

Supporting Information for

**Placing a crown on Dy(III) – a dual property Ln(III) crown ether complex displaying optical properties and SMM behaviour.**

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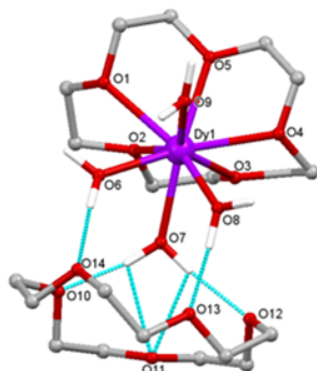
## S-1 Crystallographic data

### 1.1 Crystallographic data and structure refinement

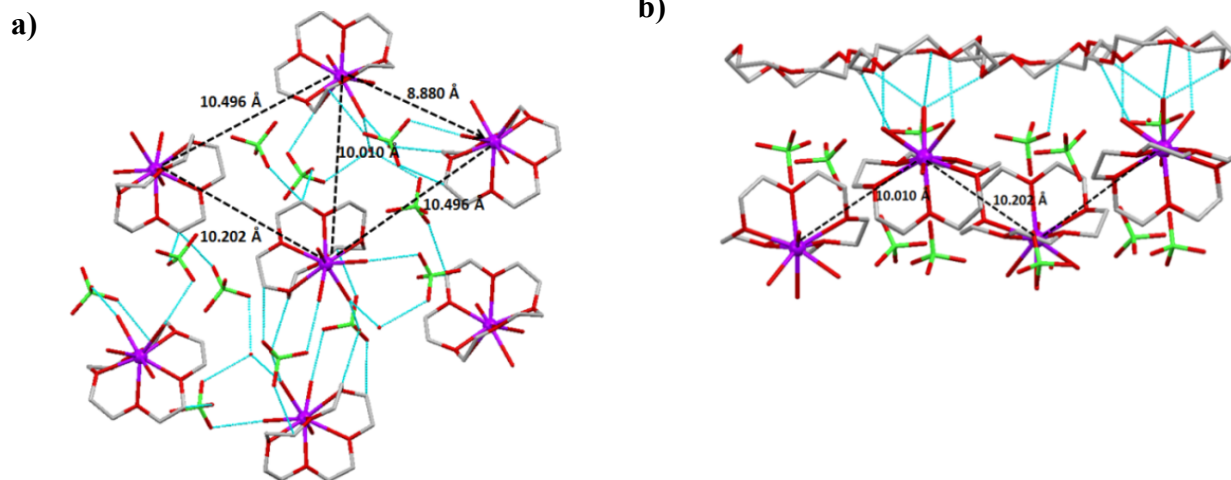
**Table 1.1** Crystal data and structure refinement for **(1)**, **(2)** and the yttrium(III) analogue of **(2)**.

|   | <b>(1)</b>  | <b>(2)</b>  | <b>[Y(12C4)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>5</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O</b> |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Empirical formula</b>                  | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>50</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> DyO <sub>27</sub> | C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>28</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> O <sub>22</sub> Dy | C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>28</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> O <sub>22</sub> Y                         |
| <b>Formula weight</b>                     | 991.45  | 745.15  | 671.56   |
| <b>Temperature/K</b>                      | 150(2)  | 150(2)  | 150(2)   |
| <b>Crystal system</b>                     | monoclinic  | monoclinic  | monoclinic   |
| <b>Space group</b>                        | P2 <sub>1</sub> /n  | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c  | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c   |
| <b>a/Å</b>                                | 15.8533(14)   | 13.1195(7)  | 13.139(1)  |
| <b>b/Å</b>                                | 14.6908(14)   | 10.2129(6)  | 10.2303(7)   |
| <b>c/Å</b>                                | 16.4867(15)   | 17.5681(10)   | 17.5916(14)  |
| <b>α/°</b>                                | 90  | 90  | 90   |
| <b>β/°</b>                                | 99.409(4)   | 93.941(2)   | 93.866(3)  |
| <b>γ/°</b>                                | 90  | 90  | 90   |
| <b>Volume/Å<sup>3</sup></b>               | 3788.06   | 2348.4(2)   | 2359.2(3)  |
| <b>Z</b>                                  | 1   | 4   | 4  |
| <b>ρ<sub>calc</sub>/mg/mm<sup>3</sup></b> | 1.735   | 2.164   | 1.8906   |
| <b>μ/mm<sup>-1</sup></b>                  | 2.278   | 3.618   | 2.936  |
| <b>F(000)</b>                             | 2004.0  | 1524.0  | 1358.8   |
| <b>Crystal size/mm<sup>3</sup></b>        | 0.32 x 0.29 x 0.45  | 0.43 x 0.27 x 0.28  | 0.14 x 0.09 x 0.09   |
| <b>Independent reflections</b>            | 7642  | 4806  | 5913   |
| <b>Goodness-of-fit on F<sup>2</sup></b>   | 1.233   | 1.334   | 1.299  |
| <b>Final R indexes [I&gt;=2σ(I)]</b>      | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0460<br>wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1394               | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0208<br>wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0514               | R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0417<br>wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1421                                      |

## 1.2 Crystallographic data for (1)



**Fig. 1.2a** View of the molecular structure of (1) showing the H-bonding interactions to the uncomplexed crown ether ligand as blue dashed lines.



**Fig 1.2b** a) View of the crystal packing of (1) down the  $b(1/2a+1/2c)$  plane, showing  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}\cdots\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$  distances as black dashed lines; b) view of the crystal packing down the  $b$ -axis, showing the alternating layered arrangement of  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$ -bound crown ether ligands, free H-bonded crowns,  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  counterions and lattice  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules. Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed blue lines. Colour code: purple =  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$ , grey = C, green = Cl, red = O.

**Table 1.2** Selected bond lengths and angles for complex **(1)**.

| <i>Atom</i> | <i>Atom</i> | <i>Length/Å</i> |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O1          | 2.513(6)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O2          | 2.420(6)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O3          | 2.495(5)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O4          | 2.457(6)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O5          | 2.446(6)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O6          | 2.337(6)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O7          | 2.386(6)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O8          | 2.372(6)        |
| <b>Dy1</b>  | O9          | 2.344(5)        |

