

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Synthesis and characterisation of bismacrocyclic DO3A-amide derivatives – an approach towards metal-responsive PARACEST agents

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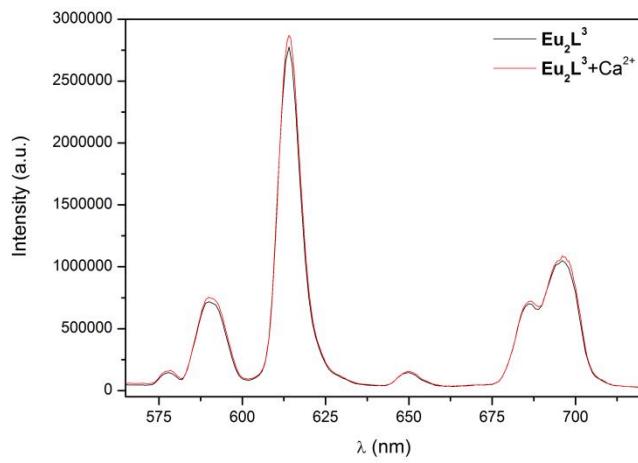
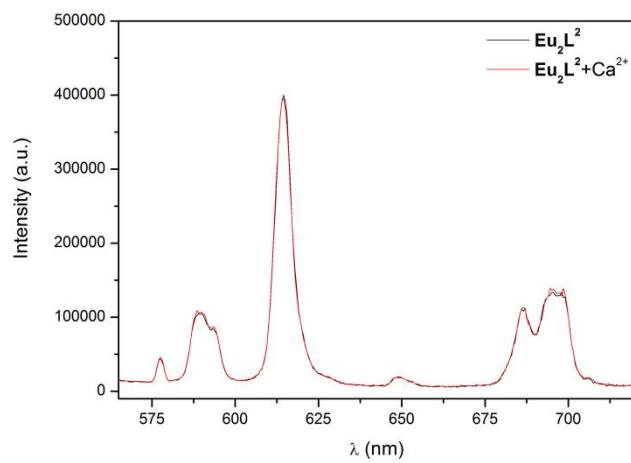
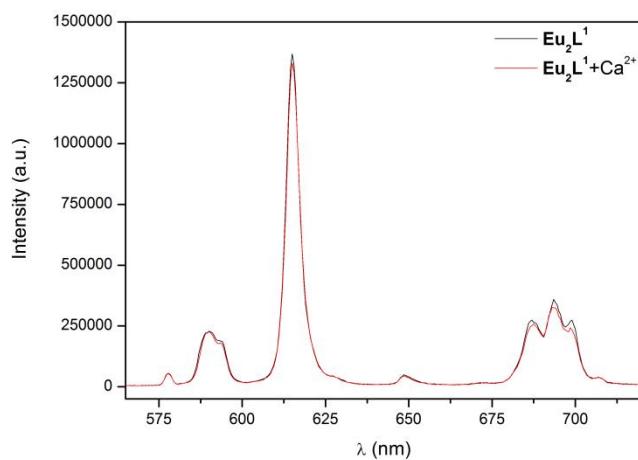
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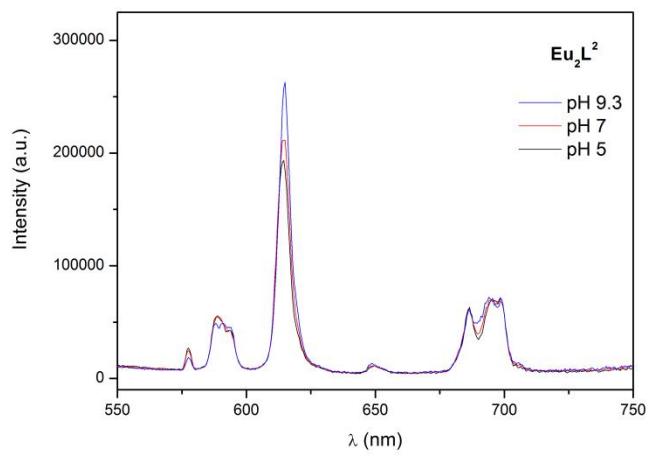
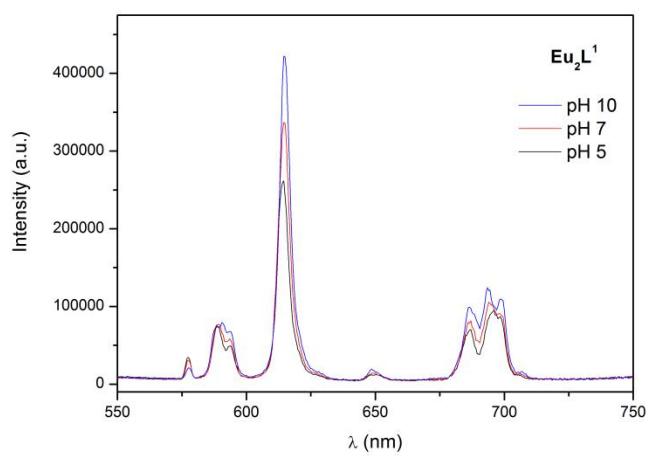
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**Figure S1.** The luminescence emission spectra of  $\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^{1-3}$  (5 mM  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ) in absence and presence of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (1 equiv.) at pH 7.4 (HEPES).



