Circular No. 8967

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COMET P/2008 Q2 (ORY)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered by Michel Ory (Delemont, Switzerland, on CCD images obtained with a 0.61-m *f*/3.9 reflector at Vicques; discovery observation tabulated below), which was posted on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, has been found by other CCD observers to be cometary. A. Knöfel (Schoenbrunn, Germany, 0.5-m reflector, Aug. 28.0 UT) reports an apparent faint coma. L. Buzzi (Varese, Italy, 0.60-m reflector, Aug. 28.1) notes a 12″ coma elongated to the southwest, adding that his inspection of stacked astrographic images taken by R. Holmes (Charleston, IL, U.S.A., Aug. 28.28) reveals a coma ~ 20″ wide that is elongated in p.a. 240°. A. C. Gilmore and P. M. Kilmartin remark that two stacked 120-s CCD frames taken with the 1.0-m *f*/7.7 reflector at Mt. John on Aug. 28.6 show a condensed, circular coma of diameter 14″ with no tail.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Aug. 27.09470	$1^h32^m40^s.74$	$+3^\circ04'17''.2$	17.6

The available astrometry, the following preliminary elliptical orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-Q51.

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
T = 2008\ \text{Oct. } 23.018\ \text{TT} & \omega = 334^\circ.141 & \\
e = 0.58310 & \Omega = 59.478 & \Big\}\ 2000.0 \\
q = 1.37046\ \text{AU} & i = 2.814 & \\
a = 3.28723\ \text{AU} \quad n^\circ = 0.165370 & P = 5.96\ \text{years} &
\end{array}
$$

η CARINAE

A. Damineli — on behalf of a large team monitoring η Car spectroscopicaly at the Observatories of Pico dos Dias (Brazil), Casleo (Argentina), Las Campanas, and European Southern Observatory, La Silla — reports measurements in the He II 468.6-nm emission line. The equivalent width was 0.009 nm at epochs 2007.3 and 2007.6, 0.012 nm at 2008.3, and 0.021 nm at 2008.6 — repeating very well the past cycle, as reported by Steiner and Damineli (2004, *Ap.J.* **612**, L133). The fact that the line-intensity curve follows the x-ray light curve indicates that the He II emitting region is associated with the wind-wind collision shock and not driven by a sudden shell ejection. For related information, see also Damineli *et al.* 2008, *MNRAS* **386**, 2330.

2008 August 28 *Daniel W. E. Green*