

intermediate

A *molecular entity* with a *lifetime* appreciably longer than a molecular vibration (corresponding to a local potential energy minimum of depth greater than RT) that is formed (directly or indirectly) from the reactants and reacts further to give (either directly or indirectly) the products of a *chemical reaction*; also the corresponding *chemical species*.

See *reaction step*, *elementary reaction*, *stepwise reaction*.
1994, 66, 1126; see also 1996, 68, 170