

OBSERVATIONS OF COMET 1884 C (WOLF.)

Dr. Wolf, of Heidelberg, discovered this Comet on September 17th.

- "1884, *September 27th*, 8.30 p.m. G.M.T.—The Comet was about $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, almost exactly following the bright double Star γ Pegasi. In the $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch telescope it appeared as a very faint and diffused nebulous object with very little central condensation, a 10th magnitude Star was involved in the Comet on the following side. The companion of γ Pegasi is well seen with power 70, and the colours are distinct, A. deep yellow, B. blue.
- October 6th*.—Very diffuse and faint, the Comet is not far from the cluster 15 M. Pegasi, which is, with the same telescope and power, a comparatively brilliant, and beautiful object.
- October 11th*.—The Comet is very well seen, there is a suspicion of a minute stellar nucleus of about 10th magnitude, the surrounding haze is about 4' in diameter.
- October 14th*.—Certainly a little brighter, the nucleus is now as a distinct 10th magnitude Star.
- October 20th*.—Observed nearly on meridian. The Comet is about midway between the Stars ϵ and θ Pegasi, it is hardly as bright as on the 14th, but appears more diffuse and no stellar nucleus can be seen.
- October 22nd*.—The Comet is excessively faint, certainly much fainter than on the 20th, the minute nucleus again seen about 10th magnitude, but the surrounding haze is scarcely discernable.
- October 24th*.—The Comet is only just visible, no nucleus can be seen, the Moon however is bright, the Comet is approaching the 4th magnitude Star θ Pegasi.
- November 7th*, 6.30 p.m.—The Comet is about 45' following π Aquarii; it is certainly a little brighter and smaller, with a more condensed centre, but the existence of a stellar nucleus is uncertain.
- November 17th*.—Very little change, cannot be sure of a stellar nucleus.
- November 18th and 19th*.—Comet very faint, it seems getting fainter.
- November 22nd*.—The Comet is certainly fainter and the centre more diffuse.
- December 9th*.—The Comet observed with the 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ in: achromatic equatorial, it is very diffuse and faint with no stellar nucleus.
- December 15th, 17th and 20th*.—Comet gradually becoming fainter.
- 1885, *January 8th*.—Comet very faint, a 12th magnitude Star lies just preceding.
- January 14th and 17th*.—No change.
- February 17th*.—Extremely faint and diffuse."

The Comet was observed for four months and twenty-one days. Observations previous to 1884, December 9th, were with the $3\frac{1}{2}$ achromatic telescope and power 70. The equatorial was not available whilst workmen were painting the interior of the Dome, but this being completed, observations with this instrument commenced on December 9th. Investigations of the Orbit have placed it among the class of short period Comets, its revolution being accomplished in about $6\frac{1}{2}$ years.

The observations show variations of brilliancy somewhat like those of Comet ν 1883 (Pons-Brooks), but of much less degree, as this Comet was never a conspicuous object. A tendency to decrease in size whilst increasing in brightness was also noticed.