

²¹⁴Pb

In the 1904 paper “Heating effect of the radium emanation”, Rutherford and Barnes from McGill University described the discovery of a new activity later identified as ²¹⁴Pb (1904Ru04). The decay curves of “excited activities” following the decay of radium and radium emanation (²²²Rn) were measured. “An analysis of the decay curves of excited activity, produced for different intervals of exposure in the presence of the emanation, shows that there are three well-marked changes occurring in emanation X of radium. In the first change, half the matter is transformed in 3 minutes; in the second, half in 34 minutes; and in the third, half in 28 minutes. A full account of the analysis of these changes and their peculiarities will be given by one of us in a later paper. The first change is accompanied only by α rays, the second change is not accompanied by α rays at all, and the third change by α , β , and γ rays.” The 34 min half-life of the second decay was later named radium B. Rutherford and Soddy had reported the observation of a “Radium-excited activity II” from the decay of thorium emanation earlier (1903Ru06).

Adapted from reference (2013Fr04)

- 1903Ru06 E. Rutherford and F. Soddy, *Phil. Mag.* **5**, 576 (1903).
1904Ru04 E. Rutherford and H. T. Barnes, *Phil. Mag.* **7**, 202 (1904).
2013Fr04 C. Fry and M. Thoennessen, *At. Data Nucl. Data Tables* **99**, 365 (2013).

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