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COMET C/2006 GZ_2 (SPACEWATCH)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered by Spacewatch (discovery observation below) was reported already on Apr. 7.9 UT to be slightly diffuse in follow-up images obtained in strong moonlight by J. Tichá and M. Tichý with the 1.06-m telescope at Kleť. With no other reports on physical appearance available, the object was announced as 2006 GZ_2 on Apr. 10 (*MPEC* 2006-G38; also *MPS* 168881), but on the following day, J. Montani reported that his inspection of the Spacewatch images from Apr. 7.2, 8.2, and 9.2 all show the object to have a coma of diameter 5″–6″ and no tail. R. S. McMillan adds that Spacewatch images taken by T. H. Bressi on Apr. 18.4 also show the object to be diffuse with a 4″–5″ coma.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Apr. 7.18152	$12^h53^m41^s.82$	$-0°16'27''.9$	20.1

More recent astrometry, the following parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-H10.

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2006\ \text{Aug. } 22.683\ \text{TT} & \omega = 191^\circ.673 & \\ & \Omega = 355.325 & 2000.0 \\ q = 3.29952\ \text{AU} & i = 168.680 & \end{array}$$

COMET 73P/SCHWASSMANN-WACHMANN

Futher to *IAUC* 8701, numerous additional components to 73P have been observed on three or more nights and thus given designations ('T'–'Z', and 'AA'–'AM', although component 'Y' has only two nights of astrometry so far) and first announced on *MPECs* 2006-G10 and 2006-H03.

COMET P/2006 G1 (McNAUGHT)

Additional observations published on *MPEC* 2006-G43 and *MPC* 56610 show that this comet (cf. *IAUC* 8699) is indeed of short period, with the following improved orbital elements:

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2006\ \text{Aug. } 20.7210\ \text{TT} & \omega = 314^\circ.8793 & \\ e = 0.455391 & \Omega = 299.0576 & 2000.0 \\ q = 2.621261\ \text{AU} & i = 18.5516 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 4.813108\ \text{AU} \quad n^\circ = 0.0933395 \quad P = 10.56\ \text{years}$$

2006 April 19 *Daniel W. E. Green*