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COMET C/2008 N1 (HOLMES)

An apparently asteroidal object discovered by Robert E. Holmes, Jr., Charleston, IL, U.S.A., on CCD images taken with a 0.40-m *f*/5.8 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector (discovery observation tabulated below), and posted on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, has been found to show cometary appearance by other CCD astrometrists. P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, England, 0.40-m *f*/6 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector) reports that the object appears slightly ($\sim$ 10 percent) larger and more diffuse than nearby stars of similar brightness in a 23-min exposure from July 4.08 UT, while a 400-s exposure shows the object to be "soft" with very little central condensation and a diameter of $4''$, with a possible faint elongation $5''$ long in p.a. 225° (but not significantly different from stellar images). L. Buzzi (Varese, Italy, 0.60-m *f*/4.6 reflector) writes that two series of stacked image totalling 30 min of exposure from July 5.03–5.07 show a nearly stellar coma apparently elongated $\sim 10''$ toward p.a. $\sim$ 190°; his stacked exposures from July 6.0 in very good seeing show an image slightly larger than nearby stars of similar brightness but with no tail or elongation. S. Foglia reports that analysis of Holmes' images from July 2.35, 5.4, and 6.4 show a stellar appearance, though the size of the images appear slightly larger than stars of similar brightness. J. Lacruz, La Cañada, Spain, reports that his "blinking" of sets of images taken (apparently with a 0.3-m reflector) on July 5.06 show a diffuse coma $\sim 12''$ in diameter, elongated to the southwest.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
July 1.32643	$23^h44^m50^s.01$	$+14^\circ16'12''.3$	20.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-N19.

$$T = 2009\ \text{Sept.}24.954\ \text{TT} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{l}\omega = 100^\circ.882\\ \Omega = 357.474\\ i = 115.556\end{array}\right\}2000.0$$
$$q = 2.77594\ \text{AU}$$

COMET C/2008 J1 (BOATTINI)

Visual total-magnitude estimates: May 12.11 UT, 12.3 (J. J. Gonzalez, Leon, Spain, 20-cm reflector); June 1.92, 11.3 (M. L. Paradowski, Dabrowa, Poland, 25-cm refl.); 14.97, 10.8 (Paradowski); 27.98, 10.3 (Gonzalez); July 2.01, 10.8 (M. Meyer, Limburg, Germany, 25-cm refl.); 4.99, 10.7 (Meyer).

2008 July 7 *Daniel W. E. Green*