

## Supporting Information

### Field-Induced slow magnetic relaxation and luminescence thermometry in a mononuclear ytterbium complex

Matilde Fondo,<sup>a,\*</sup> Julio Corredoira-Vázquez,<sup>a</sup> Ana M. García-Deibe,<sup>a</sup> Jesús Sanmartín-Matalobos,<sup>a</sup> Martín Amoza,<sup>a</sup> Alexandre M. P. Botas,<sup>b</sup> Rute A. S. Ferreira,<sup>b</sup> Luís D. Carlos<sup>b,\*</sup> Enrique Colacio<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Facultade de Química, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Campus Vida, 15782 Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

<sup>b</sup> Phantom-g, CICECO – Aveiro Institute of Materials, Department of Physics, University of Aveiro, 3810-193 – Aveiro, Portugal

<sup>c</sup> Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Granada, Avda Fuentenueva s/n, 18071 Granada, Spain

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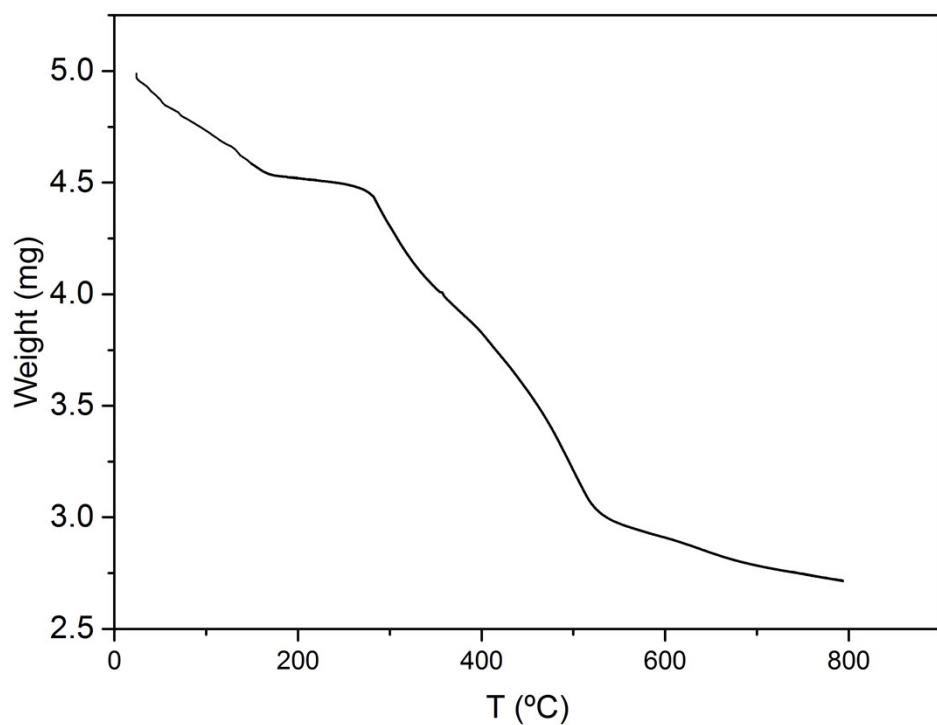
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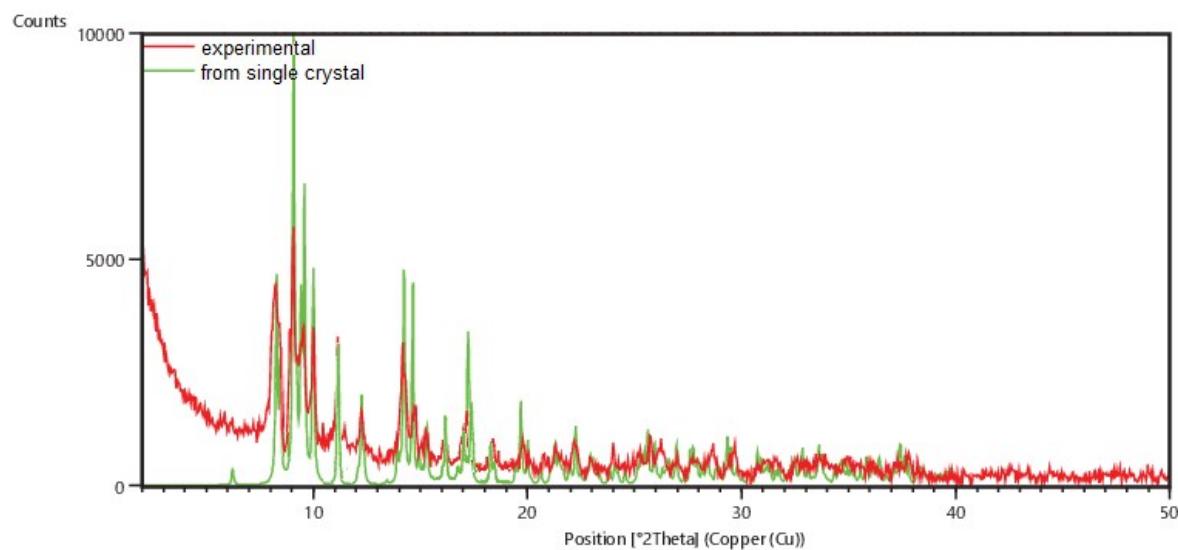
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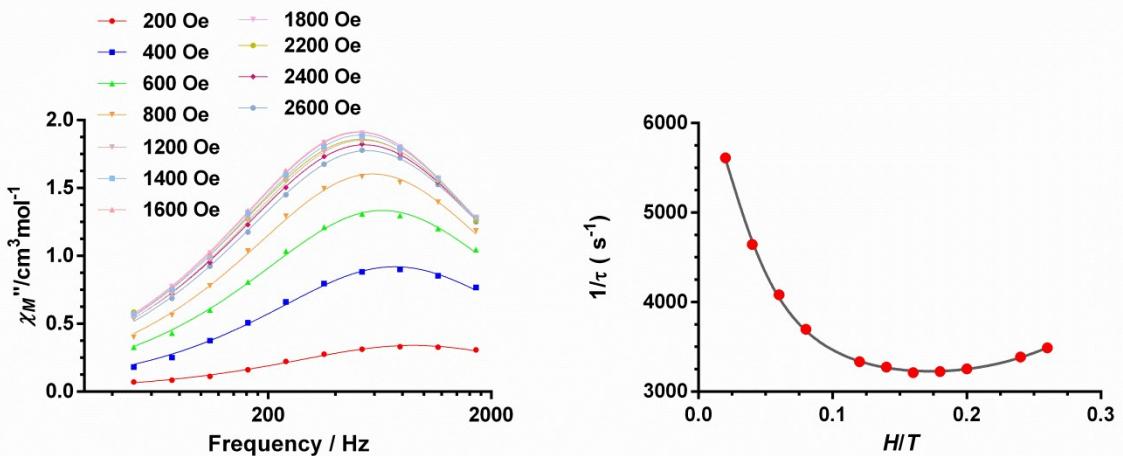
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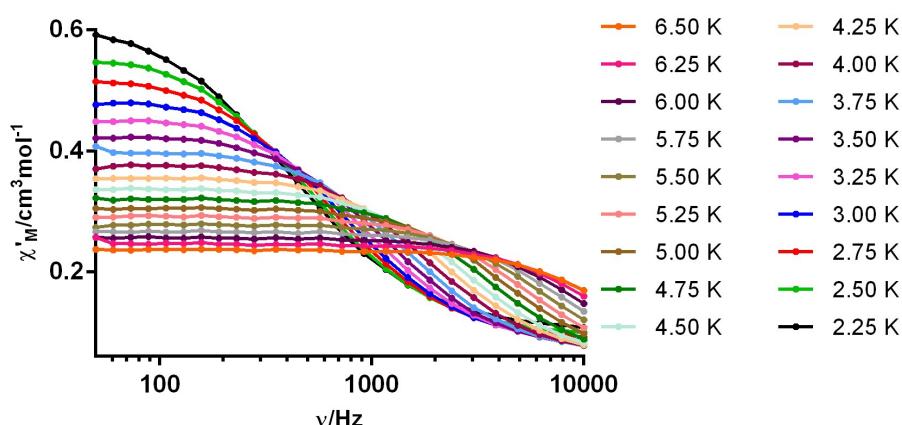
