Nef, John Ulric

1862 - 1915

DEGREE: PhD  DATE: 1886  PLACE: Munich
TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Baeyer

formulated early concept of a transition state, which he called an "active molecular condition"; determined chemical nature of fulminates (-ONC) and studied chemistry of isocyanides; contended that the carbon atom in CO, fulminates, and isocyanides can be considered divalent; showed that reactivity of beta-ketoester and beta-diketonate conjugate bases is centered at oxygen and not at carbon; prepared mono- and dihaloacetylenes; studied mechanism of sugar fermentation and action of alkalis on sugars.