

chiral

Having the property of *chirality*.

As applied to a molecule the term has been used differently by different workers. Some apply it exclusively to the whole molecule, whereas others apply it to parts of a molecule. For example, according to the latter view, a *meso*-compound is considered to be composed of two chiral parts of opposite chirality sense; this usage is to be discouraged.

See *enantiomorph*.

In its application to an assembly of molecules, some restrict the term to an assembly in which all of the molecules have the same *chirality sense*, which is better called *enantiopure*. Others extend it to a *racemic* assembly, which is better just called a *racemate*. Use of the term to describe molecular assemblies should be avoided.

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