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minimum-energy reaction path

Acronym: MERP

Path orthogonal to the equipotential contours of a potential energy surface that connects the energy minima through a saddle point (transition state) from which it slopes downwards along the steepest descending lines in $3N$ - 6 configurational space (N is the number of nuclei in the reacting system).
Note:
MERP calculation allows the investigation of detailed changes in molecular structure describing the transformation of reactants to products.

Source:
PAC, 2007, *79*, 293 *(Glossary of terms used in photochemistry, 3rd edition (IUPAC Recommendations 2006))* on page 370

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