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mutation

A heritable change in the nucleotide sequence of genomic DNA (or RNA in RNA viruses), or in the number of genes or chromosomes in a cell, which may occur spontaneously or be brought about by chemical mutagens or by radiation (induced mutation).

Source:
PAC, 1992, *64*, 143 *(Glossary for chemists of terms used in biotechnology (IUPAC Recommendations 1992))* on page 161

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