

## Supporting Information

Two {Zn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Dy<sup>III</sup>} complexes supported by monophenoxido/dicarboxylates bridges with multiple relaxation processes: carboxylato ancillary ligands controlled magnetic anisotropy in square antiprismatic Dy<sup>III</sup> species

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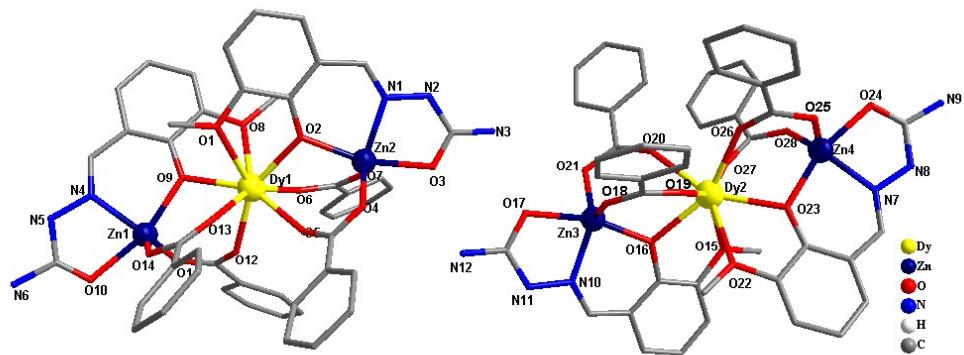
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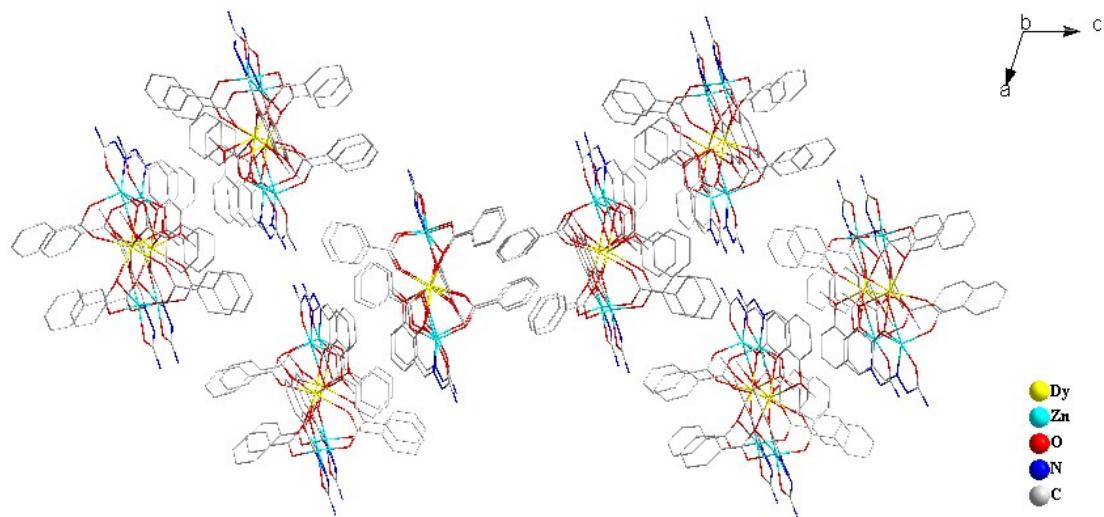
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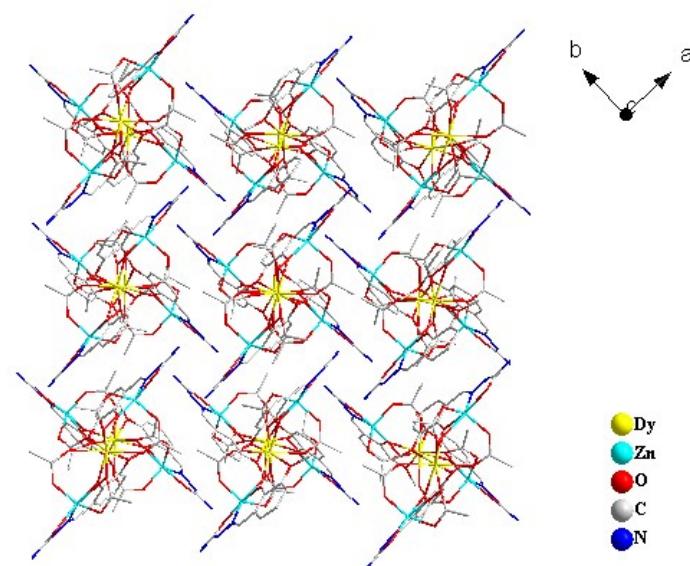
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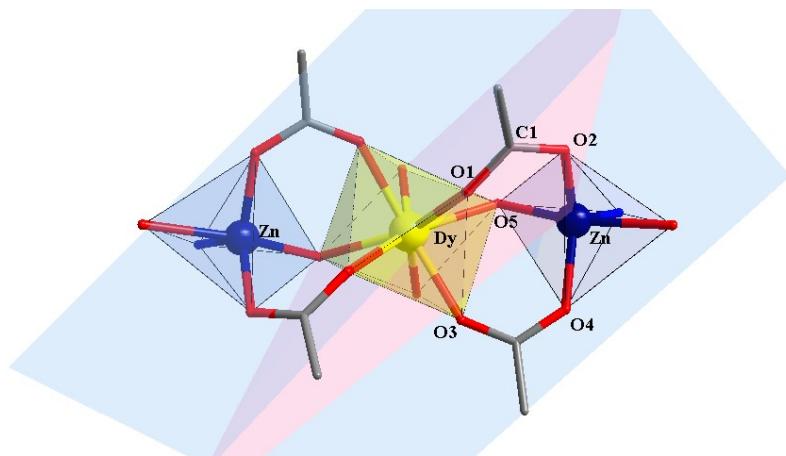
**Figure S1.** Dy1 and Dy2 enantiomers of complex 1.



