

David Van Vranken and Gregory Weiss

# **Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology**

## **Chapter 2 The Chemical Origins of Biology**

Complex living organisms are  
beholden to elementary  
scientific principles

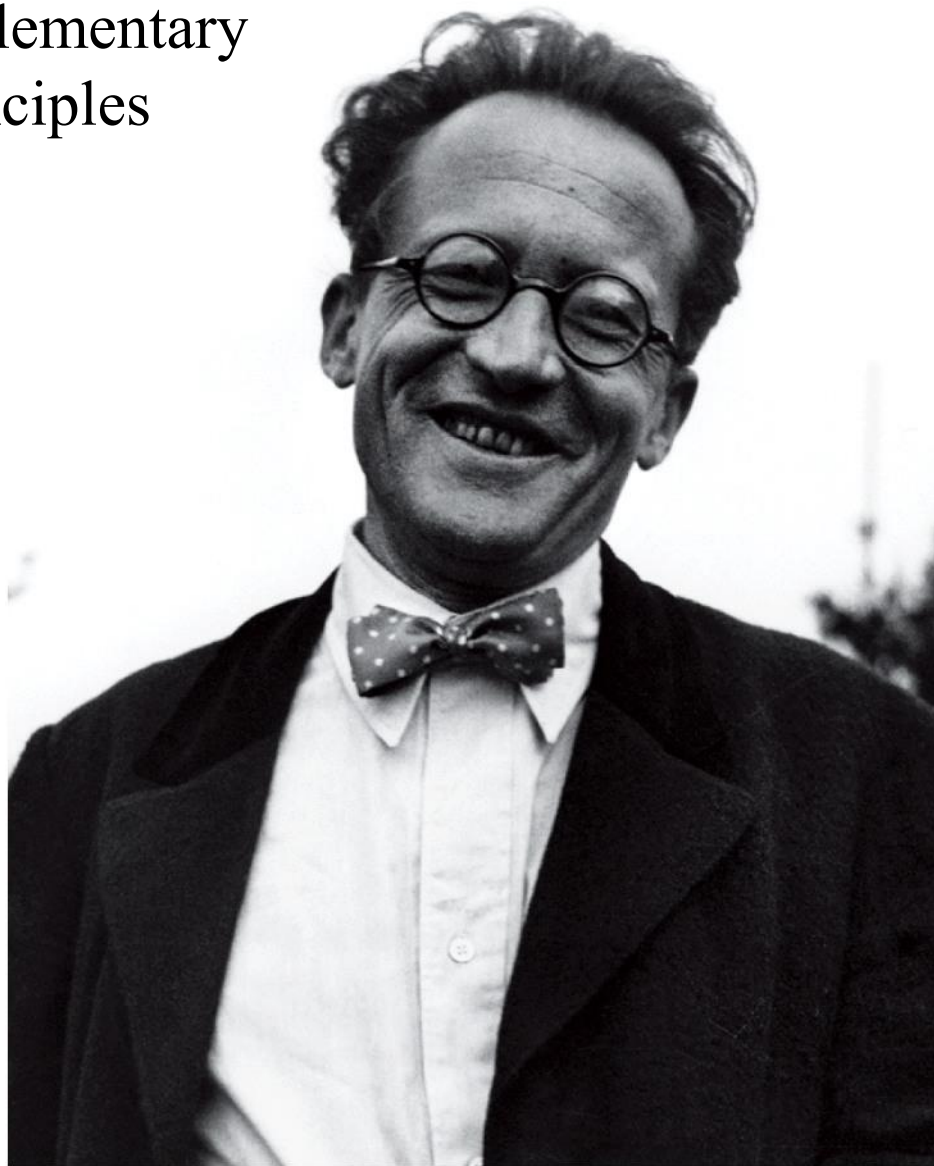


Figure 2.1 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



Figure 2.2 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

The first application of curved arrows was used to represent resonance. Curved arrows were introduced to mechanistic organic chemistry before line depictions of were widely adopted.

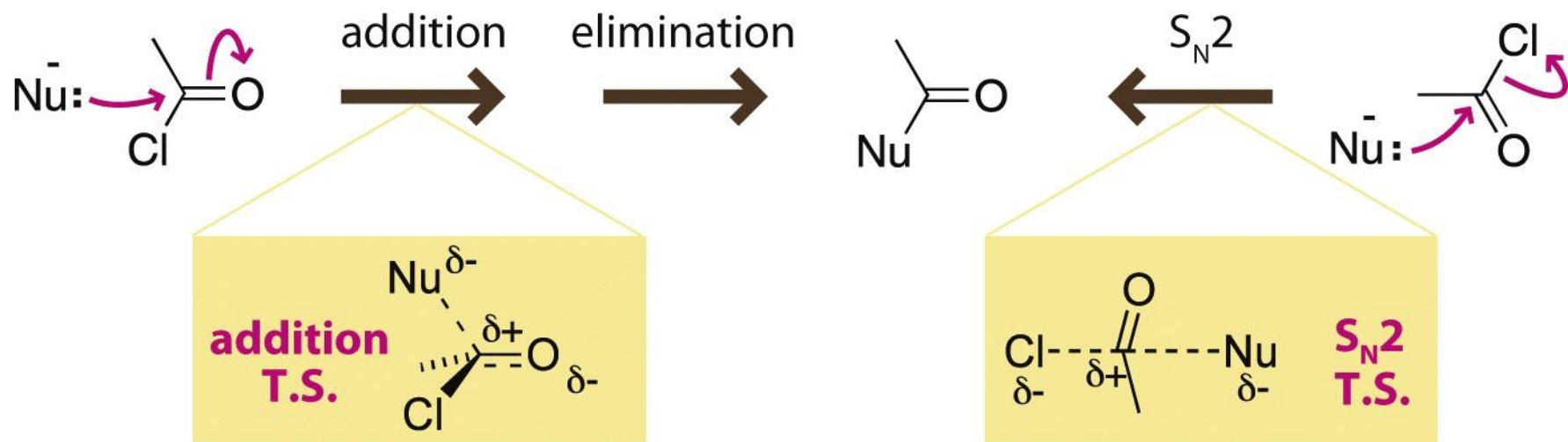
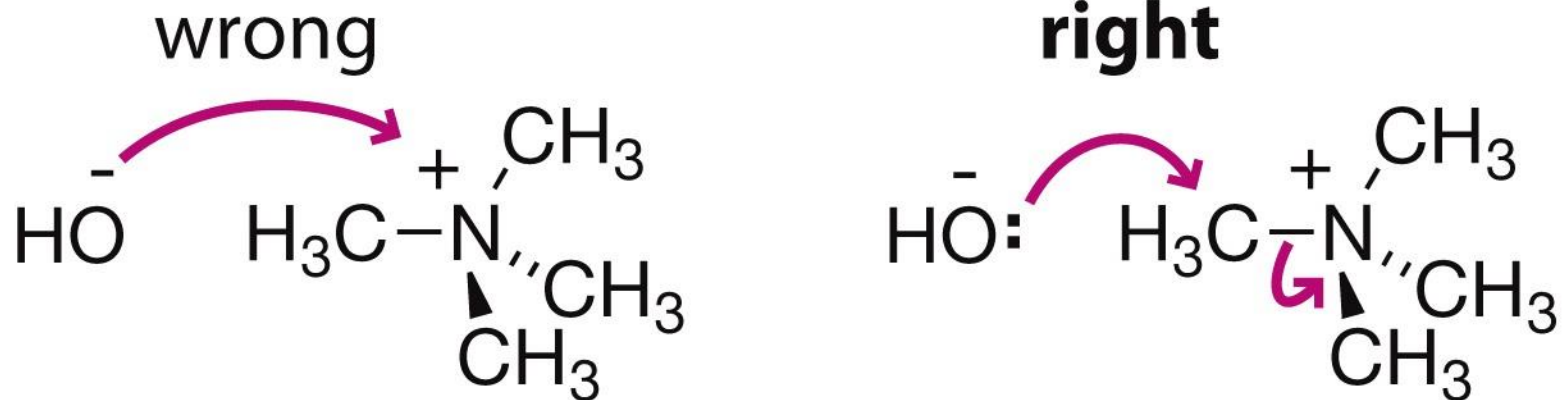


Figure 2.3 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

charge

**A**



**B**

*anti* conformer

*syn* conformer

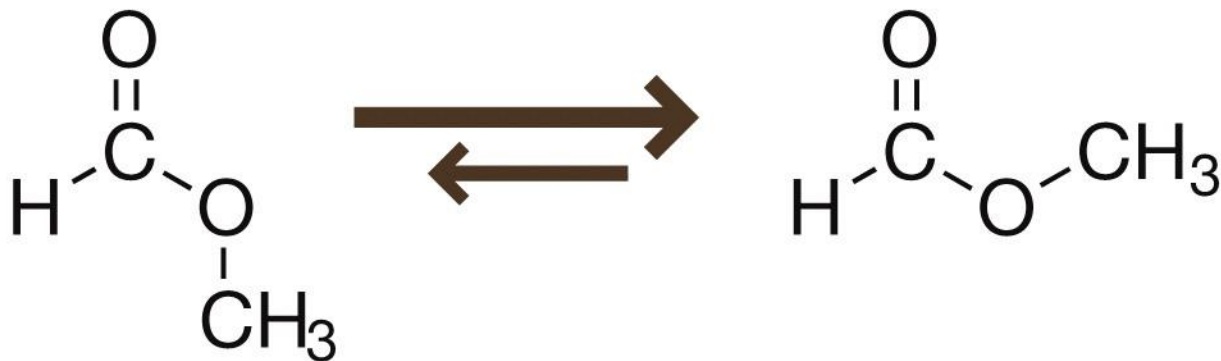


Figure 2.4 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Sterics cannot explain the *syn* conformer formation

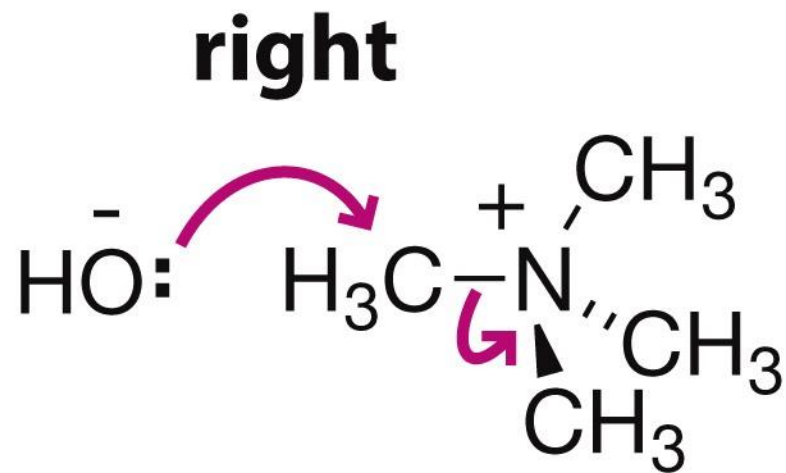
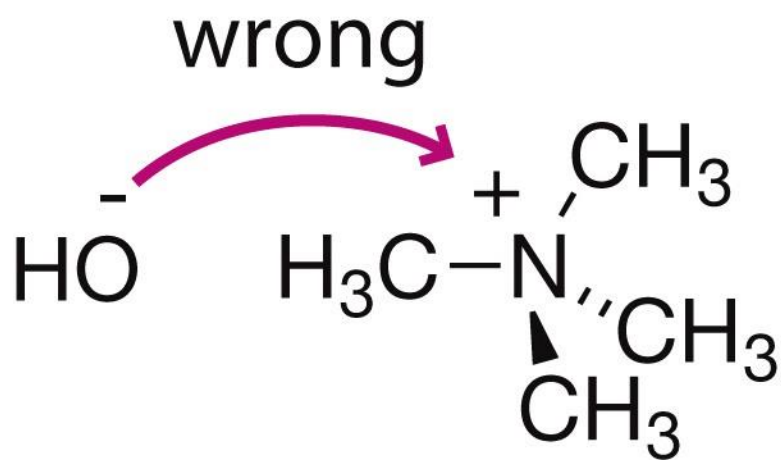
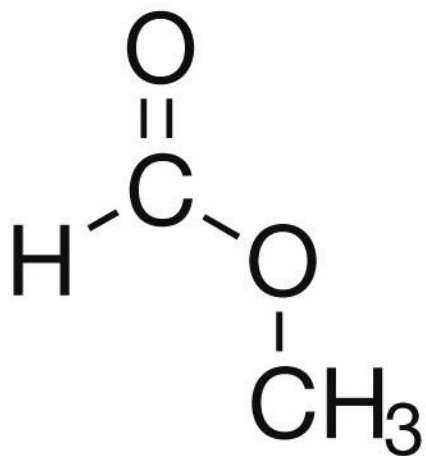


Figure 2.4a Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Violation of the octet rule for N

*anti* conformer



*syn* conformer

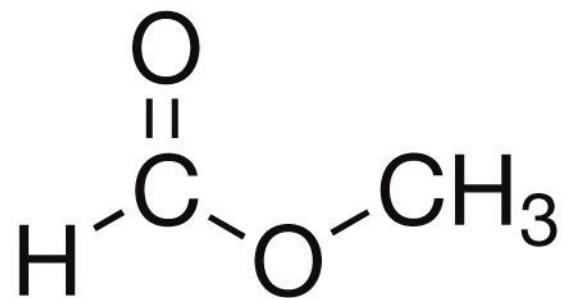


Figure 2.4b Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Orbital interactions

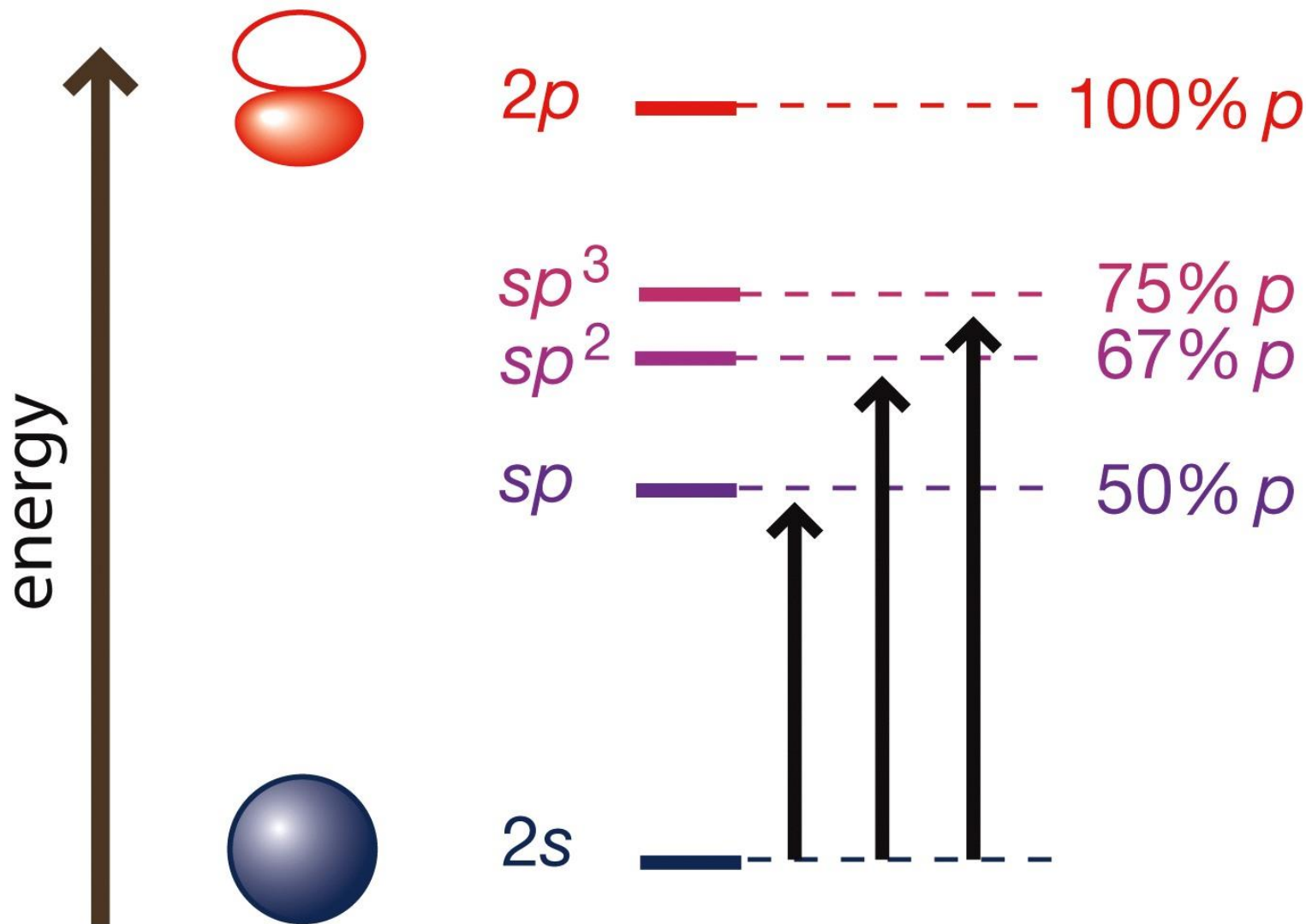





Figure 2.5 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Electrons in orbitals with higher  $p$  character are more reactive than electrons in orbitals with lower  $p$  character



