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The New Isotopes 240Es and 236Bk

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The neutron-deficient 240Es nucleus was synthesized for the first time using the fusion-evaporation reaction $^{209}\text{Bi}(^{34}\text{S},3\text{n})^{240}\text{Es}$ at the Accelerator Laboratory of University of Jyväskylä (JYFL), Finland. The gas-filled recoil separator RITU [1] was used to separate the fusion-evaporation products from the primary and scattered beam. The radioactive decays originating from 240Es and its daughters, including the hitherto unknown 236Bk, were measured with the focal plane spectrometer GREAT [2].

Identification of 240Es was made on the basis of recoil-alpha-alpha correlated chains ending with the known granddaughter ^{236}Cm . A significantly high electron-capture delayed fission (ECDF) probability was measured for 240Es [3]. The new isotope 236Bk that was populated in the alpha decay of 240Es was identified by its ECDF branch [3]. These new data show a continuation of the exponential increase of ECDF probabilities in more neutron-deficient isotopes. The results on the decay properties of 240Es and 236Bk together with the data analysis will be presented.

References:

- [1] M. Leino et al., Nucl. Inst. Meth. Phys. Res. B 99, 653 (1995)
- [2] R. D. Page et al, Nucl. Inst. Meth. Phys. Res. B 204, 634 (2003)
- [3] J. Konki et al., Phys. Lett. B 764, 265 (2017)

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