

LOW ENERGY PROTON CAPTURE RESONANCES IN THE CHLORINE ISOTOPES

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Synopsis

A search was made for proton capture resonances in the chlorine isotopes, making use of natural and enriched targets. Eighteen resonances have been observed in the proton energy region from 300 to 900 keV, and their isotopic assignment has been established from a comparison of the yield curves.

Single gamma-ray spectra have been recorded at all resonances. The characteristic lines observed in the spectra confirmed the isotopic assignment, made from the yield curves. Gamma-ray yields are given in absolute measure. Branching ratios have been measured for transitions to known ^{36}A and ^{38}A levels.

1. *Introduction.* The existence of 86 resonances for the reactions $^{35,37}\text{Cl}(p, \gamma)^{36,38}\text{A}$ in the region from 500 to 2150 keV proton energy has been mentioned by Broström, Madsen and Madsen¹⁾. Tangen²⁾ reported four resonances at proton energies of 427, 447, 500 and 532 keV in the region from 400 to 550 keV.

In the present investigation a search was made for resonances in the 300–900 keV region. Eighteen resonances have been found and their isotopic assignment has been established. For these resonances single gamma-ray spectra were recorded from which relative line intensities for the most important transitions were deduced.

2. *Experimental.* Protons were accelerated with the 900 kV Utrecht cascade generator and analysed with a 90° deflection magnet with an energy resolution of 0.25%³⁾.

The proton energy was determined by measuring the magnetic field with a proton resonance magnetic flux meter⁴⁾.

Targets containing chlorine of natural abundance and also enriched targets were used. The natural chlorine targets consisted of a layer of CaCl_2 or CoCl_2 evaporated onto a $\frac{1}{2}$ mm copper backing. Enriched targets containing chlorine gas shot into a copper backing were kindly supplied by the „Laboratorium voor Massaspectrometrie” in Amsterdam. Enriched targets

consisting of a layer of AgCl on a nickel backing were obtained from the "Atomic Energy Research Establishment" in Harwell.

The gamma radiation was detected with a $4'' \times 4''$ NaI crystal at an angle of 55° to the proton beam. The energy resolution of the crystal amounted to 6.6% for a gamma line of 1.78 MeV.

Spectra were recorded with a 256 channel R.C.L. pulse-height analyser.

3. *Results.* A yield curve with a target of natural abundance in the region from 400–900 keV and enriched target yield curves for those parts of this energy region where chlorine resonances were established is shown in figure 1. No chlorine resonances have been observed in the region from 300–400 keV.

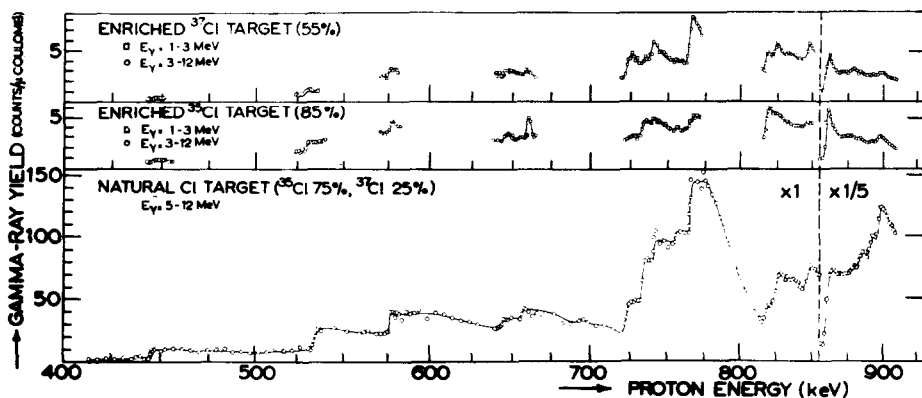


Fig. 1. Gamma-ray yield curves with a target of natural abundance for the energy region from 400–900 keV and with targets enriched in ^{37}Cl and ^{35}Cl respectively for those parts of this energy region where chlorine resonances are observed.

Comparison of the yield curves provides a unique isotopic assignment. The targets had not been analysed mass-spectroscopically, but the enrichments indicated in fig. 1 were computed from the observed gamma-ray yield ratios. Resonances were established at the following proton energies:

^{35}Cl : 445.9, 533.8, 575.9, 644.2, 656.8, 734.6, 755.4, 818.2, 861.4, 885.7, 893.0, 899.2 keV;

^{37}Cl : 724.0, 740.7, 766.1, 824.1, 846.8, 879.6 keV, all ± 1.5 keV.

