Beta cleavage in mass spectrometry is a characteristic fragmentation of the molecular ion derived from some organic compounds, most notably alcohols, ethers, and amines, in which the bond connecting alpha- and beta-carbons break.

eg:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Homolytic beta cleavage:} & \\
\text{Heterolytic beta cleavage:}
\end{align*}
\]

see alpha cleavage

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**Contributors**

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