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Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
URL http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html ISSN 0081-0304
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COMET P/2006 H1 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery on a comet on CCD images taken with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt (discovery observation tabulated below) in the course of the Siding Spring Survey, the object having an asteroidal head with a very weak, diffuse tail 8″ long in p.a. ~ 250°. Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', A. C. Gilmore reports that his CCD images taken on Apr. 30.7 UT with the 1.0-m *f*/7.7 reflector at Mount John through cirrus clouds show a small, condensed head with a narrow tail to the west-southwest. Images taken by J. Young with the Table Mountain 0.6-m Cassegrain reflector on May 1.5 in twilight show a round 6″ coma with no noticeable central condensation and no tail.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Apr. 29.78705	$22^h29^m25^s.44$	$-19°35'46''.1$	17.9

The available astrometry, the following preliminary elliptical orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-J06.

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2006\ \text{Feb. } 24.566\ \text{TT} & \omega = 285^\circ.416 & \\ e = 0.38667 & \Omega = 357.078 & \text{2000.0} \\ q = 2.15508\ \text{AU} & i = 13.045 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 3.51371\ \text{AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.149642 \qquad P = 6.6\ \text{years}$$

V5117 SAGITTARII

D. K. Lynch, R. W. Russell, and R. J. Rudy, The Aerospace Corporation; and C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota, report 0.8- to 5.5-μm spectroscopy of V5117 Sgr (cf. *IAUC* 8673) on May 1 UT using SpeX at the Infrared Telescope Facility. The nova is a classical Fe II nova that is still in the low-excitation stage. It showed strong emission of the Brackett and Pashen lines, the Lyβ-fluoresced O I lines, C I and N I, Fe II emission, and weak He I 1.0830- and 2.0581-μm lines. There was also a strong continuum increasing to longer wavelengths, indicative of thermal emission from dust. The thermal continuum was well fitted by an 1100-K black body. $E(B-V)$ = 0.50 ± 0.15 was obtained from the O I lines. Infrared magnitudes (± 0.1): J = 10.6, H = 9.5, K = 7.9.

Visual magnitude estimates by A. Pearce, Nedlands, W. Australia: Feb. 20.842 UT, 10.1; 21.844, 10.1. CCD red-magnitude from D. Mendicini, Santa Fe, Argentina (provided by E. Waagen, AAVSO): Mar. 24.208, 10.5.

2006 May 4 *Daniel W. E. Green*