

Supplementary Information

Smart lanthanide antennas for sensing water

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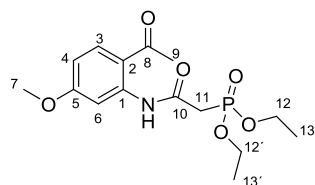
I. General Methods

All reagents were of commercial quality. Solvents were dried and purified by standard methods. Analytical TLC was performed on aluminum sheets coated with a 0.2 mm layer of silica gel 60 F₂₅₄. Silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh) was used for flash chromatography. HPLC-MS was performed on a Sunfire C₁₈ (4.6×50 mm, 3.5

μm) column at 30°C, with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and gradient of 0.1% of formic acid in CH₃CN (solvent A) in 0.1% of formic acid in H₂O (solvent B) was used as mobile phase. Electrospray in positive mode was used for ionization. NMR spectra were recorded using Varian Inova or Mercury 400, and Varian Unity 500 spectrometers. The NMR spectra assignments were based on COSY, HSQC, and HMBC spectra. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 6520 Q-TOF instrument with an ESI source. MW experiments were carried out in sealed vessels in a MW Emrys™ Synthesizer (Biotage AB), with transversal IR sensor for reaction temperature monitoring. UV-visible spectroscopy measurements were made at 25 °C on a Lambda 35 Perkin Elmer UV-vis spectrophotometer. Steady-state fluorescence emission spectra were performed at 25 °C either on a JASCO FP-8300 spectrofluorometer equipped with a 450 W xenon lamp for excitation. Lifetime experiments were acquired in a Varian Cary Eclipse Spectrofluorometer. Starna and Hellma quartz cuvettes of 1 cm path length and several volumes were employed.

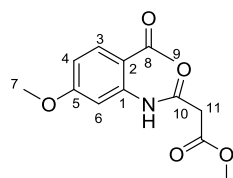
II. Experimental Synthetic Methods

Synthesis of diethyl (2-((2-acetyl-5-methoxyphenyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl)phosphonate (6).



HATU (205 mg, 0.54 mmol) and DIPEA (220 μL , 1.23 mmol) were added to a solution of 2-amino-4-methoxyacetophenone (75 mg, 0.45 mmol) and diethyl phosphonoacetic acid (81 μL , 0.49 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After this time the reaction was incomplete, therefore, additional HATU (102 mg, 0.27 mmol) and DIPEA (110 μL , 0.62 mmol) were added and the reaction was stirred again for 45 min. Then, the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by flash chromatography, using a 0-5 % gradient of MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ as eluent, to give the amide **6** as a yellow syrup (124 mg, 80 %). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B, 10 min) t_R = 3.35 min. ¹H-RMN [(CD₃)₂CO, 400 MHz] δ : 1.18 [dt, 6 H, J = 1 and 7 Hz, CH₃(Et)], 2.49 (s, 3H, CH₃CO), 3.05 (d, 2H, J = 21 Hz, 11-H), 3.75 (s, 3H, OMe), 4.04 [m, 4H, CH₂(Et)], 6.61 (dd, 1H, J = 3 and 9 Hz, 4-H), 7.92 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz, 3-H), 8.23 (d, 1H, J = 3 Hz, 6-H), 12.06 (s, 1H, CONH). ¹³C-RMN [(CD₃)₂CO, 100 MHz] δ : 15.2 [d, J = 6 Hz, CH₃(Et)], 27.1 (CH₃CO), 37.4 (C₁₁), 54.6 (OMe), 61.9 [d, J = 6.5 Hz, CH₂(Et)], 104.1 (C₄), 107.8 (C₆), 114.9 (C₁), 134.0 (C₃), 142.4 (C₂), 163.2 (CONH), 164.0 (C₅), 200.5 (COCH₃). HRMS (ESI) m/z : Calc. for C₁₅H₂₂NO₆P ([M+H]⁺): 344.1185, Found: 344.1177.

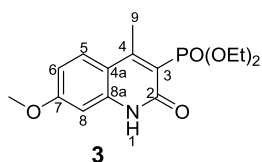
Synthesis of methyl 3-((2-acetyl-5-methoxyphenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (7).



Methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropanoate (74 μL , 0.54 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-amino-4-methoxyacetophenone (50 mg, 0.3 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. Then, the reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced

pressure and the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL). The solution was successively washed with H_2O (50 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to dryness to give the amide **7** as yellow syrup (80 mg, 100%). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B, 10 min) $t_{\text{R}} = 3.54$ min. ^1H -RMN (CD_3Cl , 400 MHz) δ : 2.54 (s, 3H, CH_3CO), 3.46 (s, 2H, 11-H), 3.74 (s, 3H, CO_2Me), 3.81 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.58 (dd, 1H, $J = 2.5$ and 9 Hz, 4-H), 7.75 (d, 1H, $J = 9$ Hz, 3-H), 8.33 (d, 1H, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 6-H), 12.35 (s, 1H, NH). ^{13}C -RMN (CD_3Cl , 100 MHz) δ : 28.3 (CH_3CO), 45.1 (C_{11}), 52.8 (CO_2Me), 55.8 (OMe), 104.5 (C_4), 110.3 (C_6), 115.7 (C_1), 133.7 (C_3), 143.2 (C_2), 164.9 ($\text{C}_5 + \text{CONH}$), 167.8 (CO_2Me), 201.2 (C_8). HRMS (ESI) m/z : Calc. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_5$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 266.1023, Found: 266.1015.

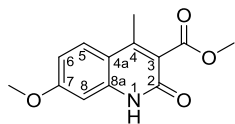
Synthesis of diethyl (7-methoxy-4-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinolin-3-yl)phosphonate (3). NaH (5.6 mg, 0.24 mmol) was added to a solution of the amide **6** (45 mg, 0.13 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL) and the



mixture was heated to reflux for 5 h. Then, the mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash chromatography, using 0-5 % gradient of MeOH in CH_2Cl_2 to give the 1,2-dihydroquinolin-2-one derivative **3** as solid (13 mg, 30 %). M.p. 195 °C (EtOH). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in

B, 10 min) $t_{\text{R}} = 2.08$ min. ^1H -RMN ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 500 MHz) δ : 1.08 [t, 6H, $J = 7$ Hz, CH_3 (Et)], 2.37 (s, 2H, 4- CH_3), 3.63 [m, 4H, CH_2 (Et)], 3.80 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.82 (m, 2H, 6- and 8-H), 7.61 (d, 1H, $J = 9$ Hz, 5-H) ^{13}C -RMN ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 125 MHz) δ : 16.7 [d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, CH_3 (Et)], 18.5 (4- CH_3), 55.3 (OMe), 59.1 [d, $J = 5.5$ Hz, CH_2 (Et)], 98.3 (C_8), 110.3 (C_6), 113.8 (C_3), 117.9 (C_{4a}), 126.2 (C_5), 140.4 (C_{8a}), 147.9 (C_4), 160.9 (C_7), 166.3 (C_2). HRMS (ESI) m/z : Calc. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_5\text{P}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 326.1151, Found: 326.1135.

