

Supporting informations for

**The time-resolved fluorescence study of kinetics and thermodynamics of Eu(III) and Tb(III) complexes with the do2a macrocyclic ligand**

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**Table S1.** Consecutive protonation constants of H<sub>2</sub>do2a and their stability constant of their Ln(III) complexes (25 °C).

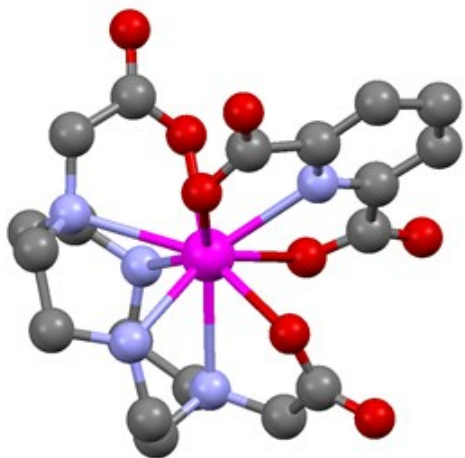
Constant	Ref. [1] <sup>a</sup>	Ref. [2] <sup>a</sup>	Ref. [2] <sup>a</sup>	Ref. [3] <sup>a,b</sup>	Ref. 4] <sup>d</sup>
logK <sub>HL</sub>	11.45	11.38	10.91	10.94	10.91;10.94
logK <sub>H2L</sub>	9.54	9.62	9.45	9.55	9.45; 9.54
logK <sub>H3L</sub>	4.00	3.95	4.09	3.85	4.09; 3.85
logK <sub>H4L</sub>	2.36	2.62	3.18	2.55	3.18; 2.55
logK <sub>H5L</sub>	<2.3	---	---	---	---
logK <sub>H6L</sub>	<2.3	---	---	---	---
Ionic strength	0.1 M (NMe <sub>4</sub> )ClO <sub>4</sub>	0.1 M (NMe <sub>4</sub> )Cl	0.1 M KCl	0.1 M (NMe <sub>4</sub> )Cl	0.1 M KCl
logK <sub>LaL</sub>	---	16.6		10.94	---
logK <sub>CeL</sub>	---	---		11.31	11.3
logK <sub>EuL</sub>	---	---		12.99	---
logK <sub>GdL</sub>	---	19.4; 19.1		13.06	---
logK <sub>TbL</sub>	---	---		12.93	---
logK <sub>YbL</sub>	---	20.6		13.26	13.4
logK <sub>CaL</sub>	---	7.8		7.16	---

<sup>a</sup> Potentiometry, <sup>b</sup> Capillary zone electrophoresis, <sup>c</sup> Spectrophotometry

## References:

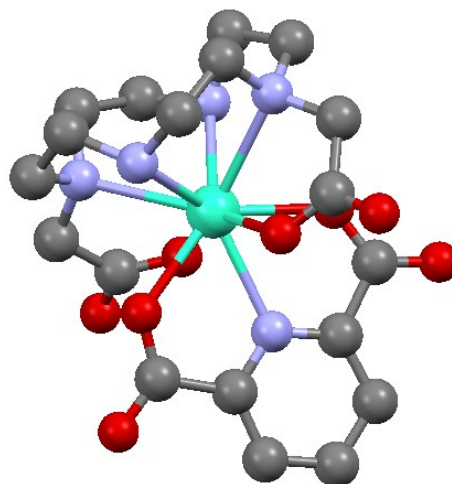
- [1] J. Weeks, M.R. Taylor, K.P. Wainwright, *Dalton Trans* **1997**, 317 – 322.
- [2] J. Huskens, D.A. Torres, Z. Kovacs, J.P.Andre, C.F.G.C. Geraldes, A.D. Sherry, *Inorg. Chem.* **1997**, 36, 1495-1503.
- [3] C.A. Chang, Y.H. Chen, H.Y. Chen, F.K.Shieh, *Dalton Trans.* **1998**, 3243-3248.
- [4] E. Szilagi, E. Toth, Z. Kovacs, J. Platzcek, B. Raduchel, E. Brucher, *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **2000**, 298, 226-234.

**Table S2.** Overview of molecular structures of ternary  $[\text{Ln}(\text{do2a})(\text{dpa})]^-$  and binary  $[\text{Eu}(\text{do2a})]^+$  complexes.



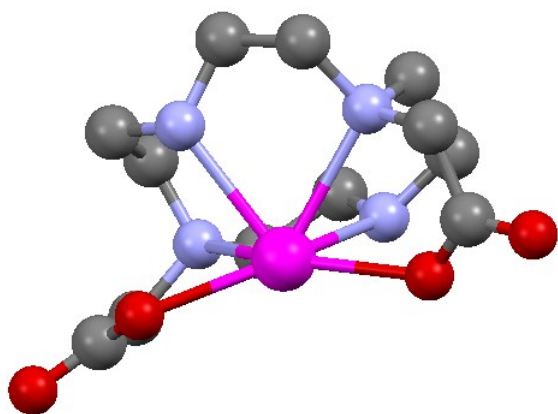
$[\text{Eu}(\text{do2a})(\text{dpa})]^-$  complex [Ref. 1]

