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COMET C/2006 K3 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of yet another comet on Uppsala Schmidt telescope images (discovery observation tabulated below); the new object appeared diffuse with a 11″ coma, extended 20″ to the southeast; deeper exposures on May 22.37 UT show a well-condensed head with a 20″ tail in p.a. 135°.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May	22.34471	$6^{h}50^{m}29^{s}.50$	$-63^{\circ}44'05''.7$	17.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-K40.

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} T & = & \text{2007 Mar. 13.340 TT} \\ q & = & \text{2.54087 AU} \end{array}\right\} \left.\begin{array}{lll} \omega & = & 327^{\circ}.144 \\ \Omega & = & 49.694 \\ i & = & 92.714 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET C/2006 K4 (NEAT)

An apparently asteroidal object reported by the NEAT project from their CCD images taken with the 1.2-m Schmidt telescope at Palomar (discovery observation tabulated below) has been found cometary (following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page') by J. Young at Table Mountain (0.61-m f/16 Cassegrain reflector), who noted a round 5″ coma with no central condensation and no tail on his images from May 24.4 UT.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May	18.45049	$20^{h}53^{m}42^{s}.84$	$+14^{\circ}41'24''.0$	19.9

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-K41.

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} T & = & \text{2007 Dec. 3.052 TT} \\ q & = & \text{3.21880 AU} \end{array}\right\} \left.\begin{array}{lll} \omega & = & 233^{\circ}.246 \\ \Omega & = & 116.524 \\ i & = & 111.517 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET 73P/SCHWASSMANN-WACHMANN

Further to *IAUC* 8709, additional components have been designated: 'BQ' on *MPEC* 2006-J31, and 'BR' and 'BS' on *MPEC* 2006-K18.

  Daniel W. E. Green