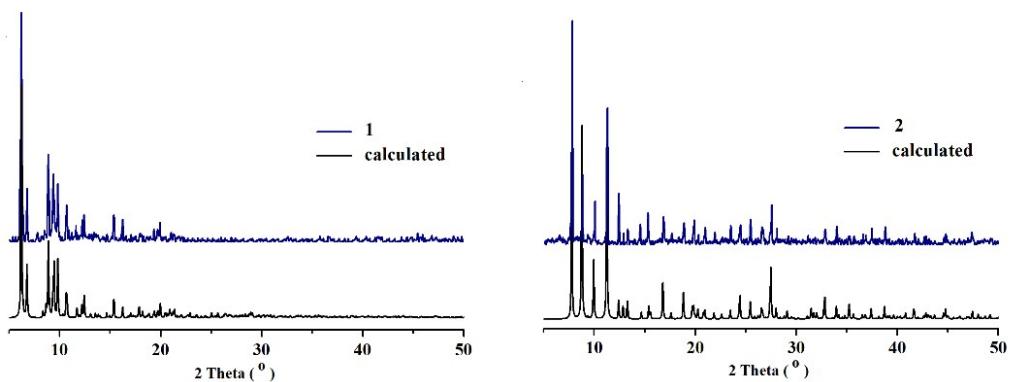
**Figure S2.** The packing diagrams along crystallographic axes for 1.



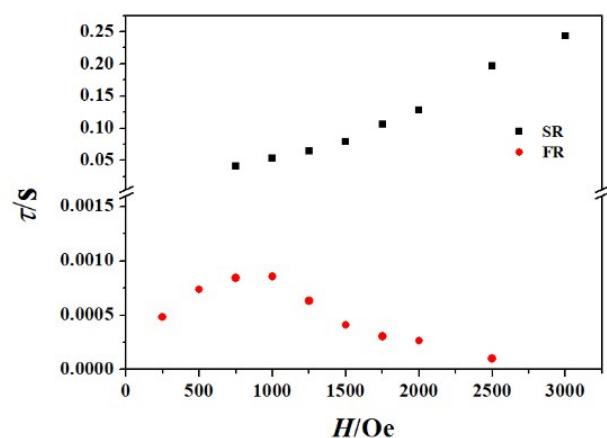
**Figure S3.** The packing diagrams along crystallographic axes for **2**.



**Figure S4.** The schematic diagram of distortion of carboxylate groups and a stretched Dy-O<sub>phenoxo</sub> distance of **1** and **2**. Large dihedral angle composed by Dy-O1-C1 and C1-O2-Zn are to be 63.627°, 65.626°, 71.776° and 63.744° in **1a**, **1b**, **2a** and **2b**, respectively (**2a** and **2b** are two disordered structures of complex **2**).