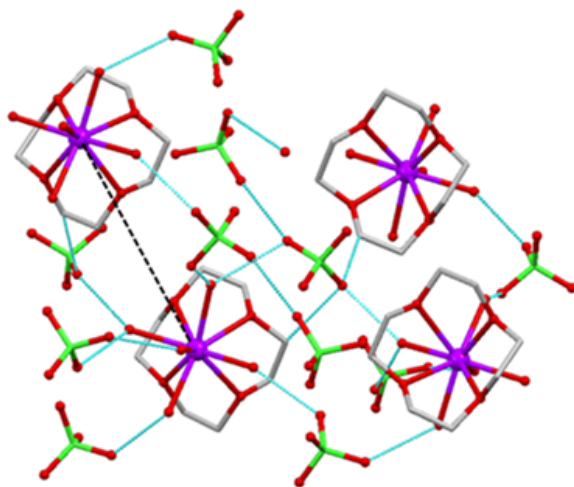
| <i>Atom</i> | <i>Atom</i> | <i>Atom</i> | <i>Angle/°</i> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>O2</b>   | Dy1         | O1          | 62.74(19)      |
| <b>O3</b>   | Dy1         | O1          | 118.23(19)     |
| <b>O3</b>   | Dy1         | O2          | 62.79(18)      |
| <b>O4</b>   | Dy1         | O1          | 129.5(2)       |
| <b>O4</b>   | Dy1         | O2          | 121.6(2)       |
| <b>O4</b>   | Dy1         | O3          | 64.66(19)      |
| <b>O5</b>   | Dy1         | O1          | 65.2(2)        |
| <b>O5</b>   | Dy1         | O2          | 87.0(2)        |
| <b>O5</b>   | Dy1         | O3          | 85.2(2)        |
| <b>O5</b>   | Dy1         | O4          | 65.0(2)        |
| <b>O6</b>   | Dy1         | O1          | 66.8(2)        |
| <b>O6</b>   | Dy1         | O2          | 90.2(2)        |
| <b>O6</b>   | Dy1         | O3          | 138.1(2)       |
| <b>O6</b>   | Dy1         | O4          | 147.8(2)       |
| <b>O6</b>   | Dy1         | O5          | 127.1(2)       |
| <b>O7</b>   | Dy1         | O1          | 117.2(2)       |
| <b>O7</b>   | Dy1         | O2          | 74.0(2)        |
| <b>O7</b>   | Dy1         | O3          | 71.7(2)        |
| <b>O7</b>   | Dy1         | O4          | 111.2(2)       |
| <b>O7</b>   | Dy1         | O5          | 154.93(18)     |
| <b>O7</b>   | Dy1         | O6          | 70.3(2)        |

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|            |     |     |            |
|------------|-----|-----|------------|
| <b>O8</b>  | Dy1 | O1  | 141.5(2)   |
| <b>O8</b>  | Dy1 | O2  | 142.2(2)   |
| <b>O8</b>  | Dy1 | O3  | 100.0(2)   |
| <b>O8</b>  | Dy1 | O4  | 70.0(2)    |
| <b>O8</b>  | Dy1 | O5  | 126.9(2)   |
| <b>O8</b>  | Dy1 | O6  | 81.9(2)    |
| <b>O8</b>  | Dy1 | O7  | 68.5(2)    |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O1  | 79.3(2)    |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O2  | 141.8(2)   |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O3  | 143.0(2)   |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O4  | 79.0(2)    |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O5  | 72.68(19)  |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O6  | 77.9(2)    |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O7  | 132.13(19) |
| <b>O9</b>  | Dy1 | O8  | 72.5(2)    |
| <b>C1</b>  | O1  | Dy1 | 120.2(5)   |
| <b>C10</b> | O1  | Dy1 | 114.6(5)   |
| <b>C2</b>  | O2  | Dy1 | 115.3(4)   |
| <b>C3</b>  | O2  | Dy1 | 121.0(5)   |
| <b>C4</b>  | O3  | Dy1 | 122.8(5)   |
| <b>C5</b>  | O3  | Dy1 | 121.5(4)   |
| <b>C6</b>  | O4  | Dy1 | 114.7(5)   |
| <b>C7</b>  | O4  | Dy1 | 118.2(5)   |
| <b>C8</b>  | O5  | Dy1 | 122.5(5)   |
| <b>C9</b>  | O5  | Dy1 | 120.6(5)   |

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### 1.3 Crystallographic data for (2)



**Fig 1.3** Crystal packing of (2); view down the *b*-axis, showing H-bonds as blue dashed lines. Colour code: purple = Dy<sup>III</sup>, grey = C, green = Cl, red = O. The shortest Dy...Dy distance of 8.875(5) Å is shown as a black dashed line.

**Table 1.3.** Selected bond lengths and angles for complex (2).

| <i>Atom</i> | <i>Atom</i> | <i>Length/Å</i> |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Dy01        | O1          | 2.4739(19)      |
| Dy01        | O2          | 2.515(2)        |
| Dy01        | O3          | 2.480(2)        |
| Dy01        | O4          | 2.551(2)        |
| Dy01        | O5          | 2.343(2)        |
| Dy01        | O6          | 2.317(2)        |
| Dy01        | O7          | 2.435(2)        |
| Dy01        | O8          | 2.378(2)        |
| Dy01        | O9          | 2.335(2)        |

| <i>Atom</i> | <i>Atom</i> | <i>Atom</i> | <i>Angle/°</i> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| O1          | Dy01        | O2          | 64.33(7)       |
| O1          | Dy01        | O3          | 96.51(7)       |
| O1          | Dy01        | O4          | 64.80(6)       |
| O2          | Dy01        | O4          | 99.25(7)       |

|           |      |      |            |
|-----------|------|------|------------|
| <b>O3</b> | Dy01 | O2   | 64.88(6)   |
| <b>O3</b> | Dy01 | O4   | 63.78(7)   |
| <b>O5</b> | Dy01 | O1   | 69.20(7)   |
| <b>O5</b> | Dy01 | O2   | 79.90(7)   |
| <b>O5</b> | Dy01 | O3   | 144.66(7)  |
| <b>O5</b> | Dy01 | O4   | 128.61(7)  |
| <b>O5</b> | Dy01 | O7   | 70.36(7)   |
| <b>O5</b> | Dy01 | O8   | 140.64(7)  |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O1   | 131.30(7)  |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O2   | 69.92(7)   |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O3   | 78.04(8)   |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O4   | 140.91(7)  |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O5   | 87.59(8)   |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O7   | 69.72(7)   |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O8   | 82.12(8)   |
| <b>O6</b> | Dy01 | O9   | 140.67(8)  |
| <b>O7</b> | Dy01 | O1   | 132.44(7)  |
| <b>O7</b> | Dy01 | O2   | 130.12(7)  |
| <b>O7</b> | Dy01 | O3   | 131.05(7)  |
| <b>O7</b> | Dy01 | O4   | 130.61(7)  |
| <b>O8</b> | Dy01 | O1   | 141.64(7)  |
| <b>O8</b> | Dy01 | O2   | 130.09(7)  |
| <b>O8</b> | Dy01 | O3   | 69.48(7)   |
| <b>O8</b> | Dy01 | O4   | 77.16(7)   |
| <b>O8</b> | Dy01 | O7   | 70.42(7)   |
| <b>O9</b> | Dy01 | O1   | 78.91(7)   |
| <b>O9</b> | Dy01 | O2   | 142.62(7)  |
| <b>O9</b> | Dy01 | O3   | 129.38(7)  |
| <b>O9</b> | Dy01 | O4   | 69.10(7)   |
| <b>O9</b> | Dy01 | O5   | 80.98(8)   |
| <b>O9</b> | Dy01 | O7   | 70.99(7)   |
| <b>O9</b> | Dy01 | O8   | 83.35(8)   |
| <b>C1</b> | O1   | Dy01 | 115.65(16) |
| <b>C8</b> | O1   | Dy01 | 122.39(16) |
| <b>C6</b> | O2   | Dy01 | 119.33(16) |
| <b>C7</b> | O2   | Dy01 | 112.79(16) |
| <b>C4</b> | O3   | Dy01 | 123.29(17) |



|    |    |      |            |
|----|----|------|------------|
| C5 | O3 | Dy01 | 114.98(16) |
| C2 | O4 | Dy01 | 117.75(16) |
| C3 | O4 | Dy01 | 112.84(17) |

