

**Electronic Supplementary Information for**

**Water-soluble lanthanide complexes with a helical ligand modified for strong luminescence in a wide pH region**

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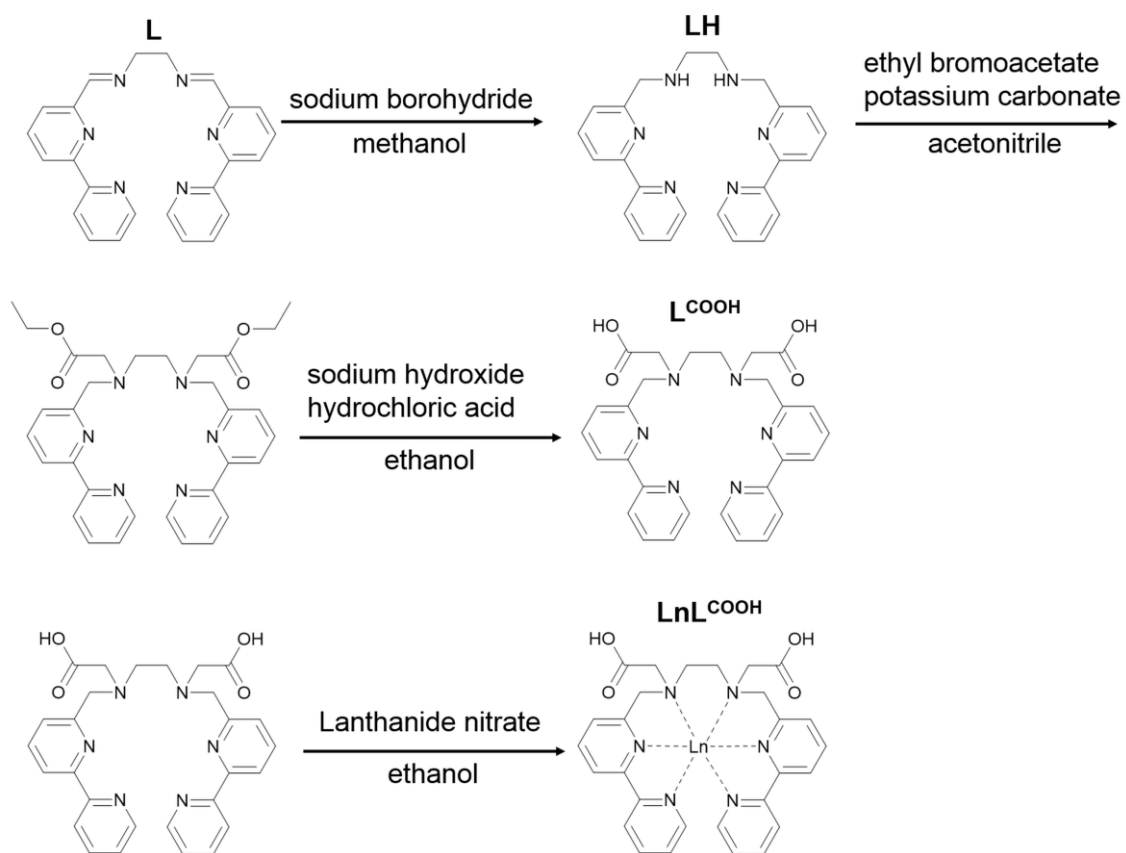
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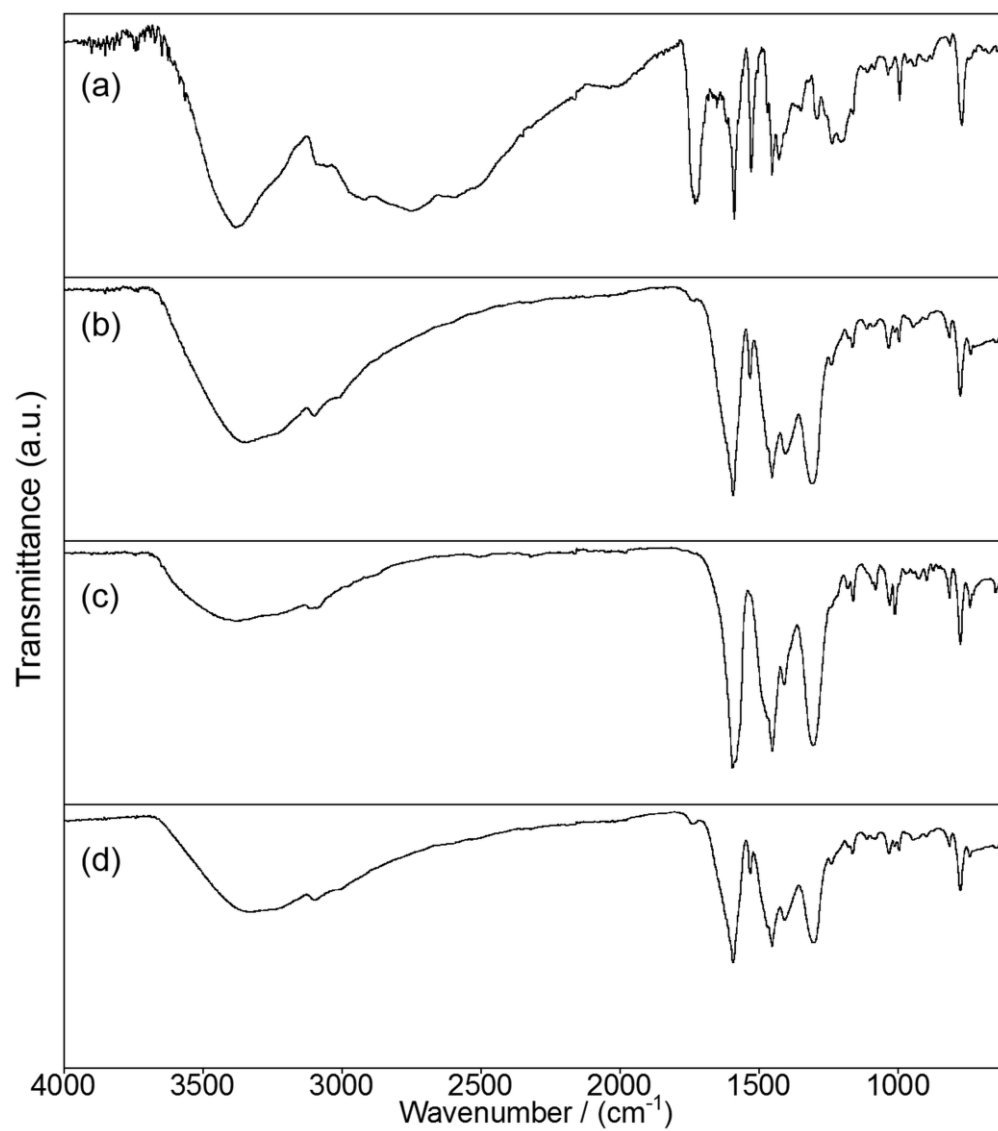
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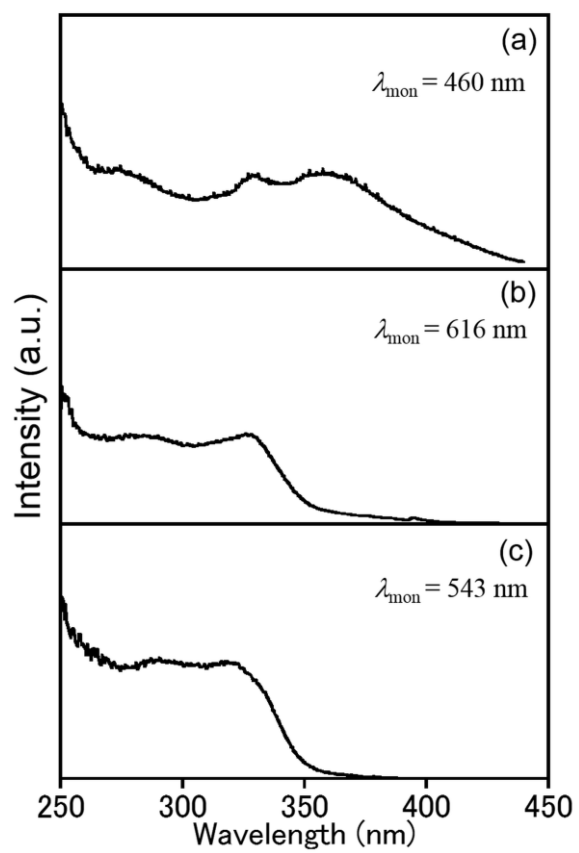
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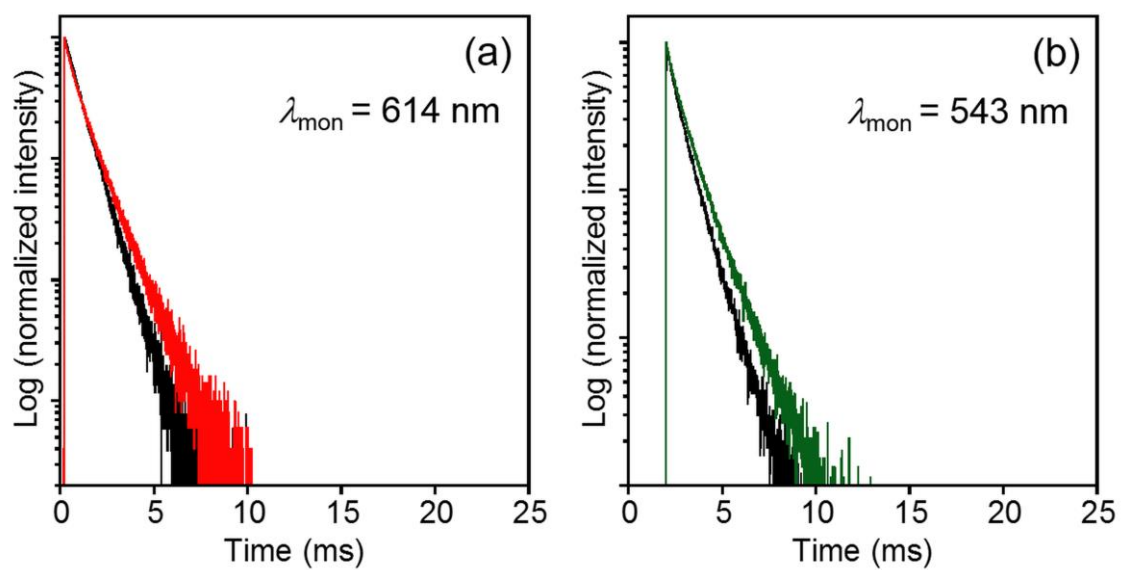
**Scheme S1** Syntheses of  $\text{L}^{\text{COOH}}$  and  $\text{LnL}^{\text{COOH}}$



**Fig. S1** Attenuated total reflection FT-IR spectra of L<sup>COOH</sup> (a), EuL<sup>COOH</sup> (b), GdL<sup>COOH</sup> (c), and TbL<sup>COOH</sup> (d).