Synthesis of methyl 7-methoxy-4-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (4). K_2CO_3 (47 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added to a solution of the carboxamide **7** (60 mg, 0.22 mmol) in MeOH (8 mL) and the



mixture was heated at 70 °C by MW irradiation for 30 min. Then, the reaction mixture was cooled at room temperature and evaporated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) and the solution was successively washed with H_2O (20 mL) and

brine (20 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to dryness, to give the desired 2-oxo-1,2-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate **4** as a beige solid (56 mg, 100 %). M. p. 188 °C (EtOH). HPLC-MS (30-95% gradient of A in B, 10 min) $t_{\text{R}} = 2.42$ min. ^1H -RMN [$(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$, 400 MHz] δ : 2.27 (s, 3H, 4-Me), 3.71 (s, 3H, CO_2Me), 3.76 (s, 3H, OMe), 6.74 (d, 1H, $J = 9$ Hz, 6-H), 6.86 (s, 1H, 8-H), 7.62 (d, 1H, $J = 9$ Hz, 5-H). ^{13}C -RMN [$(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$, 100 MHz] δ : 14.9 (4-Me), 50.9 (CO_2Me), 54.6 (OMe), 97.8 (C_8), 110.6 (C_6), 112.6 (C_{4a}), 123.8 (C_3), 126.5 (C_5), 140.0 (C_{8a}), 144.4 (C_4), 158.6 (C_2), 161.8 (C_7), 166.4 (CO_2). HRMS (ESI) m/z : Calc. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_4$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$): 248.0917, Found: 248.0917.

III. Spectroscopy Methods

a. Photophysical properties

Excitation and emission spectra of compounds were determined for 12 μM solutions in solvents of diverse polarity. The spectra were recorded between 300 and 690 nm (0.5 nm increments and 0.1 s integration time) with excitation set at the appropriate excitation wavelength. Slit widths were set to 5 nm for excitation and to 5 nm for emission, depending on the observed emission intensity. All the spectra were corrected for background fluorescence by subtracting a blank scan of the solvent solution.

Fluorescence quantum yield determination. Fluorescence quantum yields (Φ) of quinolin-2(1*H*)-one derivatives **1-4** were determined in solvents of different polarity, and calculated using Quinine sulfate dihydrate (in 0.1M H_2SO_4) as reference.¹ Concentration of the sample and the reference was set to assure that the absorbance was less than 0.1 at identical excitation wavelengths. The following equation was used to calculate the quantum yield:

$$\Phi = \frac{I_x A_r n_x^2 \Phi_r}{A_x I_r n_r^2} \quad (\text{S1})$$

where x and r denote the sample and standard, respectively, A is the absorption at the excitation wavelength, I is the integrated fluorescence intensity, and n is the refractive index of the solvent.

Fluorescence quantum yields of (Φ) of lanthanide complexes of **1-4** were measured with an integrating sphere on a UV-VIS-NIR Horiba QuantaMaster-8000 (QM-8000) spectrofluorometer.

Fluorescence lifetimes determination. Lifetime experiments lanthanide complexes of **1-4** were acquired in a Varian Cary Eclipse Spectrofluorometer at room temperature using the following conditions: excitation wavelength 320 nm; emission wavelength 545 nm for terbium or 615 nm for europium; excitation slit width 5.0 nm, emission slit width 5.0 nm; total decay time 15.0 ms; delay time 0.1 ms; gate time 0.2 ms; number of cycles 20; PMT detector voltage 600 V.

¹ (a) Wuerth, C.; Grabolle, M.; Pauli, J.; Spieles, M.; Resch-Genger, U. *Nat. Protoc.*, **2013**, 8, 1535-1550 (b) Brouwer, A. M. *Pure Appl. Chem.*, **2011**, 83, 2213-2228; (c) Rurack, K.; Spieles, M. *Anal. Chem.*, **2011**, 83, 1232-1242.

Table S1. Photophysical properties of quinolin-2(1*H*)-one derivatives **1-4**

Compd ^a	Solvent	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm)	ϵ (M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹) ^b	$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ (nm) ^c	Φ_{F} ^d
1	Toluene	313, 354	3541	421	0.071
	Dioxane	312, 356	3544	421	0.044
	CH ₃ CN	312, 355	2896	435	0.098
	MeOH	313, 365	3992	440	0.138
	H ₂ O	313, 354	4168	460	0.403
2	Toluene	308, 361	3727	435	0.059
	Dioxane	308, 359	3723	437	0.043
	CH ₃ CN	310, 357	2989	458	0.111
	MeOH	310, 356	4849	464	0.095
	H ₂ O	312, 357	4564	485	0.344
3	Toluene	328, 343	4119	366	0.079
	Dioxane	328, 343	3085	366	0.070
	CH ₃ CN	326, 340	3394	365	0.120
	MeOH	325, 338	4713	359	0.143
	H ₂ O	322, 336	5115	358	0.189
4	Toluene	334, 347	3668	408	0.093
	Dioxane	332, 346	3876	408	0.056
	CH ₃ CN	332, 344	4236	409	0.058
	MeOH	330, 342	4302	415	0.102
	H ₂ O	330, 342	4334	415	0.115

^aMeasured in duplicate at a 12 μM concentration. ^bFor the lower $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$. ^cExcited at 320 nm. ^dCalculated with reference to quinine sulfate (in 0.1M H₂SO₄).