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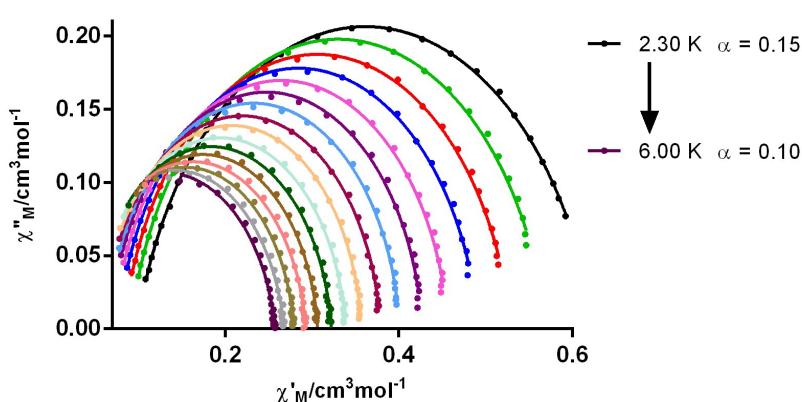
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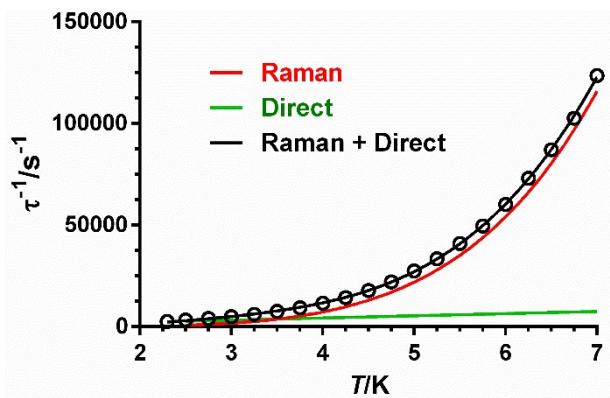
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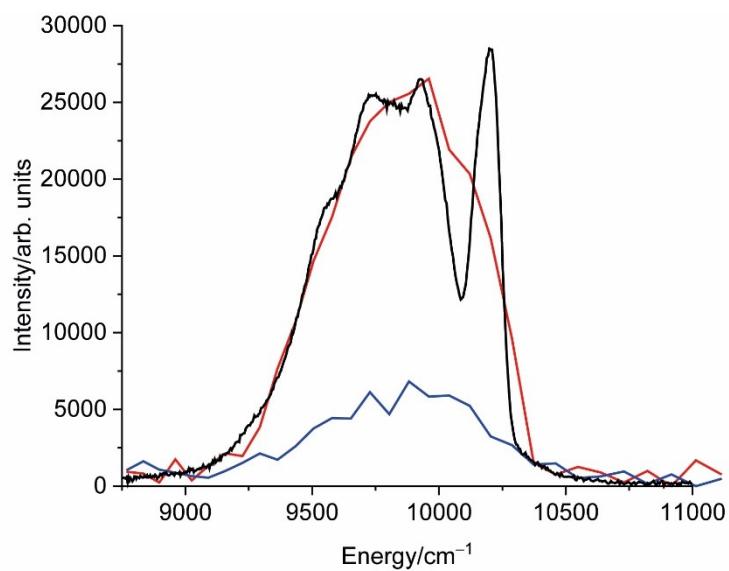
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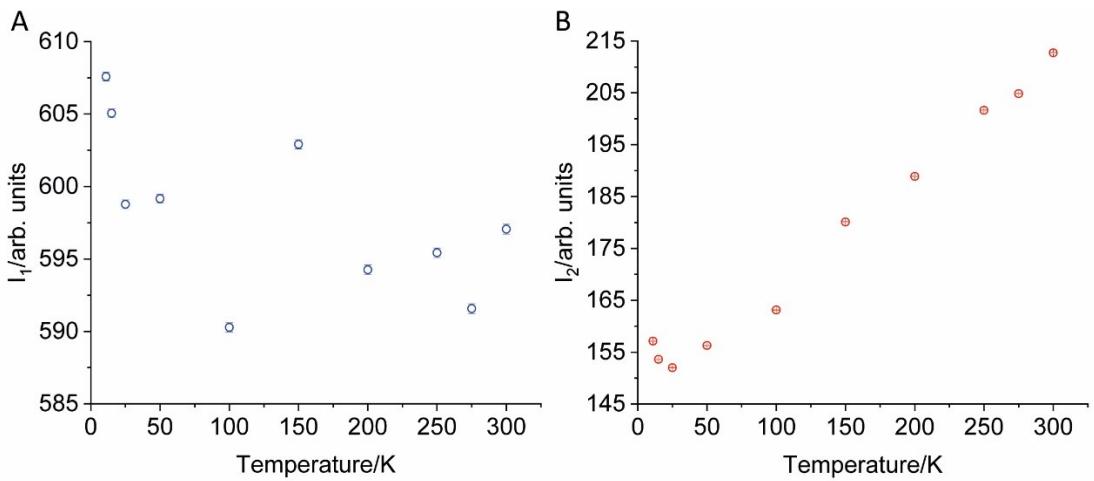
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**Figure S7.** Time-resolved emission spectra (acquired at 15 K excited at 360 nm) for starting delays of 0.01 (red line) and 0.02 ms (blue line). The emission spectrum measured in steady-state mode was scaled and is also shown for comparison.