**Table 2.1 *p* Character and basicity.**

$pK_a'$	lone pair	% <i>p</i>
50	 $sp^3$	75
41	 $sp^2$	67
24	 $sp$	50

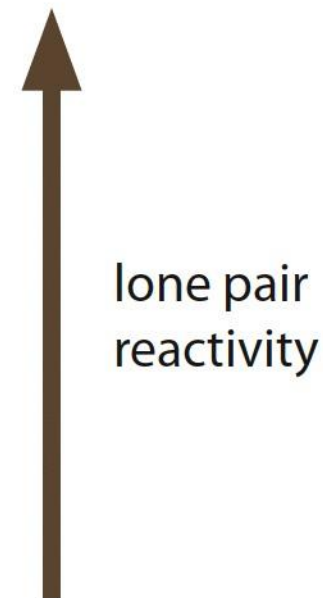


Table 2.1 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

S character confers stability. P character confers nucleophilicity and basicity

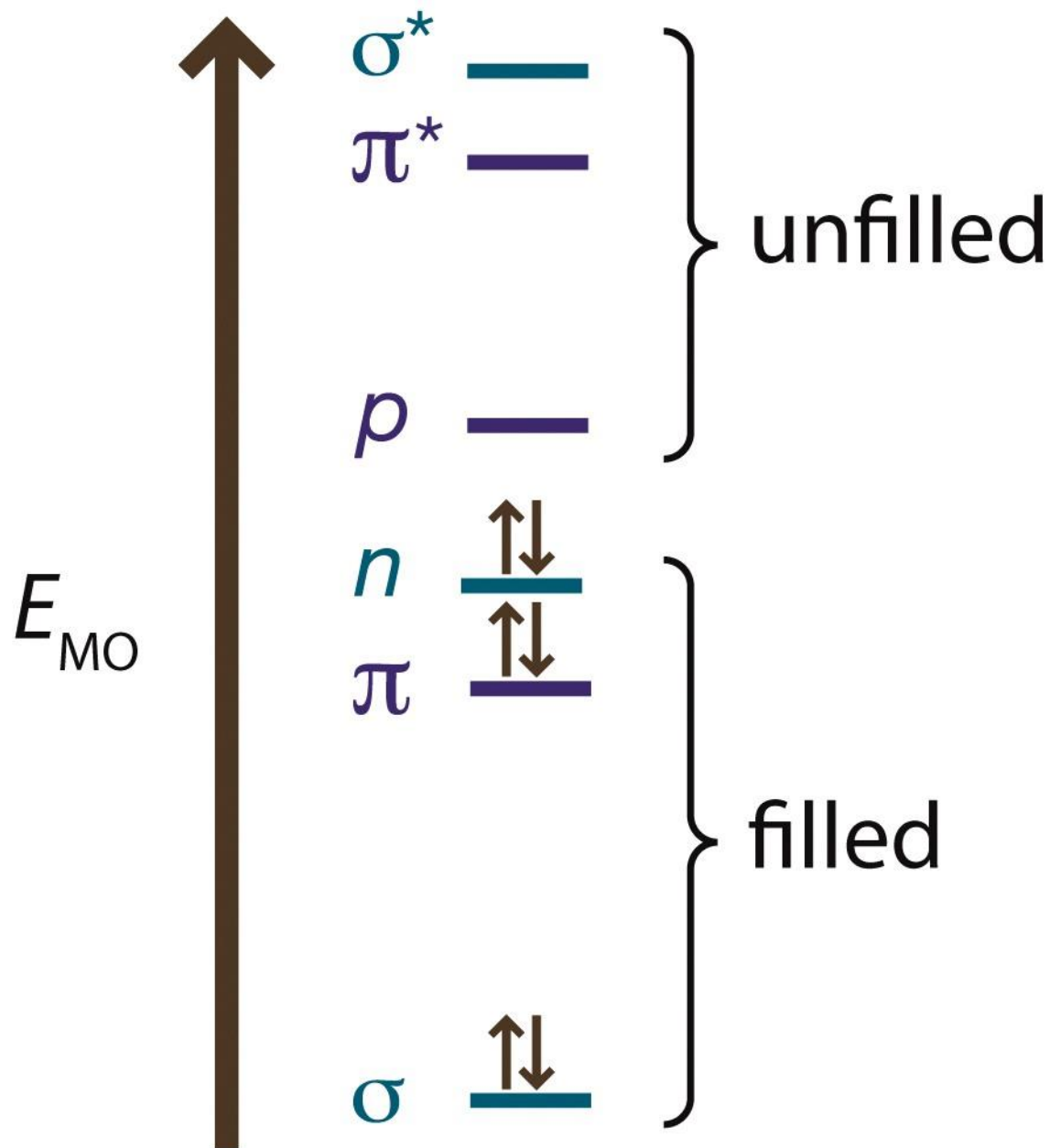


Figure 2.6 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

intrinsic nucleophilicity:

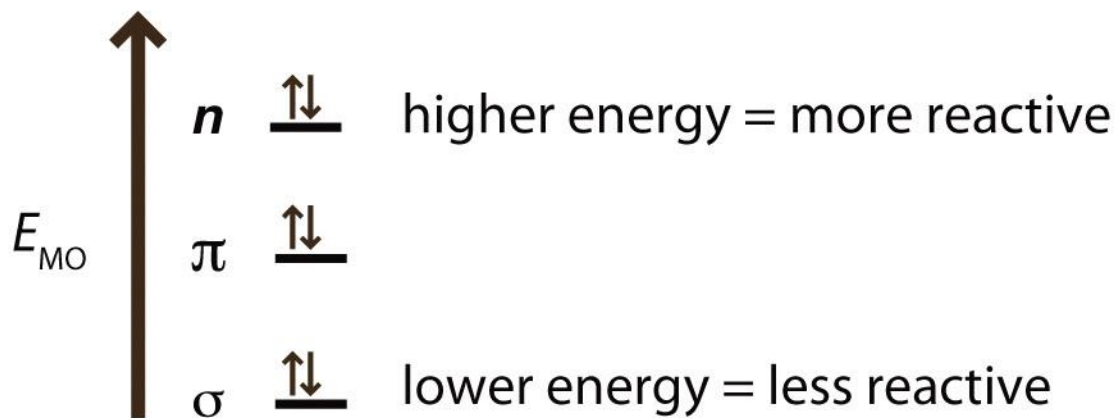
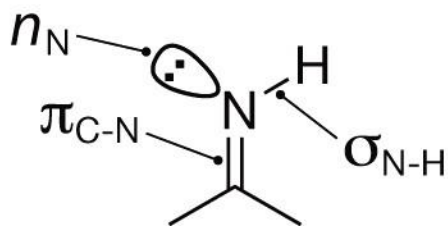


Figure 2.7 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

intrinsic electrophilicity:

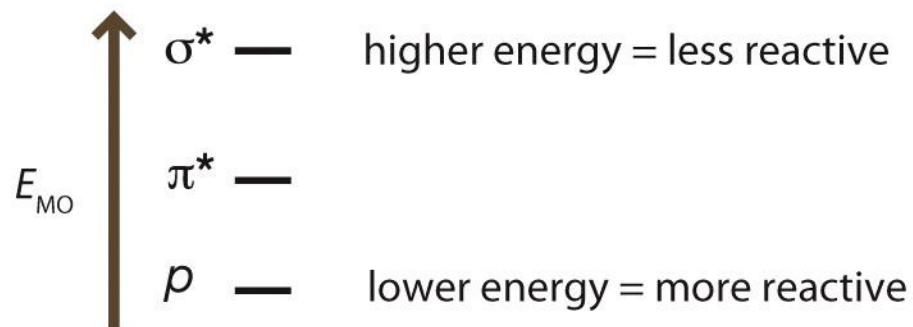
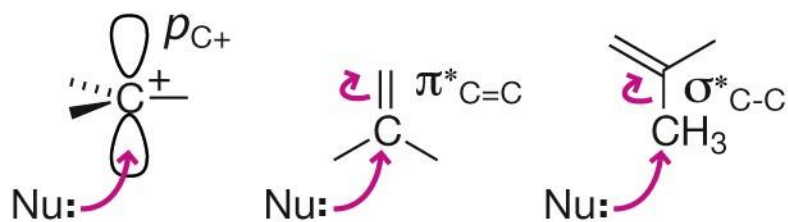
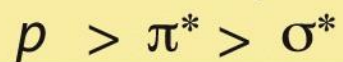


Figure 2.8 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

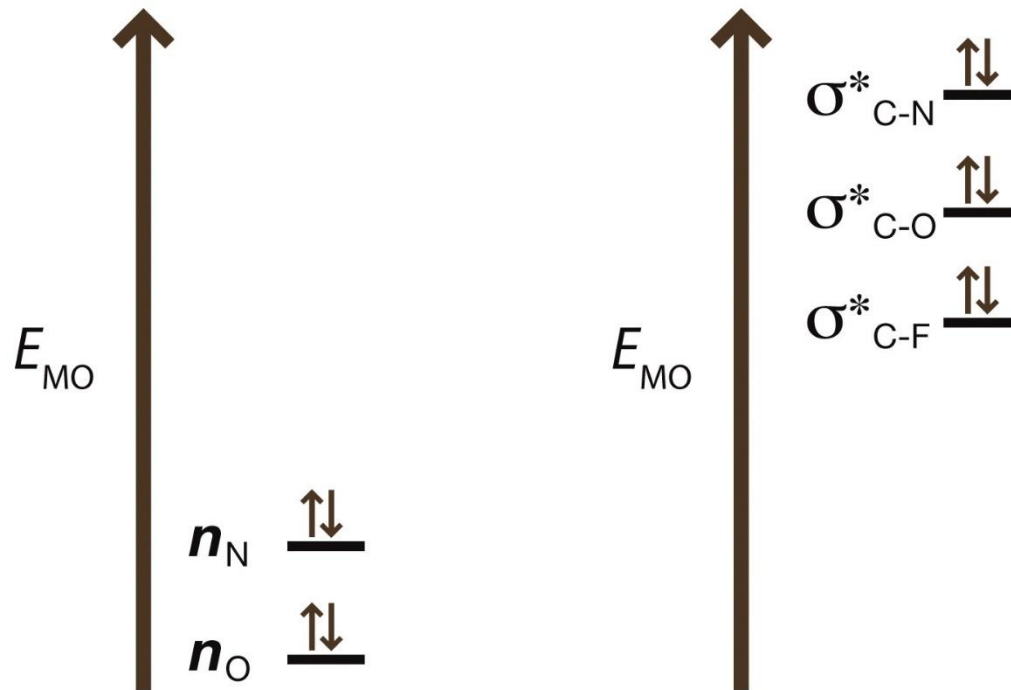


Figure 2.9 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Η ηλεκτραρνητικότητα επηρεάζει τα μετωπικά τροχιακά και τις αλληλεπιδράσεις Coulomb

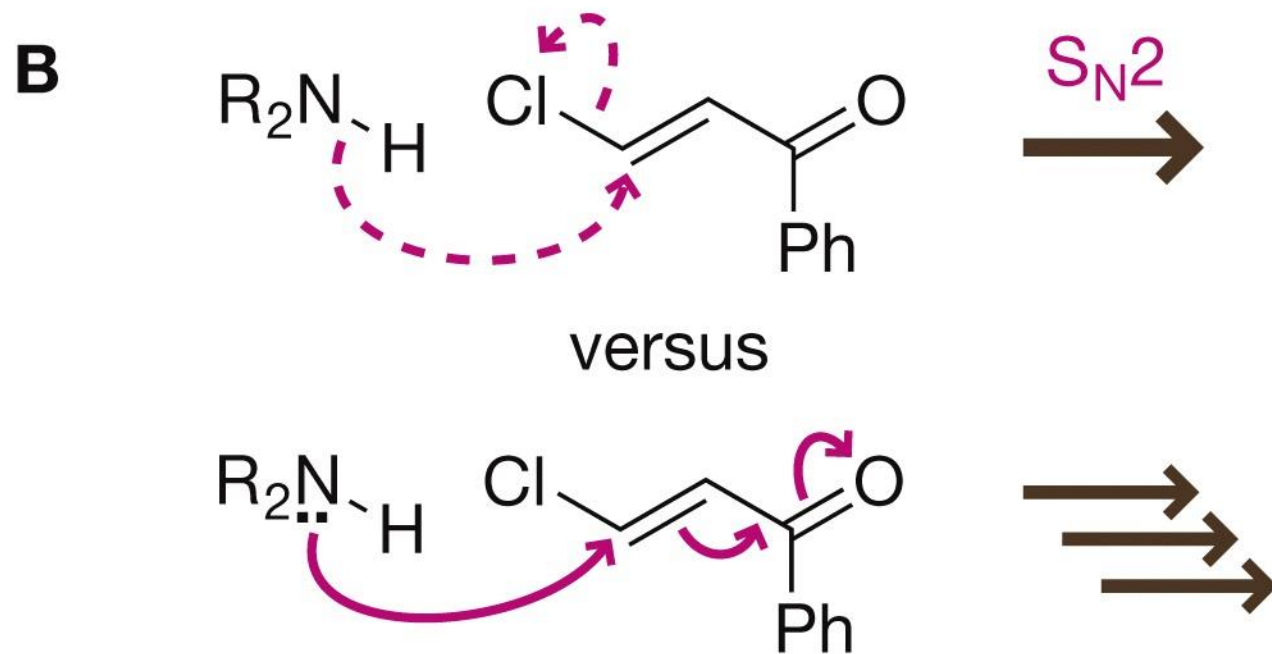
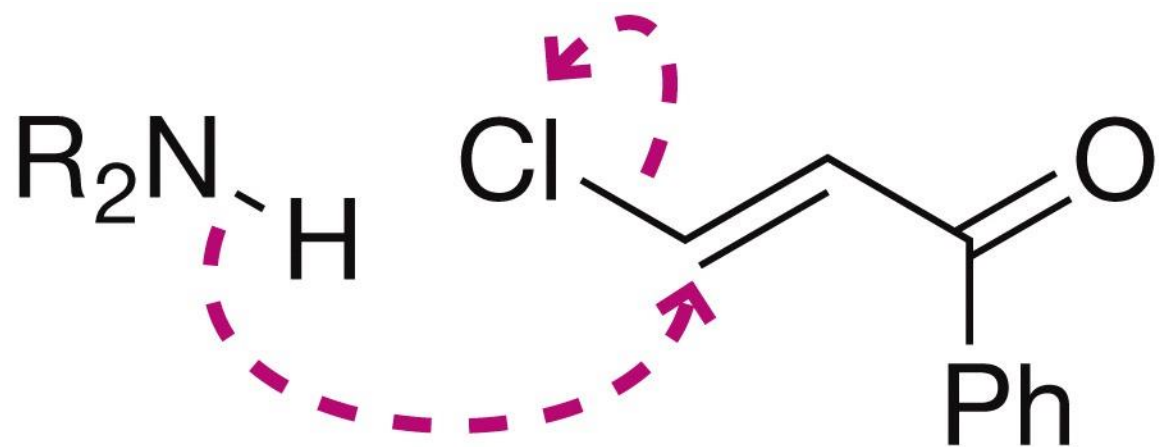


Figure 2.10 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



Figure 2.10a Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



versus

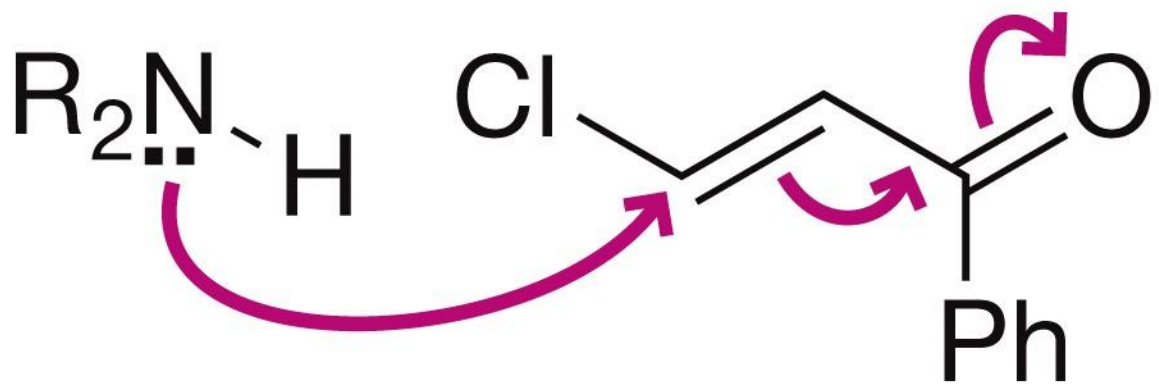


Figure 2.10b Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



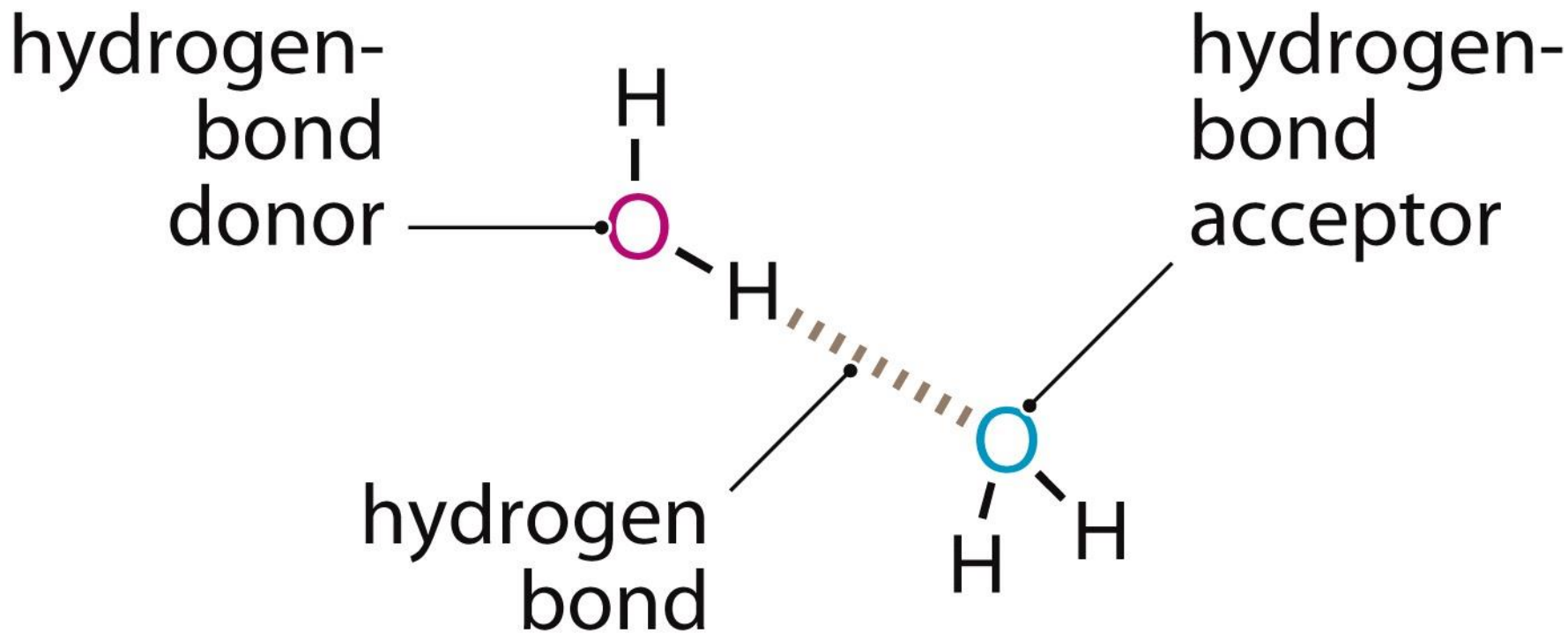
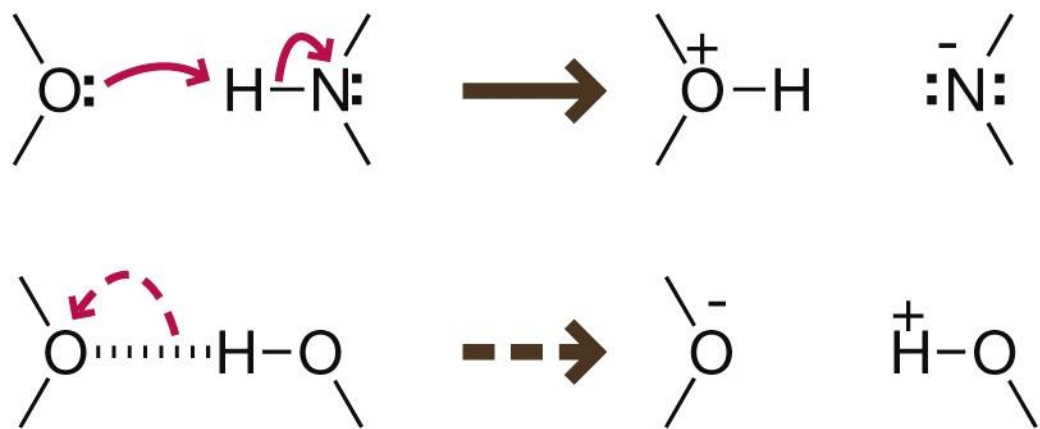


