

persistent

A term used to characterize *radicals* which have lifetimes of several minutes or greater in dilute solution in inert solvents. Persistence is a kinetic or reactivity property. In contrast, radical *stability*, which is a thermodynamic property, is expressed in terms of the C–H bond strength of the appropriate hydrocarbon. The lifetime of a radical is profoundly influenced by steric shielding of the radical centre by bulky substituents.

See also *transient*.

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