

Supporting Information

# Computational Thermodynamic Study on the Complexes of Am(III) with Tridentate N-donor Ligands

Yan-Ni Liang<sup>ab</sup>, Xia Yang,<sup>c</sup> Songdong Ding,<sup>b</sup> Shoujian Li,<sup>b</sup> Fan Wang,<sup>\*b</sup> Zhifang Chai<sup>cd</sup>  
and Dongqi Wang<sup>\*c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Shaanxi Collaborative Innovation Center of Chinese Medicinal Resources  
Industrialization, Shaanxi University of Chinese Medicine, Xianyang, 712046

<sup>b</sup>Institute of Atomic and Molecular Physics, College of Chemistry, Sichuan  
University, Chengdu, 610065

<sup>c</sup>Multidisciplinary Initiative Center, Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese  
Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100049

<sup>d</sup>School of Radiation Medicine and Interdisciplinary Sciences (RAD-X), Soochow  
University, Suzhou, 215123, China

**Table S1.** Calculated atomic  $q_M$  and group charges  $Q_c$ ,  $Q_{\text{taz}}$ , and  $Q_{\text{Lpy}}$  of the free ligand L and the corresponding  $[\text{AmL}]^{3+}$  complexes and the  $5f$  occupancy of Am, Occ.(5f), of the complexes in the aqueous solution.

| L<br>(water)   | Free ligand charges |                  |                  | $[\text{AmL}]^{3+}$ charges |                  |                  |               |          |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------|
|                | $Q_c$               | $Q_{\text{taz}}$ | $Q_{\text{Lpy}}$ | $Q_c$                       | $Q_{\text{taz}}$ | $Q_{\text{Lpy}}$ | $q(\text{M})$ | Occ.(5f) |
| BTP            | 0.054               | -0.027           | -                | 0.133                       | 0.041            | -                | 2.786         | 6.02     |
| hemi-BTP       | 0.025               | -0.034           | 0.009            | 0.110                       | 0.052            | 0.099            | 2.738         | 6.06     |
| TPY            | -0.006              | -                | 0.003            | 0.079                       | -                | 0.099            | 2.723         | 6.07     |
| C2-BTP         | 0.033               | -0.017           | --               | 0.123                       | 0.075            | -                | 2.726         | 6.07     |
| C2-hemi-BTP    | 0.013               | -0.019           | 0.006            | 0.085                       | 0.055            | 0.092            | 2.767         | 6.02     |
| C2-TPY         | -0.019              | -                | 0.010            | 0.062                       | -                | 0.113            | 2.712         | 6.07     |
| MeOPh-BTP      | 0.029               | -0.015           | -                | 0.107                       | 0.096            | -                | 2.700         | 6.09     |
| MeOPh-hemi-BTP | 0.012               | -0.018           | 0.006            | 0.090                       | 0.093            | 0.105            | 2.712         | 6.08     |
| MeOPh-TPY      | -0.008              | -                | 0.004            | 0.062                       | -                | 0.114            | 2.710         | 6.07     |
| CyMe4-BTP      | 0.031               | -0.015           | -                | 0.107                       | 0.066            | -                | 2.761         | 6.04     |
| CyMe4-hemi-BTP | 0.013               | -0.019           | 0.006            | 0.097                       | 0.078            | 0.098            | 2.727         | 6.07     |
| CyMe4-TPY      | -0.019              | -                | 0.0098           | 0.045                       | -                | 0.107            | 2.741         | 6.03     |
| CF3-BTP        | 0.117               | -0.059           | -                | 0.197                       | 0.013            | -                | 2.777         | 6.05     |
| CF3-hemi-BTP   | 0.059               | -0.075           | 0.016            | 0.136                       | -0.009           | 0.117            | 2.757         | 6.05     |
| CF3-TPY        | 0.052               | -                | -0.026           | 0.135                       | -                | 0.055            | 2.756         | 6.05     |

**Table S2.** Calculated Am-N distances ( $d_{\text{Am-N}}$ , in Å), Mayer bond order(MBO) and bond overlap populations (BOPs) in  $[\text{AmL}]^{3+}$  complexes in the aqueous solution.

