

## Supporting Information

# Luminescence and Upconversion from Thulium (III) Species in Solution

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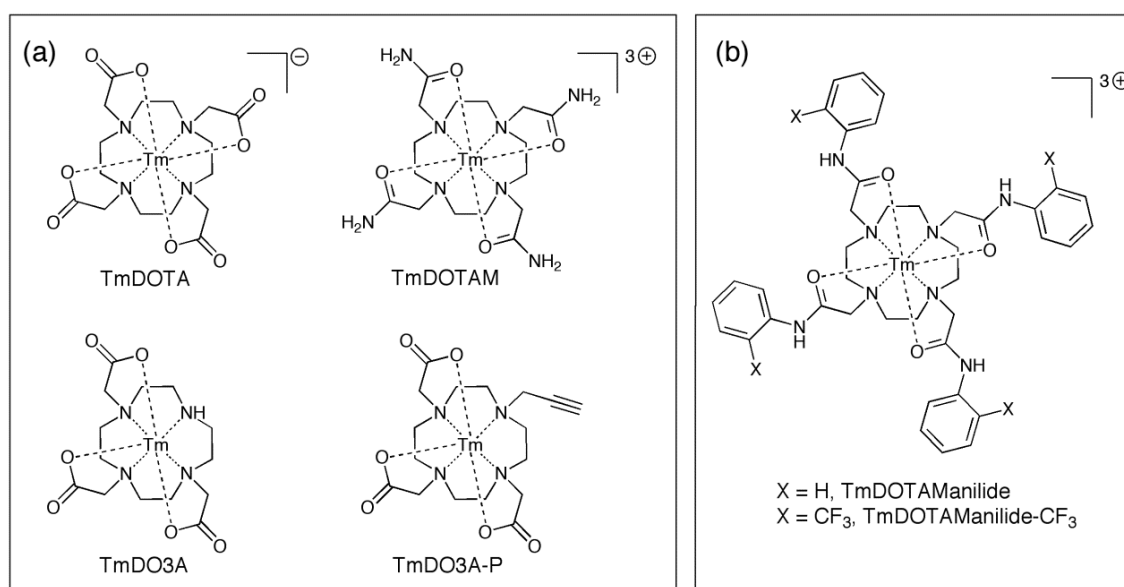
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## 1. Structures of complexes



## 2. Absorption Spectra

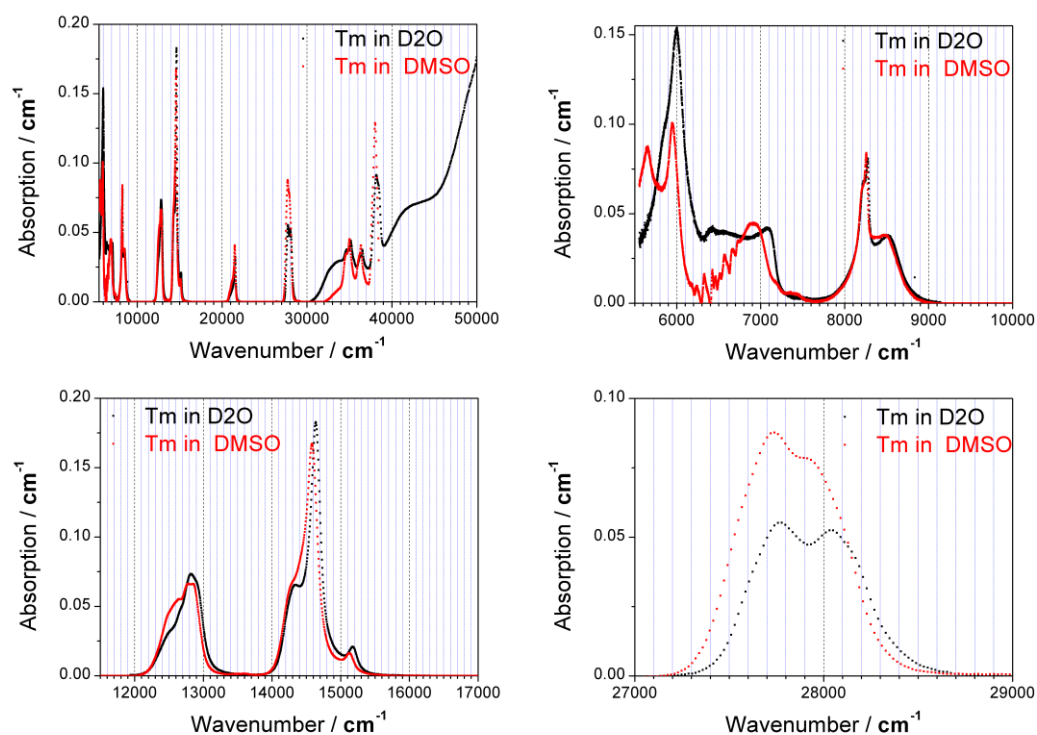


Figure S1. Absorption spectra of thulium trifluoromethanesulfonate ( $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$ ) (in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  (black) and  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$  (red)) showing the full spectrum (top left) and expanded regions. The feature at ca. 7000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is associated with trifluoromethanesulfonate.

