Circular No. 8785

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 YC (CATALINA-CHRISTENSEN)

Tabulated below are the initial observations of a comet that was discovered almost simultaneously via the Catalina Sky Survey (with the observer, A. R. Gibbs, reporting the object as apparently asteroidal on the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope exposures) and the Mount Lemmon Survey (whose observer, E. J. Christensen, reported a 6″ coma and 10″ tail in p.a. 270° on four 30-s co-added discovery images taken with the 1.5-m reflector). Images taken in fair-to-poor seeing at Mt. Lemmon by E. C. Beshore on Dec. 20.5 show a moderately condensed coma ~ 6″ in diameter with a 10″ tail in p.a. 250°. When K. Smalley designated the object as 2006 YC via *MPEC* 2006-Y15 on Dec. 17, he unfortunately was unaware of Christensen's report (submitted to the Central Bureau and to other Minor Planet Center staff members) of the object's cometary appearance.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
Dec.	16.41622	$10^h31^m38^s.56$	$-4^\circ08'53''.4$	20.0	Gibbs
	16.48765	10 31 38.94	−4 08 33.2	19.4	Christensen

Additional astrometry, the following parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-Y26.

$$T = 2007\ \text{Sept.}25.985\ \text{TT} \qquad \omega = 29^\circ.255$$
$$\Omega = 152.881 \quad \text{2000.0}$$
$$q = 4.23768\ \text{AU} \qquad i = 73.988$$

V2362 CYGNI

D. K. Lynch, R. W. Russell, D. Kim, The Aerospace Corporation; and M. L. Sitko and S. Brafford, University of Cincinnati and Space Science Institute, report that 3- to 13-μm spectroscopy of V2362 Cyg (cf. *IAUC* 8731) on Dec. 12.25 UT using BASS on the Infrared Telescope Facility showed a smooth stellar-like continuum decreasing monotonically toward longer wavelengths between 3 and 13 μm with no evidence of thermal emission from dust. Infrared magnitudes at that time were $L = 5.0 \pm 0.1$, $M = 4.5 \pm 0.2$, $N = 4.0 \pm 0.2$.

Visual magnitude estimates: Nov. 15.736 UT, 11.5 (M. Lehky, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic); 18.731, 10.9 (A. Diepvens, Balen, Belgium); Dec. 10.836, 12.0 (J. Carvajal, Madrid, Spain).

2006 December 20 *Daniel W. E. Green*