**Fig. S2** Excitation spectra of LnL<sup>COOH</sup> in the solid state. Ln = Gd (a), Eu (b), and Tb (c).



**Fig. S3** Decay profiles for ff emission of EuL<sup>COOH</sup> (a) and TbL<sup>COOH</sup> (b) in the solid state at rt (black line) and 77 K (colored line).  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 280 \text{ nm}$ .

### Calculation of luminescence rate constants and efficiency of $\text{EuL}^{\text{COOH}}$ .

The total emission quantum yield of Eu sensitized by the ligand  $\text{L}^{\text{COOH}}$  ( $\phi_{\text{L-Ln}}$ ) is determined by the triplet yield of the ligand ( $\phi_{\text{ISC}}$ ), the efficiency of energy transfer ( $\eta_{\text{EnT}}$ ) and the efficiency of metal-centered luminescence ( $\phi_{\text{Ln}}$ ) as following equation.<sup>1</sup>

$$\phi_{\text{L-Ln}} = \phi_{\text{ISC}} \times \eta_{\text{EnT}} \times \phi_{\text{Ln}} \quad (1)$$

The value of  $\phi_{\text{ISC}}$  can be approximately 1, because of the  $n\pi^*$  character of the ligand and the high spin-orbit coupling constant of the lanthanid ion.<sup>2,3</sup>  $\phi_{\text{L-Ln}}$  can be calculated from radiative rate constant ( $k_{\text{R}}$ ) and non-radiative rate constant ( $k_{\text{NR}}$ ) the following equation.

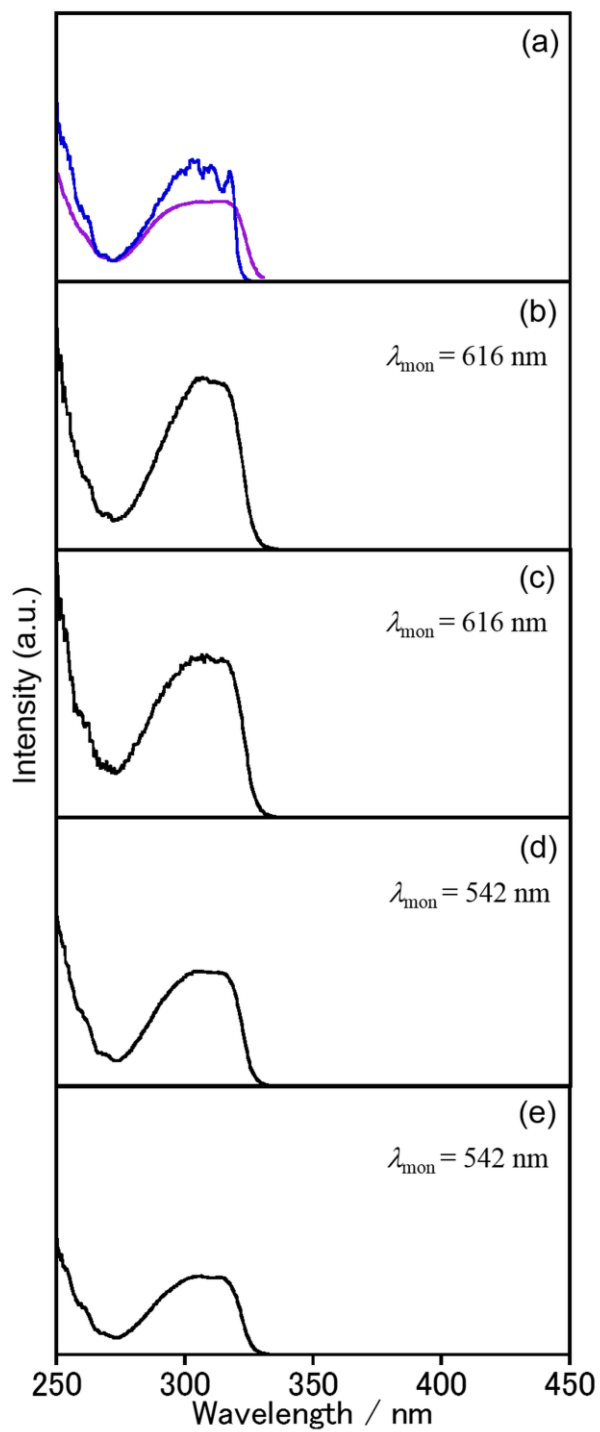
$$\phi_{\text{L-Ln}} = k_{\text{R}} / k_{\text{R}} + k_{\text{NR}} = k_{\text{R}} \times \tau_{\text{obs}} \quad (2)$$

