

inhibition

The decrease in *rate of reaction* brought about by the addition of a substance (*inhibitor*), by virtue of its effect on the concentration of a reactant, *catalyst* or *reaction intermediate*. For example, molecular oxygen and *p*-benzoquinone can react as ‘inhibitors’ in many reactions involving *radicals* as intermediates by virtue of their ability to act as *scavengers* toward these radicals.

If the rate of a reaction in the absence of inhibitor is v_0 and that in the presence of a certain amount of inhibitor is v , the degree of inhibition (i) is given by:

$$i = (v_0 - v)/v_0$$

See also *mechanism based inhibition*.

1994, 66, 1125; 1996, 68, 169; see also 1992, 64, 157; 1993, 65, 2295