

quaternary ammonium compounds

Derivatives of ammonium compounds, $(\text{NH}_4^+)\text{Y}^-$, in which all four of the hydrogens bonded to nitrogen have been replaced with hydrocarbyl groups. Compounds having a carbon-nitrogen double bond (i.e. $\text{R}_2\text{C}=\text{N}^+\text{R}_2\text{Y}^-$) are more accurately called iminium compounds. e.g. $[(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{N}]^+\text{OH}^-$, tetramethylammonium hydroxide.

See: onium compounds

Source:

PAC, 1995, 67, 1307 (*Glossary of class names of organic compounds and reactivity intermediates based on structure (IUPAC Recommendations 1995)*) on page 1361