An elimination is a reaction in which an organic compound loses two ligands without gaining any.

eg. 1:

\[
\text{net reaction:} \quad \text{1} \quad \text{KOH-Bu} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{1} \quad \text{HO-Bu} \quad + \quad \text{KBr}
\]

In this reaction, 1 loses two ligands, H and Br, without gaining any. Therefore, this reaction is an elimination reaction.

eg. 2:

\[
\text{net reaction:} \quad \text{2} \quad \text{NaOH} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{2} \quad \text{HCl} \quad + \quad \text{H}_2\text{O} \quad + \quad \text{NaCl}
\]

In this reaction, 2 loses two ligands, H and Cl, without gaining any. Therefore, this reaction is an elimination reaction.

Overall, elimination is the exact opposite of addition.

eg:
see also 1,1-elimination, 1,2-elimination

Contributors

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