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COMET C/2008 O3 (BOATTINI)

A. Boattini, University of Arizona, reports his discovery of a comet on CCD images taken with the Mt. Lemmon 1.5-m reflector (discovery observation tabulated below); four co-added 24-s exposures show moderate condensation, a coma diameter of 5″–6″, and a faint tail ~ 30″ long in p.a. 250°–255°. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, S. Foglia and L. Buzzi report that CCD images taken by R. Holmes with a 0.61-m telescope at Charleston, IL, U.S.A., on Aug. 1.4 UT show a diffuse coma of diameter 7″, elongated in p.a. 235°.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
July 29.46129	$4^h20^m33^s.03$	$+21°01'34''.8$	19.4

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-P05.

$$T = 2008\ \text{June}\ 1.546\ \text{TT} \qquad \omega = 339^\circ.806$$
$$\left.\begin{array}{l} \omega = 339^\circ.806 \\ \Omega = 48.343 \\ i = 31.342 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$
$$q = 2.56893\ \text{AU}$$

COMETS C/2008 J7–J12 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 8962, additional apparent comets have been found on SOHO website images, all Kreutz sungrazers except for C/2008 J10 and C/2008 J12 (Meyer group); finder code GP = G. Pappa. C/2008 J7 was very small and slightly diffuse (mag 7.5–8). C/2008 J8 was very diffuse and very faint (mag ~ 8). C/2008 J9 was small and condensed (mag 7–7.5). C/2008 J10 was small and essentially stellar in appearance (mag ~ 7.5). C/2008 J11 was very small and slightly diffuse (mag ~ 8). C/2008 J12 was stellar in appearance; in C2 images it was of mag ~ 6.5, while in C3 it appeared very small and faint.

Comet	2008 UT		α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2008 J7	May	1.631	$2^h39^m.7$	$+13°50'$	C2	HS	2008-L48
C/2008 J8		5.038	2 53.8	+14 54	C2	JR	2008-L48
C/2008 J9		5.338	2 55.6	+15 01	C2	MK	2008-L48
C/2008 J10		6.979	3 01.5	+17 34	C2	JR	2008-M10
C/2008 J11		7.588	3 04.3	+15 39	C2	GP	2008-M10
C/2008 J12		7.963	3 05.3	+17 32	C2/3	SY	2008-M10

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