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ABSTRACT

The elastic and inelastic scattering of ⁷Be from ¹²C have been measured at an incident energy of 35 MeV. The inelastic scattering leading to the 4.439 MeV excited state of ¹²C has been measured for the first time. The experimental data cover an angular range of $\theta_{cm} = 15^{\circ}-120^{\circ}$. Optical model analyses were carried out with Woods-Saxon and double-folding potential using the density dependent M3Y (DDM3Y) effective interaction. The microscopic analysis of the elastic data indicates breakup channel coupling effect. A coupled-channel analysis of the inelastic scattering, based on collective form factors, shows that mutual excitation of both ⁷Be and ¹²C is significantly smaller than the single excitation of ¹²C. The larger deformation length obtained from the DWBA analysis could be explained by including the excitation of ⁷Be in a coupled-channel analysis. The breakup cross section of ⁷Be is estimated to be less than 10% of the reaction cross section. The intrinsic deformation length obtained for the ¹²C* (4.439 MeV) state is $\delta_2 = 1.37$ fm. The total reaction cross section deduced from the analysis agrees very well with Wong's calculations for similar weakly bound light nuclei on ¹²C target.

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1. Introduction

The elastic scattering of light stable and unstable nuclei at low energies (near or above the Coulomb barrier) is an important tool to study the change in properties of nuclei as we move towards the drip lines [1,2]. The breakup and transfer reaction channels involving such nuclei significantly impact the elastic scattering. This is even more evident, when there is low binding and cluster structure of such nuclei. The loosely bound stable Lithium isotopes ⁶Li and ⁷Li have cluster structures and are well known for their breakup channels [3–6]. Their breakup thresholds are 1.474 and 2.467 MeV respectively [7]. The ⁷Be nucleus has a similar cluster structure and

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a breakup threshold of 1.59 MeV. It is radioactive with a half-life of 53.22 days [8]. One can thus expect similar large breakup crosssections in case of ⁷Be. However, previous elastic scattering studies with ⁷Be seem to indicate weak breakup couplings at low energy (< 10 MeV/u) and the breakup threshold anomaly does not apply for reactions with ⁷Be [2]. The ⁷Be nucleus behaves more like ⁶Li in contrast to ⁷Li. In addition, for reactions with a light target like ¹²C, contribution of nuclear breakup is expected to be more important than Coulomb breakup. The work of Amro et al. [9] involving ⁷Be + ¹²C at 34 MeV shows that the ⁷Be-induced α -transfer reactions are more predominant as compared to breakup. Low breakup cross section was also indicated for a $^{7}Be + ^{58}Ni$ measurement at 21.5 MeV [10]. Since large breakup yield is absent, such reactions can be used as important tools to study high-excitation α -clustering states in the residual nuclei in the context of heliumburning process in nuclear astrophysics [9]. The starting point of such a study is the availability of a reliable set of Optical Model Potential (OMP) parameters. In the $^{7}Be + {}^{12}C$ work [9], the authors recognized the uncertainty in the OMP due to the limited scatter-

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ing data and therefore they planned further experiments to extract a dedicated set of reliable parameters.

The present work includes the measurement of the elastic scattering angular distribution of $^{7}\text{Be} + ^{12}\text{C}$ at 35 MeV over a large angular range. The OMP deduced from the data would be very useful for the analysis of existing and future low energy experiments involving both ^{7}Be and ^{8}Be . The limitations of the earlier transfer reaction analysis [9] were mainly due to the unavailability of such elastic scattering data. In addition, the inelastic scattering to the 4.439 MeV excited state of ^{12}C is measured for the first time and analyzed in the distorted-wave Born approximation (DWBA) and coupled-channel (CC) formalisms. Both phenomenological and microscopic analysis in a double-folding model have been carried out and the effects of breakup and other channels on the elastic scattering are also studied.

The organization of the paper is as follows. In Sec. 2, the experimental details are described. The results part in Sec. 3 includes the phenomenological and microscopic analysis of the elastic and inelastic data in DWBA and CC formalism. The framework for the microscopic analysis using a DDM3Y interaction is also described. At the end, the total reaction cross section is deduced. In Sec. 4, conclusions and outlook of the present work are discussed.

