^{87}Nb

In "Decay Scheme Studies of Short-Lived Isotopes of 69 $\leqq$ A $\leqq$ 88 Produced by Heavy-Ion Bombardment," published in 1971, Doron and Blann described the first observation of ^{87}Nb (1971Do01). Natural nickel and enriched ^{58}Ni targets were bombarded with 85 to 100 MeV ^{32}S beams at the University of Rochester MP Tandem Van de Graaff accelerator. ^{87}Nb was identified by measuring half-lives, excitation functions and γ-rays. "According to the calculated excitation functions, the relative cross sections for the 3.5 min activity and the observed growth of the ^{87m}Y isomeric transition, this activity could possibly be due to either the decay of ^{87}Nb or of ^{87}Mo. The fact that the predicted cross section for ^{87}Mo production by the ^{59}Co(^{32}S,p3n)^{87}Mo reaction is smaller by a factor of 100 than the ^{59}Co(^{32}S,2p2n)^{87}Nb cross section suggests that this activity is due to the decay of ^{87}Nb."

Adapted from reference (2012Ny02)

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