

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://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html> ISSN 0081-0304
 Phone 617-495-7440/7244/7444 (for emergency use only)

COMET C/2005 X1 (BESHORE)

Edward C. Beshore has discovered a diffuse comet with slight central condensation (diameter $\sim 15''$; possible broad, faint tail $\sim 5''$ long in p.a. $\sim 300^\circ$) on Catalina Sky Survey images (0.68-m Schmidt telescope; discovery observation tabulated below). Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', Š. Gajdoš and J. Vilagi confirm the diffuse nature of the object (coma diameter $\sim 8''$) on CCD images taken on Dec. 9.1 UT with the 0.6-m $f/5.5$ reflector at Modra; G. Hug (Eskridge, Kansas, 0.7-m reflector) writes that his images taken on Dec. 9.4 also show the object to be diffuse.

2005 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Dec. 7.41028	$10^{\text{h}}13^{\text{m}}15.^{\text{s}}52$	$+38^{\circ}35'32''.9$	19.6

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2005-X51.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} T = 2005 \text{ Sept. } 30.861 \text{ TT} \\ q = 3.27707 \text{ AU} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \omega = 142.571 \\ \Omega = 301.419 \\ i = 96.463 \end{array} \Bigg\} 2000.0$$

V445 PUPPIS

D. K. Lynch, R. J. Rudy, C. C. Venturini, and S. Mazuk, Aerospace Corporation; R. C. Puetter, University of California at San Diego; R. B. Perry, Langley Research Center, NASA; and B. Walp, Lick Observatory, report 1.0- to 2.5- μm spectroscopy of V445 Pup (cf. *IAUC* 7559, 7580) with the Lick 3.0-m telescope (+ VNIRIS) at Nov. 16.535 UT. The object has faded and the thermal dust emission (Lynch *et al.* 2004, *A.J.* **128**, 2962) has virtually disappeared. No visible counterpart has appeared, so it is likely that the dust has cooled significantly. Structured He I emission at 1.0830 μm remains strong.

COMET C/2005 W2 (CHRISTENSEN)

Improved elliptical orbital elements from *MPEC* 2005-X23:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} T = 2006 \text{ Mar. } 28.0034 \text{ TT} \\ e = 0.825331 \\ q = 3.330897 \text{ AU} \\ a = 19.069727 \text{ AU} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \omega = 111.8212 \\ \Omega = 336.5983 \\ i = 11.2651 \end{array} \Bigg\} 2000.0$$

$n^\circ = 0.0118355 \quad P = 83.3 \text{ years}$