Eu-N1 <sub>macro</sub>	2.67 Å
Eu-N2 <sub>macro</sub>	2.59 Å
Eu-N3 <sub>macro</sub>	2.67 Å
Eu-N4 <sub>macro</sub>	2.58 Å
Eu-O1 <sub>macro</sub>	2.38 Å
Eu-O2 <sub>macro</sub>	2.37 Å
<i>Eu-O1<sup>DPA</sup></i>	<i>2.40 Å</i>
<i>Eu-O2<sup>DPA</sup></i>	<i>2.41 Å</i>
<i>Eu-N<sup>DPA</sup></i>	<i>2.51 Å</i>



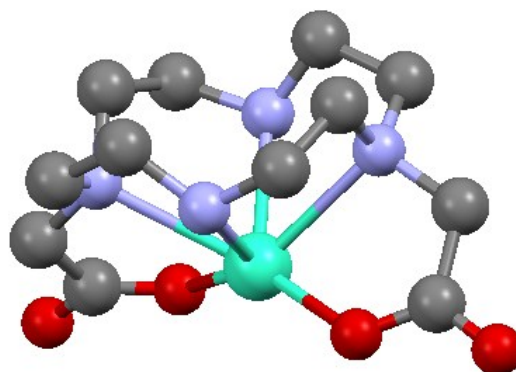
$[\text{Tb}(\text{do2a})(\text{dpa})]^-$  complex [Ref. 2]

Tb-N1 <sub>macro</sub>	2.64 Å
Tb-N2 <sub>macro</sub>	2.57 Å
Tb-N3 <sub>macro</sub>	2.66 Å
Tb-N4 <sub>macro</sub>	2.56 Å
Tb-O1 <sub>macro</sub>	2.36 Å
Tb-O2 <sub>macro</sub>	2.35 Å
<i>Tb-O1<sup>DPA</sup></i>	<i>2.39 Å</i>
<i>Tb-O2<sup>DPA</sup></i>	<i>2.40 Å</i>
<i>Tb-N<sup>DPA</sup></i>	<i>2.49 Å</i>



$[\text{Eu}(\text{do2a})]^+$  complex [Ref. 3]

Eu-N1 <sub>macro</sub>	2.70 Å <sub>LC</sub> ; 2.71 Å <sub>SC</sub>
Eu-N2 <sub>macro</sub>	2.61 Å <sub>LC</sub> ; 2.62 Å <sub>SC</sub>
Eu-N3 <sub>macro</sub>	2.72 Å <sub>LC</sub> ; 2.73 Å <sub>SC</sub>
Eu-N4 <sub>macro</sub>	2.61 Å <sub>LC</sub> ; 2.62 Å <sub>SC</sub>
Eu-O1 <sub>macro</sub>	2.35 Å <sub>LC</sub> ; 2.34 Å <sub>SC</sub>
Eu-O2 <sub>macro</sub>	2.30 Å <sub>LC</sub> ; 2.29 Å <sub>SC</sub>



$[\text{Tb}(\text{do2a})]^+$  complex

<i>Eu-O1<sup>water</sup></i>	<i>2.70 Å<sup>LC</sup>; 2.63 Å<sup>SC</sup></i>
<i>Eu-O2<sup>water</sup></i>	<i>2.63 Å<sup>LC</sup>; 2.72 Å<sup>SC</sup></i>
<i>Eu-O3<sup>water</sup></i>	<i>2.59 Å<sup>LC</sup>; 2.59 Å<sup>SC</sup></i>

Quasi-relativistic effective core potentials: Large Core- LC and Small Core-SC, employed for quantum-chemical calculations (see Ref. 3)

[Ref. 1] J.P. Kirby, M.L. Cable, D.J. Levine, H.B. Gray and A. Ponce, *Anal. Chem.*, 2008, 80, 5750-5754.

[Ref. 2] M.L. Cable, J.P. Kirby, K. Sorasaene, H.B. Gray and A. Ponce, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2007, 129, 1474-1475.

[Ref. 3] C.A.Chang, H.Y. Lee and Ch.-L. Chen, *Dalton Trans.*, 2013, 42, 6397-6409.

### The calculation of stability constants from TRFS experimental data

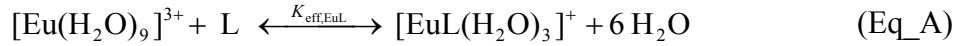
Generally, the number of water molecules coordinated to Eu(III) complex was estimated by simplified equation [ref. 1] as

$$q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{EuL}} = 1.05 \times k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} - 0.70 \quad (\text{S1})$$

and/or other form was obtained after rearrangement

$$k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{EuL}} = \frac{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{EuL}} + 0.70}{1.05} \quad (\text{S2})$$

The equilibrium constant for the following reaction at given pH



is defined as

$$K_{\text{eff,EuL}} = \frac{[\text{EuL}]}{[\text{Eu}] \times [\text{L}]} \quad (\text{S3})$$

and the mass-balance equations are valid

$$c_{\text{Eu}} = [\text{EuL}] + [\text{Eu}] \quad (\text{S4A})$$

$$c_{\text{L}} = [\text{EuL}] + [\text{L}] \quad (\text{S4B})$$

The following equation related to rate constant of luminescence decay of Eu(III) complex in presence of free Eu(III) ion was derived elsewhere [ref. 1]

$$k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}-\text{Eu}} = k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}} \times \delta_{\text{EuL}} + k_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{Eu}} \times (1 - \delta_{\text{EuL}}) \quad (\text{S5})$$

where the relative concentration of Eu(III) complex is  $\delta_{\text{EuL}} = \frac{[\text{EuL}]}{c_{\text{Eu}}}$

