





SLIKA 1.

Raspored atomskih i molekulskih podljasaka u osnovnom energetskom stanju kisika. Spareni elektroni prikazani su s  $\uparrow\downarrow$ , a nespareni s  $\uparrow$ .

FIGURE 1.

Schematic presentation of the atomic and molecular orbitals in the ground energetic state of oxygen. Paired electrons are shown as  $\uparrow\downarrow$ ; unpaired electrons are shown as  $\uparrow$ .

njegovom imenom – Gombergov radikal. Stotinjak godina poslije, kemija radikala toliko je raširena da bi gotovo mogla biti (pod)znanost sama za sebe.

### Radikali u živih organizama

Čak i u samoj kemiji radikala postoje mnoga područja potencijalnoga istraživanja. Ukoliko se promatraju kemijske reakcije, izazovno je bilo pokušati izmjeriti brzinu kemijskih reakcija u kojima sudjeluje većina radikala. To se jako dugo nije moglo učiniti – većinu do sada protekloga vremena u

istraživanju radikala vjerovalo se da su reakcije s radikalima toliko brze da se niti ne mogu izmjeriti (11). Ipak, od 1967., zahvaljujući Eigenu, Norrishu i Porteru, postoji tehnike kojima je i to moguće učiniti (12).

S obzirom na narav molekule kisika (diradikal u osnovnom stanju), kemija gorenja je također jedna podgrana kemije radikala. Grana atmosferske kemije koja se bavi ozonskim slojem, također je kemija radikala.









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## RADICALS IN THE LIVING ORGANISMS

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Review

### ABSTRACT

In this short article, a review of new research in chemistry of radicals as well as their function in organisms has been presented. Emphasis has been put on the new results in the research of reduction and oxidation processes. This also includes reminder of the reactions by which important radicals participating in these processes are formed. Special attention has been given to the role of radicals in the organisms with melanin presented as both an example of a long - lived radical and very important compound (colour) in living beings. Where possible, the new dilemmas and points of view have been discussed.

**Key words:** Radicals – chemistry; Melanins; Oxidative stress