

The Astronomer

Founded 1984

Issued by: The Astronomer. Editor: Guy M Hurst, 12, Clare Close, Earls Barton, Northampton, NN6 0PP, England. Tel: 0604 811030.

COMET BRADFIELD (19791)

Candy telexes that he has observed a comet discovered by Bradfield as follows:

1979 Dec 25.85069 RA $16^h 17^m 235^s 46'$ (1950) total magnitude 5.
The comet is described as diffuse with central condensation. A tail has also been reported with length greater than 1° .

Candy has also reported elements for this comet based on 3 accurate positions over a 2 day interval with residuals of less than $1''$:

T = 1979 Dec. 21.488 ET
w = 257.98)
 Ω = 102.67) 1950.0
i = 148.51)
q = 0.5382 AU

The following ephemeris by Candy has been telexed by Green:

1979 Dec. 27	$16^h 15^m 9$	$-36^\circ 14'$	Earth 1.130	Sun 0.553	Mag approx 5
29	$16 13.5$	$-37 08$			
31	$16 11.4$	$-38 06$			
1980 Jan. 2	$16 09.7$	$-39 10$			
4	$16 08.5$	$-40 23$			
6	$16 08.0$	$-41 47$	0.779	0.646	

Editorial Note: In view of the extreme declination of this object at present, this circular is only being issued to selected overseas subscribers to section A who may be able to observe the comet at more favourable latitudes than UK observers. Overseas reports by airmail providing positive observations of this comet will be appreciated at TA HQ as soon as possible.

Peter Bradfield on Christmas Day! When did this last happen!
Above is a copy sent to overseas only. Can you let me know whether we are likely to see this comet at our latitudes later on please?

Also another message:

1979YA DISCOVERED DEBEHOGNE RANDEL

1979 DEC 20. 11944 $6^h 04^m 9$ $+14^\circ 45'$

later described as diffuse m_{216} . Diffuse with central condensation.
Daily motion RA $+00^m 10$ Dec Zero.

Best wishes, Guy