Combining Eqs (S3) and (S4A and S4B), the following equation is derived

$$K_{\text{eff,EuL}} = \frac{[\text{EuL}]}{[\text{Eu}] \times [\text{L}]} = \frac{\delta_{\text{EuL}} \times c_{\text{Eu}}}{(1 - \delta_{\text{EuL}}) \times c_{\text{Eu}} \times (c_{\text{L}} - \delta_{\text{EuL}} \times c_{\text{Eu}})} = \frac{\delta_{\text{EuL}}}{(1 - \delta_{\text{EuL}}) \times (c_{\text{L}} - \delta_{\text{EuL}} \times c_{\text{Eu}})} \quad (\text{S6})$$

Substituting Eq. (S5) by Eq. (S2)

$$\frac{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}-\text{Eu}} + 0.70}{1.05} = \frac{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}} + 0.70}{1.05} \times \delta_{\text{EuL}} + \frac{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{Eu}} + 0.70}{1.05} \times (1 - \delta_{\text{EuL}}) \quad (\text{S7})$$

and the new Equation is obtained after arrangement:

$$q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}-\text{Eu}} = q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}} \times \delta_{\text{EuL}} + q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{Eu}} \times (1 - \delta_{\text{EuL}}) \quad (\text{S8})$$

Thus, the relative concentration of Eu(III) complex can be calculated as

$$\delta_{\text{EuL}} = \frac{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{Eu}} - q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}-\text{Eu}}}{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{Eu}} - q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}}} \quad (\text{S9})$$

Assuming the chemical reaction (A), the Eq. (S9) can be simplified as

$$\delta_{\text{EuL}} = \frac{9 - q_{\text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{EuL}-\text{Eu}}}{6} \quad (\text{S10})$$

and this relationship can be used for calculation of equilibrium constant (see Eq. (S6)).

To get stability constant which is independent on pH:

$$\log \beta_{\text{EuL}} = \log K_{\text{eff,EuL}} - \log \alpha_{\text{L(H)}} \quad (\text{S11})$$

where the term is calculated as

$$\alpha_{\text{L(H)}} = 1 + K_{\text{p1}} \times [\text{H}^+] + K_{\text{p1}} \times K_{\text{p2}} \times [\text{H}^+]^2 + \dots \quad (\text{S12})$$

Analogously, the equilibrium constant for the following reaction at given pH

$$[\text{Tb}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{3+} + \text{L} \xrightleftharpoons{K_{\text{eff,TbL}}} [\text{TbL}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^+ + 6 \text{H}_2\text{O} \quad (\text{Eq\_B})$$

is defined as

$$K_{\text{eff,TbL}} = \frac{[\text{TbL}]}{[\text{Tb}] \times [\text{L}]} \quad (\text{S13})$$

as well as

$$q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,TbL-Tb}} = q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,TbL}} \times \delta_{\text{TbL}} + q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,Tb}} \times (1 - \delta_{\text{TbL}}) \quad (\text{S14})$$

Thus the relative concentration of Tb(III) complex can be calculated as

$$\delta_{\text{TbL}} = \frac{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,Tb}} - q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,TbL-Tb}}}{q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,Tb}} - q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,TbL}}} \quad (\text{S15})$$

Assuming the chemical reaction (B), the Eq. (14) can be simplified as

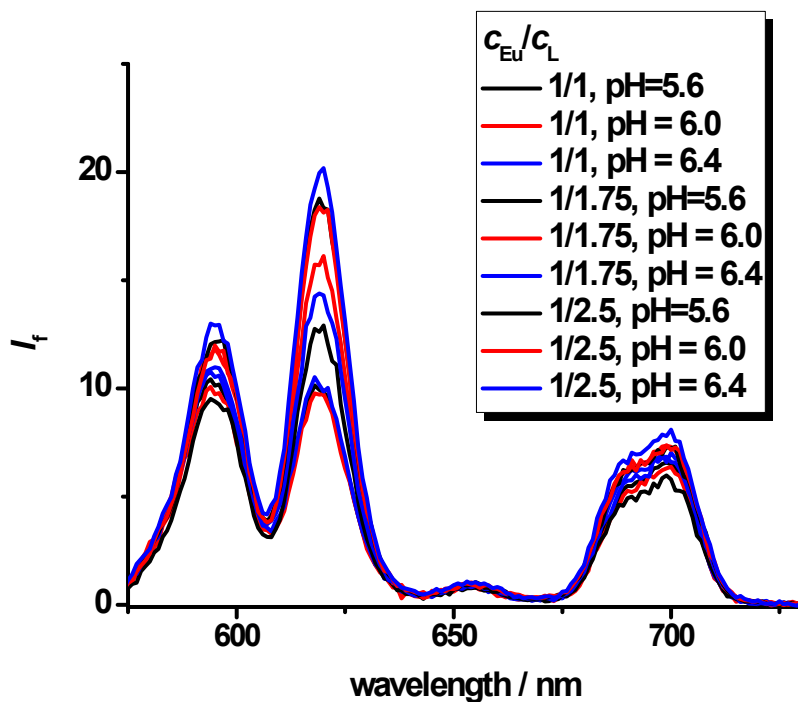
$$\delta_{\text{TbL}} = \frac{8 - q_{\text{H}_2\text{O,TbL-Tb}}}{6} \quad (\text{S16})$$

and this relationship can be used for calculation of equilibrium constant (see Eq. (S13)).