**Figure S2.** The luminescence emission spectra of  $\mathbf{Eu_2L^{1-2}}$  (5 mM  $\mathbf{Eu}^{3+}$ ) in  $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O}$  at different pH values.

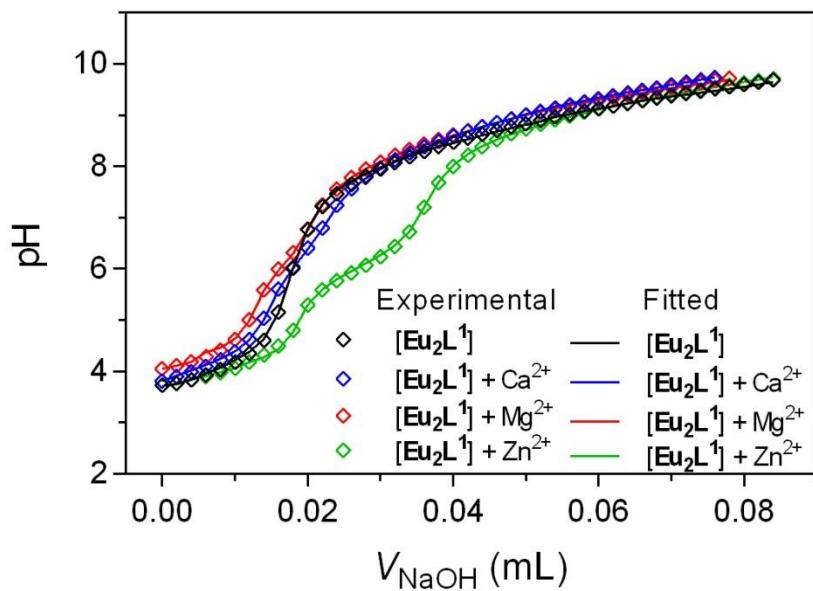
**Table S1.** Stepwise protonation constants for ligands  $\mathbf{L}^1$  and  $\mathbf{L}^2$  calculated using the ADMET Predictor software.<sup>1</sup>

$\log K_a$	$\mathbf{L}^1$	$\mathbf{L}^2$
$\log K_{a1}$	8.68	8.45
$\log K_{a2}$	8.11	7.86
$\log K_{a3}$	7.49	7.13
$\log K_{a4}$	7.01	6.50
$\log K_{a5}$	6.57	6.11
$\log K_{a6}$	6.05	5.50
$\log K_{a7}$	4.66	3.68
$\log K_{a8}$	4.24	3.25
$\log K_{a9}$	3.94	2.92
$\log K_{a10}$	3.69	2.62
$\log K_{a11}$	3.47	2.30
$\log K_{a12}$	3.28	1.89
$\log K_{a13}$	3.09	
$\log K_{a14}$	2.90	
$\log K_{a15}$	2.71	
$\log K_{a16}$	2.50	
$\log K_{a17}$	2.24	
$\log K_{a18}$	1.86	