2. Experiment

The experiment was carried out at the CERN HIE-ISOLDE [11] radioactive ion beam facility, utilizing the Scattering Experiments Chamber (SEC) [12] at the XT03 beamline. The experiment took place at the end of the running period of CERN. A uranium carbide target [13] was irradiated with 0.37μ A of 1.4 GeV protons from the PS-booster offline for 3 days. The activated target was then mounted on the GPS target station and heated up during the present experiment. The ⁷Be was extracted using the RILIS [14] laser ion-source, and accelerated using the HIE-ISOLDE post accelerator. The stable beam contaminants produced, when the residual gas in the REX-EBIS charge breeder is ionized [15], are mainly $^{14}N^{4+}$ and less abundant $^{21}Ne^{6+}$, having the same A/q as $^{7}Be^{2+}$ for which the machine was set up. A stripping foil and a dipole before the experimental station was used to clean the beam by further stripping to ⁷Be⁴⁺, making possible to separate the different components and uniquely select the ⁷Be beam. The potential isobaric contaminant coming from the target is ⁷Li. Any ⁷Li that could have made it into the charge breeder and been accelerated as ⁷Li²⁺ was fully stripped in the foil and could not have passed the dipole. The 35 MeV 7 Be beam of resolution \sim 168 keV and intensity $\sim 5 \times 10^5$ pps was incident on a 15 µm thick CD₂ target. We also used a CH₂ target of thickness 15 µm and a ²⁰⁸Pb target of thickness 1 mg/cm² for background measurements and normalization respectively.

The charged particles emitted from the reaction were detected by a set of 5 double-sided 16×16 Micron W1 silicon strip detectors (DSSD) of thickness 60 µm (ΔE) each, backed by MSX25 unsegmented silicon pad detectors of thickness 1500 µm (E). These detectors were placed in a pentagon geometry covering $\theta = 40^{\circ} - 80^{\circ}$ in lab for charged particle detection. The forward angles from 8° $- 25^{\circ}$ were covered by a 24 rings \times 32 sectors, Micron S3 annular detector of thickness 1000 µm. The back angles from 127° $- 165^{\circ}$ were covered by two Micron BB7 32×32 DSSDs of thickness 60 µm and 140 µm, backed by MSX40 unsegmented silicon pad detectors of thickness 1500 µm. The experimental setup inside the SEC is shown in Fig. 1. The measurements were made at angular intervals of about 1° in S3 range and 2° in the pentagon DSSD range.

The energy calibration of the detectors was done using a 148 Gd $-^{239}$ Pu $-^{241}$ Am $-^{244}$ Cm mixed α source. The dynamic range in the forward detector S3 was much higher. Thus, for calibration



Fig. 1. The experimental setup inside the Scattering Experiments Chamber at the XT03 beamline [12].

at higher energies, we used the elastic peaks from the Rutherford scattering of ⁷Be and ¹²C beams at 5 MeV/u and 5.15 MeV/u respectively on a ²⁰⁸Pb target. The grazing angle of ⁷Be + ²⁰⁸Pb at 35 MeV is around 100°. Thus, the experimental data in one of the forward rings of the annular detector were normalized to Rutherford cross sections with ²⁰⁸Pb, and that ring was used as a monitor detector. We took very short consecutive runs of ⁷Be on ²⁰⁸Pb and CD₂ targets where the fluctuation in beam intensity was within 10%. In addition to the statistical uncertainty in the yields, the present data include 10% error due to beam intensity and 10% error due to target thickness.

3. Results

The elastic peak from $^{7}Be + {}^{12}C$ scattering is distinctly visible in each ring of the forward annular detector. Fig. 2(a) shows the energy spectrum at $\theta = 12^{\circ}$, delineating the prominent elastic peak. The elastic ⁷Be scattered from deuterons in the CD₂ target is also seen as a small broad peak in the spectrum. In the pentagon DSSDs, the scattered ⁷Be deposits all its energy in the ΔE detectors of the telescopes. Fig. 2(b) is the energy spectrum at $\theta = 45^{\circ}$ showing the ⁷Be elastic peak as well as the inelastic scattering to the 4.439 MeV state of ¹²C. The ground state peak is separated from the 2^+ inelastic peak as seen in Fig. 2(b). However, the bound excited state of ⁷Be at $E_x = 0.429$ MeV $(1/2^{-})$ could not be separated from the ground state. Thus the present data correspond to quasi-elastic scattering of $^{7}Be + {}^{12}C$ at 35 MeV. In this context, it may be noted that the inelastic scattering to the 0.429 MeV state of ⁷Be is expected to be negligible in comparison to the ⁷Be + ${}^{12}C$ elastic scattering [1,16]. In the forward angles $8^{\circ} - 25^{\circ}$, due to several overlapping channels and non-availability of particle identification, inelastic scattering cross sections to the 4.439 MeV state of ¹²C could not be extracted. At the back angles $127^{\circ} - 165^{\circ}$, the elastic and inelastic data could not be separated due to small differences in energies as well as overlap with the (d,p) data. Hence, these data are not included in the present work.

