# Supporting Information for: Rare-earth metal complexes having an unusual indolyl-1,2-dianion through C-H activation with a novel $\eta^{l}:\left(\mu_{2}-\eta^{l}: \eta^{l}\right)$ bonding with metals 

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General Information. All syntheses and manipulations of air- and moisture-sensitive materials were performed under dry argon and oxygen-free atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques or a glovebox. All solvents were refluxed and distilled over sodium benzophenone ketyl under argon prior to use unless otherwise noted. $\left[\left(\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{Si}_{2}{ }_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{RE}^{\mathrm{III}}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl}) \mathrm{Li}(\mathrm{THF})_{3}(\mathrm{RE}=\mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{Yb}),{ }^{1}\right.\right.$ $3-\left({ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}-\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}\right) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NH},{ }^{2} 3-\left({ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}-\mathrm{NHCH}_{2}\right) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NH},{ }^{3}\left(2,6-{ }^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right) \mathrm{NHC}(\mathrm{H})=\mathrm{N}\left(2,6-{ }^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right)^{4}$ were prepared according to literature methods. Elemental analyses data were obtained on a Perkin-Elmer 2400 Series II elemental analyzer. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra for analyses of compounds were recorded on a Bruker AV-300 NMR spectrometer $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}\right.$ for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} ; 75.0 \mathrm{MHz}$ for ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$ for lanthanide complexes. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were reported in ppm. $J$ values are reported in Hz. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu FTIR-8400s spectrometer ( KBr pellet).

## Preparation of <br> $\left\{\left[\eta^{l}:\left(\mu_{2}-\eta^{l}: \eta^{l}\right): \eta^{1}-3-(t-\mathrm{BuN}=\mathrm{CH}) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right] \mathrm{Y}_{2}\left(\mu_{2}-\mathrm{Cl}\right)_{2}(\mathbf{T H F})\left[\mathbf{N}\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\left(\eta^{1}: \eta^{1}-\left[\mu-\eta^{5}: \eta^{2}-3-(t-\mathrm{BuN}\right.\right.\right.$ $\left.\left.\left.=\mathrm{CH}) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{~N}\right]_{2} \mathrm{Li}\right)\right\}_{2}(\mathbf{1})$

To a toluene $(10.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $3-\left({ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}-\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}\right) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NH}(0.41 \mathrm{~g}, 2.03 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added a toluene $(20.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $\left[\left(\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{Si}_{2}\right)_{2}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Y}^{\mathrm{III}}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl}) \mathrm{Li}(\mathrm{THF})_{3}(1.12 \mathrm{~g}, 1.35 \mathrm{mmol})$ at room temperature. After the reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 24 h , the color of the solution was gradually changed from white to redish green. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with $n$-hexane $(2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL})$. The combined extractions were concentrated to about 10.0 mL . The light yellow crystals were obtained at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for several days $(0.39 \mathrm{~g}, 53 \%$ yield). m.p. $201{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{49} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{LiN}_{7} \mathrm{OSi}_{2} \mathrm{Y}_{2} .2 \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{14}: \mathrm{C}, 58.27 ; \mathrm{H}, 7.86 ; \mathrm{N}$, 7.80. Found: C, 58.05 ; H, 7.93; N, 7.85. $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}\right): 8.59(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}), 8.34(\mathrm{~d}$, $2 \mathrm{H}, J=8.01 \mathrm{~Hz}), 7.98(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.62(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.33(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.10(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 3.31\left(\mathrm{~s}, 4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)$, $1.40\left(\mathrm{~s}, 4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 0.94\left(\mathrm{~s}, 27 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 0.61\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 0.09\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right) . \delta_{\mathrm{C}}(75$ $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}\right): 157.4(\mathrm{~N}=\mathrm{CH}), 139.8,129.0,126.3,125.4,121.9,121.6,118.5,115.5,56.2$ $\left(C\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 29.6\left(\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 5.1,2.3\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{3}\right)$. IR $\left(\mathrm{KBr}\right.$ pellet, $\left.\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right): 2926 \mathrm{w}, 2866 \mathrm{w}, 1627 \mathrm{~s}, 1531 \mathrm{~s}$, $1456 \mathrm{~s}, 1381 \mathrm{~m}, 1354 \mathrm{w}, 1236 \mathrm{~s}, 1205 \mathrm{~s}, 1138 \mathrm{~s}, 1116 \mathrm{~s}, 933 \mathrm{~m}, 829 \mathrm{w}, 742 \mathrm{w}, 574 \mathrm{w}, 420 \mathrm{w}$.