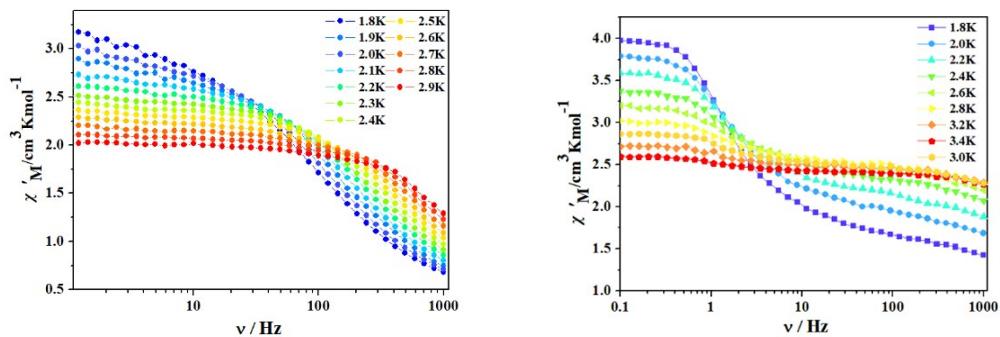


**Figure S5.** PXRD curves for **1-2**.

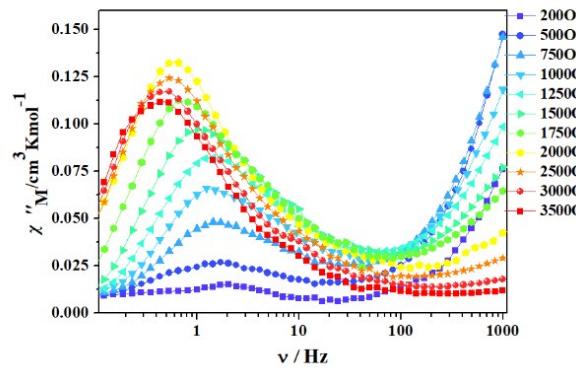


**Figure S6.** Field dependence of the magnetic relaxation time at 2 K for two relaxation processes

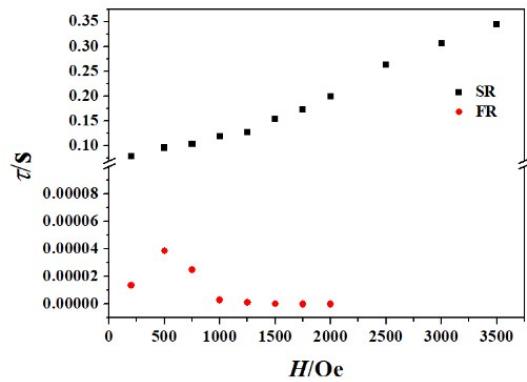
(SR and FR) of complex **1**.



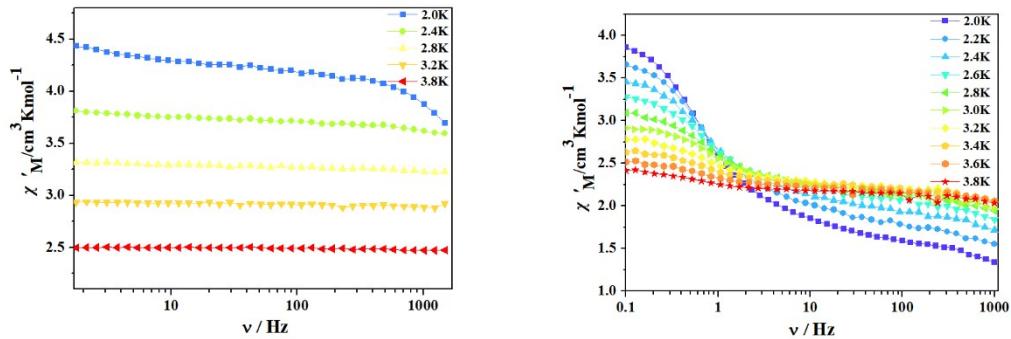
**Figure S7.** Field dependence of the in-phase signal ( $\chi'$ ) under (a) 500 Oe and (b) 20000 Oe dc field for **1**.



