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COMET C/2006 K3 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of yet another comet on Uppsala Schmidt telescope images (discovery observation tabulated below); the new object appeared diffuse with a 11″ coma, extended 20″ to the southeast; deeper exposures on May 22.37 UT show a well-condensed head with a 20″ tail in p.a. 135°.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 22.34471	$6^h50^m29^s.50$	$-63°44'05''.7$	17.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-K40.

$$T = 2007\text{ Mar. }13.340\text{ TT} \qquad q = 2.54087\text{ AU}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 327^\circ.144 \\ \Omega = 49.694 \\ i = 92.714 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET C/2006 K4 (NEAT)

An apparently asteroidal object reported by the NEAT project from their CCD images taken with the 1.2-m Schmidt telescope at Palomar (discovery observation tabulated below) has been found cometary (following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page') by J. Young at Table Mountain (0.61-m *f*/16 Cassegrain reflector), who noted a round 5″ coma with no central condensation and no tail on his images from May 24.4 UT.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 18.45049	$20^h53^m42^s.84$	$+14°41'24''.0$	19.9

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-K41.

$$T = 2007\text{ Dec. }3.052\text{ TT} \qquad q = 3.21880\text{ AU}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 233^\circ.246 \\ \Omega = 116.524 \\ i = 111.517 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET 73P/SCHWASSMANN-WACHMANN

Further to *IAUC* 8709, additional components have been designated: 'BQ' on *MPEC* 2006-J31, and 'BR' and 'BS' on *MPEC* 2006-K18.

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