## Preparation of

$\left\{\left[\eta^{l}:\left(\mu_{2}-\eta^{l}: \eta^{l}\right): \eta^{l}-3-(t-\mathrm{BuN}=\mathrm{CH}) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathbf{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right] \mathrm{Yb}_{2}\left(\mu_{2}-\mathrm{Cl}\right)_{2}(\mathbf{T H F})\left[\mathbf{N}\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\left(\eta^{1}: \eta^{l}-\left[\mu-\eta^{5}: \eta^{2}-3-(t-\mathrm{Bu}\right.\right.\right.$ $\left.\left.\left.\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{~N}\right]_{2} \mathrm{Li}\right)\right\}_{2}(2)$

This compound was isolated as red crystals in $58 \%$ yield by treatment of
$\left[\left(\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{Si}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{~N}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Yb}^{\text {III }}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl}) \mathrm{Li}(\mathrm{THF})_{3}(1.34 \mathrm{~g}, 1.47 \mathrm{mmol})$ with $3-\left({ }^{t} \mathrm{Bu}-\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}\right) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NH}(0.44 \mathrm{~g}, 2.20$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ following procedures similar to those used for the preparation of $1 . \mathrm{m} . \mathrm{p} .185^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{49} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{LiN}_{7} \mathrm{OSi}_{2} \mathrm{Yb}_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{14}: \mathrm{C}, 51.39 ; \mathrm{H}, 6.93 ; \mathrm{N}, 6.88$. Found: C, 51.12; H , 7.38 ; N, 7.15. IR (KBr pellet, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2966m, 2868w, 1629s, 1531s, $1454 \mathrm{~m}, 1359 \mathrm{w}, 1236 \mathrm{~m}, 1205 \mathrm{~m}$, $1116 \mathrm{~s}, 1010 \mathrm{~s}, 933 \mathrm{~s}, 837 \mathrm{w}, 742 \mathrm{~s}, 570 \mathrm{w}, 422 \mathrm{w}$.

## Preparation of $\left\{\boldsymbol{\eta}^{4}: \boldsymbol{\eta}^{2}: \boldsymbol{\eta}^{\boldsymbol{l}}-\mathbf{3}-(\boldsymbol{t}-\mathrm{BuN}=\mathrm{CH}) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NLi}_{2}\left[\mathrm{~N}\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\right\}_{2}$ (3)

To a toluene $(10.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $3-\left({ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}-\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}\right) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NH}(0.49 \mathrm{~g}, 2.47 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added a toluene $(20.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $\mathrm{LiN}\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}(0.83 \mathrm{~g}, 4.94 \mathrm{mmol})$ at room temperature. After the reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 24 h , the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with $n$-hexane $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$. The colorless crystals were obtained upon
standing the solution at room temperature for $12 \mathrm{~h}(0.64 \mathrm{~g}, 69 \%)$. m.p. $208{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{Li}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{Si}_{4}$ : C, $61.09 ; \mathrm{H}, 8.90$; N, 11.25. Found: C, $61.15 ; \mathrm{H}, 8.86 ; \mathrm{N}, 11.17 . \delta_{\mathrm{H}}(300 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}\right): 8.62(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}), 8.23(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.09(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H}, J=7.83 \mathrm{~Hz}), 7.81(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H}, J=7.44$ $\mathrm{Hz}), 7.41(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H}, J=7.41 \mathrm{~Hz}), 7.31(\mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{H}, J=7.20 \mathrm{~Hz}), 1.03\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 0.09(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{Si}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 0.01\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right) . \delta_{\mathrm{C}}\left(75.0 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}\right): 158.0(\mathrm{~N}=\mathrm{CH}), 149.0,137.0,129.2$,
 $\left.\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right): 2966 \mathrm{~m}, 2349 \mathrm{~m}, 1629 \mathrm{~s}, 1581 \mathrm{~m}, 1531 \mathrm{~s}, 1456 \mathrm{~s}, 1381 \mathrm{~m}, 1359 \mathrm{w}, 1236 \mathrm{~m}, 1205 \mathrm{~m}, 1138 \mathrm{~s}$, 1066m, 1010s, $933 \mathrm{~m}, 829 \mathrm{w}, 605 \mathrm{w}, 574 \mathrm{w}$.

