

where it was found after a total elapsed chemical separation time of two hours. The half-life and alpha particle energy were also in agreement with predictions.

Element 97 was called berkelium after the city of Berkeley, California, where it was discovered, just as its rare-earth analogue, terbium, was given a name derived from Ytterby, Sweden, where so many of the early rare-earth minerals were found. Element 98 was named californium, after the university and state where the work was done. This latter name, chosen for the reason given, does not reflect the observed chemical analogy of element 98 to dysprosium, as "americium," "curium," and "berkelium" signify that these elements are the chemical analogues of europium, gadolinium, and terbium, respectively. In their announcement of the discovery of element 98 in Physical Review, the authors commented, "The best we can do is point out, in recognition of the fact that dysprosium is named on the basis of a Greek word meaning 'difficult to get at,' that the searchers for another element (Au) a century ago found it difficult to get to California."

Upon learning about the naming of these elements, the "Talk of the Town" section of the New Yorker magazine had the following to say:

New atoms are turning up with spectacular, if not downright alarming frequency nowadays, and the University of California at Berkeley, whose scientists have discovered elements 97 and 98, has christened them berkelium and californium, respectively. While unarguably suited to their place of birth, these names strike us as indicating a surprising lack of public relations foresight on the part of the university, located, as it is, in a state where publicity has flourished to a degree matched perhaps only by evangelism. California's busy scientists will undoubtedly come up with another atom or two one of these days, and the university might well have anticipated that. Now it has lost forever the chance of immortalizing itself in the atomic tables with some such sequence as universitium (97), offium (98), californium (99), berkelium (100).

The discoverers sent the following reply:

"Talk of the Town" has missed the point in their comments on naming of the elements 97 and 98. We may have shown lack of confidence but no lack of foresight in naming these elements "berkelium" and "californium." By using these names first, we have forestalled the appalling possibility that after naming 97 and 98 "universitium" and "offium," some New Yorker might follow with the discovery of 99 and 100 and apply the names "newium" and "yorkium."