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 C/2006 OF_2 (BROUGHTON)

An object reported as asteroidal when discovered by J. Broughton (Reedy Creek, Queensland, Australia, 0.25-m reflector; discovery observation tabulated below from *MPEC* 2006-O13 and *MPC* 174866), and thus given the minor-planet designation 2006 OF_2, has been found by C. W. Hergenrother to be cometary on CCD frames taken with the 1.54-m reflector at Catalina, whose 60-s *R*-band images on Sept. 20.11 UT show the comet to possess a small, condensed coma 7″ in diameter and magnitude 18.2 with no tail. Additional images taken by Hergenrother in good seeing (< 1″) on Sept. 26.16 show an obvious condensed asymmetric coma of diameter 7″ that is elongated towards the northeast.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
July 17.65728	$20^{\mathrm{h}}43^{\mathrm{m}}51^{\mathrm{s}}.49$	$-27^{\circ}37'11''.2$	18.2

Additional astrometry, the following hyperbolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-S91.

$$\text{Epoch} = \text{2008 Sept. 11.0 TT}$$

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = \text{2008 Sept.15.5510 TT} & \omega = 95^{\circ}.6032 & \\ e = 1.001046 & \Omega = 318.5093 & \left.\right\} 2000.0 \\ q = 2.431387\ \text{AU} & i = 30.1670 & \end{array}$$

1999 RT_{214}

K. S. Noll, Space Telescope Science Institute; W. M. Grundy, Lowell Observatory; H. F. Levison, Southwest Research Institute; and D. C. Stephens, Johns Hopkins University, report the detection of a binary companion to the transneptunian object 1999 RT_{214} (cf. *MPEC* 1999-X27, *MPO* 50421), which is a member of the low-inclination classical TNO population. The observations were made during 2006 July 25.233–25.309 UT with the High Resolution Camera of the Advanced Camera for Surveys on the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), using the clear filters with one 300-s exposure at each of four dithered positions on the detector. The two components are clearly resolved in each image and in the coadded image, separated by an angular distance of $0''.115 \pm 0''.001$ and differ in brightness by 0.8 mag. The fainter component lies at a position angle of $89^{\circ}.4 \pm 1^{\circ}.3$ from the primary. The projected separation of the objects in the sky plane is 3310 ± 30 km. The HST corrected for parallax and tracked both components of 1999 RT_{214} as they moved together at an average rate of $0''.045$/min.

2006 September 29 *Daniel W. E. Green*