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COMET C/2006 T1 (LEVY)

David H. Levy, Tucson, AZ, reports his visual discovery with his 0.41-m *f*/5 reflector of a diffuse comet that is close to Saturn in the sky; the discovery position tabulated below is from CCD astrometry obtained with a 0.36-m reflector, while the magnitude is visual. Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', other observers have confirmed the object as a comet, including K. Sárneczky (Szeged, Hungary, 0.60-m Schmidt telescope), who reports that his CCD frames taken on Oct. 3.13–3.14 UT show a strong central condensation of magnitude 15 and a coma of diameter $1'$. P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, U.K., 0.40-m *f*/6 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope) writes that his CCD images taken on Oct. 3.2 show a circular coma of diameter $4'.5$ with a concentrated but non-stellar center and a thin, straight tail $14'$ long in p.a. 295° ($10''$ wide as it leaves the coma, fanning out to $2'$ wide as it fades into the sky background). R. Miles (Stourton Caundle, Dorset, U.K., 0.06-m refractor) communicates that his CCD frames taken on Oct. 3.2 show a total V magnitude of 9.5 in a $3'$ aperture. E. Guido and G. Sostero (observing remotely with a 0.25-m *f*/3.4 reflector near Mayhill, NM) write that their CCD images from Oct. 3.48 show a coma diameter of $3'$ and a tail $2'$ long toward p.a. 297°. A. Hale, Cloudcroft, NM (0.41-m reflector) reports that his visual observation on Oct. 3.47 yields a coma diameter of $2'.5$ and total magnitude 9.8. J. E. McGaha (Tucson, AZ, 0.36-m *f*/10 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector + CCD) reports that six stacked 60-s frames taken on Oct. 3.5 show a bright, round, inner coma of diameter $34''$ with an outer coma of diameter $226''$, elongated toward a $30''$-wide tail that extends $600''$ in p.a. 287°.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Oct. 2.50061	$9^h37^m29^s.47$	$+15^\circ52'43''.1$	10.5

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-T21.

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 2006\text{ Oct. } 9.226\text{ TT} & \omega = 181^\circ.745 & & \\ & \Omega = 284.416 & \Big\} 2000.0 & \\ q = 1.07182\text{ AU} & i = 19.117 & & \end{array}$$

2006 October 3 *Daniel W. E. Green*