Probing the absence of third phase formation during the extraction of trivalent metal ions in ionic liquid medium

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## Measurement of Viscosity and Refractive index

Viscosities of ionic liquid phases were measured using Lovis 2000 ME; a rolling ball viscometer (supplied by Anton Paar), which measures the rolling time of a ball through transparent and opaque liquids according to Höppler's principle. The uncertainty in the values of viscosity was about 2 x  $10^{-3}$  mPa.s. Similarly, the refractive index of the organic phase sample was measured using a Anton Parr refractometer (Model: Abbemat 200) which can measure the refractive index in the temperature range of 283K to 333K with an accuracy of  $\pm$  0.0001 nD.

Table S1. Viscosity and refractive index of ionic liquid phases measured after equilibration with nitric acid.

[HNO <sub>3</sub> ]/ M	Viscosity/ mPa.s			
	$[N_{1888}][NO_3]$	0.1M T2EHDGA/[N <sub>1888</sub> ][NO <sub>3</sub> ]	0.1M CMPO/[N <sub>1888</sub> ][NO <sub>3</sub> ]	
0.5	128	141	131	
1	118	123	120	
3	104	111	108	
5	90	98	94	
8	71	75	72	
[HNO <sub>3</sub> ]/M	Refractive Index			
0.5	1.4642	1.4646	1.4667	
1	1.4621	1.4622	1.4622	
3	1.4588	1.4591	1.4589	
5	1.4577	1.4579	1.4583	
8	1.4574	1.4576	1.4578	

**Table S2.** Viscosity and refractive index of different ionic liquid phases after Nd(III) loading from 3 M nitric acid.

[Nd(III)] <sub>aq.,ini</sub> / M	Viscosity/ mPa.s		
	0.1M T2EHDGA/[N <sub>1888</sub> ][NO <sub>3</sub> ]	0.1M CMPO/[N <sub>1888</sub> ][NO <sub>3</sub> ]	
0	111	108	
0.5	125	115	
1	128	118	
3	135	127	
5	138	134	
[Nd(III)] <sub>aq.,ini</sub> /M	Refractive Index		
0	1.4591	1.4589	
0.5	1.4582	1.4591	
1	1.4583	1.4594	
3	1.4585	1.4598	
5	1.4588	1.4599	

**Table S3.** Viscosity and refractive index of ionic liquid phase at different concentrations of T2EHDGA (or CMPO).

[Extractant]/ M	Viscosity/ mPa.s		
in $[N_{1888}][NO_3]$	T2EHDGA/[N <sub>1888</sub> ][NO <sub>3</sub> ]	CMPO/[N <sub>1888</sub> ][NO <sub>3</sub> ]	
0	104	104	
0.1	111	108	
0.2	113	114	
0.3	125	123	
[Extractant]/ M in [N <sub>1888</sub> ][NO <sub>3</sub> ]	Refractive Index		
0	1.4588	1.4588	
0.1	1.4591	1.4589	
0.2	1.4592	1.4602	
0.3	1.4594	1.4630	

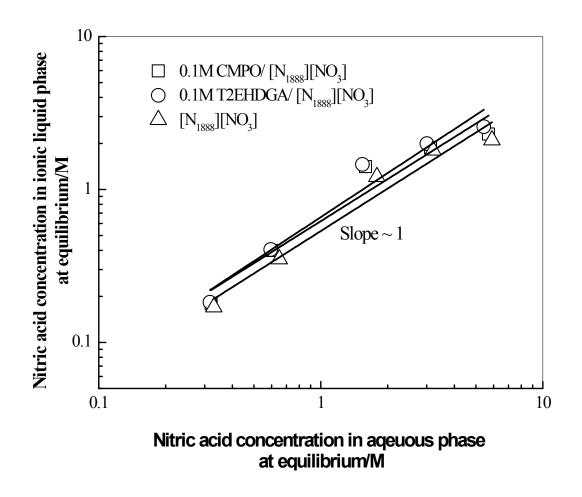
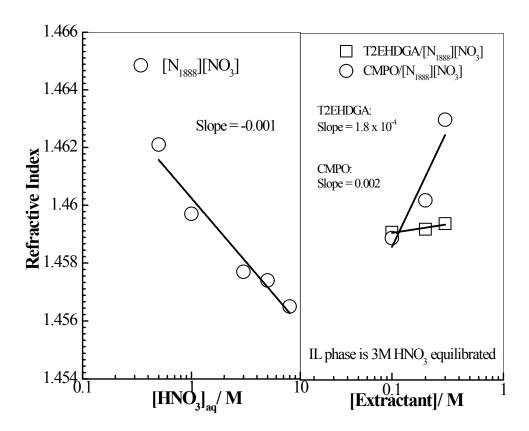


Figure S1. Nitric acid extraction isotherm in various ionic liquid systems.



**Figure S2.** Variation of refractive indices of the ionic liquid phase  $[N_{1888}][NO_3]$  as a function of nitric acid and extractants.