The radiative rate constant can be calculated from equation (3).<sup>4,5</sup>

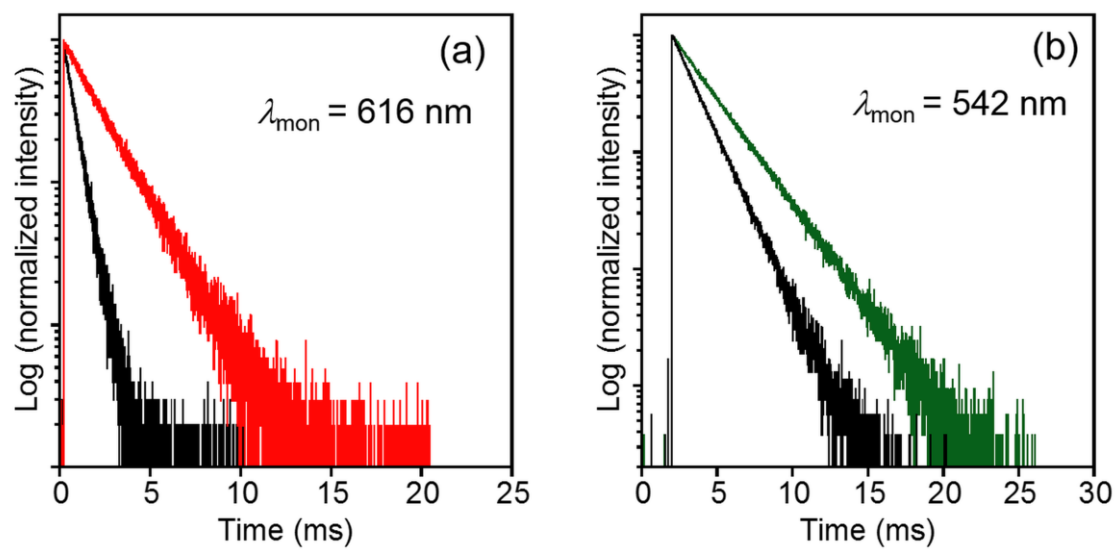
$$k_{\text{R}} = A_{\text{MD}} \times n^3 \times (I_{\text{tot}} / I_{\text{MD}}) \quad (3)$$

Where,  $A_{\text{MD}}$  is the spontaneous emission probability of the  ${}^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow {}^7\text{F}_1$  transition of Eu ion in vacuo,  $n$  is the refractive index,  $I_{\text{tot}} / I_{\text{MD}}$  represents the ratio of the total integrated intensity of the corrected Eu luminescence spectrum to the integrated intensity of the magnetic-dipole transition.

