

^{232}Th

Schmidt from the Physikalisches Institut der Universität Erlangen in Germany reported the radioactivity thorium later identified as ^{232}Th in the 1898 paper “Ueber die von den Thorverbindungen und einigen anderen Substanzen ausgehende Strahlung” (1898Sc02). The activity was observed with photographic plates and an electroscope. “Von den vielen Elementen und Verbindungen, welche ich hieraufhin geprüft habe, hat sich nur eines gefunden, welches sich dem Uran analog verhält, nämlich das Thor... Es scheint als ob dieselben an das hohe Atomgewicht Uran = 240, Thorium = 232 gebunden sind.” [Out of the many elements and compounds which I have subsequently tested, only one - thorium - behaved analogous to uranium... It seems that these are related to the high atomic weight, 240 for uranium and 232 for thorium.] Less than three months later (1966Ba61) M. Curie independently reported the radioactivity of thorium (1898Sk01).

Adapted from reference (2013Fr03)

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