### Supporting Information for

# Chloride Templated Formation of ${Dy_{12}(OH)_{16}}^{20+}$ Cluster Core Incorporating 1,10-phenanthroline-2,9-dicarboxylate

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Scheme S1 1,10-phenanthroline-2,9-dicarbaldehyde dioxime ( $H_2$ phendox) and 1,10-phenanthroline-2,9-dicarboxylic acid ( $H_2$ phenda).

#### **Experimental Section**

**Materials and Physical Measurements.** The reagents and solvents employed were commercially available and used as received without further purification. The ligands 1,10-Phenanthroline-2,9-dicarbaldehyde dioxime (H<sub>2</sub>phendox) and 1,10-phenanthroline-2,9-dicarboxylic acid (H<sub>2</sub>phenda)

were synthesized according to a literature method.<sup>1</sup> The C, H, and N microanalyses were carried out with an Elementar Vario-EL CHNS elemental analyzer. The FT-IR spectra were recorded from KBr pellets in the range of 4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> on a Bio-Rad FTS-7 spectrometer. Electrospray mass spectrum (ESI-MS) for compound **1** and **2** in *N*, *N'*-dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) solution were obtained on a Thermo LCQ DECA XP apparatus. TG data were obtained on a TG209F3 Tarsus thermogravimetry, with a heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.Variabletemperature magnetic susceptibility measurements were obtained to 300 K on poly-crystalline samples using a SQUID magnetometer MPMS XL-7 (Quantum Design) at 0.05 T for **1** and **2**. The magnetization was measured for compounds **1** and **2** at 2 K in the 0-8 T range. The diamagnetic correction for each sample was determined from Pascal's constants.<sup>2</sup> The effective molar magnetic moments were calculated with the equation  $\mu_{eff} = 2.828(\chi_M T)^{1/2}$ .

Synthesis of  $[Dy_{12}(OH)_{16}(phenda)_8(H_2O)_8][Dy(phenda)_2]_2Cl_2\cdot 16DMSO\cdot 10MeOH <math>\cdot 45H_2O$  (1·16DMSO·10MeOH·45H\_2O). Dy(OAC)\_3·4H\_2O (0.071 g, 0.2 mmol), H\_2phendox (0.053 g, 0.2 mmol), H\_2phenda (0.014 g, 0.05 mmol) and MeOH/DMSO (12 mL, V/V = 5/1) were sealed and heated in a HCl-acidified 23 mL Teflon lined stainless steel autoclave at 120 °C for 6 days. Diamond light yellow crystals of 1·16DMSO·10MeOH·45H\_2O were obtained in a very lower yield. An improved synthetic method for complex 1·16DMSO·10MeOH·45H\_2O was found as followed: Dy(OAC)\_3·4H\_2O (0.071 g, 0.2 mmol), H\_2phenda (0.027 g, 0.1 mmol), two drops dilute HCl and MeOH/DMSO (12 mL, V/V = 5/1) were sealed and heated in a 23 mL Teflon lined stainless steel autoclave at 120 °C for 6 days. Diamond light yellow crystals of 1·16DMSO·10MeOH·45H\_2O were obtained (yield: 27 mg, 22.6 % based on Dy). Elemental analysis calcd (Found) for 1·16DMSO·10MeOH·45H\_2O (C<sub>210</sub>H<sub>330</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>Dy<sub>14</sub>N<sub>24</sub>O<sub>143</sub>S<sub>16</sub>): C 30.25 (29.64), H 3.99 (3.90); N 4.03 (4.05)%. IR data (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3396 br, 1616 vs, 1564s, 1463 s, 1429 m,1396 m, 1363 m, 1305 m, 1269 w, 1175 w, 1018 m, 950w, 877w, 843 m, 743 m, 647 w, 617 w, 591w, 426 w. MS (negative ESI; DMSO) (m/z, %): 696.1(100.0) [Dy(phenda)<sub>2</sub>] (Figure S1). **Synthesis** of  $[Dy_{12}(OH)_{16}(phenda)_8(H_2O)_8Cl_2](OH)_2 \cdot 15MeOH \cdot 40H_2O$ (2·15MeOH·40H<sub>2</sub>O). Dy(OAC)<sub>3</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.071 g, 0.2 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>phendox (0.053 g, 0.2 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>phenda (0.014 g, 0.05 mmol), DyCl<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (18 mg, 0.05mmol) and MeOH/DMSO (12 mL, V/V = 5/1) were sealed and heated in a 23 mL Teflon lined stainless steel autoclave at 120 °C for 6 days. Octahedron light yellow crystals of 2.15MeOH $\cdot$ 40H<sub>2</sub>O were obtained along with Diamond light yellow crystals of 1 as side-product. An improved synthetic method for complex 2.15MeOH.40H<sub>2</sub>O was found as followed: Dy(OAC)<sub>3</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.071 g, 0.2 mmol), H<sub>2</sub>phenda (0.027 g, 0.1 mmol),  $DyCl_3$ ·6H<sub>2</sub>O (18mg, 0.05mmol) and MeOH/DMSO (12 mL, V/V = 5/1) were sealed and heated in a 23 mL Teflon lined stainless steel autoclave at 120 °C for 6 days. Octahedron light yellow crystals of 2.15MeOH.40H<sub>2</sub>O were obtained as single phase (yield 25 mg, 25.8 % based on Dy). Elemental analysis calcd (Found) for 2.15MeOH·40H<sub>2</sub>O (C<sub>127</sub>H<sub>222</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>Dy<sub>12</sub>N<sub>16</sub>O<sub>113</sub>): C 26.29 (29.28), H 3.86 (3.84); N 3.86 (3.67)%. IR data (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3313 br, 1617 vs, 1565s, 1466 s, 1430 m, 1397 m, 1311 m, 1182 w, 1019 m, 951w, 878w, 812 m, 765 m,648 w, 426 w.

