A tertiary (3°) alkyl carbocation is an alkyl carbocation in which the carbon atom bearing the formal charge of +1 is bonded to three carbon atoms.

eg:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{CH}_3 \\
\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3 \\
\text{CH}_3 - \text{C}^+ \\
\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3
\end{array}
\]

See also primary alkyl carbocation and secondary alkyl carbocation.

Contributors

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