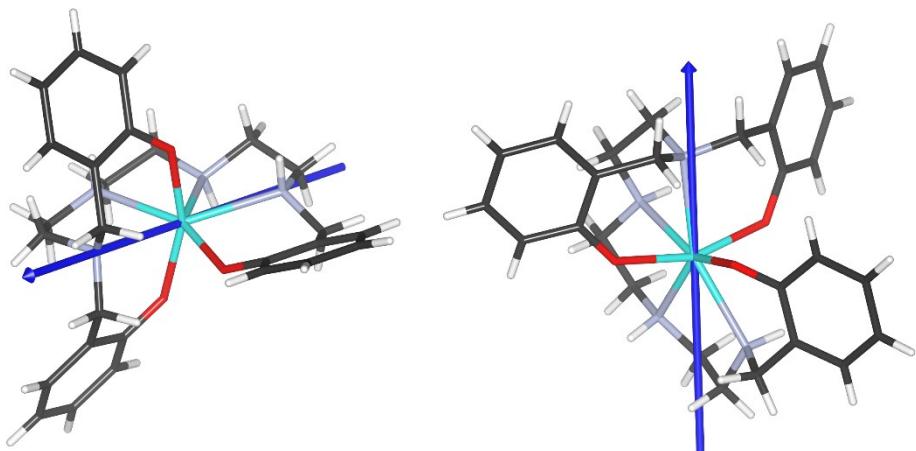
**Figure S8.** Integrated intensity of areas  $I_1$  (A) and  $I_2$  (B).