### 3. Time-Correlated Single Photon Counting (TCSPC) traces and fits

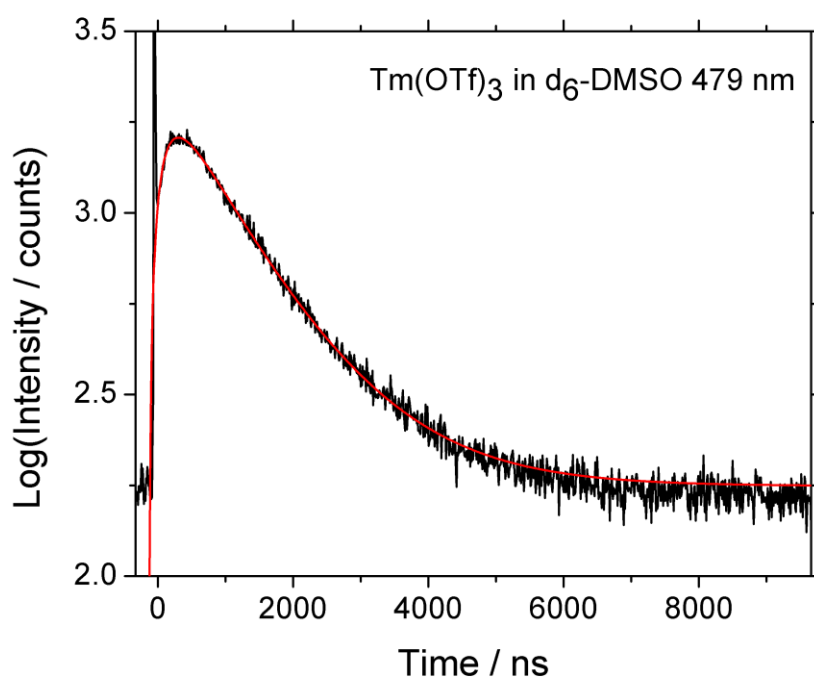


Figure S2. TCSPC trace of Tm(OTf)<sub>3</sub> in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO recorded at 479 nm with 364 nm excitation showing negative time delays.

