

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)
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COMET P/2007 R2 (GIBBS)

A. R. Gibbs reports his discovery of a comet on four co-added 30-s unfiltered CCD images obtained with the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope in the course of the Catalina Sky Survey (“discovery” observation tabulated below), the comet showing a compact 7'' coma and a short, narrow tail 10'' long in p.a. 250°. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center’s ‘NEOCP’ webpage, other CCD astrometric observers have also commented on the object’s cometary appearance. J. W. Young (Table Mountain 0.61-m *f*/16 reflector) notes that his images from Sept. 11.36–11.39 UT show a slightly elongated 8''-diameter coma with a fairly bright condensation, and a very straight tail is 40'' long in p.a. 255° is seen in several long exposures; images from Sept. 12.5 show a 8'' coma slightly elongated toward the 30''-long tail (p.a. 255°–260°). J. E. McGaha (Tucson, AZ, 0.62-m *f*/5.1 reflector) reports that five stacked 60-s images from Sept. 11.44–11.45 show a 30'' coma elongated in p.a. 245° with a very narrow tail extending 90'' at this same position angle. P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, England, 0.40-m *f*/6 reflector) writes that his stacked images from Sept. 12.1 show a diffuse coma of diameter 4'' with a 10'' tail in p.a. 260°.

2007 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Sept.10.41401	3 ^h 06 ^m 39 ^s .7	+17°40'47''	18.2

The available astrometry, the following preliminary elliptical orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2007-R55.

$$\left. \begin{array}{ll}
 T = 2007 \text{ Aug. } 26.359 \text{ TT} & \omega = 352.796 \\
 e = 0.55779 & \Omega = 8.509 \\
 q = 1.45571 \text{ AU} & i = 1.410 \\
 a = 3.29193 \text{ AU} & n^\circ = 0.165017 \quad P = 6.0 \text{ years}
 \end{array} \right\} 2000.0$$

V455 ANDROMEDAE = HS 2331+3905

N. N. Samus, Institute of Astronomy, Moscow, informs us that this cataclysmic variable, which has undergone its first known major outburst this past week (cf. *CBET* 1053), has been assigned the permanent variable-star designation V455 And. E. Broens, Mol, Belgium, reports additional visual magnitude estimates on behalf of the Werkgroep Veranderlijke Sterren, Vereniging Voor Sterrenkunde: Sept. 6.837 UT, 8.7 (A. Diepvens, Balen, Belgium); 7.883, 9.2 (Broens); 9.872, 9.9 (H. Hautecler, Boutserssem, Belgium); 10.809, 10.3 (D. Vansteelant, Varsenare, Belgium).