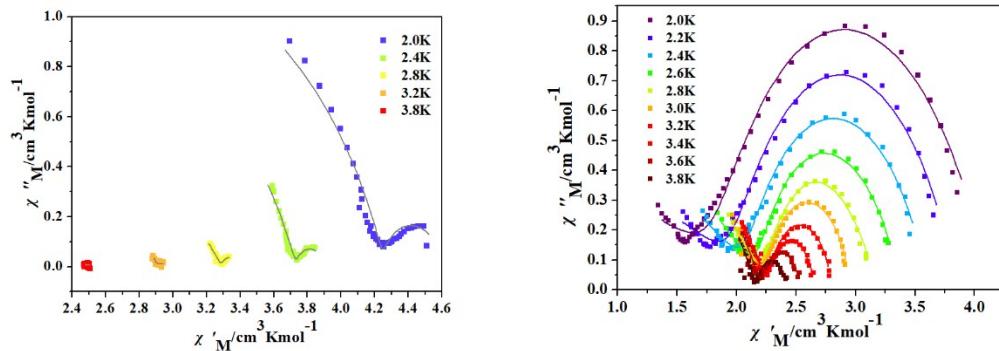
**Figure S8.** Field dependence of the out-of-phase signal vs frequency at 2 K for **2**.



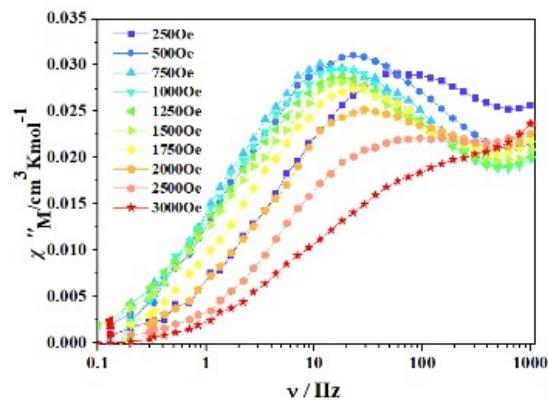
**Figure S9.** Field dependence of the magnetic relaxation time at 2 K for two relaxation processes (SR and FR) of complex **2**.



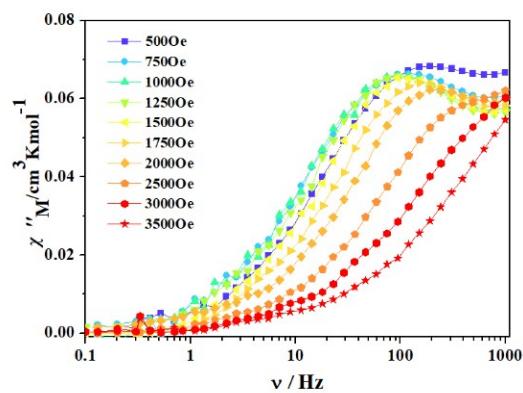
**Figure S10.** Field dependence of the in-phase signal ( $\chi'$ ) under (a) 500 Oe and (b) 2000Oe dc field for **2**.



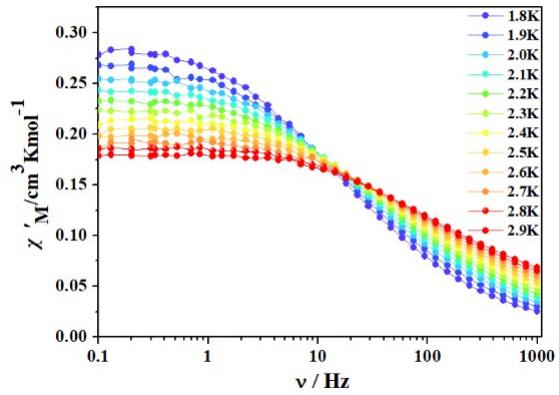
**Figure S11.** Cole-Cole plots under (a) 500 Oe and (b) 2000Oe dc field for **2**. Solid lines in Cole-Cole plots are fitting results by the sum of two modified Debye functions.



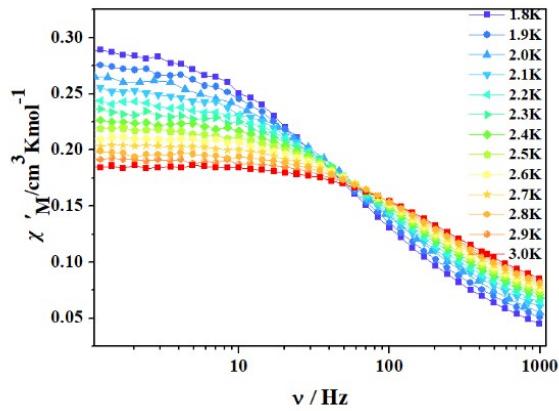
**Figure S12.** Field dependence of the out-of-phase signal *vs* frequency at 2 K for **1'**.



