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THE ASTRONOMER Electronic Circular No 232 1988 Dec 31 14.20UT.

Telecom Gold 72:MAG60138

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COMET YANAKA (1988r)

H. Kosai, Japanese National Observatory, reports the possible discovery of a comet by Tetsuo Yanaka with 0.15-m binoculars. The comet's diameter was estimated as 3'.

1988 Dec 29.836UT RA 16h35.5m Dec +01 08° (1950) m1=9-9.5.

Confirmed by Levy (0.4-m reflector)

1988 Dec 30.552UT RA 16h32.1m Dec +00 38° (1950) m1=8.6

Coma dia 2', tail 7' in PA 290.

IAUC 4696

AX PERSEI

John Bortle (USA) and Patrick Schmeer (Germany) report a rapid fade of this variable:

1988 Dec 16.05UT, 10.5 (Schmeer); 17.0, 10.5 (Bortle); 27.0, 12.2 (Bortle); 30.00UT, 12.6 (Schmeer)

Guy M Hurst