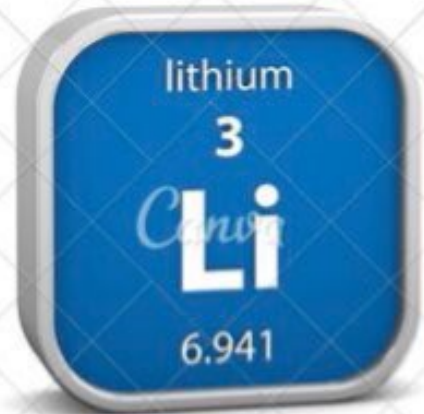


Lithium



It is a soft silvery-white alkali metal. Under standard conditions it is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element. It is highly reactive and flammable and must be stored in mineral oil.



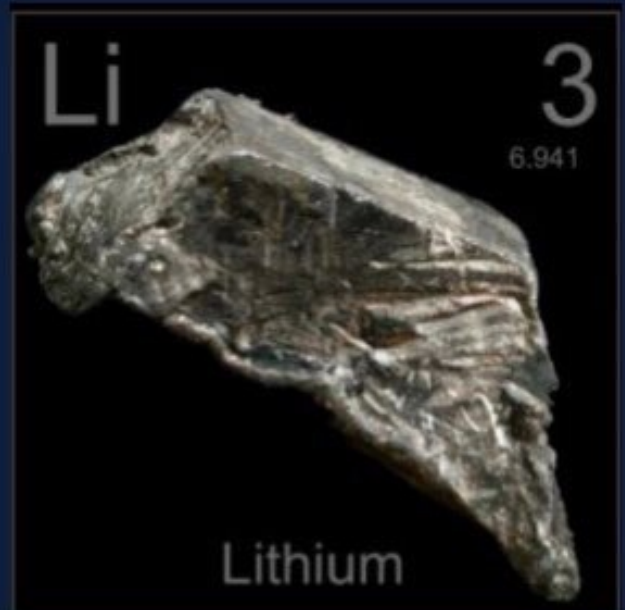
It was discovered by Johan August Arfwedson in 1817

Facts

1. Although it is a metal, it is soft enough to cut with a knife.
2. It is so light that it can float on water.
3. When burning, lithium gives off a bright red flame.

Uses

1. It is used for manufacturing batteries.
2. Lithium hydroxide is used to absorb carbon dioxide in vehicles.
3. Lithium is used to treat and prevent episodes of mania in people with bipolar disorder.
4. It is alloyed with aluminium, copper, manganese and cadmium to make high performance alloys for aircrafts.



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