**X-Ray Crystallography.** Suitable single crystals of each complex were carefully selected under polarizing microscope and glued to a thin glass fiber. Diffraction data for compound 1·16DMSO·10MeOH·45H<sub>2</sub>O and 2·15MeOH·40H<sub>2</sub>O were recorded on Rigaku R-AXIS SPIDER Image Plate diffractometer with graphite-monochromated MoK<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) at 150 (2) K. The structures were solved with direct methods and refined with full-matrix least-squares (SHELX-97). All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically by least-squares on  $F^2$  using the SHELXTL program.<sup>3</sup> Hydrogen atoms on organic ligands were generated by the riding mode.

Because the DMSO molecules are slightly disordered, 37 restraints were used in the refinement of **1**·16DMSO·10MeOH·45H<sub>2</sub>O.

For 1.16DMSO-10MeOH·45H<sub>2</sub>O and 2.15MeOH·40H<sub>2</sub>O, the asymmetric unit contains one eighth of Dy<sub>12</sub> clusters, one fourth of the uncoordinated chloride and highly disordered lattice aqua molecules. The latter were disordered and could not be modeled properly; thus, program SQUEEZE,<sup>4</sup> a part of the PLATON package of crystallographic software, was used to calculate the solvent disorder area and remove its contribution to the overall intensity data. A total of 388 parameters for 1 and 225 parameters for 2 were refined in the final least-squares cycle using 1177 reflections for 1 and 1830 reflections for 2 with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$  to yield R<sub>1</sub> and wR<sub>2</sub> of 0.0399 and 0.1060 for 1 and R<sub>1</sub> and wR<sub>2</sub> of 0.0337and 0.0806 for 2, respectively. Selected bond distances and bond angles are listed in Tables S1-S2.

## **References:**

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Fig. S1 ESI-MS Spectra for 1.



Fig. S2 XRD patterns of 1



Fig. S3 XRD patterns of 2



Fig. S4 Coordination polyhedrons of Dy atoms in 1 and 2.



**Fig. S5** the coordination environment of the dysprosium atom in 1.Symmetry codes: a) x,-y+1/2,-z+1/2; b) y,-x+1/2,z; c) -y+1/2,x,z; d)y,x,-z+1/2; e)y-1/2,-x,-z; f) -x-1/2,-y+1/2,z; g) -y,x+1/2,-z; h)-x+1/2,-y+1/2,z.



**Fig. S6** The off-set  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction in the distance of 3.577(8) Å between phendox<sup>2-</sup> groups from the neighboring duodecanuclear units in **1**. The H atoms, chlorides and guest molecules are omitted for clarity.



