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COMET C/2007 T4 (GIBBS)

A. R. Gibbs reports his discovery of a comet on unfiltered CCD images obtained with the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope at Catalina (discovery observation tabulated below), with four co-added 30-s exposures showing a compact coma of size 8".5 \times 6" with a tapered 25" tail in p.a. 305°. Four 30-s images taken by R. A. Kowalski with the Mt. Lemmon 1.5-m reflector on Oct. 14.5 UT show a coma of diameter $\approx 10"$ with a straight tail $\approx 25"$ long in p.a. 300°. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, J. Y. Young writes that his CCD images taken with the Table Mountain 0.61-m telescope on Oct. 15.5 show a round, 6"-diameter, diffuse coma with a small bright central core and a 30" tail in p.a. 290°.

2007	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Oct. 1	2.46227	$9^{^{\mathrm{h}}} 57^{^{\mathrm{m}}} 24\overset{^{\mathrm{s}}}{.}47$	$+34^{\circ}12^{'}33\overset{''}{.6}$	18.4

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on $MPEC\ 2007\text{-}T113$.

$$\begin{array}{lll} T &=& 2007 \ {\rm Aug.} \ 11.396 \ {\rm TT} & & \omega &=& 49.967 \\ \alpha &=& 41.159 \\ q &=& 2.19536 \ {\rm AU} & i &=& 24.007 \end{array} \bigg\} 2000.0$$

COMET C/2007 T5 (GIBBS)

Gibbs also reports his discovery of another comet with a diffuse 15" coma and a brighter 6"-diameter center (no visible tail) on four co-added 30-s unfiltered Catalina Sky Survey exposures (discovery observation tabulated below). Kowalski adds that four co-added 60-s exposures at Mt. Lemmon on Oct. 14.5 UT show a strongly condensed coma of diameter 30"; his four co-added 75-s exposures on Oct. 15.5 show a condensed coma ≈ 12 " across and an extended coma ≈ 25 " across with no visible tail in poor seeing. Young found a very faint diffuse round coma of diameter 26" with no tail and very little central condensation on his images from Oct. 15.5.

2007	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Oct. 13	3.45523	$8^{^{\rm h}}16^{^{\rm m}}28\overset{{}_{\circ}}{.}09$	$+19^{\circ}11^{'}10\overset{''}{.5}$	18.2

The available astrometry, preliminary parabolic orbital elements (T=2008 Feb. 13.463 TT, q=4.40844 AU, $\omega=17^{\circ}.415$, $\Omega=110^{\circ}.115$, $i=44^{\circ}.126$, equinox 2000.0), and an ephemeris appear on MPEC 2007-T114.