

molecularity

The number of reactant *molecular entities* that are involved in the ‘microscopic chemical event’ constituting an *elementary reaction*. (For reactions in solution this number is always taken to exclude molecular entities that form part of the *medium* and which are involved solely by virtue of their solvation of solutes.) A reaction with a molecularity of one is called ‘unimolecular’, one with a molecularity of two ‘bimolecular’ and of three ‘termolecular’.

See also *chemical reaction, order of reaction*.

1994, 66, 1143; 1996, 68, 175; 1993, 65, 2296