Figure 2.11 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Η ζωή θα ήταν διαφορετική χωρίς τους δεσμούς υδρογόνου

bond must break



**not**

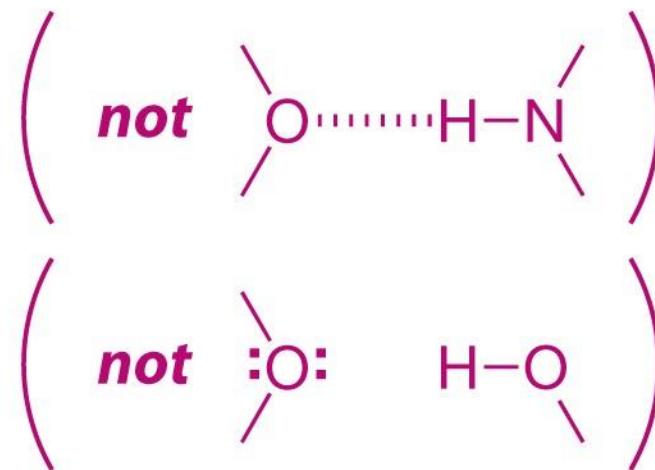
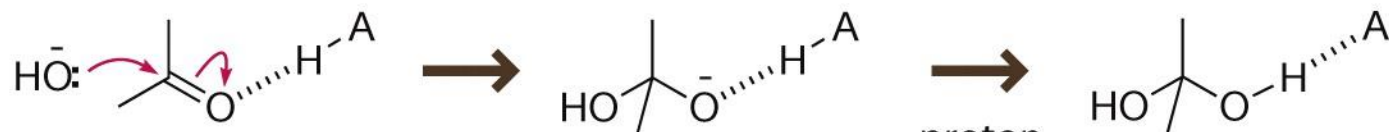


Figure 2.12 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

omit the  
arrow-pushing  
for proton transfer



omit the obvious  
hydrogen bond

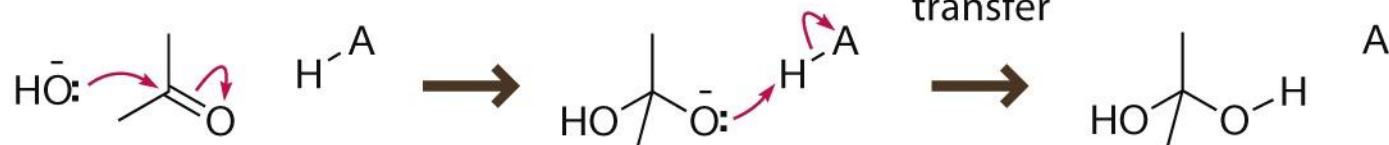


Figure 2.13 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Proton transfer from heteroatoms are usually fast

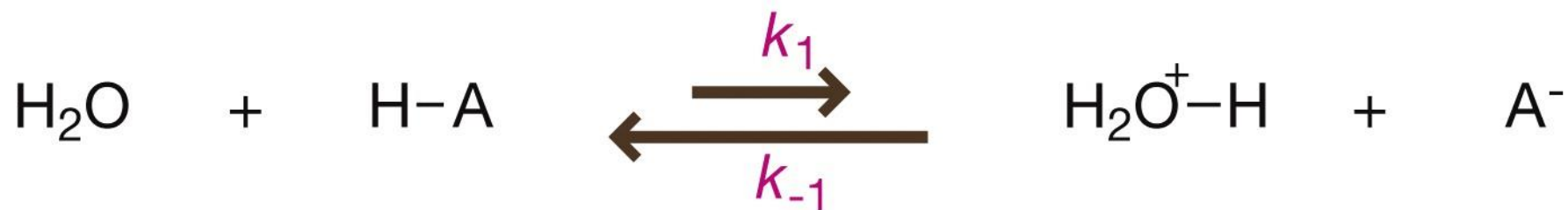


Figure 2.14 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Υδατικά οξέα

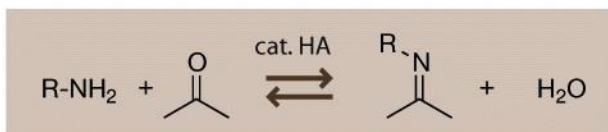
**Table 2.2 Rate constants for proton transfers to water (see Figure 2.14).**

HA	pK <sub>a</sub>	k <sub>1</sub> (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	k <sub>-1</sub> (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
HF	3.2	10 <sup>8</sup>	10 <sup>11</sup>
AcOH	4.7	10 <sup>6</sup>	10 <sup>11</sup>
H <sub>2</sub> S	7.2	10 <sup>4</sup>	10 <sup>11</sup>
MeCOCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Et	9.0	10 <sup>-3</sup>	6 × 10 <sup>7</sup>
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	9.3	25	~10 <sup>11</sup>
CH <sub>3</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	10.2	10 <sup>-8</sup>	6 × 10 <sup>2</sup>

Table 2.2 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

$$K_{\text{eq}} = \frac{k_{\text{forward}}}{k_{\text{reverse}}}$$

Figure 2.15 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



mechanism:

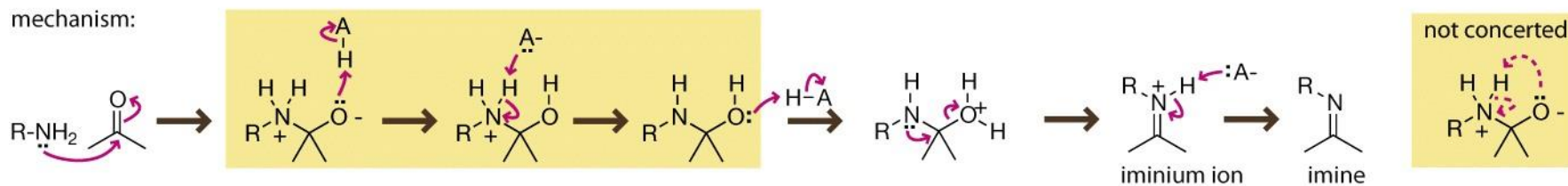


Figure 2.16 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

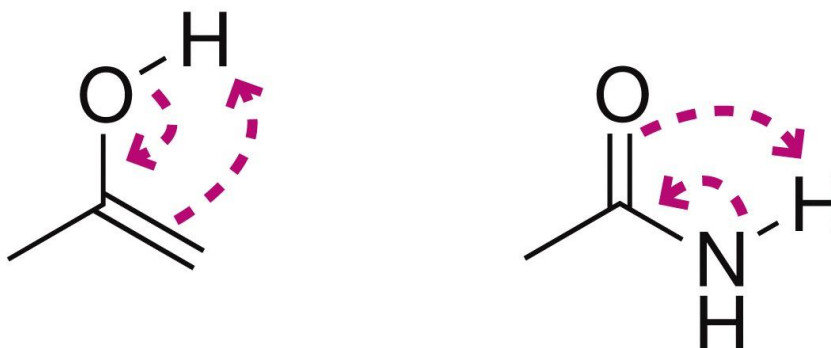
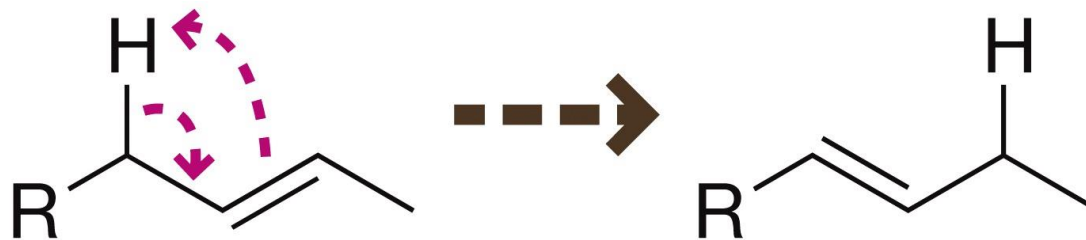


Figure 2.17 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

1,3-sigmatropic implausible

Tautomerization occurs with acid base catalysis



## Prebiotic chemistry

Celestial building blocks  
can be found in Titan  
(Saturn)

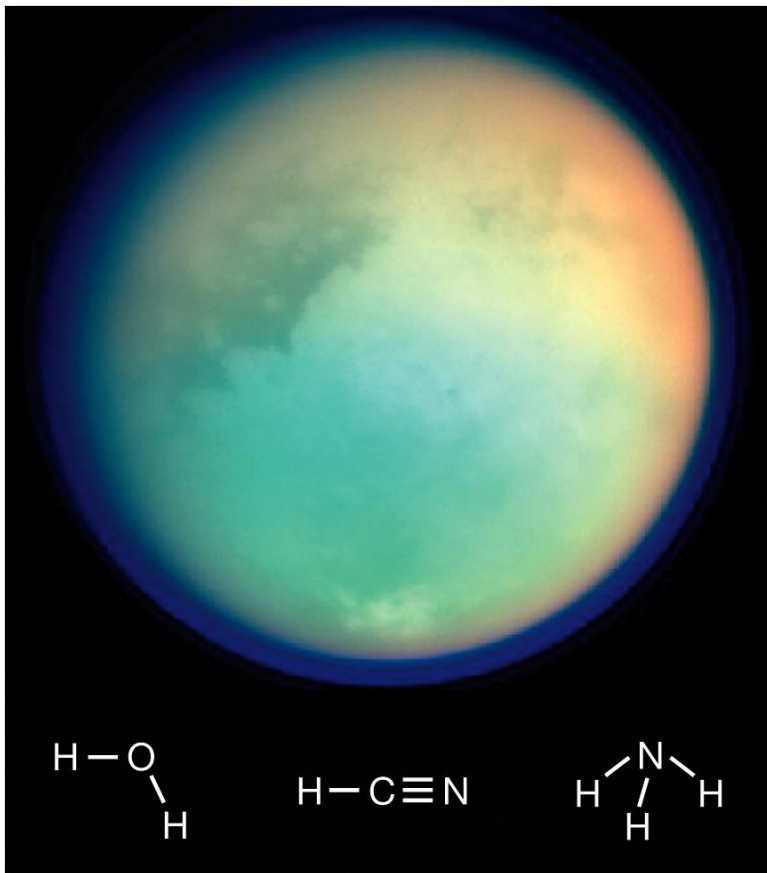


Figure 2.18 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

100,000 years homo sapiens neanderthalensis

Oldest fossils 3,6 billion years

Water, ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, acetonitrile, acrylonitrile, cyanogen, cyanoacetylene

The oxygen is not an obligate component

Earth was oxygen free until the evolution of photosynthetic bacteria -2,7 billion years ago

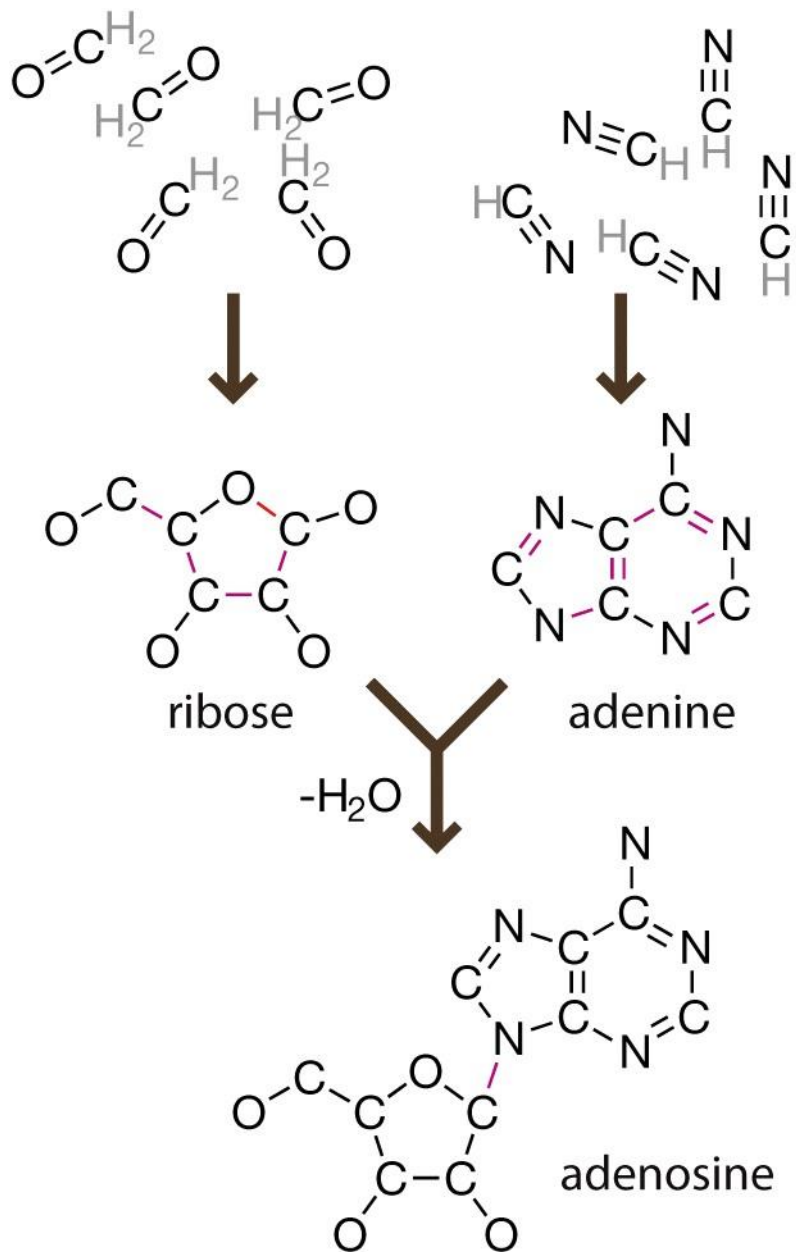


Figure 2.19 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

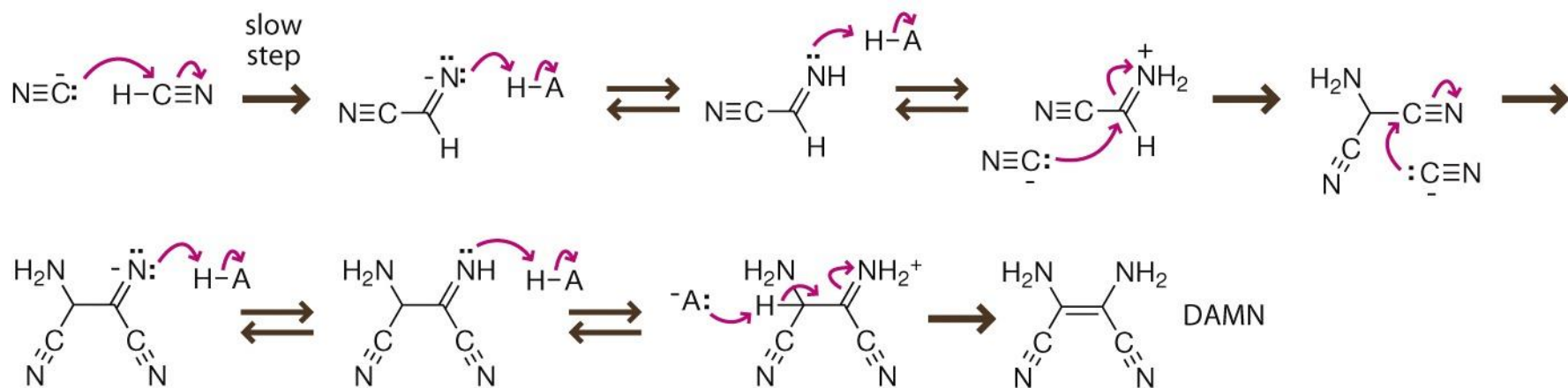


Figure 2.20 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Prebiotic carbon-carbon bond formation. Under basic conditions cyanide can serve both as a nucleophile and a electrophile, ultimately leading to DNA building blocks like DAMN

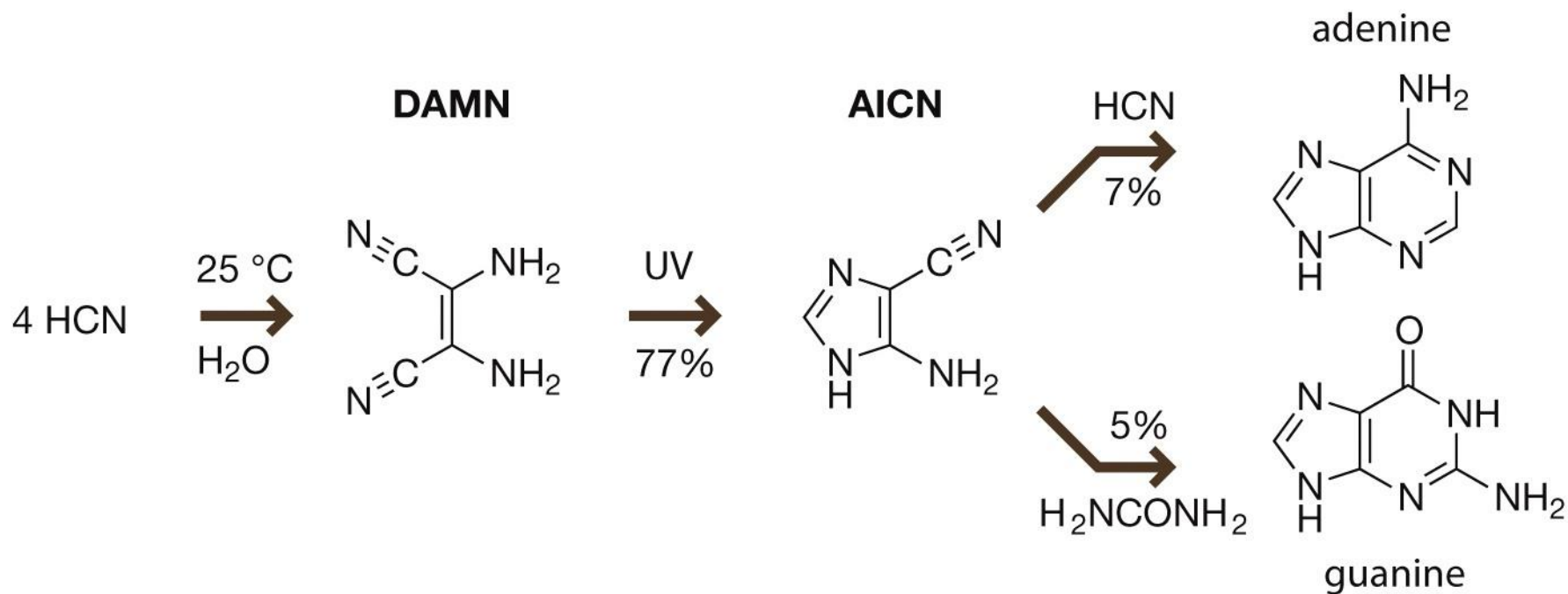


Figure 2.21 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

DAMN (diaaminomaleonitrile) is a key intermediate for the formation of adenine and guanine under prebiotic conditions

