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COMET C/2008 J4 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of yet another comet on CCD images obtained with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope at Siding Spring (discovery observation tabulated below), when the object appeared *very* diffuse with a coma elongated in p.a. 240° and a diffuse 5′ fan tail spanning 20°-30° that curved to p.a. $\sim$ 250°. Stacked images from May 11.76 show that a condensation in the very diffuse coma was elongated along p.a. 240° for $\sim 20''$, with a 2′.2 tail in p.a. 230° possibly curving to the south; stacked images in better seeing on May 11.81 showed the head as a diffuse oval patch with the leading edge appearing as almost a point. Additional stacked images from May 12.76 reveal a very diffuse head of size $30'' \times 40''$ with a 2′.0 tail in p.a. 230°; the leading edge of the comet is angled, giving an appearance of just a tail with the brightest part of the comet behind where the nuclear condensation would normally be expected. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, J. C. Pelle reports that he measured a tail 7′ long in p.a. 240° from images taken by N. Teamo (Punaauia, French Polynesia, 0.41-m f/8.0 reflector) on May 12.6; images taken on May 13.6 showed no visible condensation, making for difficult measurement.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 10.79355	$23^{h}26^{m}34^{s}.26$	$-7°36'56''.3$	16.5

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-J69.

$$T = 2008\ \text{June}\ 19.441\ \text{TT} \qquad q = 0.44485\ \text{AU}$$

$$\left.\begin{aligned} \omega &= 93^{\circ}.709 \\ \Omega &= 289.109 \\ i &= 88.396 \end{aligned}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET 198P/ODAS

Comet P/2006 B7 = 1998 X1 (cf. *IAUC* 8929, 8930, 8935) has been assigned the number 198P (cf. *MPC* 62519).

COMET C/2008 J3 (McNAUGHT)

Corrigendum. The information on *IAUC* 8942 from Pelle was concerning comet C/2008 J4 (see above), *not* C/2008 J3.

2008 May 13 *Daniel W. E. Green*