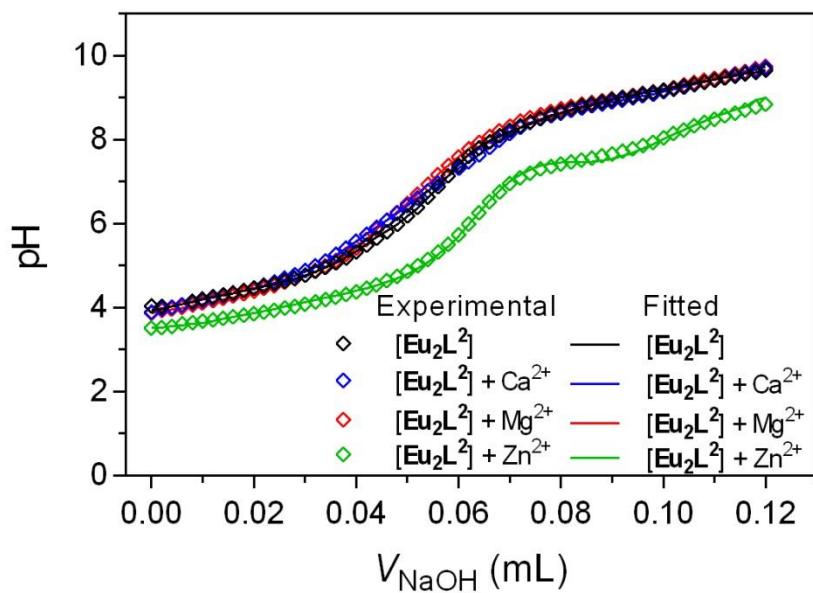
**Table S2.** Protonation constants of Eu(III)–L (L =  $\mathbf{L}^1$  and  $\mathbf{L}^2$ ) complexes (charges in reactions are omitted for simplicity);  $I=0.1\text{ M}$  (NaCl),  $t=25\pm1\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

Species ( $p,q,r$ ) <sup>*</sup>	$\log \beta_{p,q,r} (\pm\sigma)^*$	
	$\mathbf{L}^1$	$\mathbf{L}^2$
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (L)] (2, 0, 1)	19.13(5)	20.19(4)
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (HL)] (2, 1, 1)	27.85(9)	27.53(5)
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> L)] (2, 2, 1)	36.14(7)	32.73(4)
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)] (2, 3, 1)	42.96(8)	37.16(7)
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> L] (2, -2, 1)	1.15(4)	1.74(5)
Reaction	$\log K^{\text{H}}$	
[Eu <sub>2</sub> L] + H ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> (HL)]	8.72	7.34
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (HL)] + H ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> L)]	8.29	5.20
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> L)] + H ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)]	6.82	4.43
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> L] + 2H ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> L(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	9.56	9.09
Statistics	$\chi^2$	
	12.88	13.15
	$s$	
	0.70	1.08

