

nitrenes

1. The neutral compound HN: having univalent nitrogen, and its derivatives RN: . Aminylenes is a recognized but less widely used synonym. Other names that have been used include aminediyls, *imidogens*, azenes. They may exist in either a singlet or a triplet electronic state (four spin-paired electrons, or two spin-paired and two with parallel spins, respectively), e.g. $\text{CH}_3\text{N:}$ methylnitrene.

2. Until the 1960s, nitrenes had a totally different meaning: analogues of *nitrones* in which the double-bonded oxygen is replaced by double-bonded carbon, thus *azomethine ylides*.

See *carbenes*.

1995, 67, 1350; 1993, 65, 1357; see also 1994, 66, 1145