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COMET P/2006 W4 = P/1993 D1 (HILL)

S. Foglia, R. Matson, and M. Tombelli report the identification of "precovery" images of comet P/2006 W4 (cf. *IAUC* 8779), aided by the orbital elements published on *MPEC* 2007-X14 (with indicated $\Delta T = +1.06$ days when run back to 1992), and their astrometric measurements are provided below from the trails on the two U.K. Schmidt Telescope plates.

1993	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}
Feb.	26.53282	$9^h44^m59^s.08$	$-34°38'11''.0$
	26.57795	9 44 57.60	−34 38 01.8
Apr.	5.58208	13 04 38.14	−37 52 27.4
	5.62375	13 04 36.85	−37 52 15.9

The following orbital elements by B. G. Marsden are from 92 observations, 1993–2007 (mean residual $0''.6$):

Epoch = 1992 June 27.0 TT

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 1992\text{ June }21.6666\text{ TT} & \omega = 247°.5818 & \\ e = 0.314858 & \Omega = 243.4600 & \Big\} 2000.0 \\ q = 4.416239\text{ AU} & i = 36.2938 & \end{array}$$

$a = 6.445725$ AU $n° = 0.0602277$ $P = 16.36$ years

Epoch = 2009 Jan. 9.0 TT

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 2009\text{ Jan. }21.0916\text{ TT} & \omega = 249°.6184 & \\ e = 0.314866 & \Omega = 243.2496 & \Big\} 2000.0 \\ q = 4.438583\text{ AU} & i = 36.3618 & \end{array}$$

$a = 6.478413$ AU $n° = 0.0597725$ $P = 16.49$ years

V597 PUPPIS

R. J. Rudy, R. W. Russell, and D. K. Lynch, The Aerospace Corporation; and C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota, report 0.8- to 2.5-μm spectroscopy of this nova (cf. *IAUC* 8895, 8896) using the Infrared Telescope Facility (+ SpeX) on Nov. 30.54 UT. V597 Pup was in its early stage of development. He I 1.0830-μm was very strong, as was He I 20581-μm. The O I lines were strong, and Brγ showed a doubled line profile. There was no evidence of He II lines or thermal emission from dust. The FWHM of the lines was $\approx$ 3900 km/s.

Visual magnitude estimates by A. Amorim, Florianopolis, Brazil: Nov. 16.047 UT, 8.1; 20.041, 9.7; 22.078, 9.8; 23.040, 10.0.

2007 December 4 *Daniel W. E. Green*