To get stability constant independent on pH:

$$\log \beta_{\text{EuL}} = \log K_{\text{eff,EuL}} - \log \alpha_{\text{L(H)}} \quad (\text{S17})$$

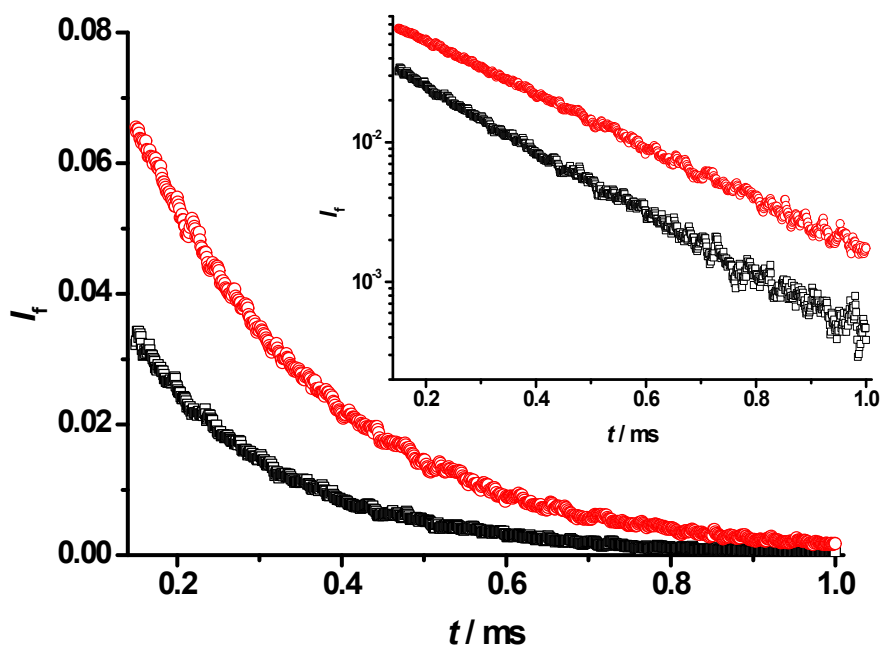
1 P.P. Barthelemy and G.R. Choppin, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1989, **28**, 3354-3357.



**Fig. S1:** The examples of emission spectra of  $[\text{Eu}(\text{do2a})]^+$  complex measured for various  $c_L / c_{\text{Eu}}$  ratios and  $\text{pH} = 5.6\text{--}6.4$  ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 394 \text{ nm}$ ,  $c_{\text{Eu}} = 1 \text{ mM}$ ,  $I = 0.1 \text{ M}$  (KCl)).

**Table S3:** The calculated stability constants of  $[\text{Eu}(\text{do2a})]^+$  complex.  
The experimental conditions are the same as in Fig. S1.

pH $\log \beta_{\text{EuL}}$	Ratio $c_L / c_{\text{Eu}}$		
	1	1.75	2.5
5.6	12.65	12.52	13.19
6.0	11.78	12.11	12.31
Average value	$12.4_3 \pm 0.4_9$		



**Fig. S2:** The examples of luminescence-decay traces of the Eu(III)-H<sub>2</sub>do2a system measured for the  $c_L / c_{Eu} = 1$ , pH = 5.6 (black) and  $c_L / c_{Eu} = 2.5$ , pH = 6.0 (red). ( $\lambda_{exc} = 394$  nm, ( $\lambda_{em} = 618$  nm  $c_{Eu} = 1$  mM, I = 0.1 M (KCl)).

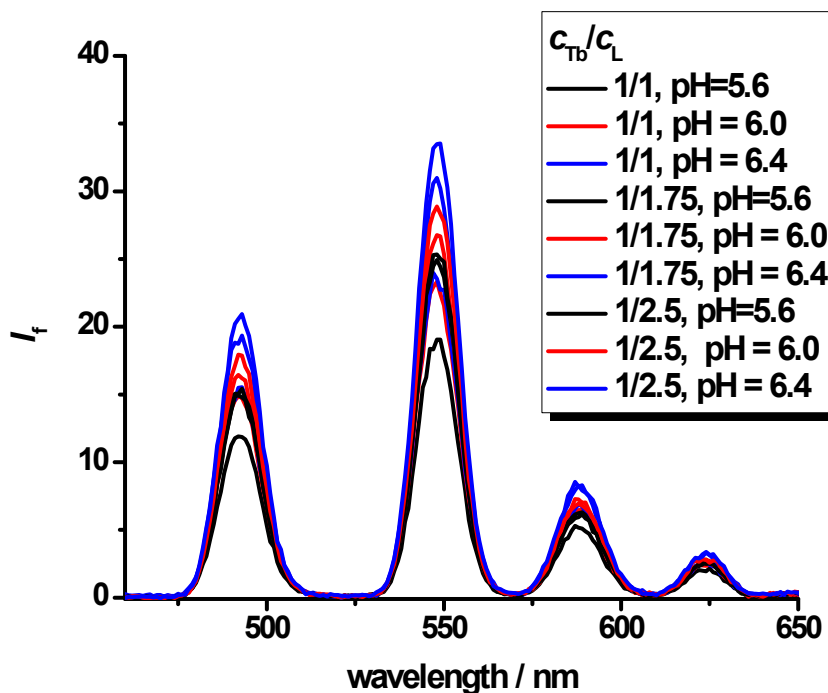
**Table S4:** The calculated stability constants of [Eu(do2a)]<sup>+</sup> complex<sup>a</sup>.  
The experimental conditions are the same as in Fig. S2.