b. Lanthanide luminescence sensitization studies Figures S1-S8

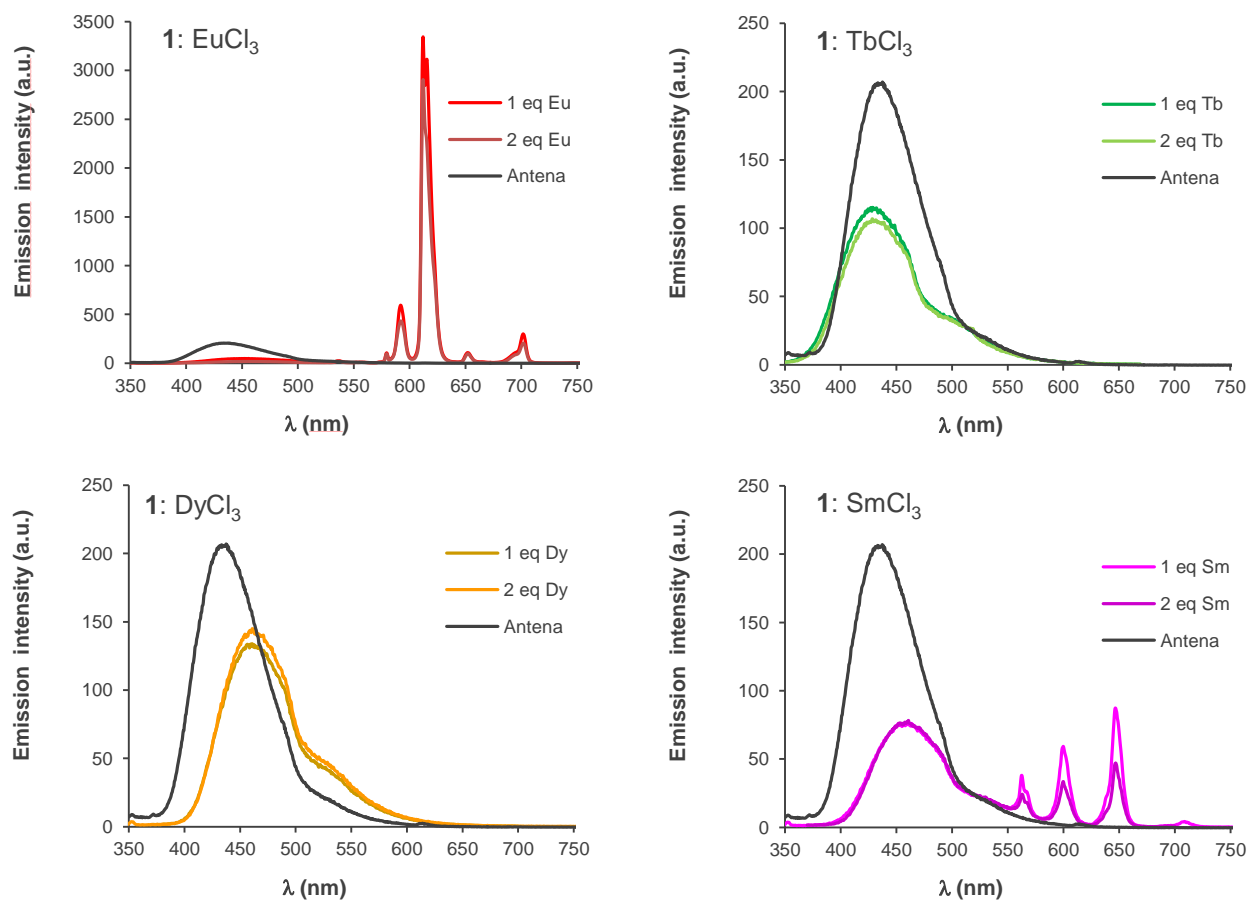


Figure S1. Emission spectra of **1** (54 μM in CH₃CN) and after addition of 1 and 2 equivalents of EuCl₃, TbCl₃, DyCl₃ and SmCl₃.

