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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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COMET P/2005 N2 (HERGENROTHER)

D. Herald, Kambah (near Canberra, A.C.T.), reports his recovery of comet P/1998 W2 on CCD images obtained with a 0.36-m $f/3.9$ Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector on July 4 and 5 (with astrometry, the following orbital elements, and an ephemeris published on *MPEC* 2005-N28). Herald notes that stacking fifteen 5-min frames shows a tail of length $\approx 20''$ in p.a. 270° . The indicated correction to the predictions on *MPC* 45658 and in the *2005 Comet Handbook* is $\Delta T = +0.27$ day.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Epoch} & = & 2005 \text{ Nov. } 6.0 \text{ TT} \\ \left. \begin{array}{l} T = 2005 \text{ Nov. } 2.4811 \text{ TT} \\ e = 0.607511 \\ q = 1.425773 \text{ AU} \end{array} \right\} & & \left. \begin{array}{l} \omega = 13^\circ.8784 \\ \Omega = 356.5030 \\ i = 21.8941 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0 \\ a = 3.632648 \text{ AU} \quad n^\circ = 0.1423538 \quad P = 6.924 \text{ years} \end{array}$$

COMET C/2005 N3 (LARSON)

S. Larson reports his discovery of a comet (discovery observation given below) on CCD images taken in the course of the Mt. Lemmon Survey, the object showing a $4''$ coma and a $10''$ tail in p.a. 230° on July 5.4 UT. R. H. McNaught obtained confirming CCD images with the 1.0-m $f/8$ reflector at Siding Spring on July 5.6 that show a condensation merging into a tail $15''$ long in p.a. 240° .

2005 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
July 5.38079	$21^{\text{h}} 23^{\text{m}} 26.08^{\text{s}}$	$-14^\circ 08' 44.7''$	20.2

The astrometry (including prediscovery observations from Mount Lemmon on July 3.4), the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-N29. The comet is quite likely to be of short period.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \left. \begin{array}{l} T = 2005 \text{ Dec. } 18.860 \text{ TT} \\ q = 1.25088 \text{ AU} \end{array} \right\} & & \left. \begin{array}{l} \omega = 98^\circ.198 \\ \Omega = 300.859 \\ i = 8.243 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0 \end{array}$$

COMET 21P/GIACOBINI-ZINNER

Total visual magnitude estimates by J. J. Gonzalez (Leon, Spain, 0.20-m refl.): May 18.12 UT, 11.2; June 2.09, 10.5; 6.11, 10.2; July 3.11, 9.4.