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COMET P/2006 H1 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery on a comet on CCD images taken with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt (discovery observation tabulated below) in the course of the Siding Spring Survey, the object having an asteroidal head with a very weak, diffuse tail 8″ long in p.a. $\sim 250^{\circ}$. Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', A. C. Gilmore reports that his CCD images taken on Apr. 30.7 UT with the 1.0-m $f/7.7$ reflector at Mount John through cirrus clouds show a small, condensed head with a narrow tail to the west-southwest. Images taken by J. Young with the Table Mountain 0.6-m Cassegrain reflector on May 1.5 in twilight show a round 6″ coma with no noticeable central condensation and no tail.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Apr.	29.78705	$22^{\rm h}29^{\rm m}25\overset{\rm s}{.}44$	$-19^{\circ}35'46\overset{''}{.}1$	17.9

The available astrometry, the following preliminary elliptical orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-J06.

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll} T = \text{2006 Feb. 24.566 TT} & \omega = 285\overset{\circ}{.}416 \\ e = 0.38667 & \Omega = 357.078 \\ q = \text{2.15508 AU} & i = 13.045 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

$$a = \text{3.51371 AU} \qquad n^{\circ} = 0.149642 \qquad P = \text{6.6 years}$$

V5117 SAGITTARII

D. K. Lynch, R. W. Russell, and R. J. Rudy, The Aerospace Corporation; and C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota, report 0.8- to 5.5-μm spectroscopy of V5117 Sgr (cf. *IAUC* 8673) on May 1 UT using SpeX at the Infrared Telescope Facility. The nova is a classical Fe II nova that is still in the low-excitation stage. It showed strong emission of the Brackett and Pashen lines, the Lyβ-fluoresced O I lines, C I and N I, Fe II emission, and weak He I 1.0830- and 2.0581-μm lines. There was also a strong continuum increasing to longer wavelengths, indicative of thermal emission from dust. The thermal continuum was well fitted by an 1100-K black body. $E(B-V) = 0.50 \pm 0.15$ was obtained from the O I lines. Infrared magnitudes ($\pm$ 0.1): $J = 10.6$, $H = 9.5$, $K = 7.9$.

Visual magnitude estimates by A. Pearce, Nedlands, W. Australia: Feb. 20.842 UT, 10.1; 21.844, 10.1. CCD red-magnitude from D. Mendicini, Santa Fe, Argentina (provided by E. Waagen, AAVSO): Mar. 24.208, 10.5.

