

**carbocation**

A cation containing an even number of electrons with a significant portion of the excess positive charge located on one or more carbon atoms. This is a general term embracing *carbenium ions*, all types of *carbonium ions*, vinyl cations, etc. Carbocations may be named by adding the word ‘cation’ to the name of the corresponding radical. Such names do not imply structure (e.g. whether three-coordinated or five-coordinated carbon atoms are present).

See also *bridged carbocation*, *radical ion*.

1994, 66, 1093; 1995, 67, 1325