

## Comparison of tetravalent cerium and terbium ions in a conserved, homoleptic imidophosphorane ligand field

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## General Considerations

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and the syntheses and manipulations were conducted under argon with exclusion of oxygen and water using Schlenk techniques or in an inert atmosphere box (Vigor) under a dinitrogen (<0.1 ppm O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O) atmosphere. The glovebox is equipped with two -35 °C freezers. All glassware and cannulae were stored in an oven overnight (>8 h) at a temperature of ca. 160 °C. Celite and molecular sieves were dried under vacuum at a temperature >250 °C for a minimum of 24 h. C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> was stored over 3 Å molecular sieves and then vacuum-transferred from purple sodium/benzophenone prior to use. Diethyl ether, *n*-pentane, *n*-hexane, benzene, toluene, tetrahydrofuran, and 1,2-dimethoxyethane were purged with UHP-grade argon (Airgas) and passed through columns containing Q-5 and molecular sieves in a solvent purification system (JC Meyer Solvent Systems). All solvents in the glovebox were stored in bottles over 3 Å molecular sieves. Methanol was dried by refluxing over magnesium turnings activated with iodine for 12 h and then distilled and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves.

The starting materials Cel<sub>3</sub>(THF)<sub>4</sub>, [(CH<sub>2</sub>N<sup>t</sup>Bu)<sub>2</sub>(Et<sub>2</sub>N)P=NK], **1-Tb(PN\*)**, **2-Tb(PN\*)**, and potassium benzyl were prepared according to literature procedures.<sup>1-3</sup> Potassium *t*-butoxide was sublimed prior to use. NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker Advance III 400 MHz spectrometer at 298 K, unless otherwise noted. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>31</sup>P NMR chemical shifts are reported in δ, parts per million. <sup>1</sup>H NMR are referenced to the residual <sup>1</sup>H resonances of the solvent. <sup>13</sup>C NMR are referenced to the <sup>13</sup>C resonance of the deuterated solvent.<sup>4</sup> Peak position is listed, followed by peak multiplicity, integration value, and proton assignment, where applicable. Multiplicity and shape are indicated by the following abbreviations: s (singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); q (quartet); dd (doublet of doublets); td (triplet of doublets); m (multiplet); br (broad). Infrared (IR) samples were taken on a Bruker ALPHA FTIR spectrometer from 400 to 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. IR samples were prepared as Nujol mulls sandwiched between two KBr plates. The peaks are listed in wavenumber [cm<sup>-1</sup>] and intensity using the following abbreviations: vw (very weak); w (weak); m (medium); s (strong); vs (very strong); br (broad). UV/visible/NIR spectroscopy was performed in Teflon-valve sealed quartz cuvettes with a 1 cm path length on a Hitachi UH4150 UV-vis-NIR scanning spectrophotometer between 2400-200 nm. Elemental analyses were determined at Robertson Microlit Laboratories (Ledgewood, NJ).