| L              | $d_{\text{Am-N}}$ |                |                | MBO            |                |                | BOPs           |                |                |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | N <sub>4</sub> | N <sub>1</sub> | N <sub>2</sub> | N <sub>4</sub> | N <sub>1</sub> | N <sub>2</sub> | N <sub>4</sub> |
| BTP            | 2.66              | 2.59           | 2.59           | 0.27           | 0.27           | 0.27           | 0.18           | 0.18           | 0.18           |
| hemi-BTP       | 2.62              | 2.56           | 2.59           | 0.31           | 0.29           | 0.33           | 0.19           | 0.18           | 0.19           |
| TPY            | 2.57              | 2.55           | 2.55           | 0.34           | 0.34           | 0.34           | 0.21           | 0.21           | 0.21           |
| C2-BTP         | 2.66              | 2.56           | 2.56           | 0.29           | 0.30           | 0.30           | 0.18           | 0.19           | 0.19           |
| C2-hemi-BTP    | 2.61              | 2.54           | 2.59           | 0.30           | 0.29           | 0.32           | 0.20           | 0.20           | 0.20           |
| C2-TPY         | 2.55              | 2.52           | 2.52           | 0.35           | 0.36           | 0.36           | 0.22           | 0.21           | 0.21           |
| MeOPh-BTP      | 2.65              | 2.55           | 2.55           | 0.30           | 0.32           | 0.32           | 0.20           | 0.20           | 0.20           |
| MeOPh-hemi-BTP | 2.62              | 2.52           | 2.54           | 0.31           | 0.32           | 0.36           | 0.20           | 0.21           | 0.21           |
| MeOPh-TPY      | 2.59              | 2.52           | 2.52           | 0.33           | 0.36           | 0.36           | 0.21           | 0.21           | 0.21           |
| CyMe4-BTP      | 2.65              | 2.57           | 2.57           | 0.27           | 0.30           | 0.30           | 0.18           | 0.18           | 0.18           |
| CyMe4-hemi-BTP | 2.62              | 2.53           | 2.59           | 0.31           | 0.31           | 0.33           | 0.19           | 0.19           | 0.19           |
| CyMe4-TPY      | 2.57              | 2.54           | 2.54           | 0.32           | 0.36           | 0.36           | 0.21           | 0.21           | 0.21           |
| CF3-BTP        | 2.70              | 2.60           | 2.60           | 0.27           | 0.25           | 0.25           | 0.17           | 0.165          | 0.165          |
| CF3-hemi-BTP   | 2.62              | 2.62           | 2.56           | 0.31           | 0.24           | 0.35           | 0.19           | 0.17           | 0.19           |
| CF3-TPY        | 2.60              | 2.59           | 2.59           | 0.32           | 0.30           | 0.30           | 0.19           | 0.17           | 0.17           |

**Table S3.** Calculated binding energies (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) of the complexes  $[\text{AmL}]^{3+}$  in the gas phase and aqueous solution.

