

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 J3 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of another comet on CCD images obtained with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope at Siding Spring (discovery observation tabulated below), the object described as having a condensed coma of diameter 6''–8'' and a faint fan tail 30''–40'' long spanning 20° toward p.a. 240°. His images on May 11.66 UT show a coma with FWHM = 6'' and a narrow tail 45'' long in p.a. 245°; stacked images taken by McNaught on May 12.64 show a 40'' tail in p.a. 245° that appears as a fan spanning p.a. 230°–260°. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, A. C. Gilmore and P. M. Kilmartin (Mt. John 1.0-m *f*/7.7 reflector) report that their CCD images from May 11.62–11.63 show a coma diameter of ~ 7'' and a narrow tail 25'' long in p.a. 250°; their exposures from May 12.71–12.72 show a tail 25'' long in p.a. 250°, a coma diameter of ~ 10'' with total magnitude 18.7–19.0 measured in a 12''-diameter aperture, and a starlike condensation of mag 19.9 as measured in a 5''-diameter aperture. N. Teamo, Punaauia, French Polynesia, finds a tail 15'' long in p.a. 250° on his images taken on May 12.55–12.58 with a 0.41-m *f*/8.0 reflector; J. C. Pelle measures a tail 7' long in p.a. 240° from additional images taken by Teamo on May 12.61–12.63.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 10.69282	21 ^h 45 ^m 44 ^s .98	–42° 44' 30".3	18.4

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-J64; this comet may be of short period.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} T = 2008 \text{ Apr. } 3.968 \text{ TT} \\ q = 3.53197 \text{ AU} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \omega = 259.341 \\ \Omega = 28.660 \\ i = 25.427 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} T \\ q \end{array}} \right\} 2000.0$$

COMET C/2008 J2 (BESHORE)

Further to *IAUC* 8941, J. McGaha revises his description from May 7.3 UT: 10-s exposures show a dense condensation of diameter 5'' surrounded by a coma of diameter 11''; fifteen stacked 60-s exposures show a sharp disk of diameter 21'' with no diffuseness and a bright elongation extending ~ 15''.5 from the object's center. Sixty stacked 10-s exposures from May 10.35 to 10.40 show a uniform disk of size 12'' surrounded by a faint coma of diameter 30'' and a faint 68'' tail in p.a. 261°.