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CARRIER FREE RADIOISOTOPES FROM CYCLOTRON TARGETS XVIII. PREPARATION AND ISOLATION OF Cr51 FROM VANADIUM

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CARRIER-FREE RADIOISOTOPES FROM CYCLOTRON TARGETS
XVIII. PREPARATION AND ISOLATION OF Cr^{51} FROM VANADIUM

Jeanne D. Gile, Warren M. Garrison, and Joseph G. Hamilton

May 18, 1951

Berkeley, California

CARRIER-FREE RADIOISOTOPES FROM CYCLOTRON TARGETS
XVIII. PREPARATION AND ISOLATION OF Cr^{51} FROM VANADIUM*

Jeanne D. Gile, Warren M. Garrison, and Joseph G. Hamilton

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Medical Physics, Experimental Medicine, and Radiology; University
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May 18, 1951

Deuteron bombardment of vanadium produces 26-day Cr^{51} ⁽¹⁾ by the nuclear reaction $\text{V}^{51}(\text{d},2\text{n})\text{Cr}^{51}$. This paper reports a radiochemical isolation of carrier-free Cr^{51} from a vanadium target which had been bombarded with 19 Mev deuterons from the 60-inch cyclotron at the Crocker Laboratory. The possible radioisotopes of titanium (from the n,p and d,2p reactions) and scandium (from the n, α reaction) were allowed to decay out prior to the separation.

A 2 mm layer of "chromium-free" vanadium ⁽²⁾ powder supported on a grooved water-cooled copper target plate by a 0.25 mil tantalum foil was bombarded for 100 microampere hours at a beam intensity of 8 microamperes. After aging, the bombarded vanadium was dissolved in a minimum volume of 6N HNO_3 . Ten milligrams of Fe^{+++} were added and the solution was slowly poured into an excess of boiling 10 percent NaOH solution. The Cr^{51} carried quantitatively on the $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ precipitate which was then redissolved and reprecipitated as above. Three such cycles were required to remove last traces of sodium vanadate. The final $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ precipitate containing the Cr^{51} was redissolved in 6N HNO_3 previously saturated with Br_2 and reprecipitated by the addition of dilute

*This document is based on work performed under Contract No. W-7405-eng-48-A for the Atomic Energy Commission.

(1) G. T. Seaborg and I. Perlman, Rev. Mod. Phys. 20 585 (1948)

(2) Spectrographic analysis showed less than 0.001% of chromium to be present.

NaOH. The temperature of the solution was maintained at approximately 90°C. Under these conditions, the carrier-free Cr⁵¹ as chromate was retained in the solution which was then made 1 N in HNO₃ and saturated with SO₂, 2 milligrams of Fe⁺⁺⁺ was added and precipitated by the addition of dilute NH₄OH. The Fe(OH)₃ precipitate containing the Cr⁵¹ was washed, dissolved in 6N HCL and Fe was extracted with ether. The HCL solution was evaporated to dryness on 20 milligrams of NaCl. The carrier-free Cr⁵¹ was re-dissolved quantitatively in 2 ml of water at pH 5 to give an isotonic saline solution for biological investigation.

The activity was identified by half-life determinations, by absorption measurements and by chemical separation with added carriers. The decay curve was followed for 5 half-lives and showed a single period of 26 days which agrees with previously published values^(3,4). Absorption measurements in lead showed the 0.32 Mev gamma ray reported^(5,6) for Cr⁵¹. In a chemical separation using added Cr, V, Ti and Sc carriers, over 98 percent of the activity was recovered in the Cr fraction.

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- (3) H. H. Hopkins, Jr., Phys. Rev. 77 717 (1950)
 - (4) H. H. Hopkins, Jr. and B. B. Cunningham, Phys. Rev. 73 406. (1948)
 - (5) F. N. D. Kurie and M. Ter-Pogossian, Phys. Rev. 74 677 (1948)
 - (6) B. D. Kern, A. G. G. Mitchell and D. J. Zaffarano, Phys. Rev. 76 94 (1949)