

Supplementary information

A new class of 3-D porous framework: $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n]^{3+}$ ions act as pillars between π -stacked and H-bonded sheets of (*m*-BDTH)[−] organic anions in $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n](m\text{-BDTH})_3 \cdot 9(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ ($\text{Ln} = \text{Pr}$, $n = 9$; $\text{Ln} = \text{Gd}$, $n = 8$).

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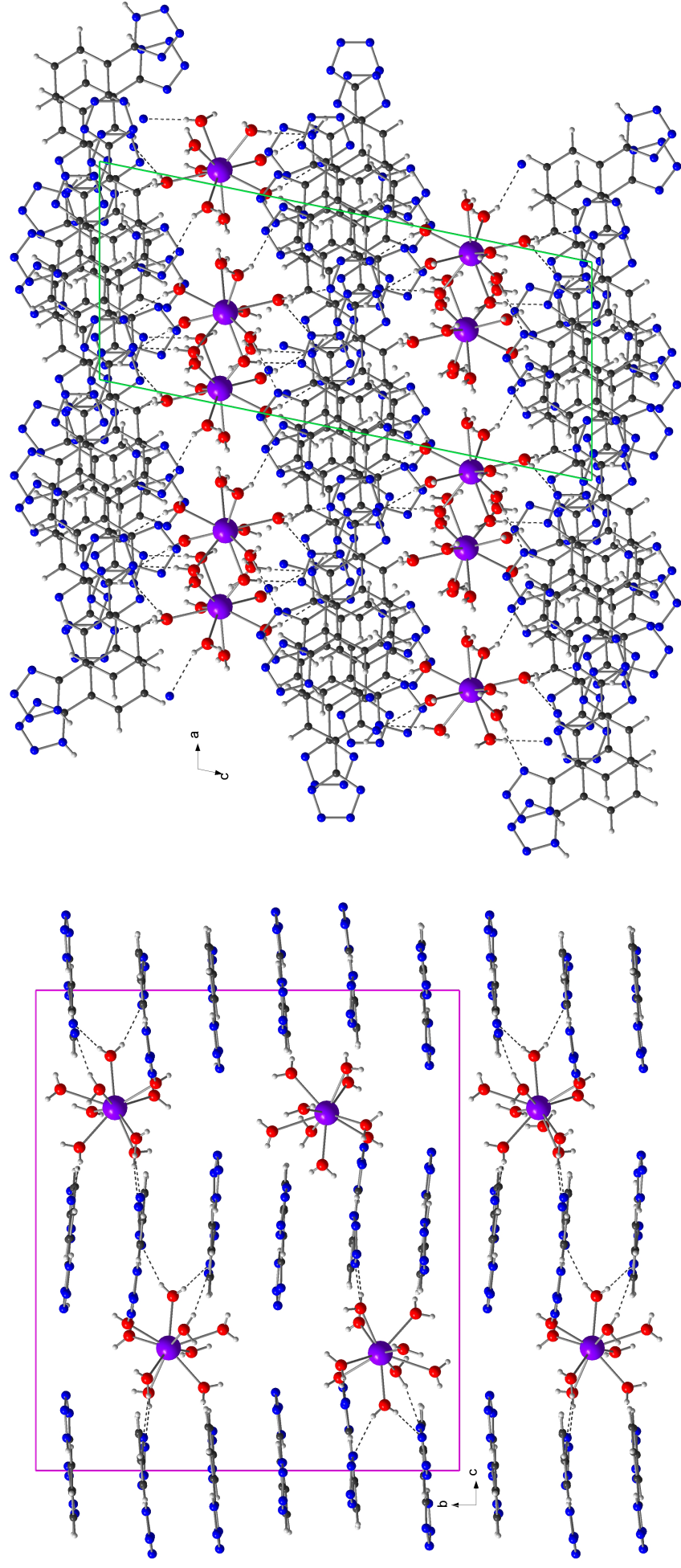


Fig. S1 The three dimensional framework of compound **1**, viewed down the *a*-axis (left) and down the *b*-axis (right), showing the H-bonding between the coordinated waters and the organic anions. Pr purple, O red, N blue, C grey. The lattice water molecules are omitted for clarity.

