

## back donation

**Also contains definition of:** Chatt–Dewar–Duncanson model

A description of the bonding of  $\pi$ -conjugated ligands to a transition metal which involves a synergic process with donation of electrons from the filled  $\pi$ -orbital or lone electron pair orbital of the ligand into an empty orbital of the metal (donor–acceptor bond), together with release (back donation) of electrons from an  $nd$  orbital of the metal (which is of  $\pi$ -symmetry with respect to the metal–ligand axis) into the empty  $\pi^*$ -antibonding orbital of the ligand.

**Source:**

PAC, 1999, 71, 1919 (*Glossary of terms used in theoretical organic chemistry*) on page 1925