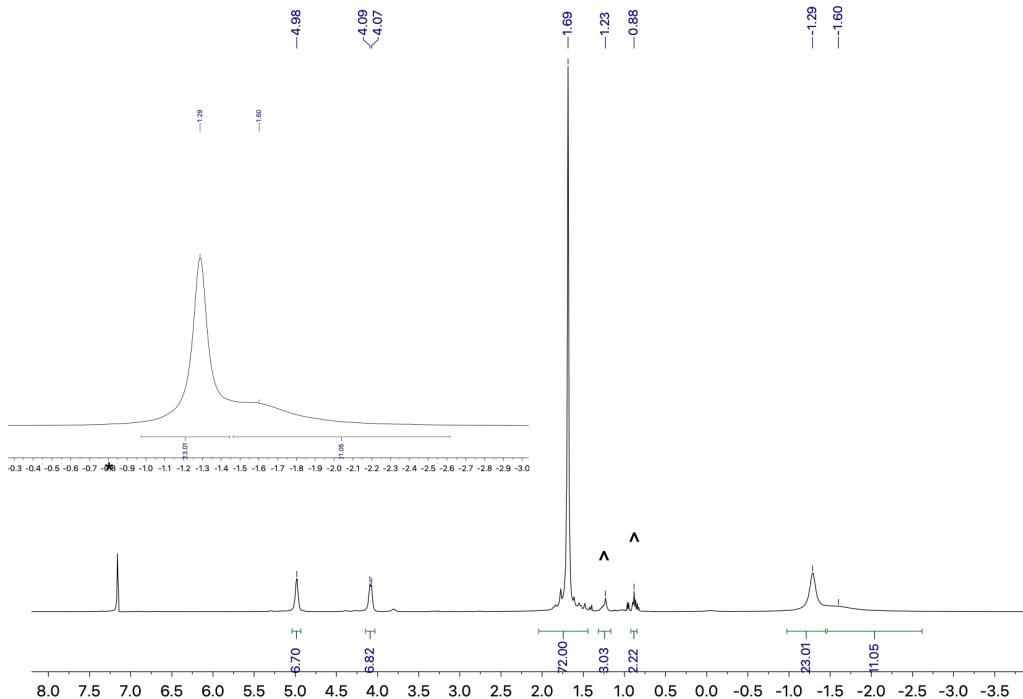
## Synthetic Methods

**Preparation of [K][Ce(NP(1,2-bis-<sup>t</sup>Bu-diamidoethane)(NEt<sub>2</sub>))<sub>4</sub>], **1-Ce(PN\*)**.** Inside a glovebox, 2 mL of diethyl ether was added to a 20 mL scintillation vial charged with a glass stir bar and Cel<sub>3</sub>(THF)<sub>4</sub> (0.185 g, 0.230 mmol). [(CH<sub>2</sub>N<sup>t</sup>Bu)<sub>2</sub>(Et<sub>2</sub>N)P=NK] (0.300 g, 0.919 mmol) was added as a solution in diethyl ether (3 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight. Then the mixture was filtered through a fine porosity frit packed with Celite. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to give a yellow solid. The residue was triturated five times with 1 mL *n*-pentane and then taken up in 3 mL hexanes and filtered through a pipet filter packed with Celite and a glass fiber filter paper. The yellow solution was concentrated *in vacuo* and placed into a -35 °C freezer. Overnight yellow crystals formed which were isolated by decantation and residual volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to afford the title compound (0.191 g, 62 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.13 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): 4.98 (s, 8 H),

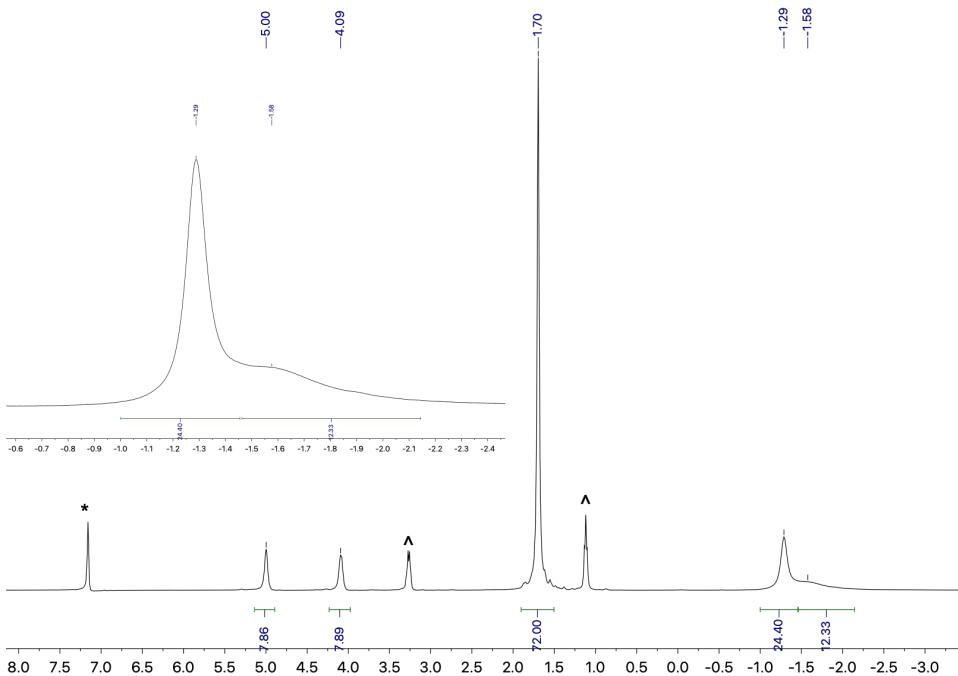
4.08 (s, 8H), 1.69 (s, 72 H), -1.29 (s, 24 H), -1.60 (s, 12 H)z.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161.98 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): 108.03 (s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.61 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): 53.20 (s), 43.36 (d), 34.26 (s), 28.89 (s), 11.27 (s). IR:  $\nu$  [cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 1478 (w), 1356 (m), 1344 (m), 1266 (m), 1249 (s), 1210 (s), 1195 (s), 1157 (s), 1152 (m), 1092 (s), 1053 (s), 1028 (m), 975 (m), 929 (m), 866 (m), 796 (m), 778 (m), 691 (m), 628 (w), 618 (w). Elemental analysis found(calculated): C, 53.11(52.63), H, 10.00(10.12), N, 15.40(15.84). One hexane molecule within the lattice is found by EA in agreement with the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. XRD quality crystals were grown from a concentrated solution of **1-Ce(PN\*)** hexanes at -35 °C.

