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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**

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COMET C/2007 P1 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet on 20-s CCD frames obtained with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope at Siding Spring Observatory (discovery observation tabulated below), the comet showing a coma diameter of $\sim 40''$, extended to the southwest; McNaught adds that this is the most diffuse comet that he can remember observing, with little or no condensation and thus difficult to measure. Follow-up 60-s exposures by G. J. Garradd with the same telescope on Aug. 8.7 UT show some condensation, but the images are still very difficult to measure. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, J. Broughton (Reedy Creek, Qld., Australia, 0.51-m $f/2.7$ reflector) writes that his CCD frames taken on Aug. 9.7 show a $30''$ -diameter coma and a $2'$ tail in p.a. 350° .

2007 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Aug. 7.72005	$1^{\text{h}}59^{\text{m}}58^{\text{s}}.59$	$-31^\circ40'36''.8$	18.7

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2007-P23.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} T = 2007 \text{ Mar. } 26.439 \text{ TT} \\ q = 0.63318 \text{ AU} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \omega = 97.689 \\ \Omega = 190.879 \\ i = 122.963 \end{array} \Bigg\} 2000.0$$

POSSIBLE NOVA IN VULPECULA

S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan, reports the discovery of a possible nova (mag 9.5) by Hiroshi Abe (Yatsuka-cho, Matsue, Shimane-ken, Japan) on several 30-s survey frames (limiting mag about 11.5) taken around Aug. 8.54 UT using a Canon EOS Kiss Digital Camera (+ 35-mm $f/2.8$ Pentax lens), the new object measured by Nakano from Abe's JPEG image to be at $\alpha = 19^{\text{h}}54^{\text{m}}24^{\text{s}}.3$, $\delta = +20^\circ52'47''$ (equinox 2000.0; estimated uncertainty $\pm 8''$); Abe notes that nothing was visible at this location on frames taken on July 23, 31, and Aug. 4. Nakano forwards the following position and figures for the new object from K. Kadota (Ageo, Saitama-ken, Japan, 0.25-m reflector + unfiltered CCD, Aug. 8.682, mag 9.4): $24^{\text{s}}64$, $51''9$; Kadota adds that a star of red mag 18.1 and blue mag 17.6 in the USNO-A2.0 catalogue has position and figures $24^{\text{s}}66$, $51''7$. Visual magnitude estimates forwarded by E. Waagen, AAVSO: Aug. 9.006, 9.3 (S. Swierczynski, Dobczyce, Poland); 9.093, 8.7 (M. Komorous, London, ON, Canada); 9.188, 8.4 (R. King, Duluth, MN); 9.208, 8.7 (J. Bortle, Stormville, NY).