#### 1.4 Unit cell data for doped (2)

**Table 1.4** Comparison of unit cell dimensions for (2), the yttrium(III) analogue of (2), and the doped sample of (2).

|                              | (2)                | [Y(12C4)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> ](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O | Doped (2)          |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Crystal system</b>        | monoclinic         | monoclinic  | monoclinic         |
| <b>Space group</b>           | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c  | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c |
| <b><i>a</i>/Å</b>            | 13.1195(7)         | 13.139(1)   | 13.10              |
| <b><i>b</i>/Å</b>            | 10.2129(6)         | 10.2303(7)  | 10.19              |
| <b><i>c</i>/Å</b>            | 17.5681(10)        | 17.5916(14)   | 17.55              |
| <b><math>\alpha</math>/°</b> | 90                 | 90  | 90                 |
| <b><math>\beta</math>/°</b>  | 93.941(2)          | 93.866(3)   | 93.72              |
| <b><math>\gamma</math>/°</b> | 90                 | 90  | 90                 |
| <b>Volume/Å<sup>3</sup></b>  | 2348.4(2)          | 2359.2(3)   | 2342               |

#### 1.5 SHAPE parameters<sup>[1]</sup>

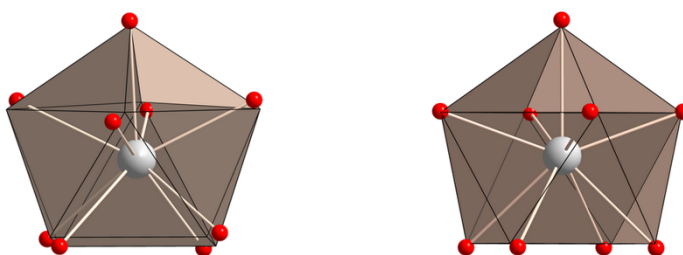
Table 1.5 Shape measures of the 9-coordinate Dy<sup>III</sup> coordination polyhedra in complexes (1) and (2). The values in red indicate the closest polyhedron for each complex, according to the continuous shape measures. Complex (1) appears to adopt a muffin geometry, while complex (2) approximates a capped square anti-prism.

| Polyhedron | Dy <sup>III</sup> <sub>1</sub> | Dy <sup>III</sup> <sub>2</sub> |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| EP-9       | 35.20                          | 36.27                          |
| OPY-9      | 24.16                          | 23.10                          |
| HBPY-9     | 14.51                          | 18.48                          |
| JTC-9      | 15.58                          | 16.09                          |
| JCCU-9     | 7.51                           | 7.30                           |
| CCU-9      | 6.38                           | 6.22                           |
| JCSAPR-9   | 2.57                           | 1.37                           |
| CSAPR-9    | 1.78                           | 0.51                           |

|                 |              |              |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>JTCTPR-9</b> | <b>3.69</b>  | <b>2.69</b>  |
| <b>TCTPR-9</b>  | <b>2.59</b>  | <b>1.49</b>  |
| <b>JTDIC-9</b>  | <b>10.68</b> | <b>12.72</b> |
| <b>HH-9</b>     | <b>9.81</b>  | <b>11.73</b> |
| <b>MFF-9</b>    | <b>1.27</b>  | <b>1.12</b>  |

Abbreviations: EP-9, Enneagon; OPY-9, Octagonal pyramid; HBPY-9, Heptagonal bipyramid; JTC-9, Johnson triangular cupola J3; JCCU-9, Capped cube J8; CCU-9, Spherical-relaxed capped cube; JCSAPR-9, Capped square antiprism J10; CSAPR-9, Spherical capped square antiprism; JTCTPR-9, Tricapped trigonal prism J51; TCTPR-9, Spherical tricapped trigonal prism; JTDIC-9, Tridiminished icosahedron J63; HH-9, Hula-hoop; MFF-9, Muffin.

**Fig. 1.5** Coordination spheres of complexes **(1)** (left) and **(2)** (right). Colour code: grey = Dy<sup>III</sup>, red = O, beige = idealized polyhedra.



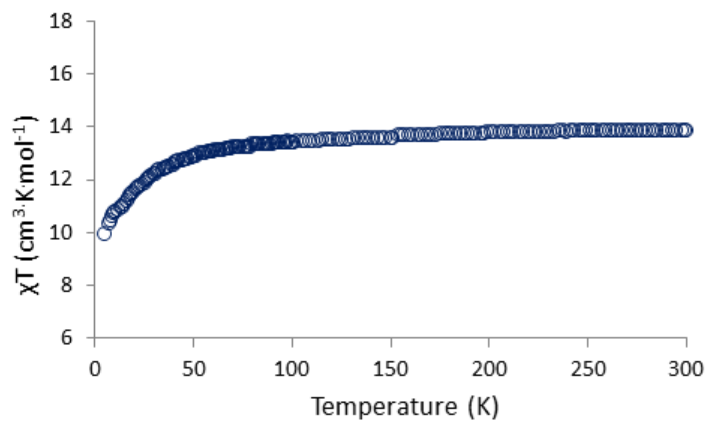
## S-2 Magnetic data

*Note: unless otherwise stated, solid lines are a guide for the eyes only.*

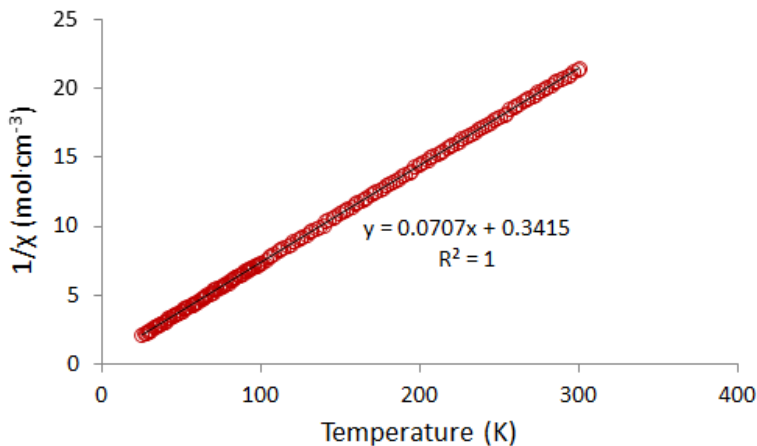
Samples of **(1)** and **(2)** comprised multiple single crystals fixed in a gelatin capsule using apiezon grease. Multiple samples of both **(1)** and **(2)** were measured from different preparations to confirm reproducibility. Magnetic measurements were carried out on polycrystalline samples.

### 2.1 Dc data for (1)

**Fig. 2.1a** Plot of  $\chi T$  vs. temperature for **(1)** from 5 - 300 K, with an average value of  $\chi T$  above 100 K of  $13.77 \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ .

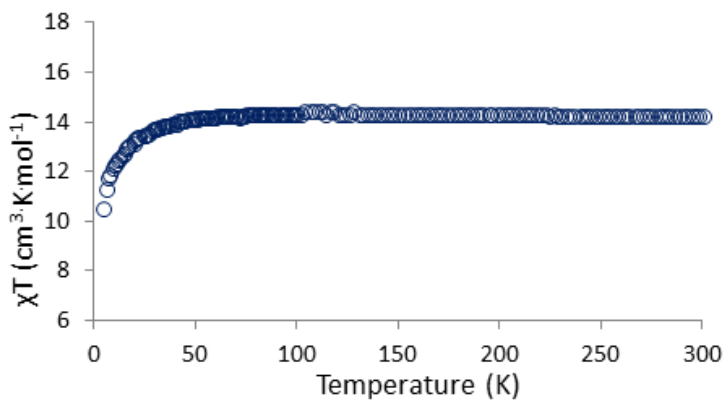


**Fig. 2.1b** Plot of  $1/\chi$  vs. temperature for **(1)** from 5 - 300 K. The black line is a best-fit to the Curie-Weiss law, giving  $C = 14.14 \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  and a Weiss constant of  $-4.83 \text{ K}$ .

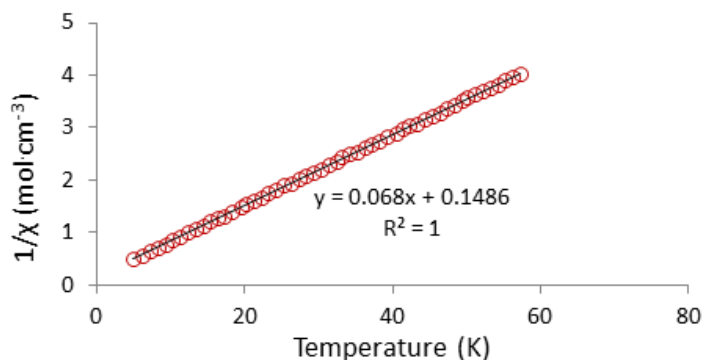


## 2.2 Dc data for (2)

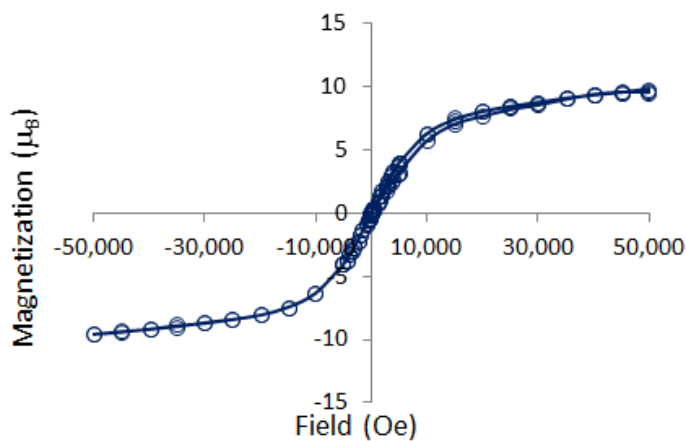
**Fig. 2.2a** Plot of  $\chi T$  vs. temperature for **(2)** from 5 - 300 K, with an average value of  $\chi T$  above 100 K of  $14.30 \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. 2.2b** Plot of  $1/\chi$  vs. temperature for **(2)** from 5 - 300 K. The black line is a best fit to the Curie-Weiss law, giving  $C = 14.70 \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{K} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  and a Weiss constant of  $-2.19 \text{ K}$ .

