EMIL ERLENMEYER

**BORN**
28 June 1825

**DIED**
22 January 1909

The first to isolate several organic compounds, and invented the Erlenmeyer (or conical) flask. He was also the first to suggest double and triple bonds could form between carbon atoms.

**THE ERLENMEYER FLASK**

- **CYLINDRICAL NECK**
  Can be stoppered using a rubber bung or glass stopper.

- **CONICAL BODY**
  Allows contents to be swirled without spills.

- **FLAT BOTTOM**
  Doesn’t tip over, unlike round-bottomed flasks.

Erlenmeyer created the flask that takes his name in the late 1850s. It’s also known as a conical flask and is now a mainstay of the science laboratory.

**THE ERLENMEYER RULE**

Erlenmeyer investigated keto-enol tautomerism. His rule states that all alcohols with an OH group attached to a double-bonded carbon become aldehydes or ketones, as these are more stable.

**ENOL FORM**

\[
\begin{align*}
R_1 & \quad \text{OH} \\
R_2 & \quad \text{R}_3
\end{align*}
\]

**KETO FORM**

\[
\begin{align*}
R_1 & \quad \text{O} \\
R_2 & \quad \text{R}_3
\end{align*}
\]

R groups represent variable portions of the molecule.