

## asymmetric

Lacking all symmetry elements (other than the trivial one of a one-fold axis of symmetry), i.e. belonging to the symmetry point group  $C_1$ . The term has been used loosely (and incorrectly) to describe the absence of a rotation–reflection axis (alternating axis) in a molecule, i.e. as meaning chiral, and this usage persists in the traditional terms asymmetric carbon atom, asymmetric synthesis, asymmetric induction, etc.

**Source:**

PAC, 1996, 68, 2193 (*Basic terminology of stereochemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 2199

Blue Book, p. 480