

zwitterionic compounds/zwitterions

Neutral compounds having formal unit electrical charges of opposite sign. Some chemists restrict the term to compounds with the charges on non-adjacent atoms. Sometimes referred to as inner salts, dipolar ions (a misnomer). E.g. $\text{H}_3\text{N}^+\text{CH}_2\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}^-$ ammonioacetate (glycine), $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}^+\text{O}^-$ trimethylamine oxide.

See *betaines*, *dipolar compounds*, *ylides*.

1995, 67, 1375; 1994, 66, 1176