**cluster ion**

*in mass spectrometry*

An ion formed by the combination of more ions or atoms or molecules of a chemical species often in association with a second species. For example, \([\text{(H}_2\text{O)}_n \text{H}]^+\) is a cluster ion.

**Source:**
PAC, 1991, 63, 1541 (*Recommendations for nomenclature and symbolism for mass spectroscopy (including an appendix of terms used in vacuum technology). (Recommendations 1991))* on page 1549