

**spin label**

A *stable* paramagnetic *group* (typically a nitryl radical) that is attached to a part of a *molecular entity* whose microscopic environment is of interest and may be revealed by the electron spin resonance (ESR) spectrum of the spin label. When a simple paramagnetic molecular entity is used in this way without covalent attachment to the molecular entity of interest it is frequently referred to as a 'spin probe'.

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