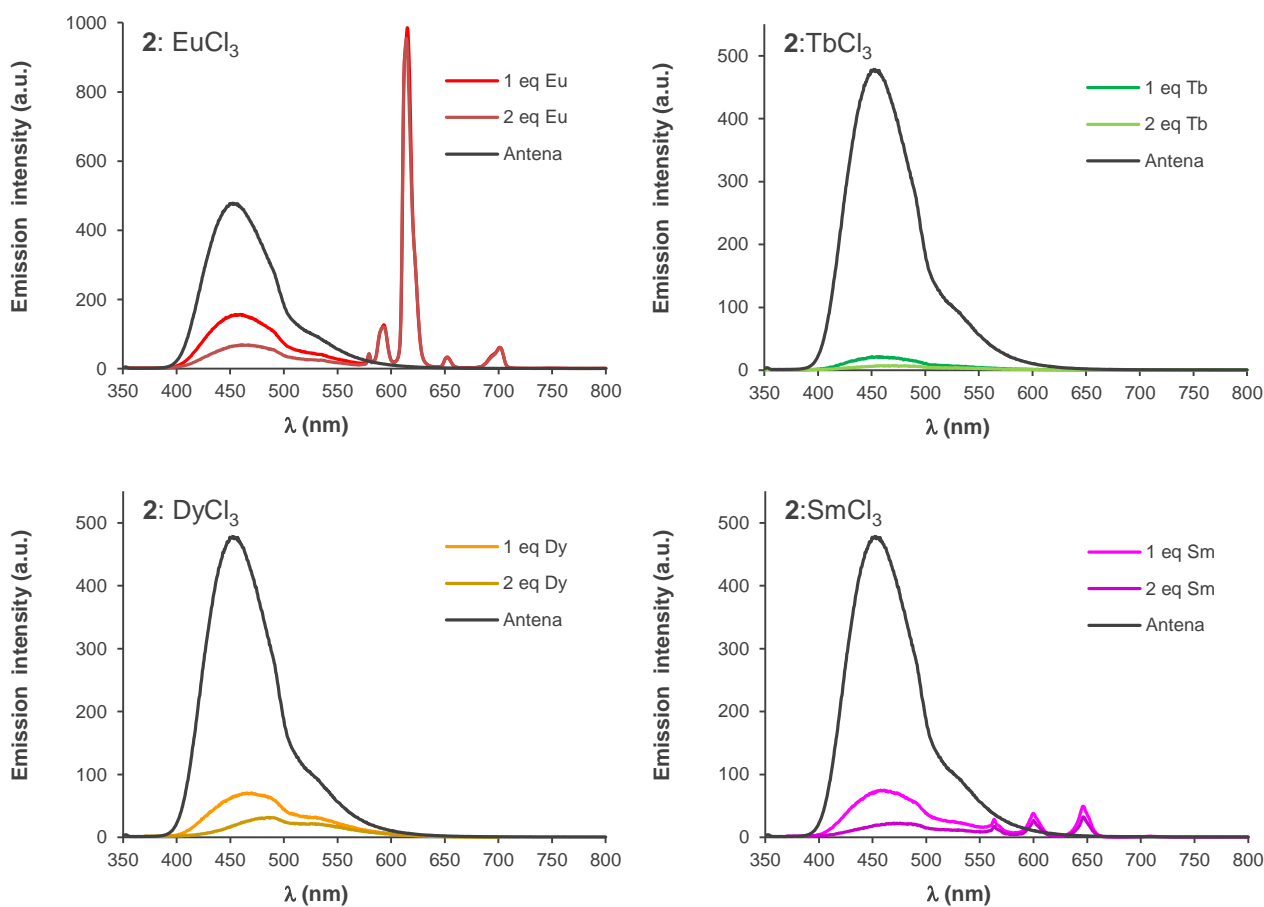


Figure S2. Emission spectra of **2** ($54 \mu\text{M}$ in CH_3CN) and after addition of 1 and 2 equivalents of EuCl_3 , TbCl_3 , DyCl_3 and SmCl_3 .

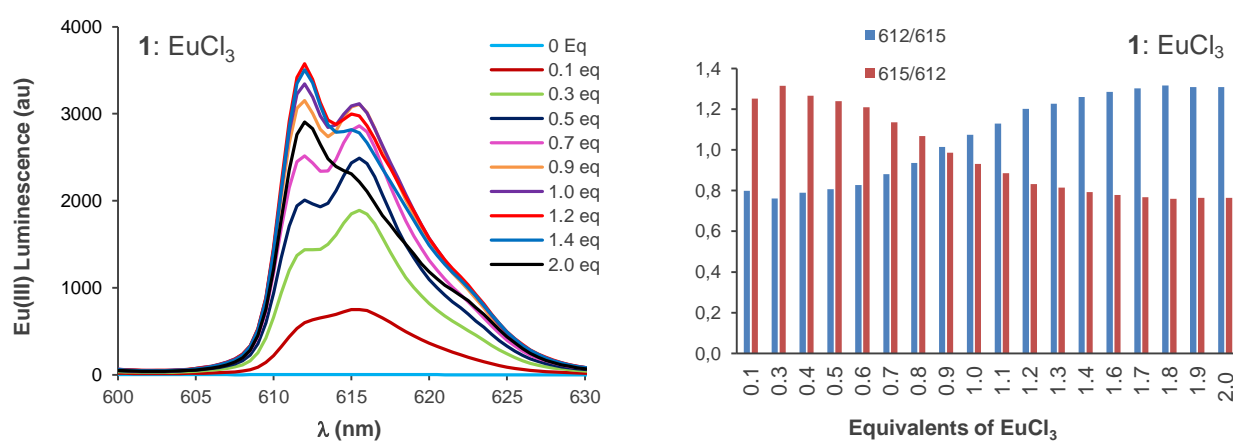


Figure S3. Expansion of the $\text{Eu(III)} \ ^5\text{D}_0 \rightarrow \ ^7\text{F}_2$ band in the titration spectra of **1** ($54 \mu\text{M}$) in CH_3CN with increasing equivalents of EuCl_3 and the respective I_{612}/I_{615} and I_{615}/I_{616} ratios.

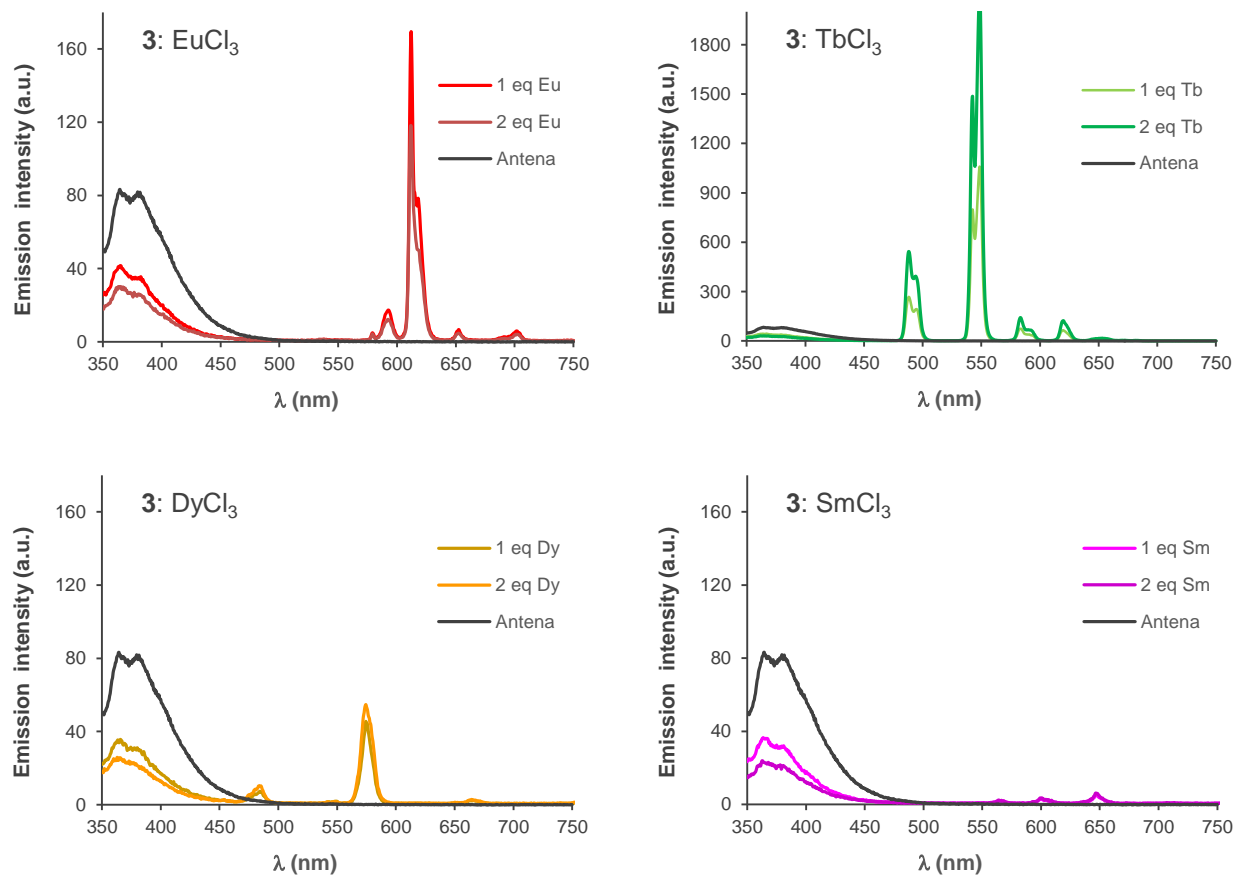


Figure S4. Emission spectra of **3** (54 μM in CH_3CN) and after addition of 1 and 2 equivalents of EuCl_3 , TbCl_3 , DyCl_3 and SmCl_3 .

