Circular No. 8973

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COMET C/2008 R3 (LINEAR)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered by the LINEAR survey (and posted on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage) has been found to show cometary appearance by other astrometric CCD observers. E. Pettarin (Farra d'Isonzo, Italy, 0.40-m $f/4.5$ reflector, Sept. 7.9 UT) writes that, in a star-rich field, the comet shows a 20″ tail in p.a. 130°. R. Holmes (Charleston, IL, U.S.A., 0.81-m $f/4$ astrograph, Sept. 8.1) notes a diffuse, elongated shape with coma diameter 13″.3. G. Hug (Scranton, KS, U.S.A., 0.56-m reflector, Sept. 8.14–8.15) finds a short, diffuse extension in p.a. ~ 130°. J. Young (Table Mountain 0.61-m $f/16$ Cassegrain reflector, Sept. 8.3) reports an 8″ round, bright coma of mag 17.5 and a poorly defined broad tail of length 16″ in p.a. 125°–145°. P. Camilleri, G. Sostero, and E. Guido (remotely using a 0.30-m $f/5.8$ reflector at Trunkey, N.S.W., Australia, Sept. 8.44–8.48) find that nine co-added 120-s unfiltered exposures reveal a coma that is ~ 12″ in diameter.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Sept.7.12889	$18^h26^m29^s.39$	$+19°10'58''.2$	18.5

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-R51.

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 2008 \text{ Nov. } 26.757 \text{ TT} & \omega = 91°.752 & \\ & \Omega = 268.172 & 2000.0 \\ q = 1.79822 \text{ AU} & i = 41.140 & \end{array}$$

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V466 ANDROMEDAE

Photometry of this cataclysmic variable (cf. *IAUC* 8971) from S. Shugarov and I. Volkov (Astronomical Institute, Slovak Academy of Science, 0.6-m AISAS teelscope; uncertainty 0.03–0.08 mag): Sept. 2.87 UT, U = 12.29, B = 13.16, V = 13.15; 3.08, 12.28, 13.19, 13.09, R_j = 13.31.

2008 September 8 *Daniel W. E. Green*