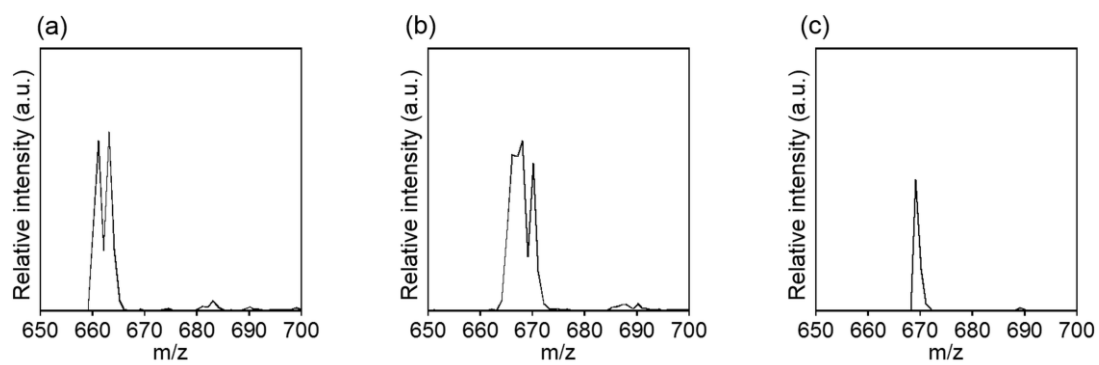




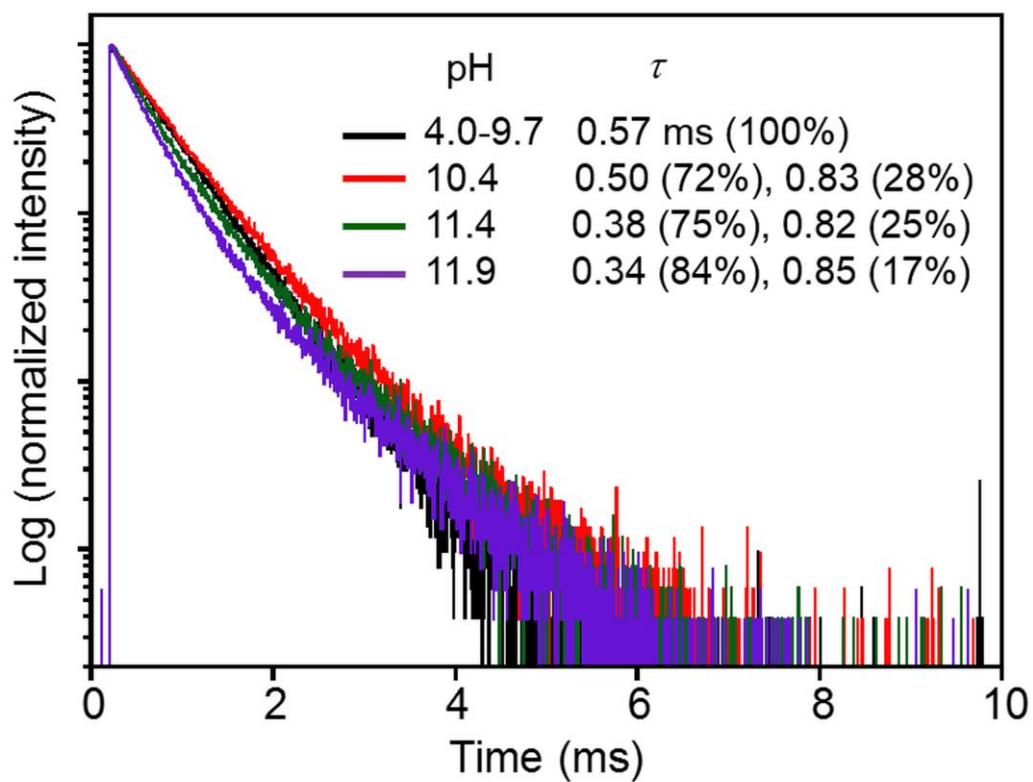
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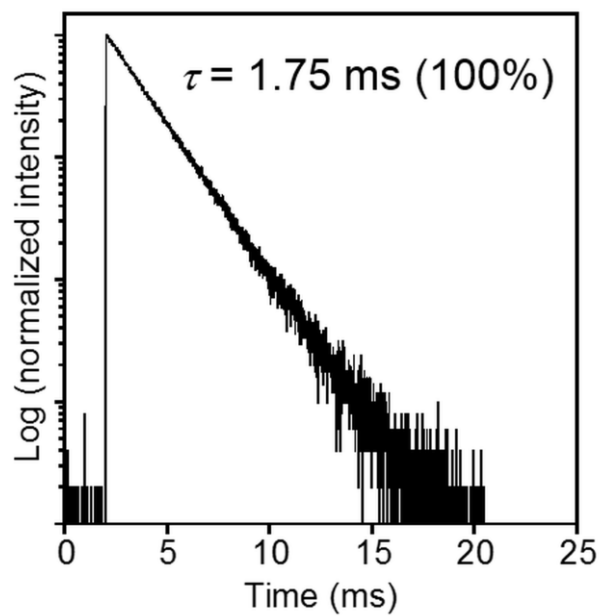
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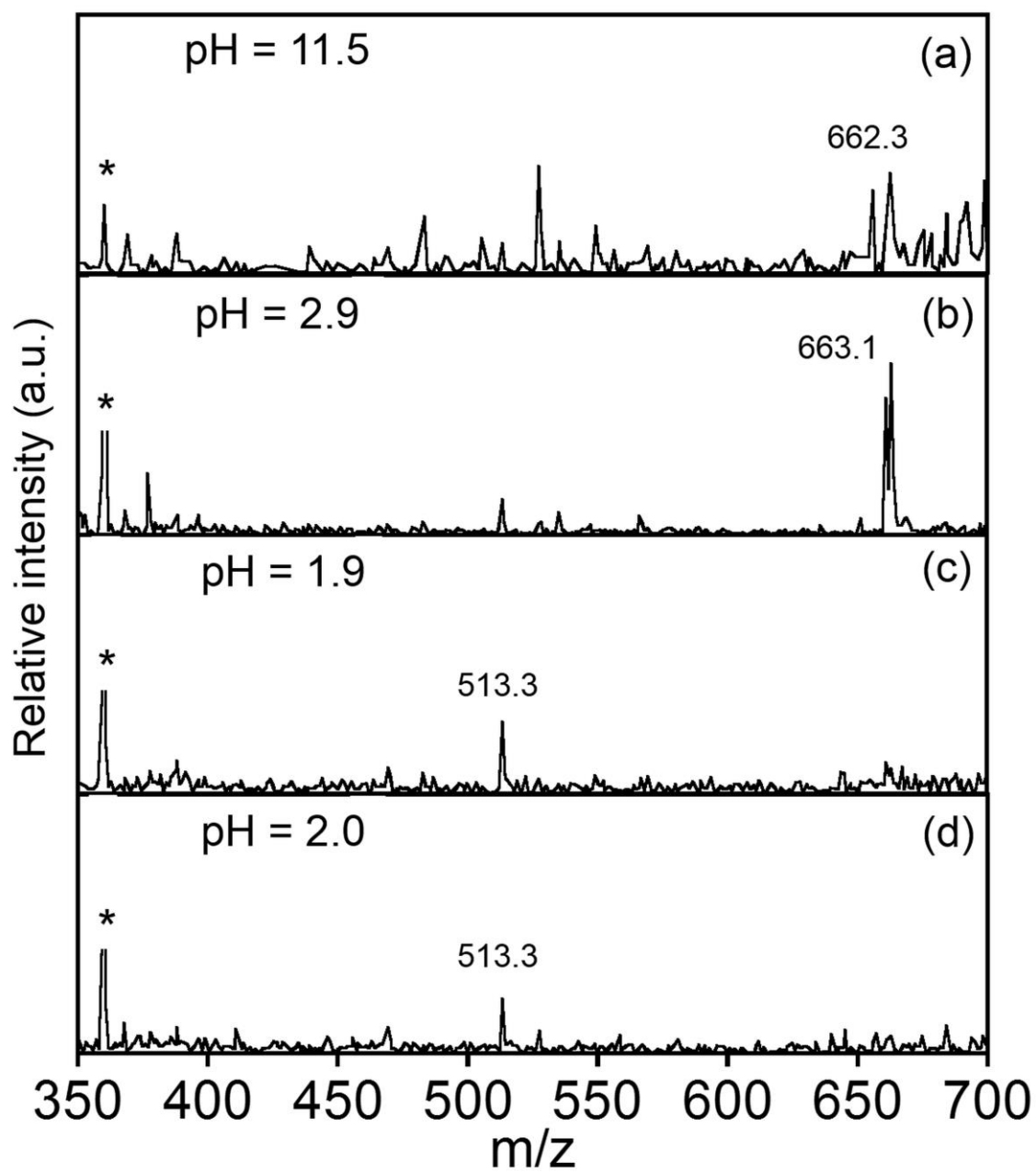
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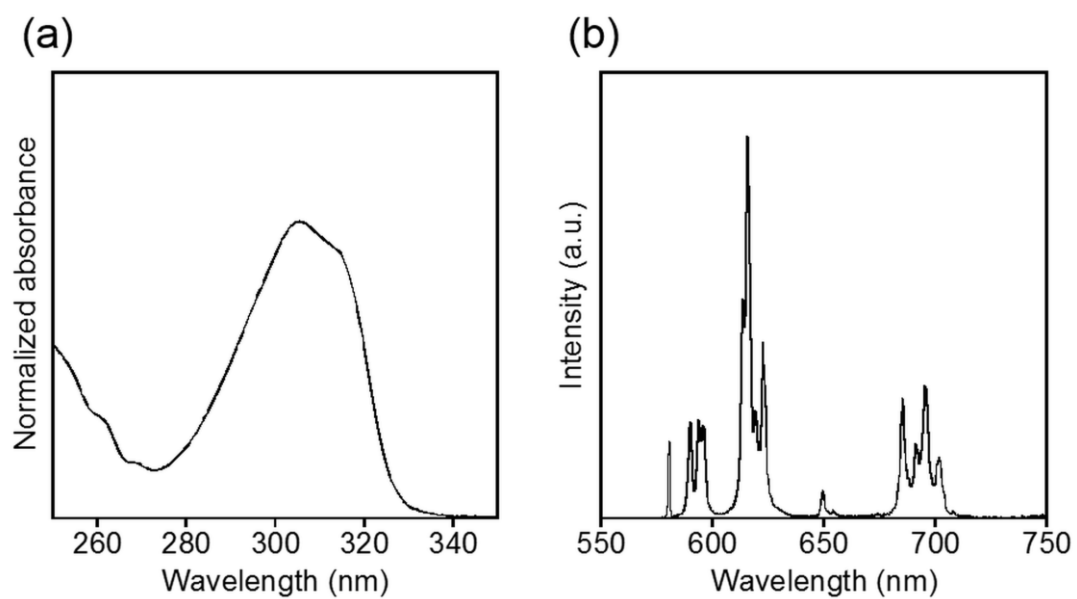
