

## Supporting Information

### Photocytotoxic luminescent lanthanide complexes of DTPA– bisamide using quinoline as photosensitizer

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**DNA and BSA Binding Studies**

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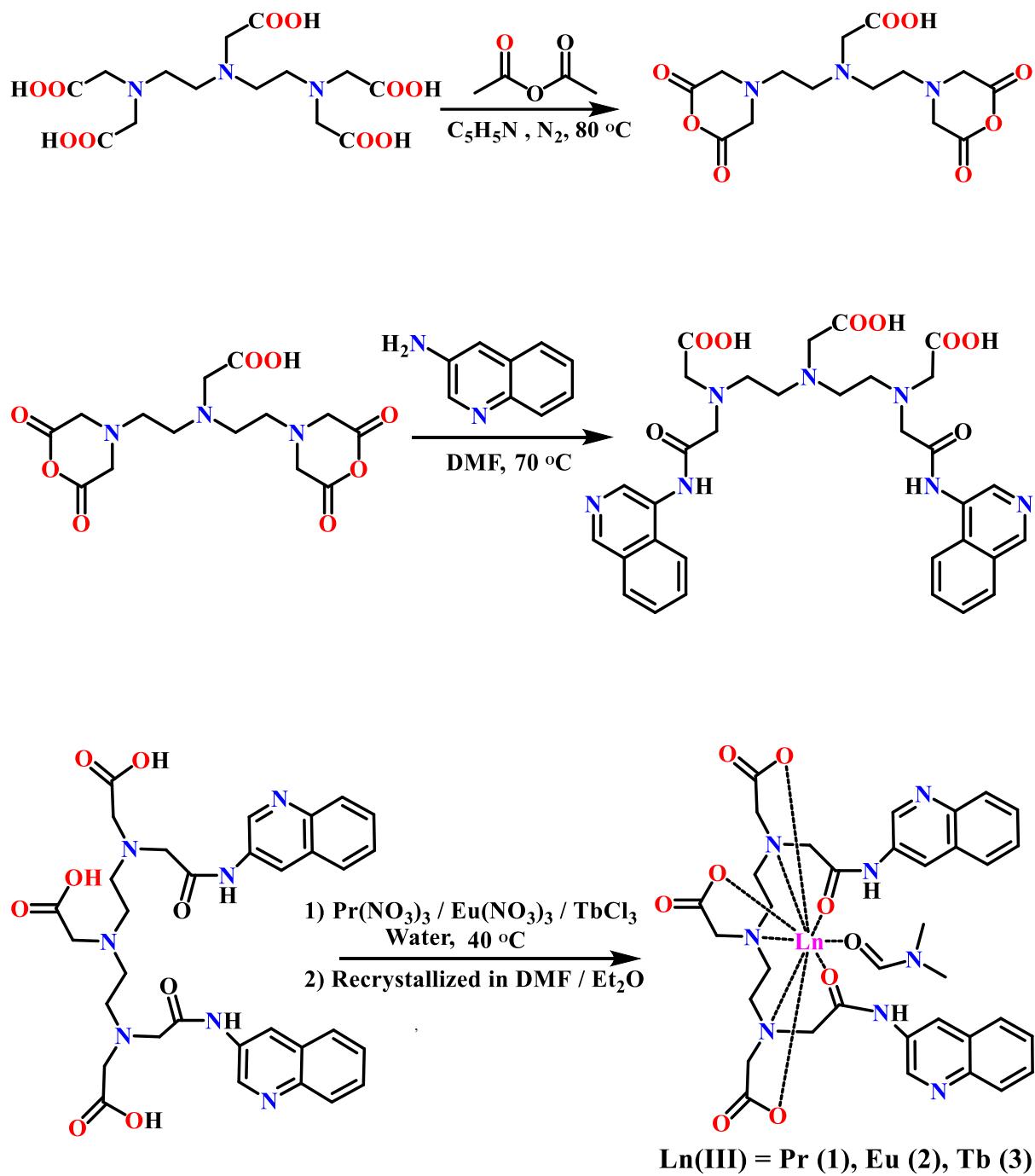
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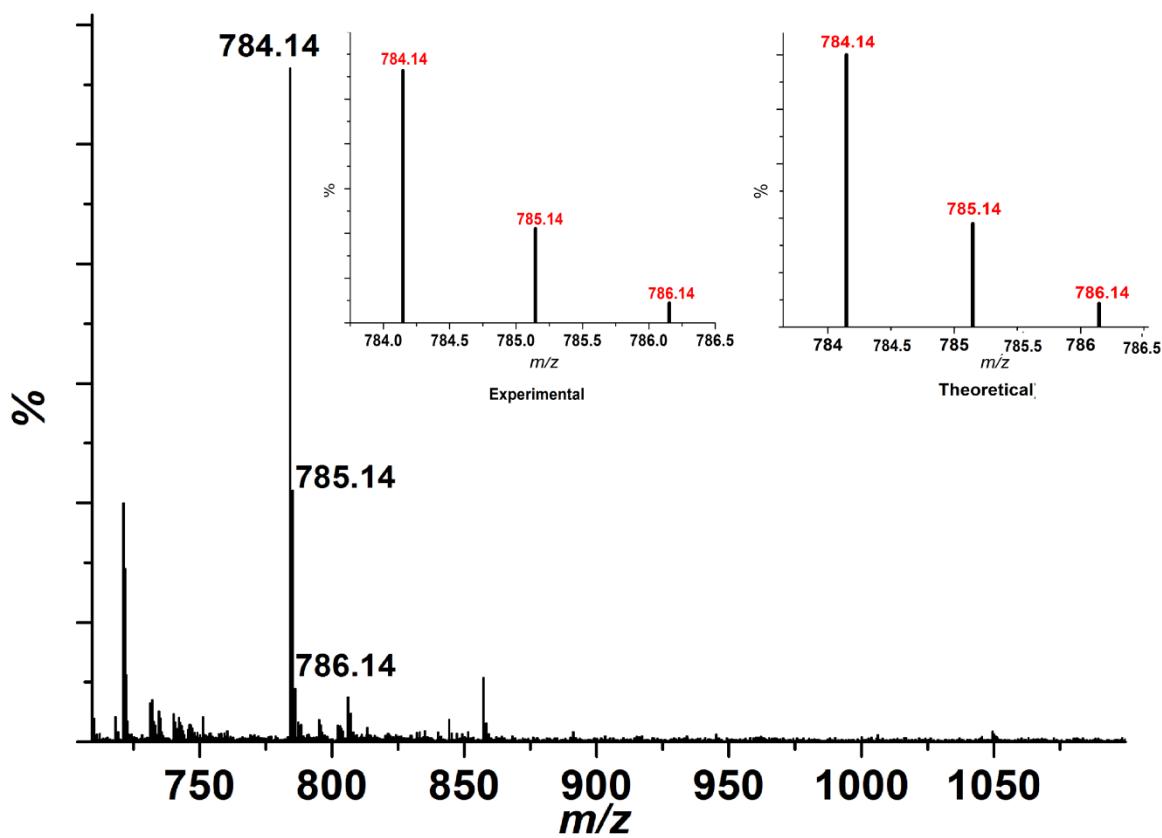
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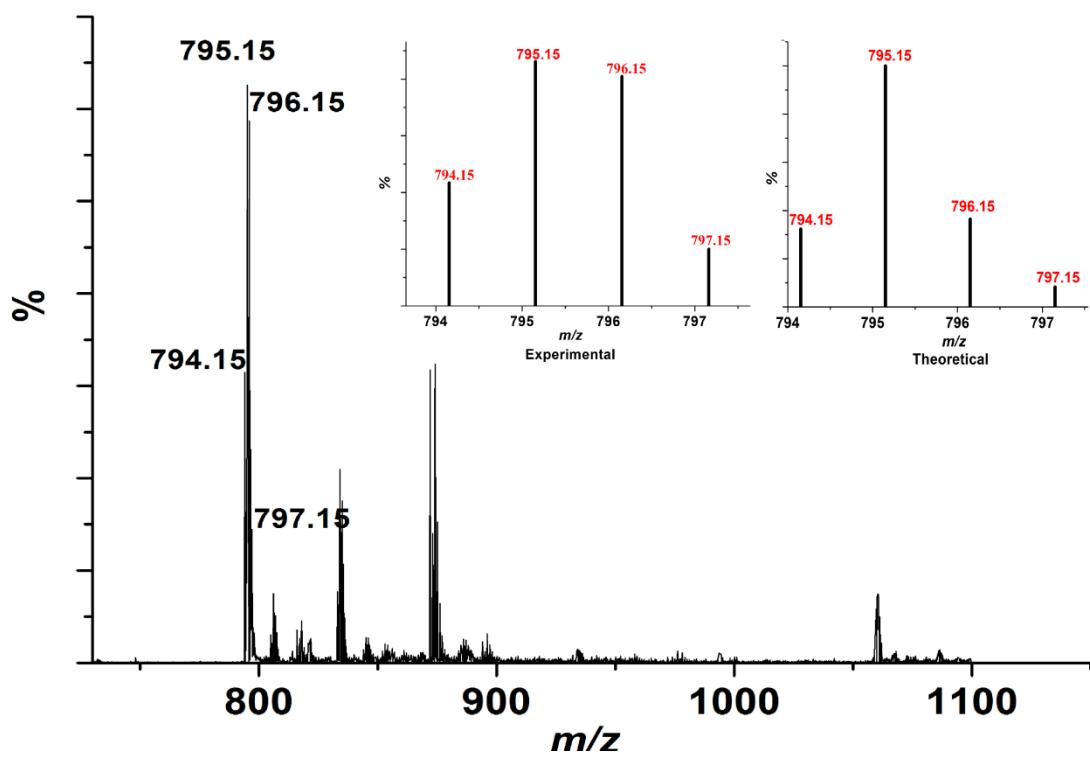
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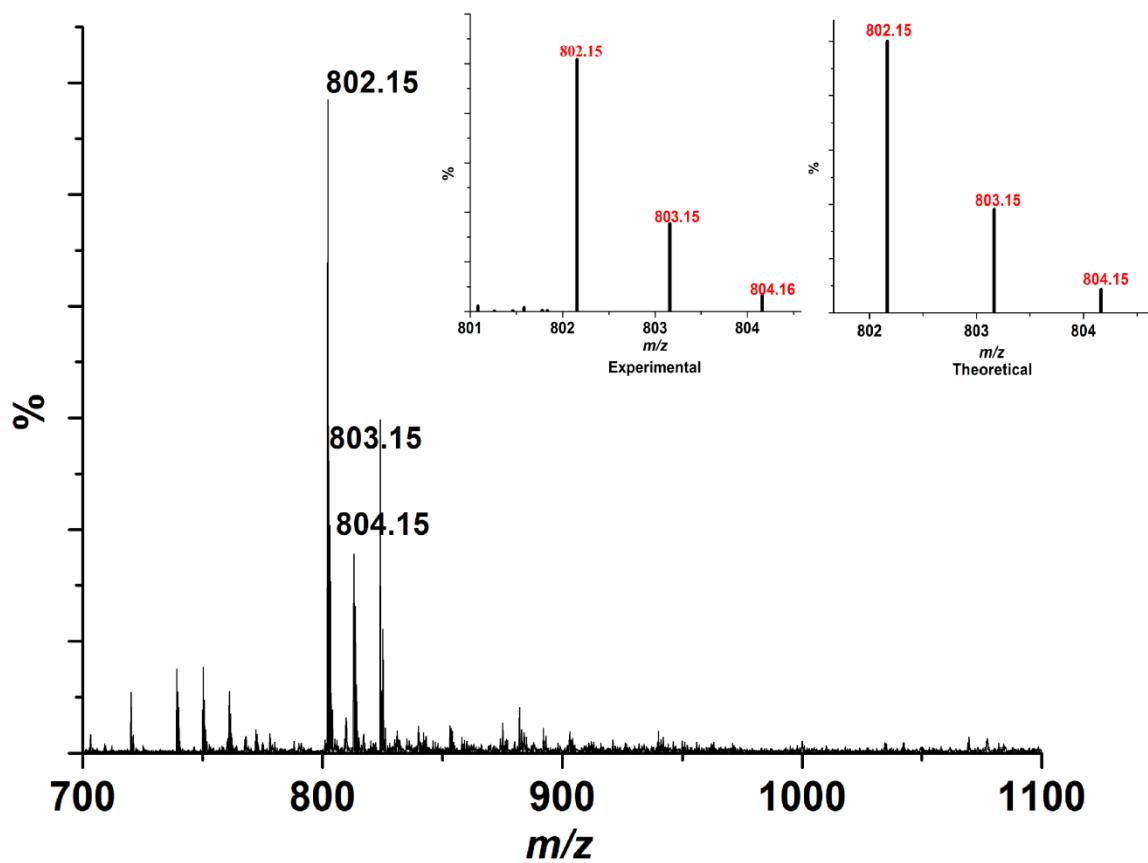
**Scheme S1.** General synthetic scheme for H<sub>3</sub>DTPAAQ ligand and complexes **1-3**.



