^{187}Ir

In the 1958 paper "Neutron-deficient iridium isotopes", Diamond and Hollander reported the discovery of ^{187}Ir (1958Di44). Natural rhenium targets were bombarded with α particles between 25 and 45 MeV from the Berkeley Crocker 60-inch cyclotron. Following chemical separation, decay curves were measured with proportional counter and γ-rays spectra were recorded with a sodium iodide crystal. "Iridium-187: In irradiations of rhenium foils at an initial alpha particle energy of 25 to 27 MeV, i.e. below the threshold for the production of Ir^{185} and Ir^{186}, several short-lived conversion electron lines and gamma rays were observed in the separated iridium fraction. By comparing the intensities of the more prominent of these electron lines in a series of timed exposures in the electron spectrographs with lines of known intensities in a group of standard plates, we obtained a value of 13±3 hours for the half-life of this new activity." Earlier, Smith and Hollander had assigned a half-life of 14 h incorrectly to ^{187}Ir (1955Sm42). Smith and Hollander also questioned the previous assignment of an 11.8 h half-life to ^{187}Ir by Chu (1950Ch11) arguing that it corresponded most likely to ^{186}Ir.

Adapted from reference (2012Ro36)

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