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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**

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COMET C/2009 K3 (BESHORE)

E. Beshore reports his discovery of a comet with a diffuse nuclear condensation in four co-added 30-s CCD images taken with the Mount Lemmon 1.5-m reflector (discovery observation tabulated below); co-added exposures show a faint 15'' tail in p.a. $\sim 90^\circ$. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, W. H. Ryan writes that CCD images obtained on May 28.25–28.27 UT with the Magdalena Ridge Observatory 2.4-m reflector also show a distinct tail in p.a. $\approx 90^\circ$.

2009	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	Observer
May 26.16484		11 ^h 45 ^m 40 ^s .39	+4°22'33".6	20.5	Beshore

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2009-K62.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 T & = & 2011 \text{ Jan. } 9.266 \text{ TT} \\
 \omega & = & 251.413 \\
 \Omega & = & 0.032 \\
 q & = & 3.90156 \text{ AU} \\
 i & = & 146.680
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{rcl} T \\ \omega \\ \Omega \\ q \\ i \end{array}} \right\} 2000.0$$

DOUBLE QUASAR SDSS J153636.22+044127.0

R. Decarli and A. Treves, Università dell'Insubria, Como; R. Falomo, Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova and INAF; M. Dotti, University of Michigan; M. Colpi, Università di Milano-Bicocca; and J. K. Kotilainen, Tuorla Observatory, University of Turku, report on a deep *K*-band image taken at the European Southern Observatory of the quasar SDSS J153636.22+044127.0 on Apr. 30.29 UT using the Very Large Telescope (+ HAWK-I). The spectrum of this radio-quiet QSO ($z = 0.3893$) exhibits two broad emission-line systems at slightly different redshifts (differing by 3300 km/s) in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey optical spectrum and was thus proposed as a candidate binary massive-black-hole system with sub-parsec separation (Boroson and Lauer 2009, *Nature* **458**, 53). The new VLT image shows that the object is composed of two sources (with total magnitudes $m_K = 14.1$ and 15.8) at a separation of 1'' (5.3 kpc). Both sources consist of a nucleus plus an extended emission; the host galaxies, with nuclei components subtracted, have total magnitudes $m_K = 15.6$ and 16.2. These results strongly suggest that SDSS J1536+0441 is a kpc-scale pair of quasars. This interpretation is consistent with the recent independent finding of two compact radio sources in the same source by Wrobel and Laor (2009, <http://lanl.arxiv.org/abs/0905.3566>).