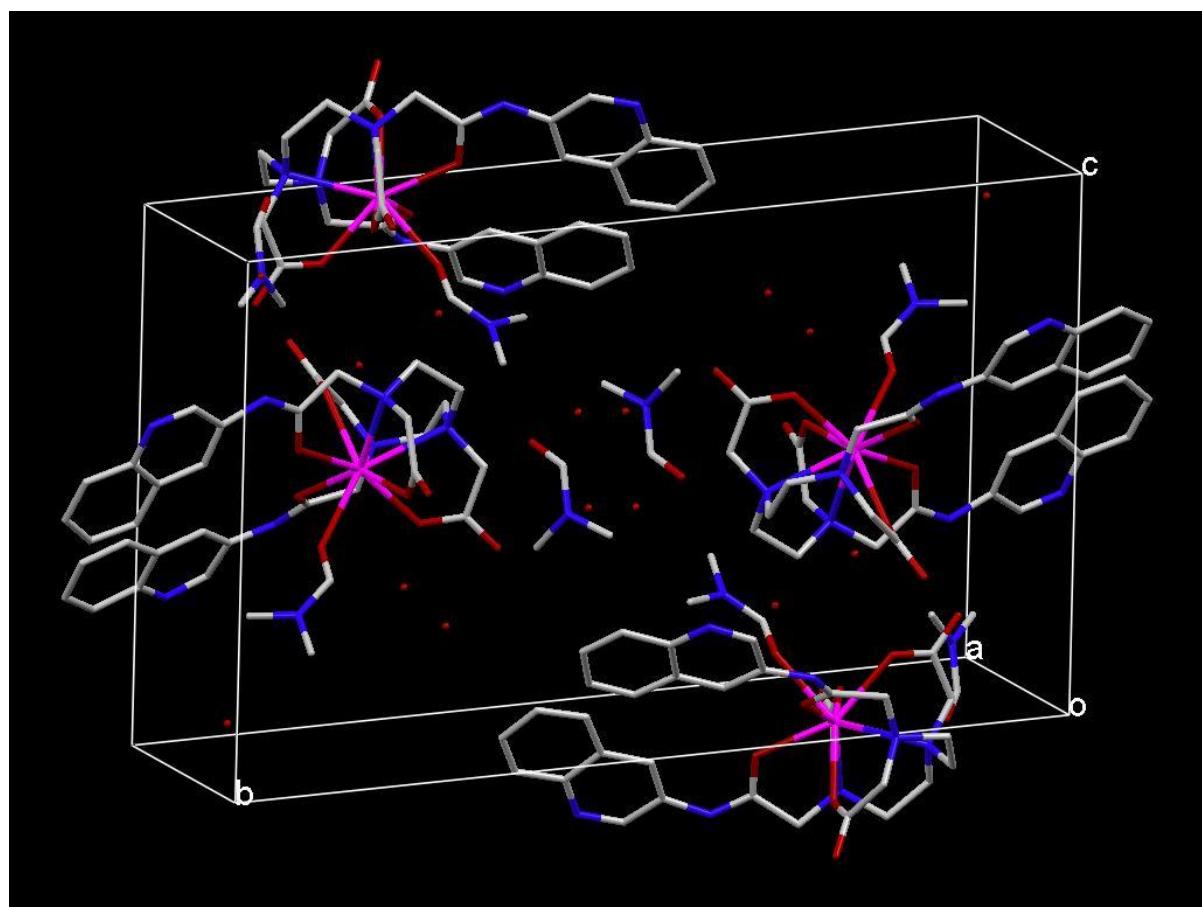
**Figure S1.** ESI-MS of complex **1** in aqueous-DMF:  $m/z$   $[(\mathbf{1}-\text{DMF} + \text{H})]^+$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_7\text{O}_8\text{Pr}$  (relative abundance): 784.14 (100.0%), 785.14 (37.93%), 786.14 (8.5%). Found: 784.14 (100.0%), 785.14 (39.82%), 786.14 (7.8%).



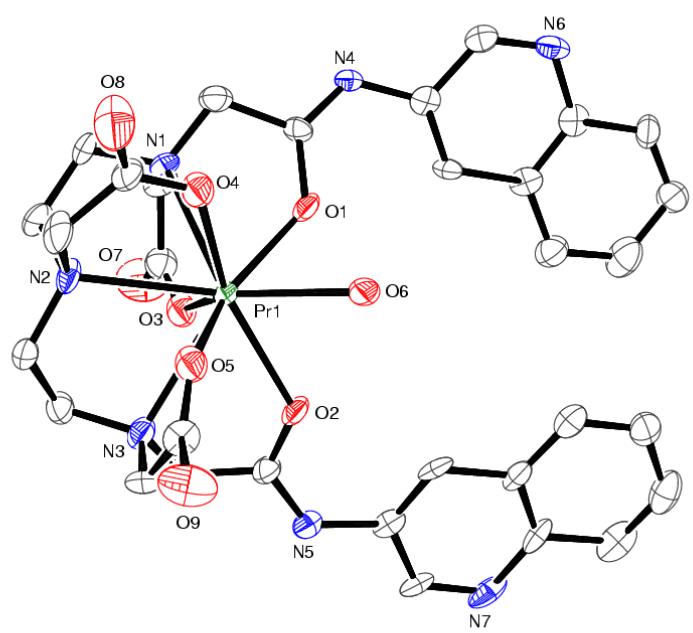
**Figure S2.** ESI-MS of complex **2** in aqueous DMF:  $m/z$  [**2** – DMF + H]<sup>+</sup>; calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Eu (relative abundance): 795.15 (100.0%), 794.15 (38.2%), 796.15 (45.5%), 797.15 (3.3%). Found: 795.15 (100.0%), 794.15 (90.8%), 796.15 (36.1%), 797.15 (7.8%).



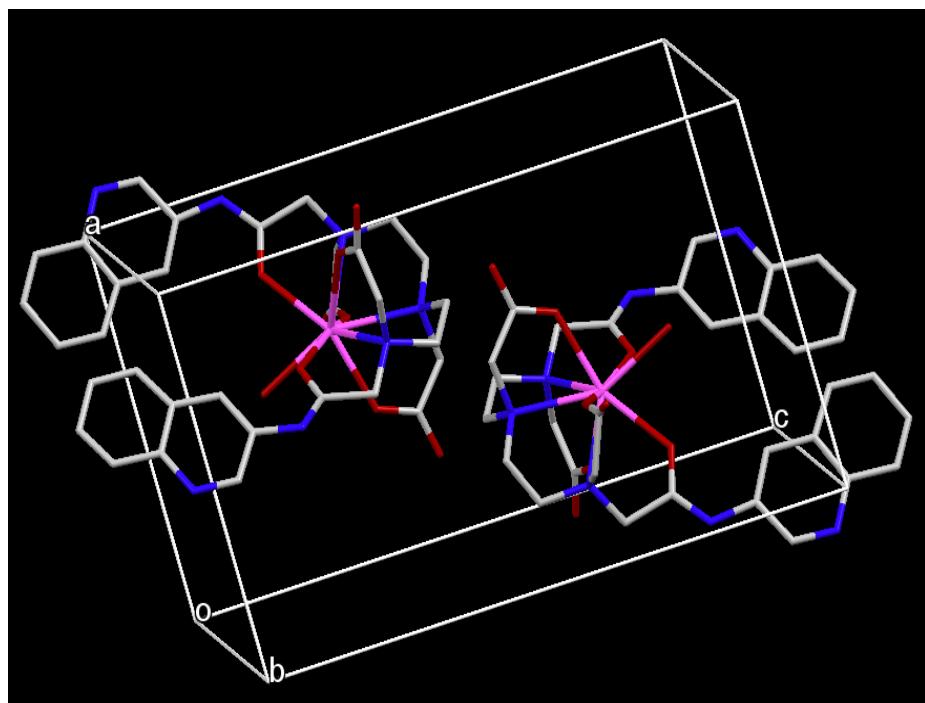
**Figure S3.** ESI-MS of complex **3** in aqueous DMF:  $m/z$  [**3**–DMF + H]<sup>+</sup>; calcd. for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Tb (relative abundance): 802.15 (100.0%), 803.15 (35.3%), 804.15 (8.5%). Found: 802.15 (100.0%), 803.15 (37.5%), 804.15 (7.5%).