pH / $q^a$ (log $\beta_{EuL}^b$ )	Ratio $c_L / c_{Eu}$		
	1	1.75	2.5
5.6	4.72 (13.24)	4.35 (12.85)	4.11 (12.72)
6.0	4.60 (12.51)	4.31 (12.06)	3.83 (12.07)
Average value	$12.57 \pm 0.46$		

a) calculated as  $q = 1.02 \times 10^{-3} k_{obs} - 0.17$  [see T. Kimura and Y. Kato, *J. Alloys Comp.*, **1998**, 278, 92-97)

b) assuming the equilibrium  $[Eu(H_2O)_9]^{3+} + L \leftrightarrow [EuL(H_2O)_3]^+ + 6 H_2O$

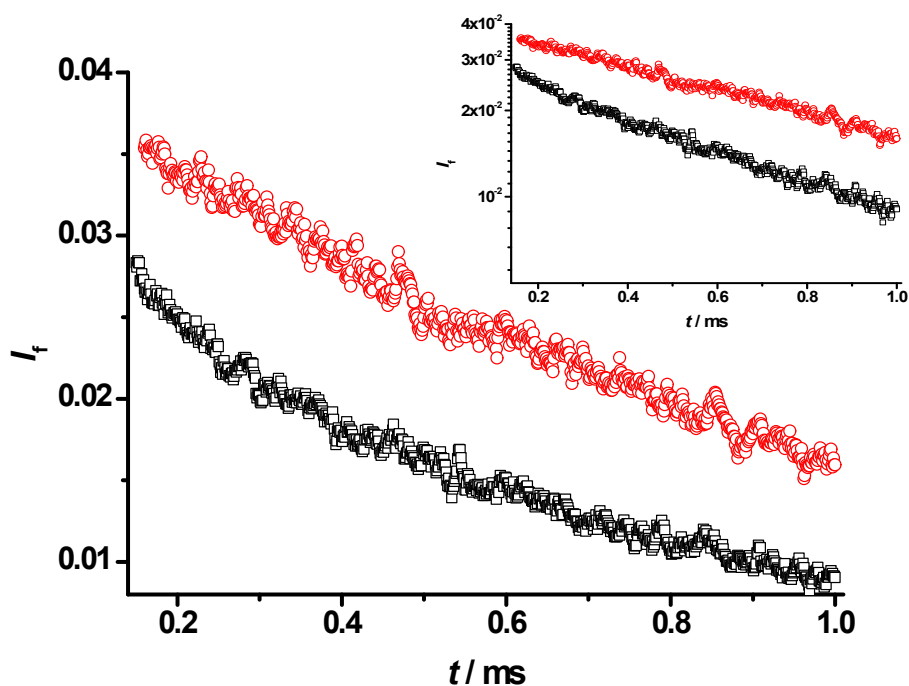




**Fig. S3:** The examples of emission spectra of  $[\text{Tb}(\text{do2a})]^+$  complex measured for various  $c_{\text{L}}/c_{\text{Tb}}$  ratios and  $\text{pH} = 5.6\text{--}6.4$  ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 355 \text{ nm}$ ,  $c_{\text{Tb}} = 1 \text{ mM}$ ,  $I = 0.1 \text{ M}$  (KCl)).

**Table S5:** The calculated stability constants of  $[\text{Tb}(\text{do2a})]^+$  complex.  
The experimental conditions are the same as in Fig. S3.

pH $\log \beta_{\text{EuL}}$	Ratio $c_{\text{L}}/c_{\text{Eu}}$		
	1	1.75	2.5
5.6	12.79	12.88	12.64
6.0	12.45	12.10	12.12
Average value	$12.5_0 \pm 0.3_3$		