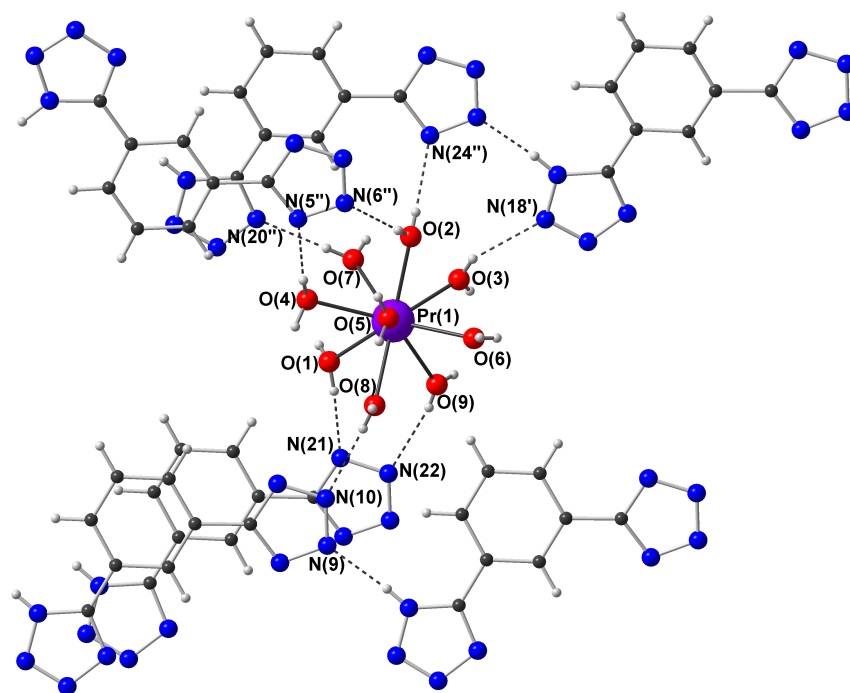


Fig.S2 Hydrogen-bonding between a $[\text{Pr}(\text{OH}_2)_9]^{3+}$ pillar and $(m\text{-BDTH})^-$ anions from the two adjacent organic layers in **1**.

