Circular No. 9015

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)
URL `http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html` ISSN 0081-0304
Phone 617-495-7440/7244/7444 (for emergency use only)

COMET P/2008 WZ_{96} (LINEAR)

An apparently asteroidal object that was discovered by the LINEAR survey in late November and again in late December (when the Minor Planet Center linked the two sets of observations), and designated 2008 WZ_{96} (discovery observations tabulated below; cf. *MPS* 267760, 270506), has been found to show cometary appearance by CCD astrometrists elsewhere. P. C. Sherrod (Conway, AR, U.S.A., 0.51-m *f*/4.3 astrograph) reports that images taken on Jan. 20.05–20.07 UT show a round, small, uniform nebulosity of total mag $\sim$ 17.7 surrounding a slight central condensation of mag $\sim$ 18.5; he adds that images taken over the previous two weeks had also shown suggestions of a diffuse nature. J. Y. Young (Table Mountain 0.61-m *f*/16 Cassegrain reflector) writes that his images from Jan. 29.1 show a round coma of diameter 6$''$ with only a moderate condensation and no tail visible even in longer exposures. J. E. McGaha (Tucson, AZ, U.S.A., 0.36-m f/10 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector) notes that twelve stacked 60-s exposures from Jan. 30.1 show a round 12$''$ coma with a stellar nucleus condensation and no tail.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
Nov. 30.06444	$22^h24^m11^s.08$	$-16^\circ41'49''.6$	18.3	LINEAR
Dec. 28.06701	23 21 01.03	$-$ 8 43 02.4	18.1	"

Additional astrometry, the following orbital elements by B. G. Marsden, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2009-B73. Marsden notes that the comet passed 0.36 AU from Jupiter in Apr. 2006.

$$\text{Epoch} = 2009 \text{ Jan. } 9.0 \text{ TT}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} T = 2009 \text{ Jan. } 23.9424 \text{ TT} & \omega = 337^\circ.6385 \\ e = 0.509060 & \Omega = 59.1168 \\ q = 1.646014 \text{ AU} & i = 6.9574 \end{array} \Bigg\} 2000.0$$

$$a = 3.352781 \text{ AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.1605448 \qquad P = 6.14 \text{ years}$$

COMET P/2009 B1 (BOATTINI)

Additional astrometry (including pre-discovery Catalina observations from 2008 Nov. 18) of this comet (cf. *IAUC* 9013) and the following revised orbital elements by B. G. Marsden were published on *MPEC* 2009-B50: Epoch = 2009 Feb. 18.0 TT, T = 2009 Feb. 6.2408 TT, e = 0.637146, q = 2.426329 AU, $\omega = 128^\circ.6057$, $\Omega = 297^\circ.4434$, $i = 22^\circ.2273$ (equinox 2000.0), P = 17.29 years.

2009 January 30 *Daniel W. E. Green*