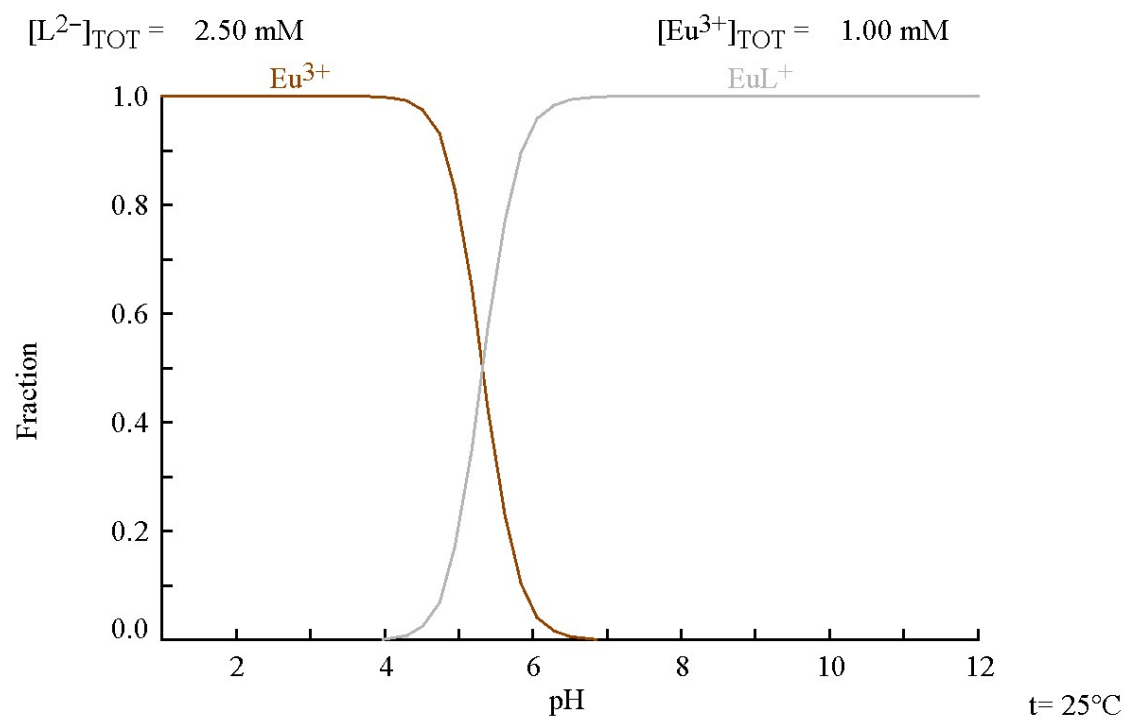
**Fig. S4:** The examples of luminescence-decay traces of the Tb(III)-H<sub>2</sub>do2a system measured for the  $c_L / c_{Tb} = 1$ , pH = 5.6 (black) and  $c_L / c_{Tb} = 2.5$ , pH = 6.0 (red). ( $\lambda_{exc} = 355$  nm,  $\lambda_{em} = 545$  nm,  $c_{Tb} = 1$  mM,  $I = 0.1$  M (KCl)).

**Table S6:** The calculated stability constants of [Tb(DO2A)]<sup>+</sup> complex<sup>a</sup>.  
The experimental conditions are the same as in Fig. S4.

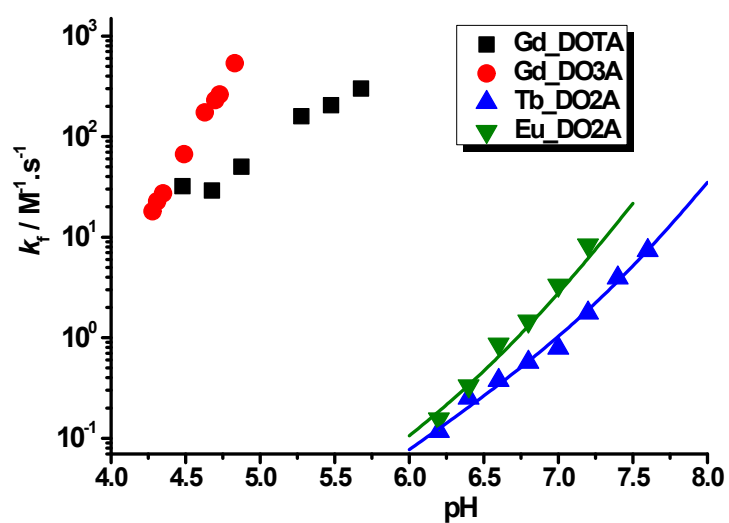
pH / $q^a$ ( $\log \beta_{EuL}^b$ )	Ratio $c_L / c_{Eu}$		
	1	1.75	2.5
5.6	3.86 (13.15)	3.24 (12.90)	3.07 (12.74)
6.0	3.57 (12.53)	3.00 (12.23)	2.67 (12.19)
Avg value	$12.6_2 \pm 0.3_8$		

a) calculated as  $q = 4.00 \times 10^{-3} k_{obs} - 0.93$  (see T. Kimura and Y. Kato, *J. Alloys Comp.*, **1998**, 278, 92-97).

b) assuming the equilibrium  $[Tb(H_2O)_8]^{3+} + L \leftrightarrow [TbL(H_2O)_2]^+ + 6 H_2O$



**Fig. S5:** The distribution diagram of Eu(III)-H<sub>2</sub>do2a system (equilibrium speciation diagram).



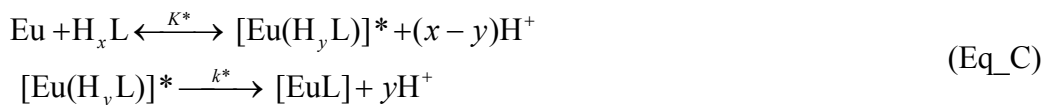
**Fig. S6:** The formation of Eu(III) and Tb(III) complexes with H<sub>2</sub>do2a ligand and Gd(III) complexes with H<sub>3</sub>do3a and H<sub>4</sub>dota ligands (the experimental data were taken and recalculated from [Refs. 1 and 2]).

