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COMET P/2006 XG_{16} (SPACEWATCH)

C. W. Hergenrother, University of Arizona, informs us that R-band images taken with the Catalina 1.54-m telescope show the Spacewatch discovery 2006 XG_{16} (cf. *MPS* 192606, 195581; *MPO* 113007; discovery observation below) to be a comet. It was suspected to be cometary on images taken on 2007 Jan. 27.19 UT in poor seeing. Co-added 600-s R-band exposures in excellent seeing on Jan. 28.19 show the object at $R = 18.2$ with a coma 9″ in diameter and a tail 20″ long in p.a. 135°.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}
Dec. 10.41280	$7^h31^m13^s.50$	$+26°37'28''.7$

The following orbital elements (together with the Jan. 27–28 astrometry, full residuals, and an ephemeris) are given on *MPEC* 2007-B79.

$$\text{Epoch} = \text{2007 Mar. 1.0 TT}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} T = \text{2007 Feb. 9.9575 TT} & \omega = 41^\circ.3095 & \\ e = 0.420981 & \Omega = 78.4544 & \Big\} 2000.0 \\ q = 2.102218\text{ AU} & i = 9.0781 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 3.630654\text{ AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.1424711 \qquad P = 6.92\text{ years}$$

SATELLITES OF NEPTUNE

Further to *IAUC* 5347, the IAU Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature has approved the following new designations and names of satellites of Neptune:

Neptune IX	Halimede	= S/2002 N 1
Neptune X	Psamathe	= S/2003 N 1
Neptune XI	Sao	= S/2002 N 2
Neptune XII	Laomedeia	= S/2002 N 3
Neptune XIII	Neso	= S/2002 N 4

COMET C/2006 P1 (McNAUGHT)

Visual total-magnitude and tail-length estimates (cf. *IAUC* 8797): Jan. 22.51 UT, −0.3, 24° (A. Pearce, City Beach, W. Australia, naked eye); 23.53, +1.5, 30° (D. J. Frew, Perth Observatory, naked eye); 24.53, −0.3, 26° (Pearce); 25.52, +0.4, 20° (Pearce); 29.65, +2.3:, 15° (J. Drummond, Gisborne, New Zealand, naked eye); 31.52, 2.5, > 7° (Frew); Feb. 3.95, 3.0, – (W. Souza, São Paulo, Brazil, 8×30 binoculars).

2007 February 3 *Daniel W. E. Green*