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COMET C/2005 L2 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet (discovery position below) with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt in the course of the Siding Spring Survey; 60-s exposures on June 2.6 UT showed the images to appear soft and probably cometary in reasonably good seeing. Exposures on June 3.4 showed the object to be nearly stellar with a 10″ narrow tail in p.a. 90°.

2005 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
June 2.55561	$13^h22^m35^s.46$	$-47°47'28''.6$	18.5

The following preliminary parabolic orbital elements are from *MPEC* 2005-L31, where an ephemeris also appears:

$$T = 2005 \text{ July } 8.504 \text{ TT} \qquad q = 3.19950 \text{ AU}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 292^\circ.454 \\ \Omega = 155.523 \\ i = 152.809 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET C/2005 L3 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught has reported yet another discovery of a comet (discovery position below) with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt in the course of the Siding Spring Survey; 60-s exposures on June 3.8 UT showed a condensation of diameter 10″, while 20-s exposures on June 4.6 showed diameter ~ 8″ in worse seeing. Observations by A. C. Gilmore (Mt. John Observatory, 1.0-m *f*/7.7 reflector) on June 4.6 showed the object to be slightly more diffuse than the surrounding stars, although the object's nature was unclear in poor seeing on June 5.6.

2005 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
June 3.67556	$21^h36^m01^s.71$	$-33°05'00''.3$	17.7

The initial astrometric observations, the following very preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-L17.

$$T = 2008 \text{ Jan. } 10.955 \text{ TT} \qquad q = 5.33517 \text{ AU}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 50^\circ.099 \\ \Omega = 289.093 \\ i = 138.781 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

2005 June 7 *Daniel W. E. Green*