| L              | Gas/BS1                |                        | Water/BS1              |                        | Gas/BS2                |                        | Water/BS2              |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ |
| BTP            | -397.3                 | -387.9                 | -23.8                  | -12.8                  | -390.3                 | -380.9                 | -19.3                  | -8.3                   |
| hemi-BTP       | -402.1                 | -392.1                 | -30.9                  | -21.1                  | -394.2                 | -384.2                 | -25.8                  | -15.9                  |
| TPY            | -408.1                 | -399.5                 | -34.2                  | -25.1                  | -399.2                 | -390.5                 | -28.5                  | -19.4                  |
| C2-BTP         | -444.0                 | -432.7                 | -32.3                  | -22.1                  | -436.1                 | -424.8                 | -26.9                  | -16.7                  |
| C2-hemi-BTP    | -426.8                 | -416.4                 | -33.4                  | -22.8                  | -418.5                 | -408.0                 | -27.9                  | -17.2                  |
| C2-TPY         | -444.5                 | -435.9                 | -37.7                  | -27.4                  | -436.0                 | -427.4                 | -31.8                  | -21.5                  |
| MeOPh-BTP      | -530.1                 | -520.5                 | -33.7                  | -23.4                  | -519.3                 | -509.7                 | -27.8                  | -17.4                  |
| MeOPh-hemi-BTP | -495.6                 | -486.3                 | -33.5                  | -22.6                  | -485.3                 | -476.0                 | -27.7                  | -16.7                  |
| MeOPh-TPY      | -526.0                 | -516.7                 | -35.5                  | -24.8                  | -514.9                 | -505.6                 | -29.5                  | -18.7                  |
| CyMe4-BTP      | -448.0                 | -438.2                 | -26.7                  | -16.8                  | -439.7                 | -429.9                 | -21.4                  | -11.5                  |
| CyMe4-hemi-BTP | -434.8                 | -425.4                 | -33.2                  | -23.0                  | -426.4                 | -416.9                 | -27.7                  | -17.5                  |
| CyMe4-TPY      | -455.3                 | -447.1                 | -33.5                  | -23.0                  | -446.4                 | -438.3                 | -27.6                  | -17.0                  |
| CF3-BTP        | -366.5                 | -356.5                 | -16.0                  | -5.6                   | -352.5                 | -342.6                 | -10.7                  | -0.2                   |
| CF3-hemi-BTP   | -386.1                 | -376.3                 | -25.4                  | -15.3                  | -374.8                 | -364.9                 | -20.0                  | -9.9                   |
| CF3-TPY        | -372.4                 | -364.0                 | -22.4                  | -12.6                  | -357.7                 | -349.4                 | -16.1                  | -6.6                   |

**Table S4.** Calculated Am-N distances ( $d_{\text{Am-N}}$ , in Å), averaged Am-O bond lengths ( $d_{\text{Am-O}}$ , in Å), Mayer bond order (MBO) of  $[\text{AmL}(\text{NO}_3)_3]$  complexes in the aqueous solution.

| L              | $d_{\text{Am-N}}$ |                |                |                             |                             | MBO            |                |                |                             |                             |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                | N <sub>1</sub>    | N <sub>2</sub> | N <sub>4</sub> | O <sub>i</sub> <sup>a</sup> | O <sub>o</sub> <sup>a</sup> | N <sub>1</sub> | N <sub>2</sub> | N <sub>4</sub> | O <sub>i</sub> <sup>a</sup> | O <sub>o</sub> <sup>a</sup> |
| BTP            | 2.69              | 2.62           | 2.65           | 2.52                        | 2.52                        | 0.22           | 0.21           | 0.20           | 0.32                        | 0.32                        |
| hemi-BTP       | 2.64              | 2.58           | 2.61           | 2.55                        | 2.53                        | 0.23           | 0.22           | 0.27           | 0.30                        | 0.32                        |
| TPY            | 2.61              | 2.59           | 2.62           | 2.53                        | 2.53                        | 0.27           | 0.28           | 0.27           | 0.30                        | 0.31                        |
| C2-BTP         | 2.66              | 2.59           | 2.62           | 2.52                        | 2.53                        | 0.23           | 0.23           | 0.22           | 0.32                        | 0.32                        |
| C2-hemi-BTP    | 2.63              | 2.57           | 2.63           | 2.53                        | 2.53                        | 0.24           | 0.23           | 0.27           | 0.30                        | 0.31                        |
| C2-TPY         | 2.61              | 2.62           | 2.57           | 2.55                        | 2.55                        | 0.24           | 0.26           | 0.29           | 0.29                        | 0.30                        |
| MeOPh-BTP      | 2.67              | 2.60           | 2.59           | 2.53                        | 2.53                        | 0.22           | 0.22           | 0.24           | 0.31                        | 0.31                        |
| MeOPh-hemi-BTP | 2.65              | 2.55           | 2.64           | 2.55                        | 2.53                        | 0.24           | 0.25           | 0.27           | 0.30                        | 0.31                        |
| MeOPh-TPY      | 2.63              | 2.58           | 2.59           | 2.55                        | 2.54                        | 0.25           | 0.29           | 0.28           | 0.30                        | 0.31                        |
| CyMe4-BTP      | 2.65              | 2.59           | 2.62           | 2.52                        | 2.53                        | 0.23           | 0.23           | 0.22           | 0.32                        | 0.32                        |
| CyMe4-hemi-BTP | 2.65              | 2.56           | 2.61           | 2.53                        | 2.54                        | 0.23           | 0.24           | 0.27           | 0.30                        | 0.31                        |
| CyMe4-TPY      | 2.61              | 2.58           | 2.61           | 2.54                        | 2.53                        | 0.27           | 0.29           | 0.28           | 0.30                        | 0.31                        |
| CF3-BTP        | 2.71              | 2.63           | 2.62           | 2.52                        | 2.52                        | 0.20           | 0.18           | 0.19           | 0.32                        | 0.33                        |
| CF3-hemi-BTP   | 2.67              | 2.63           | 2.61           | 2.55                        | 2.52                        | 0.23           | 0.19           | 0.27           | 0.30                        | 0.32                        |
| CF3-TPY        | 2.64              | 2.63           | 2.63           | 2.53                        | 2.52                        | 0.25           | 0.25           | 0.24           | 0.30                        | 0.32                        |