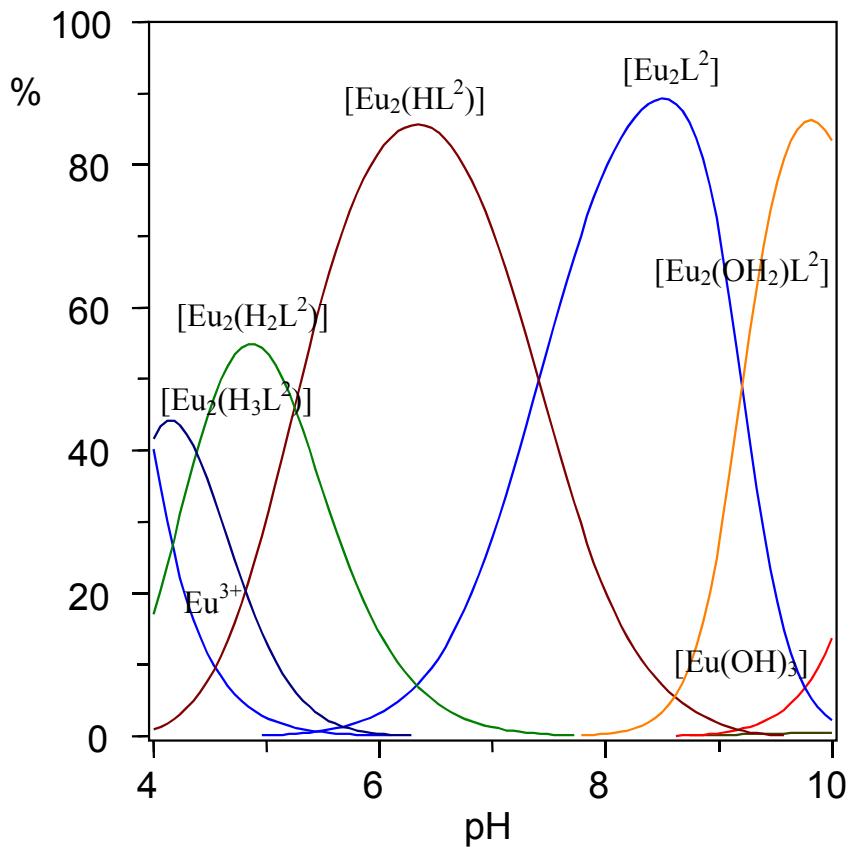
<sup>\*</sup> $p, q, r$  and  $\log \beta_{p,q,r}$  as defined in Eq. (1) and (2).



**Figure S3.** Titration curves of the  $\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1$  and  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]\text{-M}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ) systems with standard NaOH,  $I=0.1$  M (NaCl),  $t=25\pm1$  °C.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]_{\text{total}} = 2.3185 \times 10^{-4}$  M,  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{total}} = 2.3530 \times 10^{-4}$  M,  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]_{\text{total}} = 2.5260 \times 10^{-4}$  M and  $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]_{\text{total}} = 2.4057 \times 10^{-4}$  M. Full lines denote calculated curves.



**Figure S4.** Titration curves of the  $\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^2$  complex and  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^2]\text{-M}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ) systems with standard NaOH,  $I=0.1$  M (NaCl),  $t=25\pm1$  °C.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^2]_{\text{total}} = 4.4817 \times 10^{-4}$  M,  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{total}} = 4.4817 \times 10^{-4}$  M,  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]_{\text{total}} = 4.7970 \times 10^{-4}$  M and  $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]_{\text{total}} = 4.5686 \times 10^{-4}$  M. Full lines denote calculated curves.



**Figure S5.** Distribution diagram of Eu -  $\text{L}^2$  species at  $[\text{Eu}]:[\text{L}^2]=2:1$  concentration ratio; total  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  concentration 1.0 mM;  $I=0.1$  M (NaCl),  $t=25\pm 1$  °C.

Total concentrations of  $\text{Eu}_2\text{L}$  ( $\text{L}=\text{L}^1$  or  $\text{L}^2$ ) and  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ ,  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$  or  $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$  used in the potentiometric titration experiments:

#### **$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ binding to $\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1$ :**

1.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]=2.3185\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]=2.3530\times 10^{-4}$  M;
2.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]=2.2968\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]=2.7972\times 10^{-4}$  M;
3.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]=2.2650\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]=3.4481\times 10^{-4}$  M.

#### **$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ binding to $\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^2$ :**

1.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^2]=4.4817\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]=4.4686\times 10^{-4}$  M;
2.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^2]=4.4027\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]=5.2678\times 10^{-4}$  M;
3.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^2]=4.2894\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]=6.4152\times 10^{-4}$  M.

#### **$\text{Mg}^{2+}$ binding to $\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1$ :**

1.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]=2.3185\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]=2.5260\times 10^{-4}$  M;
2.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]=2.2968\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]=3.0028\times 10^{-4}$  M;
3.  $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^1]=2.2650\times 10^{-4}$  M  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]=3.7015\times 10^{-4}$  M.

**Mg<sup>2+</sup> binding to Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>:**

1. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>]=4.4817×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Mg<sup>2+</sup>]=4.7970×10<sup>-4</sup> M;
2. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>]=4.4027×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Mg<sup>2+</sup>]=5.6550×10<sup>-4</sup> M;
3. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>]=4.2894×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Mg<sup>2+</sup>]=6.8867×10<sup>-4</sup> M.