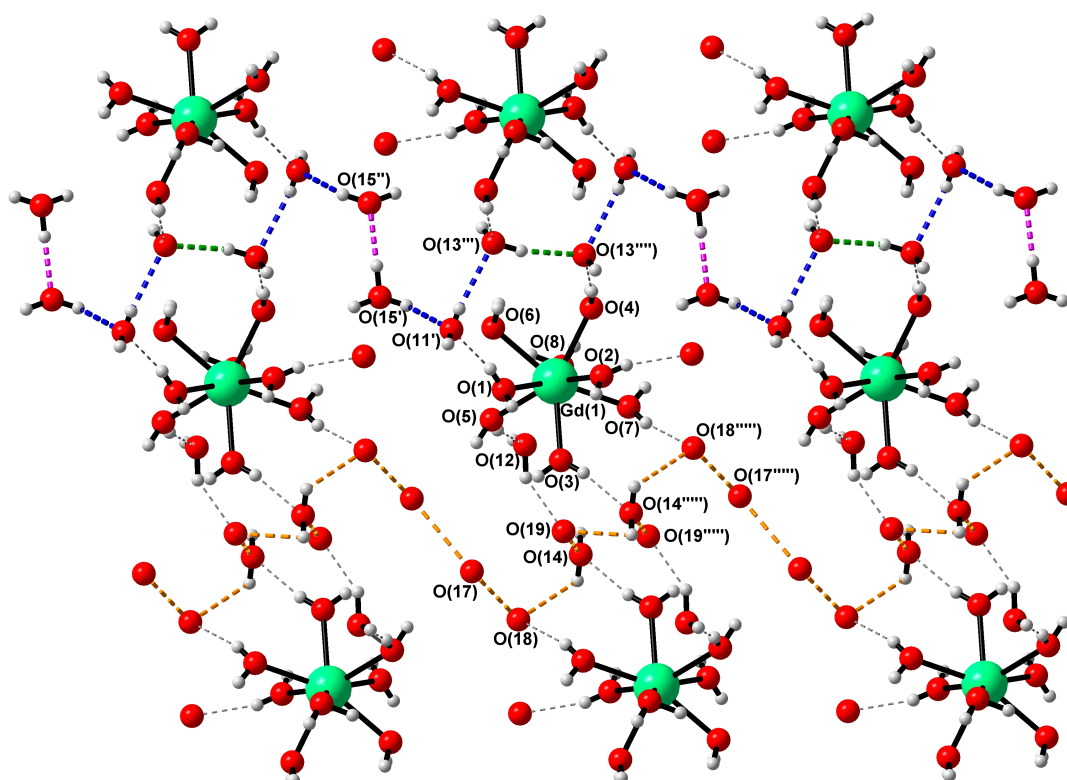


Fig. S3 A hydrogen-bonded layer in the structure of **2** showing the lattice waters between the $[\text{Gd}(\text{OH}_2)_9]^{3+}$ cationic pillars. Gd green, O red, H pale grey. In the structure of **2**, crystal waters also associate to form two independent helical chains. One of these can best be described as $\cdots(\text{H}_2\text{O})\cdots(\text{H}_5\text{O}_2)^+\cdots(\text{H}_2\text{O})\cdots(\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)^-\cdots(\text{H}_2\text{O})\cdots$ in which hydrogen bonds highlighted in blue and pink, while the second water infinite tape is highlighted in orange