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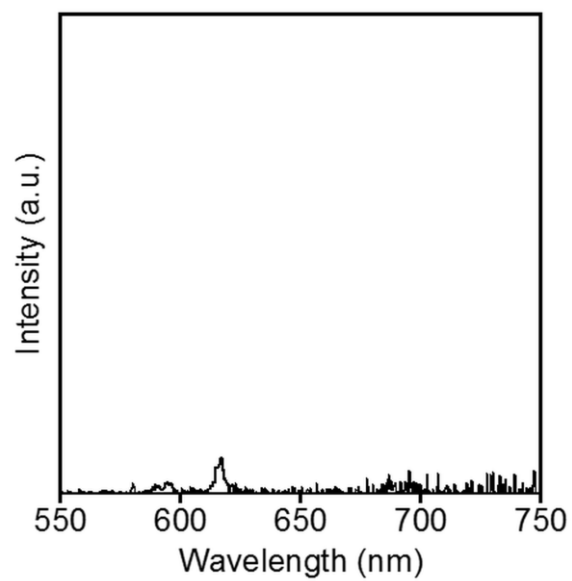
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**Fig. S9** ESI(+)-MS for the signals related to  $\text{EuL}^{\text{COOH}}$  in aqueous solution at various pH values.  $\text{L}^{\text{COOH}}$  in aqueous solution at pH 2.0 is shown in (d). \* is due to a fragment.

