^{156}Tb

Wilkinson and Hicks published the observation of ^{156}Tb in the 1950 paper "Radioactive isotopes of the rare earths. III. Terbium and holmium isotopes" (1950Wi13). Europium targets were bombarded with 19 MeV α-particles from the Berkeley 60-in. cyclotron. Electrons, positrons, γ-rays and X-rays were measured following chemical separation. "5.0±0.1-Hr. Tb^{156}: In bombardments of europium with 19-MeV α-particles, an activity of half-life 5.0±0.1 hr. measured through nine half-lives was observed in high yield." We credit Wilkinson and Hicks with the discovery although they incorrectly identified the neighboring nuclei ^{155}Tb and ^{157}Tb because subsequently their results were not questioned (1955Ha52, 1957Mi67). The observed half-life corresponds to an isomeric state and the ground state of 5.2 d was reported five years later by Handley and Lyon (1955Ha52).

Adapted from reference (2013Ma01)

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