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*COMET P/2005 JQ$_5$ (CATALINA)*

An apparently asteroidal object found by the Catalina Survey, and designated 2005 JQ$_5$ (cf. *MPEC* 2005-J29; discovery observation given below), has been found to show a bright asymmetric coma on seven 40-s co-added $R$-band CCD exposures taken by C. Snodgrass, S. C. Lowry, and A. Fitzsimmons with the 2.0-m Faulkes Telescope-North on May 17.5 UT. Earlier reports mentioned hints at "softness" of the object's images (S. Larson, discovery frames with the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope) and a $1'$-diameter very-low-surface-brightness coma (B. A. Skiff, LONEOS 0.59-m Schmidt telescope, May 11.3).

| 2005 UT | $\alpha_{2000}$ | $\delta_{2000}$ | Mag. |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 6.27858 | $15^h14^m09^s.92$ | $-3^\circ10'44''.3$ | 16.7 |

Additional astrometry, elliptical orbital elements ($T$ = 2005 July 28.1 TT, $q$ = 0.826 AU, $\omega = 222^\circ.7$, $\Omega = 95^\circ.8$, $i = 5^\circ.7$ (equinox 2000.0), $e$ = 0.690, $P$ = 4.35 yr), and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-K14.

*2QZ J142701.6–012310*

E. Rykoff, Physics Department, University of Michigan, on behalf of the ROTSE collaboration, reports that ROTSE-III sky-patrol images taken on Jan. 23 revealed an outburst of 2QZ J142701.6–012310 (initially classified as a possible blazar in the 2dF quasar survey by Véron-Cetty and Véron 2003, *A.Ap.* **412**, 399) at mag $R$ = 15.1; the variable was not detected in ROTSE-III images taken on Jan. 21 ($R$ > 18.0). The object is visible as a very blue pointlike object in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey at $R$ = 20.4. Rykoff adds that a spectrum taken on Jan. 25 with the Hobby-Eberly Telescope at McDonald Observatory shows no obvious absorption or emission features.

P. A. Woudt and B. Warner, University of Cape Town (UCT), report that 2QZ J142701.6–012310 appears to be a new AM CVn-type cataclysmic variable. High-speed photometry during quiescence ($V \sim 20.3$), obtained with the South African Astronomical Observatory 1.9-m telescope (+ UCT CCD camera) on May 15 and 16 has revealed a photometric modulation at 2194 $\pm$ 4 s, typical of an AM CVn-type variable. Spectroscopy obtained in quiescence (Croom *et al.* 2004, *MNRAS* **349**, 1397) and during its January outburst (Rykoff *et al.*, above) shows that the spectrum appears rich in helium, consistent with it being a double-degenerate helium-transferring binary (only the twelfth-known such object).

2005 May 17  *Daniel W. E. Green*