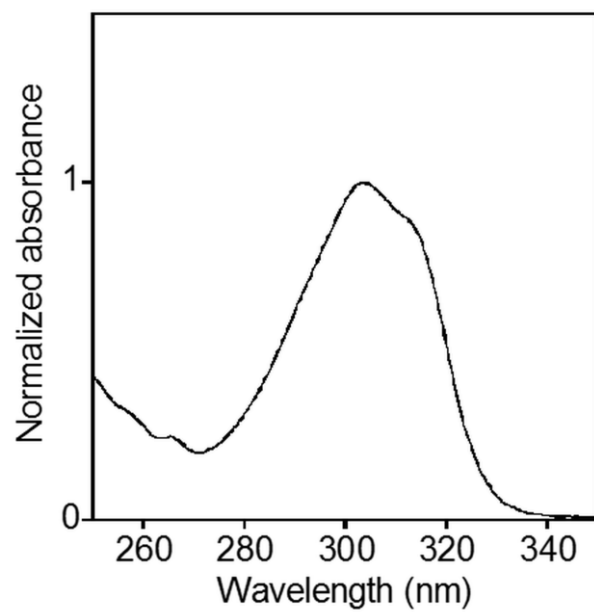


**Fig. S10** Electronic absorption (a) and luminescence spectrum (b) of EuL<sup>COOH</sup> at pH 3.5 after adjustment by hydrochloric acid from pH 11.9.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 315$  nm.