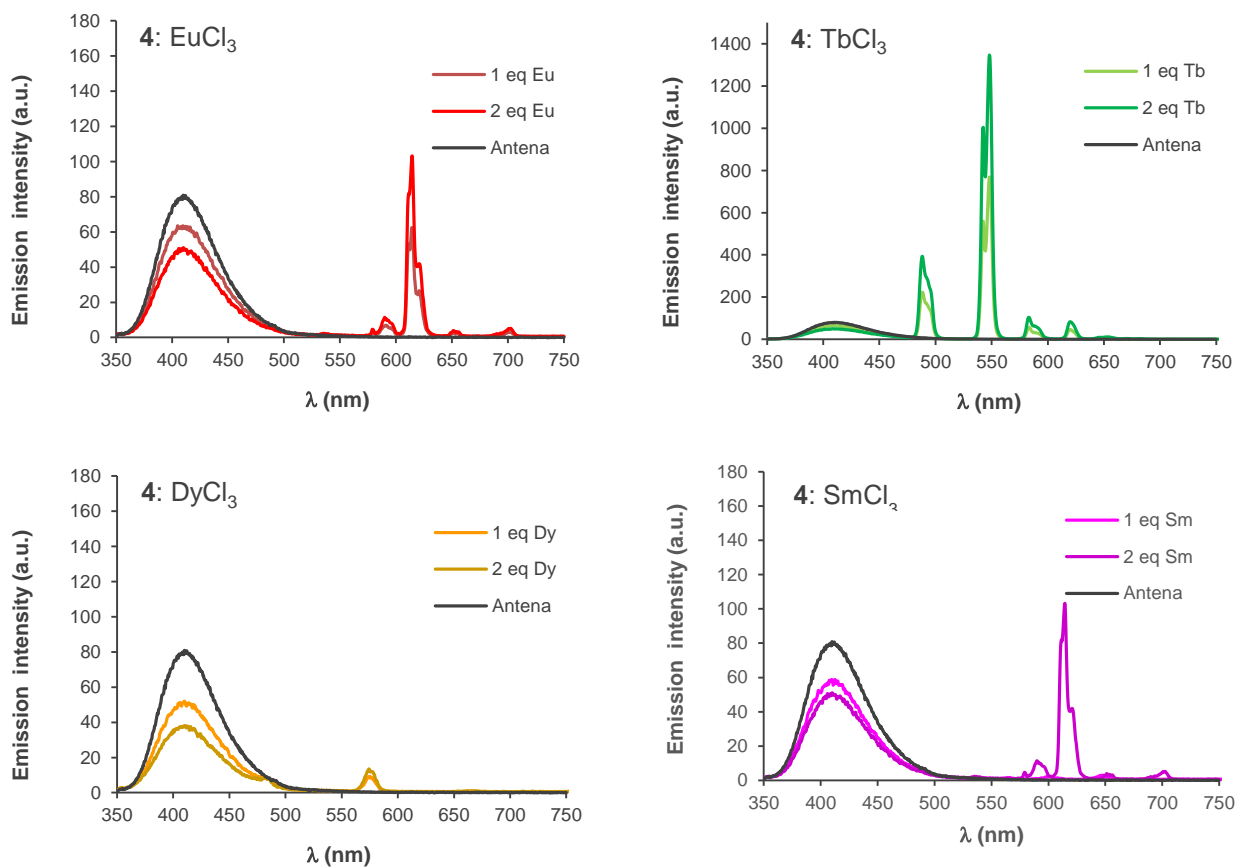


Figure S5 Emission spectra of **4** (54 μM in CH_3CN) and after addition of 1 and 2 equivalents of EuCl_3 , TbCl_3 , DyCl_3 and SmCl_3 .

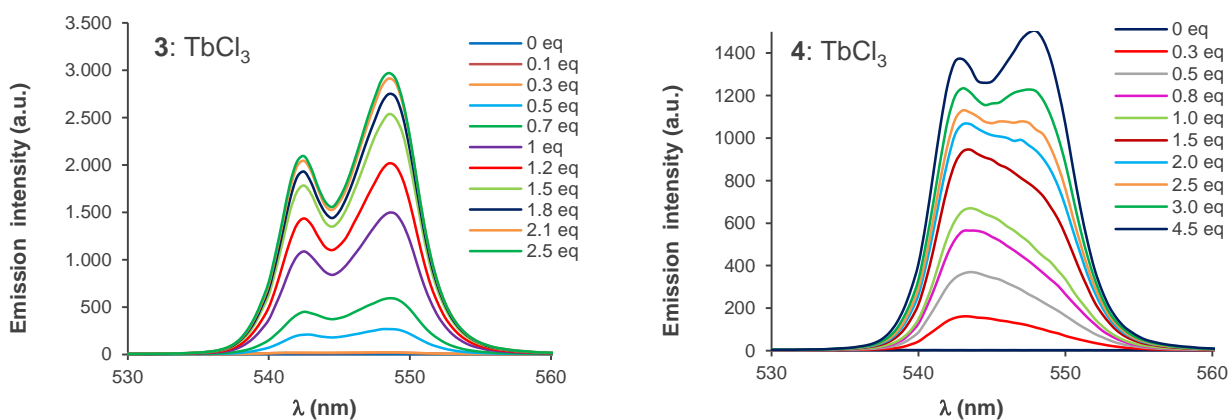


Figure S6. Expansion of the ${}^5\text{D}_4 \rightarrow {}^7\text{F}_5$ band of Tb(III) in the emission spectra of the titration of **3** and **4** with TbCl_3 .