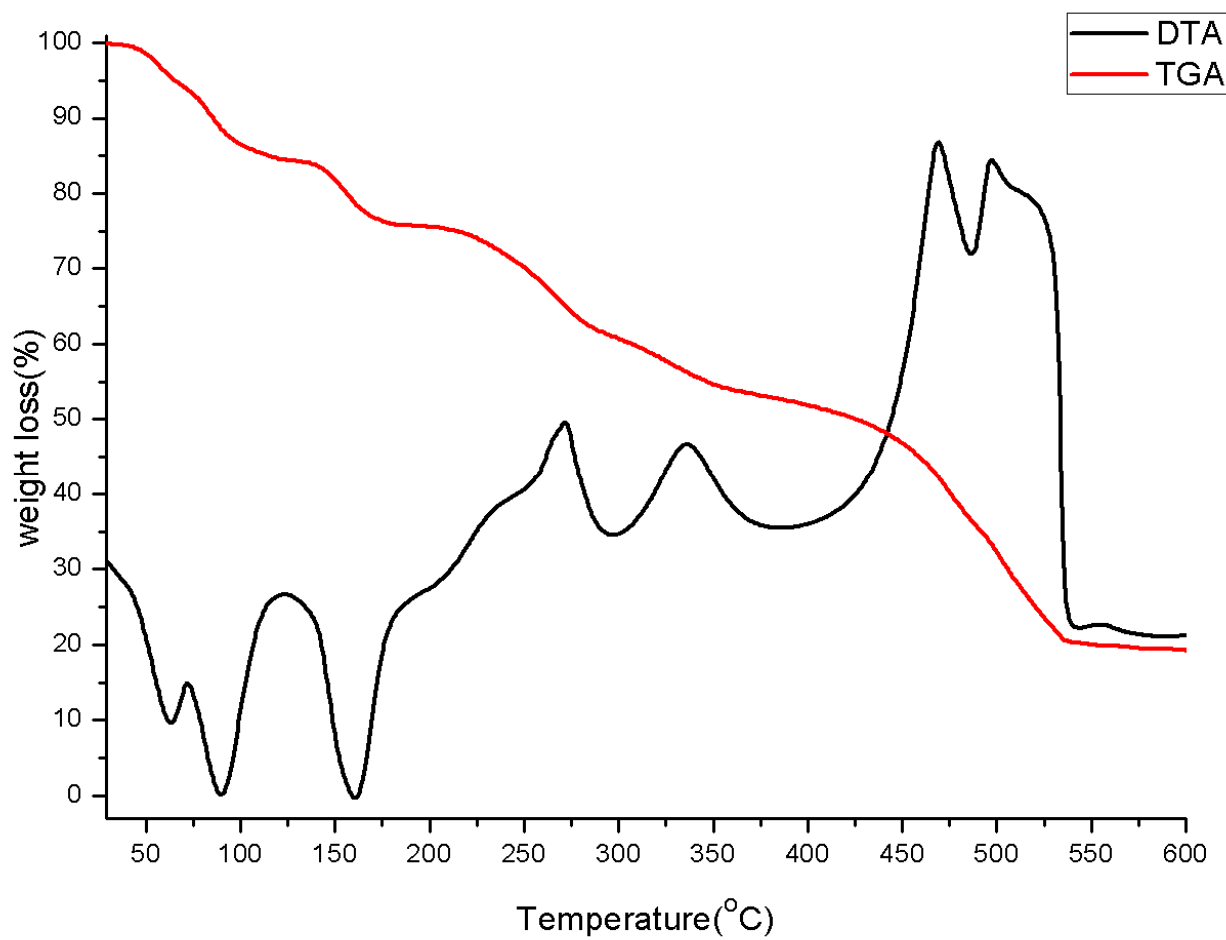


Fig. S4 Thermogravimetric data for compound 2

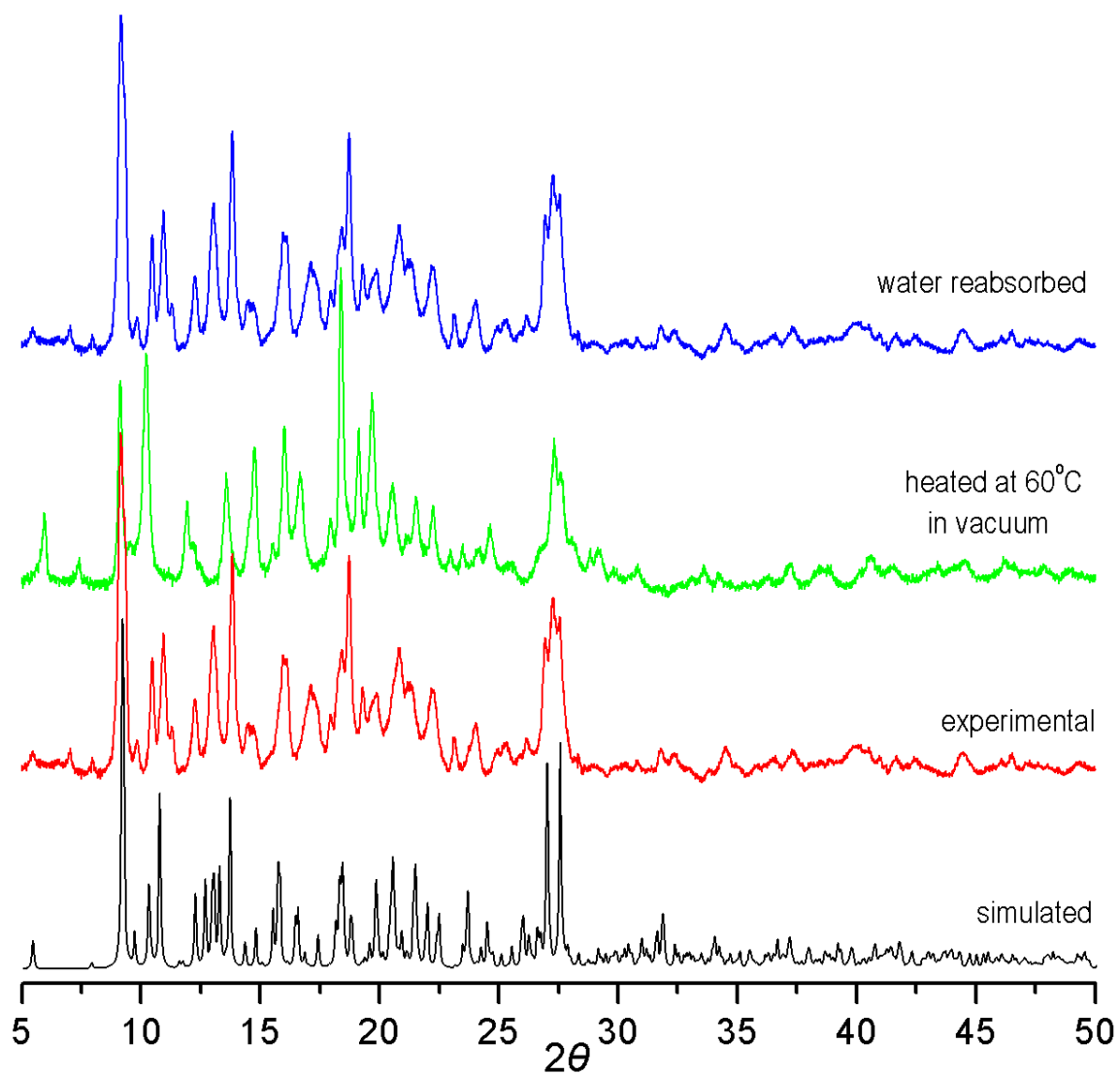


Fig. S5 X-ray powder patterns for compound 2