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COMET C/2005 L2 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet (discovery position below) with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt in the course of the Siding Spring Survey; 60-s exposures on June 2.6 UT showed the images to appear soft and probably cometary in reasonably good seeing. Exposures on June 3.4 showed the object to be nearly stellar with a $10''$ narrow tail in p.a. 90°.

2005	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
June	2.55561	$13^{\rm h}22^{\rm m}35\overset{\rm s}{.}46$	$-47^{\circ}47'28\overset{''}{.}6$	18.5

The following preliminary parabolic orbital elements are from *MPEC* 2005-L31, where an ephemeris also appears:

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} T = \text{2005 July 8.504 TT} & \omega = 292\overset{\circ}{.}454 \\ & \Omega = 155.523 \\ q = \text{3.19950 AU} & i = 152.809 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET C/2005 L3 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught has reported yet another discovery of a comet (discovery position below) with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt in the course of the Siding Spring Survey; 60-s exposures on June 3.8 UT showed a condensation of diameter $10''$, while 20-s exposures on June 4.6 showed diameter $\sim 8''$ in worse seeing. Observations by A. C. Gilmore (Mt. John Observatory, 1.0-m $f/7.7$ reflector) on June 4.6 showed the object to be slightly more diffuse than the surrounding stars, although the object's nature was unclear in poor seeing on June 5.6.

2005	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
June	3.67556	$21^{\rm h}36^{\rm m}01\overset{\rm s}{.}71$	$-33^{\circ}05'00\overset{''}{.}3$	17.7

The initial astrometric observations, the following very preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-L17.

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} T = \text{2008 Jan. 10.955 TT} & \omega = 50\overset{\circ}{.}099 \\ & \Omega = 289.093 \\ q = \text{5.33517 AU} & i = 138.781 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