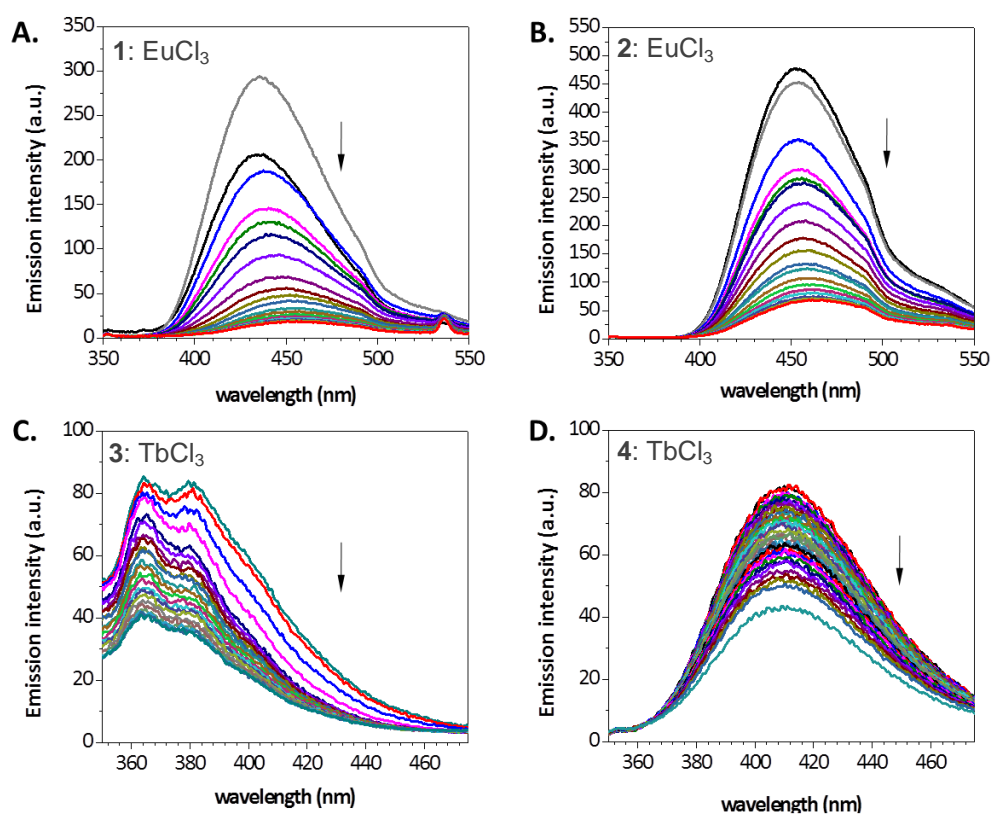


Figure S7. Titration spectra of solutions (54 μM in CH_3CN) of the 8-methoxy-4,5-dihydrocyclopenta[*de*]quinolin-2(1*H*)-ones **1** (A) and **2** (B) with increasing equivalents (0-2) of EuCl_3 , and solutions (54 μM in CH_3CN) of the carbostyryl analogues **3** (C) and **4** (D) with increasing equivalents (0-4) of TbCl_3 , showing the quenching in the fluorescence of the antenna.

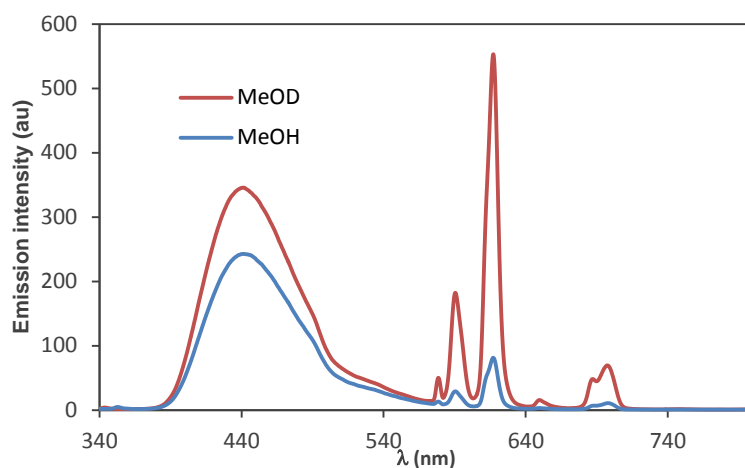


Figure S8. Emission spectra of the complex $\text{Eu}^{3+}(\mathbf{1})_2\text{Cl}_3$ (50 μM) in MeOH and MeOD.

c. Determination of the number of Eu^{3+} -coordinated methanol molecules for $\text{Eu}^{3+}(\mathbf{1})_2\text{Cl}_3$

Luminescence decay lifetimes (τ) for $\text{Eu}^{3+}(\mathbf{1})_2\text{Cl}_3$ (50 μM) were obtained ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 320$ nm) and the resultant decay curves were fit to monoexponential decay function using the standard curve fitting algorithm of the instrument software to yield lifetime values for the sample with different amounts of MeOH and MeOD. Linear regression of acquired lifetimes allowed to obtain extrapolated values for the lifetimes in pure MeOH and MeOD (Fig. S8). The number of methanol solvent molecules bound to the central metal, q , in the complex $\text{Eu}^{3+}(\mathbf{1})_2\text{Cl}_3$ was calculated from Horrocks and co-workers² equation. In this equation, τ^{-1} is the reciprocal lifetime value of either MeOH or MeOD, A is an empirical constant ($A = 2.1$ for europium) and q has the meaning abovementioned.

$$q = A(\tau_{\text{MeOH}}^{-1} - \tau_{\text{MeOD}}^{-1}) \quad (\text{S2})$$

² (a) Holz, R. C.; Chang, C. A.; Horrocks, W. D. *Inorg. Chem.*, **1991**, *30*, 3270-3275. (b) Horrocks, W. D.; Sudnick, D. *R. Acc. Chem. Res.*, **1981**, *14*, 384-392.

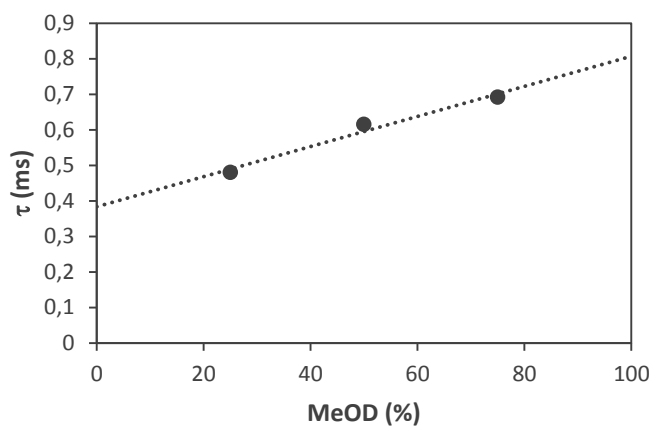


Figure S9. Representative plot of three luminescence decay lifetime measurements of MeOH/MeOD solutions of the complex $\text{Eu}^{3+}(\mathbf{1})_2\text{Cl}_3$ (50 μM) employed to determine the number of bound methanol solvent molecules.