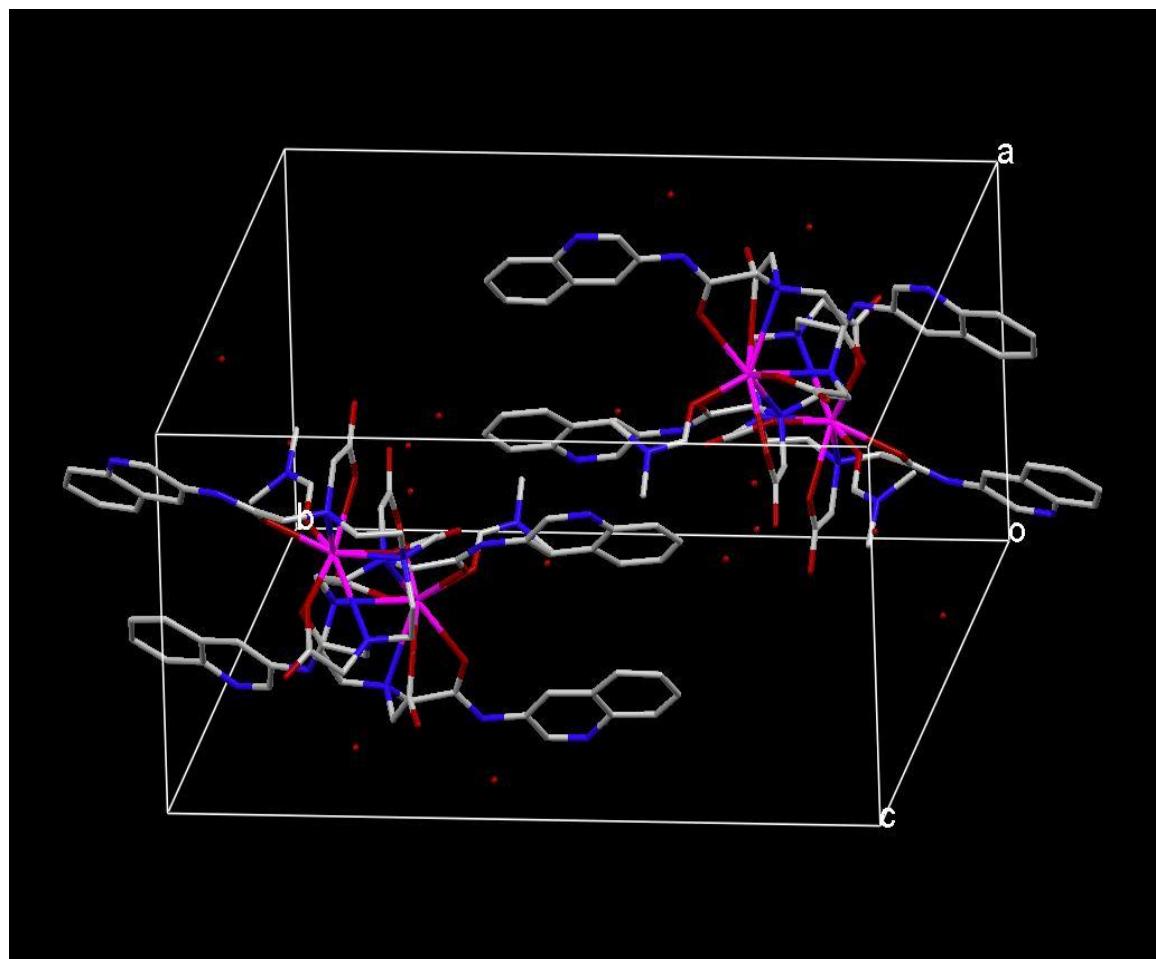
**Figure S4.** Unit cell packing diagram of  $[\text{Pr}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})]$  (**1**) along b-axis.



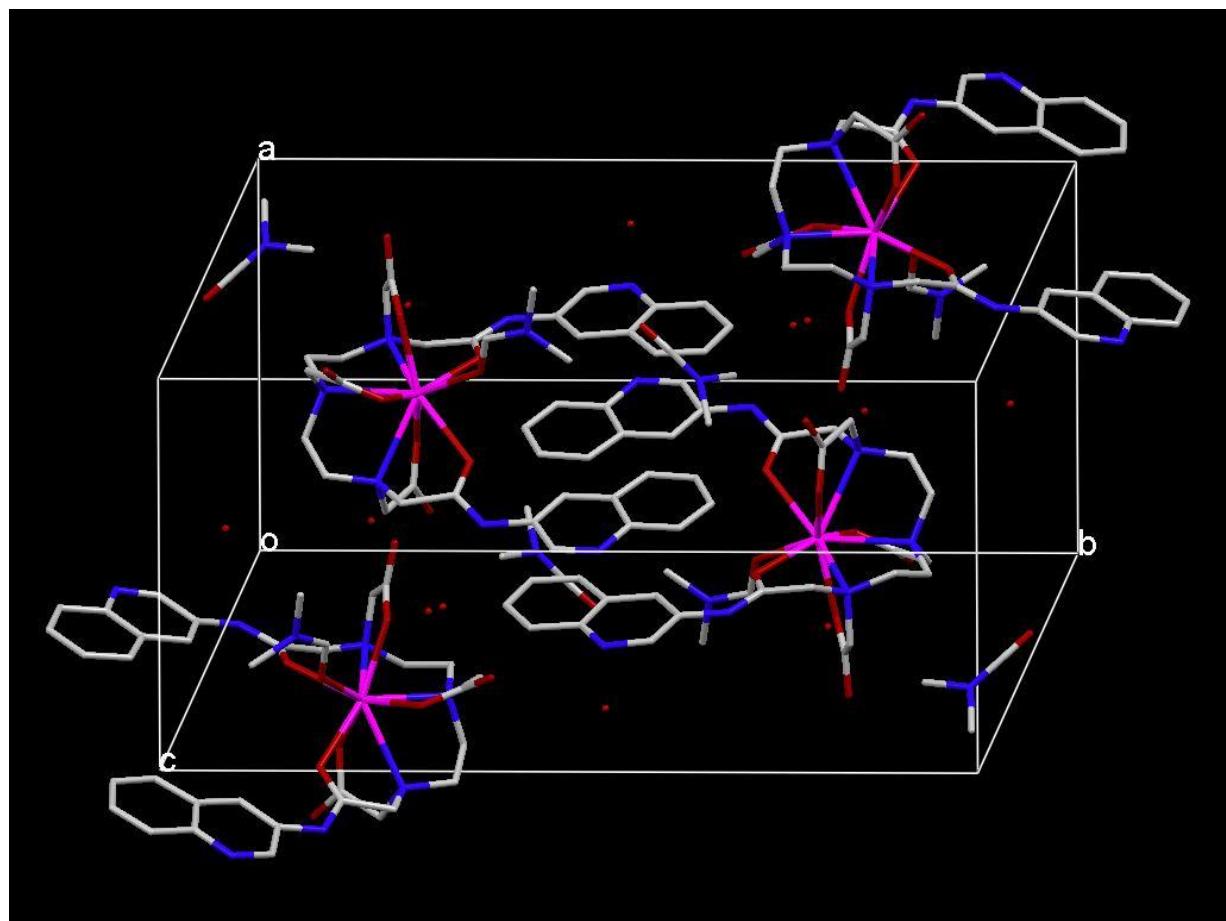
**Figure S5.** ORTEP view of  $[\text{Pr}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$  (**1a**) with 50% probability thermal ellipsoid with atom labelling scheme for the metal and heteroatoms.



**Figure S6.** Unit cell packing diagram of  $[\text{Pr}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{H}_2\text{O})] \textbf{(1a)}$  along  $b$ -axis.



**Figure S7.** Unit cell packing diagram of  $[\text{Eu}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})]$  (2) along *b*-axis.



**Figure S8.** Unit cell packing diagram of  $[\text{Tb}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})]$  (3) along b-axis.

**Table S1.** Crystal data and structural refinement details for complexes **1a** and **1-3**.

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>1·DMF·4H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	<b>1a</b>	<b>2·4H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	<b>3·DMF·3H<sub>2</sub>O</b>
Empirical Formula	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>54</sub> N <sub>9</sub> O <sub>13</sub> Pr	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>7</sub> O <sub>9</sub> Pr	C <sub>35</sub> H <sub>41</sub> N <sub>8</sub> O <sub>13</sub> Eu	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>52</sub> N <sub>9</sub> O <sub>13</sub> Tb
Formula weight	985.81	801.57	933.72	1001
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>
<i>a</i> , Å	11.343(5)	10.085(5)	11.132(2)	10.9299(4)
<i>b</i> , Å	23.530(5)	11.118(5)	23.789(5)	23.1611(10)
<i>c</i> , Å	16.714(5)	18.036(5)	17.045(3)	17.1891(8)
$\gamma$ , deg	90.0	98.989(5)	90.0	90.0
$\beta$ , deg	109.356(5)	93.383(5)	108.57(3)	108.1320(10)
$\gamma$ , deg	90.0	96.356(5)	90.0	90.0
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	4209(2)	1979.2(14)	4279.0(15)	4135.3(3)
<i>Z</i>	4	2	4	4
$\rho_{\text{calcd}}$ , g/cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.556	1.345	1.449	1.609
<i>T</i> , K	100(2)	293(2)	293(2)	100(2)
Absorption coeff., $\mu, \text{mm}^{-1}$	1.233	1.285	1.534	1.786
$\theta$ limits, deg	2.09 – 26.00	2.29 – 25.00	1.52 – 25.49	2.15 – 28.28
No. of measured reflections	39462	7688	31403	36308
No. of unique reflections	8264	5998	7968	10258
No. of observed reflections	5852	4293	6030	7689
[ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]				
no. of parameters	559	440	514	550
GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.017	1.043	1.041	1.048
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )] <sup>a</sup> , %	4.97	10.91	5.48	4.54
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup> , %	12.19	26.24	17.46	11.05
max, min peaks, e/Å <sup>3</sup>	1.255 and -0.812	3.716 and -2.168	1.919 and -0.723	2.417 and -1.531

<sup>[a]</sup>  $R_1 = \sum ||F_o - |F_C|| / \sum |F_0|$ ; <sup>[b]</sup>  $wR_2 = \{\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_C^2)] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{1/2}$

**Table S2.** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and bond angles (deg) for  $[\text{Pr}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})] \cdot \text{DMF} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**)

Pr(1)-O(1)	2.508(4)	O(5)-Pr(1)-O(1)	78.18(15)
Pr(1)-O(2)	2.519(4)	O(5)-Pr(1)-O(2)	77.71(15)
Pr(1)-O(3)	2.404(4)	O(2)-Pr(1)-N(3)	59.71(14)
Pr(1)-O(4)	2.422(4)	O(3)-Pr(1)-N(1)	64.89(13)
Pr(1)-O(5)	2.419(4)	O(3)-Pr(1)-N(2)	78.31(15)
Pr(1)-O(6)	2.454(4)	O(3)-Pr(1)-N(3)	138.66(14)
Pr(1)-N(1)	2.736(4)	O(5)-Pr(1)-N(1)	70.98(15)
Pr(1)-N(2)	2.698(4)	O(5)-Pr(1)-O(4)	131.32(14)
Pr(1)-N(3)	2.825(5)	O(5)-Pr(1)-O(6)	132.17(14)
O(1)-Pr(1)-O(2)	96.16(13)	O(6)-Pr(1)-O(1)	73.62(13)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(1)	82.28(13)	O(6)-Pr(1)-O(2)	68.01(14)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(2)	144.01(13)	O(1)-Pr(1)-N(1)	62.50(13)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(4)	76.18(13)	O(1)-Pr(1)-N(2)	129.54(13)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(5)	135.86(13)	O(1)-Pr(1)-N(3)	137.08(15)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(6)	77.21(13)	O(2)-Pr(1)-N(1)	144.86(15)
O(4)-Pr(1)-O(1)	150.43(14)	O(5)-Pr(1)-N(2)	84.35(14)
O(4)-Pr(1)-O(2)	89.75(14)	O(5)-Pr(1)-N(3)	63.00(15)
O(4)-Pr(1)-O(6)	81.95(13)		

**Table S3.** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and bond angles (deg) for [Pr(DTPAAQ)(H<sub>2</sub>O)] (**1a**)

