^{240}Np

In 1953, the observation of ^{240}Np was announced in the article "The radiations of U^{240} and Np^{240}" by Knight et al. from Los Alamos National Laboratory (1953Kn23). Uranium was irradiated with neutrons to form ^{240}U which populated ^{240}Np by β-decay. Following chemical separation, decay curves were measured with continuous-flow methane gas proportional counters and β- and γ-ray spectra were recorded with a magnetic lens spectrometer and a NaI(Tl) crystal, respectively. "These measurements yielded a U^{240} half-life of 14.1±0.2 hours, and a Np^{240} half-life of 7.3±0.3 minutes." The quoted half-life corresponds to an isomeric state. Knight et al. credited Hyde and Studier with the discovery of ^{240}Np quoting an unpublished report (1948HyZZ). The half-life of the ground state (63(2) min) was reported seven years later by Lessler and Michel (1960Le03).

Adapted from reference (2013Fr02)

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