**Fig. S7** (a) The supramolecular network of **1** viewed along the *a* or *b*-axis; (b) The supramolecular network of **2** viewed along the *a* or *b*-axis. Green, Dy; red, O; black, C; blue, N; purple, Cl. The H atoms, chlorides and guest molecules are omitted for clarity.



(**d**)

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**Fig. S8** Space-filling mode of supramolecular network of **1** viewed down from *c* axis (a) and *a* or *b* axis (b). Space-filling mode of supramolecular network of **2** viewed along the *c*-axis (c) and viewed along the *a* or *b* axis (d). The H atoms and guest molecules and in the channels are omitted for clarity. Green, Dy; red, O; black, C; blue, N; purple, Cl.



Fig. S9. TG curve of 1-2 under  $N_2$ .



Fig. S10 Cole-Cole plot using the ac susceptibility data for 1. The solid lines are the best fit obtained with a generalized Debye model (with  $\alpha$  always smaller than 0.15).



Fig. S11 Cole-Cole plot using the ac susceptibility data for 2. The solid lines are the best fit obtained with a generalized Debye model (with  $\alpha$  always smaller than 0.10).



**Fig. S12.** Plot of Curie-Weiss fitting of  $\chi_{M}^{-1}$  versus *T* curve for **1** at 500 Oe from 50 K to 300 K.

Table S1.	Selected b	ond length	s (Å)	and angles	(°) for	1.
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Dy(1)-O(1W)	2.371(5)	Dy(2)-O(1)	2.382(4)
Dy(1)-O(2)	2.382(4)	Dy(2)-O(1d)	2.382(4)
Dy(1)-O(5)	2.382(5)	Dy(2)-O(3)	2.442(4)
Dy(1)-O(2a)	2.390(4)	Dy(2)-O(3d)	2.442(4)
Dy(1)-O(4b)	2.398(4)	Dy(3)-O(7)	2.335(5)
Dy(1)-O(1)	2.417(4)	Dy(3)-O(7e)	2.335(5)
Dy(1)-N(2)	2.581(5)	Dy(3)-O(7f)	2.335(5)
Dy(1)-O(3)	2.592(4)	Dy(3)-O(7g)	2.335(5)
Dy(1)-N(1)	2.598(5)	Dy(3)-N(3)	2.473(5)
Dy(2)-O(1c)	2.324(4)	Dy(3)-N(3f)	2.473(5)
Dy(2)-O(1a)	2.324(4)	Dy(3)-N(3g)	2.473(5)
Dy(2)-O(2d)	2.346(4)	Dy(3)-N(3e)	2.473(5)
Dy(2)-O(2)	2.346(4)	• • • • •	
O(1W)- $Dy(1)$ - $O(2)$	76.89(16)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(1a)	119.8(2)
O(1W)-Dy(1)-O(5)	79.97(17)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(2d)	70.98(15)
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(5)	98.52(15)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(2d)	147.01(14)
O(1W)-Dy(1)-O(2a)	127.25(17)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(2)	147.01(14)
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(2a)	68.58(18)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(2)	70.98(15)
O(5)-Dy(1)-O(2a)	67.64(16)	O(2d)-Dy(2)-O(2)	118.5(2)
O(1W)-Dy(1)-O(4b)	140.46(16)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(1)	80.0(2)
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(4b)	142.56(15)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(1)	70.19(17)
O(5)-Dy(1)-O(4b)	92.69(16)	O(2d)- $Dy(2)$ - $O(1)$	141.45(14)
O(2a)-Dy(1)-O(4b)	83.29(15)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(1)	74.92(14)
O(1W)- $Dy(1)$ - $O(1)$	136.47(15)	O(1c)- $Dy(2)$ - $O(1d)$	70.19(17)
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(1)	73.65(14)	O(1a)- $Dy(2)$ - $O(1d)$	80.0(2)
O(5)-Dy(1)-O(1)	135.33(15)	O(2d)- $Dy(2)$ - $O(1d)$	74.92(14)
O(2a)-Dy(1)-O(1)	68.69(14)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(1d)	141.45(14)
O(4b)-Dy(1)-O(1)	73.33(14)	O(1)-Dy(2)-O(1d)	118.6(2)
O(1W)- $Dy(1)$ - $N(2)$	78.27(16)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(3)	81.83(15)
O(2)-Dy(1)-N(2)	151.34(16)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(3)	127.38(15)
O(5)-Dy(1)-N(2)	63.04(17)	O(2d)-Dy(2)-O(3)	83.38(14)
O(2a)-Dy(1)-N(2)	117.69(16)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(3)	68.99(14)
O(4b)-Dy(1)-N(2)	64.08(16)	O(1)-Dy(2)-O(3)	67.50(14)