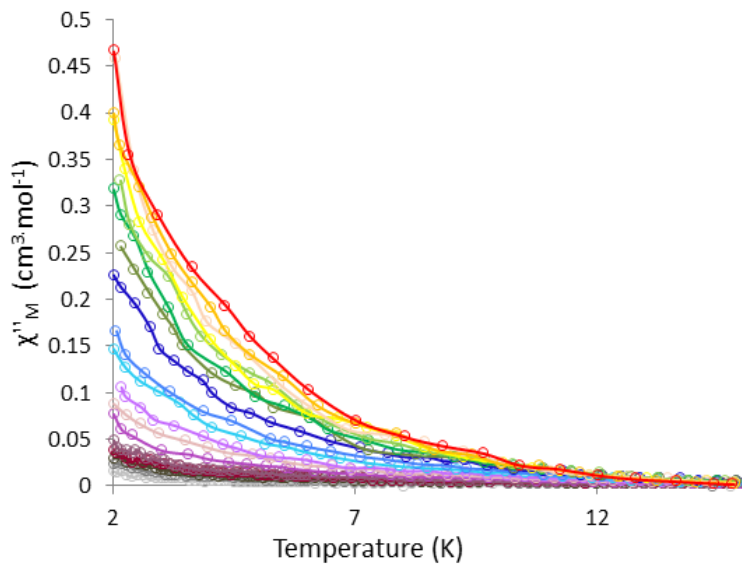


**Fig. 2.2c** Plot of magnetization versus field for **(2)** at 3 K.

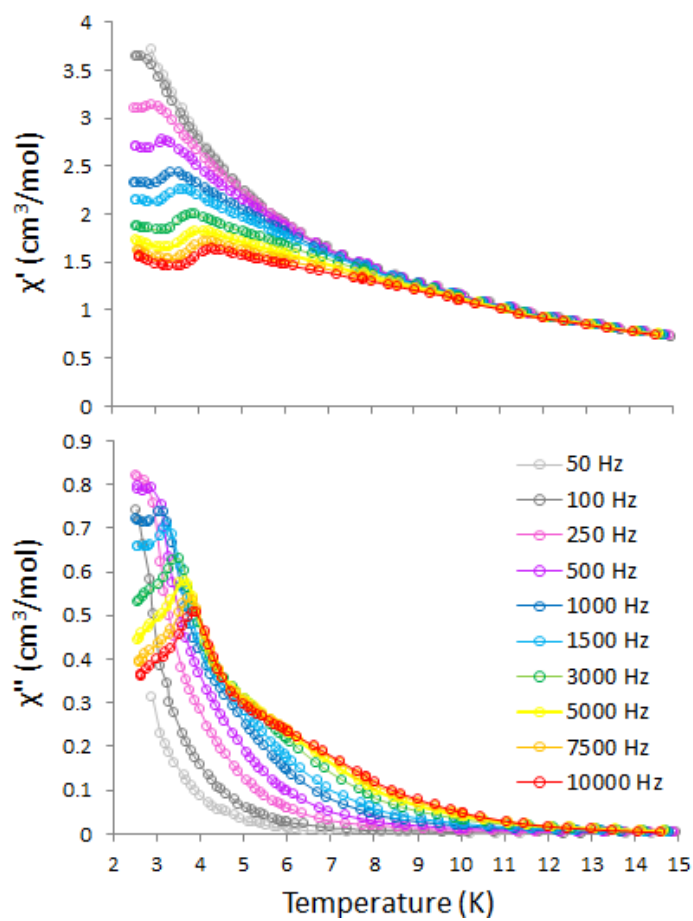


### 2.3 Additional ac data for **(1)** and **(2)**

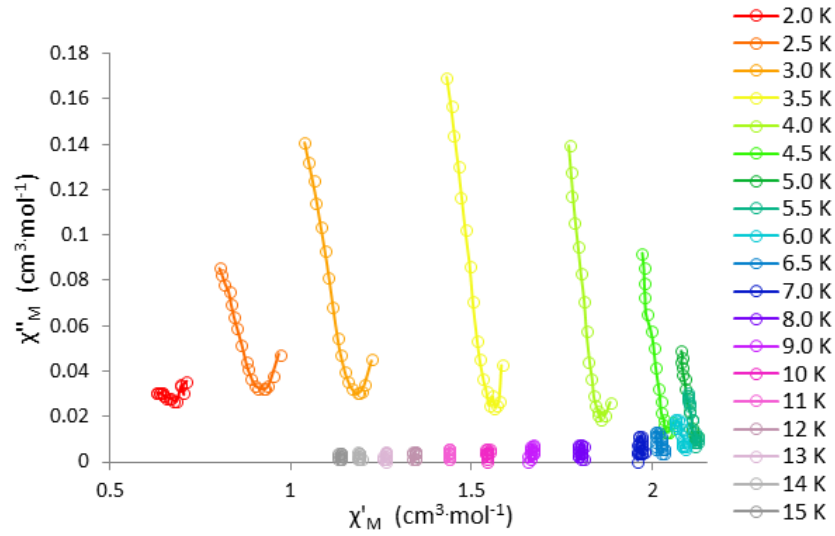
**Fig. 2.3a** Plot of  $\chi''_M$  vs. temperature for **(1)** in zero dc field, showing frequency dependent susceptibility but the absence of any maxima.



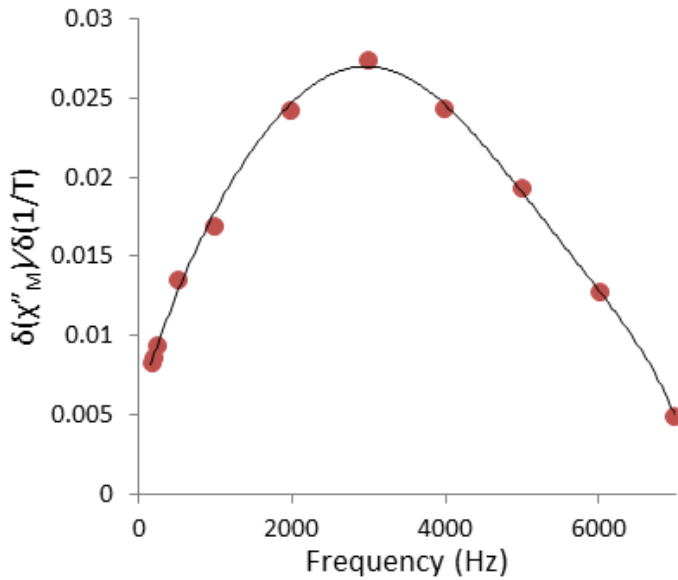
**Fig. 2.3b** Plot of  $\chi'_M$  and  $\chi''_M$  vs. temperature for **(1)** in 300 Oe applied dc field, below 15 K.



**Fig. 2.3c** Plot of  $\chi''_M$  vs.  $\chi'_M$  for (2) in 5000 Oe dc field, showing un-Debye-like behaviour.



**Fig. 2.3d** Plot of  $\frac{\delta(\chi''_M)}{\delta(1/T)}$  versus frequency. A maximum occurs at 3000 Hz, corresponding to the point at which  $\omega\tau = 1$ . This gives an approximate value of  $\tau = 0.3$  ms.



### S-3 Equations<sup>[2]</sup>

The Cole-Cole model describes ac susceptibility as

$$\chi(\omega) = \chi_S + \frac{\chi_T - \chi_S}{1 + (i\omega\tau_c)^{1-\alpha}} \quad \text{Eqn. 1}$$

where  $\omega = 2\pi f$ ,  $\chi_T$  is the isothermal susceptibility,  $\chi_S$  is the adiabatic susceptibility,  $\tau_c$  is the temperature-dependent relaxation time, and  $\alpha$  is a measure of the dispersivity of relaxation times, with  $\alpha = 0$  reflecting a single Debye-like relaxation time and  $\alpha = 1$  reflecting an infinitely wide dispersion of  $\tau_c$  values.

Dividing Eqn. 1 into its in-phase and out-of-phase components gives

$$\chi'(\omega) = \chi_S + \frac{(\chi_T - \chi_S)}{2} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\sinh[(1-\alpha)\ln(\omega\tau_c)]}{\cosh[(1-\alpha)\ln(\omega\tau_c)] + \cos[1/2(1-\alpha)\pi]} \right\} \quad \text{Eqn. 2}$$

$$\chi''(\omega) = \frac{(\chi_T - \chi_S)}{2} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\sin[1/2(1-\alpha)\pi]}{\cosh[(1-\alpha)\ln(\omega\tau_c)] + \cos[1/2(1-\alpha)\pi]} \right\} \quad \text{Eqn. 3}$$

In the case of complex **(1)**, the susceptibility behaviour below 5 K is due to contributions from two distinct relaxation pathways. The relaxation in this temperature region can thus be described by the sum of two combined, modified Debye functions:

$$\chi(\omega) = \chi_{S1} + \frac{\chi_{T1} - \chi_{S1}}{1 + (i\omega\tau_{c1})^{1-\alpha_1}} + \chi_{S2} + \frac{\chi_{T2} - \chi_{S1}}{1 + (i\omega\tau_{c2})^{1-\alpha_2}} \quad \text{Eqn. 4}$$

Dividing Eqn. 4 into its in-phase and out-of-phase components gives

$$\chi'(\omega) = \chi_S + (\chi_{T1} - \chi_S) \left\{ \frac{1 + (\omega\tau_{c1})^{1-\alpha_1} \sin(\pi\alpha_1/2)}{1 + (\omega\tau_{c1})^{1-\alpha_1} \sin(\pi\alpha_1/2) + (\omega\tau_{c1})^{2-2\alpha_1}} \right\} \quad \text{Eqn. 5}$$

$$+ (\chi_{T2} - \chi_S) \left\{ \frac{1 + (\omega\tau_{c2})^{1-\alpha_2} \sin(\pi\alpha_2/2)}{1 + (\omega\tau_{c2})^{1-\alpha_2} \sin(\pi\alpha_2/2) + (\omega\tau_{c2})^{2-2\alpha_2}} \right\}$$

$$\chi''(\omega) = (\chi_{T1} - \chi_S) \left\{ \frac{1 + (\omega\tau_{c1})^{1-\alpha_1} \cos(\pi\alpha_1/2)}{1 + (\omega\tau_{c1})^{1-\alpha_1} \sin(\pi\alpha_1/2) + (\omega\tau_{c1})^{2-2\alpha_1}} \right\} + (\chi_{T2} - \chi_S) \left\{ \frac{1 + (\omega\tau_{c2})^{1-\alpha_2} \cos(\pi\alpha_2/2)}{1 + (\omega\tau_{c2})^{1-\alpha_2} \sin(\pi\alpha_2/2) + (\omega\tau_{c2})^{2-2\alpha_2}} \right\} \quad \text{Eqn. 6}$$

where  $\chi_S = \chi_{S1} + \chi_{S2}$ .

