

3020

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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COMET C/2012 CH₁₇ (MOSS)

An apparently asteroidal object discovery reported by Claudine Rinner (discovery observations tabulated below) on CCD images taken with a 0.5-m f/3

reflector in the course of the Morocco Oukaïmeden Sky Survey (MOSS), operated

at a site 80 km south of Marrakesh by the Cadi Ayyad University -- and assigned the minor-planet designation 2012 CH₁₇ by the Minor Planet Center,

with an initial orbit appearing on MPEC 2012-C43 (the "Daily Orbit Update" for

Feb. 12), with the object posted in the MPC's online lists of unusual objects

-- has been found to show cometary appearance by other CCD astrometrists. H.

Sato (Tokyo, Japan, 0.43-m f/6.8 astrograph; Feb. 12.93 UT) found a strongly

condensed coma 15" in diameter with a hint of a split tail 30" long toward p.a. 225 and 315 degrees; the total V-band magnitude was 17.9 as measured within a circular aperture of radius 7".5. J. V. Scotti writes that stacked

60-s images obtained in heavy moonlight with the Spacewatch 1.8-m f/2.7 reflector (+ Schott OG-515 filter; bandpass 515-950 nm; 0".62/pixel; Feb. 13.45-13.46) show a coma diameter of 10" and a tail that extends 0'.33 in p.a. 264 degrees.

2012	UT				R.A. (2000)			Decl.	Mag.	Observer
Feb.	7.12218	11	43	11.55	+24	42	22.3	17.9	Rinner	
	7.13634	11	43	11.36	+24	42	31.9	18.0	"	
	7.15047	11	43	11.14	+24	42	42.8	18.3	"	
	7.16462	11	43	10.82	+24	42	52.9	18.2	"	
	8.18604	11	42	53.28	+24	55	19.7	18.4	"	
	8.21014	11	42	52.89	+24	55	37.4	18.7	"	
	8.23407	11	42	52.41	+24	55	54.9	18.7	"	

The available astrometry (including predisccovery astrometry at Catalina from

Feb. 2), the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements by G. V. Williams, and an ephemeris appear on MPEC 2012-C48.

T = 2012 Sept.28.0781 TT	Peri. = 138.0195
	Node = 125.9444 2000.0
q = 1.295714 AU	Incl. = 27.7157

NOTE: These 'Central Bureau Electronic Telegrams' are sometimes superseded by text appearing later in the printed IAU Circulars.

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Green

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