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COMET C/2008 T1 (BOATTINI)

A. Boattini reports his discovery of another comet on CCD images taken with the Mt. Lemmon 1.5-m reflector (discovery observation tabulated below), the fairly condensed coma being $\sim 10''$ in diameter, with a fan tail $\sim 60''$ long spanning p.a. 245°–275° (with the brightest tail structure in p.a. 250°). Four stacked 60-s follow-up unfiltered images with the same telescope by R. E. Hill on Oct. 2.4 UT show a coma diameter of $10''$-$12''$ and a broad, diffuse tail of length $40''$–$50''$ in p.a. $\sim 300°$. Following posting on the 'NEOCP' webpage, P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, England, 0.40-m reflector, Oct. 2.1) finds a diffuse coma of diameter $10''$, extending $15''$ in p.a. 248° (with a possible straight tail extending for $150''$ at the same p.a.). R. Ligustri (Talmassons, Udine, Italy, 0.25-m reflector, Oct. 2.2) reports that seven 300-s co-added exposures show a coma diameter of $\sim 15''$. J. E. McGaha (Tucson, AZ, U.S.A., 0.62-m reflector, Oct. 2.2) writes that a 240-s exposure shows a bright nuclear condensation of diameter $5''$ with a faint coma of diameter $12''$ and a faint tail $150''$ long in p.a. 256°. Images taken by R. Holmes (Charleston, IL, U.S.A., 0.61-m astrograph, Oct. 2.3) and measured by H. Devore show a wide tail $2'01''$ long in p.a. 251°.6. J. Young (Table Mountain 0.61-m reflector) finds a very small bright coma of diameter $6''$ with a hint of a broad, weak, fan-shaped tail $\sim 16''$ long spanning 225°–310°. E. Guido, Castellammare di Stabia, Italy, writes that eighty stacked 60-s unfiltered CCD exposures taken remotely by G. Sostero, P. Camilleri, and himself with a 0.25-m reflector near Mayhill, NM, U.S.A., on Oct. 2.4 show a coma $\sim 10''$ in diameter and a broad, fan-shaped tail $\sim 40''$ toward p.a. 244°.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Oct. 1.34535	$0^h42^m43^s.52$	$+7°48'45''.6$	18.0

The available astrometry (including prediscovery Spacewatch astrometry from Sept. 2 and 21), the following elliptical orbital elements by B. G. Marsden, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-T30. Marsden notes that the comet made a close approach to Jupiter in Apr. 2003 (minimum distance 0.03 AU).

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 2008\ \text{Feb. } 25.3012\ \text{TT} & \omega = 35^\circ.4139 & \\ e = 0.287660 & \Omega = 291.6541 & \left.\right\} 2000.0 \\ q = 3.028416\ \text{AU} & i = 2.0806 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 4.251365\ \text{AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.1124376 \qquad P = 8.77\ \text{years}$$

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