The angular distribution of ⁷Be + ¹²C elastic scattering at 35 MeV is shown in Fig. 3. For comparison, the data of Amro et al. [9] at 34 MeV is also plotted in the figure. If we compare our data of much better energy and angular resolution, with Amro's data at the forward angles, we observe that the elastic data at $\sim 18^{\circ}$ agree with our data within error bars but for the other two angles, it is somewhat lower in value. At around 72°, Amro's data gives a higher value of cross section than our data. This discrepancy can



Fig. 2. Energy spectrum for elastic and inelastic scattering of ⁷Be + ¹²C at 35 MeV. Panel (a) shows elastic ⁷Be scattered from ¹²C and d in one of the rings of S3, at $\theta = 12^{\circ}$. Panel (b) shows elastic as well as inelastic peak corresponding to 4.439 MeV state of ¹²C in one pentagon DSSD, at $\theta = 45^{\circ}$. The bound excited state of ⁷Be at $E_x = 0.429$ MeV (1/2⁻) could not be separated from the ground state, implying the data to be quasi-elastic.

be attributed to uncertainties in data normalization arising from the large beam energy spread (~ 1 MeV) and, more importantly to the angular divergence at target position ($\sim 6^{\circ}$) in [9]. Their limited angular range of scattering data resulted in difficulty to extract reliable OMP for subsequent study of the transfer reactions. Analysis of the α - and n-transfer reactions from the ¹²C and d in the CD₂ target from the present experiment will be presented elsewhere.

Optical model analyses of the data were carried out with the code FRESCO [17]. First, the data were analyzed using volume type Woods-Saxon potentials and Coulomb potential due to uniformly charged spheres ($r_c = 1.25$ fm). The potential parameters are given in Table 1. The starting point of the phenomenological analysis was the OMP parameters from ⁷Li + ¹²C elastic scattering at 34 MeV [18]. The dotted curve in Fig. 3 corresponds to the phenomenological fit to the present data. The phenomenological fit agrees satisfactorily with the data in the whole angular range, except around 75° and angles greater than 100°. The fit also agrees with the data of Amro et al. [9] at 18° and 45° and explains overall the nature of their data except at 72°. It is to be noted that their data point at 72° also did not agree with their optical model calculations [9].

To study the data further and have an estimate of the breakup effects on the elastic scattering, we carried out a microscopic analysis of the data. Here, the two-body potential V(r) is generated in a double folding model using densities of the ⁷Be and ¹²C along with the density dependent M3Y (DDM3Y) effective interaction [24,25]. The densities of ⁷Be and ¹²C used in the present work are obtained from variational Monte Carlo calculations using the Argonne v18 two-nucleon and Urbana X three-nucleon potentials (AV18+UX) [19]. Earlier, the DDM3Y effective interaction has been successfully used to describe nuclear matter [20],



Fig. 3. Elastic scattering angular distribution of ⁷Be + ¹²C at E = 35 MeV. The microscopic (phenomenological) fits to the data are given by the dashed (dotted) curves. The coupled-channel calculations are given by the solid curve. The data of Amro et al. [9] are also shown for comparison. The bound excited state of ⁷Be at 0.429 MeV could not be separated from the ground state, implying the data to be quasi-elastic.

radioactivity [21], proton scattering [22] as well as resonances in unstable [24] and unbound nuclei [23].

