

betaines

Originally, the compound betaine, $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}^+-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}^-$ *N,N,N*-trimethylammonioacetate, and similar zwitterionic compounds derived from other amino acids. By extension, neutral molecules having charge-separated forms with an *onium* atom which bears no hydrogen atoms and that is not adjacent to the anionic atom. Betaines cannot be represented without formal charges.

E.g. $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{P}^+\text{CH}_2\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{O}^-$, $(\text{Ph})_3\text{P}^+\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}^-$.

See also *dipolar compounds*, *mesoionic compounds*, *ylides*, *zwitterionic compounds*.

1995, 67, 1322