Temperature uncertainty ( $\delta\Delta$ ) associated to the thermal readouts was obtained considering the experimental uncertainty associated with the thermometric parameter as:

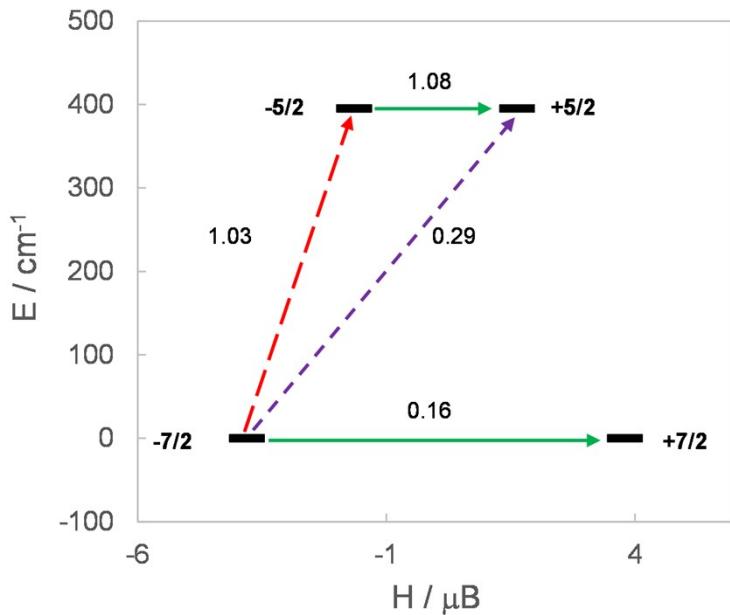
$$(\delta\Delta)^2 = \left( \frac{\partial\Delta}{\partial I_1} \delta I_1 \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial\Delta}{\partial I_2} \delta I_2 \right)^2 = \left( \frac{-I_1}{I_2^2} \delta I_2 \right)^2 + \left( \frac{1}{I_2} \delta I_1 \right)^2 \quad (S1)$$

where  $\delta I_1$  and  $\delta I_2$  are the uncertainties associated to  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ , respectively.  $\delta I_1$  and  $\delta I_2$  were determined considering the standard error ( $SE = 5 \times 10^{-4}$ ) of the mean value of the noise signal of the spectrum (in the  $10520$ - $11111$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  spectral range):

$$SE = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{N}} \quad (S2)$$



**Figure S9.** Different views of the orientation of the main magnetic axis (Z) of the ground KD on  $\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$  for **1.2**.



**Figure S10.** Estimation of the probability for different relaxation mechanisms of the spin between the two lowest energy KDs (black lines) in **1.2**: QTM and TA-QTM (green arrows); spin-phonon relaxation pathways (red and purple arrows). The values close to the arrows indicate the matrix elements of the transition magnetic moments. When this value is above 0.1 an efficient spin relaxation mechanism is expected.

**Table S1.** Main bond distances and angles for **1·2MeOH**.

	<b>1.1</b>		<b>1.2</b>
Yb1-O11	2.160(4)	Yb2-O21	2.158(4)
Yb1-O12	2.154(4)	Yb2-O22	2.156(4)
Yb1-O13	2.171(4)	Yb2-O23	2.169(4)
Yb1-N11	2.511(5)	Yb2-N21	2.532(5)
Yb1-N12	2.532(6)	Yb2-N22	2.520(5)
Yb1-N13	2.488(5)	Yb2-N23	2.501(5)
Yb1-N14	2.527(6)	Yb2-N24	2.539(5)
O12-Yb1-O11	160.46(17)	O22-Yb2-O21	159.83(16)
O13-Yb1-N11	83.40(16)	O23-Yb2-N21	83.43(15)
O13-Yb1-N14	75.03(17)	O23-Yb2-N24	75.56(16)
N11-Yb1-N12	67.68(18)	N22-Yb2-N21	67.99(16)
N13-Yb1-N12	68.18(19)	N23-Yb2-N22	68.19(16)
N13-Yb1-N14	68.6(2)	N23-Yb2-N24	68.63(18)