**Zn<sup>2+</sup> binding to Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>:**

1. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>]=2.3185×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=2.4057×10<sup>-4</sup> M;
2. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>]=2.2968×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=2.8598×10<sup>-4</sup> M;
3. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>]=2.2650×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=3.5253×10<sup>-4</sup> M.

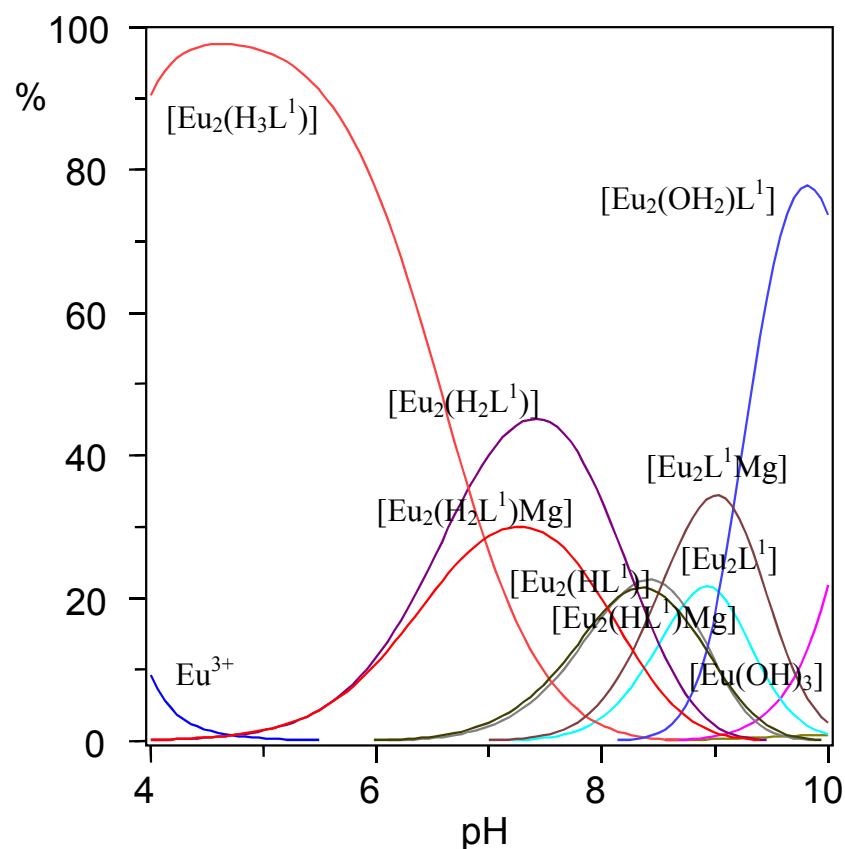
**Zn<sup>2+</sup> binding to Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>:**

1. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>]=4.4817×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=4.5686×10<sup>-4</sup> M;
2. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>]=4.4027×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=5.3857×10<sup>-4</sup> M;
3. [Eu<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup>]=4.2894×10<sup>-4</sup> M [Zn<sup>2+</sup>]=6.5588×10<sup>-4</sup> M.