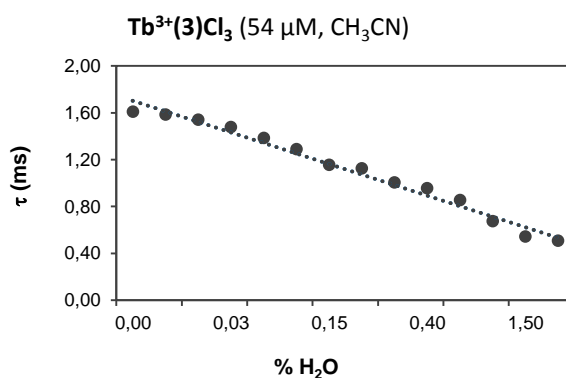
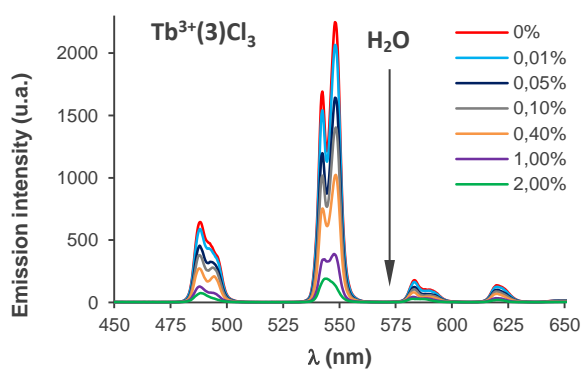
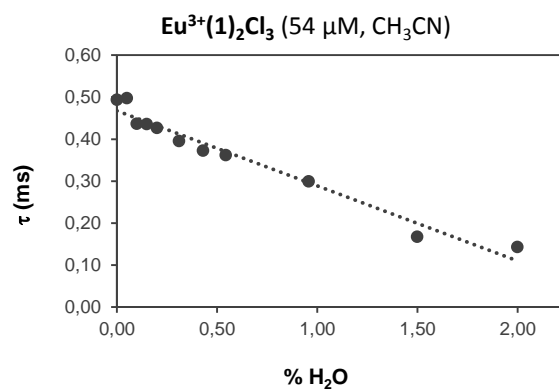
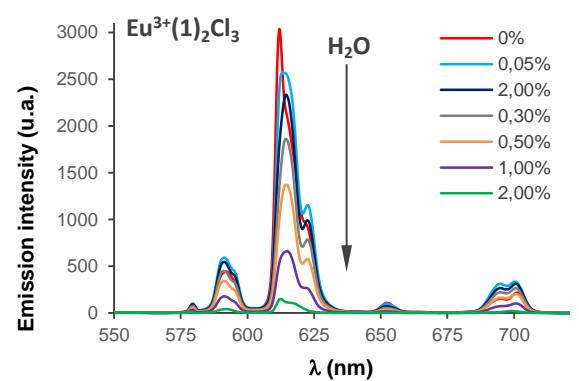


Figure S10. Variations in the emission spectra of the $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_2\text{Cl}_3$ and $\text{Tb}(\mathbf{3})\text{Cl}_3$ complexes by increasing H_2O content and their respective lifetimes.

IV. Binding model and fitting parameters

The titration curves of compounds **1-3** with lanthanides ions (Figures 2E and 2F) were satisfactorily fitted to a binding model that takes into account the possibility of single or multiple binding events for each antenna, as described elsewhere³:

$$F = F_{max} \cdot \left\{ \frac{1 + K \cdot \frac{[A]_T}{n_A} + K \cdot [Ln]_T - \sqrt{\left(1 + K \cdot \frac{[A]_T}{n_A} + K \cdot [Ln]_T\right)^2 - 4 \cdot K^2 \cdot \frac{[A]_T}{n_A} \cdot [Ln]_T}}{2 \cdot K} \right\} \quad (S3)$$

where F and F_{max} accounts, respectively, for current and maximum luminescence intensity at lanthanide emission wavelength, either 616 nm or 545 nm; K , the apparent binding constant of the antenna-lanthanide complex; $[A]_T$, the total concentration of antenna (54.4 μ M); n_A , the number of antenna molecules in the complex; $[Ln]_T$, the total concentration of lanthanide.

Taking into account equation (S3), the following fitting parameters were retrieved, Table S2:

Table S2. Fitting parameters for the titrations of compounds **1-4** to equation S3.

Ln Complex	K (M ⁻ⁿ)	n _A	n _L ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	F _{max}	r ⁽³⁾
(1)-Eu	(1.1 ± 0.8) × 10 ⁶	1.42 ± 0.07	0.70	(2.6 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁴	0.9934
(2)-Eu	(3 ± 2) × 10 ⁶	1.39 ± 0.04	0.72	(2.45 ± 0.08) × 10 ⁴	0.9953
(3)-Tb	(2.3 ± 0.4) × 10 ⁵	1.0 ± 0.2	1.0	(1.90 ± 0.05) × 10 ⁴	0.9949
(4)-Tb	(2.8 ± 0.9) × 10 ⁴	0.7 ± 0.9	1.43	(1.4 ± 0.2) × 10 ⁴	0.9965

⁽¹⁾ Derived parameters from fitting parameters; ⁽²⁾ Coordination number of lanthanides per antenna molecule; ⁽³⁾ non-linear regression fitting parameter.

However, for the antenna **3** it is necessary to consider a cooperative model derived from the Hill equation⁴ for taking into account the initial lag, probably due to the action of a positive cooperative association, according to the following equation:

³ Hahn, L.; Buurma, N. J.; Gade, L. H.; *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2016**, 22, 6314-6322.

⁴ Abeliovich, H. *Biophys. J.* **2005**, 89, 76-79.

$$\frac{F}{F_{max}} = \frac{[Ln]_T^n}{K_d^n + [Ln]_T^n} \quad (S4)$$

where F and F_{max} accounts, respectively, for current and maximum luminescence intensity at the lanthanide emission wavelength; K_d , the apparent dissociation constant ($K_d=1/K$) of the antenna-lanthanide complex; n , is the cooperativity factor; $[Ln]_T$, the total concentration of lanthanide. The fitting shown in Figure 2F resulted on a highly positive cooperativity ($n = 3.8$) and a binding constant $K (= 1/ K_d)$ of $1.9 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-n}$, two orders of magnitude lower than those of complexes of antennas **1** and **2** with Eu(III).

