

## zwitterionic compounds/zwitterions

**Also contains definition of:** dipolar ions

**Synonym:** inner salts

Neutral compounds having formal unit electrical charges of opposite sign. Some chemists restrict the term to compounds with the charges on non-adjacent atoms. Sometimes referred to as inner salts, dipolar ions (a misnomer). E.g.  $\text{H}_3\text{N}^+\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}^-$  ammonioacetate (glycine),  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}^+-\text{O}^-$  trimethylamine oxide.

**See:** betaines, dipolar compounds, ylides

**Source:**

PAC, 1995, 67, 1307 (*Glossary of class names of organic compounds and reactivity intermediates based on structure (IUPAC Recommendations 1995)*) on page 1375

PAC, 1994, 66, 1077 (*Glossary of terms used in physical organic chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)*) on page 1176