**Preparation of [Ce(NP(1,2-bis-*t*Bu-diamidoethane)(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>], 2-Ce(PN\*)**. Inside a glovebox, **1** (0.13 g, 0.099 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL diethyl ether in a 20 mL scintillation vial charged with a stir bar. AgI (0.026 g, 0.11 mmol) was added to the scintillation vial as a suspension in diethyl ether (3 mL). Upon addition, the yellow solution turned a deep red/orange and the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min. A fine grey powder and a white precipitate were formed during the course of the reaction. The mixture was filtered through a pipet filter packed with Celite and glass fiber filter paper and then volatiles were removed *in vacuo*. The residue was triturated 3 times with 1 mL *n*-pentane. The residue was then taken up in *n*-pentane, filtered through a pipet filter packed with Celite and glass fiber filter paper, concentrated *in vacuo*, and placed into a -35 °C fridge. Overnight red/orange crystals formed which were isolated by decantation and residual volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to afford the title compound (0.098 g, 77 %).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.13 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): 3.36 (q, 4 H), 3.10 (m, 2 H), 2.89 (m, 2 H), 1.56 (s, 18 H), 1.22 (t, 6 H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (161.98 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): -24.89 (s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.61 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): 52.17 (s), 40.74 (s), 39.65 (s), 30.01 (s), 13.68 (s). IR:  $\nu$  [cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 1476 (w), 1387 (m), 1358 (m), 1346 (w), 1268 (m), 1251 (m), 1227 (s), 1210 (s), 1196 (s), 1152 (m), 1131 (w), 1094 (s), 1074 (w), 1055 (m), 1026 (s), 980 (m), 934 (m), 923 (w), 868 (m), 798 (x), 777 (w), 700 (m), 635 (m). Elemental analysis found(calculated): C, 50.53(52.15), H, 9.55(10.00), N, 16.87(17.38). Carbon was consistently low on multiple burns. XRD quality crystals were grown from a concentrated solution of **2-Ce(PN\*)** in *n*-pentane at -35 °C.

