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COMET C/2006 B1 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports the discovery of a slightly diffuse comet (discovery observation tabulated below) on Siding Spring Survey images taken with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope. Some images from Jan. 27.6 UT suggest that the coma, which has a diameter of $\sim 8''$, extends to the west; McNaught adds that 60-s Uppsala Schmidt exposures taken by G. Garradd (possibly affected by light cirrus clouds) on Jan. 28.7 also show the object to be rather more diffuse than stars of similar brightness, with a faint coma of diameter $\sim 15''$ possibly extended towards the west. Three co-added 200-s CCD exposures in poor seeing by A. C. Gilmore (Mt. John 0.6-m *f*/7.6 reflector) on Jan. 30.45 and 30.46 show an uncondensed circular coma $\sim 13''$ diameter, with no hint of tail.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Jan. 27.62223	$13^{h}08^{m}10^{s}.75$	$-39^{\circ}23'36''.2$	18.3

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-B86.

$$T = 2005 \text{ Nov. } 3.589 \text{ TT} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 298^{\circ}.193 \\ \Omega = 161.411 \\ i = 134.175 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0 \qquad q = 2.96619 \text{ AU}$$

SUPERNOVA 1985U

S. V. Antipin, Sternberg Astronomical Institute and Institute of Astronomy (Russian Academy of Sciences), reports the discovery of an apparent supernova on archival plates in the Moscow collection that were taken with the Crimean 40-cm astrograph. The coordinates of the apparent supernova, measured relative to USNO-A2.0 stars, are $\alpha = 2^{h}25^{m}41^{s}.95$, $\delta = +39^{\circ}35'12''.3$ (equinox 2000.0), which is $1''$ north of the galaxy's position in the USNO-A2.0 catalogue. The star is seen on five plates, at the following photographic magnitudes: 1985 Jan. 13.75 UT, [16.2; Sept. 16.03, 15.2; 17.02, 15.0; 21.99, 15.2; 22.02, 15.3; 25.03, 15.9:; 1986 Sept. 3.98, [17.0. SN 1985U is not present on Digitized Sky Survey images or on any other plates of the Moscow collection. The parent galaxy is difficult to see on the best Moscow plates as a nebular object at $m_{pg} \sim 17.0$.

2006 January 30 Daniel W. E. Green