

C/2008 Q3 (Garradd)

Comet

R.A.: 12h35m59.4s, Dec.: -10°20'42" (2000) in Virgo

Galactic lon: +296°42', Galactic lat: +52°20'

Magnitude: 7.91

Mean Surface Br. 20.8 Mag/arcsec²

Coma Diameter: 7.0'

Orbit Data

Perihelion Distance: 1.8 AU

Inclination: 141°

e: 1.00

h: 4.3 g: 4.0

Perihelion: 2009 Jun 23 2h TT

Orbital elements from supplemental database, epoch 2009.5.

Current Status

Earth Distance: 1.6 AU

Sun Distance: 1.8 AU

Elongation: 83°

Tail Position Angle: 114°

Tail Forshortening: 44%

Actual Coma Diameter: 500000 km

DC: 4

Total motion: 1.41 "/min

RA: -0.19 "/min

Dec: 1.39 "/min

Visual Observing Synopsis for 2009 Jul 11

On this night C/2008 Q3 (Garradd) is best visible between 18:33 and 21:18, with the optimum view at 19:00. Look for it in Virgo, high in the sky in complete darkness. It is easy visually in the Celestron NexStar 11 SCT. Use the Ultima 42mm for optimum visual detection. It is magnitude 8 with a diameter of 7.0'.

In the following 30 days this object is easy visually from July 12-29, and again from August 7 on, with the best view coming on July 12. During this period it will fade by about 1 magnitudes and move lower in the sky.

C/2008 Q3 (Garradd) is past perihelion, which occurred in late June 2009. It reached maximum brightness of magnitude 6.7 in early June. The best visibility from Bloemfontein, South Africa near maximum brightness was predicted to be in early June when it was approximately magnitude 6.7. At that time it was in Centaurus, high in the sky in complete darkness and was obvious in the Celestron NexStar 11 SCT.

Apparent Data for 2009 Jul 11 GMT+2 at Bloemfontein, South Africa

Apparent RA: 12h36m29.7s, Apparent Dec: -10°23'51"

Ecliptical lon: +192°20', Ecliptical lat: -05°57'

Azimuth: +308°04', Apparent Altitude: +62°19', %

Zenith Distance: +27°41'

Local Sidereal Time: 14h04m

Hour Angle: 01h28m

Airmass: 1.1

Mean extincted magnitude: 8.1

Visual Difficulty by Instrument for 2009 Jul 11 19:00

<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Current Visual Difficulty</u>	<u>Best Visual Difficulty</u>
Naked Eye	not visible	not visible
12X50	detectable	detectable
Celestron NexStar 11 SCT	easy	easy
Orion SkyQuest XT10 Dob	easy	easy
20X80	easy	easy
7X50	detectable	detectable
Orion SkyQuest XT8 Dob	easy	easy
Orion SkyQuest XT6 Dob	easy	easy
Orion SkyQuest XT4.5 Dob	easy	easy
Orion Short Tube 80	easy	easy

Chart Numbers

Pocket Sky Atlas 47

Millennium Star Atlas Vol II Chart 821

Sky Atlas 2000 Chart 14

Uranometria 2000 Vol II Chart 284
Uranometria 2nd Ed. Chart 131
Herald-Bobroff Astroatlas B-10 C-48