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COMET C/2006 W1 (GIBBS)

A. R. Gibbs reports his discovery of a comet on Catalina Sky Survey CCD images obtained with the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope, the object showing a fairly distinct nuclear condensation (discovery observation tabulated below); four combined 60-s images on the same night in 2″.2 seeing show a coma of diameter 8″, a main tail 30″ long in p.a. 280°, and a possible secondary 22″ tail in p.a. 315°. S. Larson reports that images obtained on Nov. 17.5 UT at Mount Lemmon show the comet having a 20″ coma and a broad, 100″ tail in p.a. 285°. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, other CCD observers have reported on the object's cometary appearance, including P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, England, 0.40-m *f*/6 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope; images on Nov. 18.19–18.25 UT show an elongated coma or possible tail up to 15″ long in p.a. 270°) and J. G. Ries (McDonald Observatory, 0.76-m reflector; *R*-band images on Nov. 18.5 show a diffuse area around the object, apparently elongated 10″ slightly north of due west).

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Nov.	16.40896	$8^{\rm h}59^{\rm m}27^{\rm s}.60$	$+3^\circ11'01''.0$	18.6

The available astrometry, the following very preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-W22.

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} T = \text{2006 May 11.583 TT} & \omega = 236^\circ.258 & \\ & \Omega = 157.133 & \\ q = \text{1.66452 AU} & i = 17.855 & \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

COMET P/2006 U5 (CHRISTENSEN)

Additional astrometry has shown that this comet (cf. *IAUC* 8768) has a short orbital period, the improved elements below coming from *MPEC* 2006-W09:

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} T = \text{2007 Jan. 23.878 TT} & \omega = 100^\circ.212 & \\ e = 0.33759 & \Omega = 4.887 & \\ q = \text{2.31757 AU} & i = 3.426 & \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

$$a = \text{3.49871 AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.150606 \qquad P = \text{6.54 years}$$

