

host

1. A *molecular entity* that forms *complexes* with organic or inorganic guests, or a chemical species that can accommodate guests within cavities of its crystal structure. Examples include *cryptands* and *crowns* (where there are ion-dipole attractions between heteroatoms and positive ions), *hydrogen-bonded* molecules that form ‘clathrates’ (e.g. hydroquinone and water), and host molecules of *inclusion compounds* (e.g. urea or thiourea). *van der Waals forces* and *hydrophobic interactions* bind the guest to the host molecule in clathrates and inclusion compounds.

1994, 66, 1122

2. (in biotechnology)

A cell whose metabolism is used for growth and reproduction of a virus, *plasmid* or other form of foreign *DNA*.

1992, 64, 156