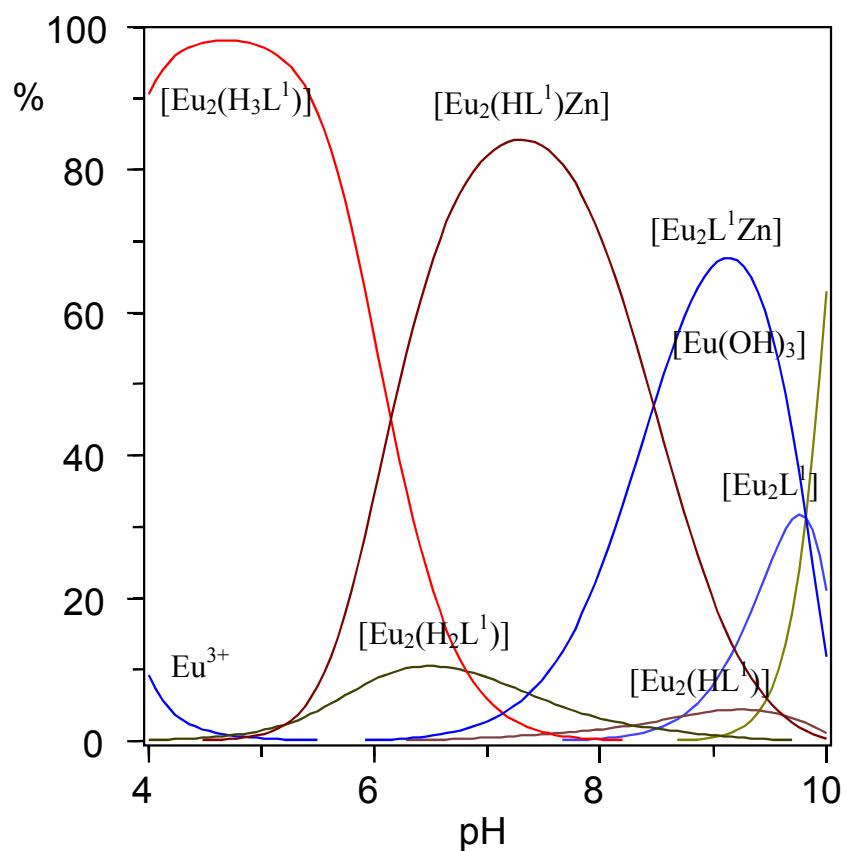
**Table S3.** Stability constants of Eu(III)–L–M (L = L<sup>1</sup> or L<sup>2</sup>; M = Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup> or Zn<sup>2+</sup>) complexes (charges in reactions are omitted for simplicity); I=0.1 M (NaCl), t=25±1 °C.

Species (p,q,r,m) <sup>*</sup>	logβ <sub>p,q,r,m</sub> (±σ) <sup>*</sup>					
	L <sup>1</sup>			L <sup>2</sup>		
	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Zn <sup>2+</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Zn <sup>2+</sup>
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (L)M] (2, 0, 1, 1)	23.73(6)	23.21(4)	26.06(6)	24.43(3)	23.57(4)	25.78(6)
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (HL)M] (2, 1, 1, 1)	32.53(8)	31.71(8)	34.53(3)	32.11(5)	31.65(6)	33.00(8)
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> L)M] (2, 2, 1, 1)	40.66(9)	39.76(7)	-	38.11(6)	37.21(8)	-
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)M] (2, 3, 1, 1)	-	-	-	42.64(8)	41.88(5)	-
Reaction	logK <sub>s</sub>					
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (L)] + M ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> (L)M]	4.60	4.08	6.93	4.24	3.38	5.59
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (HL)] + M ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> (HL)M]	4.68	3.86	6.68	4.58	4.12	5.47
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> L)] + M ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> L)M]	4.52	3.62	-	5.38	4.48	-
[Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)] + M ⇌ [Eu <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>3</sub> L)M]	-	-	-	5.48	4.72	-
Statistics	χ <sup>2</sup>					
	12.95	12.86	12.17	13.31	12.23	11.39
	s					
	1.07	0.73	0.77	1.07	1.15	0.95