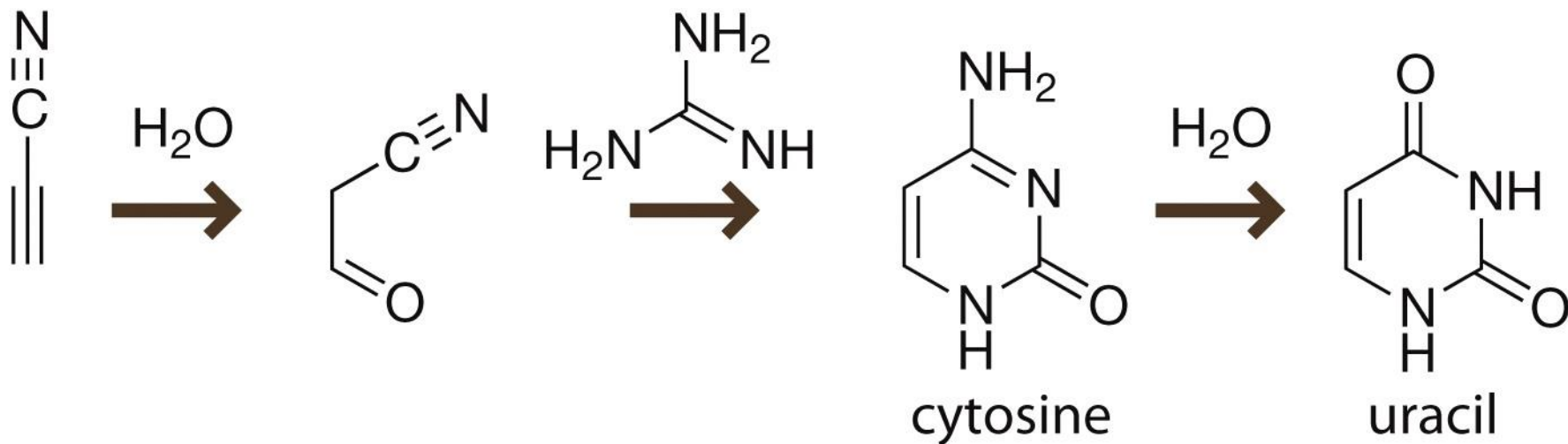


Figure 2.22 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Cyanoacetylene is a precursor in the formation of pyrimidine bases

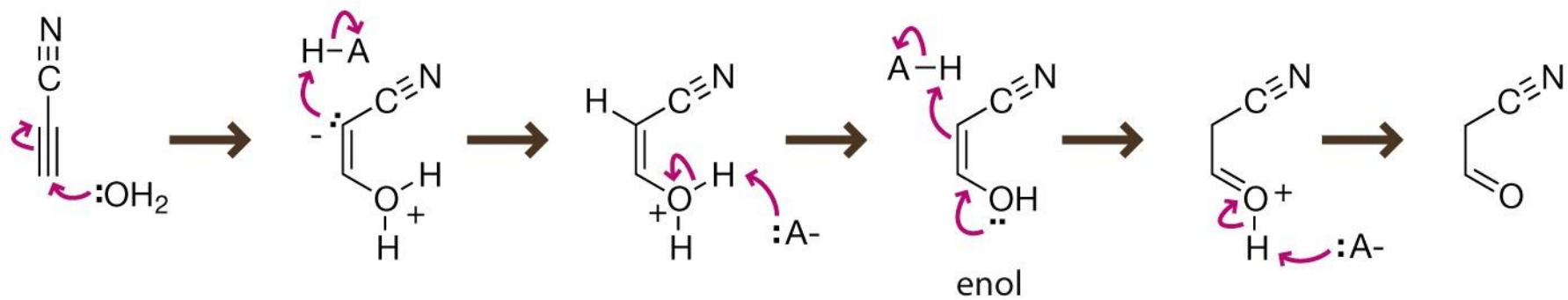


Figure 2.23 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

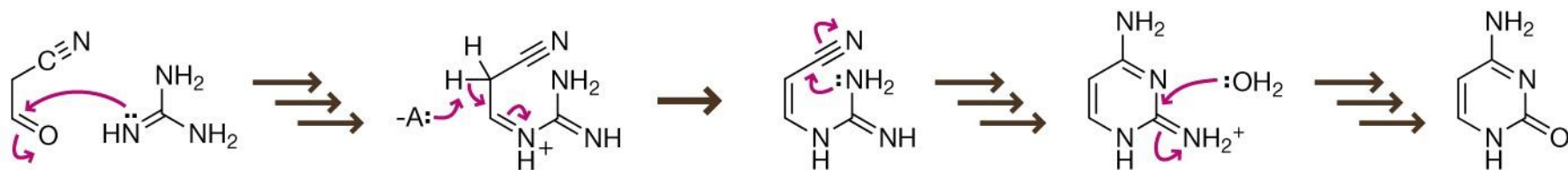
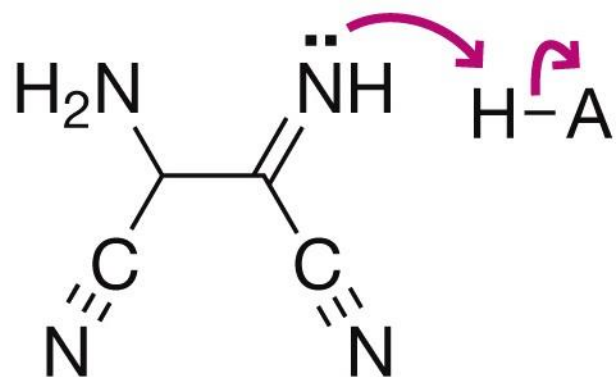
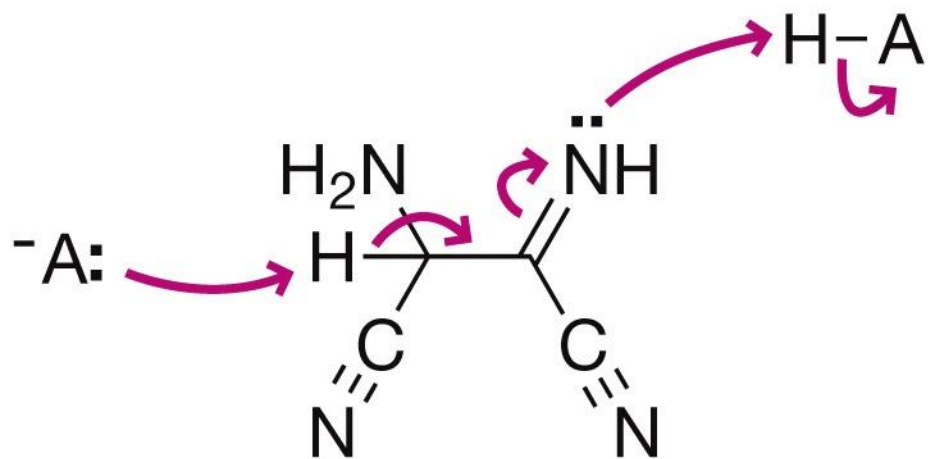
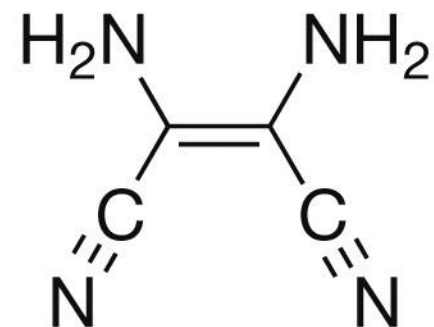
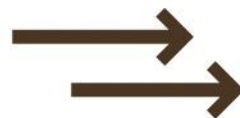


Figure 2.24 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Mechanism for the formation of cytosine



acceptable



wrong

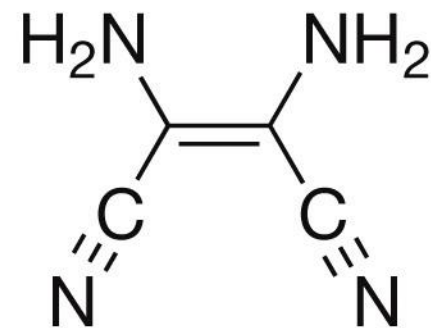


Figure 2.25 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



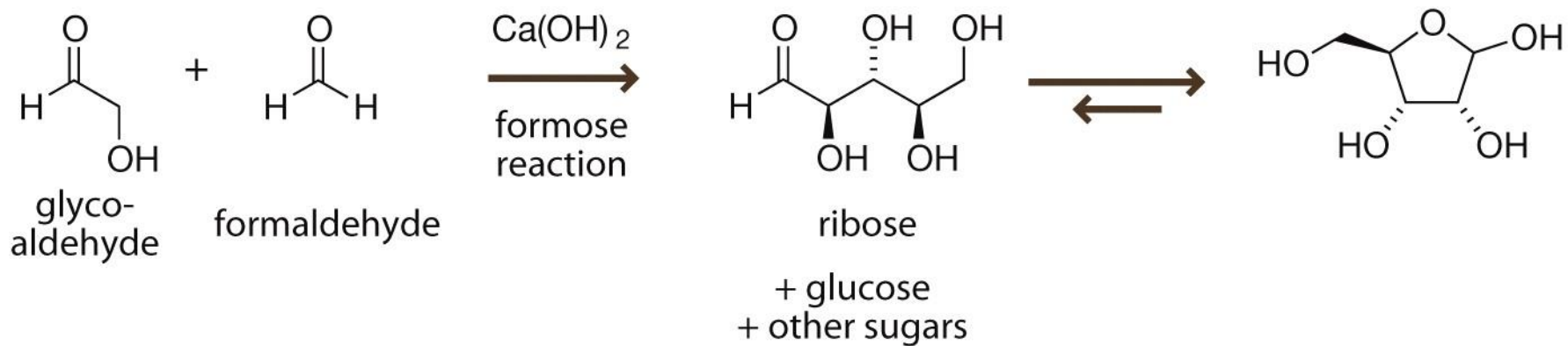


Figure 2.26 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

## Prebiotic formation of carbohydrates

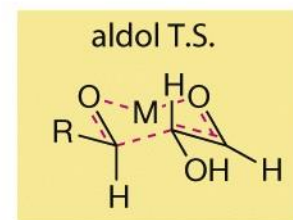
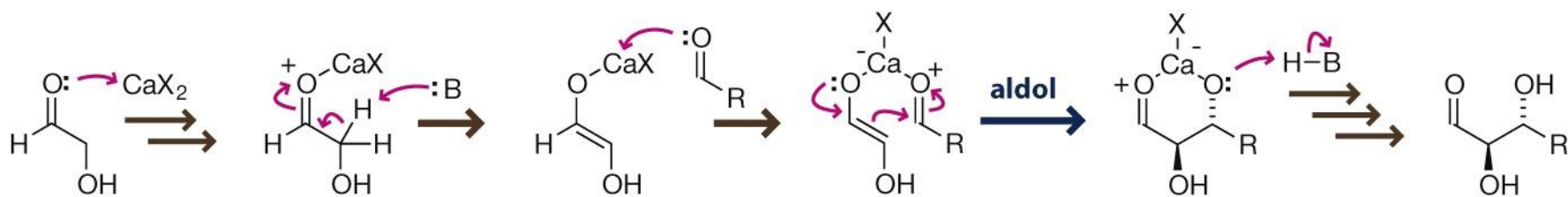


Figure 2.27 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

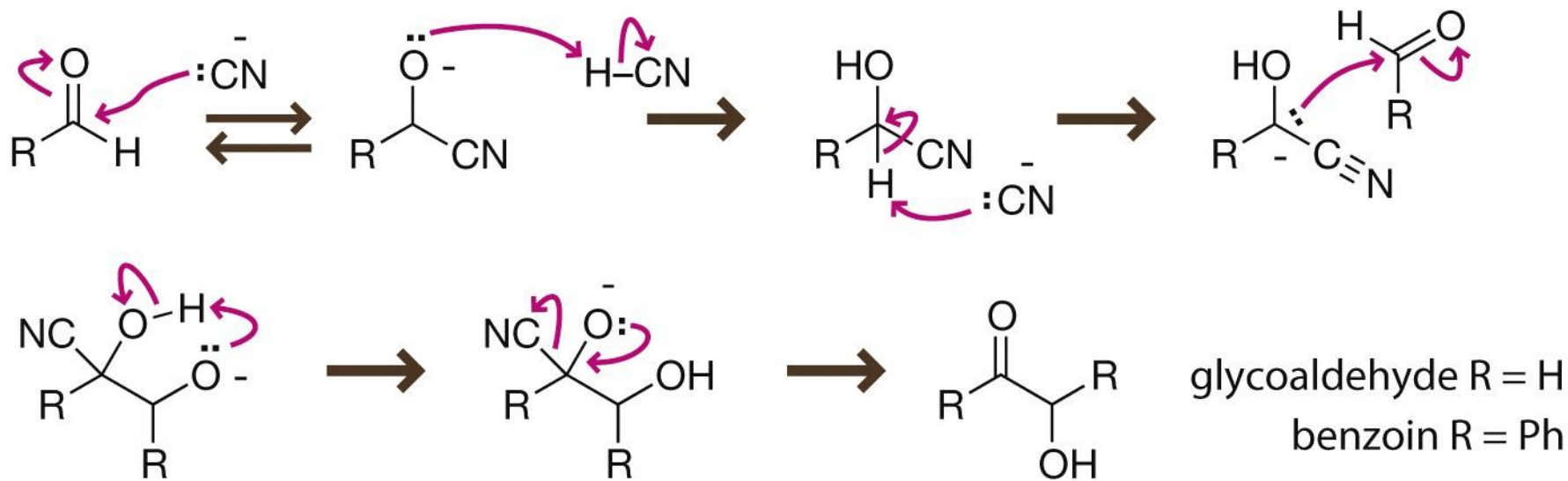


Figure 2.28 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

The prebiotic reactions explain the formation of RNA, not DNA  
 Reverse transcriptase catalyses the formation of DNA from RNA

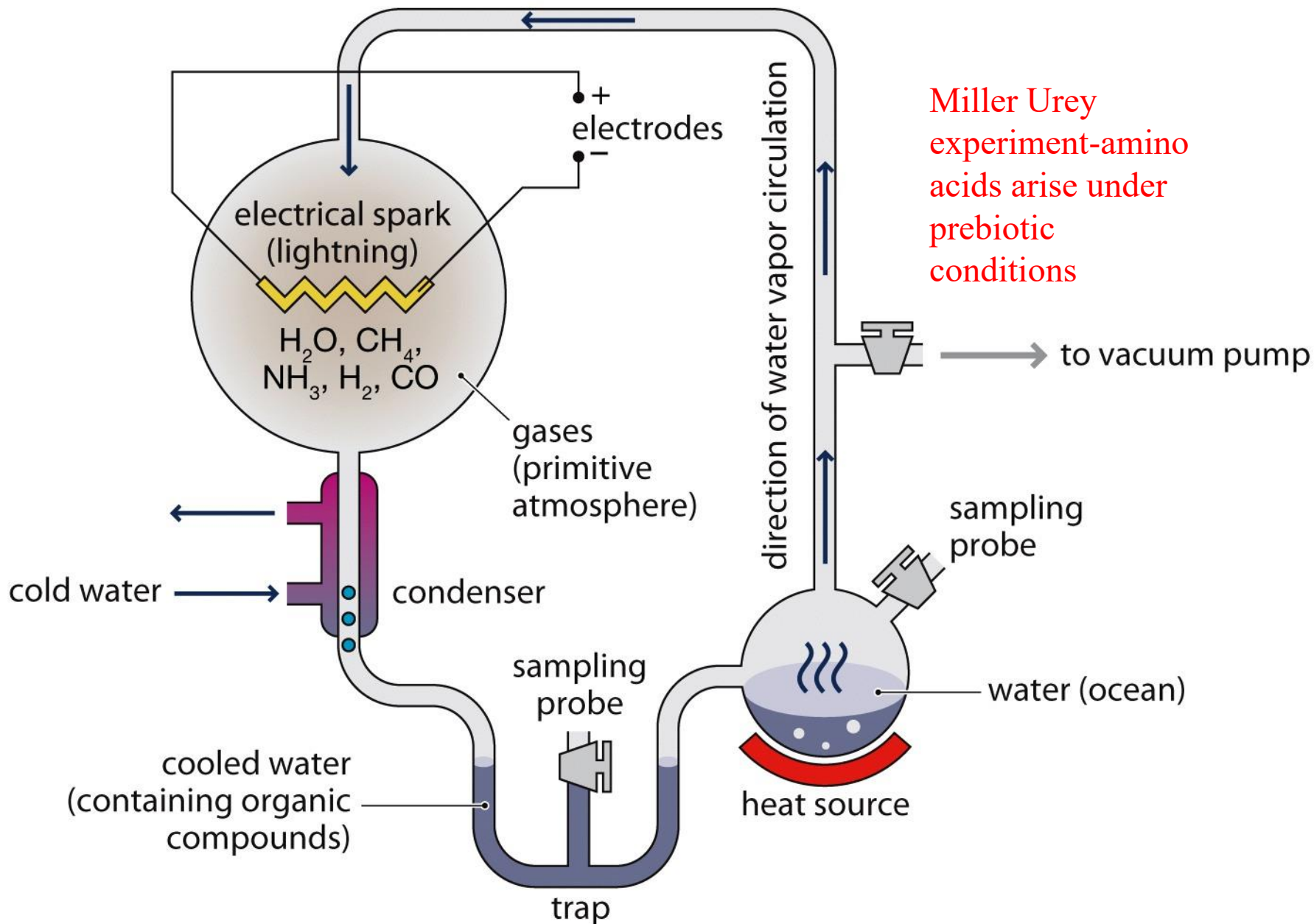
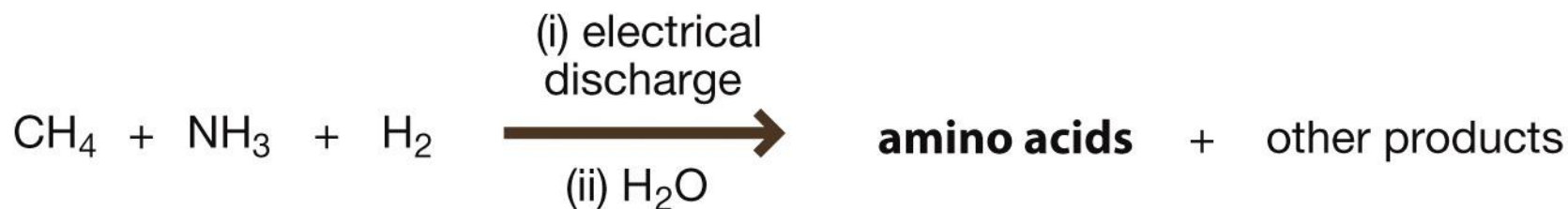
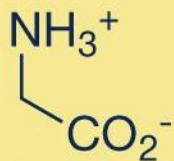