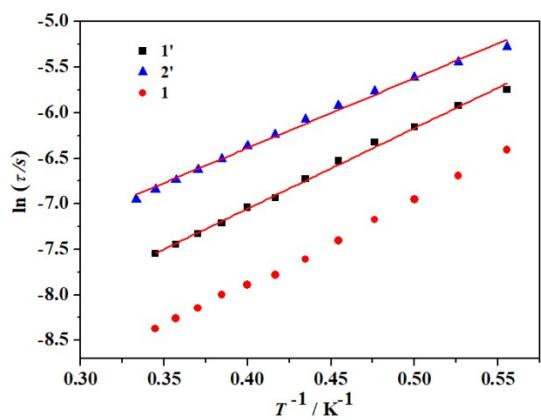
**Figure S13.** Field dependence of the out-of-phase signal vs frequency at 2 K for **2'**.



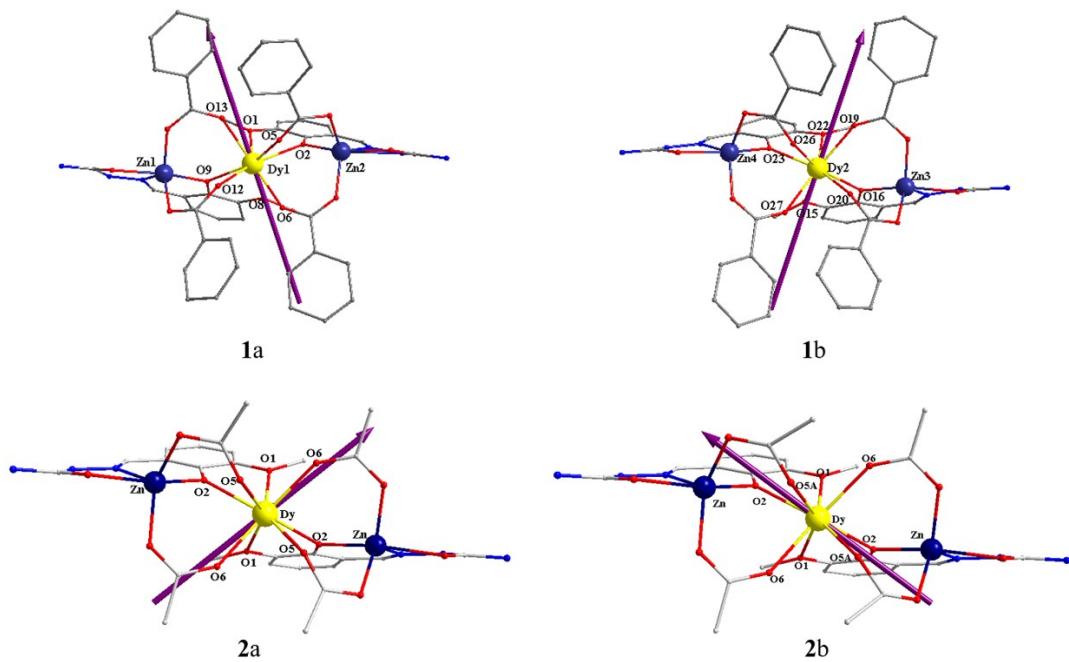
**Figure S14.** Field dependence of the in-phase signal ( $\chi'$ ) under 500 Oe dc field for **1'**.



**Figure S15.** Field dependence of the in-phase signal ( $\chi'$ ) under 500 Oe dc field for **2'**.



**Figure S16.** The Arrhenius plots under the optimized dc field for **1'** and **2'**. The solid lines represent the fitting with the Arrhenius law.



**Figure S17.** Direction of the *ab initio* magnetic easy axis of the ground KDs of the two possible geometry configurations of complexes **1** and **2**.

**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement summary for complexes **1** and **2**.

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>106</sub> H <sub>90</sub> Dy <sub>2</sub> N <sub>12</sub> O <sub>32</sub> Zn <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>38</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> DyZn <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	2630.37	1063.90
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Tetragonal
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub>	<i>P</i> 4 <sub>2</sub> /n
<i>a</i> (Å)	21.333(5)	14.2398(17)
<i>b</i> (Å)	10.771(2)	14.2398(17)
<i>c</i> (Å)	27.313(6)	18.844(2)
$\alpha$ (°)	90	90
$\beta$ (°)	106.737(4)	90
$\gamma$ (°)	90	90
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	6010(2)	3820.9(10)
<i>Z</i>	2	4
<i>D<sub>c</sub></i> (g m <sup>-3</sup> )	1.454	1.849
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	2.090	3.265
<i>F</i> (000)	2636.0	2120.0
Reflns collected/unique	30261 / 20328	22174 / 4412
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0525	0.0548
GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.944	1.018
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> <sup>a</sup> [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	0.0581	0.0552
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> <sup>b</sup> (all data)	0.1344	0.1966
Flack factor	0.025(18)	
CCDC	1818259	1818260

