

**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 X3 (LINEAR)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered by the LINEAR survey (and posted on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage; discovery observation tabulated below) has been reported by CCD astrometrists elsewhere to show cometary appearance. R. A. Kowalski (Mt. Lemmon 1.5-m reflector) writes that four co-added 30-s CCD exposures taken on Dec. 5.5 UT in good seeing show a coma of diameter $\approx 15'$ and a tail $\approx 30''$ long in p.a. 300° . G. Hug (Scranton, KS, U.S.A., 0.56-m reflector) notes the object to be an "obvious comet" with a nebulous extension in p.a. $\sim 330^\circ$ on his images around the same time.

2008	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Dec.	4.44689	$12^{\text{h}}20^{\text{m}}41.89^{\text{s}}$	$+8^\circ46'23.5''$	18.4

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-X48.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 T = 2008 \text{ Nov. } 19.300 \text{ TT} & \omega = 161.971 \\
 & \Omega = 338.258 \\
 q = 2.11036 \text{ AU} & i = 71.042
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \omega \\ \Omega \\ i \end{array}} \right\} 2000.0$$

COMETS C/2008 P2-P6 AND C/2008 Q5 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 9001, additional Kreutz sungrazers have been found on SOHO website images. C/2008 P2 was small and stellar in appearance (mag ~ 6.5). C/2008 P3 was small and stellar in appearance in C3 images (mag ~ 6.5), and very diffuse, very faint, and elongated in C2 images. C/2008 P4 was small and stellar in appearance (mag ~ 7). C/2008 P5 was small (mag ~ 6.5) with a short tail in C3 images, and very diffuse, very faint, and elongated in C2 images. C/2008 P6 (found by Z. Xu = ZX) was stellar in appearance (mag ~ 7). C/2008 Q5 was tiny, very faint (mag $\sim 7-7.5$), and stellar in appearance.

Comet	2008	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	<i>MPEC</i>
C/2008 P2	Aug.	1.388	$8^{\text{h}}25^{\text{m}}9^{\text{s}}$	$+15^\circ40'$	C3	HS	2008-T11
C/2008 P3	Aug.	6.196	8 43.2	+14 23	C3/2	MK	2008-T11
C/2008 P4	Aug.	8.054	8 53.4	+14 53	C3	MK	2008-T11
C/2008 P5	Aug.	9.654	8 57.7	+13 18	C3/2	TH	2008-T11
C/2008 P6	Aug.	14.446	9 19.8	+13 12	C3	ZX	2008-T11
C/2008 Q5	Aug.	26.763	10 06.2	+ 9 10	C3	JR	2008-X24