The Arrhenius equation, relating relaxation time  $\tau_c$  to temperature T, is given by

$$\tau_c = \tau_0 e^{U_{eff}/k_B T} \quad \text{Eqn. 7}$$

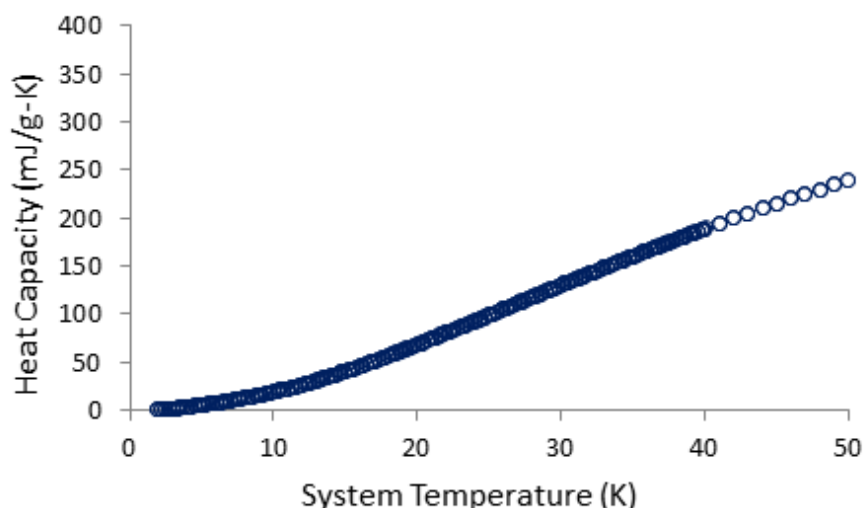
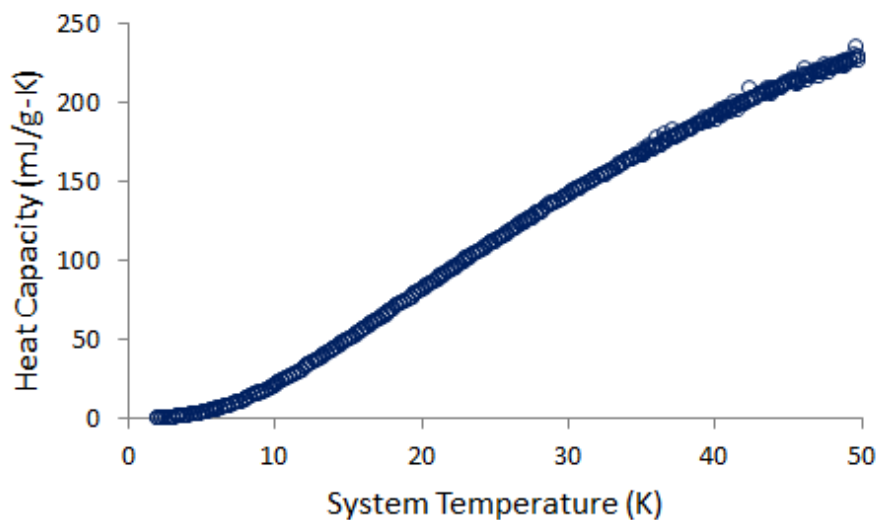
where  $\tau_0$  is the tunneling rate and  $U_{eff}$  is the effective energy barrier.

#### S-4 Heat capacity data

Heat capacity measurements were conducted on a Quantum Design PPMS, between 2 and 50 K in zero applied field.

**Fig. 4** Plots of heat capacity vs. temperature for **(1)** (top) and **(2)** (bottom) showing the lack of an abrupt  $\lambda$ -type transition, indicating the absence of a long-range magnetic ordering. The smooth increase in heat capacity upon warming is associated with the phonon (lattice) contribution to the specific heat.





## S-5 Quantum chemical calculations

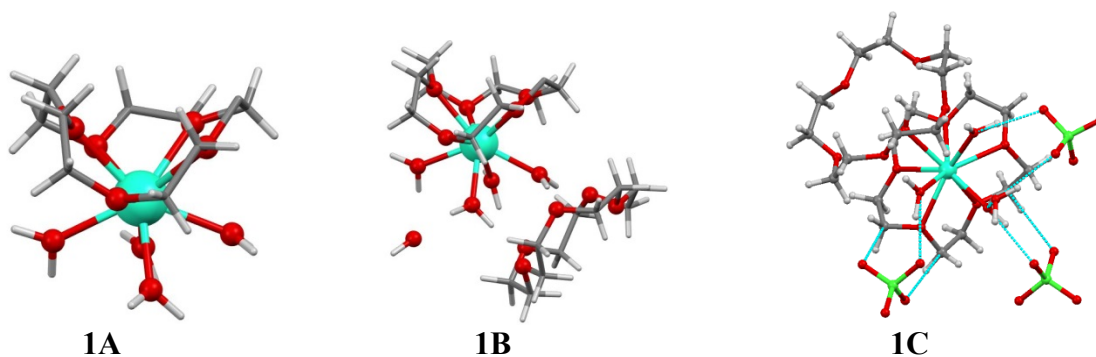
### 5.1 Computational details

*Ab initio* calculations were performed using MOLCAS 7.8 quantum chemistry software.<sup>[3]</sup> The coordinates of the atoms were obtained by single crystal X-ray diffraction and were used without further geometry optimization. For all calculations, the multi-configurational CASSCF/RASSI-SO approach was used where the active space was chosen as the nine electrons in the seven 4*f*-orbitals of the dysprosium ion. Relativistic basis sets of the type ANO-RCC were chosen to

include the scalar relativistic terms where the dysprosium ions were treated at the VQZP level (9s8p6d4f3g2h), the coordinating oxygen atoms were treated at the VTZP level (4s3p2d1f) and all other atoms were treated at the VDZ level (3s2p for O and C, 4s3p for Cl, and 2s for H) for all models. The spin-free Eigenstates were calculated by the CASSCF method using the Douglas-Kroll-Hess Hamiltonian and then were mixed by following the RASSI-SO method to include spin-orbit coupling. The Dy<sup>III</sup> ions were given the pseudo-spin  $\mathfrak{S} = \frac{1}{2}$  for the calculations of the *g*-tensors of the eight Kramers' doublets and the main magnetic axes. For the calculations of models **1A**, **1B**, **2A**, and **2B**, only the sextets were considered with 21 roots and no mixing from the quadruplets and doublets. However, in the calculations of the full models (**1C**, **2C**) mixing of the quadruplets were considered in the RASSI-SO module, where the sextets were given 21 roots and the quadruplets were given 128 roots.<sup>[4]</sup> No significant difference was observed between the eight Kramers' doublets obtained with and without the inclusion of the quadruplets.

