

They are small molecules, amphoteric, soluble in water – An amino acid is made up of a carbon atom on which are fixed a carboxyl group COOH, a group amine NH₂, a hydrogen atom and a side chain R – The side chain presents physicochemical properties particular: it can be basic, acidic, polar, non-polar or neutral in nature – The breakdown of amino acids takes place in the liver, and the product is then released with the release of urea