Europium, Uranyl, and Thorium-Phenanthroline Amide Complexes in Acetonitrile Solution: An ESI-MS and DFT Combined Investigation

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Supplementary Information



Fig. S1 Experimental and simulated isotopic distribution of *m/z* 609 (A) and 777 (B) in Eu(III) complexes.



Fig. S2 Experimental and simulated isotopic distribution of *m/z* 834 in U(VI) complexes.



Fig. S3 Experimental and simulated isotopic distribution of m/z 433 (A), 680 (B) and 920 (C) in Th(IV) complexes.

| [Eu(III)]/[L] ratio | m/z | complexes |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 0 | 503 | [LH] ⁺ |
| 0.25 | 609 | $[EuL_2(NO_3)]^{2+}$ |
| 0.5 | 609 | $[EuL_2(NO_3)]^{2+}$ |
| 0.75 | 609 | $[EuL_2(NO_3)]^{2+}$ |
| 1.0 | 609 | $[EuL_2(NO_3)]^{2+}$ |
| 1.25 | 777 | $[EuL(NO_3)_2]^+$ |

Table S1 Eu(III) Complexes with Et-Tol-DAPhen Ligand Detected by ESI-MS in Acetontrile Solution

Table S2 MS/MS Results of Eu(III) Complexes

| complexes | CID condition | m/z | assignments |
|-----------|-----------------|-----|---|
| | | 485 | -CH ₄ -H ₂ |
| | | 475 | $-C_{2}H_{5}+2H$ |
| 502 | cut off: 250; | 467 | -2CH ₄ -2H ₂ |
| 303 | amplitude: 0.90 | 457 | $-C_3H_7-H_2$ |
| | | 322 | $-2C_{7}H_{7}+2H$ |
| | | 307 | -2C7H7-CH3+2H |
| | | 579 | $-2C_{2}H_{5}$ |
| 600 | cut off: 150; | 563 | $-C_7H_7$ |
| 009 | amplitude: 1.00 | 416 | $-4C_{2}H_{5}-3C_{7}H_{7}$ |
| | | 336 | $-HNO_{3}-4C_{2}H_{5}-4C_{7}H_{7}$ |
| 777 | | 717 | $-2C_{2}H_{5}$ |
| | aut off: 200. | 704 | -2C ₂ H ₅ -CH ₃ |
| | amplitude: 1.00 | 686 | $-C_7H_7$ |
| | | 535 | $-2C_{2}H_{5}-2C_{7}H_{7}$ |
| | | 509 | -2C ₂ H ₅ -2C ₇ H ₇ -2N |

| Accionance Solution | | |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------|
| [U(VI)]/[L] ratio | m/z | complexes |
| 0 | 503 | $[LH]^{+}$ |
| 0.5 | 834 | $[UO_2L(NO_3)]^+$ |
| 1.0 | 834 | $[UO_2L(NO_3)]^+$ |
| 2.0 | 834 | $[UO_2L(NO_3)]^+$ |
| | | |

Table S3 U(VI) Complexes with Et-Tol-DAPhen Ligand Detected by ESI-MS in Acetontrile Solution

Table S4. MS/MS Results of U(VI) Complexes

| Tuble 51. Mb/Mb Results of C(VI) Complexes | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|--|--|
| complexes | CID condition | m/z | assignments | |
| 834 cu amj | | 787 | -2CH ₄ -CH ₃ | |
| | aut off: 200. | 774 | $-2C_2H_6$ | |
| | cut 011. 200, | 760 | -2C ₂ H ₅ -CH ₄ | |
| | ampitude. 1.00 | 742 | $-C_7H_8$ | |
| | | 641 | -2C7H7-CH3 | |
| | | | | |

Table S5 Changes of the Gibbs Free Energy (kcal/mol) Including Zero-Point Energy (ZPE) and Thermal Corrections for the Reactions Concerning Eu^{3+} , UO_2^{2+} and Th^{4+} in Acetonitrile Solution

| Reactions | ΔG |
|---|------|
| $[\operatorname{Eu}(\operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{CN})_8]^{3+} + \operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{CN} \rightarrow [\operatorname{Eu}(\operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{CN})_9]^{3+}$ | 11.2 |
| $[\operatorname{Eu}(\operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{CN})_9]^{3+} + \operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{CN} \rightarrow [\operatorname{Eu}(\operatorname{CH}_3\operatorname{CN})_{10}]^{3+}$ | 14.0 |
| $[\mathrm{UO}_2(\mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{CN})_5]^{2+} + \mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{CN} \rightarrow [\mathrm{UO}_2(\mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{CN})_6]^{2+}$ | 13.0 |
| $[\mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{CN})_9]^{4+} + \mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{CN} \rightarrow [\mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{CH}_3\mathrm{CN})_{10}]^{4+}$ | 8.3 |
| $[\mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\mathrm{CN})_{10}]^{4+} + \mathrm{CH}_{3}\mathrm{CN} \rightarrow [\mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\mathrm{CN})_{11}]^{4+}$ | 18.3 |
| $[\mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\mathrm{CN})_{11}]^{4+} + \mathrm{CH}_{3}\mathrm{CN} \rightarrow [\mathrm{Th}(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\mathrm{CN})_{12}]^{4+}$ | 11.3 |

Table S6 Average U-N and U-O Bond Distances (Å), Wiberg Bond Indices (WBIs) of U-N and U-O Bonds, and Natural Charges on the U, N, and O Atoms in $[UO_2L(NO_3)]^+$ (L=Et-Tol-DAPhen)

| Complexes — | Bond I | Length | Wiberg B | ond Index | N | atural Char | ge |
|--|--------|--------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | U-N(L) | U-O(L) | U-N(L) | U-O(L) | $Q_{\rm U}$ | Q _{N(L)} | Q _{O(L)} |
| [UO ₂ L(NO ₃)] ⁺ | 2.644 | 2.417 | 0.386 | 0.511 | 1.439 | -0.427 | -0.591 |

