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COMET C/2005 P3 (SWAN)

Several people reported the appearance of a possible comet in ultraviolet SWAN website images taken with the SOHO spacecraft, including H. Sato (Sukagawa, Fukushima-ken, Japan; via S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan), M. Suzuki (Utsunomiya, Tochigi, Japan), M. Mattiazzo (Adelaide, S. Australia), M. Jäger (Vienna, Austria), and V. Bezugly (Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine). Following requests for confirmation by the Central Bureau, A. Hale (Cloudcroft, NM) reported a visual observation of the object on Aug. 25.142 UT with a 0.41-m reflector, which had a moderately condensed 3′ coma and a guessed total mag of roughly 9.5; his observation was combined with the necessarily very rough SWAN positions below measured by Sato to produce an ephemeris for the 'NEO Confirmation Page'. Available positions follow (Aug. 4 and 7 positions from Mattiazzo):

2005	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
Aug.	4	$11^h12^m.2$	$+15^\circ 20'$		SWAN
	7	11 16.1	+18 31		"
	9	11 20.9	+21 08		"
	14	11 30.3	+28 07		"
	16	11 31.8	+30 11		"
	18	11 33.3	+32 34		"
	21	11 33.7	+35 22		"
	24.83145	11 33 $54^s.79$	+37 38 $23''.5$	11.8	Sanchez
	24.84571	11 33 53.86	+37 38 57.1		"
	24.87452	11 33 53.77	+37 40 21.0		"
	25.142	11 33 50	+37 52.0		Hale
	26.12613	11 33 38.53	+38 40 13.6	14.4	McGaha
	26.12675	11 33 38.51	+38 40 14.8		"
	26.43616	11 33 33.75	+38 54 37.7		Kadota
	26.43990	11 33 33.73	+38 54 45.8		"
	26.44168	11 33 33.67	+38 54 51.4	11.0	"

S. Sanchez, R. Stoss, J. Nomen (Mallorca). 0.07-m *f*/2.8 refractor + CCD. Clearly diffuse.

J. E. McGaha (Tucson). 0.36-m f/10.0 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector + CCD. Inner coma of size 15″ × 10″, outer coma of size 45″ × 32″ (elongated in both cases in p.a. 225°.

K. Kadota (Ageo, Japan). 0.25-m *f*/5.0 reflector + CCD. Diffuse coma of diameter 2′ with central condensation, no tail. Comm. by Nakano.

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