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**INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**

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*COMET C/2008 J2 (BESHORE)*

E. Beshore reports his discovery of a comet with a bright, condensed condensation  $\sim 20''$  across and a faint tail in p.a.  $270^\circ$  on images taken with the Mt. Lemmon 1.5-m reflector (discovery observation tabulated below). After posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, J. C. Pelle reported a diffuse head and a tail in p.a.  $250^\circ$  on images taken by N. Teamo (Punaauia, French Polynesia, 0.41-m reflector) on May 6.52–6.56 UT. A. C. Gilmore (Mt. John 1.0-m reflector, May 6.53–6.55) found a bright circular coma of diameter  $\sim 16''$  (total mag 14.4–14.5 in a  $7''$ -radius aperture) and a faint, short tail seen as slight diffuseness on the west side (p.a.  $\sim 250^\circ$ ). G. Sostero and E. Guido (Remanzacco, Italy, 0.2-m reflector, May 6.95) write that co-added unfiltered exposures show an extremely compact  $20''$  coma of almost uniform brightness, slightly elongated toward the southwest; remote Cousins-*R*-band imaging with a 0.25-m reflector near Mayhill, NM, U.S.A., on May 7.37 yields coma diameter  $\sim 25''$  (total mag  $\sim 13.9$ ), elongated toward p.a.  $240^\circ$ . Other reports of cometary appearance have been received from P. Birtwhistle, Great Shefford, Berkshire, England (0.40-m reflector, May 6.96–6.97; diffuse with a concentrated center, the  $22''$  coma having a softer edge towards p.a.  $260^\circ$  but no obvious tail); J. M. Aymami, Tiana, Spain (0.25-m reflector, May 6.97–6.98; nebulous object of mag  $\sim 14.8$ ); L. Buzzi, Varese, Italy (0.60-m reflector, May 7.03–7.09; several stacked images reveal a compact coma, clearly elongated with a broad tail at least  $20''$  long); C. Jacques and E. Pimentel, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil (0.30-m reflector, May 7.08–7.09; condensed, elongated coma of size  $18''.7 \times 31''.3$ ); J. E. McGaha, Tucson, AZ, U.S.A. (0.36-m reflector, May 7.29–7.32; starlike nuclear condensation with a  $3''$  coma, elongated  $5''$  toward p.a.  $260^\circ$ ); and J. Young, Table Mountain (0.61-m reflector, May 7.32–7.35;  $12''$  coma, slightly elongated toward p.a.  $260^\circ$ , with a hint of a poorly defined tail  $\geq 40''$  long between between p.a.  $245^\circ$  and  $275^\circ$ ).

2008 UT	$\alpha_{2000}$	$\delta_{2000}$	Mag.
May 6.44680	$17^{\text{h}}06^{\text{m}}21.38^{\text{s}}$	$-13^{\circ}33'36''.1$	13.8

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-J39; this comet may be of short period.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} T = 2008 \text{ Oct. } 7.073 \text{ TT} \\ q = 1.09077 \text{ AU} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \omega = 256.546 \\ \Omega = 85.219 \\ i = 16.563 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} T \\ q \end{array}} \right\} 2000.0$$