

^{210}Po

In 1898, P. Curie and M. Curie reported the observation of a new radioactive element at l'École municipale de Physique et Chimie industrielles in Paris, in "Sur une substance nouvelle radio-active, contenue dans la pechblende" (1898Cu02). They separated a radioactive substance from pitchblende which was 400 times more radioactive than uranium. "Nous croyons donc que la substance que nous avons retirée de la pechblende contient un métal non encore signalé, voisin du bismuth par ses propriétés analytiques. Si l'existence de ce nouveau métal se confirme, nous proposons de l'appeler polonium, du nom du pays d'origine de l'un de nous." [We therefore believe that the substance we have extracted from pitchblende contains a metal that has not been observed before, with analytical properties similar to bismuth. If the existence of this new metal is confirmed, we suggest to call it polonium, named after the country of origin of one of us.] Earlier M. Curie had suggested the presence of a new element by observing strong activities in pitchblende and chalcocite (1898Sk01). In 1904/1905, Rutherford showed that the polonium activity, radio-tellurium (discovered in 1902 by Marckwald (1902Ma01, 1902Ma02)) and radium F (originally named radium E) were the same (^{210}Po) (1904Ru05, 1905Ru01, 1905Ru04).

Adapted from reference (2013Fr04)

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