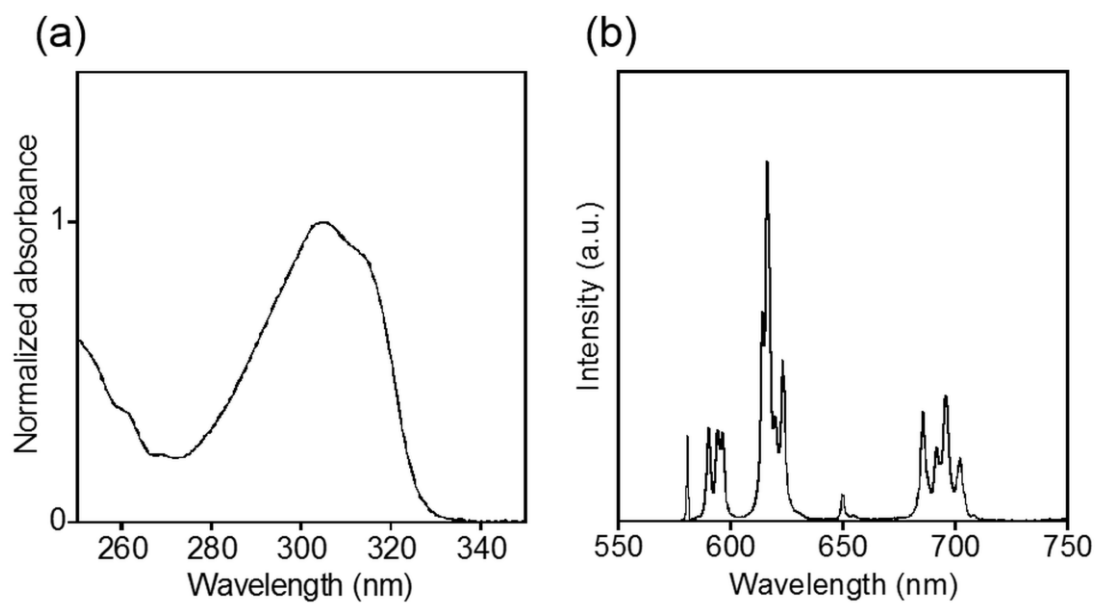


**Fig. S11** Luminescence spectrum of EuL<sup>COOH</sup> in aqueous solution at pH 2.1.  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 315$  nm.