Figure 2.29 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

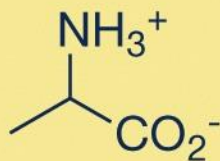


### Examples of amino acids

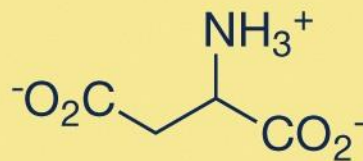
glycine



alanine



aspartate



glutamate

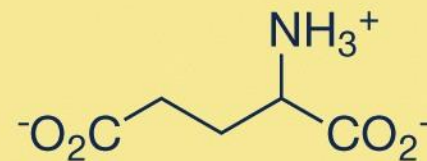


Figure 2.30 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

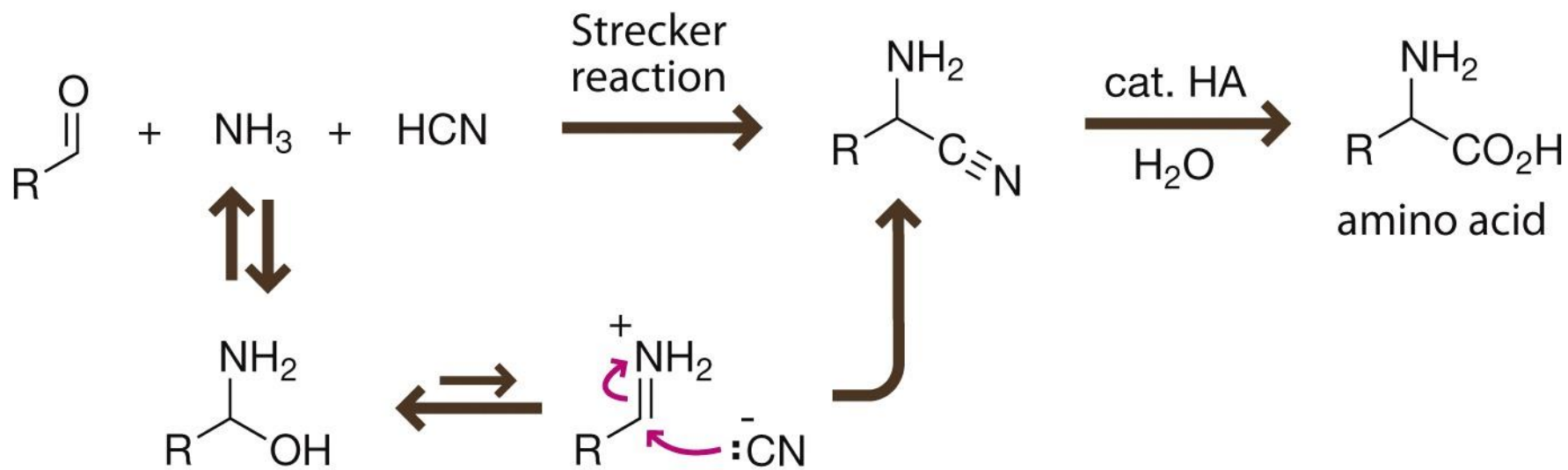


Figure 2.31 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

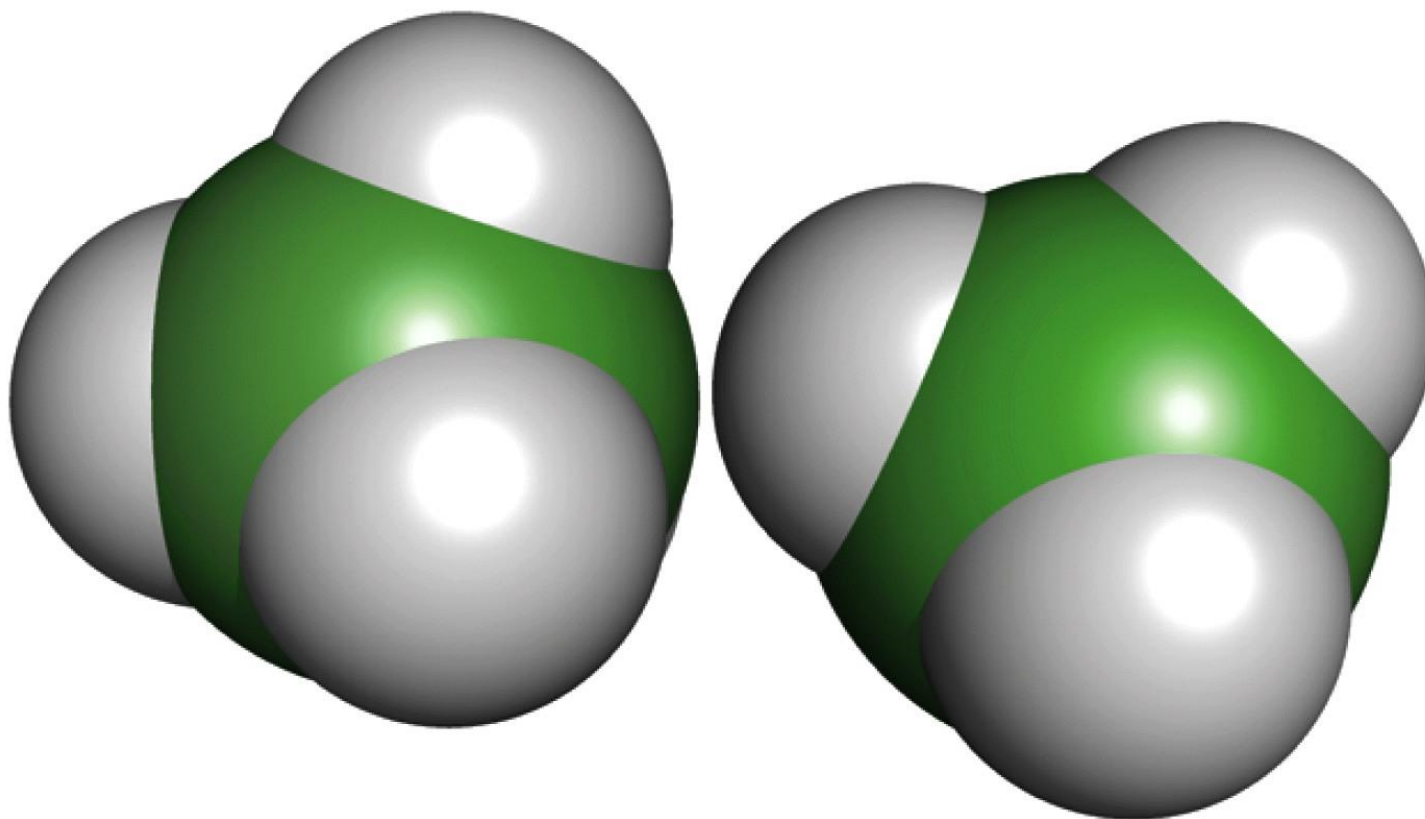


Figure 2.32 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

The weak attraction between two methane molecules is not easily quantified by perturbational molecular orbital theory that we used to think about bonding interactions

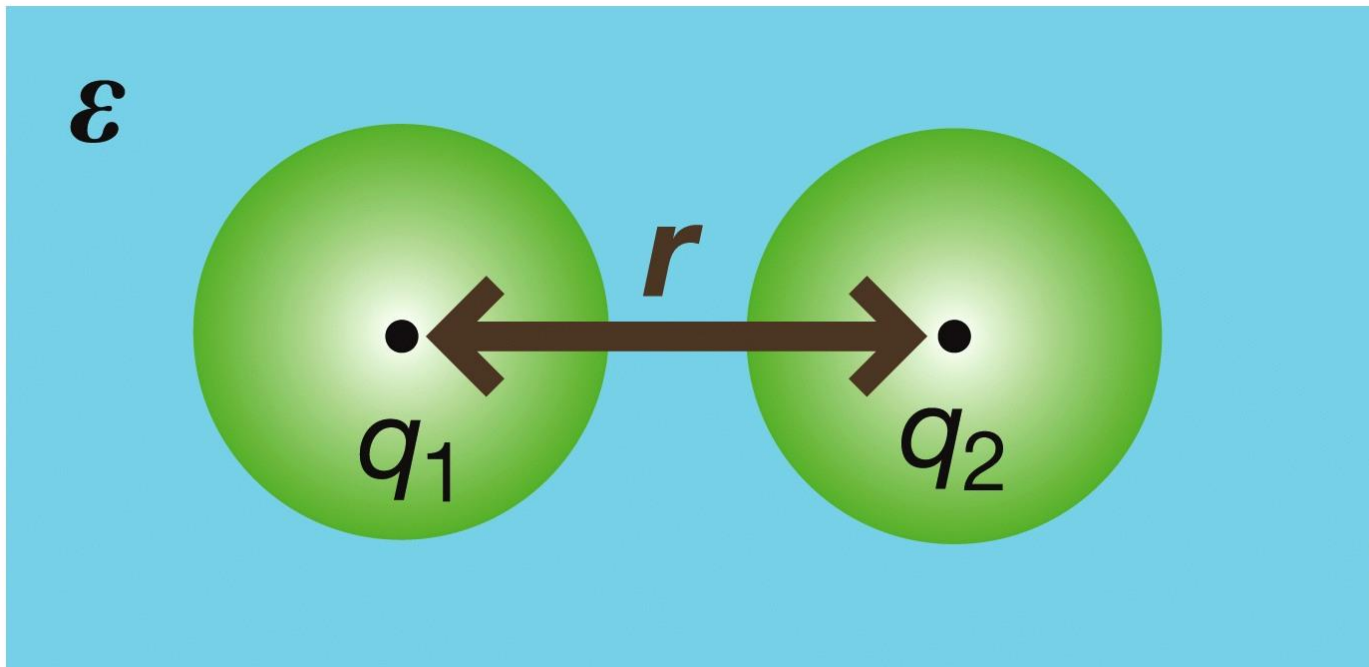


Figure 2.33 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Nonbonding interactions can be quantified by an equation involving electrostatic interactions and both attractive and repulsive van der Waals interactions



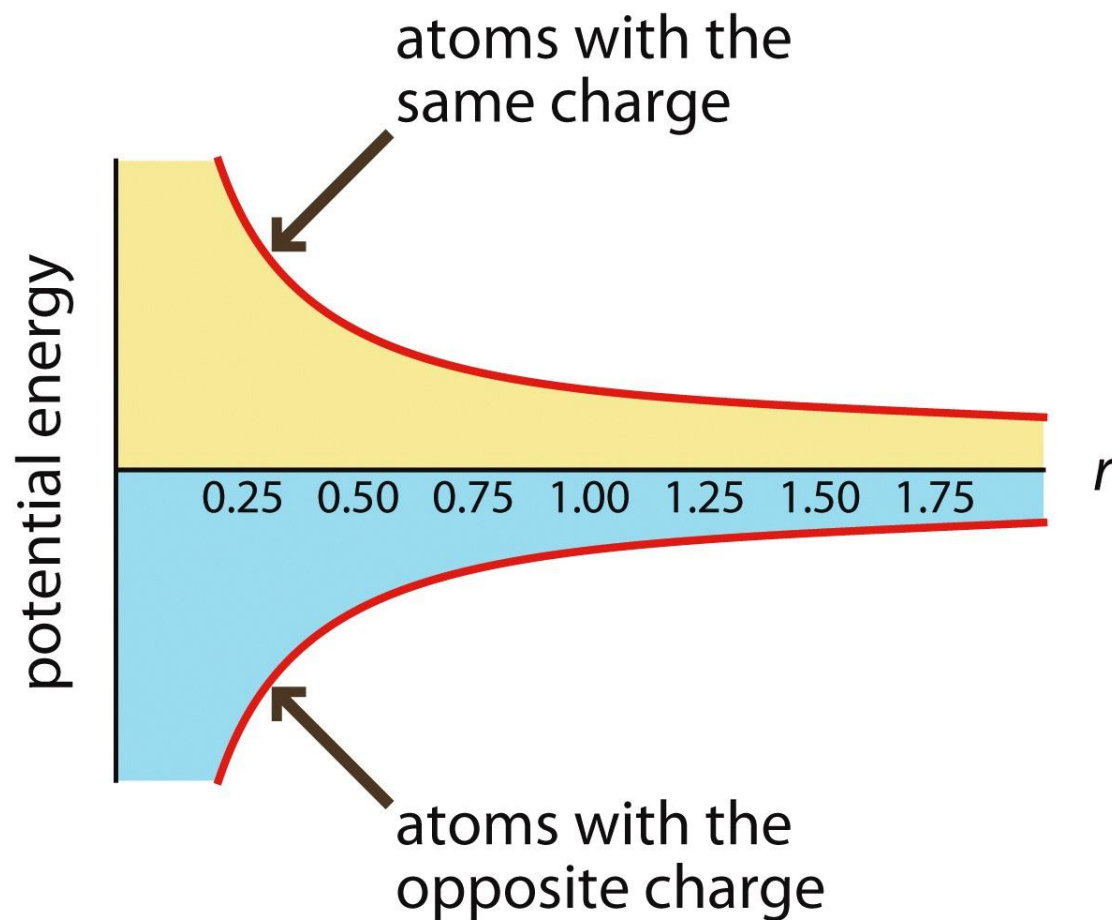


Figure 2.34 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

The Coulombic potential. As distance between the atoms increases the potential energy for the interaction approaches zero

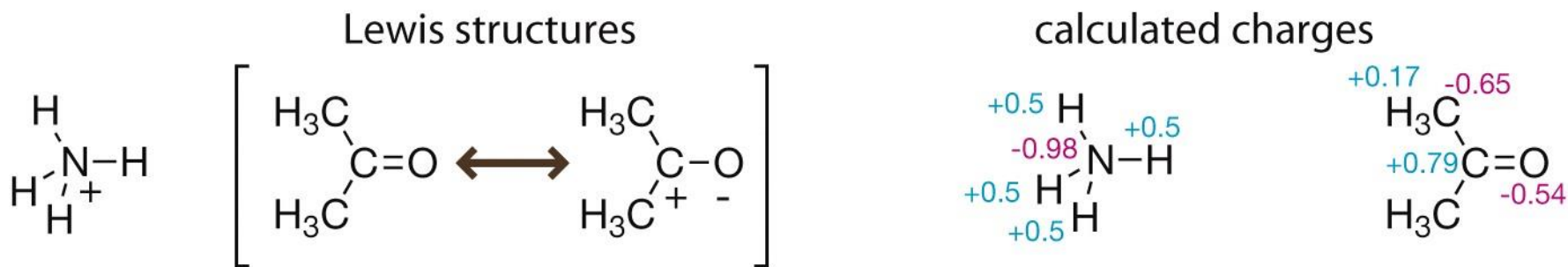


Figure 2.35 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

The formal charge in Lewis structures offer misleading picture of the partial charges on atoms

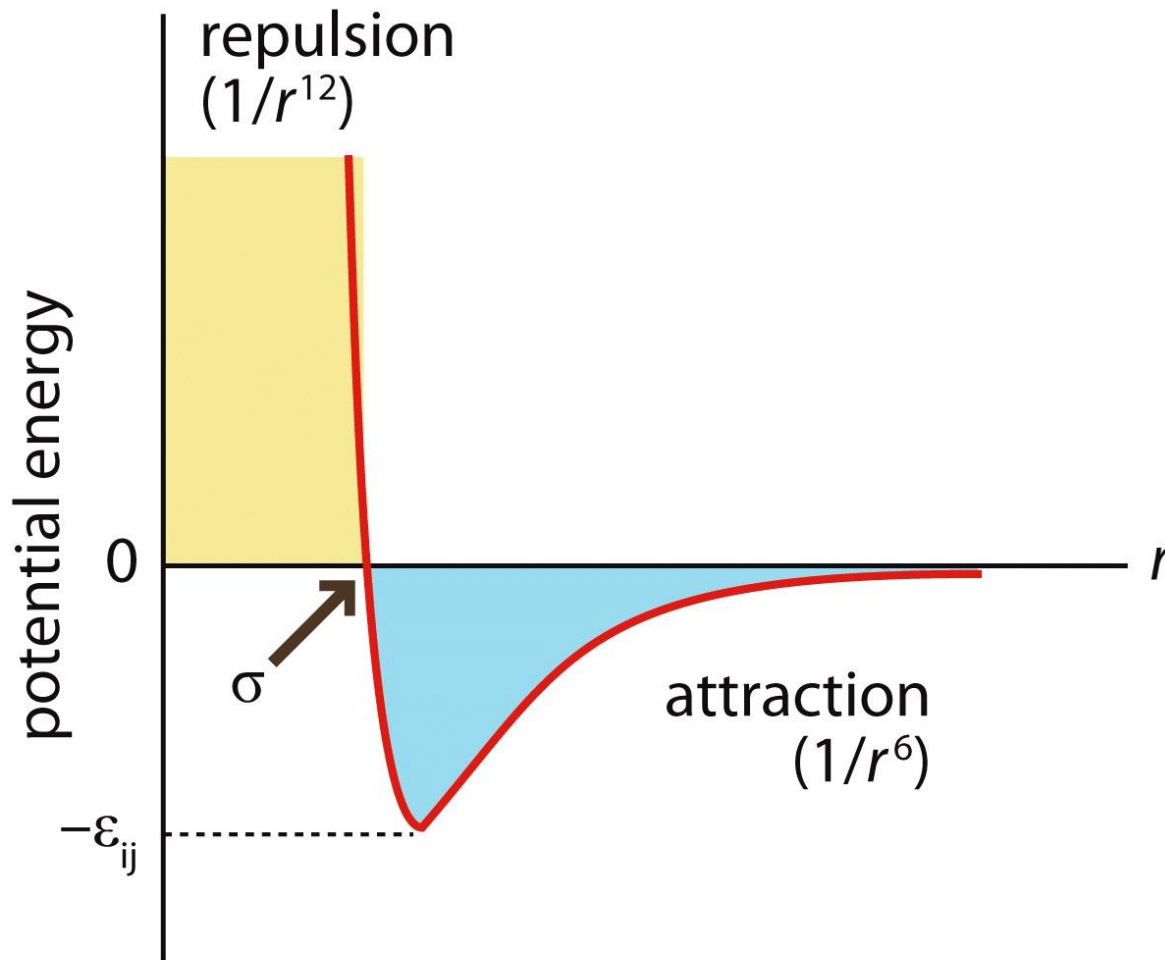


Figure 2.36 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

The Lennard Jones potential. As the distance  $r$  between the atoms increases the attraction between the atoms (blue) approaches zero. Strong repulsion (yellow) results when the two atoms are too close.

