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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 C/2008 J5 (GARRADD)

G. J. Garradd reports his discovery of a comet with a 40″ coma and a broad 20″ tail toward the southwest on CCD survey images obtained with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope (discovery observation tabulated below). Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, C. Jacques and E. Pimentel (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, 0.30-m $f/3$ reflector) write that their CCD images from May 4.3 UT show a condensed coma 30″ in diameter. J. C. Pelle found a diffuse coma of diameter 20″ with a bright central condensation and a faint tail 20″ long in p.a. 220° on images taken on May 14.54–14.57 by N. Teamo with a 0.41-m $f/8$ reflector at Punaauia, French Polynesia. R. Ligustri (Talmassons, Udine, Italy) found a 24″ coma on stacked CCD exposures obtained remotely with a 0.25-m $f/6$ reflector at Moorook, South Australia, on May 14.74–14.76.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 13.73380	$22^h28^m50^s.70$	$-42^\circ14'48''.1$	16.7

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-J76.

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2008\ \text{May}\ 3.175\ \text{TT} & \omega = 329^\circ.123 & \\ & \Omega = 285.207 & \Big\}\ 2000.0 \\ q = 2.01712\ \text{AU} & i = 96.824 & \end{array}$$

COMET P/2008 J2 (BESHORE)

Additional observations have shown this comet (cf. *IAUC* 8941) to be of short period; the following orbital elements are from *MPEC* 2008-J68:

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = 2008\ \text{Apr.}\ 24.018\ \text{TT} & \omega = 143^\circ.165 & \\ e = 0.27988 & \Omega = 97.432 & \Big\}\ 2000.0 \\ q = 2.45485\ \text{AU} & i = 10.622 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 3.40895\ \text{AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.156593 \qquad P = 6.29\ \text{years}$$

Visual total-magnitude and coma-diameter estimates: May 7.43 UT, 14.1, 0′.3 (A. Hale, Cloudcroft, NM, 0.41-m reflector); 9.97, 13.0, ~ 1′ (M. L. Paradowski, Dabrowa, Poland, 0.20-m reflector); 12.07, 12.7, 1′.2 (J. J. Gonzalez, Leon, Spain, 0.20-m reflector).

2008 May 15 *Daniel W. E. Green*