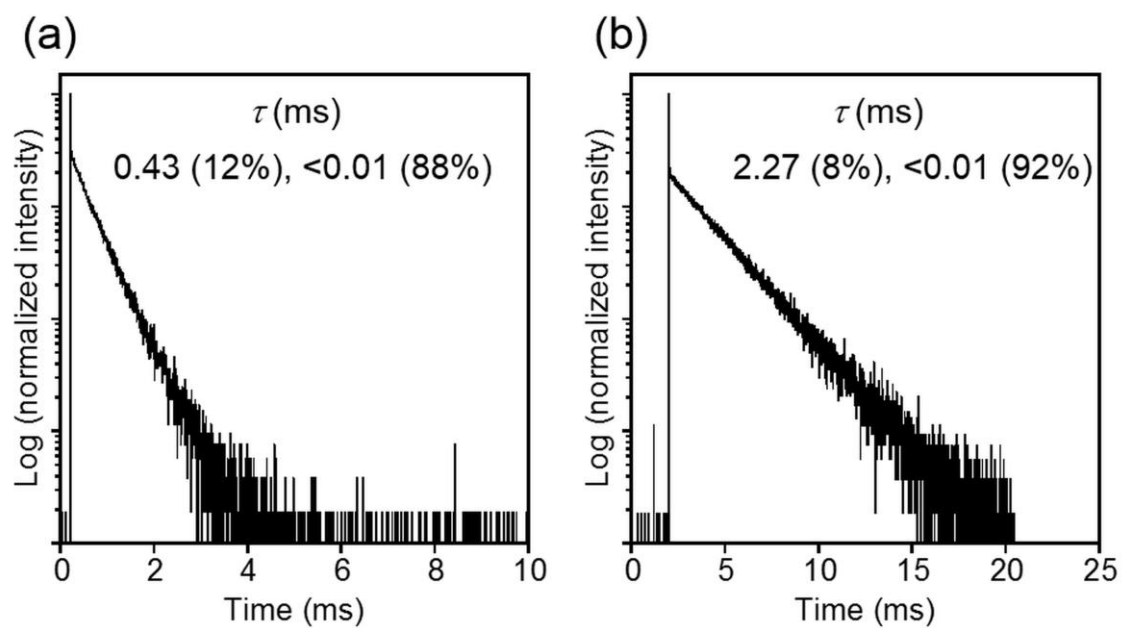




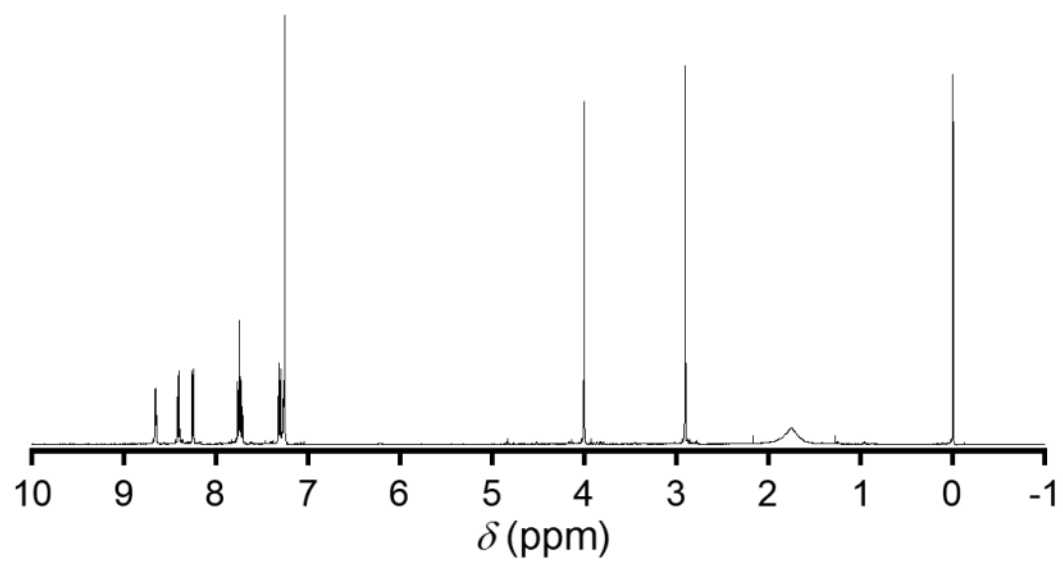
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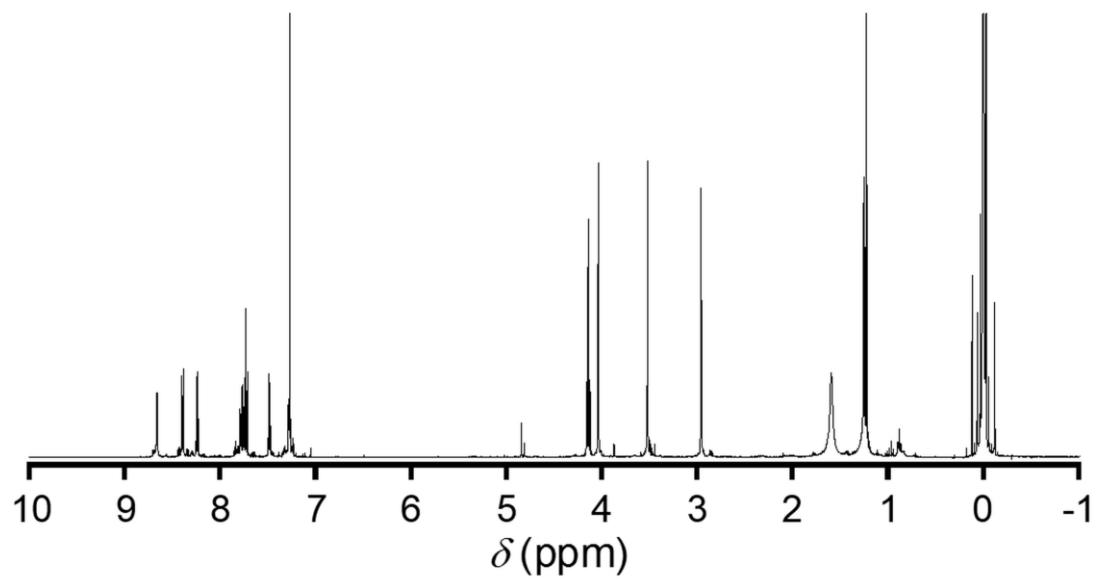
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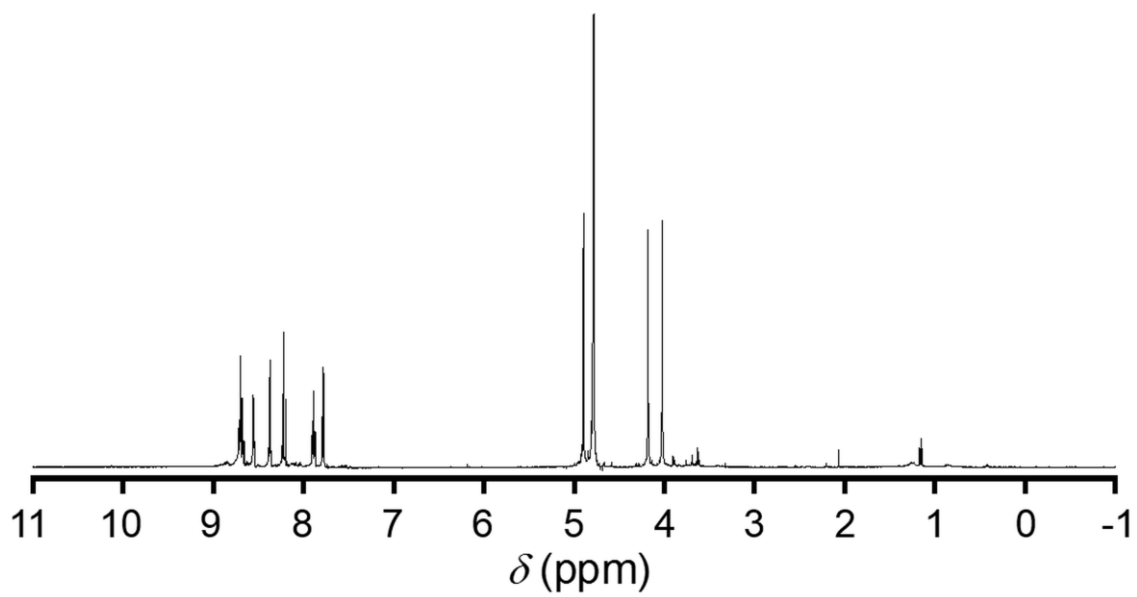
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**Fig. S15** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of LH in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (TMS).



**Fig. S16**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  of  $\text{L}^{\text{COOEt}}$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (TMS).



**Fig. S17**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  of  $\text{L}^{\text{COOH}}$  in  $\text{methanol-d}_4$ .

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