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COMET PANTHER 1980U

Improved parabolic elements have been calculated by Dr D. W. Green using 12 precise positions 1980 December 27 to 1981 January 8, residuals being within 2'':

T	1981 Jan. 26.8961 <i>E.T.</i>	ω	105°·1552	}	1950·0
		Ω	331°·3119		
q	1·664631 A.U.	i	82°·7360		

Using the above elements, S. W. Milbourn provides the following ephemeris:

1981 <i>E.T.</i>	R.A. (1950·0) Dec.		Δ	r	Mag. ₁
	h	m			
Mar. 2	19	39·4	+78	51·6	
7	19	52·3	84	16·7	1·403
12	00	52·4	89	32·7	1·744
17	07	24·9	84	22·8	1·417
22	07	38·4	78	43·7	1·787
27	07	45·8	73	12·3	1·839
Apr. 1	07	51·74	67	54·3	1·480
6	07	57·12	62	53·6	1·592
11	08	02·25	58	12·5	1·897
16	08	07·24	53	52·2	1·743
21	08	12·15	49	52·4	1·962
26	08	17·01	46	12·2	1·924
May 1	08	21·84	42	50·4	2·032
6	08	26·65	+39	45·1	2·107

$$\text{Mag.}_1 = 5.5 + 5 \log \Delta + 10 \log r$$

Visual observations by G. S. Keitch (Wrington, Avon) showed a brightening from magnitude 8·8 to 8·4 over the period 1980 December 27 to 1981 January 13 with a coma 6' diameter and a tail in p.a. 0°–20°.

BRANCHETT'S OBJECT IN SCUTUM

Further observations have failed to confirm a nova in Scutum (*Circular 614*). R. W. Argyle reports that the plate obtained at the R.G.O. refers to an object not on the Palomar Sky Survey. No further information is available at present.

FLARE STAR IN M42 REGION

M. Gavin (Worcester Park), reports that the star Parenago 1644 (R.A. 05^h 29^m 57^s, Dec. –06° 06' 23'': 1950·0) showed a flare type variability on photographs taken with a Wray astrograph (f/4—90 cm F.L.) on 1980 November