## Preparation of $\left[\mu-\left\{\left[\eta^{1}: \eta^{1}: \eta^{1}: \eta^{1}-3-\left(t-\mathrm{BuNHCH}_{2}\right) \mathbf{I n d}\right]_{2} \mathrm{Li}\right\} \mathbf{Y}\left[\mathbf{N}\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]_{2}\right]$ (4)

This compound was isolated as white crystals in $45 \%$ yield by treatment of
$\left[\left(\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{Si}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{~N}\right]_{3} \mathrm{Y}^{\text {III }}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl}) \mathrm{Li}(\mathrm{THF})_{3}(0.89 \mathrm{~g}, 1.07 \mathrm{mmol})$ with $3-\left({ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}-\mathrm{NHCH}_{2}\right) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NH}(0.33 \mathrm{~g}, 1.61$ mmol ) following procedures similar to those used for the preparation of $\mathbf{1} . \mathrm{m} . \mathrm{p} .212{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{LiN}_{6} \mathrm{Si}_{4} \mathrm{Y} \cdot 2 \mathrm{THF}: \mathrm{C}, 57.35 ; \mathrm{H}, 9.00$; N, 8.72. Found: C, 57.26; H, 8.54; N, 8.81. $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}\right): 7.79(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.35-6.90(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 3.62(\mathrm{~d}, 4 \mathrm{H}, J=7.62 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.18\left(\mathrm{~s}, 18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 0.22\left(\mathrm{~s}, 18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 0.14\left(\mathrm{~s}, 18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right) . \delta_{\mathrm{C}}(75 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}\right): 145.2,134.1,121.4,120.8,118.1,117.6,110.2,109.9,45.7\left(C\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 29.4\left(-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $21.9\left(\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 1.1,0.15(\mathrm{SiMe} 3)$. IR (KBr pellet, $\left.\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right): 2962 \mathrm{~m}, 2385 \mathrm{~s}, 2349 \mathrm{~s}, 1456 \mathrm{~m}, 1354 \mathrm{~m}$, $1336 \mathrm{~m}, 1261 \mathrm{w}, 1091 \mathrm{~m}, 1020 \mathrm{w}, 864 \mathrm{~m}, 800 \mathrm{w}, 740 \mathrm{w}$.

## Preparation of $\left[\mu-\left\{\left[\eta^{1}: \eta^{1}: \eta^{1}: \eta^{1}-3-\left(t-\mathrm{BuNHCH}_{2}\right) \mathrm{Ind}\right]_{2} \mathrm{Li}\right\} \mathbf{Y b}\left[\mathbf{N}\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]_{2}\right]$ (5)

This compound was isolated as pale yellow crystals in $50 \%$ yield by treatment of $\left[\left(\mathrm{Me}_{3} \mathrm{Si}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{Yb}^{\text {III }}(\mu-\mathrm{Cl}) \mathrm{Li}(\mathrm{THF})_{3}(1.21 \mathrm{~g}, 1.33 \mathrm{mmol})\right.$ with 3-( $\left.{ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{Bu}-\mathrm{NHCH}_{2}\right) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{NH}(0.40 \mathrm{~g}, 1.99$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ following procedures similar to those used for the preparation of $1 . \mathrm{m} . \mathrm{p} .205{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (dec.). Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{LiN}_{6} \mathrm{Si}_{4} \mathrm{Yb} \cdot 2 \mathrm{THF}$ : C, 52.74; H, 8.27; N, 8.02. Found: C, 53.05; H, 7.93; N, 7.85. IR (KBr pellet, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): $2962 \mathrm{~m}, 2904 \mathrm{~s}, 2349 \mathrm{~s}, 1456 \mathrm{~m}, 1363 \mathrm{~m}, 1261 \mathrm{w}, 1182 \mathrm{~m}, 1095 \mathrm{w}, 1018 \mathrm{w}$, 933m, 800m, 738w.