Only two of the resonances mentioned by Tangen ²⁾ have been observed in the present investigation. The two other resonances may have been too weak, but the one mentioned to be at 427 keV proton energy may also have been due to ^{15}N contamination on the target.

For each of the established resonances a gamma-ray spectrum was recorded.

The first level in ^{36}A is known at an energy of 1.98 MeV ⁵⁾⁶⁾ and the first levels in ^{38}A are known at energies of 2.15 and 3.75 MeV ⁷⁾. For all

resonances assigned to the $^{35}\text{Cl}(p, \gamma)^{36}\text{A}$ reaction a transition of 1.95 ± 0.02 MeV was observed and for the resonances assigned to the reaction $^{37}\text{Cl}(p, \gamma)^{38}\text{A}$ gamma lines of 1.63 ± 0.02 and 2.18 ± 0.02 MeV were observed, which strongly supports the isotopic assignment, made from the yield curves.

For each resonance the observed energies for transitions to and from known levels and their intensities relative to the transition from the first excited level to the ground state are shown in table I. For most of the resonances other gamma lines have been observed. To determine the complete decay scheme for each resonance, however, coincidence and sum-coincidence measurements are in progress.

TABLE I

The proton energies, gamma-ray energies and their relative intensities for transitions to and from known levels and an estimate for the resonance strength of all observed chlorine resonances. The transitions are indicated with their initial and final levels, (0) = ground state (1) = first excited state etc., (r) = resonance level. The error in the gamma-ray energies amounts to 2%, and in the relative intensities up to about 10%.							
³⁵ Cl(<i>p</i> , γ) ³⁶ A							
<i>E_p</i> (keV)	<i>E_x</i> (³⁶ A) (MeV)	<i>E_γ</i> (MeV) and Relative Intensity				Resonance Strength (2 <i>J</i> + 1) <i>Γ_pΓ_γ</i> / <i>Γ</i> (meV)	
		(<i>r</i>) → (0)	(<i>r</i>) → (0)	(1) → (0) int = 100			
445.9	8.94	9.23(31)	7.09(55)	1.95		3	
533.8	9.04		7.08(85)	1.95		8	
575.9	9.07			1.94		7	
644.2	9.13		7.15(47)	1.96		4	
656.8	9.15		7.15(52)	1.95		3	
734.6	9.23		7.22(97)	1.95		20	
755.4	9.25		7.35(82)	1.96		4	
818.2	9.30		7.3 (3)	1.95		3	
861.4	9.34		7.40(51)	1.95		100	
885.7	9.37		7.50(100)	1.97		20	
893.0	9.37		7.35(64)	1.95		40	
899.2	9.38		7.47(50)	1.97		—	
³⁷ Cl(<i>p</i> , γ) ³⁸ A							
<i>E_p</i> (keV)	<i>E_x</i> (³⁸ A) (MeV)	<i>E_γ</i> (MeV) and Relative Intensity					Resonance Strength (2 <i>J</i> + 1) <i>Γ_pΓ_γ</i> / <i>Γ</i> (meV)
		(<i>r</i>) → (0)	(<i>r</i>) → (1)	(<i>r</i>) → (2)	(2) → (1)	(1) → (0) int. = 100	
724.0	10.91	11.05(37)	8.78(40)	7.10(18)	1.65(31)	2.18	40
740.7	10.96				1.62(32)	2.15	25
766.1	10.98		8.88(85)	7.20(21)	1.63(18)	2.15	65
824.1	11.03		8.95(39)	7.30(15)	1.62(35)	2.13	40
846.8	11.06		8.90(50)	7.35(36)	1.64(20)	2.12	20
879.6	11.19		8.95(27)		1.60(47)	2.10	40

The Q -values used for the calculation of the resonance excitation energies (E_x) were 8.506 MeV and 10.234 MeV for the reactions $^{35}\text{Cl}(p, \gamma)^{36}\text{A}$ and $^{37}\text{Cl}(p, \gamma)^{38}\text{A}$, respectively ⁸). The last column of the table gives an estimate

for the resonance strength. As for most of the resonances the decay scheme is still partly unknown, these values contain an uncertainty of at least a factor 2. The resonance strength was calculated for the resonance at 533.8 keV, which decays mainly to the first excited state, by measuring the thick target yield. The yields for the other resonances were then compared with the yield for this resonance. For the resonance at 899.2 keV the strength is not given, as part of its yield is due to the reaction $N^{15}(p, \alpha\gamma)C^{12}$ which has a strong resonance at this energy ⁹).

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