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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° on his images around the same time.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Dec. 4.44689	$12^h20^m41^s.89$	$+8°46'23''.5$	18.4

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

$$T = \text{2008 Nov. 19.300 TT} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{l}\omega = 161°.971\\ \Omega = 338.258\\ i = 71.042\end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

$$q = 2.11036 \text{ AU}$$

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 $\sim$ 6.5). C/2008 P3 was small and stellar in appearance in C3 images (mag $\sim$ 6.5), and very diffuse, very faint, and elongated in C2 images. C/2008 P4 was small and stellar in appearance (mag $\sim$ 7). C/2008 P5 was small (mag $\sim$ 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 $\sim$ 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	*MPEC*
C/2008 P2	Aug. 1.388	$8^h25^m.9$	$+15°40'$	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

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