The double-folded potential between two nuclei is given by

$$V(R) = \int \rho_1(\mathbf{r_1}) \rho_2(\mathbf{r_2}) v(\mathbf{s}, \rho_1, \rho_2, E) d^3 r_1 d^3 r_2$$
(1)

where ρ_i , i = 1, 2, is the nucleon point-density distribution for the projectile and the target, *R* is the separation between them, $s = R - r_1 - r_2$, and *v* is the density- and energy-dependent effective nucleon-nucleon interaction. Assuming that the density and the radial dependence of *v* can be separated, one can write [25]

$$v(s, \rho_1, \rho_2, E) = t^{M3Y}(s, E)g(\rho_1, \rho_2, E)$$
(2)

The density-independent part $t^{M3Y}(s, E)$ contains the M3Y interaction and the zero-range pseudo potential,

$$t^{M3Y}(s, E) = 7999 \frac{e^{-4s}}{4s} - 2134 \frac{e^{-2.5s}}{2.5s} + J_{00}(E)\delta(s)$$
(3)

with

$$J_{00}(E) = -276(1 - 0.005E/A) \tag{4}$$

The density-dependent part $g(\rho_1, \rho_2, E)$ is as follows,

$$g(\rho_1, \rho_2, E) = C(1 - b(E)\rho_1^{2/3})(1 - b(E)\rho_2^{2/3})$$
(5)

Here *C* has been taken as 1.0. The other constant of the interaction *b* when used in single folding model description, is determined by nuclear matter calculations [20] as 1.624 fm². This constant has also been used in scattering [22] and bound state studies [23,24].

In the present microscopic analysis, both the real (V) and volume imaginary (W) parts of the folded nuclear potentials are assumed to have the same shape, i.e. $V_{\text{micro}}(r) = V + iW = (N_{\text{R}})$ + iN_I)V(R) where, N_R and N_I are the renormalization factors for real and imaginary parts respectively, obtained by fitting the elastic scattering data. The microscopic fit using FRESCO is shown by the dashed curve in Fig. 3. A satisfactory fit is obtained for an $N_{\rm R}$ value of 0.68 and an $N_{\rm I}$ value of 0.30 (Table 2). The $N_{\rm R}$ value of less than unity suggests coupling of the breakup channel to elastic scattering [26,27]. The N_1 value is attributed to the absorption of flux due to inelastic excitation, breakup or other reaction channels. The microscopic fit shows a more diffractive elastic angular distribution than observed, particularly at $\sim 35^{\circ}$. However, it provides a better description of the data at larger angles compared to the phenomenological fit. The microscopic calculation also explains the nature of the data of Amro et al. [9] better than the phenomenological calculation.

Table 1

Optical model potential parameters for elastic scattering of ⁷Be + ¹²C at E = 35 MeV, $r_C = 1.25$ fm; $R_x = r_x (A_P^{\frac{1}{3}} + A_T^{\frac{1}{3}}).$

E	V _r	r _r	a _r	W _V	r _i	a _i	χ^2_{el}/N
(MeV)	(MeV)	(fm)	(fm)	(MeV)	(fm)	(fm)	
35	142.96	0.702	0.617	9.95	1.041	1.079	2.6

Table 2

Renormalization factors (N_R , N_I) of DDM3Y folded potential for ⁷Be + ¹²C scattering at E = 35 MeV. Excited state energy (E_x), angular momentum transfer (I), deformation length (δ_2), deformation parameter (β_2) and χ^2/N from best fits to the elastic and inelastic scattering data. $\delta_2 = \beta_2 R$, where $R = 1.2 \times 12^{\frac{1}{3}}$.

Nucleus	Calculation	E (MeV)	E_x (MeV)	N _R	NI	1	δ ₂ (fm)	β_2	χ^2_{el}/N	χ^2_{inel}/N
¹² C	DWBA	35	4.439	0.68	0.30	2	1.83	0.67	9.3	4.5
¹² C	СС	35	4.439	1.00	0.20	2	1.37	0.49	8.0	4.8



Fig. 4. Inelastic scattering angular distribution of $^{7}Be + {}^{12}C$ to the 4.439 MeV (2⁺) state at E = 35 MeV. The DWBA calculations using microscopic potentials are given by the dashed curve and include the sum of single and mutual excitations. The CC calculations are given by the dash-dot (dash-dot-dotted) curves for single (mutual) excitations respectively. The sum of the two contributions is shown by the solid curve.