[Ref. 1] X. Wang, T. Jin, V. Comblin, A. Lopez-Mut, E. Merciny and J.F. Desreux, *Inorg. Chem.*, **1992**, 31, 1095-1099.

[Ref. 2] K. Kumar and M.F. Tweddle, *Inorg. Chem.*, **1993**, 37, 4193-4199.

## The formation of [Eu(do2a)]<sup>+</sup> complex - reaction mechanism

The formation of Eu(III) complex can be described by two-step reaction mechanism (the charges of species are omitted for the sake of clarity):



Generally, the rate of formation of Eu(III) complex can be described as

$$v = k_{2,f} \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}} \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}} \quad (\text{S18})$$

For reaction mechanism mentioned above, the rate of formation of Eu(III) complex is

$$v = k^* \times [\text{EuL}^*] \quad (\text{S19})$$

knowing the equilibrium constant  $K^*$

$$K^* = \frac{[\text{EuL}^*]}{[\text{Eu}] \times [\text{H}_x\text{L}]} \quad (\text{S20})$$

In metal excess ( $c_{\text{Eu}} \gg c_{\text{L}}$ ), the previous equations can be modified as

$$v = k^* \times \frac{K^* \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}}}{1 + K^* \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}}} \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}} \Rightarrow k_{f,\text{obs}} = k^* \times \frac{K^* \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}}}{1 + K^* \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}}} \quad (\text{S21})$$

and analogously in ligand excess ( $c_{\text{Eu}} \ll c_{\text{L}}$ )

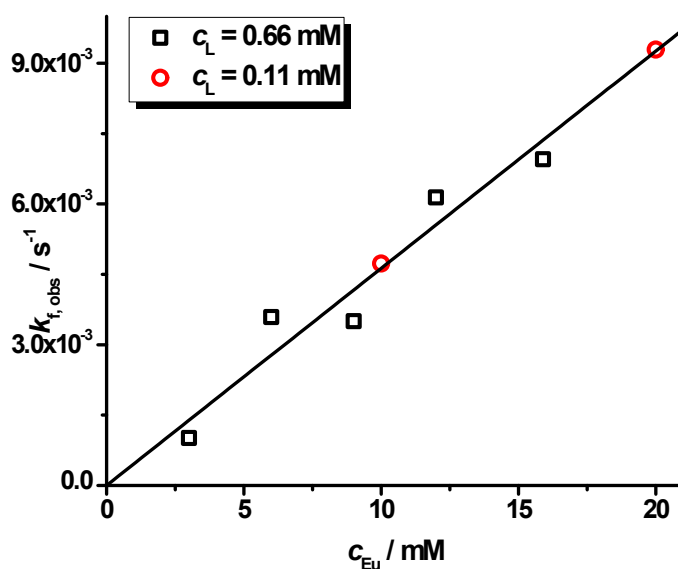
$$v = k^* \times \frac{K^* \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}}}{1 + K^* \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}}} \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}} \Rightarrow k_{f,\text{obs}} = k^* \times \frac{K^* \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}}}{1 + K^* \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}}} \quad (\text{S22})$$

It is evident  $k_{2,f} = k^* \times K^*$  [Refs 1, 2]. Also in case when nominator  $\approx 1$ , then

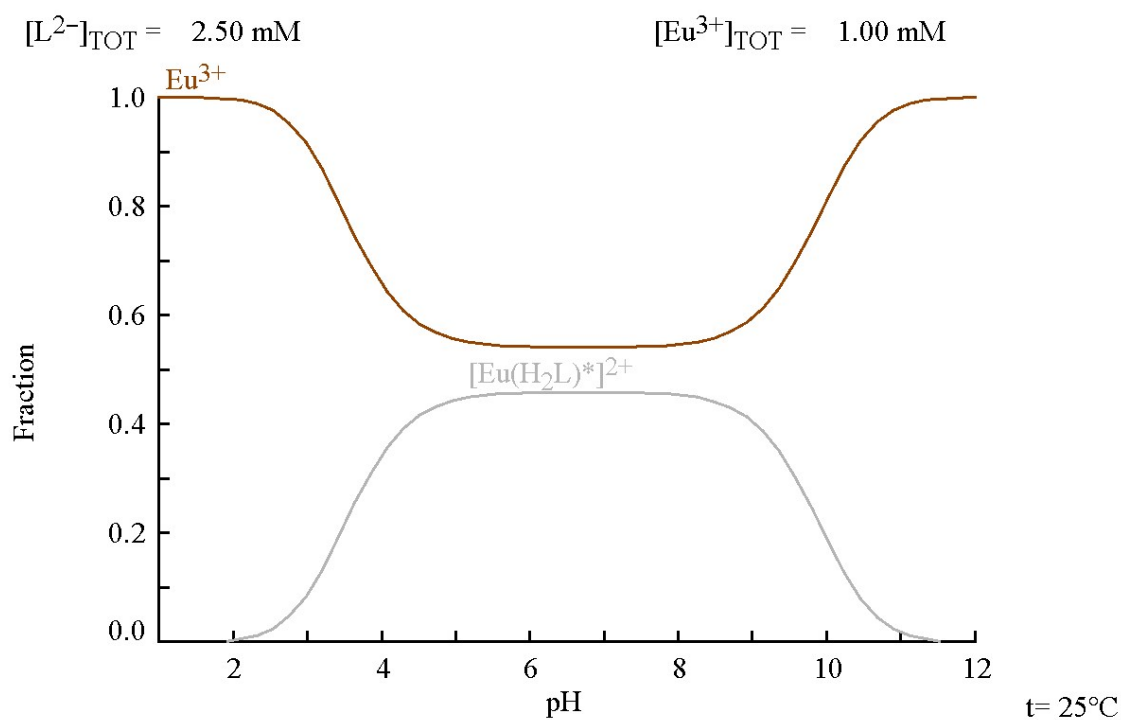
$$k_{f,\text{obs}} = k^* \times K^* \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}} = k_{2,f} \times [\text{Eu}]_{\text{tot}} \quad (c_{\text{Eu}} \gg c_{\text{L}}) \quad (\text{S23A})$$