## Preparation of $\left\{\left[3-(t-\mathrm{BuN}=\mathbf{C H}) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{~N}\right]_{2} \mathbf{Y}\left[\left(2,6-{ }^{\mathbf{i}} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathbf{N}\right)_{2}(\mathbf{C H})\right](\mathbf{T H F})_{2}\right\}(6)$

To a toluene $(10.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $1(0.58 \mathrm{~g}, 0.26 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added a toluene $(10.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $\left(2,6-{ }^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right) \mathrm{NHC}(\mathrm{H})=\mathrm{N}\left(2,6-{ }^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right)(0.10 \mathrm{~g}, 0.26 \mathrm{mmol})$ at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heateded to reflux for 12 h . Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with $10 \mathrm{~mL} n$-hexane. The colorless crystals were obtained at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for several days $\left(0.13 \mathrm{~g}, 45 \%\right.$ yield). m.p. $158-159{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{59} \mathrm{H}_{81} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Y} \cdot \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ : C , 72.90 ; H, 8.25; N, 7.73. Found: C, 72.99; H, 8.28; N, 7.79. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}$ ): $\delta$ $9.08(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCHN}), 8.91(\mathrm{~d}, 2 \mathrm{H}, J=6.96 \mathrm{~Hz}), 8.53(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}), 8.02(\mathrm{~d}, 2 \mathrm{H}, J=7.17 \mathrm{~Hz})$, 7.47-7.02 (m, 12H), 3.95-3.90 (m, 4H, $\left.-\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right), 3.11\left(\mathrm{~s}, 8 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right), 1.56-1.49(\mathrm{~m}, 24 \mathrm{H}), 1.42$ $\left(\mathrm{s}, 8 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.26-1.24(\mathrm{~m}, 18 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{ppm}$ ): $\delta 171.8(\mathrm{NCHN}), 147.8$ $(\mathrm{N}=C \mathrm{H}), 144.6,142.5,133.6,128.6,124.5,122.5,122.2,120.8,120.2,119.0,115.7,112.8,70.2$, $55.3,30.7,29.3,27.5,25.1,23.5,22.2,21.8,13.1$. IR ( KBr pellet, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1664s, $1625 \mathrm{~m}, 1585 \mathrm{w}$, 1529m, 1456s, 1354w, 1286m, 1236m, 1118w, 1066s, 798m, 742w.

## Preparation of $\left\{\left[3-(t-\mathrm{BuN}=\mathbf{C H}) \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{~N}\right]_{2} \mathbf{Y b}\left[\left(\mathbf{2 , 6}-\mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~N}\right)_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{C H})\right](\mathbf{T H F})_{2}\right\}$ (7)

This compound was isolated as red crystals in $39 \%$ yield by treatment of $2(0.74 \mathrm{~g}, 0.29 \mathrm{mmol})$ with $\left(2,6-{ }^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right) \mathrm{NHC}(\mathrm{H})=\mathrm{N}\left(2,6-{ }^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right)(0.11 \mathrm{~g}, 0.29 \mathrm{mmol})$ following procedures similar to
those used for the preparation of 6. m.p. $147-149{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Anal. Calc. for $\mathrm{C}_{59} \mathrm{H}_{81} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Yb}$ : C, $66.65 ; \mathrm{H}$, 7.56 ; N, 7.79. Found: C, 66.78 ; H, 7.75; N, 7.88. IR (KBr pellet, $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ): $1664 \mathrm{~s}, 1626 \mathrm{~m}, 1529 \mathrm{~m}$, 1454s, 1354w, 1286m, 1236m, 1138m, 1058w, 933w, 798m, 742m, 574w.