To better understand the effects of nonelastic channels, coupledchannel (CC) calculations were also carried out. In addition to the ground state of the projectile and target nuclei, some low-lying excited states of these nuclei were included in the calculations. In particular, the modelspace included the $^{7}Be(1/2^{-})$ bound excited state at $E_x = 0.429$ MeV, the narrow $7/2^-$ low-lying ⁷Be resonance at $E_x = 4.57$ MeV and the 2⁺ state at $E_x = 4.439$ MeV of ¹²C. It is worth noting that the inclusion of the inelastic couplings will also affect the elastic scattering cross section. In χ^2 -fitting, the N_R and N_I of the bare projectile-target potential were taken as adjustable parameters to best reproduce the measured elastic scattering data. This resulted in $N_R = 1$ and $N_I = 0.2$ (Table 2). The reduced value of N_I with respect to that obtained above is consistent with the explicit inclusion of channels removing flux from the elastic channel. The dip around 30° is much reduced in CC calculation and is shown by the solid curve in Fig. 3.

The inelastic scattering angular distribution of $^{7}Be + {}^{12}C$ to the 4.439 MeV (2⁺) state, measured for the first time, is shown in Fig. 4. It may be noted that, in this angular range, the inelastic cross section is of comparable magnitude to the elastic cross section. Since the grazing angle is $\sim 8^{\circ}$, there is negligible contribution of Coulomb excitation over the angular range of the inelastic scattering data. The nucleus-nucleus optical potentials obtained from fitting the elastic scattering data were used to generate the distorted waves for the analysis of inelastic scattering in DWBA formalism using FRESCO [17]. The experimental resolution of the present work did not allow the separation of the $^{7}Be_{g.s.} + {}^{12}C_{4.439}$ channel from the mutual excitation $^{7}Be_{0.429} + {}^{12}C_{4.439}$ channel. Thus, to include the $^{7}Be_{0.429}$ excitation in the DWBA analysis, contribution from these two channels were calculated and added together (sum), given by the dashed curve in Fig. 4. The collective rotor model is used to obtain the transition form factors. The deformation length δ_2 is obtained by fitting the inelastic scattering angular distributions. The microscopic analysis could explain the inelastic data very well, while the phenomenological analysis does not produce a satisfactory fit. Table 2 gives the excited state energy (E_x), angular momentum transfer (l), renormalization factors (N_R , N_l), deformation length (δ_2), deformation parameter (β_2), and χ^2/N for the analyses. From DWBA analysis using microscopic potentials, the δ_2 obtained is 1.83 fm, as compared to the reported values of ~ 1.4 fm [18,28].

To explain the larger deformation length, we extended the CC calculations including the excitation of the ⁷Be nucleus. As mentioned earlier, the three included states of ⁷Be are considered members of a $K = 1/2^{-}$ rotational band. They are coupled together by deforming the projectile-target microscopic folding potential using a quadrupole deformation length $\delta_2 = 2$ fm adopted from [29]. Likewise, the ground and first 2⁺ state of ¹²C are considered members of a K = 0 rotational band and coupled together by deforming the projectile-target potential with a deformation length of δ_2 , obtained from best fit to the present data. Couplings between the included states were considered to all orders, thus performing a full coupled-channels calculation. The CC calculations are compared to the inelastic data in Fig. 4. For a meaningful comparison, the single and mutual excitations have been considered in the calculations and added together (sum), shown by the solid curve. It becomes apparent from Fig. 4 that the mutual excitation (dashdot-dotted curve) is significantly smaller than the single excitation (dash-dot curve) but its inclusion improves the agreement with the data. There is slight underestimation, which might be due to the simplified rotor model assumed for the ⁷Be and ¹²C nuclei. From the best fit to the present data, we get $\delta_2 = 1.37$ fm (Table 2). A 10% variation of χ^2_{inel}/N results in a variation of 0.13 fm in the value of δ_2 in agreement to the existing values [18,28]. This results in a deformation parameter β_2 of 0.49 with a variation of 0.05.

In an alternative approach, one may treat the reaction in an extended three-body model, comprising of the two-body projectile $(\alpha^{+3}\text{He})$ plus the target, similar to that used in the continuum discretized coupled-channels (CDCC) calculations [30]. In this model, target excitations are included by means of deformed ${}^{3}\text{He}{}^{+12}\text{C}$ and ${}^{4}\text{He}{}^{+12}\text{C}$ potentials. In this way, the projectile excitation (and breakup) would be treated within the cluster model whereas target excitations would be treated in the collective model. These extended CDCC calculations were initially proposed and implemented in [31] and have been recently revisited and applied to several systems [32,33]. The application to the present reaction is ongoing and the results will be presented elsewhere.



