

⁷⁶Ge

In the 1931 paper “The Isotopic Constitution and Atomic Weights of Selenium, Bromine, Boron, Tungsten, Antimony, Osmium, Ruthenium, Tellurium, Germanium, Rhenium and Chlorine” Aston identified stable ⁷⁶Ge at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, UK (1931As04). Mass spectra were recorded from a freezing mixture of germanium tetraethyl: “Strong lines were easily obtained by the use of Q plates and all eight isotopes previously observed were confirmed.” The previous results mentioned in the quote refer to a 1928 paper by Aston (1928As02), which, however, was not credited with the discovery because it did not have the correct order of the relative abundances. ⁷⁵Ge, which is unstable was supposed to be more intense than the stable ⁷⁶Ge. In the 1931 paper Aston still claimed to observe lines of the unstable isotopes ⁷¹Ge, ⁷⁵Ge, and ⁷⁷Ge, however, with significantly less intensity than the stable isotopes ⁷⁰Ge, ⁷²Ge, ⁷³Ge, ⁷⁴Ge, and ⁷⁶Ge.

The assignment was changed (2016Th03) from the original compilation (2012Gr19) which credited a later publication by Bainbridge (1933Ba02) with the discovery of ⁷⁶Ge.

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