O(1)-Dy(1)-N(2)	134.99(15)	O(1d)-Dy(2)-O(3)	148.84(14)
O(1W)-Dy(1)-O(3)	74.42(16)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	127.38(15)
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(3)	65.97(14)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	81.83(15)
O(5)-Dy(1)-O(3)	152.41(16)	O(2d)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	68.99(14)
O(2)- $Dy(1)$ - $O(3)$	121.44(14)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	83.38(14)
O(4b)-Dy(1)-O(3)	113.61(15)	O(1)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	148.84(14)
O(1)-Dy(1)-O(3)	64.62(13)	O(1d)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	67.50(14)
N(2)-Dy(1)-O(3)	120.05(16)	O(3)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	124.8(2)
O(1W)- $Dy(1)$ - $N(1)$	77.60(18)	O(4b)- $Dy(1)$ - $N(1)$	74.53(16)
O(2)-Dy(1)-N(1)	124.93(16)	O(1)-Dy(1)-N(1)	93.87(15)
O(5)-Dy(1)-N(1)	123.63(17)	N(2)-Dy(1)-N(1)	62.07(18)
O(2b)-Dy(1)-N(1)	155.15(16)	O(3)-Dy(1)-N(1)	60.47(15)
O(7)-Dy(3)-O(7e)	90.89(3)	O(7)-Dy(3)-N(3g)	81.39(17)
O(7)-Dy(3)-O(7f)	165.7(2)	O(7e)-Dy(3)-N(3g)	129.18(17)
O(7e)-Dy(3)-O(7f)	90.89(3)	O(7f)-Dy(3)-N(3g)	86.52(16)
O(7)-Dy(3)-O(7g)	90.89(3)	O(7g)-Dy(3)-N(3g)	65.08(17)
O(7e)-Dy(3)-O(7g)	165.7(2)	N(3)-Dy(3)-N(3g)	135.75(17)
O(7f)-Dy(3)-O(7g)	90.89(3)	N(3f)-Dy(3)-N(3g)	135.75(17)
O(7)-Dy(3)-N(3)	65.08(17)	O(7)-Dy(3)-N(3e)	86.52(16)
O(7e)-Dy(3)-N(3)	81.39(17)	O(7e)-Dy(3)-N(3e)	65.08(17)
O(7f)-Dy(3)-N(3)	129.18(17)	O(7f)-Dy(3)-N(3e)	81.39(17)
O(7g)-Dy(3)-N(3)	86.52(16)	O(7g)-Dy(3)-N(3e)	129.18(17)
O(7)-Dy(3)-N(3f)	129.18(17)	N(3)-Dy(3)-N(3e)	135.75(17)
O(7e)-Dy(3)-N(3f)	86.52(16)	N(3f)-Dy(3)-N(3e)	135.75(17)
O(7f)-Dy(3)-N(3f)	65.08(17)	N(3g)-Dy(3)-N(3e)	64.4(3)
O(7g)-Dy(3)-N(3f)	81.39(17)	N(3)-Dy(3)-N(3f)	64.4(3)

Symmetry codes for 1: a) x,-y+1/2,-z+1/2, b) y,-x+1/2,z, c) -y+1/2,x,z,d) y,x,-z+1/2, e) y-1/2,-x,-z, f) -x-1/2,-y+1/2,z, g)-y,x+1/2,-z, h) -x+1/2,-y+1/2,z

