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COMET P/2008 X4 = P/2003 K2 (CHRISTENSEN)

K. Battams, Naval Research Laboratory, writes that A. Watson found a comet on SECCHI HI1-B images (via the STEREO-B spacecraft; cf. *IAUC* 8926, 8930), Battams noting a very faint, short tail ("discovery" observation tabulated below). R. Kracht made measurements of the object's position and computed a parabolic orbit, from which M. Meyer suggested identity with comet P/2003 K2 (cf. *IAUC* 8136, 8138, 8145). The indicated correction to the prediction on *MPC* 56802 is $\Delta T = -22$ days.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Dec. 8.239	$12^{h}56^{m}.2$	$-17^{\circ}06'$	10

Astrometric measurements of P/2008 X4 by Battams, with reductions by B. G. Marsden, are published on *MPEC* 2008-X81, together with the following orbital elements by Marsden — linking the two apparitions (from 227 observations; mean residual $2''.9$) — and an ephemeris.

$$\text{Epoch} = 2003 \text{ Mar. } 22.0 \text{ TT}$$
$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 2003 \text{ Apr. } 7.8452 \text{ TT} & \omega = 345^{\circ}.4643 & \\ e = 0.828360 & \Omega = 93.9292 & \Big\} 2000.0 \\ q = 0.548752 \text{ AU} & i = 10.1398 & \end{array}$$
$$a = 3.197110 \text{ AU} \quad n^{\circ} = 0.1724121 \quad P = 5.72 \text{ years}$$

$$\text{Epoch} = 2008 \text{ Nov. } 30.0 \text{ TT}$$
$$\begin{array}{llll} T = 2008 \text{ Dec. } 19.9610 \text{ TT} & \omega = 345^{\circ}.7643 & \\ e = 0.831673 & \Omega = 93.8928 & \Big\} 2000.0 \\ q = 0.534811 \text{ AU} & i = 10.2156 & \end{array}$$
$$a = 3.177213 \text{ AU} \quad n^{\circ} = 0.1740342 \quad P = 5.66 \text{ years}$$

COMETS 208P/McMILLAN AND 209P/LINEAR

Comet P/2008 U1 (McMillan) = P/2000 S7 (cf. *IAUCs* 8997, 9000) has been given the permanent designation 208P. Comet P/2008 X2 (LINEAR) = P/2004 CB (cf. *IAUC* 9002) is assigned the permanent designation 209P.

V5580 SAGITTARII

W. Liller, Vina del Mar, Chile, provides a revised position for this nova, which should replace his position published on *IAUC* 9004: $\alpha = 18^{h}22^{m}01^{s}.45 \pm 0^{s}.06$, $\delta = -28^{\circ}02'38''.1 \pm 3''.5$ (equinox 2000.0).

2008 December 12 *Daniel W. E. Green*