

Preface

The history and rapid development of minor planet discoveries constitute a fascinating story and one with a rather breathtaking evolution. By October 2005, the total of numbered planets exceeded the remarkable cornerstone of 100,000 objects and only three years later in November 2008 we are even faced with minor planet (200000). This dramatic evolution must be compared with the huge time span of two centuries (1801–2000) that was necessary to detect and to refine the orbits of only the first 20,000 minor planets. Nowadays, we need even less than 13 months for the same quantity! At the end of 2005, we had achieved a total of 12,804 named minor planets - a fraction of less than 11 per cent of all numbered minor planets. This figure now approximately decreased to only 7 per cent in comparison to 79 per cent in 1991.

The fifth edition and the first addendum 2003-2005 serves as the basic survey, which is now updated and enlarged by this second addendum. It contains all newly published names from the period 2006 until February 2009 as well as corrections and amendments of all earlier editions. There are now 207,942 numbered minor planets and only 15,054 are named! The fundamental structure the Dictionary has been left unchanged. As a new feature of the addenda, we added rough data of the orbital elements [a,e,i] for quick classification purposes.

In addition to citing the bibliographic source of the naming, we also provide the source of numbering. A special concordance list will enable the evaluation of the respective publication dates. The complete work is, of course, a thoroughly revised and considerably enlarged data collection and every effort has been made to check and correct each single piece of information again. For even more detailed information on the discovery circumstances of numbered but unnamed planets, the reader is referred to the extensive data files compiled by the Minor Planet Center.

According to a resolution of IAU Division III (2000, Manchester IAU General Assembly) DMPN attained the status of an official IAU publication. The kind assistance by IAU General Secretaries Hans Rickman, Oddbjørn Engvold and Karel A. van der Hucht during the last decade is highly appreciated. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Brian G. Marsden for his everlasting support of this common project of all interested astronomers. The Klaus Tschira Foundation made the publication of this second addendum possible by a considerable contribution. My gratitude is also due to Ramon Khanna from Springer-Verlag for his cooperation. Finally, I would like to thank again my colleague Gernot Burkhardt for his indefatigable support with the data crunching and the extensive \TeX processing.

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