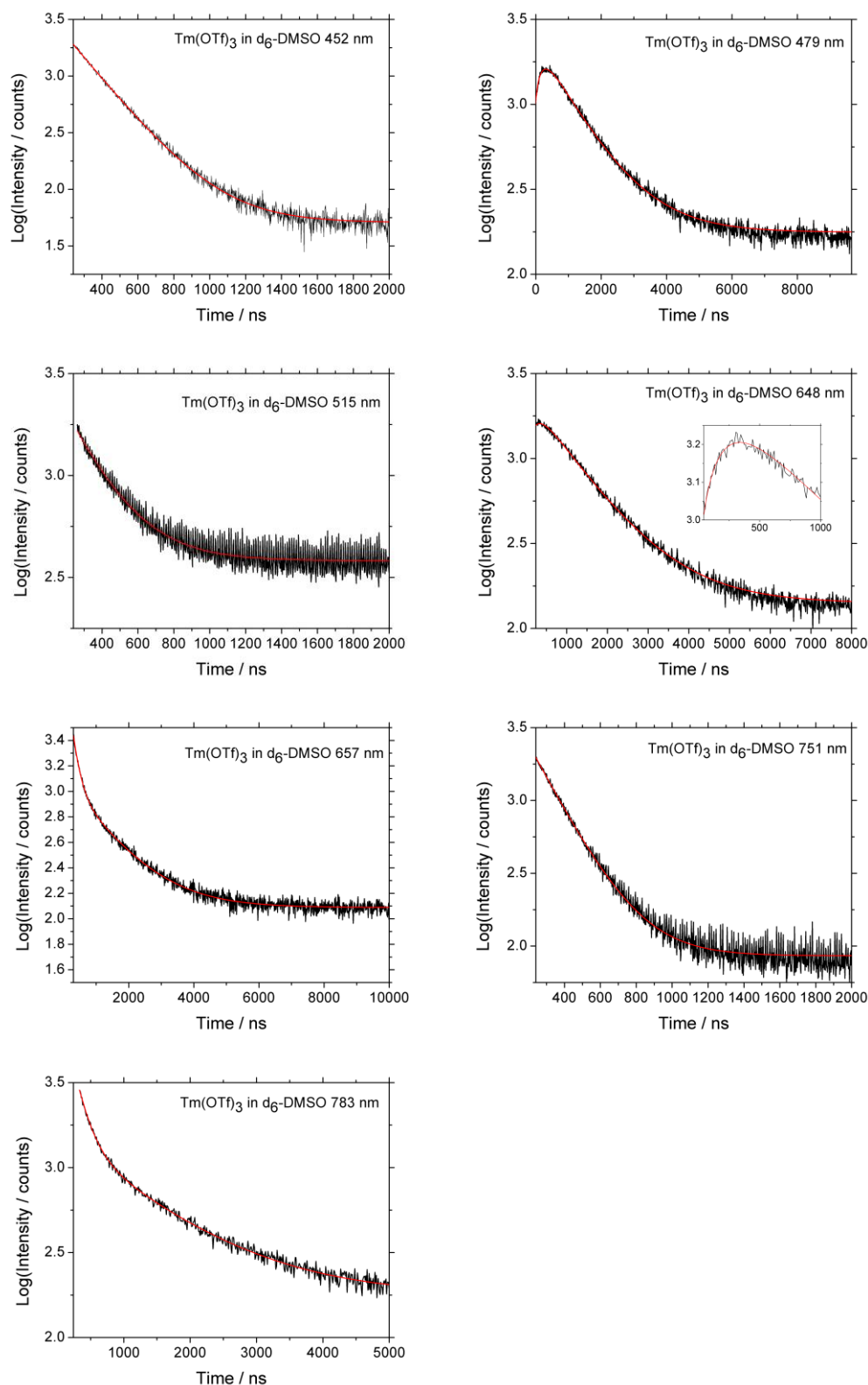


Figure S3: Black line: TCSPC traces of  $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$  in  $\text{d}_6$ -DMSO with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452, 515, 657, 751 and 783 nm, and a reconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 and 648 nm.