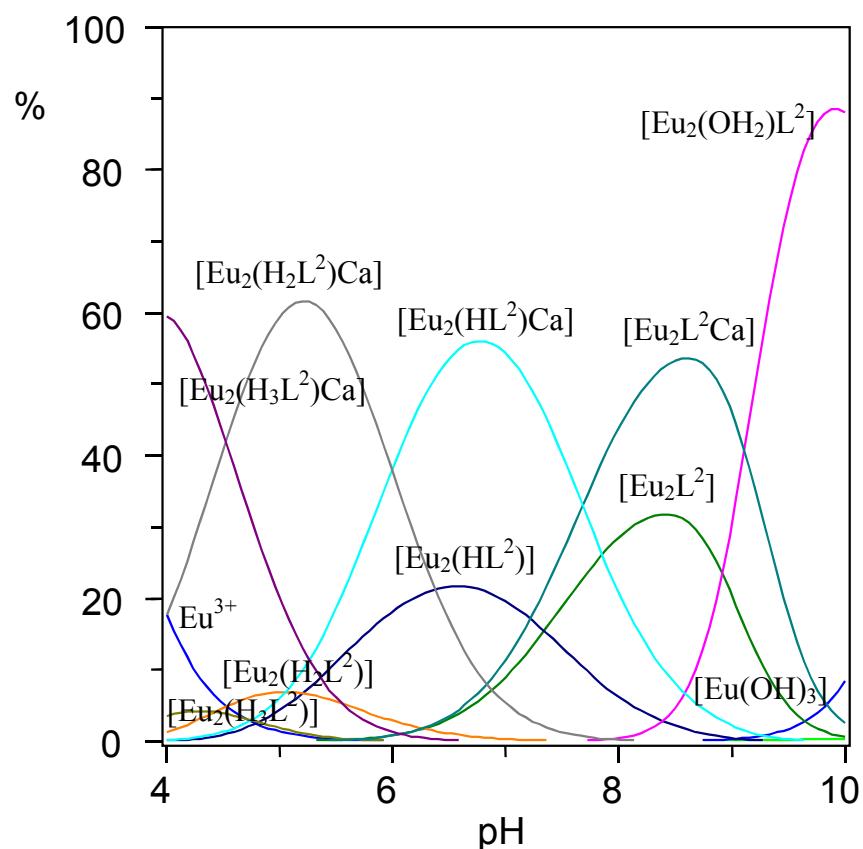
\* p, q, r, m and logβ<sub>p,q,r,m</sub> as defined in Eq. (3) and (4).



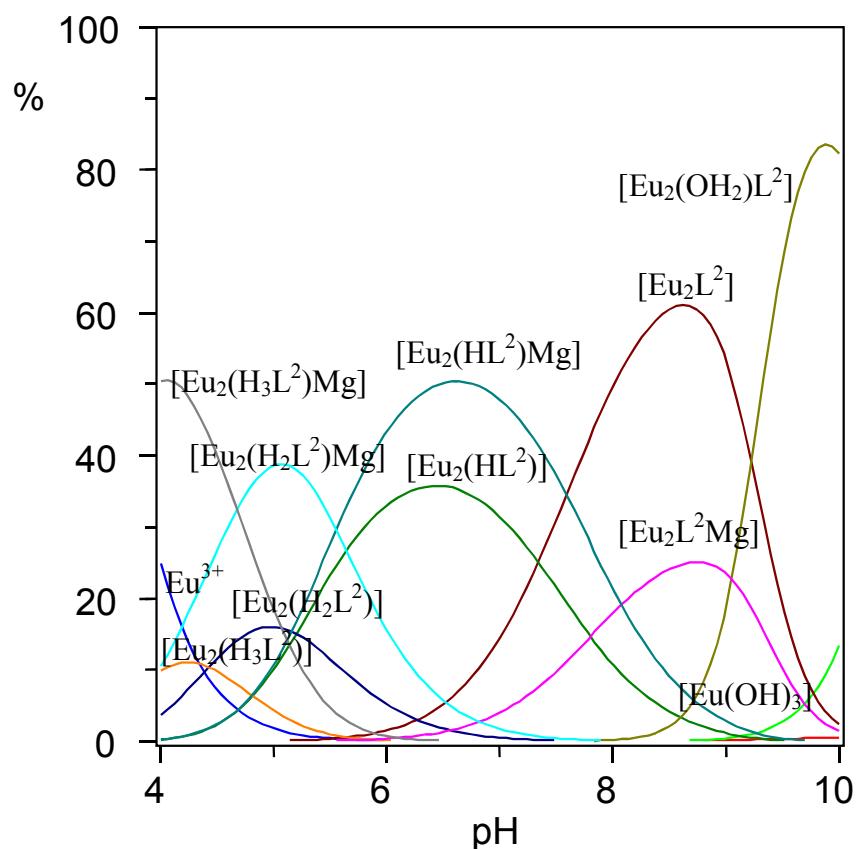
**Figure S6.** Distribution diagram of Eu– $\text{L}^1$ –Mg species at  $[\text{Eu}]:[\text{L}^1]:[\text{Mg}] = 2:1:1$  concentration ratio; total  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  concentration 0.5 mM;  $I = 0.1$  M (NaCl),  $t = 25 \pm 1$  °C.



