

+ **multi-centre reaction**

A synonym for *pericyclic reaction*. The number of ‘centres’ is the number of atoms not bonded initially, between which single bonds are breaking or new bonds are formed in the *transition state*. This number does not necessarily correspond to the ring size of the transition state for the pericyclic reaction. Thus, a Diels–Alder reaction is a ‘four-centre reaction’. This terminology has largely been superseded by the more detailed one developed for the various pericyclic reactions.

See *cycloaddition*, *sigmatropic rearrangement*.

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