<sup>a</sup> O<sub>i</sub> and O<sub>o</sub> denote the coordinating oxygen atoms of the in- and out-of-plane molecules, respectively.

**Table S5.** Calculated binding energies (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) of the complexes  $[\text{AmL}(\text{NO}_3)_3]$  in the gas phase and aqueous solution.

| L              | Gas/BS1                |                        | Water/BS1              |                        | Gas/BS2                |                        | Water/BS2              |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta E_{\text{cf}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{cf}}$ |
| BTP            | -1080.7                | -1036.8                | -111.5                 | -65.2                  | -1056.6                | -1012.7                | -88.7                  | -42.3                  |
| hemi-BTP       | -1084.7                | -1039.3                | -116.6                 | -70.4                  | -1060.7                | -1015.1                | -94.1                  | -47.9                  |
| TPY            | -1088.6                | -1043.0                | -118.3                 | -73.3                  | -1064.2                | -1018.4                | -95.2                  | -50.1                  |
| C2-BTP         | -1086.2                | -1040.6                | -115.3                 | -67.8                  | -1061.8                | -1016.1                | -92.2                  | -44.5                  |
| C2-hemi-BTP    | -1087.7                | -1042.0                | -117.1                 | -72.4                  | -1063.4                | -1017.6                | -94.3                  | -49.4                  |
| C2-TPY         | -1092.2                | -1046.7                | -119.1                 | -72.3                  | -1068.0                | -1022.4                | -96.9                  | -50.0                  |
| MeOPh-BTP      | -1087.3                | -1042.5                | -117.6                 | -70.5                  | -1062.7                | -1017.8                | -94.7                  | -47.4                  |
| MeOPh-hemi-BTP | -1087.4                | -1042.4                | -113.5                 | -66.9                  | -1062.9                | -1017.8                | -90.6                  | -43.9                  |
| MeOPh-TPY      | -1091.9                | -1046.1                | -119.8                 | -72.7                  | -1067.6                | -1021.6                | -97.4                  | -50.1                  |
| CyMe4-BTP      | -1087.2                | -1042.8                | -115.9                 | -70.1                  | -1063.0                | -1018.5                | -93.1                  | -47.1                  |
| CyMe4-hemi-BTP | -1088.2                | -1043.3                | -118.4                 | -73.2                  | -1064.0                | -1019.0                | -95.7                  | -50.4                  |
| CyMe4-TPY      | -1093.5                | -1048.7                | -120.9                 | -75.6                  | -1069.5                | -1024.6                | -97.9                  | -52.5                  |
| CF3-BTP        | -1072.6                | -1027.6                | -106.1                 | -58.6                  | -1047.3                | -1002.3                | -83.1                  | -35.5                  |
| CF3-hemi-BTP   | -1080.4                | -1034.8                | -111.7                 | -65.5                  | -1055.7                | -1010.0                | -88.9                  | -42.6                  |
| CF3-TPY        | -1079.7                | -1034.1                | -110.7                 | -64.1                  | -1054.4                | -1008.7                | -87.5                  | -40.7                  |

