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COMETS C/2005 W16, W17, X2–X9, Y3–Y6 (SOHO)

Additional Kreutz sungrazing comets have been found on SOHO website images (cf. *IAUC* 8657). According to K. Battams, C/2005 W16 and C/2005 X5 were small and stellar in appearance in C3 images, the former reaching mag 7.3 at $10.1R_\odot$ on Nov. 28.471 UT, and the latter reaching mag 6.4 at $9.3R_\odot$ on Dec. 8.846; in C2 images, C/2005 W16 showed a faint, thin tail that reached a length of $\sim 9'$ on Nov. 28.854 at $5.7R_\odot$, while C/2005 X5 was fairly diffuse with a very faint tail that reached a length of $\sim 6'$ on Dec. 9.083 at $6.7R_\odot$. C/2005 W17, C/2005 X2, and C/2005 X6 were tiny and too faint for photometry; C/2005 W17 was diffuse and the latter two were stellar in appearance. C/2005 X3 was small and diffuse, reaching mag 7.7 at $6.5R_\odot$ on Dec. 4.600. C/2005 X4 was small, faint, and diffuse, reaching mag ~ 8. C/2005 X7 was tiny and stellar in appearance, yet persistent (despite reaching mag ~ 8), curiously surviving as long as did C/2005 X5. C/2005 X8 and C/2005 Y5 were extremely faint — the former described as tiny, and the latter as small and diffuse; C/2005 Y6 was a near-identical twin to C/2005 Y5, but marginally brighter. C/2005 X9 was small and diffuse, reaching mag 7.7 at $7.3R_\odot$ on Dec. 12.917. C/2005 Y3 was small and a little too diffuse for good photometry in C3 images; in C2 images, it was also diffuse, reaching mag 6.6 at $7.4R_\odot$ on Dec. 20.379. C/2005 Y4 was very faint and diffuse.

Comet	2005	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2005 W16	Nov.	28.113	$16^h09^m.4$	$-25°06'$	C3/2	RM	2006-C59
C/2005 W17		29.704	16 23.1	−23 19	C2	HS	2006-C59
C/2005 X2	Dec.	3.442	16 40.5	−23 55	C2	HS	2006-C59
C/2005 X3		4.583	16 45.6	−24 09	C2	HS	2006-C59
C/2005 X4		6.567	16 54.5	−24 21	C2	KC	2006-C60
C/2005 X5		8.321	16 59.0	−26 59	C3/2	JR	2006-C60
C/2005 X6		8.392	17 03.0	−24 37	C2	JR	2006-C60
C/2005 X7		9.075	17 07.9	−24 46	C2	HS	2006-C60
C/2005 X8		11.908	17 19.5	−24 58	C2	QY	2006-C61
C/2005 X9		12.908	17 23.9	−25 03	C2	RM	2006-C61
C/2005 Y3		19.988	17 57.4	−26 25	C3/2	QY	2006-C61
C/2005 Y4		20.938	18 01.5	−25 11	C2	SH	2006-C61
C/2005 Y5		22.354	18 07.5	−25 13	C2	KB	2006-C61
C/2005 Y6		22.454	18 07.9	−25 10	C2	KB	2006-C61

2006 February 13 *Daniel W. E. Green*