

¹⁸¹Ta

In 1932, Aston discovered the only stable isotope of tantalum, ¹⁸¹Ta, as reported in “Constitution of tantalum and niobium” ([1932As01](#)). Tantalum penta-fluoride was volatilised in the discharge tube of the Cavendish mass spectrometer. “Tantalum, which was investigated first, gave a strong line at 181 followed by a diminishing series 200, 219... due to TaF, TaF₂... Neither the expected isotope 183 nor any other could be detected even to one-fiftieth of the main line.”

Adapted from reference ([2012Ro36](#))

[1932As01](#) F. W. Aston, Nature **130**, 130 (1932).

[2012Ro36](#) R. Robinson and M. Thoennessen, At. Data Nucl. Data Tables **98**, 911 (2012).

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