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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
Phone 617-495-7440/7244/7444 (for emergency use only)

COMET P/2006 Q2 (LONEOS)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered in the course of the LONEOS survey (discovery observation tabulated below), and posted on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', has been found to show cometary appearance by other CCD astrometrists. P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, U.K., 0.40-m *f*/6 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector) reports that his stack of images (total exposure time 44 min) from Aug. 29.9 UT shows that the object has a 9″-diameter coma (FWHM 4″.7) and a faint tail ~ 30″ long (initially in p.a. 180° but then curving back after 7″ in p.a. 230°). Several long exposures by J. Young with the 0.61-m *f*/16 Cassegrain reflector at Table Mountain around Aug. 30.2 show a coma with diameter 8″ and a broad tail 26″ long in p.a. 215°. Shorter exposures by Birtwhistle and Young show the comet's head to be essentially stellar in appearance. Long exposures by Young on Aug. 31.22–31.30 continue to show a tail ~ 26″ long in p.a. ~ 215°, with a coma diameter of 4″–5″. Images taken by L. Buzzi (Varese, Italy, 0.60-m *f*/4.64 reflector) around Aug. 31.0 show a broad, short tail about 10″ long in p.a. ~ 180°.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Aug. 29.27246	$22^h38^m17^s.76$	$+13^\circ59'30''.9$	18.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary elliptical orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-Q67.

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2006 \text{ Sept. } 2.755 \text{ TT} & \omega = 96^\circ.607 & \\ e = 0.58860 & \Omega = 245.374 & \left.\right\} 2000.0 \\ q = 1.33560 \text{ AU} & i = 5.339 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 3.24643 \text{ AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.168498 \qquad P = 5.85 \text{ years}$$

SUPERNOVA 2006eo IN MCG –03-12-15

Further to *IAUC* 8741, H. Khandrika and W. Li report the LOSS discovery of an apparent supernova on unfiltered KAIT images taken on Aug. 26.51 (at mag 18.2) and 28.50 UT (mag 18.6). SN 2006eo is located at $\alpha = 4^h33^m21^s.94$, $\delta = -18^\circ40'36''.8$ (equinox 2000.0), which is 7″.1 west and 1″.3 north of the nucleus of the galaxy MCG –03-12-15. A KAIT image taken on Feb. 9.20 showed nothing at this position (limiting mag 19.0).

2006 August 31 *Daniel W. E. Green*