Table S7 Average Electron Density (ρ), Laplacian ($\nabla^2 \rho$), and Energy Density (H(r)) at

| Bonds | ρ | $ abla^2 ho$ | H(r) |
|--------|--------|---------------|---------|
| U-N(L) | 0.0452 | 0.1264 | -0.0031 |
| U-O(L) | 0.0603 | 0.2281 | -0.0032 |

U-N and U-O Bond Critical Points in [UO₂L(NO₃)]⁺(All values in a.u.).

| [Th(IV)]/[L] ratio | m/z | complexes |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| 0 | 503 | [LH] ⁺ |
| 0.25 | 503, 525, 541, 680 | [LH] ⁺ , [L+Na] ⁺ , [L+K] ⁺ , [ThL ₂ (NO ₃) ₂] ²⁺ |
| 0.5 | 503, 525, 680 | [LH] ⁺ , [L+Na] ⁺ , [ThL ₂ (NO ₃) ₂] ²⁺ |
| 0.75 | 680 | $[ThL_2(NO_3)_2]^{2+}$ |
| 1.0 | 680 | $[ThL_2(NO_3)_2]^{2+}$ |
| 1.25 | 433, 680, 920 | [ThL ₂ (NO ₃)] ³⁺ , [ThL ₂ (NO ₃) ₂] ²⁺ , [ThL(NO ₃) ₃] ⁺ |
| 1.5 | 433, 680, 920 | [ThL ₂ (NO ₃)] ³⁺ , [ThL ₂ (NO ₃) ₂] ²⁺ , [ThL(NO ₃) ₃] ⁺ |
| 2.0 | 433, 680, 920 | [ThL ₂ (NO ₃)] ³⁺ , [ThL ₂ (NO ₃) ₂] ²⁺ , [ThL(NO ₃) ₃] ⁺ |

Table S8 Th(IV) Complexes with Et-Tol-DAPhen Ligand Detected by ESI-MS in Acetontrile Solution

Table S9 MS/MS Results of Th(IV) Complexes

| complexes | CID condition | m/z | assignments |
|-----------|---|-----|--|
| | aut off: 115. | 412 | -HNO ₃ |
| 433 | cut 011. 115, | 402 | -HNO ₃ -CH ₃ +2H |
| | ampiltude. 0.30 | 373 | $-C_7H_7+2H$ |
| | | 648 | -HNO ₃ |
| | aut off: 165: | 635 | -HNO ₃ -2CH ₃ +2H |
| 680 | $\begin{array}{c} \text{cut off. 105,} \\ \text{amplitude: 1.00} \end{array}$ | 612 | -HNO ₃ -4CH ₃ -CH ₂ |
| | ampiltude. 1.00 | 590 | $-2C_{7}H_{7}$ |
| | | 544 | $-2C_{7}H_{7}-2C_{2}H_{5}-2CH_{3}$ |
| | | 873 | -2CH ₄ -CH ₃ |
| | | 846 | -2C ₂ H ₅ -CH ₄ |
| 920 | aut off: 250: | 829 | $-C_7H_7$ |
| | $\operatorname{cut} \operatorname{off} 250,$ | 800 | $-C_7H_7-CH_3+H$ |
| | ampiltude. 1.00 | 737 | $-2C_{7}H_{7}$ |
| | | 667 | -2C7H7-2C2H5-N |
| | | 622 | -2C7H7-2C2H5-2NO |

S1. ESI-MS experiments after solvent extraction

1 mM of Et-Tol-DAPhen in 1 mL of cyclohexanone was contacted with 1 mL of 1 M HNO₃ solution containing 1 mM of Eu(III) or U(VI) or Th(IV). After shaking for 60 min, the organic phase was separated and diluted with HPLC grade acetonitrile in 1000 times for ESI-MS measurements.



S1.1 ESI-MS of Eu(III) complexes

Fig. S4 ESI-MS of Eu(III) complexes after solvent extraction.

With respect to Eu(III), Et-Tol-DAPhen shows nearly no extraction as previously reported. If the ESI-MS sample of Eu(III) complex was prepared through a liquid-liquid extraction step and further diluted in acetonitrile solution, it is found that the signal of Eu(III) complex in ESI-MS was not detected from **Fig. S4**.



Fig. S5 ESI-MS of U(VI) complexes after solvent extraction.

ESI-MS of U(VI) complexes was shown in **Fig. S5**. The MS peaks at m/z between 502 and 525 are attributed to the hydrogen and sodium ion adducts of the ligand ($[L+H]^+$, $[L+Na]^+$), respectively. The peak at m/z 535 and 604 can be due to $[2L+2H+HNO_3]^{2+}$ and $[L+HNO_3+K]^+$, respectively. Only 1:1 U(VI) complex ($[UO_2L(NO_3)]^+$) at m/z 834 is observed in this experimental conditions, which is quite consistent with the results obtained in acetonitrile solution.



Fig. S6 ESI-MS of Th(IV) complexes after solvent extraction.

ESI-MS of Th(IV) complexes was shown in **Fig. S6**. The MS peaks at m/z between 500 and 540 are similar to those of U(VI) complexes which has no relationship with Th(IV). One Th(VI) complex observed at m/z 680 can be attributed to $[2L+Th+2NO_3]^{2+}$, which is the main species regardless of the ratio of metal-to-ligand in acetonitrile solution.