

The Astronomer

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Please reply to: Editor.

Comet Wilson (19861)

Christine Wilson, Palomar Observatory, reports her discovery of a new comet during the course of the second Palomar Sky Survey. This has been confirmed photographically and, subsequently, the object has been found, prediscoversy on Damon Patrol plates:

1986UT	RA (1950)	DEC (1950)	m1	Observer
Aug. 4.266	22 ^h 23 ^m 0 ^s	+25° 15'	12	Schwartz
5.33194	22 22 12 ^s	+25 10.6	7.5	Wilson
6.07813	22 20 56.22	+25 06 40.7	11.5	Pollas
6.15515	22 20 48.87	+25 06 19.9	10	McCrosky

However, visual searches by Morris and Green around Aug. 6.2UT failed to show a comet to mag 10.5. For TA, Bouma and Feijth in the Netherlands also report failure to detect a comet to mag 11 around Aug. 6.8UT. It is possible the discovery was during a brief outburst but clearly the projected track requires close monitoring and any further positive results should be telephoned to the Editor. (This detailed report is the first 'downloaded' via the IAU Computer Service Link, by the TA organisation.)

Guy M Hurst.