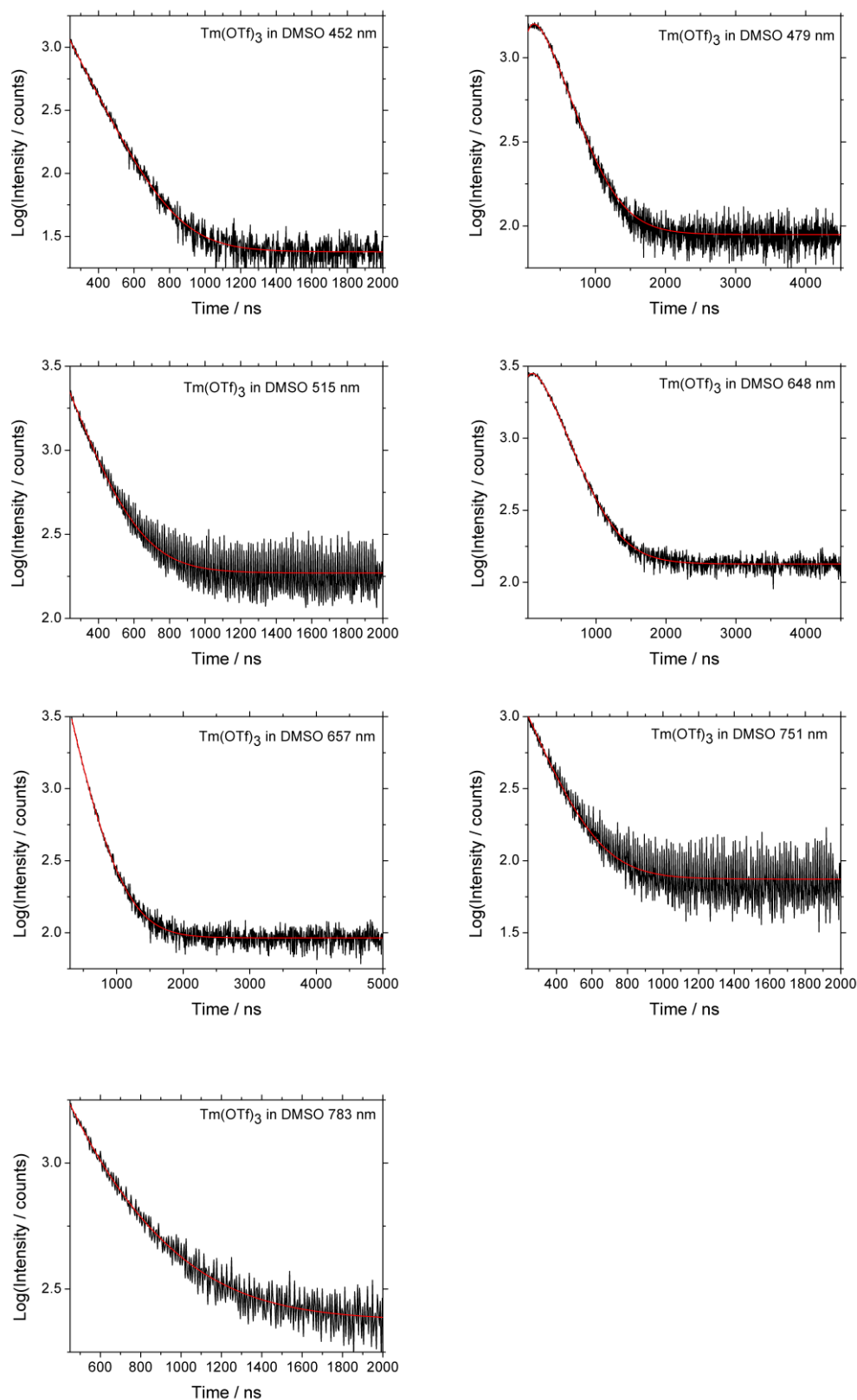


Figure S4: Black line: TCSPC traces of  $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$  in DMSO with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452, 515, 657, 751 and 783 nm, and a reconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 and 648 nm.

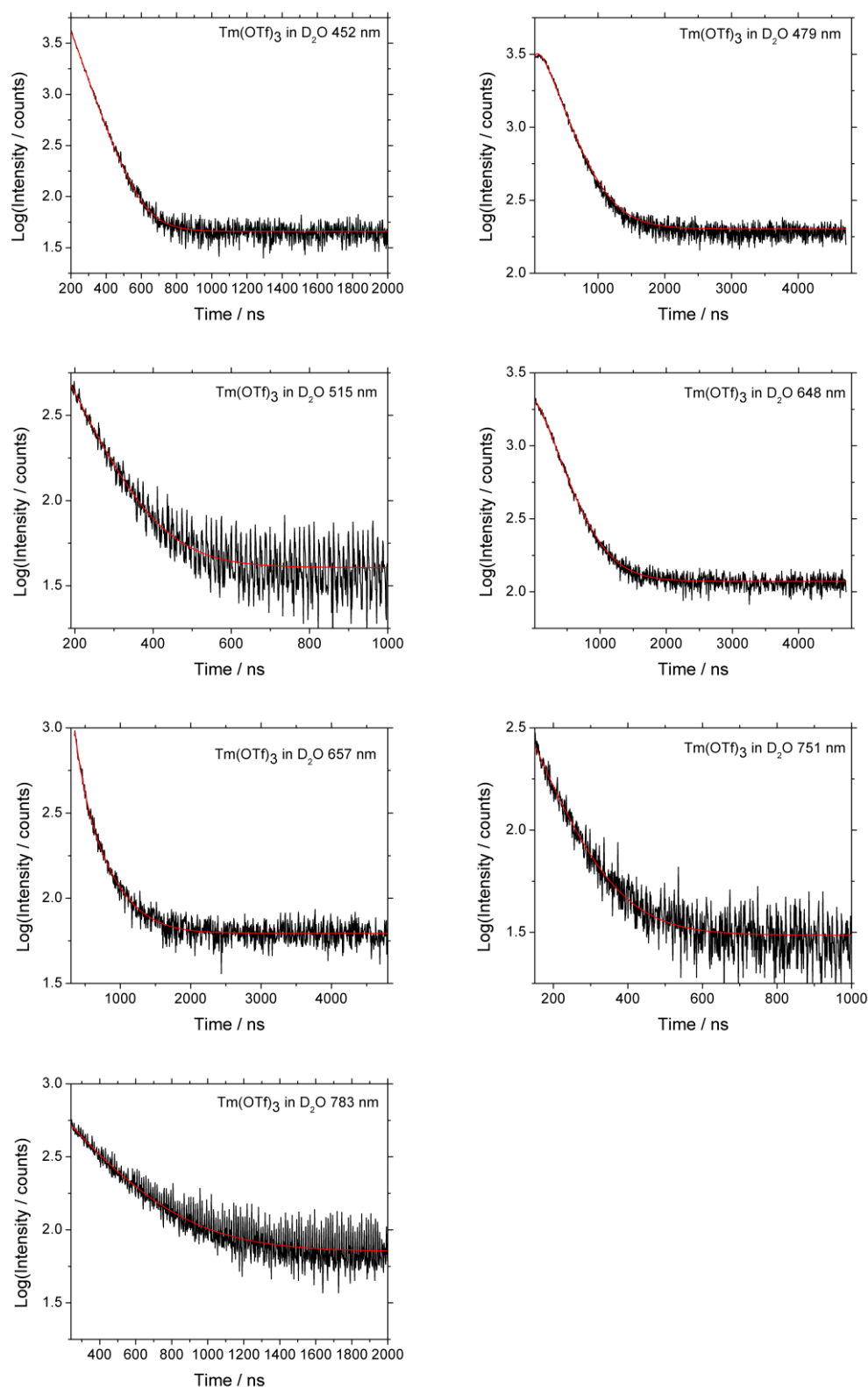


Figure S5: Black line: TCSPC traces of  $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452, 515, 657, 751 and 783 nm, and a reconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 and 648 nm.

