A prochiral molecule is an achiral molecule containing at least one pair of enantiotopic ligands.

eg:

1 is achiral, and $H_a$ and $H_b$ in 1 are enantiotopic. Thus, 1 is prochiral. In a prochiral molecule, an atom bearing a pair of enantiotopic ligands is called a prochiral center or prochirality center. If a prochirality center is a carbon atom, it can also be called a prochiral carbon.

see also chiral molecule, chiral center

Contributors

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