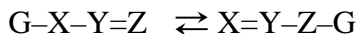


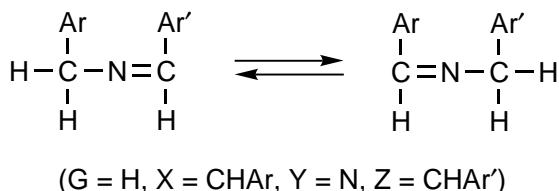
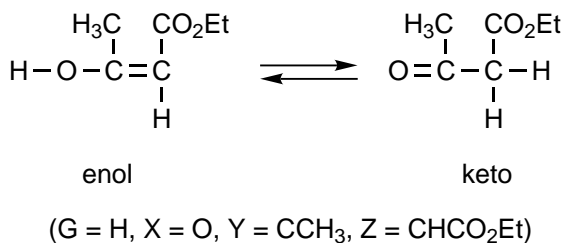
tautomerism

Isomerism of the general form:

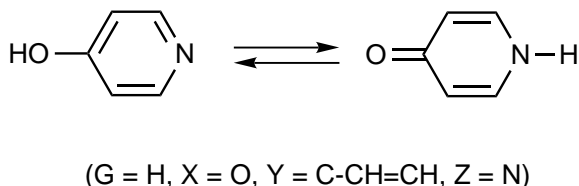


where the isomers (called tautomers) are readily interconvertible; the atoms connecting the groups X,Y,Z are typically any of C, H, O or S, and G is a group which becomes an *electrofuge* or *nucleofuge* during isomerization. The commonest case, when the electrofuge is H^+ , is also known as ‘prototropy’. Examples, written so as to illustrate the general pattern given above, include:

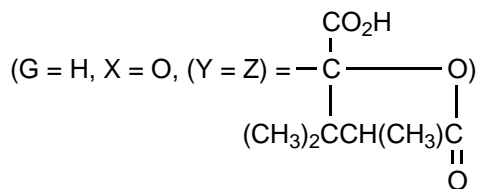
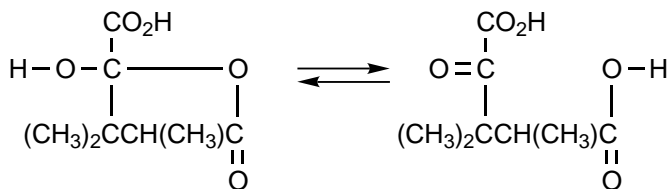
Keto–enol tautomerism, such as:



The grouping Y may itself be a three-atom (or five-atom) chain extending the conjugation, as in:



The double bond between Y and Z may be replaced by a ring, when the phenomenon is called ring-chain tautomerism, as in:



See also *ambident*, *sigmatropic rearrangement*, *tautomerization*, *valence tautomerization*.
 1994, 66, 1171