$$k_{f,\text{obs}} = k^* \times K^* \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}} = k_{2,f} \times [\text{L}]_{\text{tot}} \quad (c_{\text{Eu}} \ll c_{\text{L}}) \quad (\text{S23B})$$

1. X. Wang, T. Jin, V. Comblin, A. Lopez-Mut, E. Merciny and J.F. Desreux, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1992, **31**, 1095-1099.
2. M.P.C. Campello, S. Lacerda, I.C. Santos, G.A. Pereira, G.F.G.C. Geraldes, J. Kotek, P. Hermann, J. Vaněk, P. Lubal, V. Kubiček, E. Tóth and I. Santos, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2010, **16**, 8446-8465.



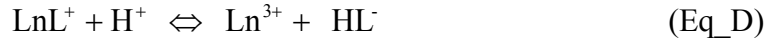
**Fig. S7.:** The plot of pseudo-first rate constants of Eu(III) complex formation as function of europium(III) concentration. The second-order rate constant  $0.463 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$  was obtained as slope linear dependence.



**Fig. S8:** The distribution diagram of Eu(III)-H<sub>2</sub>do2a system (kinetic speciation diagram).

### Thermodynamics vs. kinetics of [Ln(do2a)]<sup>+</sup> complexes

The consistency of obtained kinetic parameters can be verified by calculation of stability constant of Ln(III) complexes. For the following chemical reaction



the kinetic rate law is defined as

$$v = k_{\text{H}} \times [\text{LnL}] \times [\text{H}^+] = k_{\text{HL}} \times [\text{Ln}] \times [\text{HL}] \quad (\text{S24})$$

which can be defined in enlarged form

$$v = k_{\text{H}} \times \beta_{\text{LnL}} \times [\text{Ln}] \times [\text{L}] \times [\text{H}^+] = k_{\text{HL}} \times [\text{Ln}] \times K_{\text{HL}} \times [\text{H}^+] \times [\text{L}] \quad (\text{S25})$$

where equilibrium constants are defined as

$$\beta_{\text{LnL}} = \frac{[\text{LnL}]}{[\text{Ln}] \times [\text{L}]} \quad \text{and} \quad K_{\text{HL}} = \frac{[\text{HL}]}{[\text{H}^+] \times [\text{L}]} \quad (\text{S26})$$

Then after simplification

$$k_{\text{H}} \times \beta_{\text{LnL}} = k_{\text{HL}} \times K_{\text{HL}} \quad (\text{S27})$$

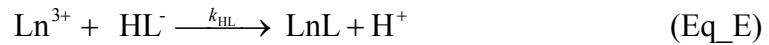
the final relationship is derived

$$\beta_{\text{LnL}} = \frac{k_{\text{HL}}}{k_{\text{H}}} \times K_{\text{HL}} \quad (\text{S28A})$$

or in logarithmic form as

$$\log \beta_{\text{LnL}} = \log\left(\frac{k_{\text{HL}}}{k_{\text{H}}}\right) + \log K_{\text{HL}} \quad (\text{S28B})$$

The meaning of rate constants  $k_{\text{HL}}$  and  $k_{\text{H}}$  defined for the formation and dissociation reaction of Ln(III) complexes is connected with parameters defined earlier. The overall rate constant for formation of Ln(III) complex



The dissociation constant of Ln(III) complex was described by another reaction pathway as



The pseudo-first order rate constant for Ln(III) complex dissociation is defined as

$$k_{\text{d,obs}} = \frac{k_{\text{Ln(HL)}} \times K_{\text{H,LnL}} \times [\text{H}^+]}{1 + K_{\text{H,LnL}} \times [\text{H}^+]} = \frac{k_{\text{H}} \times [\text{H}^+]}{1 + K_{\text{H,LnL}} \times [\text{H}^+]} \quad (\text{S29})$$

where

$$k_{\text{H}} = k_{\text{Ln(HL)}} \times K_{\text{H,LnL}} \quad (\text{S30})$$