<sup>a</sup>*R*<sub>1</sub> = Σ(|*F*<sub>o</sub>| - |*F*<sub>c</sub>|)/Σ|*F*<sub>o</sub>|. <sup>b</sup>*wR*<sub>2</sub> = [Σ*w*(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> - *F*<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sup>2</sup>/Σ*w*(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sup>2</sup>]<sup>1/2</sup>.

**Table S2.** Selected bond distance (Å) and bond angle (°) for **1** and **2**.

Complex <b>1</b>			
Dy1-O9	2.346(10)	O9-Dy1-O1	75.6(4)
Dy1-O12	2.322(11)	O9-Dy1-O8	64.8(4)
Dy1-O1	2.524(11)	O12-Dy1-O9	76.2(4)
Dy1-O2	2.346(10)	O12-Dy1-O1	141.9(4)
Dy1-O6	2.280(11)	O12-Dy1-O2	152.5(4)
Dy1-O13	2.267(12)	O12-Dy1-O8	117.0(4)
Dy1-O5	2.296(12)	O2-Dy1-O9	130.2(4)
Dy1-O8	2.494(12)	O2-Dy1-O1	63.4(4)
Dy2-O25	2.272(11)	O2-Dy1-O8	76.1(4)
Dy2-O22	2.312(12)	O6-Dy1-O9	109.3(4)
Dy2-O19	2.347(11)	O6-Dy1-O12	78.5(4)
Dy2-O18	2.505(11)	O6-Dy1-O1	135.4(4)
Dy2-O23	2.285(12)	O6-Dy1-O2	84.1(4)
Dy2-O16	2.367(10)	O6-Dy1-O5	81.0(4)
Dy2-O27	2.324(11)	O6-Dy1-O8	71.1(4)

Dy2-O15	2.504(12)	O13-Dy1-O9	84.1(4)
Zn3-O21	1.994(11)	O13-Dy1-O12	81.7(4)
Zn3-O24	1.939(12)	O13-Dy1-O1	70.4(4)
Zn3-O17	2.104(13)	O13-Dy1-O2	106.0(4)
Zn3-O16	2.067(12)	O13-Dy1-O6	152.4(4)
Zn3-N10	2.067(14)	O13-Dy1-O5	76.5(5)
Zn1-O9	2.116(11)	O13-Dy1-O8	135.9(4)
Zn1-N4	2.081(14)	O5-Dy1-O9	150.5(4)
Zn1-O14	1.939(11)	O5-Dy1-O12	79.1(4)
Zn1-O10	2.175(11)	O5-Dy1-O1	117.1(4)
Zn1-O11	1.950(11)	O5-Dy1-O2	77.2(4)
Zn2-O3	2.159(12)	O5-Dy1-O8	142.9(4)
Zn2-O2	2.077(11)	O8-Dy1-O1	72.0(4)
Zn2-O4	1.968(12)	O25-Dy2-O22	78.0(4)
Zn2-O7	1.946(12)	O25-Dy2-O19	82.8(4)
Zn2-N1	2.062(15)	O25-Dy2-O18	135.5(4)
Zn4-O19	2.104(12)	O25-Dy2-O23	152.7(4)
Zn4-O28	1.968(12)	O25-Dy2-O16	106.5(4)
Zn4-O26	1.936(14)	O25-Dy2-O27	82.5(4)
Zn4-N7	2.054(17)	O25-Dy2-O15	69.7(4)
Zn4-O20	2.137(14)	O22-Dy2-O19	152.0(4)
O19-Dy2-O15	73.7(4)	O22-Dy2-O18	141.4(4)
O23-Dy2-O22	80.6(4)	O22-Dy2-O16	74.7(4)
O23-Dy2-O19	110.1(4)	O22-Dy2-O27	82.2(4)
O23-Dy2-O18	70.9(4)	O22-Dy2-O15	117.2(4)
O23-Dy2-O16	83.7(4)	O19-Dy2-O18	65.2(4)
O23-Dy2-O27	78.0(4)	O19-Dy2-O16	130.8(4)
O23-Dy2-O15	136.2(4)	O16-Dy2-O18	76.8(4)
O16-Dy2-O15	65.5(4)	O27-Dy2-O16	152.6(4)
O27-Dy2-O19	75.3(4)	O27-Dy2-O15	140.4(4)
O27-Dy2-O18	115.4(4)	O15-Dy2-O18	72.1(4)

