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COMET C/2006 HW_{51} (SIDING SPRING)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered by R. H. McNaught in the course of the Siding Spring project (discovery observation tabulated below) has been found to be cometary by A. Fitzsimmons, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Queen's University, Belfast (together with S. C. Lowry and C. Snodgrass) on images taken with the 2.0-m Faulkes Telescope North on June 4.3 UT in poor seeing (2".0 FWHM), the 300-s R-band exposure showing a significantly flatter profile than exhibited by field stars, with a roughly symmetric coma extending 3"; a slightly longer exposure on June 5.3 in 1".6 seeing shows a coma extending 3" from the central condensation (magnitudes within a 3"-radius aperture were $V = 17.77$, $V - R = +0.46$).

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Apr. 23.48710	$9^h38^m29^s.94$	$-37°16'47''.3$	17.5

Recent astrometry, the following parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-L27.

$$T = 2006\ \text{Sept.}29.4083\ \text{TT} \qquad \omega = 359°.9812$$
$$\Omega = 228.1499 \quad (2000.0)$$
$$q = 2.265030\ \text{AU} \qquad i = 45.7966$$

COMETS C/2006 H3–H6 (SOHO)

Additional Kreutz sungrazing comets have been found on SOHO website images (cf. *IAUC* 8717; AA = A. Ambrus). C/2006 H3 was described by K. Battams as very faint, slightly diffuse, and elongated. C/2006 H4 appeared stellar in C3 images, reaching mag 6.1 on Apr. 21.988 at $10.6R_\odot$; in C2 images, it showed a faint, thin tail that reached a length of 383" on Apr. 22.313. C/2006 H5 was very small, slightly diffuse, and also too faint for photometry. C/2006 H6, which was also found by H. Su, was small and stellar in C3 images, but elongated in C2 images, where it reached mag 6.4 on Apr. 28.603 at $6.6R_\odot$.

Comet	2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2006 H3	Apr. 19.354	$1^h56^m.3$	$+10°16'$	C2	KB	2006-K29
C/2006 H4	21.404	2 15.3	+ 9 44	C3/2	AA	2006-K29
C/2006 H5	24.314	2 13.8	+11 51	C2	HS	2006-K29
C/2006 H6	28.321	2 32.9	+12 34	C3/2	JS	2006-L20

2006 June 5 *Daniel W. E. Green*