**Table S6.** Calculated changes of the Gibbs free energies (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) for the complexing reactions Am(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub> + L → AmL(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> + 3(H<sub>2</sub>O).

| L              | $\Delta G_g/BS1$ | $\Delta G_s/BS1$ | $\Delta G_g/BS2$ | $\Delta G_s/BS2$ |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| BTP            | -1.6             | -6.6             | -3.3             | -7.2             |
| hemi-BTP       | -4.1             | -11.8            | -5.7             | -12.8            |
| TPY            | -7.8             | -14.7            | -9.1             | -15.0            |
| C2-BTP         | -5.5             | -9.2             | -6.7             | -9.4             |
| C2-hemi-BTP    | -6.8             | -13.8            | -8.2             | -14.3            |
| C2-TPY         | -11.6            | -13.7            | -13.1            | -14.9            |
| MeOPh-BTP      | -7.4             | -11.9            | -8.4             | -12.3            |
| MeOPh-hemi-BTP | -7.3             | -8.3             | -8.4             | -8.8             |
| MeOPh-TPY      | -10.9            | -14.1            | -12.2            | -15.0            |
| CyMe4-BTP      | -7.7             | -11.5            | -9.1             | -12.0            |
| CyMe4-hemi-BTP | -8.2             | -14.6            | -9.6             | -15.2            |
| CyMe4-TPY      | -13.5            | -17.0            | -15.2            | -17.4            |
| CF3-BTP        | 7.5              | -0.02            | 7.1              | -0.4             |
| CF3-hemi-BTP   | 0.3              | -6.9             | -0.6             | -7.4             |
| CF3-TPY        | 1.0              | -5.5             | 0.7              | -5.6             |

**Table S7.** Characteristics of Am-N Bond Critical Points (BCP) for the various complexes.  $\rho(r)$  – density of all electrons.  $\nabla^2\rho(r)$  - Laplacian of electron density.  $H_b$  - total energy density. ELF- Electron localization function. LOL - Localized orbital locator.

| L                           | [AmL] <sup>3+</sup> | $r_N/r_M$<br>(Å) | $\rho(r)$<br>e <sup>-</sup> /bohr <sup>3</sup> | $\nabla^2\rho(r)$<br>e <sup>-</sup> /bohr <sup>5</sup> | $H_b(\text{au})$ | ELF   | LOL   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|
| BTP                         | M-N <sub>1</sub>    | 1.22/1.37        | 0.049                                          | 0.137                                                  | -0.37E-02        | 0.197 | 0.330 |
|                             | M-N <sub>2</sub>    | 1.08/1.24        | 0.085                                          | 0.233                                                  | -0.17E-01        | 0.286 | 0.386 |
| hemi-BTP                    | M-N <sub>1</sub>    | 1.17/1.32        | 0.060                                          | 0.164                                                  | -0.69E-02        | 0.236 | 0.356 |
|                             | M-N <sub>2</sub>    | 1.07/1.24        | 0.089                                          | 0.237                                                  | -0.19E-01        | 0.300 | 0.395 |
|                             | M-N <sub>4</sub>    | 1.10/1.27        | 0.078                                          | 0.213                                                  | -0.14E-01        | 0.273 | 0.379 |
| TPY                         | M-N <sub>1</sub>    | 1.14/1.30        | 0.065                                          | 0.188                                                  | -0.81E-02        | 0.232 | 0.354 |
|                             | M-N <sub>2</sub>    | 1.13/1.29        | 0.069                                          | 0.202                                                  | -0.97E-02        | 0.233 | 0.354 |
| CyMe <sub>4</sub> -BTP      | M-N <sub>1</sub>    | 1.14/1.30        | 0.064                                          | 0.195                                                  | -0.80E-02        | 0.217 | 0.344 |
|                             | M-N <sub>2</sub>    | 1.12/1.29        | 0.071                                          | 0.207                                                  | -0.11E-01        | 0.244 | 0.361 |
| CyMe <sub>4</sub> -hemi-BTP | M-N <sub>1</sub>    | 1.17/1.33        | 0.057                                          | 0.166                                                  | -0.58E-02        | 0.214 | 0.342 |
|                             | M-N <sub>2</sub>    | 1.08/1.25        | 0.085                                          | 0.233                                                  | -0.17E-01        | 0.287 | 0.386 |
|                             | M-N <sub>4</sub>    | 1.13/1.29        | 0.069                                          | 0.203                                                  | -0.10E-01        | 0.236 | 0.356 |
| CyMe <sub>4</sub> -TPY      | M-N <sub>1</sub>    | 1.14/1.31        | 0.062                                          | 0.196                                                  | -0.71E-02        | 0.204 | 0.335 |
|                             | M-N <sub>2</sub>    | 1.14/1.31        | 0.062                                          | 0.198                                                  | -0.72E-02        | 0.201 | 0.333 |

