Circular No. 8940

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
URL `http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html` ISSN 0081-0304
Phone 617-495-7440/7244/7444 (for emergency use only)

COMET C/2008 J1 (BOATTINI)

A. Boattini reports his discovery of a comet with a coma diameter of $\sim 50''$ and a fan-shaped tail $2'$ long in p.a. 235° on Catalina Sky Survey CCD images obtained with the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope (discovery observation tabulated below). Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, several other CCD astrometrists have found this object to show cometary appearance. S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan, reports that images obtained on May 2.73–2.74 UT by A. Asami and T. Sakamoto (Bisei Spaceguard Center 1.0-m $f/3$ reflector) show a coma diameter of $20''$ and a tail $24''$ long in p.a. 230°. R. Apitzsch (Wildberg, Germany, 0.35-m $f/4.2$ reflector, May 3.02–3.03) finds a $1'$ tail toward the southwest. V. Gonano, E. Guido, and G. Sostero (Remanzacco, Italy, 0.45-m $f/4.4$ reflector) report that thirty stacked 60-s unfiltered exposures obtained during May 3.02–3.05 show a compact coma $\sim 15''$ in diameter (total mag ~ 14.7) with a central condensation and an apparent tail $35''$ long in p.a. 280°. R. Ligustri (Talmassons, Udine, Italy, 0.35-m $f/5$ reflector, May 3.08–3.09) writes that thirty 60-s exposures show a faint tail $45''$ long. J. M. Aymami (Tiana, Spain, 0.25-m $f/5$ reflector, May 3.11–3.12) finds a nuclear condensation and a short, fan-like tail $\approx 16''$ long in p.a. 238°.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 2.46097	$21^h01^m39^s.57$	$+10°19'29''.9$	14.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-J17.

$$T = 2008\ \text{Mar. } 17.336\ \text{TT} \qquad q = 1.54922\ \text{AU}$$

$$\left.\begin{aligned} \omega &= 0^\circ.915 \\ \Omega &= 257.241 \\ i &= 46.374 \end{aligned}\right\} 2000.0$$

V5579 SAGITTARII = NOVA SAGITTARII 2008

N. N. Samus, Institute of Astronomy, Moscow, informs us that the nova announced on *IAUC* 8937 is being assigned the variable-star designation V5579 Sgr. Additional photometry from M. M. Santangelo, Capannori, Italy (cf. *CBET* 1352): Apr. 27.124 UT, $V = 7.56 \pm 0.04$, $B-V = +1.33 \pm 0.05$. Visual magnitude estimates: Apr. 24.083, 6.7 (K. Hornoch, Vohancice, Czech Republic); 25.35, 6.9 (W. Souza, Sao Paulo, Brazil; moonlight); 26.29, 7.8 (R. Fidrich, Bakonycsernye, Hungary); 27.361, 7.7 (Souza); 28.361, 8.0 (Souza).

2008 May 3 *Daniel W. E. Green*