**heteroarenes**

Heterocyclic compounds formally derived from arenes by replacement of one or more methine (–C=) and/or vinylene (–CH=CH–) groups by trivalent or divalent heteroatoms, respectively, in such a way as to maintain the continuous π-electron system characteristic of aromatic systems and a number of out-of-plane π-electrons corresponding to the Hückel rule ($4n + 2$); an alternative term is hetarenes.

![Pyridine and thiophene structures](image)

**Source:**
PAC, 1995, 67, 1307 (Glossary of class names of organic compounds and reactivity intermediates based on structure (IUPAC Recommendations 1995)) on page 1340