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COMETS C/2006 A8 AND C/2006 Y10–Y17 (SOHO)

Nine additional near-sun comets have been found on 2006 SOHO website images (cf. *IAUC* 8844), all being Kreutz sungrazers except apparently for C/2006 Y12. C/2006 A8 was stellar in appearance and very faint (mag $\approx$ 7–7.5) with no tail. All of the remaining objects that were visible in C3 images appeared therein as small and stellar; all of the remaining objects that were visible in C2 images appeared therein as tailless and slightly diffuse, except for C/2006 Y12, which was faint yet more stellar in appearance and unusually small. In the table below, new finder 'AW' = A. Watson.

Comet	2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2006 A8	Jan.	10.013	$19^h36^m.4$	$-24^\circ04'$	C3	BZ	2007-L16
C/2006 Y10	Dec.	23.071	18 11.9	−26 33	C3/2	TH	2007-K45
C/2006 Y11		24.821	18 18.4	−25 34	C3/2	MA	2007-K45
C/2006 Y12		27.814	18 31.4	−24 40	C2	RK	2007-K45
C/2006 Y13		28.154	18 35.4	−25 53	C3/2	WX	2007-K45
C/2006 Y14		28.504	18 34.6	−24 38	C2	RK	2007-K45
C/2006 Y15		29.179	18 39.4	−25 51	C3/2	WX	2007-K46
C/2006 Y16		29.413	18 38.6	−24 44	C2	AW	2007-K46
C/2006 Y17		29.529	18 43.9	−25 44	C3	HS	2007-K46

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R. C. Puetter, Center for Astrophysics and Space Science, University of California at San Diego; R. J. Rudy, D. K. Lynch, R. W. Russell, S. Mazuk, and R. L. Pearson, The Aerospace Corporation; C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota; and R. B. Perry, Langley Research Center, NASA, report 0.4- to 2.5-μm spectroscopy of this nova (cf. *IAUC* 8803, 8807, 8809, 8812) using the Lick 3-m telescope (+ VNIRIS) on May 6 UT, as well as 0.8- to 5.5-μm spectroscopy using the Infrared Telescope Facility 3-m telescope (+ SpeX) on May 31. This nova is still in a very low excitation state, showing strong C I lines and no discernable He I emission. The spectrum shows a significantly narrower [N I] line at 1.04 μm than the permitted emission lines. The reddening derived from the O I lines, which is due in part to the dust shell, is $E(B-V) = 1.7$.

2007 June 11 Daniel W. E. Green