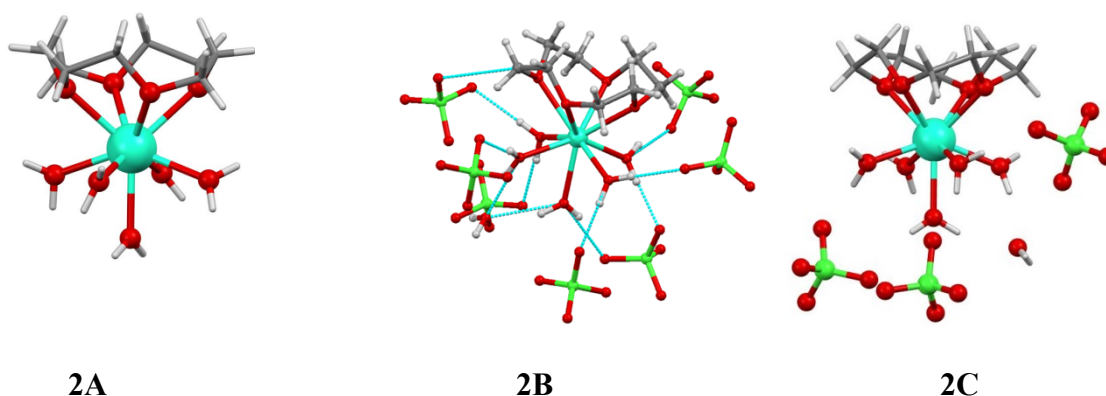
Three models for each complex were investigated in order to determine an accurate representation of the electronic structure of the complex within the crystal lattice. Complex **1** was modelled as just the immediate coordination sphere (**1A**), the asymmetric unit comprising two 15-crown-5s and water molecules (**1B**), and the full complex with one solvent water and three perchlorate anions that H-bond to the oxygen atoms of the water molecules that are directly coordinated to the Dy<sup>III</sup> centre (**1C**).

**Fig. 5.1** Three models calculated for complex **1**: **1A** (left), **1B** (centre) and **1C** (right).



For complex (2), the first model was the immediate coordination sphere (2A). The second model (2B) includes the one solvent water and seven perchlorate anions that are H-bonded to the water molecules directly bound to the Dy<sup>III</sup> center and the third model (2C) includes the three perchlorate anions in addition to the coordinated 12-crown-4 ligands and water molecule of the asymmetric unit.

**Fig. 5.2** Three models calculated for complex (2).



**Table 5.2** Energies of the first three lowest energy Kramers' doublets for the three models of complexes (1) and (2) measured in cm<sup>-1</sup>.

|                         | 1A       | 1B       | 1C       | 2A       | 2B       | 2C       |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ${}^6H_{15}\frac{1}{2}$ | 0.000    | 0.000    | 0.00     | 0.000    | 0.000    | 0.000    |
|                         | 20.560   | 45.528   | 58.224   | 34.386   | 11.721   | 33.083   |
|                         | 59.050   | 77.849   | 68.724   | 67.185   | 77.170   | 66.942   |
|                         | 104.802  | 110.527  | 112.954  | 98.283   | 111.872  | 89.758   |
|                         | 146.372  | 180.244  | 177.132  | 137.295  | 141.467  | 131.235  |
|                         | 172.515  | 239.466  | 234.354  | 153.553  | 167.157  | 159.251  |
|                         | 236.856  | 276.889  | 268.554  | 211.099  | 216.841  | 198.393  |
|                         | 319.435  | 376.751  | 369.180  | 269.128  | 254.868  | 245.699  |
| ${}^6H_{13}\frac{1}{2}$ | 3013.524 | 3002.778 | 3525.412 | 3016.365 | 3525.534 | 3011.050 |
|                         | 3050.661 | 3067.240 | 3578.595 | 3048.317 | 3558.751 | 3049.813 |
|                         | 3080.949 | 3113.915 | 3627.942 | 3058.381 | 3582.730 | 3067.427 |
|                         | 3096.328 | 3134.278 | 3647.843 | 3063.738 | 3617.559 | 3091.087 |
|                         | 3135.303 | 3171.549 | 3680.367 | 3118.191 | 3643.377 | 3107.826 |
|                         | 3156.140 | 3189.595 | 3699.792 | 3145.341 | 3664.038 | 3129.249 |
|                         | 3205.383 | 3263.081 | 3776.225 | 3169.155 | 3675.308 | 3152.617 |
|                         | 5575.344 | 5586.414 | 6071.999 | 5576.992 | 6058.959 | 5575.112 |
| 5624.523                | 5637.116 | 6116.250 | 5617.031 | 6097.813 | 5617.497 |          |
| 5656.378                | 5699.984 | 6175.548 | 5647.751 | 6130.629 | 5650.674 |          |
| 5689.806                | 5726.415 | 6189.807 | 5684.009 | 6149.004 | 5671.289 |          |
| 5740.490                | 5756.563 | 6215.591 | 5717.813 | 6194.988 | 5709.507 |          |
| 5779.931                | 5835.245 | 6292.237 | 5751.463 | 6201.573 | 5733.642 |          |

**Table 5.3** Main components of the  $g$ -tensors for the eight Kramers' doublets of the  ${}^6\text{H}_{15/2}$  level calculated with strong spin-orbit coupling for models **1A** – **1C** and **2A** – **2C**.

| Doublet  |       | 1A     | 1B     | 1C     | 2A     | 2B     | 2C     |
|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>1</b> | $g_x$ | 0.809  | 0.599  | 0.258  | 0.617  | 0.535  | 0.903  |
|          | $g_y$ | 5.858  | 0.190  | 0.516  | 1.316  | 1.821  | 1.156  |
|          | $g_z$ | 13.131 | 17.727 | 17.492 | 18.190 | 17.808 | 17.819 |
| <b>2</b> | $g_x$ | 1.522  | 0.201  | 0.835  | 0.539  | 0.575  | 1.189  |
|          | $g_y$ | 2.714  | 0.729  | 3.085  | 1.783  | 1.607  | 1.871  |
|          | $g_z$ | 13.384 | 17.301 | 15.442 | 16.314 | 16.639 | 16.377 |
| <b>3</b> | $g_x$ | 8.824  | 10.261 | 0.000  | 3.601  | 3.621  | 8.115  |
|          | $g_y$ | 5.784  | 4.959  | 2.252  | 5.139  | 5.026  | 6.635  |
|          | $g_z$ | 1.877  | 2.439  | 9.949  | 10.402 | 10.714 | 3.002  |
| <b>4</b> | $g_x$ | 1.982  | 1.522  | 9.133  | 1.708  | 10.743 | 0.486  |
|          | $g_y$ | 4.355  | 5.821  | 6.306  | 2.829  | 6.392  | 2.176  |
|          | $g_z$ | 10.132 | 8.527  | 3.036  | 14.332 | 0.295  | 14.629 |
| <b>5</b> | $g_x$ | 9.021  | 0.730  | 0.708  | 0.912  | 10.881 | 1.515  |
|          | $g_y$ | 6.266  | 3.320  | 3.468  | 4.937  | 6.389  | 3.111  |
|          | $g_z$ | 2.874  | 12.314 | 11.625 | 11.328 | 1.522  | 10.822 |
| <b>6</b> | $g_x$ | 0.219  | 0.329  | 0.330  | 11.379 | 3.047  | 10.089 |
|          | $g_y$ | 1.340  | 1.234  | 1.122  | 5.819  | 5.753  | 7.735  |
|          | $g_z$ | 16.586 | 17.749 | 17.521 | 0.046  | 9.023  | 0.391  |
| <b>7</b> | $g_x$ | 1.668  | 1.125  | 1.285  | 2.268  | 1.829  | 7.600  |
|          | $g_y$ | 2.223  | 1.567  | 1.985  | 2.499  | 3.869  | 5.636  |
|          | $g_z$ | 16.001 | 16.293 | 15.943 | 12.527 | 6.157  | 3.587  |
| <b>8</b> | $g_x$ | 0.286  | 0.214  | 0.182  | 0.528  | 1.137  | 0.817  |
|          | $g_y$ | 0.790  | 0.509  | 0.424  | 1.726  | 5.844  | 2.785  |
|          | $g_z$ | 18.669 | 18.774 | 18.781 | 17.426 | 14.342 | 16.888 |