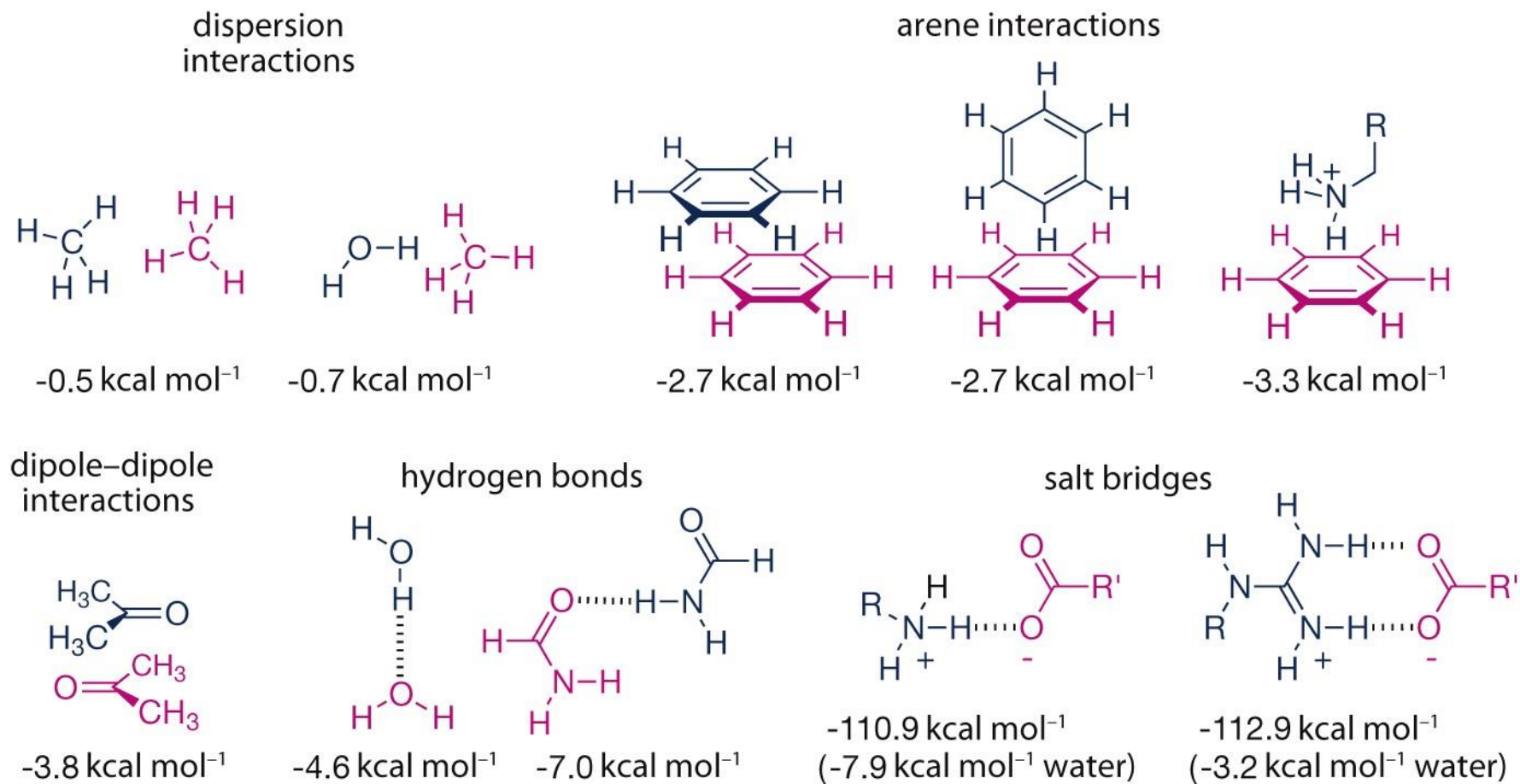
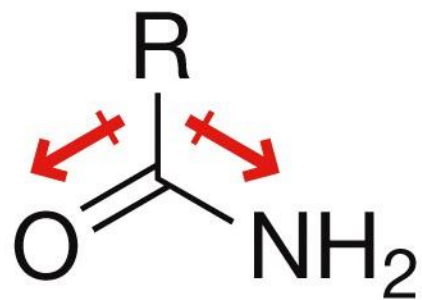
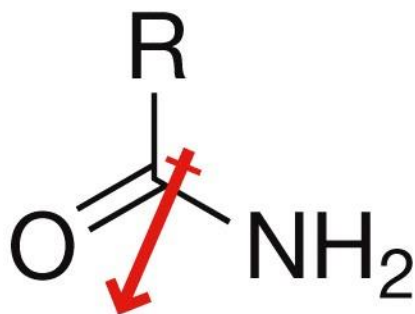


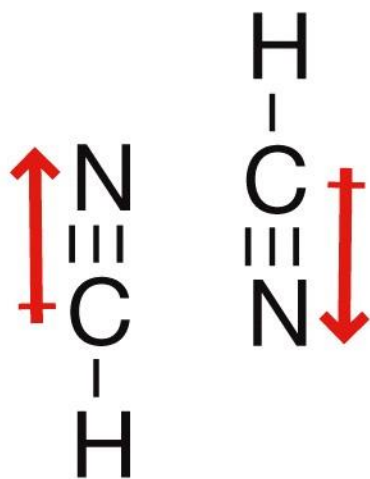
Figure 2.37 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



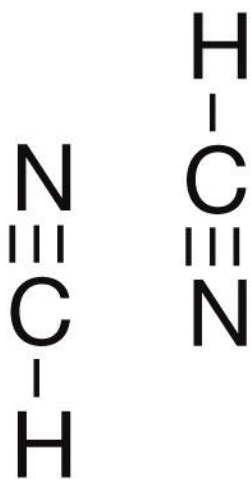
=



net dipole



=



no net dipole

Figure 2.38 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

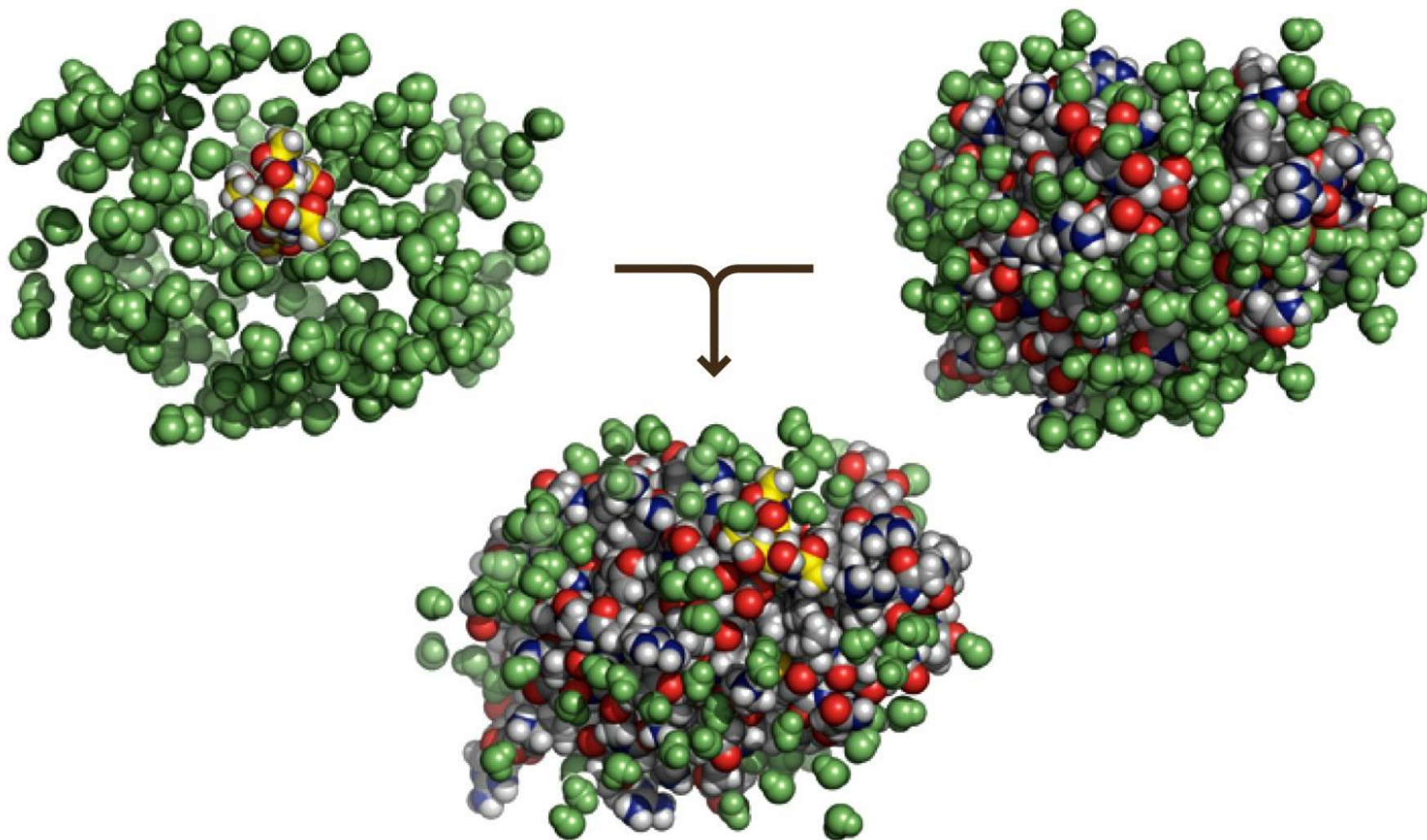
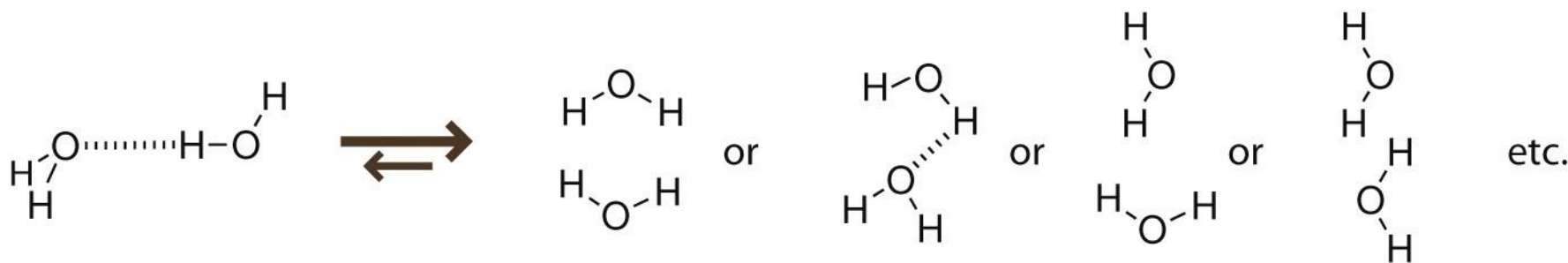


Figure 2.39 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Both a ligand and a protein must give up many favorable interactions with water to form a protein ligand complex



$$\Delta H_{298} -4.6 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

$$-T\Delta S_{298} +6.3 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$$

Figure 2.40 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Entropy complicates hydrogen-bonding.

An ideal hydrogen bond between water molecule is thermodynamically unfavorable relative to the multitude of other possibilities

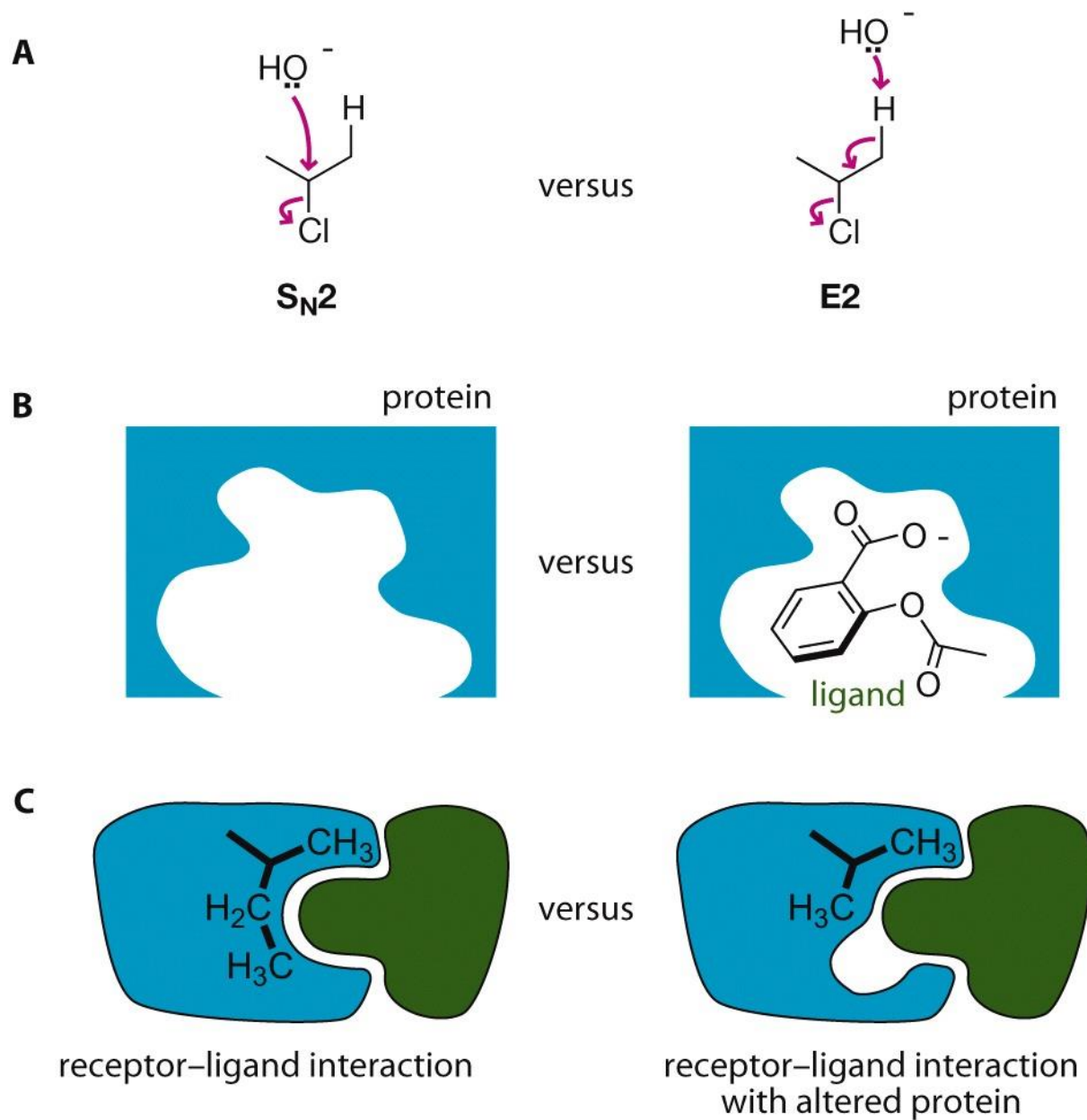


Figure 2.41 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



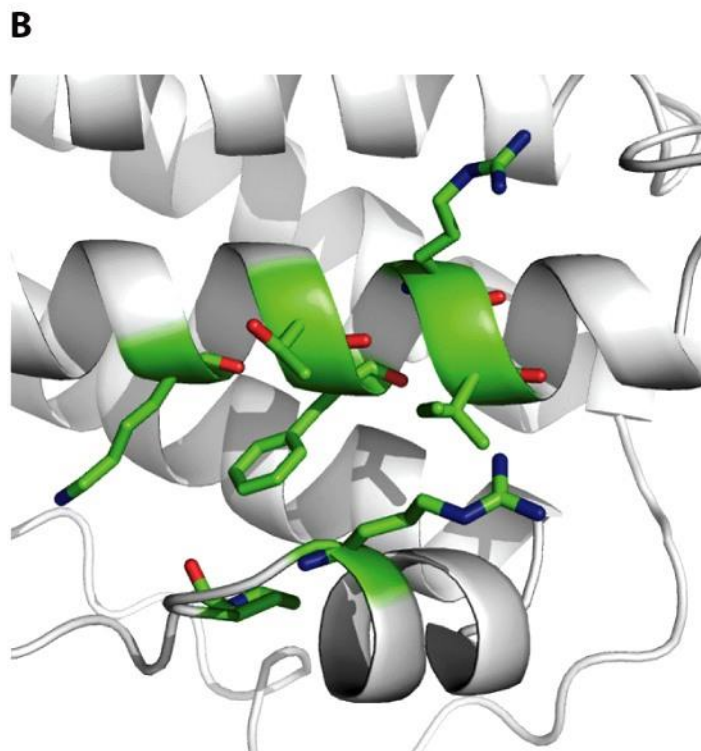
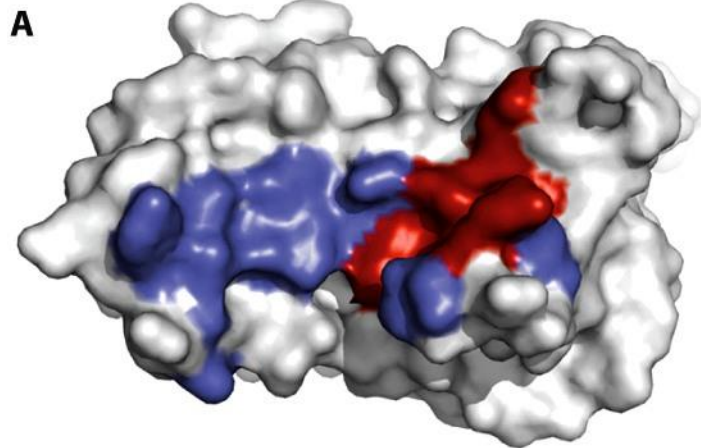