Scheme S1. Proposed Pathway for the formation of complexes 1 and 2


Scheme S2 Reactions of 3-( $t$-butylaminomethylene)indole with rare-earth metal amides


Fig. S1. Structure of complex 1. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right): ~ Y(1)-N(1) 2.216(7), Y(1)-N(3) 2.344(7), Y(1)-\mathrm{O}(1) 2.354(6), \mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ 2.662(2), $\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1) 2.665(8), \mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(2) 2.741(2), \mathrm{Y}(2)-\mathrm{N}(7) 2.238(7), \mathrm{Y}(2)-\mathrm{N}(5) 2.305(7)$, $\mathrm{Y}(2)-\mathrm{N}(2) 2.385(7), \mathrm{Y}(2)-\mathrm{C}(1) 2.551(8), \mathrm{Y}(2)-\mathrm{Cl}(1), 2.670(2), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(6) 1.99(2), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ 2.01(2), $\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(22) 2.53(2), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(15) 2.55(2), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(16) 2.56(2), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(21) 2.60(2)$, $\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(35) \quad 2.61(2), \quad \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(34) \quad 2.67(2), \quad \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(29) \quad 2.74(2), \quad \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(28), \quad 2.76(2)$, $\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)-\mathrm{Y}(2) 92.01(7), \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(2) 89.51(18), \mathrm{N}(7)-\mathrm{Y}(2)-\mathrm{N}(5) 119.3(3), \mathrm{N}(5)-\mathrm{Y}(2)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ 90.1(2).


Fig. S2. Structure of complex 2. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right): ~ Y b(1)-N(1) 2.182(9), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3) 2.303(10), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1) 2.345(9), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ $2.632(3), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1) 2.654(10), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(2) 2.702(3), \mathrm{Yb}(2)-\mathrm{N}(7) 2.201(9), \mathrm{Yb}(2)-\mathrm{N}(5) 2.267(10)$, $\mathrm{Yb}(2)-\mathrm{N}(2) 2.371(9), \mathrm{Yb}(2)-\mathrm{C}(1) 2.506(12), \mathrm{Yb}(2)-\mathrm{Cl}(1), 2.641(3), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(6) 2.00(3), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ 2.00(3), $\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(22) 2.50(3), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(15) 2.59(3), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(16) 2.55(3), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(21) 2.67(4)$, $\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(35) \quad 2.63(3), \quad \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(34) \quad 2.69(4), \quad \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(29) \quad 2.73(4), \quad \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(28), \quad 2.78(3)$, $\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(2) \quad 92.42(9), \quad \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(2) \quad 89.1(3), \quad \mathrm{N}(7)-\mathrm{Yb}(2)-\mathrm{N}(5) \quad 119.4(4)$, $\mathrm{N}(5)-\mathrm{Yb}(2)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ 90.4(3).


Fig. S3. Structure of complex 3. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right): \operatorname{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3) 1.962(4), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2) 2.007(4), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9) 2.498(5), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ $2.458(5), \mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(6) 2.464(4), \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Li}(2 \mathrm{~A}) 2.028(4), \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Li}(2 \mathrm{~A}) 2.598(5), \mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{Li}(2 \mathrm{~A}) 2.669(5)$, $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(9) 1.273(3), \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2) 147.8(2), \mathrm{N}(3 \mathrm{~A})-\mathrm{Li}(2)-\mathrm{N}(1 \mathrm{~A}) 126.42(19)$.


Fig. S4. Structure of complex 4. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right): ~ Y(1)-N(3) 2.236(3), Y(1)-N(1) 2.306(4), \operatorname{Li}(1)-N(2) 2.061(5), \operatorname{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ $2.524(7), \mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(9) 1.479(5), \mathrm{N}(1 \mathrm{~A})-\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ 83.73(17), $\mathrm{N}(3 \mathrm{~A})-\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3) 120.14(16)$, $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2 \mathrm{~A}) 137.8(3), \mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2 \mathrm{~A}) 149.3(6)$.


Fig. S5. Structure of complex 5. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right): ~ Y(1)-N(3) 2.205(7), Y b(1)-N(1) 2.275(7), N(2)-L i(1) 2.069(8), \mathrm{C}(2)-\operatorname{Li}(1)$ $2.499(13), ~ \mathrm{~N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(9) \quad 1.492(10), \mathrm{N}(1 \mathrm{~A})-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1) \quad 83.5(4), \mathrm{N}(3 \mathrm{~A})-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3) \quad 121.7(4)$, $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2 \mathrm{~A}) 138.0(4), \mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Li}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2 \mathrm{~A}) 147.7$ (11).


Fig. S6. Structure of complex 6. Hydrogen atoms and solvated toluene molecule were omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right): Y(1)-N(1) 2.288(2), Y(1)-N(3) 2.2843(19)$, $\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{N}(5) 2.3682(18), \mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{N}(6) 2.3580(18), \mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1) 2.3540(16), \mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) 2.3589(16)$, $\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{C}(27) 2.774(2), \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1) 136.48(7), \mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) 134.04(6), \mathrm{N}(6)-\mathrm{Y}(1)-\mathrm{N}(5)$ 57.43(6).


Fig. S7. Structure of complex 7. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right): \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1) 2.249(3), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(3) 2.250(3), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(5) 2.336(2), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(6)$ $2.339(2), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(1) 2.331(2), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) 2.339(2), \mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{C}(27) 2.730(3), \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ $134.38(10), \mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2) 135.89(9), \mathrm{N}(6)-\mathrm{Yb}(1)-\mathrm{N}(5) 57.59(8)$.

Crystal Structure Determinations. A suitable crystal of complexes 1-7 was each mounted in a sealed capillary. Diffraction was performed on a Bruker SMART CCD area detector diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$ radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073 \AA$ ). An empirical absorption correction was applied using the SADABS program. ${ }^{5}$ All structures were solved by direct methods, completed by subsequent difference Fourier syntheses, and refined anisotropically for all non-hydrogen atoms by full-matrix least-squares calculations on $F^{2}$ using the SHELXTL program package. ${ }^{6}$ All hydrogen atoms were refined using a riding model. Crystal data and details of the data collection are given in Table 1.

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Table 1. Crystallographic Data for Complexes 1-7

| Compound | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| formula | $\mathrm{C}_{49} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{LiN}_{7} \mathrm{OSi}_{2} \mathrm{Y}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{49} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{LiN}_{7} \mathrm{OSi}_{2} \mathrm{Yb}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{Li}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{Si}_{4}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{LiN}_{6} \mathrm{Si}_{4} \mathrm{Y}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{70} \mathrm{LiN}_{6} \mathrm{Si}_{4} \mathrm{Yb}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{C}_{59} \mathrm{H}_{81} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Y} . \\ \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{8} \end{gathered}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{59} \mathrm{H}_{81} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Yb}$ |
| formula wt | 1084.96 | 1253.22 | 747.09 | 819.21 | 903.34 | 1087.34 | 1079.34 |
| cryst syst | Triclinic | Triclinic | Triclinic | Monoclinic | Monoclinic | Triclinic | Triclinic |
| space group | P-1 | P-1 | $P-1$ | P2/c | P2/c | $P-1$ | $P-1$ |
| $a($ ( $)$ | 15.0187(13) | 15.0250(14) | 9.1116(8) | 12.431(2) | 12.454(3) | 11.8630(12) | 11.9972(8) |
| $b$ ( ${ }_{\text {( }}$ ) | 16.0047(14) | 15.9524(15) | 11.2374(10) | 15.176(3) | 15.076(3) | 13.3410(14) | 13.3074(9) |
| $c(\AA)$ | 16.6926(14) | 16.6905(16) | 12.0801(11) | 15.3466(17) | 15.519(3) | 20.967(2) | 21.3606(15) |
| $\alpha\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 84.1590(10) | 84.3230(10) | 97.2570(10) | 90 | 90 | 106.190(6) | 105.7870(10) |
| $\beta\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 64.9450(10) | 65.1050(10) | 100.0590(10) | 124.166(9) | 124.822(13) | 102.549(13) | 102.5530(10) |
| $\chi\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 78.9000 (10) | 78.8840(10) | 101.9070(10) | 90 | 90 | 91.116(7) | 92.6190(10) |
| Volume ( $\AA^{3}$ ) | 3565.9(5) | 3560.0(6) | 1174.63(18) | 2395.5(7) | 2392.0(9) | 3099.2(5) | 3183.2(4) |
| Z | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| $D_{\text {calcd }}\left(\mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}\right)$ | 1.010 | 1.169 | 1.056 | 1.136 | 1.254 | 1.165 | 1.126 |
| $\mu\left(\mathrm{mm}^{-1}\right)$ | 1.759 | 2.750 | 0.157 | 1.348 | 2.085 | 0.987 | 1.509 |
| F (000) | 1128 | 1252 | 404 | 876 | 938 | 1164 | 1126 |
| $\theta$ range [ $\left.{ }^{\circ}\right]$ | 1.30 to 27.54 | 1.30 to 27.58 | 1.74 to 25.99 | 1.98 to 27.52 | 1.99 to 27.64 | 1.63 to 27.94 | 1.63 to 27.79 |
| Limiting indices | $-19<=\mathrm{h}<=19$ | -19<=h<=19 | $-11<=\mathrm{h}<=10$ | $-15<=h<=16$ | $-15<=\mathrm{h}<=16$ | $-15<=\mathrm{h}<=15$ | $-15<=\mathrm{h}<=15$ |
|  | $-20<=k<=20$ | $-20<=\mathrm{k}<=20$ | $-13<=k<=13$ | $-17<=\mathrm{k}<=19$ | $-18<=\mathrm{k}<=19$ | $-17<=k<=17$ | $-17<=\mathrm{k}<=16$ |
|  | $-21<=1<=21$ | $-21<=1<=18$ | $-14<=1<=14$ | -19<=1<=19 | $-20<=1<=20$ | $-27<=1<=27$ | $0<=1<=28$ |
| Reflections | 31129 / 16071 | 30653 / 15993 | 9138 / 4549 | 20090 / 5483 | 19741 / 5505 | 40064 / 14725 | 14509 / 14509 |
| collected/ unique | $[R(\mathrm{int})=0.0543]$ | $[R(\mathrm{int})=0.0516]$ | $[R($ int $)=0.0211]$ | $[R(\mathrm{int})=0.1383]$ | $[R(\mathrm{int})=0.0814]$ | $[\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.0506]$ | $[R(\mathrm{int})=0.0000]$ |
| Data/ restraints/ parameters | 16071 / 48 / 592 | 15993 / 24 / 592 | 4549 / 0 / 244 | 5483 / 0 / 240 | 5505 / 0 / 236 | 14725 / 0 / 676 | 14509 / 46 / 646 |
| GOF | 1.014 | 1.029 | 1.048 | 1.087 | 1.009 | 1.161 | 0.983 |
| Final $R$ indices | $R_{l}=0.0888$ | $R_{l}=0.0655$ | $R_{l}=0.0434$ | $R_{l}=0.0609$ | $R_{l}=0.0684$ | $R_{l}=0.0501$ | $R_{l}=0.0326$ |
| $[I>2 \sigma(I)]$ | $w R_{2}=0.2847$ | $w R_{2}=0.2046$ | $w R_{2}=0.1204$ | $w R_{2}=0.0833$ | $w R_{2}=0.1418$ | $w R_{2}=0.1142$ | $w R_{2}=0.0855$ |
| $R$ indices | $R_{l}=0.1914$ | $R_{l}=0.1450$ | $R_{l}=0.0617$ | $R_{l}=0.1963$ | $R_{l}=0.1321$ | $R_{l}=0.0634$ | $R_{l}=0.0410$ |
| (all data) | $w R_{2}=0.3462$ | $w R_{2}=0.2519$ | $w R_{2}=0.1340$ | $w R_{2}=0.1036$ | $w R_{2}=0.1726$ | $w R_{2}=0.1180$ | $w R_{2}=0.0892$ |
| largest diff peak/hole (e $\AA^{-3}$ ) | 1.854 and -0.468 | 1.773 and -0.998 | 0.260 and -0.195 | 0.410 and -0.372 | 2.063 and -1.036 | 0.697 and -0.841 | 0.691 and -0.682 |