Dy(1)-O(2)	2.369(3)	Dy(2)-O(1a)	2.323(3)	
Dy(1)-O(2a)	2.381(3)	Dy(2)-O(1c)	2.323(3)	
Dy(1)-O(1W)	2.386(4)	Dy(2)-O(2d)	2.361(3)	
Dy(1)-O(5)	2.390(4)	Dy(2)-O(2)	2.361(3)	
Dy(1)-O(4b)	2.408(4)	Dy(2)-O(1d)	2.380(3)	
Dy(1)-O(1)	2.412(3)	Dy(2)-O(1)	2.380(3)	
Dy(1)-N(2)	2.582(4)	Dy(2)-O(3d)	2.435(3)	
Dy(1)-O(3)	2.591(3)	Dy(2)-O(3)	2.435(3)	
Dy(1)-N(1)	2.602(4)			
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(2a)	68.12(13)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-(1c)	119.97(14)	
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(1W)	78.09(11)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-(2d)	147.23(9)	
O(2a)-Dy(1)-O(1W)	128.51(12)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-(2d)	70.44(11)	
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(5)	97.59(12)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(2)	70.44(11)	
O(2a)-Dy(1)-O(5)	68.68(12)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(2)	147.23(9)	
O(1W)- $Dy(1)$ - $O(5)$	79.06(13)	O(2d)-Dy(2)-O(2)	119.21(16)	
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(4b)	142.61(11)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-(1d)	80.65(14)	
O(2a)-Dy(1)-O(4b)	84.01(11)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-(1d)	69.71(10)	
O(1W)- $Dy(1)$ - $O(4b)$	139.09(11)	O(2)-Dy(2)-(1d)	74.38(10)	
O(5)-Dy(1)-O(4b)	94.67(13)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(1d)	141.66(9)	
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(1)	73.65(10)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(1)	69.71(10)	
O(2a)-Dy(1)-O(1)	68.62(10)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(1)	80.65(14)	
O(1W)- $Dy(1)$ - $O(1)$	136.50(11)	O(2d)-Dy(2)-O(1)	141.66(9)	
O(5)-Dy(1)-O(1)	136.53(11)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(1)	74.38(10)	

 Table S2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 2.

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O(4b)-Dy(1)-O(1)	73.19(10)	O(1d)-Dy(2)-O(1)	118.81(14)
O(2)-Dy(1)-N(2)	150.95(14)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-(3d)	82.00(10)
O(2a)-Dy(1)-N(2)	117.50(13)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-(3d)	127.06(11)
O(1W)-Dy(1)-N(2)	77.36(13)	O(2d)-Dy(2)-(3d)	69.11(10)
O(5)-Dy(1)-N(2)	62.59(14)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	83.55(11)
O(4b)-Dy(1)-N(2)	64.30(13)	O(1d)-Dy(2)-(3d)	67.59(10)
O(1)-Dy(1)-N(2)	135.40(13)	O(1)-Dy(2)-O(3d)	148.53(10)
O(2)-Dy(1)-O(3)	66.36(10)	O(1a)-Dy(2)-O(3)	127.06(11)
O(2a)-Dy(1)-O(3)	121.37(10)	O(1c)-Dy(2)-O(3)	82.00(10)
O(1W)-Dy(1)-O(3)	74.02(12)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(3)	83.55(11)
O(5)-Dy(1)-O(3)	150.89(12)	O(2)-Dy(2)-O(3)	69.11(10)
O(4b)-Dy(1)-O(3)	112.91(12)	O(1d)-Dy(2)-O(3)	148.53(10)
O(1)-Dy(1)-O(3)	64.63(9)	O(1)-Dy(2)-O(3)	67.59(10)
N(2)-Dy(1)-O(3)	120.38(13)	O(3d)-Dy(2)-O(3)	124.79(16)
O(2)-Dy(1)-N(1)	125.69(13)	O(4b)-Dy(1)-N(1)	73.46(13)
O(2a)-Dy(1)-N(1)	154.93(13)	O(1)-Dy(1)-N(1)	93.91(12)
O(1W)-Dy(1)-N(1)	76.55(13)	N(2)-Dy(1)-N(1)	62.25(15)
O(5)-Dy(1)-N(1)	123.09(13)	O(3)-Dy(1)-N(1)	60.78(12)

Symmetry codes for **2**: a)y,x,-z+3/2; b) y,-x+1/2,z; c) -y+1/2,x,z; d) -x+1/2,y,-z+3/2