MENDELEVIUM

Element Symbol: Md
Atomic Number: 101

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Mendelevium is a synthetic element, in that it is not found in nature because it is too unstable. Mendelevium was first synthesized at Berkeley in the USA by Albert Ghiorso (team leader), Glenn Seaborg, Bernard Harvey, and Greg Choppin in 1955. The element was synthesized by bombarding einsteinium atoms with helium ions to produce radioactive mendelevium atoms in only atomic quantities, apparently only 17 atoms were produced for its discovery. The original experiments produced $^{256}\text{Md}$, which has a half life of around 78 minutes. Since the initial discovery, a number of other isotopes have been found, with the most stable ($^{258}\text{Md}$) having half-life of around 52 days.

The element was named after Dmitri Mendeleev (1834-1907), a Russian scientist, who is generally regarded as the father of the Periodic Table. He was the first to organise the elements (those known at the time) into a classification system that we now recognise as the Periodic Table.

Mendelevium is a radioactive rare earth metal, which has a very short half-life.

Currently, there are no uses of mendelevium outside of scientific research, and only minute quantities have been produced at any one time. Sufficient quantities of the element can be produced to study the chemical properties of mendelevium in solution, but currently that’s about it.

*Provided by the element sponsor Freehills Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys*

**ARTISTS DESCRIPTION**

Mendelevium is a synthetic element with the symbol Md (formerly Mv) and the atomic number 101. A metallic radioactive transuranic element in the actinide series, mendelevium is usually synthesized by bombarding einsteinium with alpha particles. It was named after Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleeve, who created the Periodic Table. Mendelev's periodic system is the fundamental way to classify all the chemical elements. The name “mendelevium” was accepted by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). Wikipedia: Mendelevium. (2011, June 21).


**BIANCA PETERS**