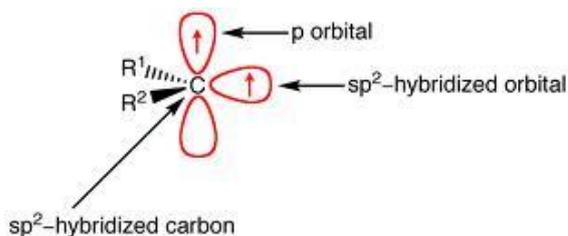


Carbenes are very reactive intermediates, and are generally very short lived under normal conditions.

Even though carbenes are usually generated in basic media, they act as electrophiles.

A carbene is a neutral divalent carbon species with two electrons which are not shared with any other atoms.

These two electrons can be a lone pair (opposite spins, same orbital, singlet), or a diradical (parallel spins, different orbitals, TRIPLET( on picture)).



triplet carbene

where R is phenyl

Triplet carbenes have two unpaired electrons and also are paramagnetic that may be observed by electron spin resonance spectroscopy if they persist long enough.