**Table S2.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **1·2MeOH**.

Empirical formula	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>41</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>5</sub> Yb
Molecular weight	698.70
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	Pca <sub>2</sub> 1
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.130 x 0.080 x 0.060
Color, shape	Plate, yellow
T (K)	100(2)
a (Å)	20.7775(19)
b (Å)	14.5382(13)
c (Å)	19.7229(16)
α (°)	90
β (°)	90
γ (°)	90
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	5957.6(9)
Z	8
Flack parameter	-0.016(3)
Absorpt. coef. (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	3.182
Reflections collected	187658
Independent reflections	14817 [R(int) = 0.0672]
Data / restraints / param.	14817 / 1 / 714
Flack parameter	-0.016(3)
Final R indices [ $/>2\sigma(I)$ ]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0279 wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0611
R indices (all data)	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0354 wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0649

**Table S3.** SHAPE v2.1. Continuous Shape Measures calculation (c) 2013 Electronic Structure Group, Universitat de Barcelona

**Geometries Coordination number 7**

ETPY-7	7 C3v	Johnson elongated triangular pyramid J7
JPBPY-7	6 D5h	Johnson pentagonal bipyramid J13
CTPR-7	5 C2v	Capped trigonal prism
COC-7	4 C3v	Capped octahedron
PBPY-7	3 D5h	Pentagonal bipyramid
HPY-7	2 C6v	Hexagonal pyramid
HP-7	1 D7h	Heptagon

**1·2MeOH**

**1.1**

Structure [ML7]	JETPY-7	JPBPY-7	<b>CTPR-7</b>	COC-7	<b>PBPY-7</b>	HPY-7	HP-7
	18.667,	3.394,	<b>2.974,</b>	4.554,	<b>2.000,</b>	21.373,	31.806

**1.2**

Structure [ML7]	JETPY-7	JPBPY-7	<b>CTPR-7</b>	COC-7	<b>PBPY-7</b>	HPY-7	HP-7
	17.683,	3.715,	<b>2.726,</b>	4.161,	<b>2.371,</b>	21.202,	31.646

**Table S4.** Some magnetic and structural information for field-induced Yb SIMs.

Yb-SMM <sup>a</sup>	$U_{eff}/K^c$	$\tau_0/s$	H/Oe	C. N. / Geometry <sup>d</sup>	Best fit	Ref. <sup>e</sup>
[Yb(H <sub>3</sub> L <sup>1</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ]Cl <sub>3</sub> <sup>b</sup>	5.76	2.0 X 10 <sup>-5</sup>	400	6 / OC	Raman-Direct	26
Na[Yb(L <sup>2</sup> )(H <sub>2</sub> O)] <sup>a</sup>	29	4.0 X 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1000	8 / SAPR	Orbach + Raman + Direct	27
[Yb(murex) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>a</sup>	15.6	2.7 X 10 <sup>-6</sup>	2000	9 / CSAPR	nd	15
[Yb(tta) <sub>3</sub> (L <sup>3</sup> )] <sup>a</sup>	6	1.9 X 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1000	8 / SAPR	Orbach	16
[Yb(L <sup>4</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> ](NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>a</sup>	5.37	1.0 X 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1000	8 / nd	Orbach	28
[Yb(L <sup>4</sup> )(tta) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>a</sup>	16.1	1.8 X 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1000	8 / TDD	Orbach	28
[Yb(trensal)]	54.67	1.5 X 10 <sup>-8</sup>	2000	7 / CTPR	Raman-Direct	17
[Yb(Tpz) <sub>2</sub> (Bpz)] <sup>a</sup>	1-2	nd	1000	9 / JTCTPR	Orbach-Raman	29
[Cp*Yb(DAD)(THF)]	13.85	1.74 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1500	pseudo 4 / pseudo T	Orbach-Raman-Direct	30
[Yb(L <sup>5</sup> ) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>a</sup>	11.7	4.6 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1000	9 / CSAPR	Raman	18
[Yb(L <sup>5</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> (tmh)(CH <sub>3</sub> OH)] <sup>a</sup>	29.7	3.5 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1000	9 / CSAPR	Raman	18
[Yb(L <sup>5</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> (tta)(CH <sub>3</sub> OH)] <sup>a</sup>	30.3	2.0 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1000	9 / CSAPR	Raman	18
[Yb(PyrCOO)(acac) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>a</sup>	55	2.1 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>	2000	8 / BTPR	Orbach-Direct	31
[Yb(H <sub>3</sub> Bmshp)(DMF) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ]·DMF·1.5H <sub>2</sub> O	14.5	2.38 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1500	7 / PBPY	Raman-Direct	32
[Yb(H <sub>3</sub> Bmshp)(DMF) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ]·H <sub>4</sub> Bmshp	43.8	3.83 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	600	7 / PBPY	Orbach-Raman-Direct	32
[Yb(NAS) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ](NAS)]	45	5.1 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>	1000	8 / SAPR	Raman-QTM	33
[Yb(depma) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ]Cl <sub>3</sub>	28.9	4.6 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>	750	8 / TDD	Orbach-Raman	19
Yb(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (tBu <sub>3</sub> PO) <sub>2</sub>	23	6.8 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1000	8 / HPY	Raman-Direct	34
[Yb(L <sup>6</sup> )(OTf) <sub>2</sub> ](OTf)	11.7	4.6 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1000	8 / TDD	Orbach-Raman	35

