

### **complex mechanism**

This term is sometimes applied to an *elementary reaction* which proceeds via an intermediate species having a lifetime longer than a few rotational periods, in contrast to a *direct reaction*. However, in view of the danger of confusion with a reaction occurring in more than one step (a *composite reaction*) this usage is not to be recommended; it is better to use the terms complex-mode mechanism or *complex-mode reaction*.

1996, 68, 160