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Determination of the η'-nucleus potential at low momenta*

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The real part of the η' -nucleus potential has been determined at low momenta by analyzing the η' kinetic energy distribution and the excitation function in photoproduction of of η' mesons off C in coincidence with forward going protons. The forward going protons take over most of the momentum of the incoming photon beam and thus their detection allows the study of the η' -nucleus interaction at very low relative momentum. This experimental approach was previously used in the determination of the ω -nucleus potential [1]. The present measurement extends earlier determinations of the η' -nucleus potential at higher average momenta [2,3], towards the production threshold. A comparison of the data with calculations by E. Paryev [4] yields a potential depth of about -40 MeV. In agreement with [5], this indicates that the deep η' - nucleus potentials of \geq 100 MeV, predicted in [6], can be excluded also at low momenta. Within the experimental uncertainties, there is no indication of a momentum dependence of the η' - Carbon potential.

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