Figure 2.42 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

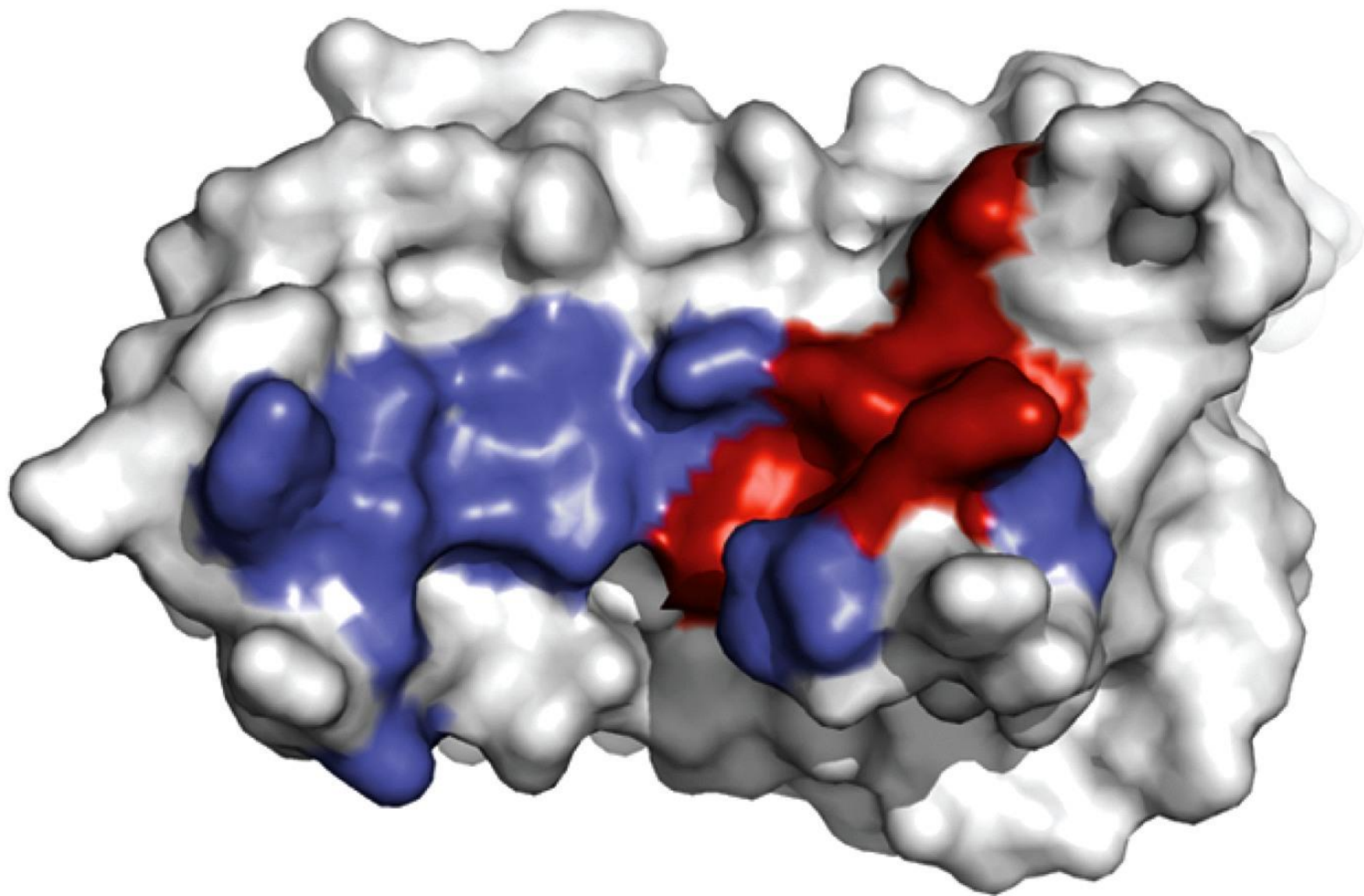


Figure 2.42a Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

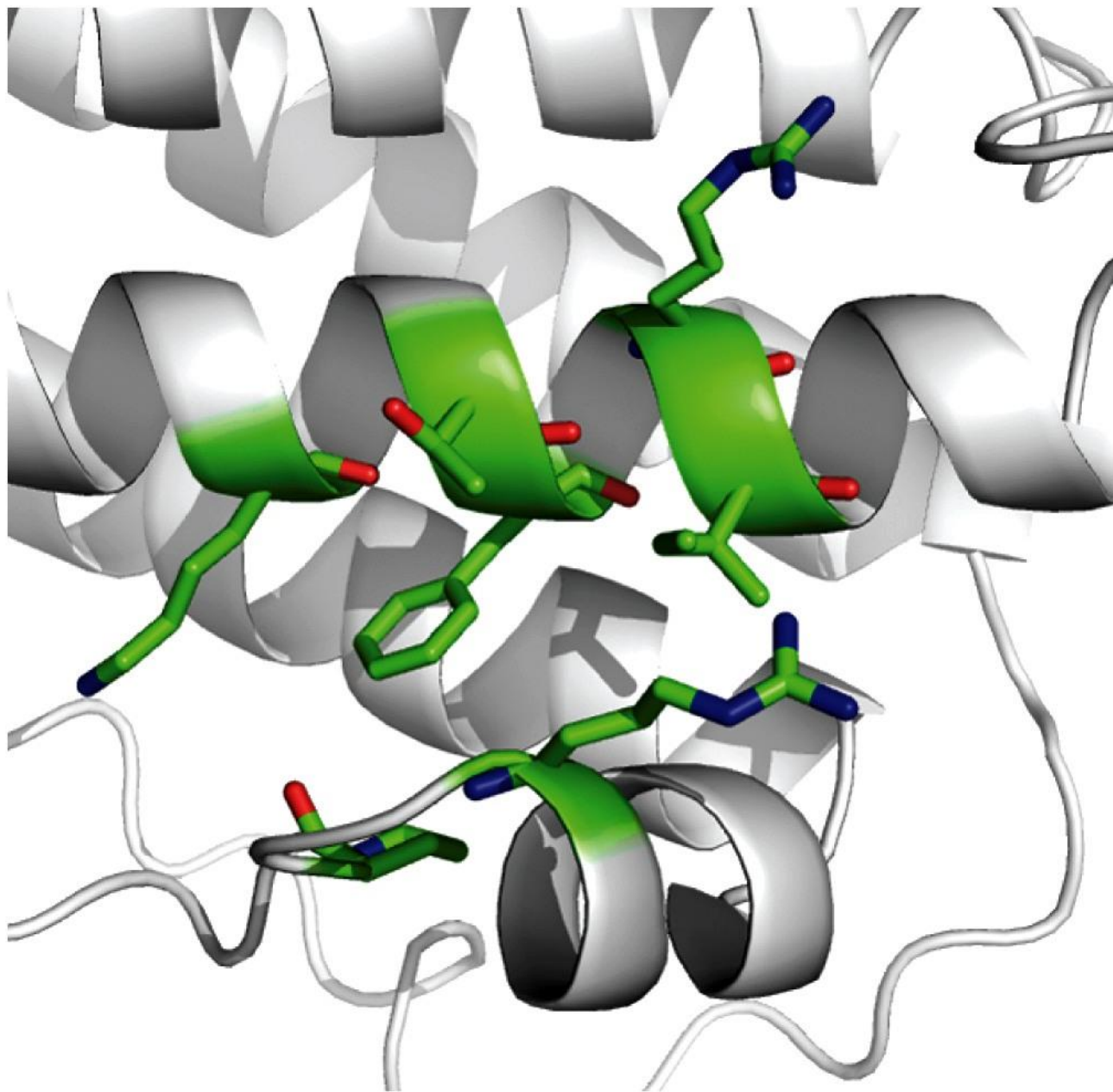


Figure 2.42b Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

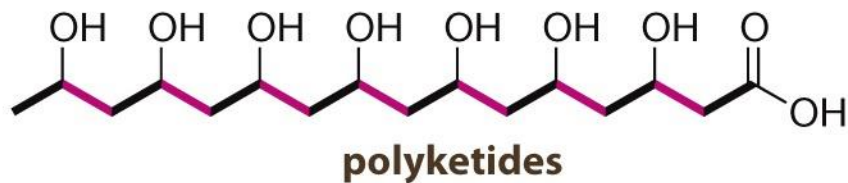
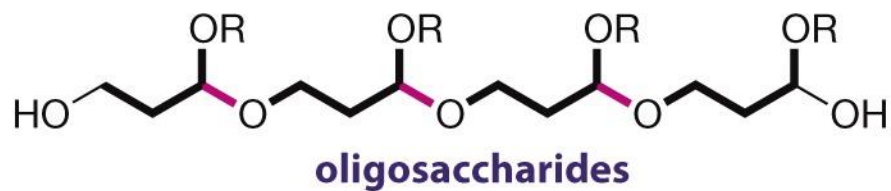
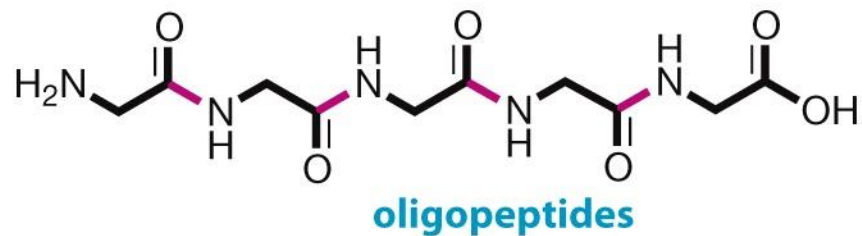
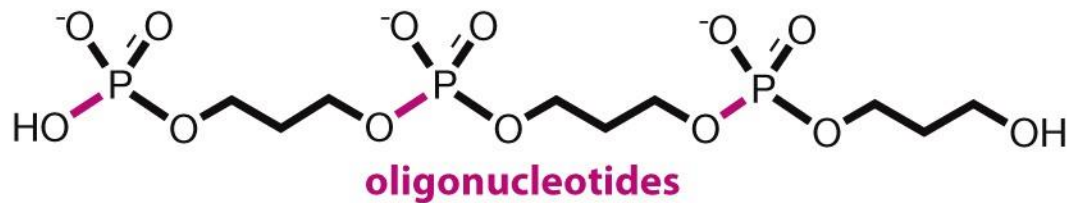


Figure 2.43 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

approximate  
no. of copies

connecting  
bonds

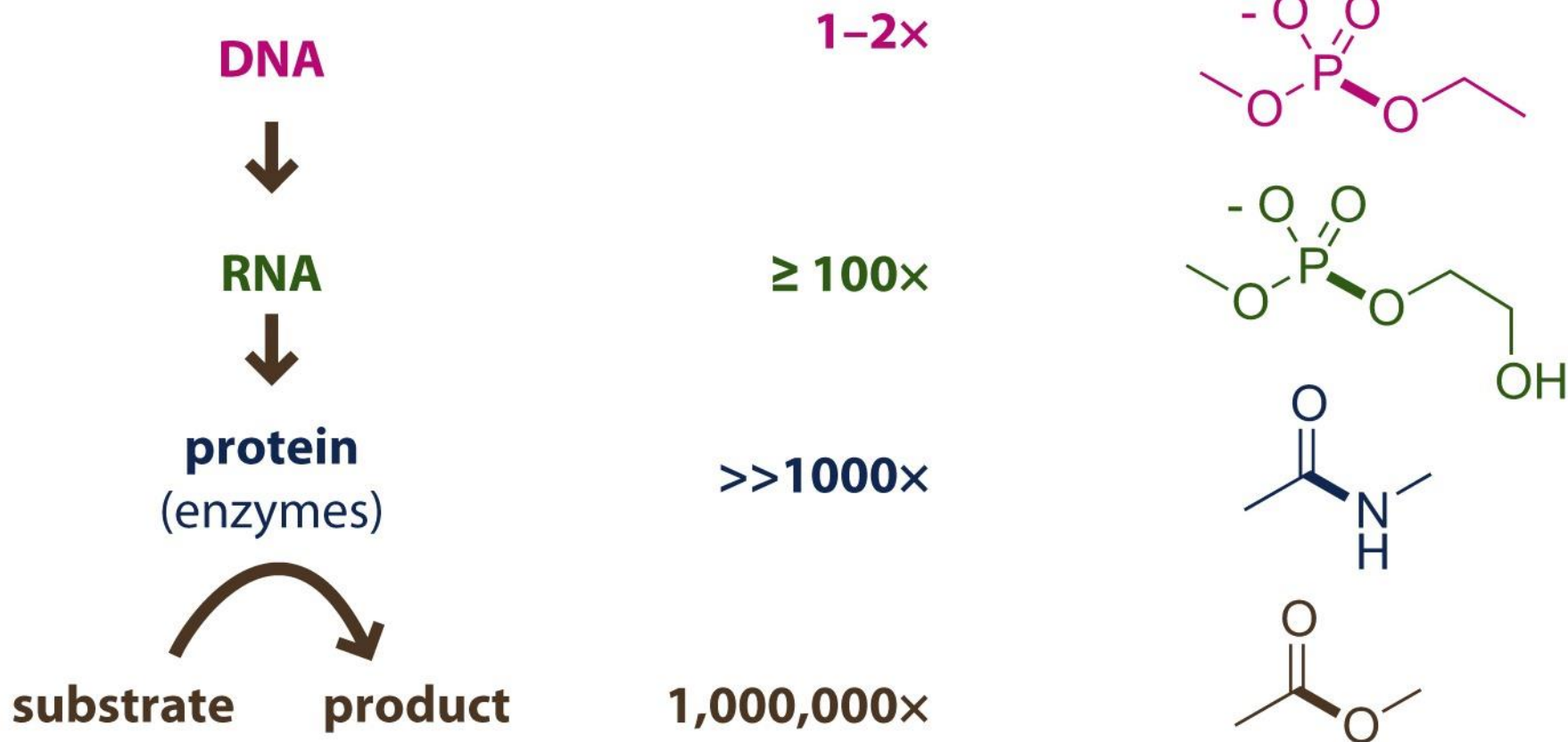


Figure 2.44 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

**Table 2.3 Half-lives for hydroxide-dependent hydrolysis of various functional groups in neutral water.**

Functionality	Relevance	Half-life at pH 7 (years)
carboxylic ester	lipids	<1
carboxylic amide	peptides	300
ribose phosphate diester	RNA	2200
phosphate diester	DNA	220,000
$\beta$ -glucofuranoside	RNA/DNA	22,000,000

Table 2.3 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

relative  
rates

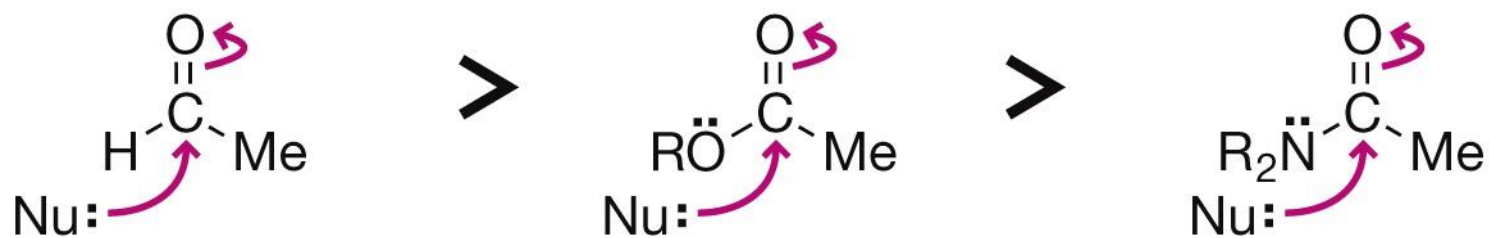


Figure 2.45 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

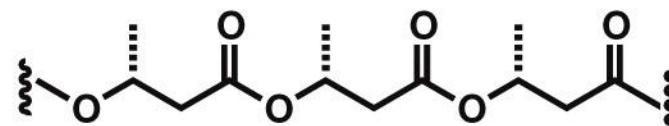


Figure 2.46 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Polyesters-biodegradable





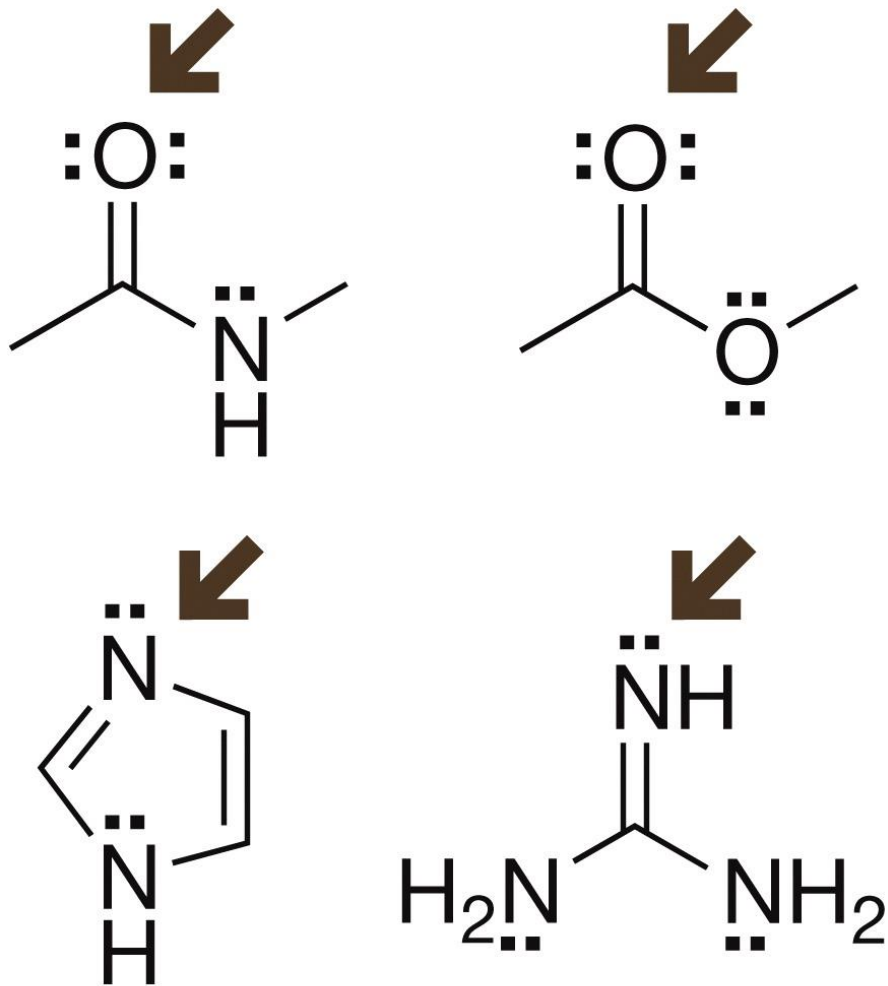
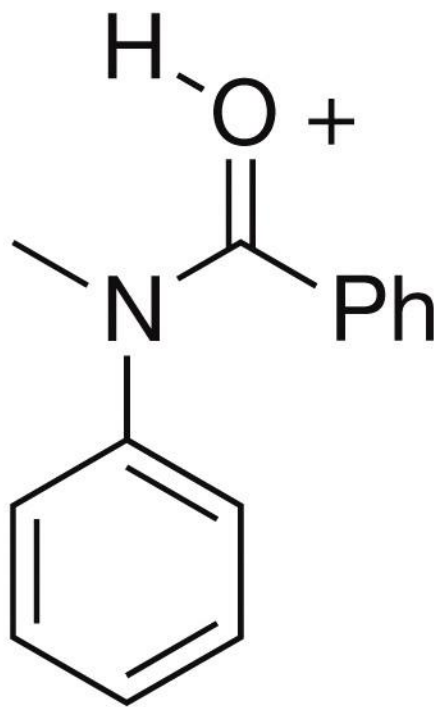
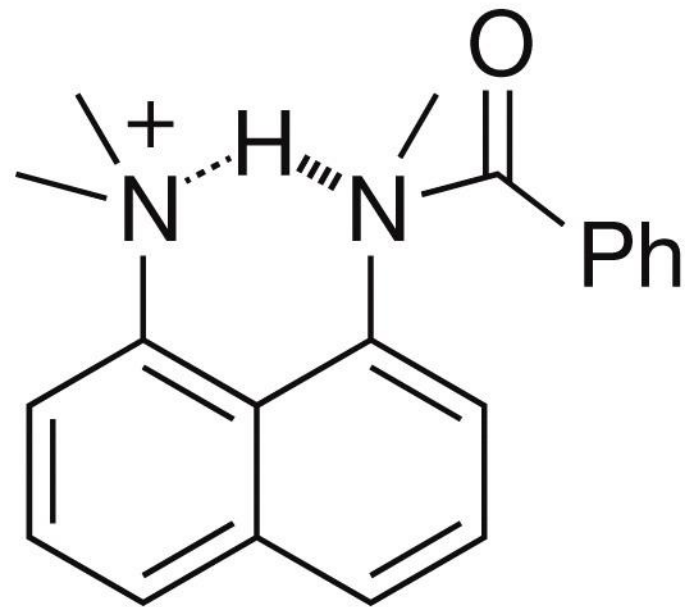