|                           |                  |           |       |       |            |       |       |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
| CF <sub>3</sub> -BTP      | M-N <sub>1</sub> | 1.22/1.37 | 0.048 | 0.134 | -0.35E-02  | 0.194 | 0.328 |
|                           | M-N <sub>2</sub> | 1.08/1.24 | 0.084 | 0.233 | -0.17 E-01 | 0.284 | 0.385 |
| CF <sub>3</sub> -hemi-BTP | M-N <sub>1</sub> | 1.17/1.32 | 0.060 | 0.163 | -0.67 E-02 | 0.235 | 0.356 |
|                           | M-N <sub>2</sub> | 1.07/1.24 | 0.089 | 0.238 | -0.19E-01  | 0.298 | 0.393 |
|                           | M-N <sub>4</sub> | 1.10/1.26 | 0.079 | 0.213 | -0.14 E-01 | 0.275 | 0.380 |
| CF <sub>3</sub> -TPY      | M-N <sub>1</sub> | 1.15/1.30 | 0.064 | 0.185 | -0.79E-02  | 0.231 | 0.354 |
|                           | M-N <sub>2</sub> | 1.13/1.29 | 0.068 | 0.200 | -0.94E-02  | 0.231 | 0.353 |

  

| L                               | AmL(<br>NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> | r <sub>N</sub> /r <sub>M</sub><br>(Å) | ρ(r)<br>e <sup>-</sup> /bo<br>hr <sup>3</sup> | ∇ <sup>2</sup> ρ(r)<br>e <sup>-</sup> /bohr<br>s | H <sub>b</sub> (au) | ELF   | LOL   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| BTP                             | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.28/1.45                             | 0.033                                         | 0.113                                            | -0.20E-03           | 0.111 | 0.260 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.24/1.41                             | 0.038                                         | 0.133                                            | -0.11E-03           | 0.120 | 0.269 |
| hemi-BTP                        | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.27/1.43                             | 0.035                                         | 0.119                                            | -0.24E-05           | 0.117 | 0.266 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.23/1.39                             | 0.041                                         | 0.144                                            | -0.38E-03           | 0.128 | 0.276 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>4</sub>                       | 1.24/1.41                             | 0.039                                         | 0.131                                            | -0.66E-03           | 0.129 | 0.277 |
| TPY                             | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.24/1.41                             | 0.030                                         | 0.140                                            | -0.31E-03           | 0.058 | 0.198 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.25/1.40                             | 0.031                                         | 0.143                                            | -0.33E-04           | 0.058 | 0.198 |
| CyMe <sub>4</sub> -BTP          | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.27/1.44                             | 0.034                                         | 0.115                                            | -0.12E-03           | 0.114 | 0.263 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.24/1.39                             | 0.040                                         | 0.138                                            | -0.40E-03           | 0.129 | 0.278 |
| CyMe <sub>4</sub> -hemi-BT<br>P | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.26/1.42                             | 0.036                                         | 0.124                                            | -0.14E-03           | 0.120 | 0.269 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.23/1.38                             | 0.042                                         | 0.145                                            | -0.65E-03           | 0.133 | 0.281 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>4</sub>                       | 1.24/1.40                             | 0.040                                         | 0.134                                            | -0.75E-03           | 0.131 | 0.279 |
| CyMe <sub>4</sub> -TPY          | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.24/1.41                             | 0.039                                         | 0.131                                            | -0.45E-03           | 0.127 | 0.275 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.24/1.39                             | 0.040                                         | 0.135                                            | -0.86E-03           | 0.137 | 0.284 |
| CF <sub>3</sub> -BTP            | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.28/1.45                             | 0.032                                         | 0.109                                            | -0.33E-03           | 0.107 | 0.256 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.26/1.42                             | 0.035                                         | 0.125                                            | -0.34E-03           | 0.112 | 0.262 |
| CF <sub>3</sub> -hemi-BTP       | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.26/1.43                             | 0.035                                         | 0.121                                            | -0.19E-04           | 0.117 | 0.266 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.25/1.41                             | 0.036                                         | 0.128                                            | -0.30E-03           | 0.113 | 0.263 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>4</sub>                       | 1.24/1.40                             | 0.040                                         | 0.134                                            | -0.84E-03           | 0.133 | 0.281 |
| CF <sub>3</sub> -TPY            | M-N <sub>1</sub>                       | 1.25/1.42                             | 0.036                                         | 0.125                                            | -0.12E-03           | 0.120 | 0.269 |
|                                 | M-N <sub>2</sub>                       | 1.26/1.42                             | 0.036                                         | 0.122                                            | -0.15E-03           | 0.121 | 0.271 |

