

nitrenes

Synonym: aminylenes

1. The neutral compound HN: having univalent nitrogen, and its derivatives RN. Aminylenes is a recognized but less widely used synonym. Other names that have been used include aminediyls, imidogens, azenes. They may exist in either a singlet or a triplet electronic state (four spin-paired electrons, or two spin-paired and two with parallel spins, respectively), e.g. CH₃N: methylnitrene.
2. Until the 1960s, nitrenes had a totally different meaning: analogues of nitrones in which the double-bonded oxygen is replaced by double-bonded carbon, thus azomethine ylides.

See: carbenes

Source:

PAC, 1995, 67, 1307 (*Glossary of class names of organic compounds and reactivity intermediates based on structure (IUPAC Recommendations 1995)*) on page 1350

PAC, 1993, 65, 1357 (*Revised nomenclature for radicals, ions, radical ions and related species (IUPAC Recommendations 1993)*) on page 1357

See also:

PAC, 1994, 66, 1077 (*Glossary of terms used in physical organic chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)*) on page 1145