A ketal is a compound that has the following general structural formula.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{R}^1 \\
\text{R}^2 \\
\text{R}^3 \\
\text{R}^4
\end{array}
\]

- \( \text{R}^1 = \text{alkyl, aryl} \)
- \( \text{R}^2 = \text{alkyl, aryl} \)
- \( \text{R}^3, \text{R}^4 = \text{alkyl} \) (In most ketals, \( \text{R}^3 = \text{R}^4 \); cyclic ketals are an exception.)

**Example:**

The functional group 1 in an organic molecule is called the ketal group; the carbon atom bearing the two oxygen atoms is the ketal carbon.

**See also** cyclic ketal

**Contributors**

- Gamini Gunawardena from the OChemPal site (Utah Valley University)