[Yb(L <sup>6</sup> )(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (MeOH)]	17.8	$8.7 \times 10^{-7}$	1000	9 / JCSAPR	Orbach-Raman	35
[Yb(18-crown-6)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> ](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	5.9	$2.6 \times 10^{-5}$	500	9 / MMF	Orbach-Raman-QTM	36
[Yb(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> (NCS) <sub>3</sub> ]	50	$2.3 \times 10^{-8}$	2500	8 / BTPR	Raman	37
[Yb(H <sub>2</sub> O)(phen) <sub>2</sub> (NCS) <sub>3</sub> ]	22	$4.5 \times 10^{-7}$	1000	8 / BTPR	Raman	37
[Yb(H <sub>2</sub> O)(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (NCS) <sub>3</sub> ]	47	$1.7 \times 10^{-8}$	1000	8 / SAPR	Raman	37
[Hbpy][Yb(bpy) <sub>2</sub> (NCS) <sub>4</sub> ]	44	$2.9 \times 10^{-8}$	1000	8 / SAPR	Raman	37
[Hbpy][Yb(phen) <sub>2</sub> (NCS) <sub>4</sub> ]	37	$8.4 \times 10^{-8}$	1000	8 / SAPR	Orbach-Raman	37

<sup>a</sup> Solvate molecules omitted.

<sup>b</sup> H<sub>3</sub>L<sup>1</sup>= tris(((2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzyl)amino)ethyl)-amine; (L<sup>2</sup>)<sup>4-</sup> = anion of 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid; (murex)<sup>-</sup> = murexide; L<sup>3</sup> = 4,5-ethylenedioxy-4',5'-bis(2-pyridyl-N-oxidemethylthio)tetrathiafulvalene; tta<sup>-</sup> = 2-thenoyl trifluoroacetone anion; (L<sup>4</sup>)<sup>-</sup> = anion of rhodamine-6G-2-(hydrozinomethyl)quinolin-8-ol; H<sub>3</sub>trensal = 2,2',2"-tris(salicylideneimino)triethylamine; Tpz = hydrotris(pyrazolyl)-borate; Bpz = dihydrobis(pyrazolyl)borate); DAD: (2,6-Me<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>NCHCHNC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>Me<sub>2</sub>-2,6]<sup>2-</sup>; Cp\* = pentamethylcyclopentadiene; THF: tetrahydrofuran; (L<sup>5</sup>)<sup>-</sup> anion of 2-(tetrazol-5-yl)-1,10-phenanthroline; tmh = 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptanoate; PyrCOO<sup>-</sup> = pyrazine-2-carboxylate; H<sub>4</sub>Bmshp = (2,6-bis[(3-methoxysalicylidene)hydrazinecarbonyl]-pyridine); NAS = 2-naphthalenesulfonate; depma = 9-diethylphosphonomethylanthracene; tBu<sub>3</sub>PO = tritertbutylphosphine oxide; L<sup>6</sup> = 1-(1-methyl-2-((1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl)methylene)hydrazinyl)-1-pyridine; OTf<sup>-</sup> = triflate; 18-crown-6 = 1,4,7,10,13,16-hexaoxacyclooctadecane; bipy = 2,2'-bipyridine; phen = 1,10-phenanthroline.

