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COMET C/2008 E1 (CATALINA)

An apparently asteroidal object discovery by the Catalina Sky Survey (discovery observation tabulated below), and posted on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, has been noted by numerous astrometric CCD observers to show cometary appearance. P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, England 0.40-m $f/6$ Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector, Mar. 3.82–3.83 UT, relatively poor seeing) writes that this object appears to be distinctly more diffuse than nearby stars of similar brightness, having a diameter of $9''$ and a possible extension from the center of light extending $12''$ in p.a. 40°. J. V. Scotti (Spacewatch 1.8-m $f/2.7$ reflector, Mar. 4.12–4.16) reports a coma diameter of $6''$–$8''$ and a tail extending $\sim 5''.4$–$7''.2$ in p.a. 31°. A. Boattini (Mt. Lemmon 1.5-m reflector, co-addition of four 90-s images from Mar. 4.13–4.14, bad seeing) measures a coma diameter of $\sim 7'' \times 8''$ (slight asymmetry along a NNE-SSW axis). E. Guido and G. Sostero (Castellammare di Stabia, Italy, remotely using a 0.25-m $f/3.4$ reflector near Mayhill, NM, U.S.A.; sixty co-added 60-s unfiltered exposures, Mar. 4.1) find a diffuse coma of diameter nearly $12''$.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Mar. 2.14405	$4^h28^m12^s.21$	$-11^\circ26'17''.6$	19.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-E41.

$$T = 2008 \text{ Oct. } 29.722 \text{ TT} \qquad \left.\begin{aligned} \omega &= 285^\circ.589 \\ \Omega &= 183.644 \\ i &= 34.263 \end{aligned}\right\} 2000.0$$
$$q = 4.82300 \text{ AU}$$

COMET C/2007 Y10 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 8921, tabulated below is the "discovery" observation for an additional Kreutz sungrazing comet found on SOHO website images; the object appeared stellar (mag $\sim$ 5.5) in C3-coronagraph images, and showed a short, faint, diffuse tail in C2 images.

Comet	2007 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2007 Y10	Dec. 28.988	$18^h41^m.5$	$-28^\circ06'$	C3/2	BZ	2008-B61

2008 March 4 *Daniel W. E. Green*