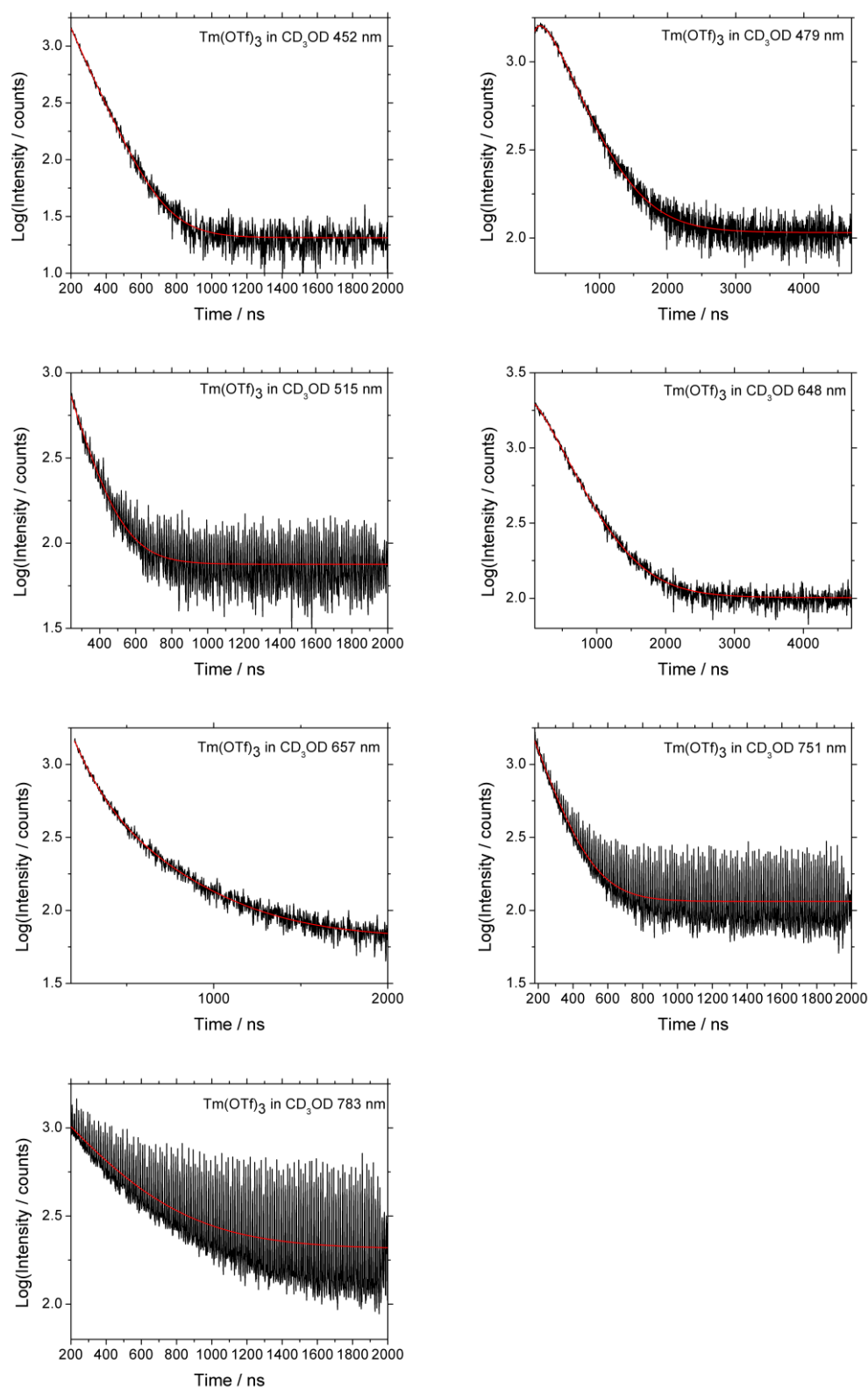


Figure S6: Black line: TCSPC traces of  $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$  in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452, 515, 657, 751 and 783 nm, and a deconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 and 648 nm.



