Tautomerization is the conversion of a species formed in a reaction into a tautomer.

eg. 1:

\[ \text{CH}_3-\text{CH}=\text{CH} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3-\text{CH}(-\text{OH}) \quad \text{ac, NaOH} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3-\text{CH}(-\text{CHO}) \]

Oxidation of 1 results in 2, which undergoes tautomerization to 3.

eg. 2:

\[ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5-\text{O}^\text{-} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5(-\text{COOH}) \quad \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5(-\text{COOH}) \]

4 reacts with CO\textsubscript{2} to give 5, which undergoes tautomerization to 6.

see also tautomerism

---

**Contributors**

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