



Figure 1. $\text{Be}^9 (\alpha, n)\text{C}^{12}$: Alphas on thin target of beryllium (0.22 mg/cm^2).
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The reaction of alphas with beryllium is used as a neutron source. Alpha particles may be supplied by naturally radioactive substances such as radium, radon, and polonium. The characteristics of sources using these materials may be understood by examining the radium series, Figure 2.

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