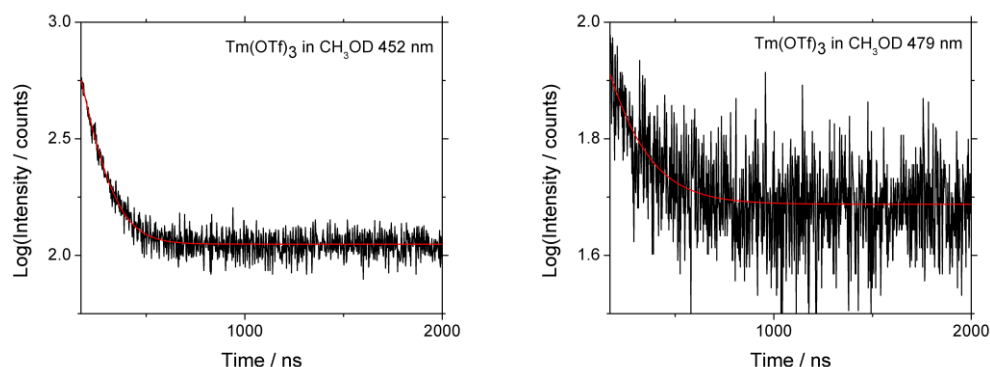


Figure S7: Black line: TCSPC traces of  $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OD}$  with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452 nm, and a reconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 nm.

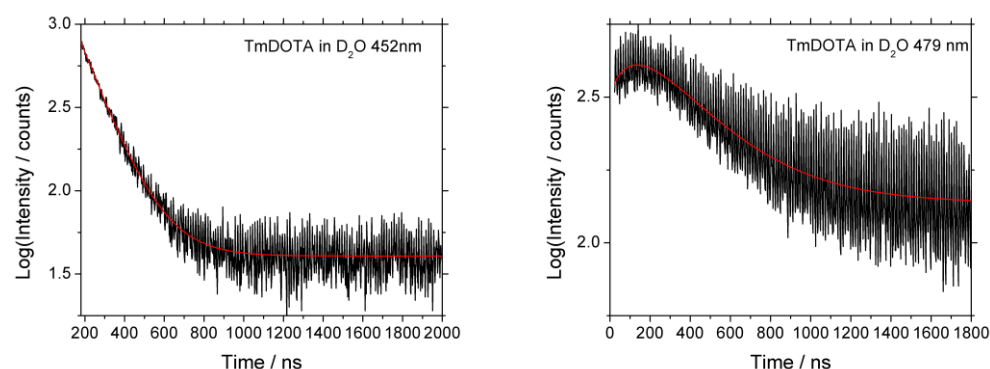


Figure S8: Black line: TCSPC traces of  $[\text{Tm.DOTA}]^-$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452 nm, and a reconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 nm.

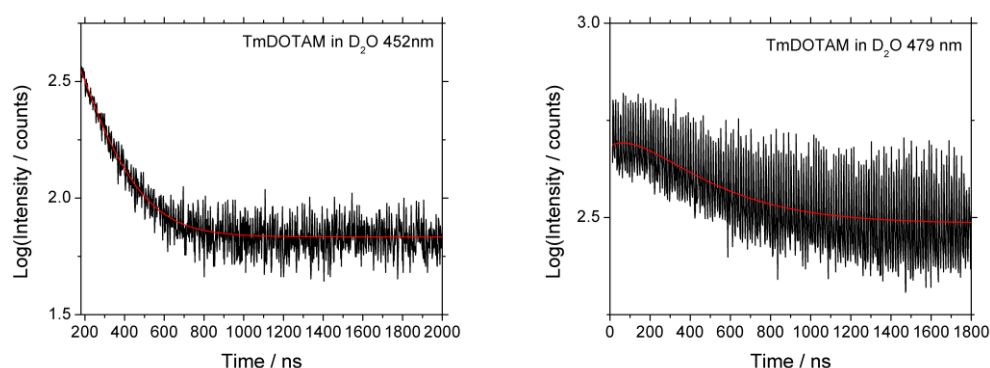


Figure S9: Black line: TCSPC traces of  $[\text{Tm.DOTAM}]^{3+}$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452 nm, and a reconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 nm.

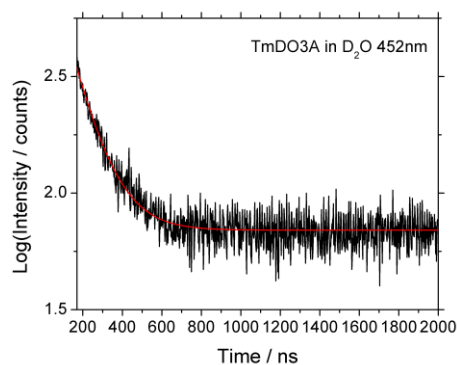


Figure S10: Black line: TCSPC trace of [Tm.D03A] in D<sub>2</sub>O with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452 nm.

