Carl Friedrich Wenzel Encyclopedia Article

Carl Friedrich Wenzel

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Carl Friedrich Wenzel

1740-1793

German chemist whose most important work, *Lehre von der Verwandtschaft der Körper* (1777-82), addressed, among other issues, chemical affinity. Wenzel believed that substance concentration influenced the attractive forces between elements, and he was able to show that the rate at which a metal dissolves in an acid is proportional to the acid concentration. This was an early recognition that chemical reactivity depends on reactant masses, which was first clearly enunciated by Claude-Louis Berthollet (1803).