

encounter complex

A *complex* of *molecular entities* produced at an *encounter-controlled rate*, and which occurs as an intermediate in a reaction mechanism. When the complex is formed from two molecular entities it is called an ‘encounter pair’. A distinction between encounter pairs and (larger) encounter complexes may be relevant in some cases, e.g. for mechanisms involving *pre-association*.

1994, 66, 1112; see also 1996, 68, 2239