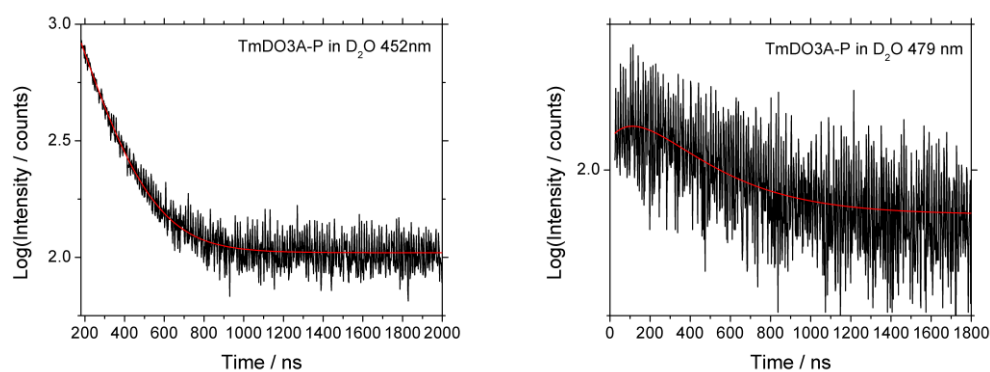


Figure S11: Black line: TCSPC traces of [TmD03A-P] in D<sub>2</sub>O with 364 nm excitation. Red line: The fit of the data resulting from a tail fit for emission at 452 nm, and a reconvolution fit for the rise and decay behaviour at 479 nm.

## 4. Emission Spectra

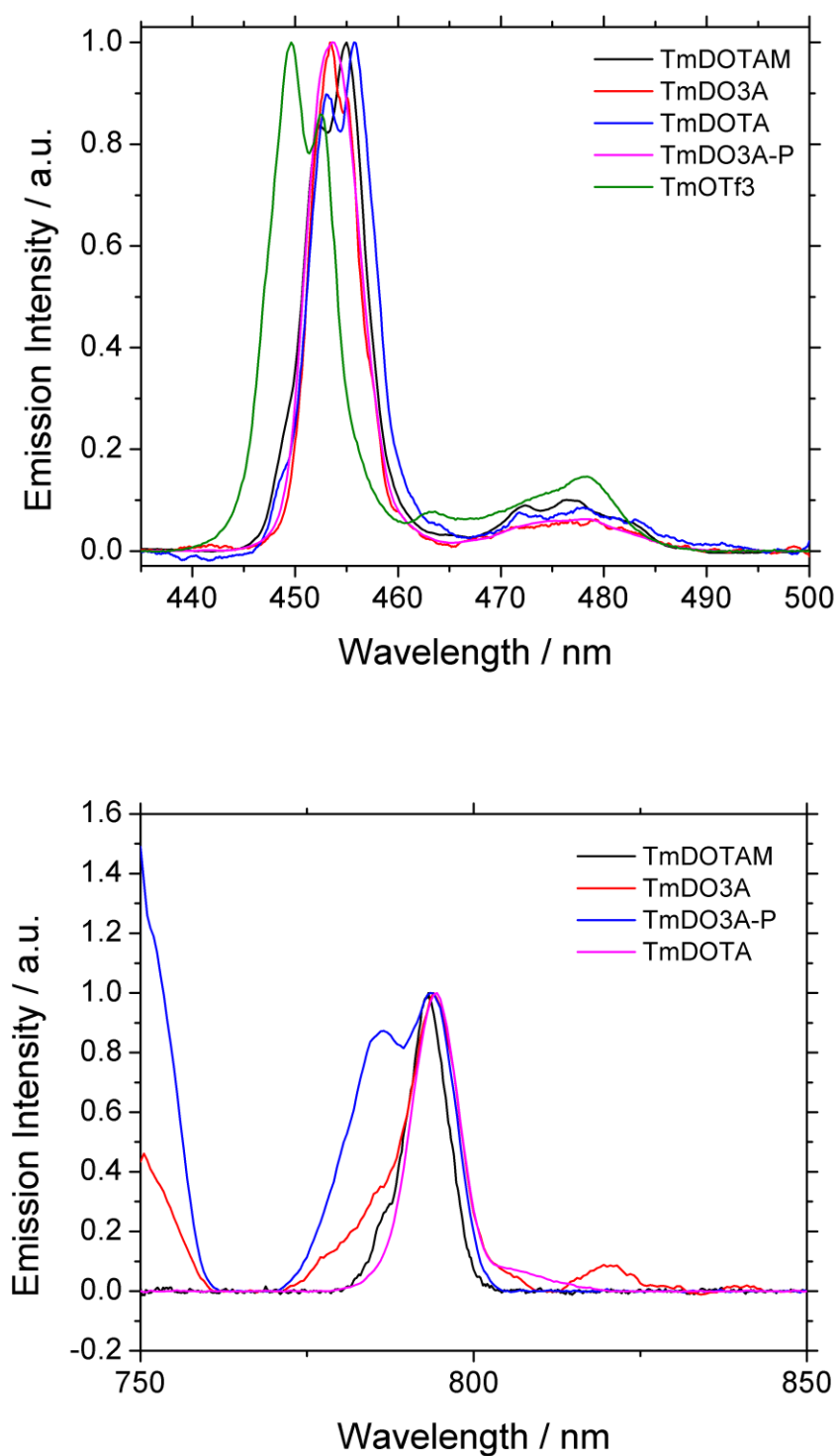


Figure S12: Overlaid emission spectra of Tm(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, TmDOTAM, TmDO3A, TmDO3A-P and TmDOTA in D<sub>2</sub>O upon excitation at 360 nm.