**Table S8.** Gibbs Free Energy changes (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) of the nitration reactions of [Am(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>n</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>m</sub>]<sup>3-n</sup> (m=3,5,7,9 and n=0-3) in the gas phase (ΔG<sub>g</sub>) with B3LYP and MP2 both based on BS1 level.

| Complexation reactions                                                                                                                                                                                    | ΔG <sub>g</sub> /B3LYP | ΔG <sub>g</sub> /MP2 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| [M(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>9</sub> ] <sup>3+</sup> + NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> → [M(NO <sub>3</sub> )(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>7</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + 2H <sub>2</sub> O                                | -248.4                 | -250.7               |
| [M(NO <sub>3</sub> )(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>7</sub> ] <sup>2+</sup> + NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> → [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> + 2H <sub>2</sub> O | -176.5                 | -179.7               |
| [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> + NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> → M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> + 2H <sub>2</sub> O    | -109.6                 | -114.7               |
| [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> ] + NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> → [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O)] <sup>-</sup> + 2H <sub>2</sub> O               | -39.7                  | -43.0                |
| [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O → [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                    | -8.8                   | -13.4                |
| [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> ] + H <sub>2</sub> O → [M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> ]                                              | -3.8                   | -7.0                 |
| M(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> + L → ML(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> + 3(H <sub>2</sub> O)                                                                            |                        |                      |
| L=BTP                                                                                                                                                                                                     | -3.3                   | -15.6                |
| L=hemi-BTP                                                                                                                                                                                                | -5.7                   | -17.9                |
| L=TPY                                                                                                                                                                                                     | -9.1                   | -22.5                |

**Table S9.** Calculated binding energies (kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) of the complexes [AmL]<sup>3+</sup> with B3LYP and MP2 both based on BS2 level.

|                                   | L        | B3LYP/BS2         |                   | MP2/BS2           |                   |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                   |          | Δ E <sub>cf</sub> | Δ G <sub>cf</sub> | Δ E <sub>cf</sub> | Δ G <sub>cf</sub> |
| [ML] <sup>3+</sup>                | BTP      | -390.3            | -380.9            | -379.8            | -370.4            |
|                                   | hemi-BTP | -394.2            | -384.2            | -388.9            | -378.8            |
|                                   | TPY      | -399.2            | -390.5            | -392.5            | -383.8            |
| ML(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> | BTP      | -1056.6           | -1012.7           | -1090.4           | -1046.4           |
|                                   | hemi-BTP | -1060.7           | -1015.1           | -1094.3           | -1048.7           |
|                                   | TPY      | -1064.2           | -1018.4           | -1099.1           | -1053.3           |