V. X-Ray Diffraction

X-ray Diffraction data were collected at 100K using the ALBA Synchrotron Radiation Source (BL13 Beamline) for the compounds **1**, $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4$ and $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{2})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4\text{OTf}$; and at 120K on a diffractometer using $\text{CuK}\alpha$ source for compound **2**, Figure S9 and S10. The structures were solved by Patterson method using SIR2014 (compound **1**)⁵ and SHELXS (for complexes $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4$ and $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{2})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4\text{OTf}$)⁶ and by direct methods using SHELXS for compound **2**⁴. All of them were refined with the ShelXL refinement package using Least Squares minimization. Crystal structure of **1** presents two independent molecules that differ mainly in the conformation of the phosphoryl group and a disordered model was observed in one of the ethyl substituents. Compound $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{2})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4\text{OTf}$ also presents disorder in three of the four independent ethoxy groups and in one trifluoromethanesulfonate ion.

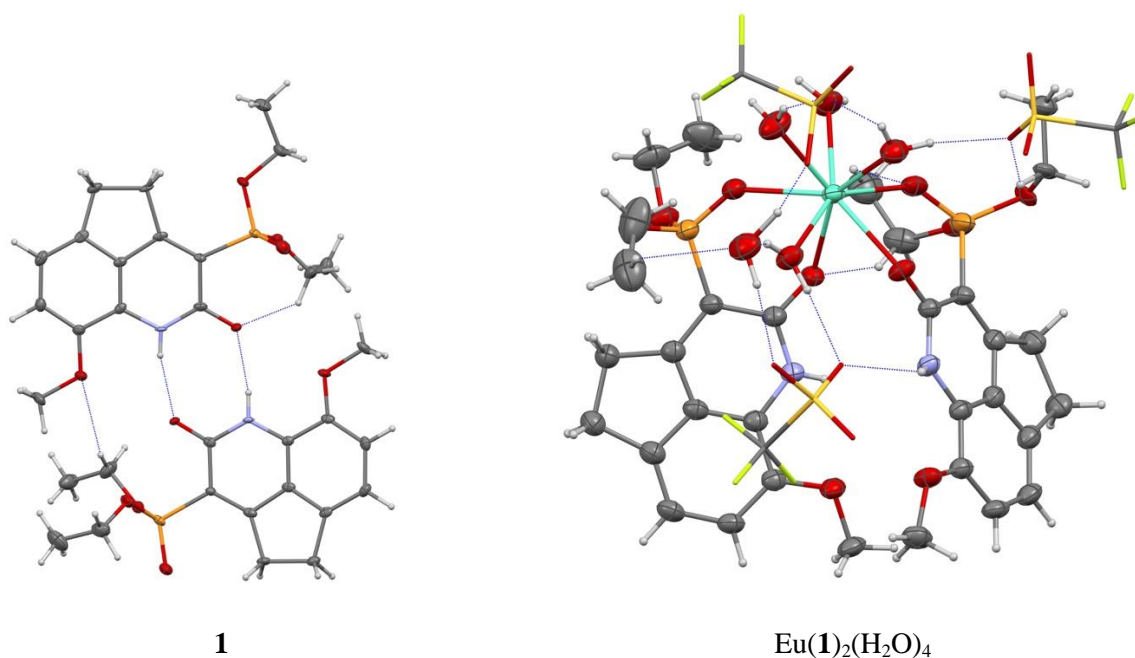
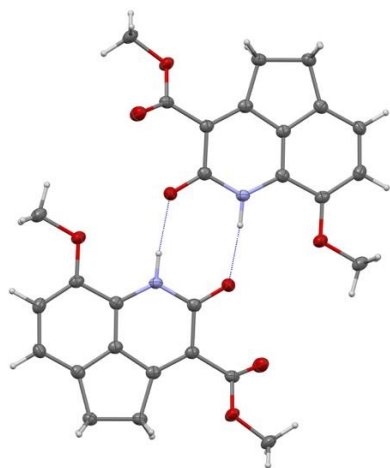


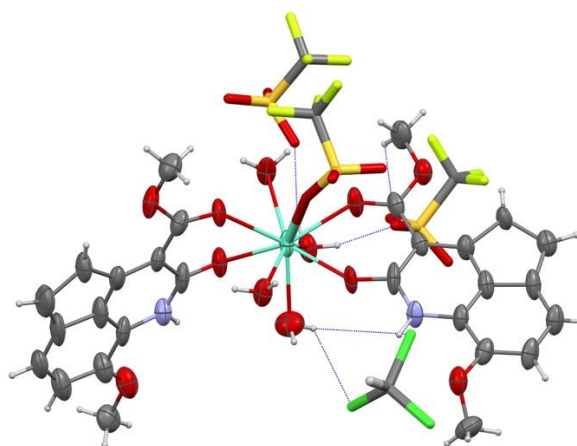
Figure S11. Molecular structure determined by X-ray diffraction of compounds **1** and its europium complexes. Thermal ellipsoids have been set at 50% probability for non-hydrogen atoms. Disordered models observed in compound **1** have been omitted and, the trifluoromethanesulfonate ions and the chloroform molecules have been represented by capped and sticks, for clarity purpose.

⁵ Burla, M. C.; Caliandro, R.; Carrozzini, B.; Cascarano, G. L.; Cuocci, C.; Giacovazzo, C.; Mallamo, M.; Mazzone, A.; Polidori, G. *J. Appl. Cryst.* **2015**, *48*, 306-309.

⁶ Sheldrick, G.M. *Acta Cryst.* **2015**, *C71*, 3-8.



2



Eu(2)₂(H₂O)₄OTf

Figure S12. Molecular structures determined by X-ray diffraction of compound **2** and its europium complex. Thermal ellipsoids have been set at 50% probability for non-hydrogen atoms. Disordered models observed in $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{2})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4\text{OTf}$ have been omitted and, the trifluoromethanesulfonate anions and the chloroform molecules have been represented by capped and sticks, for clarity purpose.

VI. NMR SPECTRA (^1H -NMR AND ^{13}C -NMR) OF 3, 4, 6, AND 7

