:

Comet	1997 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/1997 J5	May 2.197	$2^h48^m.8$	$+12^\circ03'$	C3	RK	2005-H24

2005 May 8 *Daniel W. E. Green*