^{249}Cf

In 1954, Ghiorso et al. from Berkeley reported the discovery of ^{249}Cf in the article "New isotopes of americium, berkelium and californium" (1954Gh24). ^{249}Bk was produced by neutron irradiation of ^{239}Pu in the Materials Testing Reactor. ^{249}Cf was then populated in the decay of ^{249}Bk. The resulting activities were measured following chemical separation. "From the amount of Cf^{249} alpha activity which grew from a known amount of Bk^{249}, the alpha half-life of the Cf^{249} was found to be about 400 years." Less than a week later Diamond et al. independently reported a half-life of 550(150) y for ^{249}Cf (1954Di11).

Adapted from reference (2013Fr02)

1954Di11 H. Diamond, L. B. Magnusson, J. F. Mech, C. M. Stevens *et al.*, Phys. Rev. **94**, 1083 (1954).

1954Gh24 A. Ghiorso, S. G. Thompson, G. R. Choppin, and B. G. Harvey, Phys. Rev. **94**, 1081 (1954).

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