Figure 2.48 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Preferred sites of protonation



normal case



special case

Figure 2.49 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

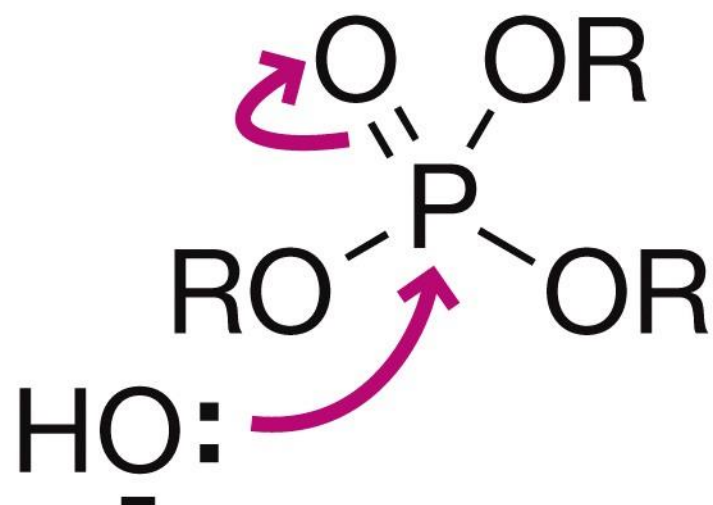
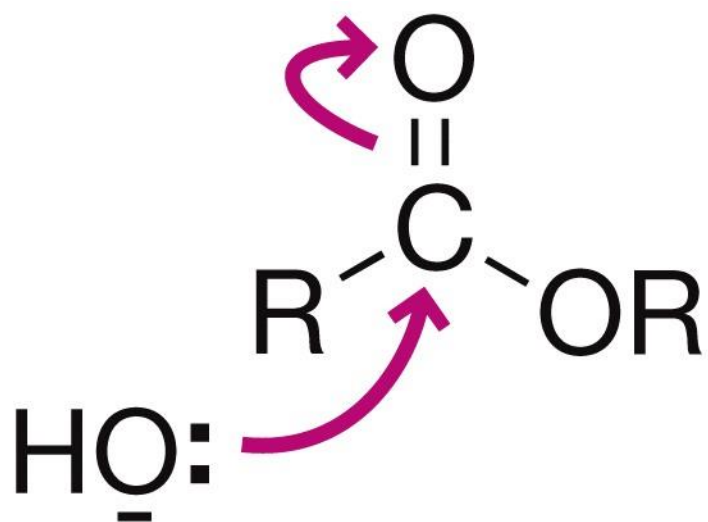


Figure 2.50 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

Nucleophilic attack on a carboxylic ester is faster than attack on a phosphate ester

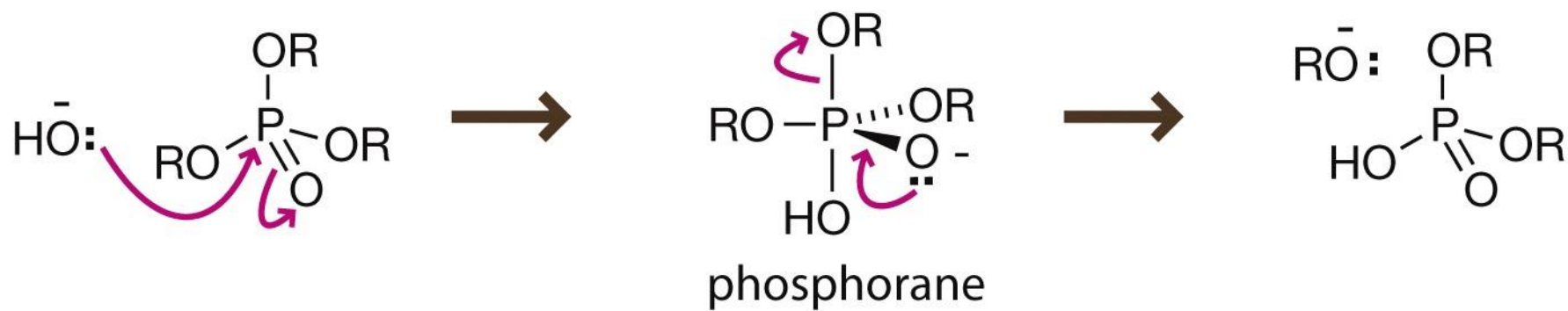
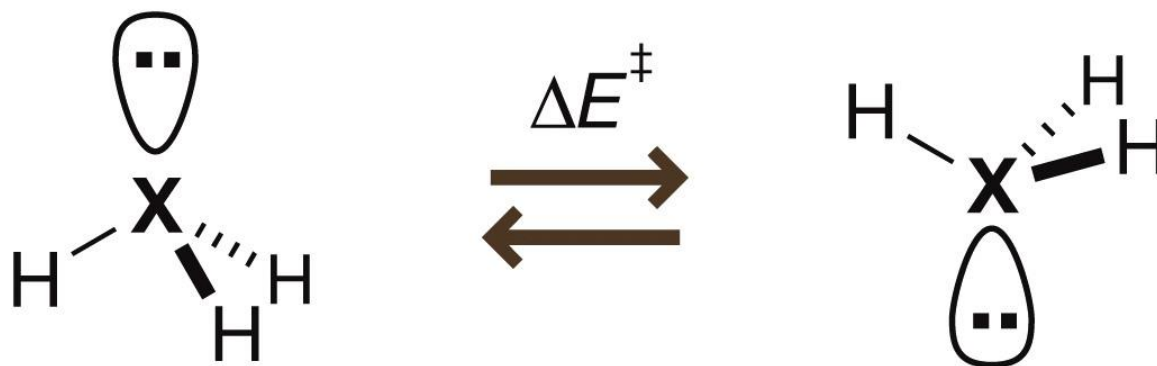


Figure 2.51 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



**:XH<sub>3</sub> inversion barrier in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>**

<b>C<sup>-</sup></b> 13.0	<b>N</b> 16.5	<b>O<sup>+</sup></b> 1.7
<b>Si<sup>-</sup></b> 34.7	<b>P</b> 37.8	<b>S<sup>+</sup></b> 32.4

Slower inversion

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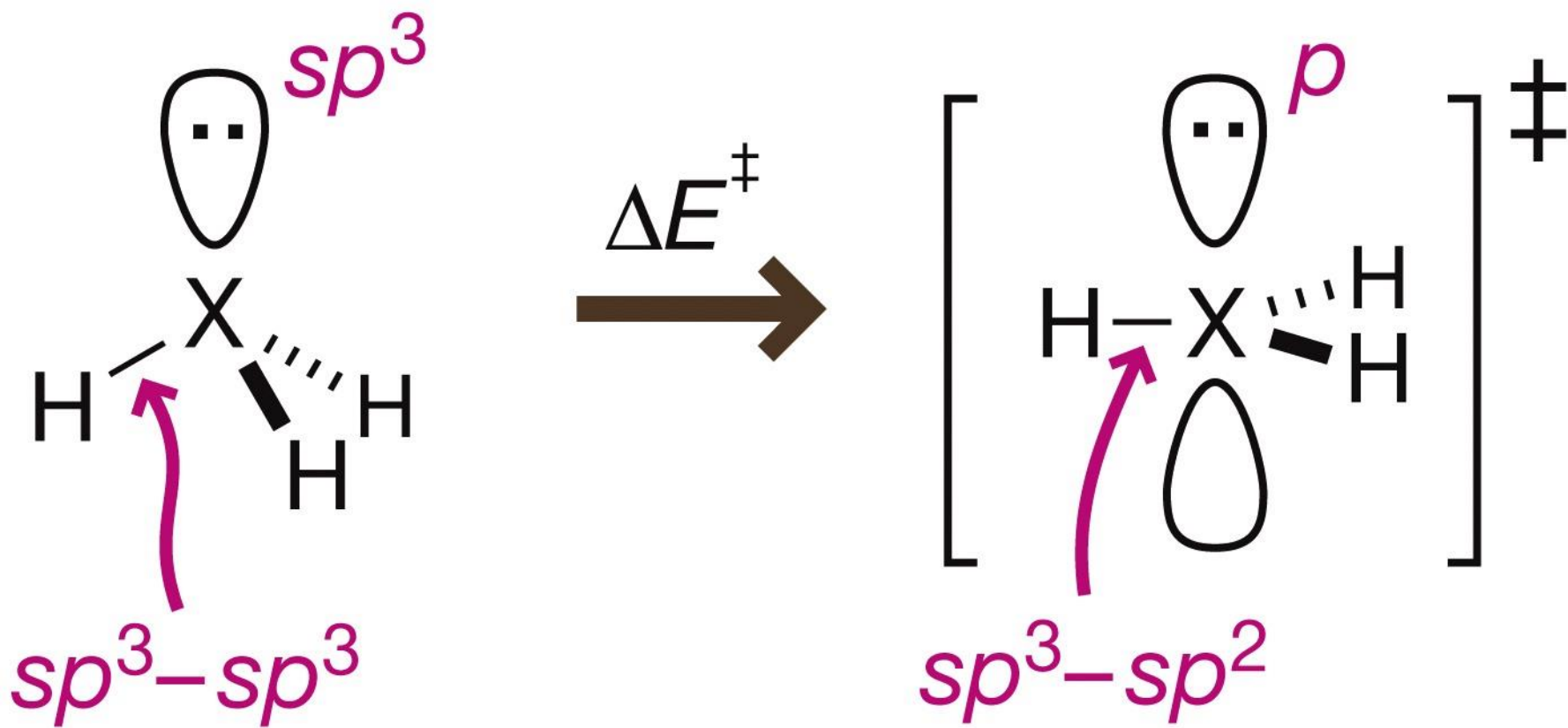


Figure 2.53 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

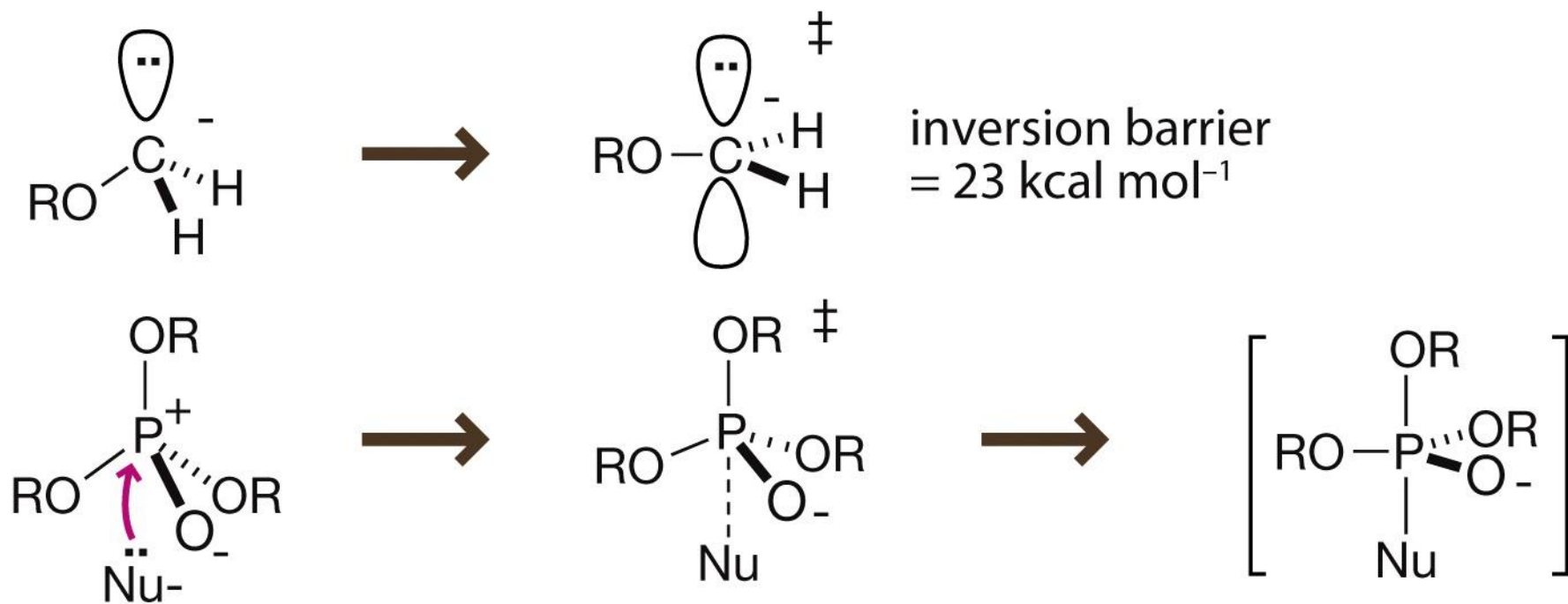


Figure 2.54 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)



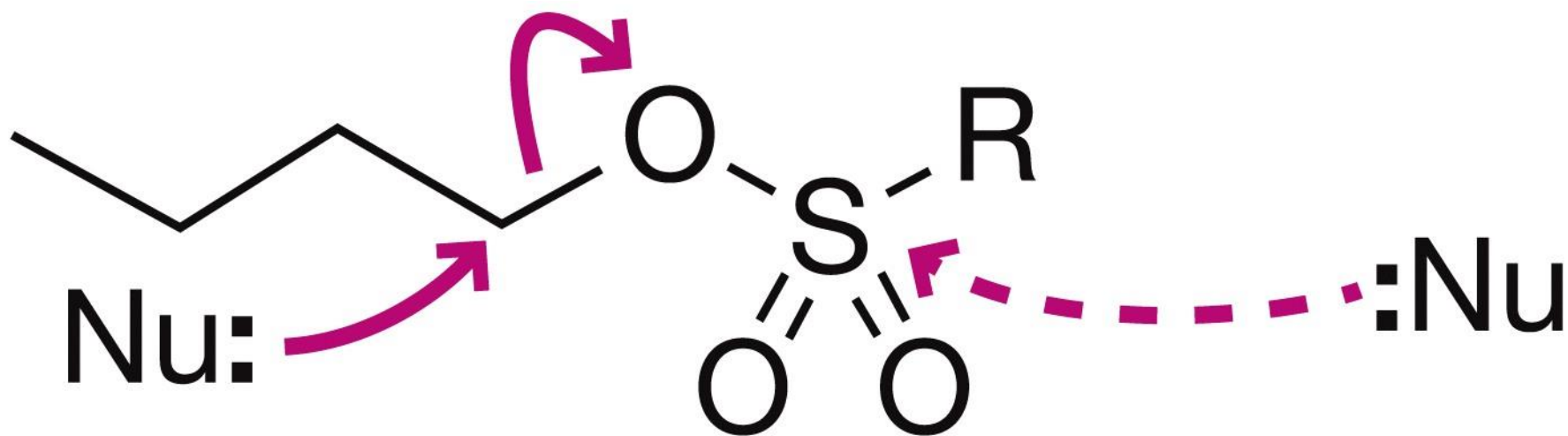


Figure 2.55 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)

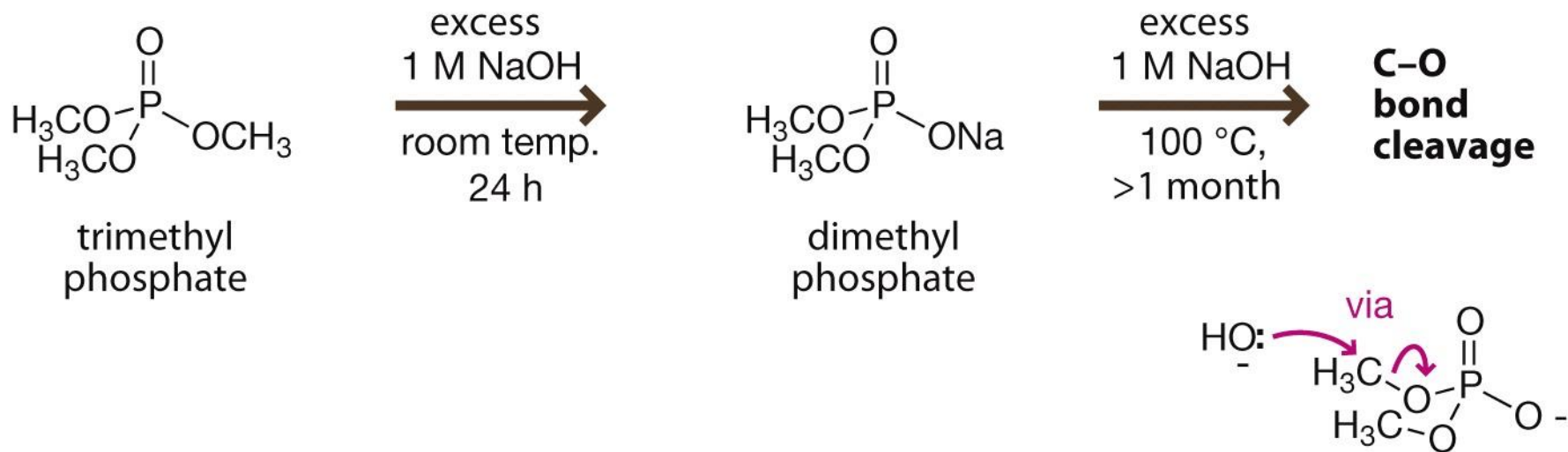


Figure 2.56 Introduction to Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemical Biology (© Garland Science 2013)