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Sommario/riassunto	Carbon is an essential constituent element of all living organisms. A unique feature of carbon is the variety of forms that it can assume

when two or more atoms bond. Carbon has thus attracted, and continues to attract, considerable R&D interest from researchers all over the world. The use of carbon in nanotechnology is a very promising area of research, and considerable government funding is being invested in carbon nanotechnology research. Even after many years of study, an aura of mystery continues to surround the question of how many crystallographic forms/allotropes of carbon exist. The k