

intermediate

A molecular entity with a lifetime appreciably longer than a molecular vibration (corresponding to a local potential energy minimum of depth greater than RT) that is formed (directly or indirectly) from the reactants and reacts further to give (either directly or indirectly) the products of a chemical reaction; also the corresponding chemical species.

See: reaction step, elementary reaction, stepwise reaction

Source:

PAC, 1994, 66, 1077 (*Glossary of terms used in physical organic chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)*) on page 1126

See also:

PAC, 1996, 68, 149 (*A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 170