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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)
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COMET P/2007 R4 (GARRADD)

G. J. Garradd reports his discovery of a comet on CCD images taken with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope in the course of the Siding Spring Survey (discovery observation tabulated below), the object indicated as having a faint 20″ tail to the west on 30-s exposures. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, A. C. Gilmore and P. M. Kilmartin (Mt. John 1.0-m *f*/7.7 reflector) write that their images from Sept. 16.50–16.56 UT show a coma of diameter ~ 5″ and a 'wedge'-shaped tail 25″ long in p.a. 270°; Gilmore's images taken on Sept. 17.5 show a coma diameter of ~ 9″ with central condensation (FWHM 4″) and a tail 20″ long in p.a. 260°.

2007 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Sept.14.60795	$2^h15^m02^s.73$	$-26°34'54''.8$	18.4

The available astrometry (including prediscovery Siding Spring images from Aug. 12), together with the following preliminary elliptical orbital elements and an ephemeris, appear on *MPEC* 2007-S04.

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2007\text{ Sept.}26.904\text{ TT} & \omega = 282^\circ.601 & \\ e = 0.67380 & \Omega = 87.603 & \Big\}2000.0 \\ q = 1.92336\text{ AU} & i = 20.240 & \\ a = 5.89621\text{ AU} & n^\circ = 0.068841 & P = 14.3\text{ years} \end{array}$$

VARIABLE STAR IN PERSEUS

H. Mikuž, Crni Vrh Observatory, reports that a new starlike variable (mag 17.9, roughly equivalent to the R band) was detected on four unfiltered CCD images (limiting mag 19.0) taken around Sept. 16.078 UT in the course of the PIKA project at the Crni Vrh Observatory using the 0.60-m *f*/3.3 Cichocki telescope. The variable object is located at $\alpha = 3^h57^m28^s.01$, $\delta = +35°37'16''.3$ (equinox 2000.0). This position is consistent with USNO-B1-catalogue star 1256-0061977 with B magnitude 21.5. Additional PIKA magnitudes for the new object show that it is brightening: 2003 Sept. 26, [19.0; 2004 Feb. 9, [19.0; 2005 Jan. 11, [19.0; 2007 Sept. 16.955, $B = 17.90 \pm 0.10$, $R = 17.65 \pm 0.05$; Sept. 17.037, $B = 17.60 \pm 0.09$, $R = 17.39 \pm 0.04$. Nothing is visible at this location on several Palomar Sky Survey and 2MASS images from the Aladin database.

2007 September 17 *Daniel W. E. Green*