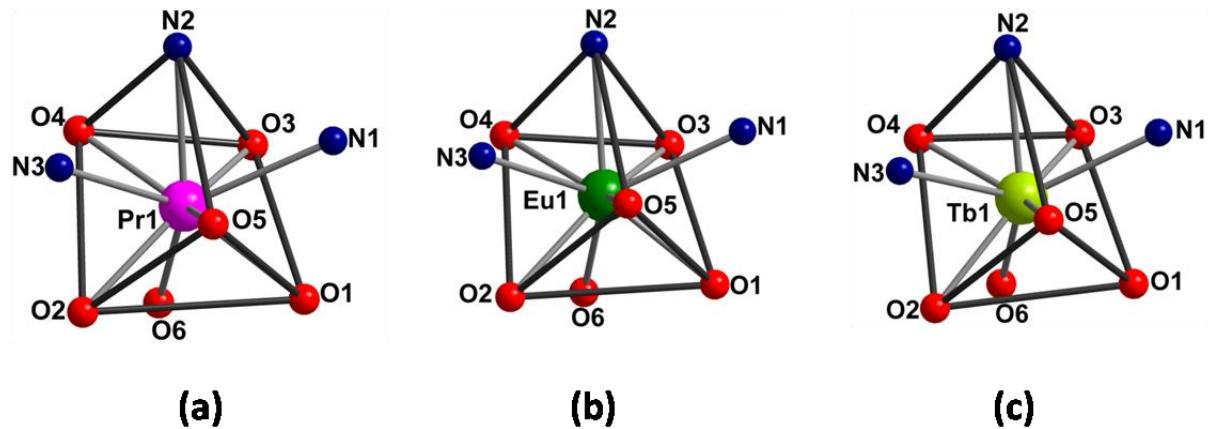
Pr(1)-O(1)	2.464(9)	O(4)-Pr(1)-O(2)	88.2(6)
Pr(1)-O(2)	2.397(18)	O(4)-Pr(1)-O(5)	131.2(5)
Pr(1)-O(2A)	1.85(4)	O(4)-Pr(1)-O(6)	83.0(5)
Pr(1)-O(3)	1.810(16)	O(5)-Pr(1)-O(1)	77.2(4)
Pr(1)-O(3A)	2.32(4)	O(5)-Pr(1)-O(6)	133.7(4)
Pr(1)-O(4)	2.372(19)	O(3)-Pr(1)-N(1)	47.1(6)
Pr(1)-O(5)	2.409(12)	O(1)-Pr(1)-N(1)	61.8(4)
Pr(1)-O(6)	2.520(10)	O(1)-Pr(1)-N(2)	128.1(4)
Pr(1)-N(1)	2.760(12)	O(1)-Pr(1)-N(3)	134.4(3)
Pr(1)-N(2)	2.683(9)	O(2)-Pr(1)-N(1)	146.1(5)
Pr(1)-N(3)	2.798(11)	O(2)-Pr(1)-N(2)	126.7(5)
O(1)-Pr(1)-O(6)	72.4(4)	O(2)-Pr(1)-N(3)	59.1(4)
O(2)-Pr(1)-O(1)	96.3(5)	O(2A)-Pr(1)-N(1)	135.9(12)
O(2)-Pr(1)-O(5)	80.4(5)	O(2A)-Pr(1)-N(2)	120.5(12)
O(2)-Pr(1)-O(6)	69.4(5)	O(2A)-Pr(1)-N(3)	52.4(11)
O(2A)-Pr(1)-O(1)	95.1(12)	O(3)-Pr(1)-N(1)	47.1(6)
O(2A)-Pr(1)-O(2)	12.3(12)	O(3)-Pr(1)-N(2)	61.5(6)
O(2A)-Pr(1)-(3A)	155.1(15)	O(3)-Pr(1)-N(3)	129.3(5)
O(2A)-Pr(1)-O(4)	94.9(13)	O(3A)-Pr(1)-N(1)	65.0(9)
O(2A)-Pr(1)-O(5)	68.2(13)	O(3A)-Pr(1)-N(2)	77.5(9)
O(2A)-Pr(1)-O(6)	80.6(12)	O(3A)-Pr(1)-N(3)	139.4(9)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(1)	85.2(5)	O(4)-Pr(1)-N(1)	123.7(5)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(2)	164.2(6)	O(4)-Pr(1)-N(2)	67.0(5)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(2A)	176.5(13)	O(4)-Pr(1)-N(3)	71.4(5)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(3A)	21.5(9)	O(5)-Pr(1)-N(1)	70.1(4)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(4)	83.3(7)	O(5)-Pr(1)-N(2)	82.6(4)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(5)	115.2(6)	O(5)-Pr(1)-N(3)	62.1(4)
O(3)-Pr(1)-O(6)	96.3(6)	O(6)-Pr(1)-N(1)	120.9(3)
O(3A)-Pr(1)-O(1)	84.2(9)	O(6)-Pr(1)-N(2)	143.7(4)
O(3A)-Pr(1)-O(2)	142.8(10)	O(6)-Pr(1)-N(3)	122.1(3)
O(3A)-Pr(1)-O(4)	75.6(10)	N(1)-Pr(1)-N(3)	116.5(3)
O(3A)-Pr(1)-O(5)	135.0(9)	N(2)-Pr(1)-N(1)	66.4(3)
O(3A)-Pr(1)-O(6)	75.4(9)	N(2)-Pr(1)-N(3)	68.3(4)
O(4)-Pr(1)-O(1)	151.5(5)		

**Table S4.** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and bond angles (deg) for [Eu(DTPAAQ)(DMF)]•3H<sub>2</sub>O (2•3H<sub>2</sub>O)

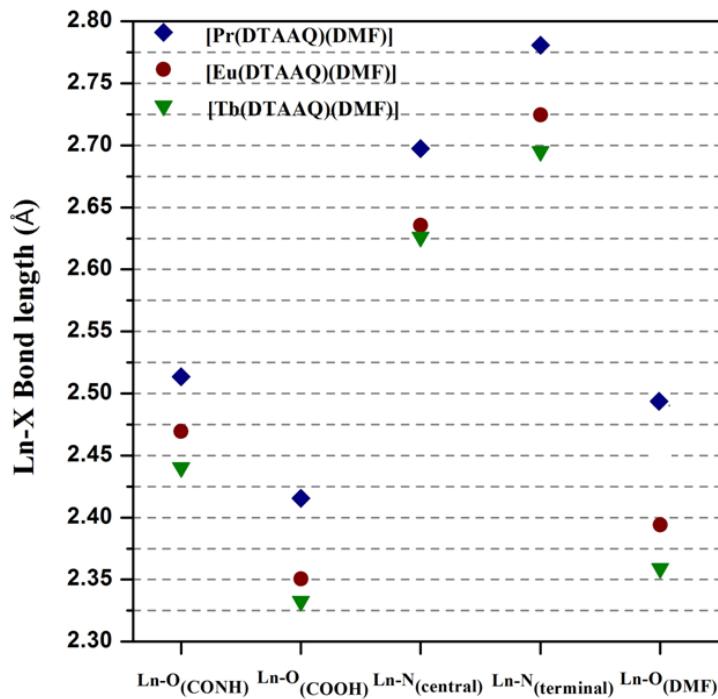
Eu(1)-O(1)	2.453(4)	O(4)-Eu(1)-O(6)	79.66(18)
Eu(1)-O(2)	2.486(5)	O(5)-Eu(1)-O(1)	76.59(18)
Eu(1)-O(3)	2.348(5)	O(5)-Eu(1)-O(2)	77.98(19)
Eu(1)-O(4)	2.366(4)	O(5)-Eu(1)-O(3)	136.00(18)
Eu(1)-O(5)	2.339(5)	O(5)-Eu(1)-O(4)	132.53(18)
Eu(1)-O(6)	2.394(5)	O(5)-Eu(1)-O(6)	132.62(19)
Eu(1)-N(1)	2.689(6)	O(6)-Eu(1)-O(1)	73.86(17)
Eu(1)-N(2)	2.636(5)	O(6)-Eu(1)-O(2)	67.59(18)
Eu(1)-N(3)	2.759(6)	O(2)-Eu(1)-N(3)	60.38(17)
O(1)-Eu(1)-O(2)	93.00(16)	O(3)-Eu(1)-N(1)	65.32(18)
O(3)-Eu(1)-O(1)	84.53(18)	O(5)-Eu(1)-N(3)	63.99(19)
O(3)-Eu(1)-O(2)	143.16(17)	O(6)-Eu(1)-N(1)	123.86(18)
O(3)-Eu(1)-O(4)	76.40(17)	O(6)-Eu(1)-N(2)	140.73(19)
O(3)-Eu(1)-O(6)	76.50(18)	O(6)-Eu(1)-N(3)	118.78(18)
O(4)-Eu(1)-O(1)	150.33(17)	N(1)-Eu(1)-N(3)	117.13(18)
O(4)-Eu(1)-O(2)	89.04(17)		

**Table S5.** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and bond angles (deg) for  $[\text{Tb(DTPAAQ)}(\text{DMF})] \bullet \text{DMF} \bullet 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**3**• $\text{DMF} \bullet 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

Tb(1)-O(1)	2.419(3)	O(6)-Tb(1)-O(1)	72.92(11)
Tb(1)-O(2)	2.463(3)	O(6)-Tb(1)-O(2)	67.39(11)
Tb(1)-O(3)	2.334(3)	O(1)-Tb(1)-N(1)	64.06(11)
Tb(1)-O(4)	2.338(3)	O(1)-Tb(1)-N(2)	132.20(11)
Tb(1)-O(5)	2.327(3)	O(1)-Tb(1)-N(3)	137.44(12)
Tb(1)-O(6)	2.358(3)	O(2)-Tb(1)-N(1)	143.15(11)
Tb(1)-N(1)	2.662(4)	O(2)-Tb(1)-N(3)	61.48(11)
Tb(1)-N(2)	2.626(4)	O(3)-Tb(1)-N(1)	66.08(11)
Tb(1)-N(3)	2.728(4)	O(3)-Tb(1)-N(2)	75.74(12)
O(1)-Tb(1)-O(2)	91.42(10)	O(3)-Tb(1)-N(3)	137.02(12)
O(3)-Tb(1)-O(1)	84.70(11)	O(4)-Tb(1)-N(1)	126.25(11)
O(3)-Tb(1)-O(2)	142.53(11)	O(4)-Tb(1)-N(2)	67.47(12)
O(3)-Tb(1)-O(4)	74.91(11)	O(4)-Tb(1)-N(3)	69.95(12)
O(3)-Tb(1)-O(6)	75.90(11)	O(5)-Tb(1)-N(1)	71.56(12)
O(4)-Tb(1)-O(1)	147.08(11)	O(5)-Tb(1)-N(2)	88.27(13)
O(4)-Tb(1)-O(2)	89.51(11)	O(5)-Tb(1)-N(3)	65.17(13)
O(4)-Tb(1)-O(6)	77.15(11)	O(6)-Tb(1)-N(1)	123.79(11)
O(5)-Tb(1)-O(1)	77.55(12)	O(6)-Tb(1)-N(3)	117.98(12)
O(5)-Tb(1)-O(2)	76.70(12)	N(1)-Tb(1)-N(3)	118.12(12)
O(5)-Tb(1)-O(3)	137.64(12)	N(2)-Tb(1)-N(1)	68.14(12)
O(5)-Tb(1)-O(4)	134.33(12)	N(2)-Tb(1)-N(3)	68.50(12)
O(5)-Tb(1)-O(6)	132.12(12)		



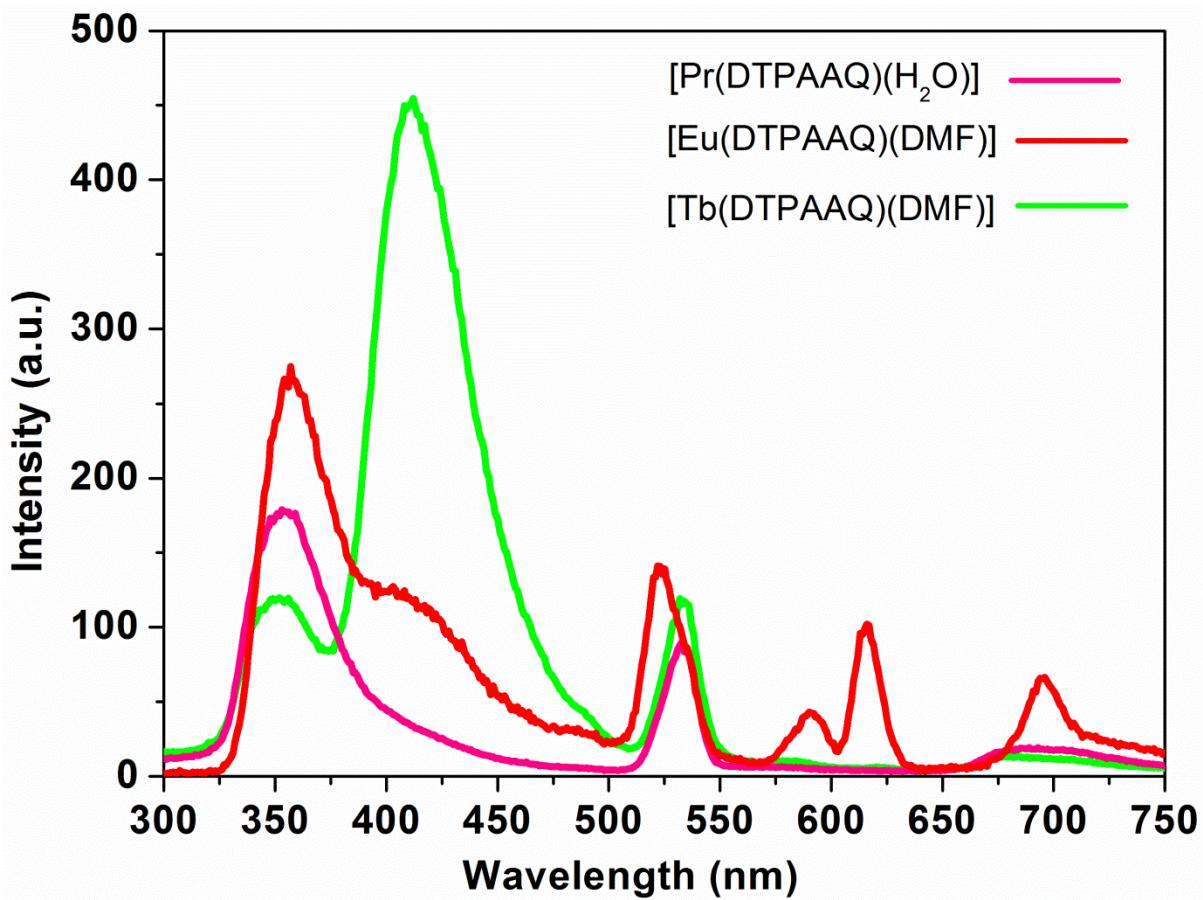
**Figure S9.** Coordination polyhedra of the nine-coordinate  $\{\text{LnN}_3\text{O}_6\}$  lanthanide cores showing tricapped-trigonal prism (TTP) coordination geometry in complexes **1** (a), **2** (b), and **3** (c).



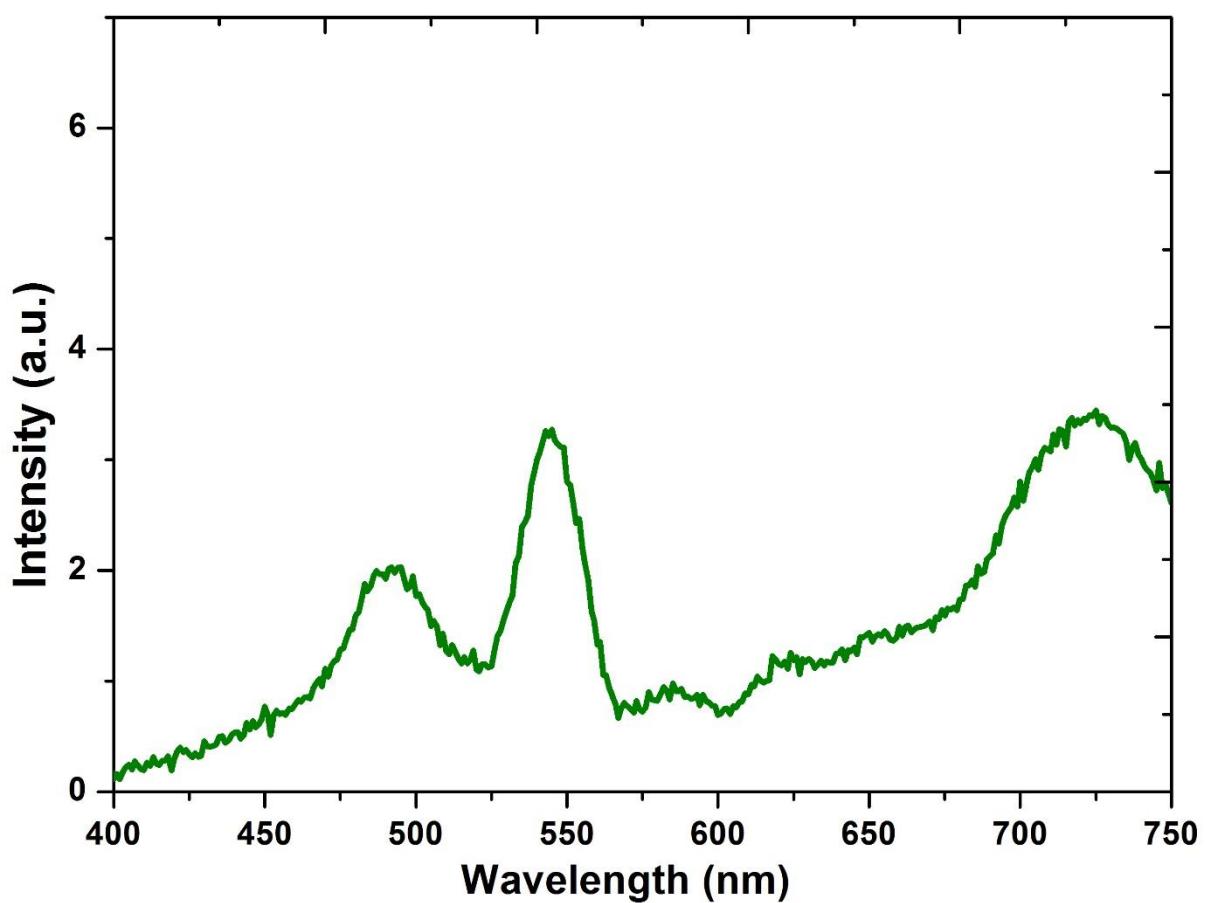
**Figure S10.** Variation of Ln-X (X=O, N) bond lengths in [Ln(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] (**1-3**) for  $\{\text{LnN}_3\text{O}_6\}$  core. Average bond distances were taken from similar set of bonds.

Respective bond distances are shown in table below.

Bond Distance	[Pr(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] ( <b>1</b> )	[Eu(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] ( <b>2</b> )	[Tb(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] ( <b>3</b> )
Ln-O <sub>1</sub> (CONH)	2.508(4)	2.453(4)	2.419(3)
Ln-O <sub>2</sub> (CONH)	2.519(4)	2.486 (5)	2.463(3)
Ln-O <sub>3</sub> (COOH)	2.404(4)	2.348(5)	2.334(3)
Ln-O <sub>4</sub> (COOH)	2.422(4)	2.366(4)	2.338(3)
Ln-O <sub>5</sub> (COOH)	2.421(4)	2.339(5)	2.327(3)
Ln-N(NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> N)	2.697(4)	2.636(5)	2.625(4)
Ln -N(-NHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> N <sub>1</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> N-)	2.737(4)	2.689(6)	2.662(4)
Ln -N(-NHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> N <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> N-)	2.824(5)	2.759(6)	2.728(4)
Ln-O(DMF)	2.453(4)	2.394(5)	2.358(3)



**Figure S11.** Overlay of steady state luminescence spectra of [Pr(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] (**1**), [Eu(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] (**2**), and [Tb(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] (**3**) in aqueous - DMF at  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 262 \text{ nm}$  with slit width of 5 nm. *Note: The band at 524 nm arises due to second order Rayleigh scattering.*

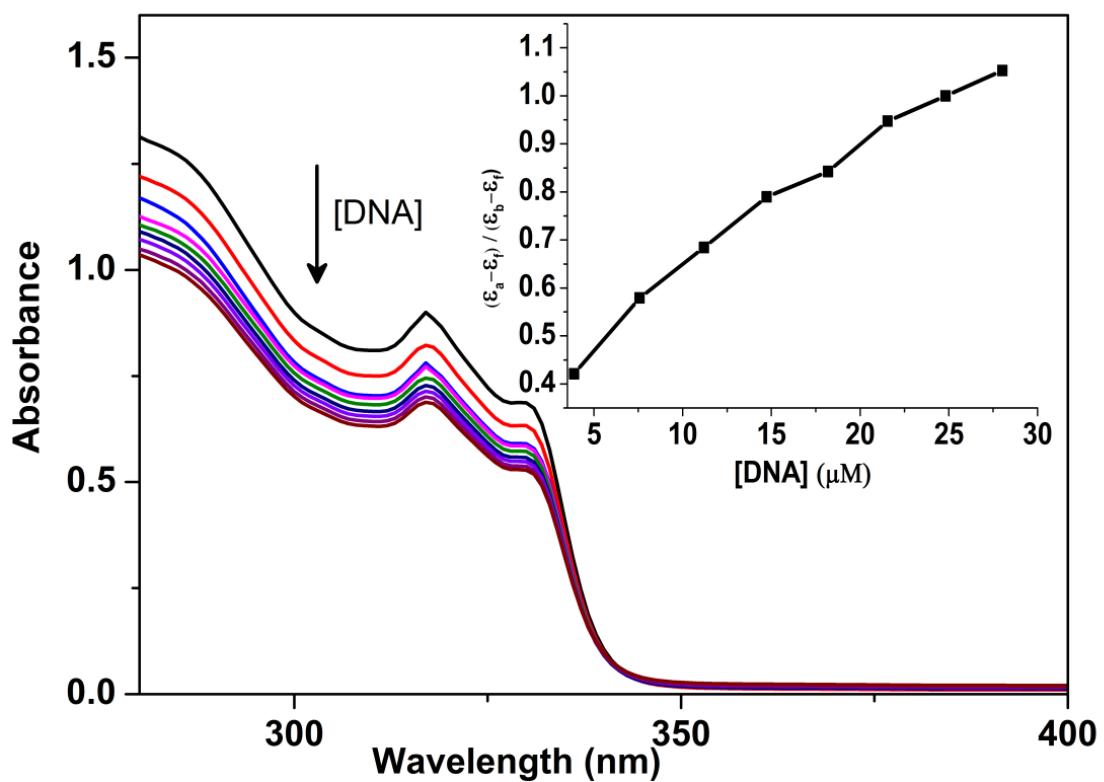


**Figure S12.** Time-resolved luminescence spectra of  $[\text{Pr}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})]$  (**1**) in DMF at 298 K. Delay time = 0.1 ms,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 330 \text{ nm}$ , slit width= 5 nm.

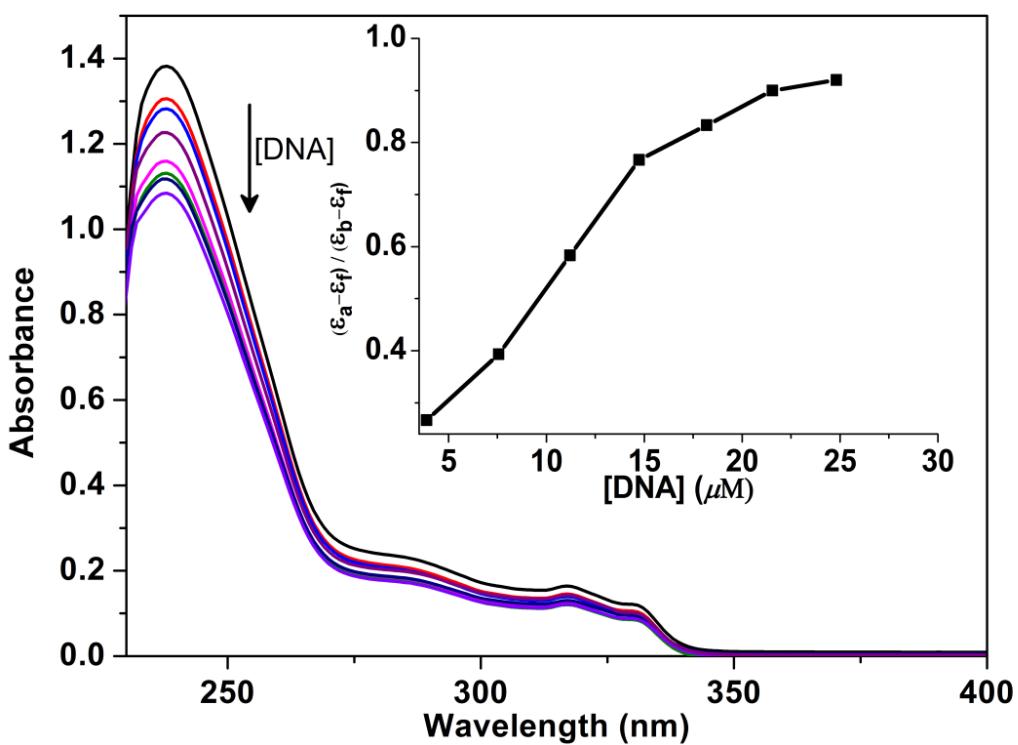
**Table S6.** Luminescence lifetime ( $\tau$ )<sup>a</sup>, determination of inner-sphere hydration number ( $q$ )<sup>b</sup> of the complexes in H<sub>2</sub>O and D<sub>2</sub>O.

Complex	$\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ (nm)	$\tau^{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ (ms)	$\tau^{\text{D}_2\text{O}}$ (ms)	$q$
[Eu(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] ( <b>2</b> )	330 nm	0.64	1.81	0.92
[Tb(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] ( <b>3</b> )	330 nm	0.51	0.58	0.88

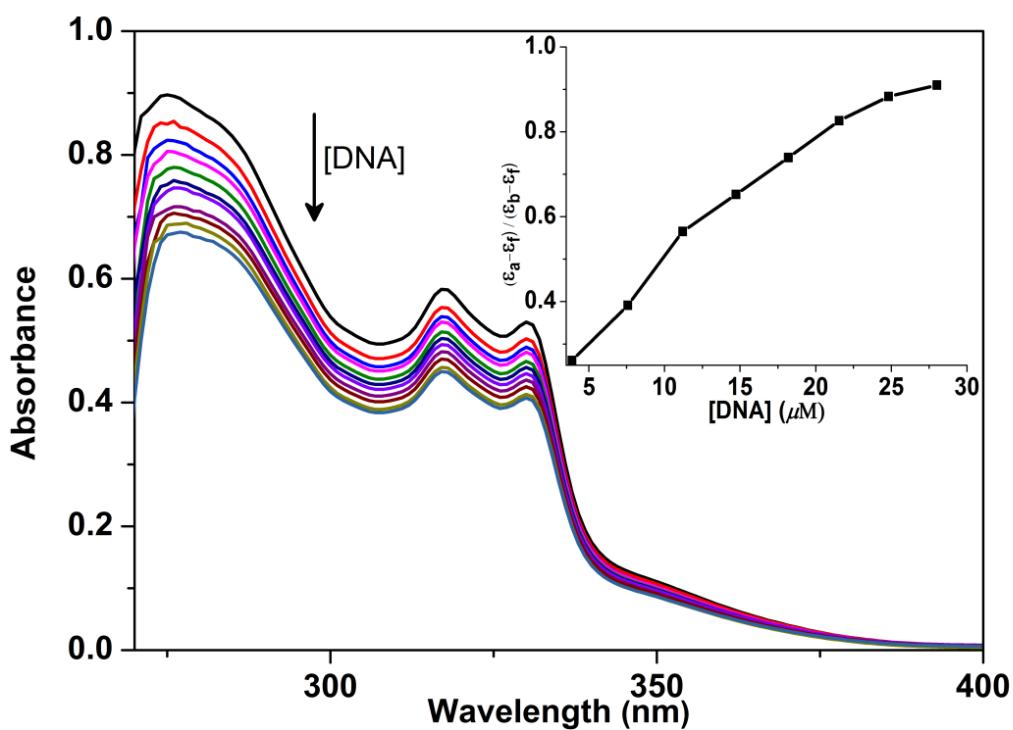
<sup>a</sup> luminescence lifetime measured from decay curve profile from <sup>5</sup>D<sub>0</sub> and <sup>5</sup>D<sub>4</sub> excited states at 616 nm and 545 nm for Eu<sup>3+</sup> and Tb<sup>3+</sup> complexes respectively within experimental uncertainty of  $\pm 10\%$ . <sup>b</sup>  $q$  is the number of water molecules coordinated to Ln<sup>3+</sup> ion in solution measured from modified Horrock's equation<sup>42</sup> described in experimental section of manuscript.



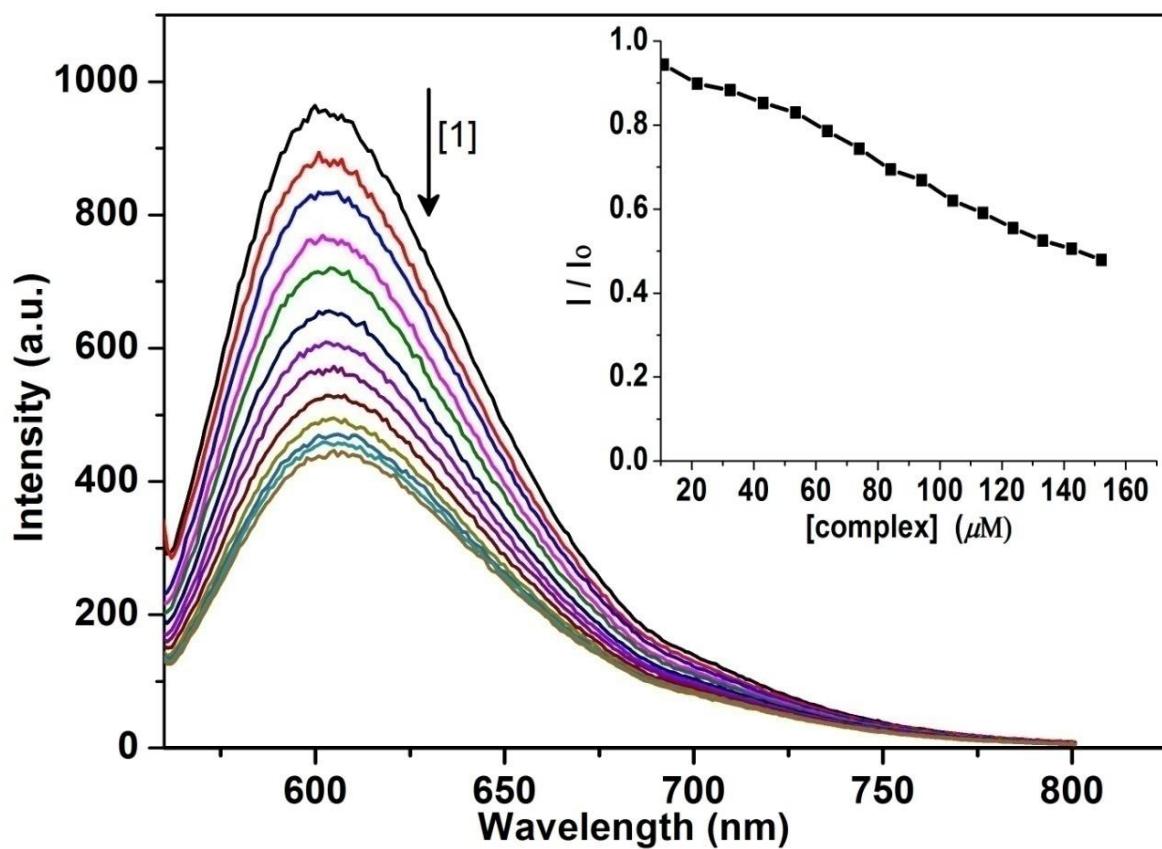
**Figure S14.** Absorption spectral traces of complex **1** in 5 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) on increasing amount of CT-DNA to solution of **1**. Inset figure shows plot of [DNA] versus  $\{(\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f)/(\epsilon_b - \epsilon_f)\}$ .



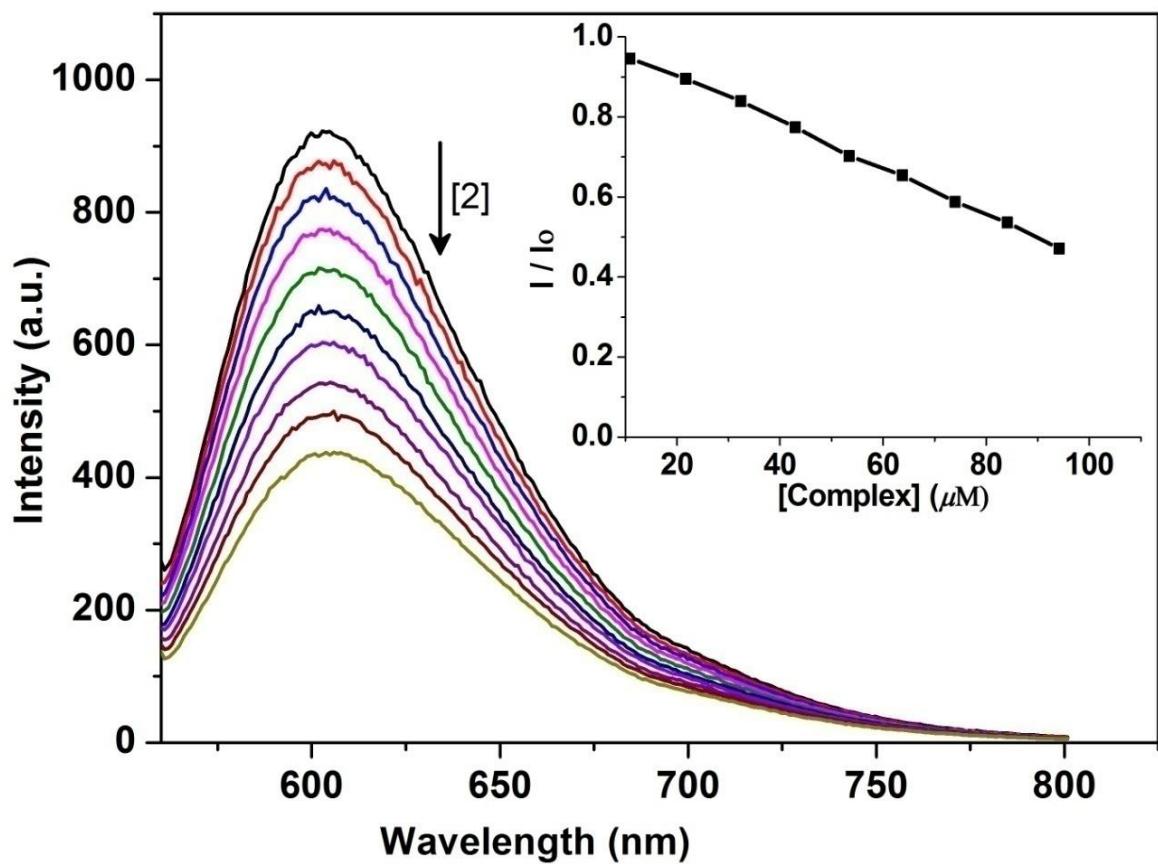
**Figure S15.** Absorption spectral traces of complex **2** in 5 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) on increasing amount of CT-DNA to a solution of **2**. Inset figure shows plot of [DNA] versus  $\{(\varepsilon_a - \varepsilon_f) / (\varepsilon_b - \varepsilon_f)\}$ .



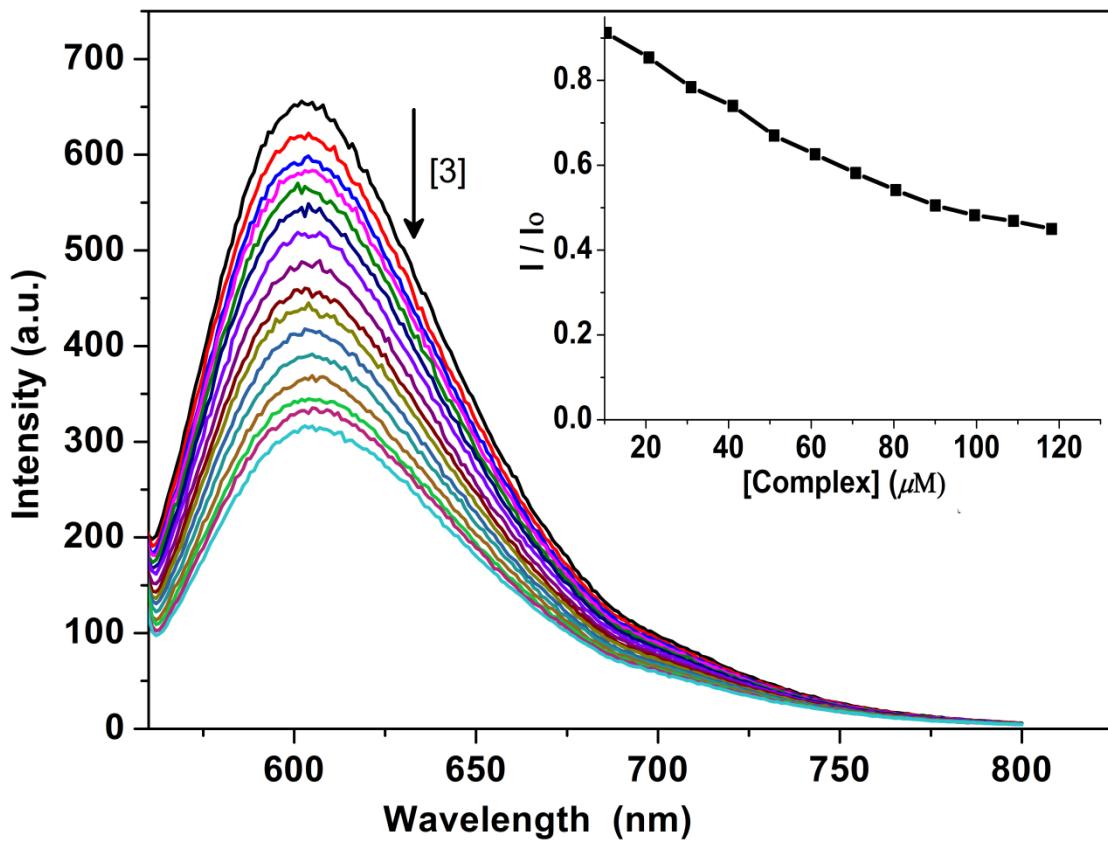
**Figure S16.** Absorption spectral traces of complex **3** in 5 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) on increasing amount of CT-DNA to solution of **3**. Inset figure shows plot of [DNA] versus  $\{(\epsilon_a - \epsilon_f)/(\epsilon_b - \epsilon_f)\}$ .



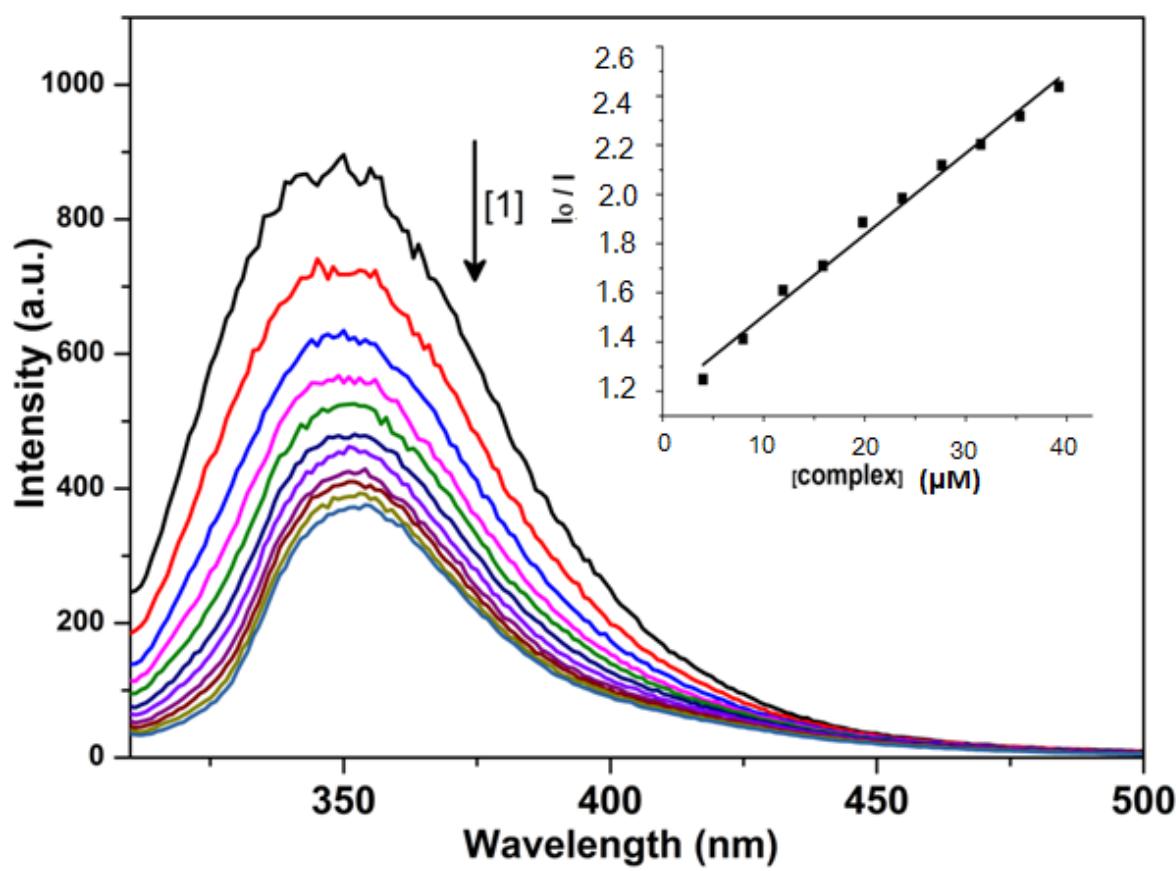
**Figure S17.** Emission spectral overlay plot for CT- bounded ethidium bromide ( $3 \mu\text{M}$ ) in Tris -HCl buffer (5 mM, pH 7.2) with increasing concentration of  $[\text{Pr(DTPAAQ)}(\text{DMF})]$  (**1**).



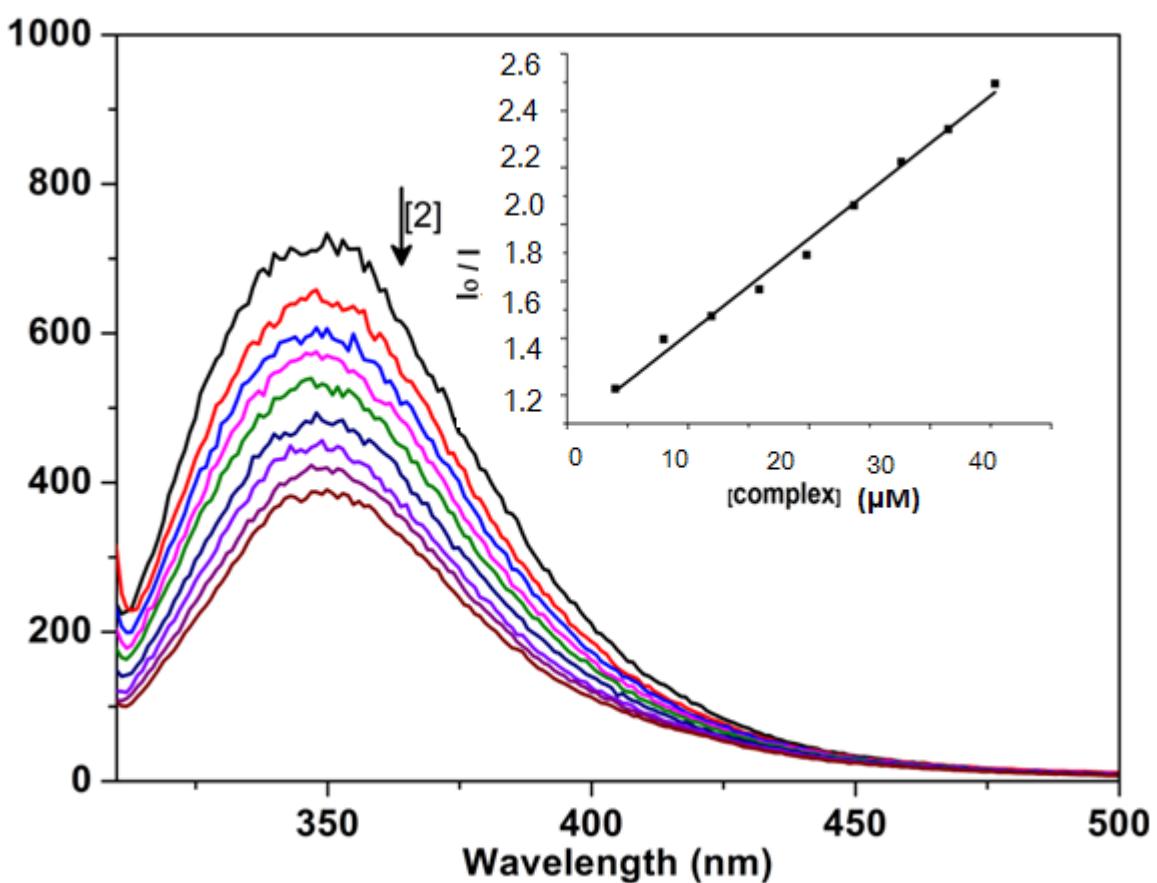
**Figure S18.** Emission spectral overlay plot for CT-bounded ethidium bromide ( $3 \mu\text{M}$ ) in Tris-HCl buffer (5mM, pH7.2) with increasing concentration of  $[\text{Pr(DTPAAQ)(DMF)}]$  (2).



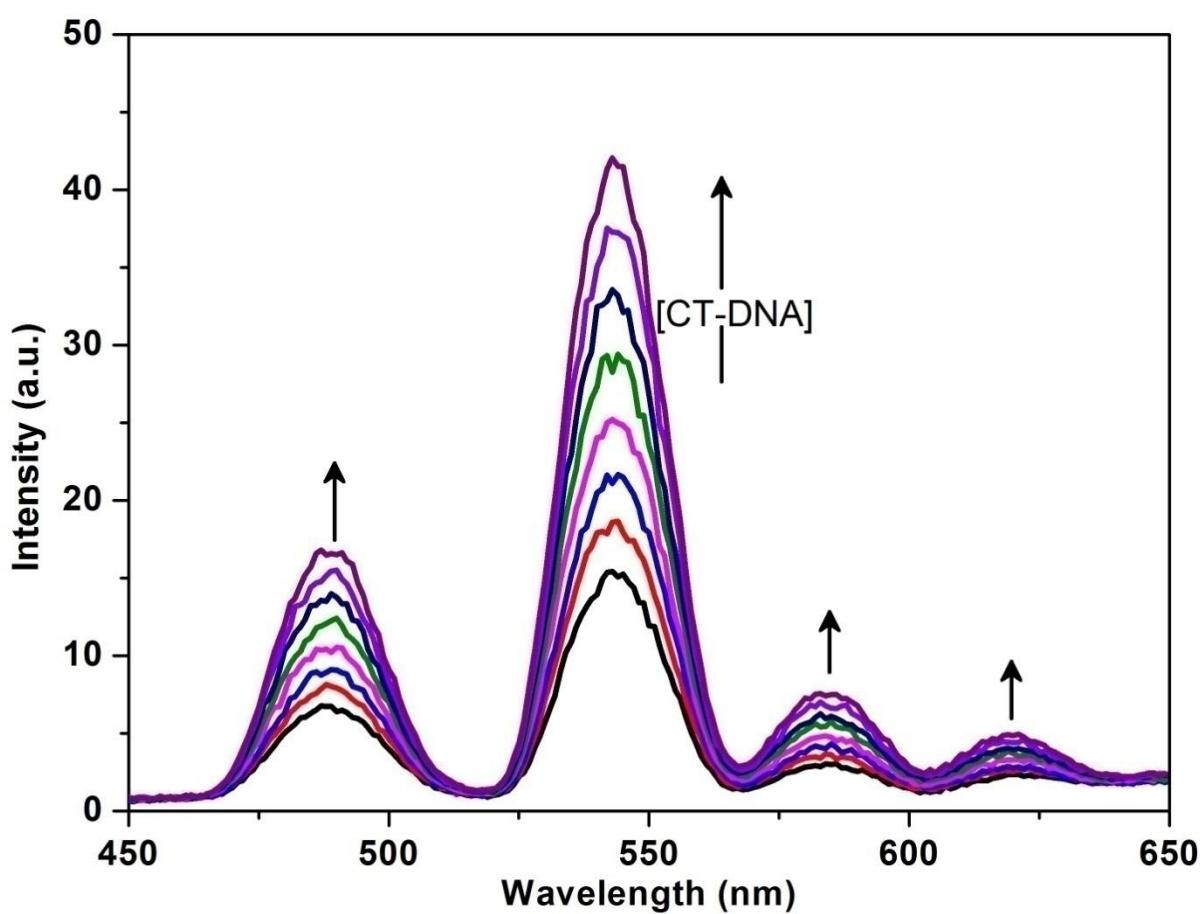
**Figure S19.** Emission spectral overlay plot for CT-DNA bounded ethidium bromide ( $3 \mu\text{M}$ ) in Tris HCl-NaCl buffer (5mM, pH7.2) with increasing concentration of [Tb(DTPAAQ)(DMF)] (3).



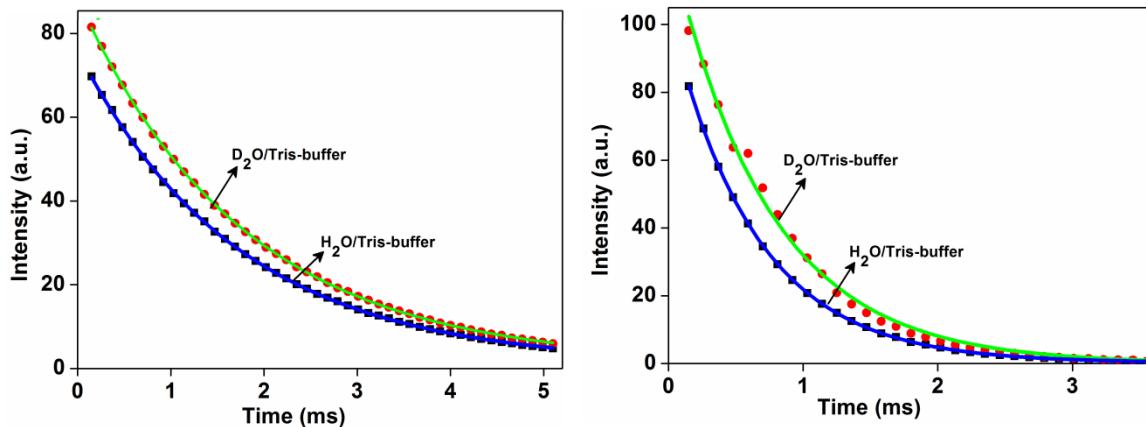
**Figure S20.** The effect of increasing concentration of  $[\text{Pr}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})]$  (**1**) on the fluorescence quenching of BSA ( $2 \mu\text{M}$ ) in Tris HCl- NaCl (5mM, pH 7.2).  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 295 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 340 \text{ nm}$ . The Inset shows the plot of  $I_0/I$  vs. [complex].



**Figure S21.** The effect of increasing concentration of  $[\text{Eu}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})]$  (**2**) on the fluorescence quenching of BSA ( $2 \mu\text{M}$ ) in Tris HCl- NaCl (5mM, pH 7.2).  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 295 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 340 \text{ nm}$ . The Inset shows the plot of  $I_0/I$  vs. [complex].



**Figure S22.** Time resolved luminescence spectra of complex  $[\text{Tb}(\text{DTPAAQ})(\text{DMF})]$  (**3**) (delay time = 0.1 ms,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 330 \text{ nm}$ ) in response to increasing concentration of CT-DNA in Tris HCl-NaCl buffer (5 mM, pH 7.2) at 298 K.

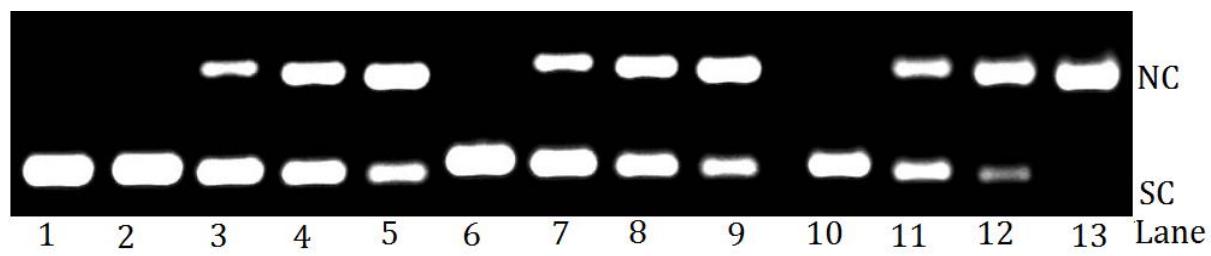


**Figure S23.** Luminescence decay profile from  $^5D_0$  state of Eu(III) in complex **2** and from  $^5D_4$  of Tb in complex **3** at  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 516$  nm and 543 nm ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 330$  nm) respectively in presence of CT-DNA in 5 mM Tris buffer in water (blue) and in  $D_2O$  (green).  $[2] = 40 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $[\text{DNA}] = 60 \mu\text{M}$ , delay time and gate time = 0.1 ms, Ex. and Em. slit = 10 nm. The solid lines are the best fits considering single-exponential behaviour of the decay.

**Table S7.** Luminescence lifetime ( $\tau$ )<sup>a</sup>, determination of inner-sphere hydration number ( $q$ ) in presence of CT-DNA.<sup>a</sup>

Complex	$\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ (nm)	$\tau$ Tris buffer in $H_2O$ (ms) <sup>b</sup>	$\tau$ Tris buffer in $D_2O$ (ms) <sup>c</sup>	$q$
$[\text{Eu(DTPAAQ)}(\text{DMF})]$ ( <b>2</b> )	330 nm	0.950	1.760	0.290
$[\text{Tb(DTPAAQ)}(\text{DMF})]$ ( <b>3</b> )	330 nm	0.565	0.596	0.160

<sup>a</sup> [complex] = 40  $\mu\text{M}$ , [DNA] = 60  $\mu\text{M}$ , <sup>b</sup> In 5 mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer in Milli-Q water (pH 7.2). <sup>c</sup> In 5 mM Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer in  $D_2O$ .



**Figure S24.** Cleavage of SC pUC19 DNA ( $0.2 \mu\text{g}$ ) by the complexes **1-3** at  $100 \mu\text{M}$  concentration in Tris-HCl/NaCl buffer (pH, 7.2) on photo-irradiation in UV-light at 312 nm for varying time of photoexposure.

SI. No.	Reaction condition	<i>t</i> / min	SC(%)	NC(%)
1.	DNA control	60	96	4
2.	DNA + complex <b>1</b>	0	97	3
3	DNA + complex <b>1</b>	20	75	25
4	DNA + complex <b>1</b>	40	50	50
5	DNA + complex <b>1</b>	60	29	71
6	DNA + complex <b>2</b>	0	96	4
7	DNA + complex <b>2</b>	20	70	30
8	DNA + complex <b>2</b>	40	51	59
9	DNA + complex <b>2</b>	60	27	73
10	DNA + complex <b>3</b>	0	95	5
11	DNA + complex <b>3</b>	20	53	47
12	DNA + complex <b>3</b>	40	23	77
13	DNA + complex <b>3</b>	60	5	95