

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**Controlled assembly of luminescent racks based on heteroleptic dinuclear lanthanide complexes**

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Further characterisation data:

[EuL<sup>a</sup>]

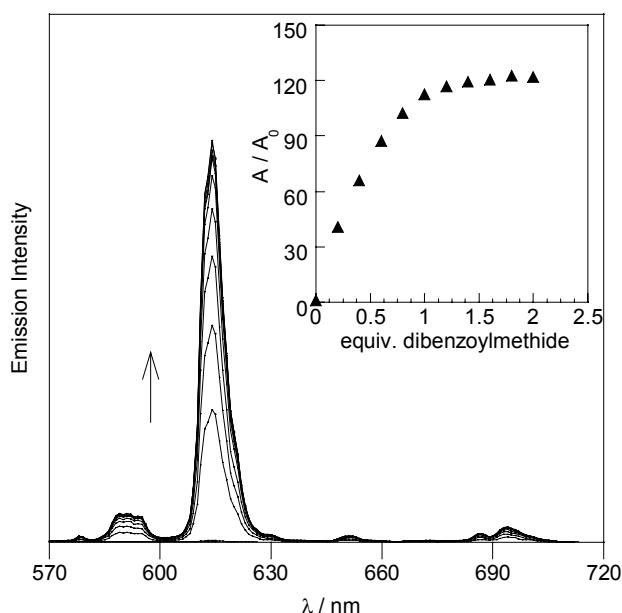
LC-MS (ES+) {M<sup>+</sup>} 652/654; FAB-MS: {M+1}<sup>+</sup> 652 D.

Elemental analysis: Calculated for [EuC<sub>22</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>8</sub>·0.5H<sub>2</sub>O]: 38.9% C; 6.1% H; 10.4% N. Found: 38.9% C; 6.2% H; 10.4% N.

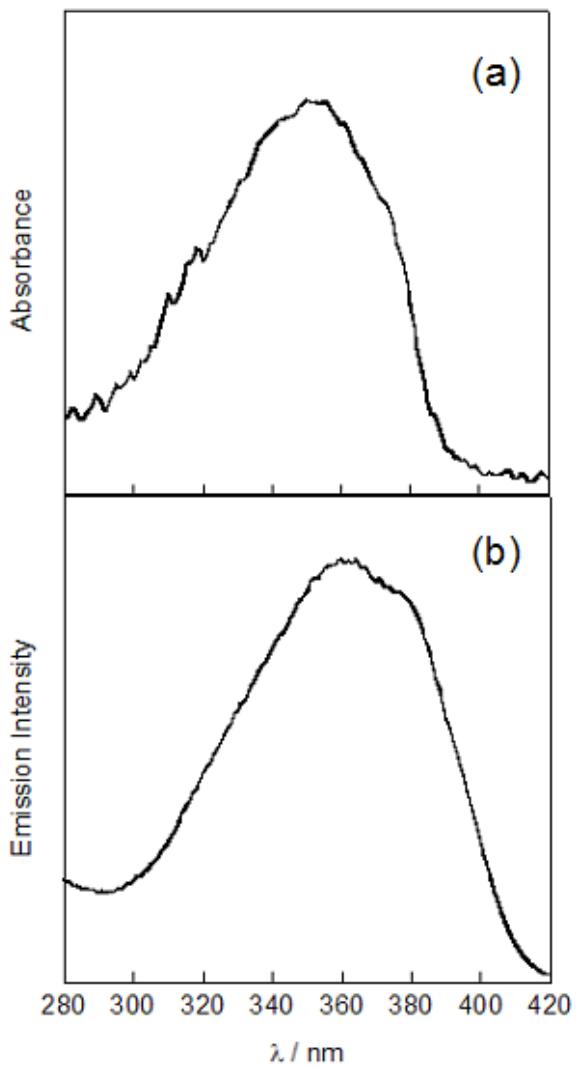
[YL<sup>a</sup>]

FAB-MS {M+1}<sup>+</sup> 590 D. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, pD ~ 6): δ (ppm) 3.52-3.14 (14H, m, NCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, NCH<sub>2</sub>CONHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 2.91 (4H, broad, s, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N); 2.73, 2.70 (2H, broad, d NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N); 2.49 (broad, s NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N); 1.49-1.40 (4H, m, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.32-1.23 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 0.88-0.80 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (63 MHz) 180.9, 180.4, 179.8, 179.6 (CO<sub>2</sub>); 175.7, 175.5, 174.5, 174.4 (CONH); 66.1, 62.9, 61.2 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CONH; NCH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>); 58.1, 55.9 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>N); 40.0, 39.5, 39.8 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 30.1 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 19.5, 19.3, 19.2 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); 12.9 (-CH<sub>3</sub>).

Elemental analysis: Calculated for [YC<sub>22</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>8</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O]: 43.5% C; 6.6% H; 11.5% N. Found: 43.3% C; 6.3 % H; 11.3 % N.



**Figure S1.** Emission spectra recorded upon titration of 5  $\mu$ l increments dibenzoylmethide to a solution of EuL<sup>a</sup>  $1.5 \times 10^{-5}$  mol $\cdot$ dm $^{-3}$  in DMF with 1 % H<sub>2</sub>O. Inset: a plot of relative area increase of the band at 615 nm *vs.* equivalents of dibenzoylmethide.



**Figure S2.** Absorption (a) and excitation (b) spectra of  $(\text{HNEt}_3)[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^{\text{a}}_2\text{L}^{\text{b}}]$  in DMF, 1%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The excitation spectrum was corrected for lamp and instrument response; the luminescence signal was monitored at  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 615 \text{ nm}$ .