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COMET C/2006 Q1 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet (discovery observation tabulated below) on CCD images obtained with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope in the course of the Siding Spring Survey, noting a soft image with an apparent coma diameter of $\sim 8''$ in $4''$ seeing; his observations on Aug. 21.73 and 21.78 UT showed the comet to be again slightly diffuse, with deep exposures showing a diffuse condensation and a $20''$-diameter coma. CCD images taken at low altitude by J. Young with the 0.61-m reflector at Table Mountain on Aug. 23.5 show a round, $8''$ coma with a hint of central condensation, with no suggestion of any tail in long exposures.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Aug. 20.74130	$5^h24^m12^s.81$	$-25°25'43''.5$	17.8

The initial astrometry and a very preliminary orbit were published on *MPEC* 2006-Q22. Additional astrometry and revised parabolic orbital elements [T = 2008 June 29.669 TT, q = 2.70330 AU, $\omega = 345°.338$, $\Omega = 199°.406$, $i = 58°.994$ (equinox 2000.0)] appear on *MPEC* 2006-Q50.

COMET 73P/SCHWASSMANN-WACHMANN

M. L. Sitko, University of Cincinnati and Space Science Institute; R. W. Russell, D. K. Lynch, and R. Ford, Aerospace Corporation; H. B. Hammel, Space Science Institute; and W. Golisch and P. Sears, Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF), NASA, report on post-perihelion observations made of comet 73P's component 'C' using the IRTF (+ BASS) on Aug. 5, 7, and 8 UT. The comet exhibited a continuum between 3 and 13 μm, on top of which a silicate emission band from 8.5 to 12.2 μm was observed. The flux observed on all three days was approximately the same, to within 10 percent. An underlying blackbody, normalized to the continuum fluxes of the averaged spectra at 8.1 and 12.5 μm, yielded a mean grain temperature of 272 K (estimated uncertainty $\pm$ 5 K). The derived temperature was 10–11 percent higher than that of an equivalent blackbody at the heliocentric distance of the comet. The feature-to-continuum ratio in the silicate band was 1.19, smaller than that previously reported for this fragment from pre-perihelion observations (*IAUC* 8701 and 8717). The measured flux between 10.0 and 11.0 μm, using the $3''.4$ circular entrance aperture of BASS, was 0.28 ± 0.03 Jy (equivalent magnitude $m_N = 5.4 \pm 0.1$).

2006 August 29 *Daniel W. E. Green*