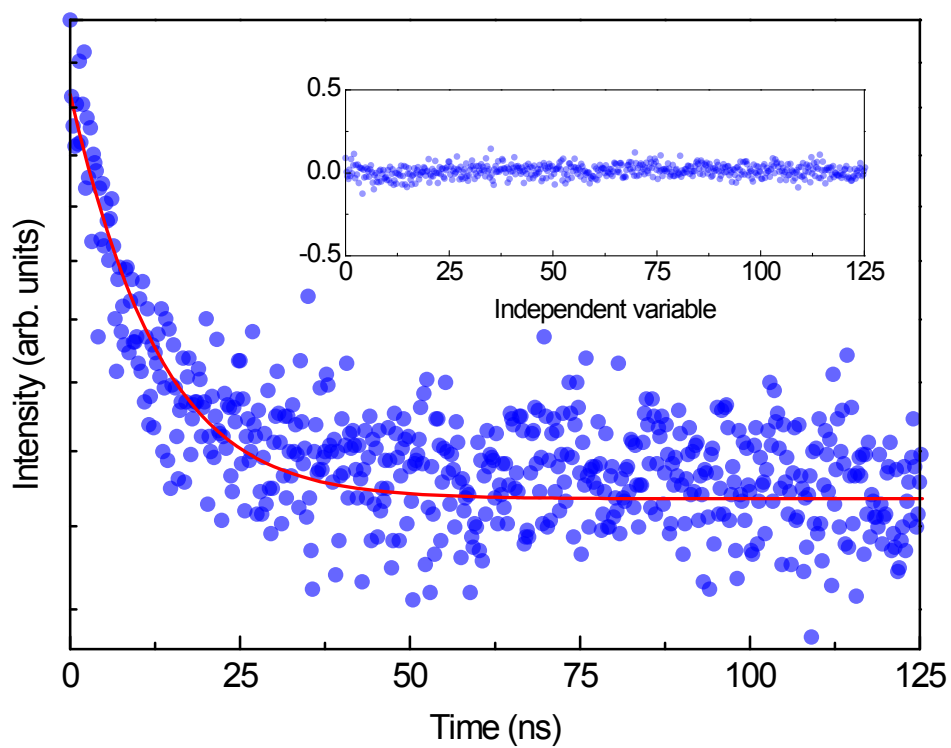
From the data presented in Tables 5.2 and 5.3, it is clear that a consideration of species beyond the immediate coordination environment (i.e. hydrogen-bonded water molecules and perchlorate anions) of the chelated crown ether molecule must also be considered for an accurate representation of the electronic structure of the  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$  centres within the crystal lattice. A complete analysis of the complexes was performed on models **1C** and **2C** which account for short-range electrostatic interactions between the positive dysprosium fragments and the surrounding molecules and perchlorate anions. These two models afford energy barriers that are in excellent agreement with the experimentally determined photoluminescence data. It should be noted that the theoretically calculated energy barrier for **(2)** is slightly larger than the experimentally

determined energy barriers, but this is consistent with the observations of Sessoli *et al.* for the Dy<sup>III</sup> DOTA complex.<sup>[5,6]</sup>

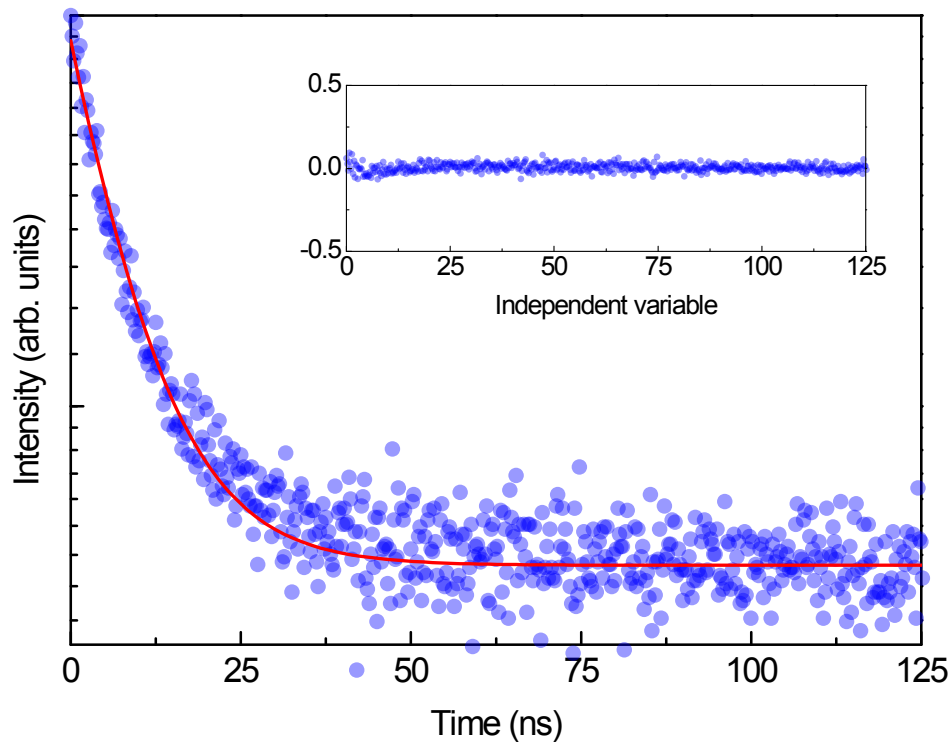
**Table 5.4** Angles (°) between the main magnetic axes ( $Z_m$ ) of subsequent states for the full models of complex **(1)** and **(2)** (**1C** and **2C**, respectively) where 1 refers to the electronic ground state and 2, 3, 4 etc. refer to subsequent excited electronic states.

|                  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Complex 1</b> | ---      | 55.5     | 54.0     | 32.4     | 114.2    | 56.3     | 65.0     | 66.2     |
| <b>Complex 2</b> | ---      | 72.5     | 86.7     | 95.3     | 77.1     | 106.3    | 21.5     | 122.1    |

## S-6 Photoluminescence data



**Figure 6.1.** Emission decay curve of **1** excited at 390 nm and monitored at 480 nm. The straight line is the data best fit using a single exponential function. The inset shows the fit residual plot for a better judgment of the fit quality.



**Figure 6.2.** Emission decay curve of **2** excited at 390 nm and monitored at 480 nm. The straight line is the data best fit using a single exponential function. The inset shows the fit residual plot for a better judgment of the fit quality.

**Figure 6.3.** (A) High-resolution emission spectra (14 K) for **2** excited at 351 nm. (B) Magnification of the  ${}^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{15/2}$  transition and multi-Gaussian functions envelope fit (solid circles) and the components arising from the first  ${}^4F_{9/2}$  Stark sublevel to the  ${}^6H_{15/2}$  multiplet in the energy interval 20950-21100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . (C) Regular residual plot ( $R^2 \sim 0.98$ ) for a better judgment of the fit quality.



## S-7 References

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