Complex 2			
Dy1-O2	2.318(5)	O6-Dy1-O6 <sup>1</sup>	156.5(3)
Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	2.318(5)	O5 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	75.3(3)
Dy1-O1	2.532(5)	O5 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O2	148.1(3)
Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	2.531(5)	O5-Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	148.1(3)
Dy1-O6	2.305(6)	O5-Dy1-O2	75.3(3)
Dy1-O6 <sup>1</sup>	2.305(6)	O5-Dy1-O1	118.8(5)
Dy1-O5 <sup>1</sup>	2.294(7)	O5 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	118.8(5)

Dy1-O5	2.294(7)	O5-Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	144.5(5)
Dy1-O5A <sup>1</sup>	2.285(15)	O5 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1	144.5(5)
Dy1-O5A	2.285(15)	O5 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O6 <sup>1</sup>	81.6(6)
Zn1-O2	2.104(5)	O5-Dy1-O6	81.6(6)
Zn1-O3	2.185(5)	O5-Dy1-O6 <sup>1</sup>	79.9(6)
Zn1-O7	1.952(6)	O5 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O6	79.9(6)
Zn1-N1	2.073(7)	O5-Dy1-O5 <sup>1</sup>	76.5(6)
Zn1-O4	1.983(8)	O5A <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O2	144.7(9)
Zn1-O4A	1.977(15)	O5A <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	74.7(8)
O2-Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	135.6(2)	O5A-Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	144.7(9)
O2-Dy1-O1	64.71(18)	O5A-Dy1-O2	74.7(8)
O2 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	64.71(18)	O5A <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1	150.6(9)
O2 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1	78.67(18)	O5A-Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	150.6(9)
O2-Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	78.67(18)	O5A <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	109.5(11)
O1 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1	68.9(3)	O5A-Dy1-O1	109.5(11)
O6-Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	107.5(2)	O5A <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O6	69.8(11)
O6 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O2	107.5(2)	O5A <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O6 <sup>1</sup>	92.7(12)
O6 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O2 <sup>1</sup>	81.59(19)	O5A-Dy1-O6 <sup>1</sup>	69.8(11)
O6-Dy1-O2	81.60(19)	O5A-Dy1-O6	92.7(12)
O6-Dy1-O1	131.4(2)	O5A-Dy1-O5A <sup>1</sup>	86.1(19)
O6-Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	71.0(2)	O6 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1 <sup>1</sup>	131.4(2)
O6 <sup>1</sup> -Dy1-O1	71.0(2)		

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

<sup>1</sup>1/2-X,3/2-Y,+Z

**Table S3.** Shape analysis for the metal centers of **1**.

ML8	SAPR-8	TDD-8	JSD-8	JBTPR-8	BTPR-8
Dy1	<b>0.674</b>	1.892	3.972	2.310	2.029
Dy2	<b>0.598</b>	1.827	4.178	2.398	1.945

**Table S4.** Shape analysis for the metal centers of **2**.

ML8	SAPR-8	TDD-8	JSD-8	JBTPR-8	BTPR-8
Dy1	<b>0.768</b>	2.207	3.869	3.869	2.152

SAPR-8 ( $D_{4d}$ ): Square antiprism

TDD-8 ( $D_{2d}$ ): Triangular dodecahedron

JSD-8 ( $D_{2d}$ ): Snub diphenoid J84

JBTPR-8 ( $C_{2v}$ ): Biaugmented trigonal prism J50

BTPR-8 ( $C_{2v}$ ): Biaugmented trigonal prism

**Table S5.** *Ab initio* computed relative energies (in cm<sup>-1</sup>), principal values of the g-tensors and averaged transition magnetic moment  $\mu_{\text{QTM}}$  (in  $\beta$ ) of the four lowest KDs of the complexes studied in this work.

