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COMETS C/2006 A4–A7, B2–B4, E2, F3 (SOHO)

Additional comets have been found on SOHO website images (cf. *IAUC* 8679) — all being Kreutz sungrazers except for C/2006 B4 (Meyer group) and for C/2006 E2 and C/2006 F3 (Marsden group). C/2006 A4 is described by K. Battams as very faint and diffuse. C/2006 A5 had a bright coma that "evaporated" quickly in the C2 images, with a tail that "lingered for a long time", being longer than 1° on Jan. 5.612 UT at $\sim 4R_\odot$; in C3 images, the comet was still brightening when at mag perhaps -1.5 on Jan. 5.112 at $11.6R_\odot$, showing a bright, thin tail, but it was at mag ~ 2.9 and fading fast by the time it reached $7R_\odot$. The other comets were stellar in appearance. Peak magnitudes: C/2006 A6, 6.3, Jan. 10.431, $10.8R_\odot$; C/2006 A7, 5.8, Jan. 12.738, $11.1R_\odot$; C/2006 B3, 4.3, Jan. 22.612, $10.4R_\odot$. C/2006 B2 and C/2006 F3 were very small and faint. C/2006 B4, at mag ≈ 7, was slightly elongated in the direction of motion. C/2006 E2 was extremely faint and slightly diffuse in C2 images (stellar in C3).

Comet	2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2006 A4	Jan.	2.904	$19^h04^m.2$	$-25°26'$	C3/2	RM	2006-F43
C/2006 A5		4.096	19 15.1	−27 53	C3/2	TH	2006-F43
C/2006 A6		10.071	19 40.1	−24 21	C3	TH	2006-F43
C/2006 A7		12.431	19 49.2	−24 12	C3	SF	2006-F43
C/2006 B2		20.321	20 22.8	−21 51	C3	HS	2006-F44
C/2006 B3		21.654	20 38.1	−23 16	C3	RK	2006-F44
C/2006 B4		26.496	20 37.2	−17 18	C2	HS	2006-F44
C/2006 E2	Mar.	15.096	23 50.5	− 1 26	C3/2	RM	2006-F50
C/2006 F3		26.101	0 23.1	+ 4 13	C2	TH	2006-F50

V1647 ORIONIS

V. Venkat and B. G. Anandarao, Astronomy and Astrophysics Division, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, report near-infrared photometry of V1647 Ori undertaken at Mt. Abu Observatory's 1.2-m telescope (+ NICMOS infrared array) on Feb. 27, revealing magnitudes $J = 14.6$, $H = 11.7$, and $K' = 9.7$. These magnitudes are close to the 2MASS values and fainter than their own values from 2005 Dec. 3 (Ojha *et al.* 2006, *MNRAS*, in press; `http://xxx.lanl.gov/abs/astro-ph/?0602044`). It appears therefore that, following its EXor-like eruption (*IAUC* 8289) that lasted more than 24 months (cf. *IAUC* 8600; 8681), the star may be near its pre-eruptive state.

2006 March 29 *Daniel W. E. Green*