Circular No. 8724

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*COMET C/2006 M1 (LINEAR)*

An apparently asteroidal object discovered in the course of the LINEAR project (discovery observation tabulated below) has been found to be cometary following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page'. P. Birtwhistle, Great Shefford, Berkshire, U.K., reports that CCD exposures with a 0.40-m *f*/6.0 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector on June 22.0 UT show a small, concentrated coma of diameter 6″ and mag 17.9 with a very thin, straight tail 50″ long in p.a. 235°. J. Young reports that CCD frames taken on June 22.3 UT with the Table Mountain 0.61-m *f*/16 Cassegrain reflector shows an 8″ coma of mag 17.5, slightly pear-shaped along the tail axis, with a tail 40″ long and ~ 10″–16″ wide spanning p.a. 225°–235°.

| 2006 UT | $\alpha_{2000}$ | $\delta_{2000}$ | Mag. |
|---|---|---|---|
| June 18.32118 | $20^h00^m54^s.76$ | $+44°01'01''.4$ | 18.4 |

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-M26.

$$T = 2006 \text{ Nov. } 17.002 \text{ TT} \qquad \left.\begin{aligned} \omega &= 100^\circ.820 \\ \Omega &= 236.028 \\ i &= 55.944 \end{aligned}\right\} 2000.0$$
$$q = 4.09039 \text{ AU}$$

*COMETS C/1997 B5–B7, 1997 O3, 1997 V8 AND V9, 1997 X7 (SOHO)*

Additional comets have been found on archival SOHO website images (cf. *IAUC* 8722) — all being small and stellar in appearance, of mag 7.5–8.0, and with no tails. C/1997 O3 and C/1997 V8 were Kreutz sungrazers, C/1997 X7 was a Meyer-group object, C/1997 V9 belonged to no known group, and the rest belong to the Marsden group.

| Comet | 1997 UT | $\alpha_{2000}$ | $\delta_{2000}$ | Inst. | F | *MPEC* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C/1997 B5 | Jan. 29.497 | $20^h55^m.5$ | $-16°51'$ | C2 | RK | 2006-C49 |
| C/1997 B6 | 29.604 | 20 56.1 | −16 49 | C2 | RK | 2006-C49 |
| C/1997 B7 | 29.647 | 20 56.4 | −16 49 | C2 | RK | 2006-C49 |
| C/1997 O3 | July 31.906 | 8 30.0 | +16 55 | C3 | RK | 2006-J44 |
| C/1997 V8 | Nov. 6.216 | 14 34.7 | −19 27 | C3 | RK | 2006-J44 |
| C/1997 V9 | 14.240 | 15 13.5 | −19 32 | C2 | RK | 2006-J44 |
| C/1997 X7 | Dec. 15.413 | 17 32.8 | −22 14 | C2 | RK | 2006-J45 |

2006 June 22  *Daniel W. E. Green*