		<b>1a</b>	<b>1b</b>	<b>2a</b>	<b>2b</b>
KD <sub>0</sub>	<i>E</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<i>g<sub>Z</sub></i>	18.342	19.058	18.678	17.879
	<i>g<sub>X</sub></i>	0.514	0.306	0.865	0.010
	<i>g<sub>Y</sub></i>	1.504	0.861	1.499	0.384
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub></i>	1.590	0.914	1.731	0.384
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub>/g<sub>Z</sub></i>	0.087	0.047	0.093	0.021
	$\mu_{\text{QTM}}$	0.337	0.195	0.394	0.066
KD <sub>1</sub>	<i>E</i>	35.5	61.2	32.1	47.1
	<i>g<sub>Z</sub></i>	14.692	13.920	13.617	17.589
	<i>g<sub>X</sub></i>	1.359	1.279	1.336	0.809
	<i>g<sub>Y</sub></i>	3.269	2.302	2.619	0.869
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub></i>	3.541	2.633	2.940	1.187
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub>/g<sub>Z</sub></i>	0.241	0.189	0.216	0.068
	$\mu_{\text{QTM}}$	0.772	0.597	0.659	0.280
KD <sub>2</sub>	<i>E</i>	79.8	101.5	74.7	78.5
	<i>g<sub>Z</sub></i>	11.691	13.394	13.039	9.403
	<i>g<sub>X</sub></i>	0.430	0.156	0.506	4.158
	<i>g<sub>Y</sub></i>	1.602	2.977	1.381	6.232
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub></i>	1.659	2.981	1.471	7.491
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub>/g<sub>Z</sub></i>	0.142	0.223	0.113	0.797
	$\mu_{\text{QTM}}$	0.339	0.522	0.315	1.732
KD <sub>3</sub>	<i>E</i>	98.1	121.0	92.0	88.5
	<i>g<sub>Z</sub></i>	11.399	2.865	10.151	0.319
	<i>g<sub>X</sub></i>	2.659	5.652	1.009	11.970
	<i>g<sub>Y</sub></i>	4.360	5.213	2.530	6.734
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub></i>	5.107	7.689	2.724	13.740
	<i>g<sub>XY</sub>/g<sub>Z</sub></i>	0.448	2.683	0.268	43.070
	$\mu_{\text{QTM}}$	1.170	1.811	0.590	3.118

**Table S6.** The negative charges of the O atoms in the first sphere (in |e|) from *ab initio* calculations and the related Dy-O bond lengths (in Å)<sup>a</sup>

<b>1a</b>	O <sub>6</sub> -ax	O <sub>13</sub> -ax	O <sub>2</sub> -Zn	O <sub>9</sub> -Zn	O <sub>5</sub> -car	O <sub>12</sub> -car	O <sub>1</sub> -alk	O <sub>8</sub> -alk
Charge	0.759	0.731	0.869	0.850	0.780	0.778	0.428	0.445
Dy-O	2.293	2.286	2.348	2.342	2.308	2.341	2.555	2.506
$\theta^b$	12.67	14.86						
<b>1b</b>	O <sub>19</sub> -ax	O <sub>27</sub> -ax	O <sub>16</sub> -Zn	O <sub>23</sub> -Zn	O <sub>20</sub> -car	O <sub>26</sub> -car	O <sub>15</sub> -alk	O <sub>22</sub> -alk
Charge	0.762	0.796	0.903	0.851	0.772	0.748	0.452	0.442
Dy-O	2.281	2.270	2.366	2.347	2.286	2.304	2.472	2.493
$\theta$	8.09	19.76						
<b>2a</b>	O <sub>6</sub> -ax	O <sub>6</sub> -ax	O <sub>2</sub> -Zn	O <sub>2</sub> -Zn	O <sub>5</sub> -car	O <sub>5</sub> -car	O <sub>1</sub> -alk	O <sub>1</sub> -alk
Charge	0.766	0.766	0.872	0.872	0.762	0.762	0.443	0.443
Dy-O	2.305	2.305	2.318	2.318	2.294	2.294	2.532	2.532

$\theta$	14.35							
<b>2b</b>	O <sub>2</sub> -ax	O <sub>2</sub> -ax	O <sub>6</sub> -car	O <sub>6</sub> -car	O <sub>5A</sub> -car	O <sub>5A</sub> -car	O <sub>1</sub> -alk	O <sub>1</sub> -alk
Charge	0.864	0.864	0.761	0.761	0.815	0.815	0.441	0.441
Dy-O	2.356	2.356	2.294	2.294	2.285	2.285	2.532	2.532
$\theta$	23.85							

<sup>a</sup> “-ax” means the O atoms at the axial position, “-Zn” means the O atoms connected with Zn atom, “-car” means the O atoms from the carboxy group, “-alk” means the alkoxy O atoms. b the angle between the magnetic easy axis and a given Dy-O bond (in °)