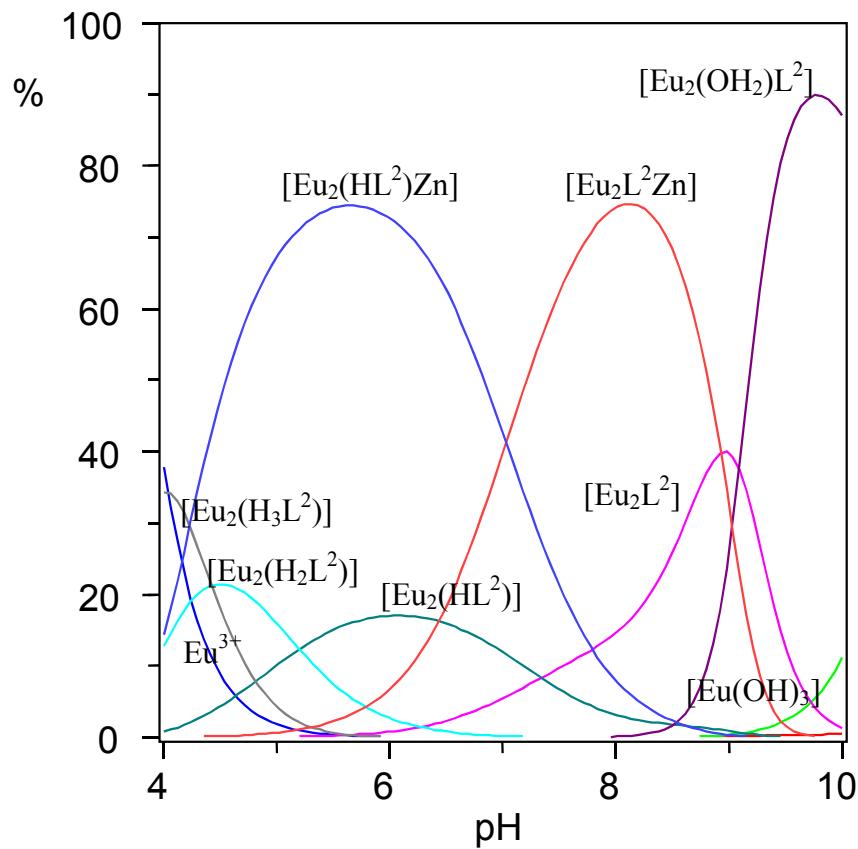
**Figure S7.** Distribution diagram of Eu– $\text{L}^1$ –Zn species at  $[\text{Eu}]:[\text{L}^1]:[\text{Zn}] = 2:1:1$  concentration ratio; total  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  concentration 0.5 mM;  $I = 0.1$  M (NaCl),  $t = 25 \pm 1$  °C.



**Figure S8.** Distribution diagram of Eu–L<sup>2</sup>–Ca species at [Eu]:[L<sup>2</sup>]:[Zn]=2:1:1 concentration ratio; total Eu<sup>3+</sup> concentration 1.0 mM; I=0.1 M (NaCl), t=25±1 °C.



**Figure S9.** Distribution diagram of Eu-L<sup>2</sup>-Mg species at  $[\text{Eu}]:[\text{L}^2]:[\text{Mg}]=2:1:1$  concentration ratio; total  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  concentration 1.0 mM;  $I=0.1$  M (NaCl),  $t=25\pm1$  °C.



**Figure S10.** Distribution diagram of Eu-L<sup>2</sup>-Zn species at [Eu]:[L<sup>2</sup>]:[Zn]=2:1:1 concentration ratio; total Eu<sup>3+</sup> concentration 1.0 mM; I=0.1 M (NaCl), t=25±1 °C.

## References

1. ADMET Predictor, Simulations Plus, Inc., Lancaster, CA, USA, ver. 7.2, 2015.