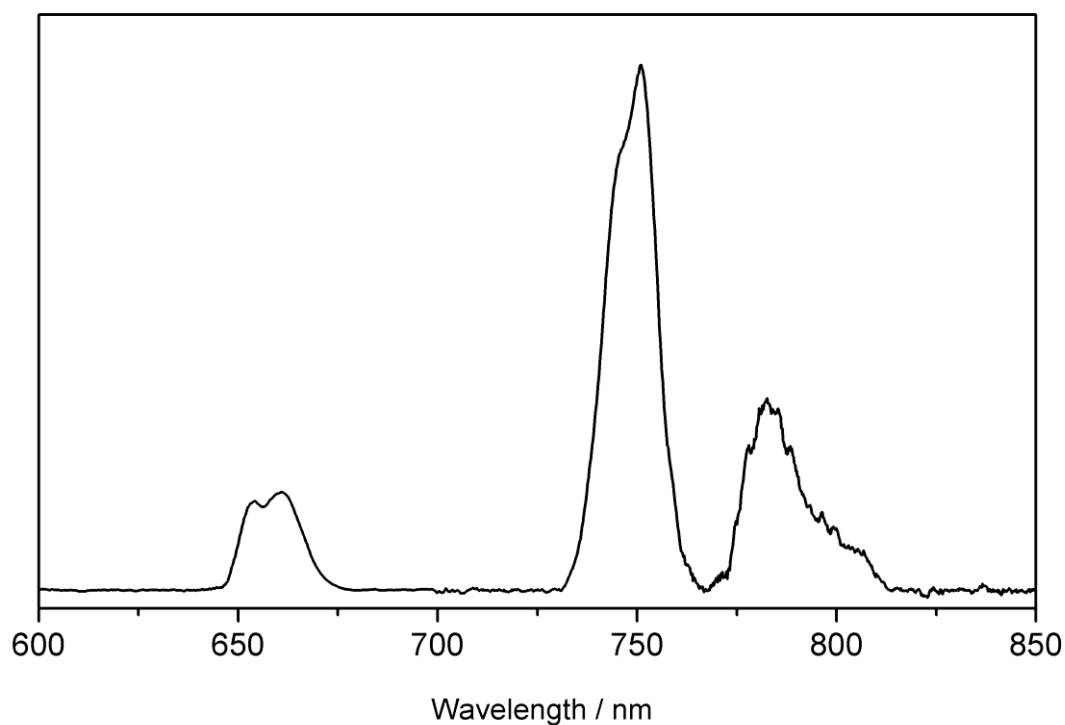


Figure S13: Emission from  $^1\text{D}_2$ , of  $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$  in  $d_6$ -DMSO, obtained by subtraction of the emission spectrum on 465 nm excitation from the spectrum on 360 nm excitation.

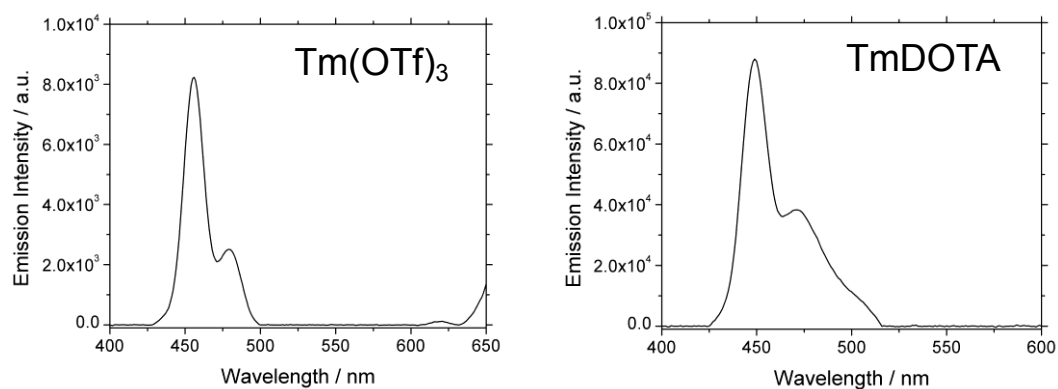


Figure S14. Two photon emission spectra, exciting into  $^1\text{D}_2$  at 728 nm, of  $\text{Tm}(\text{OTf})_3$  in  $d_6$ -DMSO and  $[\text{Tm}.\text{DOTA}]^-$  in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .