# **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

## Luminescent Lanthanide-Organic Polyrotaxane Framework as a

# Turn-Off Sensor for nitrobenzene and Fe<sup>3+</sup>

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Materials and general methods

All solvents and starting materiels for synthesis were purchased commercially and were used as received. The FT-IR spectra were recorded from KBr pellets in the 4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> range on a Nicolet 5DX spectrometer. The C, H, and N microanalyses were carried out with Perkin-Elmer 240 elemental analyzer. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns were collected with a Bruker AXS D8 advanced automated diffractometer with Cu-K radiation. Thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) were taken on a Perkin-Elmer Pyrisl (20–800 °C, 10 °C/min<sup>-1</sup>, flowing N<sub>2</sub>(g)). Luminescencespectra for the solid samples and liquid samples were investigated with a HitachiF-4500 fluorescence spectrophotometer and Varian Cary Eclipse Fluorescence spectrophotometer, respectively.





#### 1. Synthesis of compound A (Suzuki-coupling reaction)

To a solution of m-xylene (148 mL, 127 g, 1.20 mol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (150 mL), iron powder (2.40 g) was added. At 0 °C, bromine was slowly added dropwise and stirred for 16 hr at room temperature. It was washed with 2 N NaOH (300 mL) and saturated NaCl solution, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The crude product was washed with ethanol and then recrystallized from ethanol in 39 % yield. 1H-NMR (CDCL<sub>3</sub>): 2.35 (s, 6H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H).



Fig. S1 1H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCL<sub>3</sub>, r.t.) of compound A.

#### 2. Synthesis of compound C (Suzuki-coupling reaction)

A (1.79 g, 6.8 mmol) and B (2.8 g, 15.6 mmol) (mol/mol = 1 : 2.3), CsF (3 g, 19.7 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.17 g, 0.15 mmol) were mixed in a 250 mL two-necked flask and pumped for 30 minutes. 100 mL degassed CH<sub>3</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub> (DME) was added through a syringe. The mixture was heated to reflux under the protection of N<sub>2</sub> for 48 hours. Water was added after the mixture was cooled to room temperature. The water phase was extracted thrice with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The mixed organic phases were dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> overnight, and filtered. After the solvent was removed, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) to give the pure product. 1H-NMR (CDCL<sub>3</sub>): 2.35 (s, 6H), 3.88 (s, 6H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, 4H), 8.03 (d, 4H).



Fig. S2 1H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCL<sub>3</sub>, r.t.) for compound C.

#### 3. Synthesis of H<sub>2</sub>mtpc ligand

C was dissolved in mixture of THF (70mL) and MeOH (70ml, v/v = 1:1), 50 mL 4N NaOH aqueous solution was added. Heated to reflux and add moderate water until completely dissolved, then the mixture was stirred at this temperature overnight. After the mixture being cooled to room temperature, The mixture was acidified with add concentrated HCl with stirred to give yellow flocculent precipitate, which was filtered and washed with water several times. Synthesis of 1, 2 and 3

 $[Tb(mtpc)_{1.5}(DMA)(H_2O)] \cdot 2H_2O$  (1) A mixture of  $Tb(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$  (0.033 mmol, 0.015 g),  $H_2$ mtpc (0.014 mmol, 0.005 g), DMA (1.5 mL) and  $H_2O$  (0.5 mL) was stirred for 10 minutes in glass vial at room temperature, which was heated in an oven to 358 K for 3 days, followed by slowly cooling (5 K h<sup>-1</sup>). The resulting crystals were washed with DMA and dried in air.  $C_{37}H_{34}NO_8Tb$  (%), C: 57.00; H: 4.40; N: 1.80; found: C: 57.02; H: 4.43; N: 1.78. IR (KBr Pellets, cm<sup>-1</sup>) : 3434(s), 1671(s), 1592(m), 1545(m), 1396(s), 1323(m), 1276(m), 1164(w), 968(w), 775(m), 707(m).

 $[Dy(mtpc)_{1.5}(DMA)(H_2O)] \cdot 2H_2O$  (2) The colorless block crystals of 2 was synthesized similarly to that of 1 except that Tb(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.033 mmol, 0.015 g) was used instead of Dy(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.033 mmol, 0.015 g). Yield: *ca.* 67 %. Anal. cald for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>34</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>Dy (%): C: 56.74; H: 4.38; N: 1.79; found: C: 56.80; H: 4.33; N: 1.82. IR (KBr Pellets, cm<sup>-1</sup>) : 3434(s), 1671(s), 1592 (m), 1545(m), 1396(s), 1323(m), 1276 (m), 1164(w), 968(w), 775 (m),707(m).

[Er(mtpc)<sub>1.5</sub>(DMA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·2H<sub>2</sub>O (3) The colorless block crystals of 2 was synthesized similarly to that

of **1** except that  $Dy(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$  (0.033 mmol, 0.015 g) was used instead of  $Er(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$  (0.033 mmol, 0.015 g) .  $C_{37}H_{34}NO_8Er$  (%), C: 56.40; H: 4.35; N: 1.78; found: C: 56.52; H: 4.38; N: 1.81. IR (KBr Pellets, cm<sup>-1</sup>) : 3434(s), 1671(s), 1592(m), 1545(m), 1396(s), 1323(m), 1276(m), 1164(w), 968(w), 775(m), 707(m).

### X-ray crystallography

Crystallographic data of compounds **1-3** were collected at room temperature with a Bruker APEX-II diffractometer with Mo- $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) and graphite monochromator using the  $\omega$ -scan mode. The structures were solved by direct methods and refined of  $F^2$  by full-matrix least squares using SHELXTL<sup>9</sup>. Crystallographic data and experimental details for structural analyses are summarized in Table S1. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structure in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on quoting the depository number CCDC 1421607-1421609 (Fax: +44-1223-336-033; E-Mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

#### **PXRD** patterns

The powder PXRD patterns of **1**, **2** and **3** are shown in Fig. S12. The as-synthesized powder XRD patterns are similar to the corresponding simulated ones from single-crystal data, indicating that the purity of phases.

#### Thermogravimetric analysis

The thermogravimetric analysis were carried out, shown in Fig. S13. The TGA curves of the three compounds are similar, all show two great weight loss. The first weight loss of 17.57% (ca. 17.31%), 17.04% (ca. 17.23%) and 17.58% (ca.17.13%) are connected with the loss of the one coordinated water molecules, one coordinated DMA and two water lattice water molecule in the lattice from 20°C to 372°C. The second weight loss begins at 490°C and is related to the decomposition of organic ligand. The frameworks of complexes were stable up to 490°C and then began to decompose upon further heating.

	1	2	3
Empirical formula	C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>34</sub> NO <sub>8</sub> Tb	C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>34</sub> NO <sub>8</sub> Dy	C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>34</sub> NO <sub>8</sub> Er
Formula weight	779.57	783.15	787.91
Wavelength/ Å	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P 2/C	P 2/C	P 2/C
<i>a</i> / Å	10.8481 (10)	10.7467(5)	10.8349 (5)
b/ Å	15.9105 (13)	15.8854(7)	15.8724 (8)
c/ Å	19.5148 (16)	19.3945(10)	19.5158 (12)
β/ο	92.135 (2)	91.363(2)	92.229 (2)
$V/\text{\AA}^3$	3365.9 (5)	3310.0(3)	3353.7 (3)
Ζ	4	4	4
$\mu$ / mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.148	2.311	2.555
<i>F</i> (000)	1420	1572	1574
Range for data collection/o	26.36	26.373	25.373
<i>T</i> / K	293(2)	173(2)	293(2)
R <sub>int</sub>	0.0880	0.0888	0.0687
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.038	1.014	1.026
Data/restraints/parameters	6868/0/424	6615/24/446	6053/19/413
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]^a$	$R_1 = 0.0513,$	$R_1 = 0.0525,$	$R_1 = 0.0527,$
	$wR_2 = 0.1168$	$wR_2 = 0.1124$	$wR_2 = 0.1262$
	$R_1 = 0.1151,$	$R_1 = 0.1015,$	$R_1 = 0.1049,$
K indices (all data)	$wR_2 = 0.1452$	$wR_2 = 0.1329$	$wR_2 = 0.1516$
Largest diff. peak and hole(e Å -3)	2.178,-1.394	2.561, -0.968	2.159, -1.189
Unique reflections	6868	6615	6053
a $R_1 = \sum   F_0  -  F_C   / \sum  F_0 ; wR_2 = \sum [w(F_1)]$	$[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$		

## **Table S1** Crystallographic data for 1, 2 and 3.

Compound 1			
Bond D, Å			
Tb(1)-O(4)#1	2.290(5)	Tb(1)-O(7)	2.390(6)
Tb(1)-O(3)#2	2.307(6)	Tb(1)-O(5)	2.427(6)
Tb(1)-O(2)#3	2.318(5)	Tb(1)-O(1W)	2.465(6)
Tb(1)-O(1)	2.338(5)	Tb(1)-O(6)	2.486(6)
Angle		(	o, deg
O(1)-Tb(1)-O(7)	80.8(2)	O(5)-Tb(1)-O(1W)	104.4(2)
O(1)-Tb(1)-O(5)	149.1(2)	O(1)-Tb(1)-O(6)	153.6(2)
O(7)-Tb(1)-O(5)	75.3(2)	O(7)-Tb(1)-O(6)	101.2(2)
O(1)-Tb(1)-O(1W)	83.2(2)	O(5)-Tb(1)-O(6)	52.9(2)
O(7)-Tb(1)-O(1W)	66.6(2)	O(1W)-Tb(1)-O(6)	73.8(2)
Compound 2			
Bond			D, Å
Dy(1)-O(4)#1	2.278(5)	Dy(1)-O(7)	2.379(5)
Dy(1)-O(3)#2	2.304(5)	Dy(1)-O(5)	2.424(5)
Dy(1)-O(2)#3	2.310(5)	Dy(1)-O(1w)	2.424(6)
Dy(1)-O(1)	2.330(5)	Dy(1)-O(6)	2.471(6)
Angle			o, deg
O(1)-Dy(1)-O(7)	81.56(19)	O(5)-Dy(1)-O(1w)	104.4(2)
O(1)-Dy(1)-O(5)	149.79(19)	O(1)-Dy(1)-O(6)	153.75(19)
O(7)-Dy(1)-O(5)	75.69(19)	O(7)-Dy(1)-O(6)	101.8(2)
O(1)-Dy(1)-O(1w)	84.0(2)	O(5)-Dy(1)-O(6)	52.96(19)
O(7)-Dy(1)-O(1w)	66.5(2)	O(1w)-Dy(1)-O(6)	74.0(2)
Compound <b>3</b>			
Bond		D, Å	
Er(1)-O(4)#1	2.268(7)	Er(1)-O(7)	2.356(7)
Er(1)-O(3)	2.292(7)	Er(1)-O(6)	2.386(7)
Er(1)-O(2)#2	2.296(6)	Er(1)-O(1W)	2.423(7)
Er(1)-O(1)#3	2.310(7)	Er(1)-O(5)	2.453(8)
Angle		(	o, deg
O(3)-Er(1)-O(7)	147.2(2)	O(6)-Er(1)-O(1W)	104.2(3)
O(3)-Er(1)-O(6)	76.4(3)	O(3)-Er(1)-O(5)	75.3(3)
O(7)-Er(1)-O(6)	76.1(3)	O(7)-Er(1)-O(5)	101.6(3)
O(3)-Er(1)-O(1W)	138.6(3)	O(6)-Er(1)-O(5)	53.0(2)
O(7)-Er(1)-O(1W)	66.4(3)	O(1W)-Er(1)-O(5)	73.2(3)

 Table S2 Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg.) for 1, 2 and 3.



Fig. S3 Coordination environment of Tb<sup>III</sup> center in 1.



Fig. S4 The coordination modes of mtpc ligand in 1.



Fig. S5 The 2D polyrotaxane sheets in 1.



Fig. S6 Excitation (at 314 nm) and emission (at 545 nm) spectra of 1 in the solid state at room temperature.



**Fig. S7** Chemical stability tests for **1** after introduction of various solvents: (a) simulated from the X-ray single structure of 1, (b) CH<sub>3</sub>OH, (c) DMF, (d) H<sub>2</sub>O, (e) C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH, (f) DMA by PXRD analysis.



**Fig. S8** The luminescent intensity of **1** in different concentration of analytes (a) benzene (BZ), (b) toluene (TO), (c) phenol (PhOH), (d) o-xylene (OX), (e) chlorobenzene (Cl-BZ), (f) bromobenzene (Br-BZ), (g) iodobenzene (I-BZ), (h) o-nitrobenzaldehyde (NP), (i) m-nitrobenzoic acid (NBA), (j) 1,3-dinitrobenzene (DNB), (k) 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP), (l) 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT) ( $\lambda_{ex}$ = 314 nm).



Fig. S9 Room-temperature luminescent intensity of 1 upon addition of 0.4 equiv of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and 0.4 equiv of various metal ions (a) and with adding 1 equiv of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and 1 equiv of other metal ions (b) in methanol ( $\lambda_{ex}$ = 314 nm).



Fig. S10 Comparison of the photoluminescence intensity of 1 in methanol suspension with the introduction of other  $M^{n+}$  ions (Ba<sup>2+</sup>,Na<sup>+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>) in the absence and presence of 1 equiv. Fe<sup>3+</sup> ( $\lambda_{ex}$ = 314 nm).



Fig. S11 IR spectra for 1, 2 and 3.



Fig. S12 Simulated and experimental X-ray powder diffraction patterns for 1, 2 and 3.



Fig. S13 TGA curves of compounds 1, 2 and 3.