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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. ~ 90°. 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. ≈ 90°.

2009 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
May 26.16484	$11^h45^m40^s.39$	$+4°22'33''.6$	20.5	Beshore

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

$$T = 2011\ \text{Jan.}\ 9.266\ \text{TT} \qquad \left.\begin{aligned}\omega &= 251^\circ.413\\ \Omega &= 0.032\\ i &= 146.680\end{aligned}\right\}2000.0$$
$$q = 3.90156\ \text{AU}$$

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`).