Fig. 5. The reduced reaction cross sections for the $^{7}Be + {}^{12}C$ system obtained in the present work along with reduced reaction cross sections of the lithium isotopes on ${}^{12}C$. The solid curve represents Wong's expression in Eqn. (6).

To investigate further the dynamics of ⁷Be, we deduced the total reaction cross section from the elastic scattering analysis. As suggested by Kolata [34] and Aguilera et al. [35], the reduced total reaction cross section of light stable and unstable nuclei on ¹²C can be compared with that given by Wong [36],

$$\sigma_{red} = \frac{\epsilon_0 r_0^2}{2E_{red}} \ln \left[1 + \exp\left(\frac{2\pi (E_{red} - V_{red})}{\epsilon_0}\right) \right]$$
(6)

where the cross section is in fm², $\epsilon_0 = \hbar \omega_0 \frac{(A_p^{\frac{1}{2}} + A_T^{\frac{1}{2}})}{Z_P Z_T}$ and $V_{red} = \frac{(A_p^{\frac{1}{2}} + A_T^{\frac{1}{2}})}{Z_P Z_T}$

 $V_0 \frac{(A_P^{\frac{1}{3}} + A_T^{\frac{1}{3}})}{Z_P Z_T}$ are denoted as the Wong-model parameters and the reduced energy is given by

$$E_{red} = E_{cm} \frac{(A_P^{\frac{1}{3}} + A_T^{\frac{1}{3}})}{Z_P Z_T}.$$
(7)

These parameters were obtained in [1] by fitting the data for ⁶He, ⁶Li, ⁷Li, ⁷Be, ⁸Li, ⁸B, ⁹Be and ¹¹Be. The parameters were found to be $V_{red} = 0.64(3)$ MeV, $r_0 = 1.73(2)$ fm and $\epsilon_0 = 0.43$ MeV. In particular, the value $r_0 = 1.73(2)$ fm is significantly larger than the typical values of 1.4 - 1.5 fm. The reduced total reaction cross section for ^{6,7}Li and ⁷Be + ¹²C obtained in [1], along with the fitted curve is plotted in Fig. 5. The calculated ⁷Be total reaction cross section at 35 MeV for CC calculations using microscopic potentials is 1503 mb and the reduced total reaction cross section is 85 mb. The calculated value agrees very well with Wong's calculation on the existing ^{6,7}Li and ⁷Be data. Preliminary CDCC calculations show that for ⁷Be, the breakup and inelastic cross section to ⁷Be bound excited state are respectively 9.12% and 0.67% of the reaction cross section.

4. Conclusion

The elastic and inelastic scattering of $^7\text{Be} + ^{12}\text{C}$ at 35 MeV is studied in the present work. The experimental data as well as the deduced optical model potential parameters can be useful for studies on transfer reactions involving ^7Be and ^8Be at these energies, particularly in relation to nuclear astrophysics. This work also reports the first inelastic scattering measurement of $^7\text{Be} + ^{12}\text{C}$ to the 4.439 MeV excited state of ^{12}C . To have an estimate of the influence of other channels like breakup on the elastic scattering, we also carried out a coupled channel analysis of the data. The microscopic calculation for the elastic scattering gives better fit, particularly at larger angles as compared to the phenomenological fit with Wood-Saxon potentials. The N_R value of less than unity in the microscopic fit indicates the presence of breakup channel coupling effects. Coupled-channel calculations improve on the fits and the value of N_R becomes compatible with 1. For inelastic scattering, mutual excitation of both ⁷Be and ¹²C is significantly smaller than the single excitation of ¹²C but its inclusion improves the agreement of the calculations with the inelastic data. The larger deformation length obtained from the DWBA analysis could be explained by including the excitation of ⁷Be in a coupled-channel analysis. The breakup cross section of ⁷Be is estimated to be less than 10% of the reaction cross section. The reduced total reaction cross section from the present work, agrees very well with Wong's calculation on existing ^{6,7}Li and ⁷Be scattering data. The present study is very important to further understand the α -cluster transfer reactions in nuclear astrophysics.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

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