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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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COMET C/1981 W1 (SOLWIND)

R. Kracht, Elmshorn, Germany, reports that he has found a previously unrecognized Kreutz sungrazing comet on Solwind spacecraft images taken on 1981 Nov. 20. C/1981 W1, which showed a small tail, was fainter than the previous Solwind comets (cf. *IAUC* 4129, 4229, 4230) — perhaps of mag 2–3. The observations below were provided by Kracht.

1981 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}
Nov. 20.059	15 ^h 37.9 ^m	–21° 52′
20.062	15 37.9	–21 52
20.066	15 38.0	–21 51
20.069	15 38.0	–21 50
20.073	15 38.1	–21 49
20.076	15 38.2	–21 48
20.079	15 38.2	–21 49
20.083	15 38.3	–21 47
20.086	15 38.3	–21 47
20.090	15 38.4	–21 46
20.265	15 41.3	–21 12
20.272	15 41.4	–21 11
20.275	15 41.5	–21 09
20.279	15 41.6	–21 09

The following parabolic orbital elements are by B. G. Marsden:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 T = 1981 \text{ Nov. } 20.61 \text{ TT} & \omega = 97.36 & \\
 q = 0.0048 \text{ AU} & \Omega = 24.63 & \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} T \\ q \end{array}} \right\} 2000.0 \\
 & i = 135.48 &
 \end{array}$$

COMET C/2005 K2 (LINEAR)

Additional offsets of the secondary component from the primary (cf. *IAUC* 8548) from CCD images, reported via E. Jehin, European Southern Observatory: June 14.932 UT, 40′0 in p.a. 47°1 (O. Nielsen, Rijswijk, The Netherlands, 0.20-m reflector); 14.940, 40′2 in p.a. 47°7 (E. Bryssinck, Antwerp, Belgium, 0.28-m reflector).

Visual total-magnitude estimates: June 11.87 UT, 9.0 (G. Santa, Szeged, Hungary, 0.11-m reflector); 13.93, 9.6 (A. Baransky, Bucha, Ukraine, 0.20-m reflector); 17.91, 9.2 (J. J. Gonzalez, Leon, Spain, 0.20-m reflector); 24.35, 9.9 (D. A. J. Seargent, Cowra, N.S.W., 0.25-m reflector).