<sup>c</sup> U<sub>eff</sub> values were taken from the best fit. If this fit does not include an Orbach process, then the U<sub>eff</sub> values were calculated from a simple Arrhenius equation.

<sup>d</sup> CTPR: capped trigonal prism; SAPR: square antiprism, CSAPR: spherical capped square antiprism; JCSAPR: capped square antiprism; JTCTPR: tricapped trigonal prism; MFF = muffin; BTPR: bicapped trigonal prism; TDD: triangular dodecahedron; HPY hexagonal bipyramidal; PBPY: pentagonal bipyramidal; OC = octahedron; T : tetrahedron.

<sup>e</sup> references in the paper.

nd = not described.

**Table S5.** Energy ( $E$ ,  $\pm 5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and full-width-at-half maximum ( $fhwm$ ,  $\pm 5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) of the  $^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow ^2\text{F}_{7/2}$  Stark components (identified from 1-4 and 1'-4') determined from the experimental emission spectrum (acquired at 11 K and excited at 360 nm) best fit ( $r^2 > 0.99$ ) using a 8-components Gaussian function for **1·2MeOH**.

Assignment*	<i>E</i>	<i>fhwm</i>
1	10220	52
1'	10166	54
2	9977	72
2'	9852	70
3	9720	74
3'	9560	69
4	9419	66
4'	9250	65

\*The assignment is illustrated in Figure 7. The levels without ' correspond to unit **1.1** and those with ' to unit **1.2**.

**Table S6.** Comparison of the energy differences obtain by electronic structure calculations (RASSCF/RASSI) and the luminescence studies (all in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).

Emision <b>1.1</b> *	Emision <b>1.2</b> **	RASSCF <b>1.1</b>	RASSCF <b>1.2</b>
0	0	0	0
243	314	396	395
500	606	603	620
801	916	776	794

The energy values correspond to the difference between the  $E$  values (Table S5) between \* 1 and 2, and \*\* 1' and 2'.

**Table S7.** M<sub>J</sub> Composition of the KD for **1.1** and **1.2** (all in %).

	KD1		KD2		KD3		KD4	
	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
$ \pm 7/2\rangle$	<b>94.3</b>	<b>95</b>	2.8	2.2	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.3
$ \pm 5/2\rangle$	0.3	0.2	<b>68.5</b>	<b>69.8</b>	13.1	14	18	16
$ \pm 3/2\rangle$	2.7	2.3	20.2	20.4	<b>39.3</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>40.3</b>
$ \pm 1/2\rangle$	2.7	2.6	8.5	7.6	<b>46.3</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>42.3</b>

**Table S8.** Generalised Debye model fitting parameters for 1·2MeOH

T/K	$\chi_s/(\text{cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1})$	$\chi_t/(\text{cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1})$	$\tau/(10^{-4}\text{s})$	$\alpha$
2.30	0.098	0.63	3.86	0.15
2.50	0.090	0.57	3.07	0.12
2.75	0.083	0.53	2.50	0.11
3.00	0.076	0.49	2.02	0.10
3.25	0.072	0.46	1.64	0.08
3.50	0.068	0.43	1.32	0.07
3.75	0.065	0.40	1.07	0.06
4.00	0.060	0.38	0.86	0.06
4.25	0.058	0.36	0.70	0.05
4.50	0.050	0.34	0.56	0.06
4.75	0.046	0.32	0.45	0.07
5.00	0.043	0.31	0.36	0.07
5.25	0.034	0.29	0.30	0.08
5.50	0.031	0.28	0.24	0.08
5.75	0.016	0.27	0.20	0.10
6.00	0.007	0.26	0.17	0.10