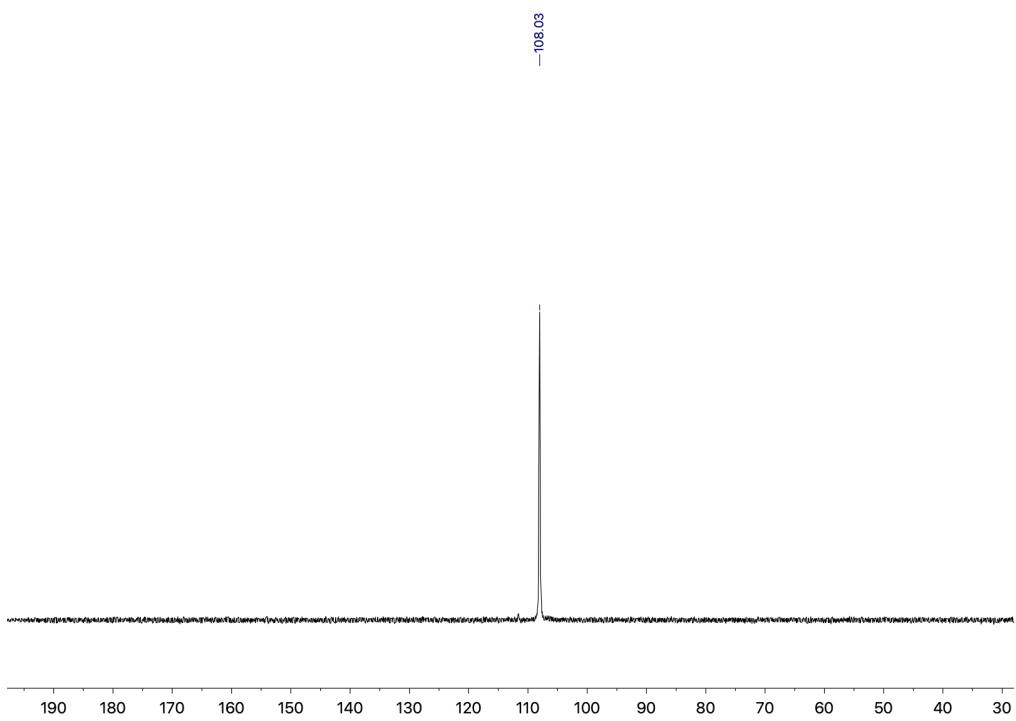
## NMR Spectroscopy



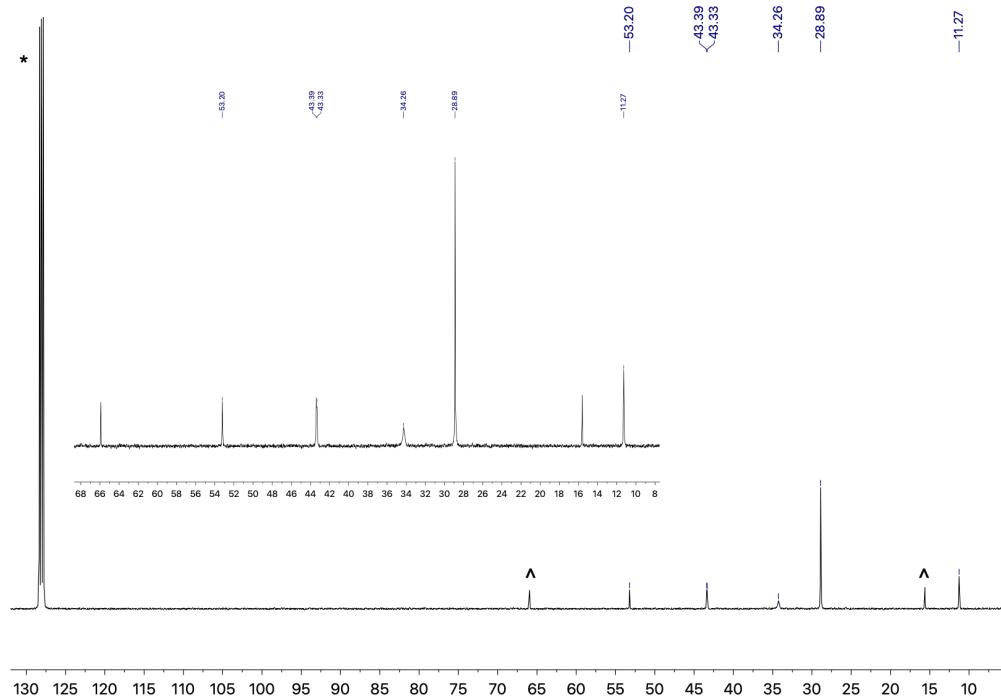
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1-Ce(PN $^*$ )** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  when crystallized from hexanes. Peak of  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_5\text{H}$  is noted as  $*$ . Residual hexanes is denoted by  $^{\wedge}$ .



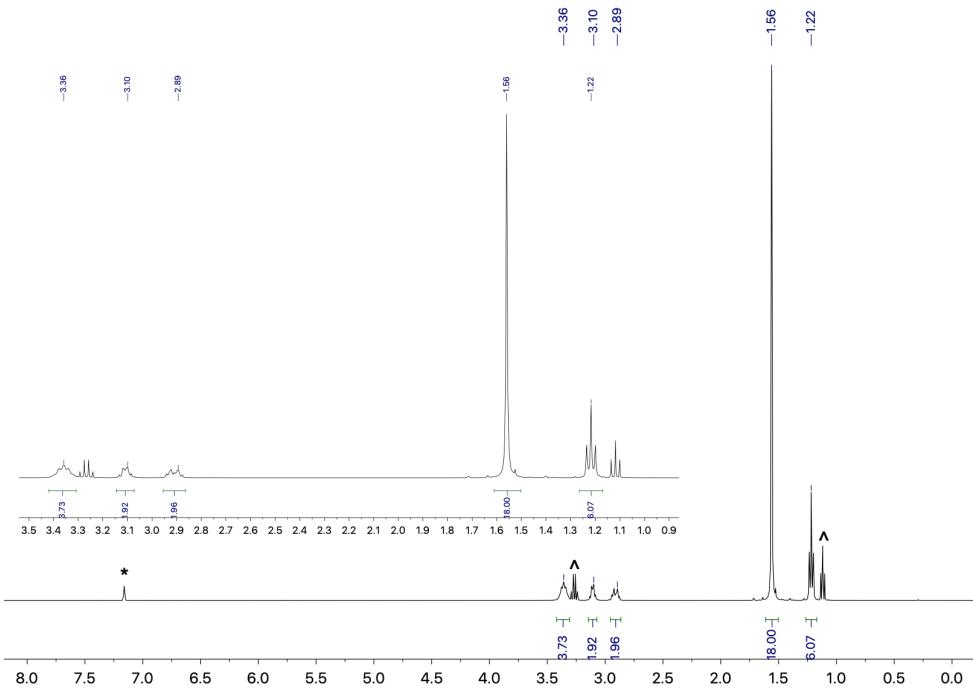
**Figure S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1-Ce(PN $^*$ )** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  when crystallized from diethyl ether. Peak of  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_5\text{H}$  is noted as  $*$ . Residual diethyl ether is denoted by  $^{\wedge}$ .



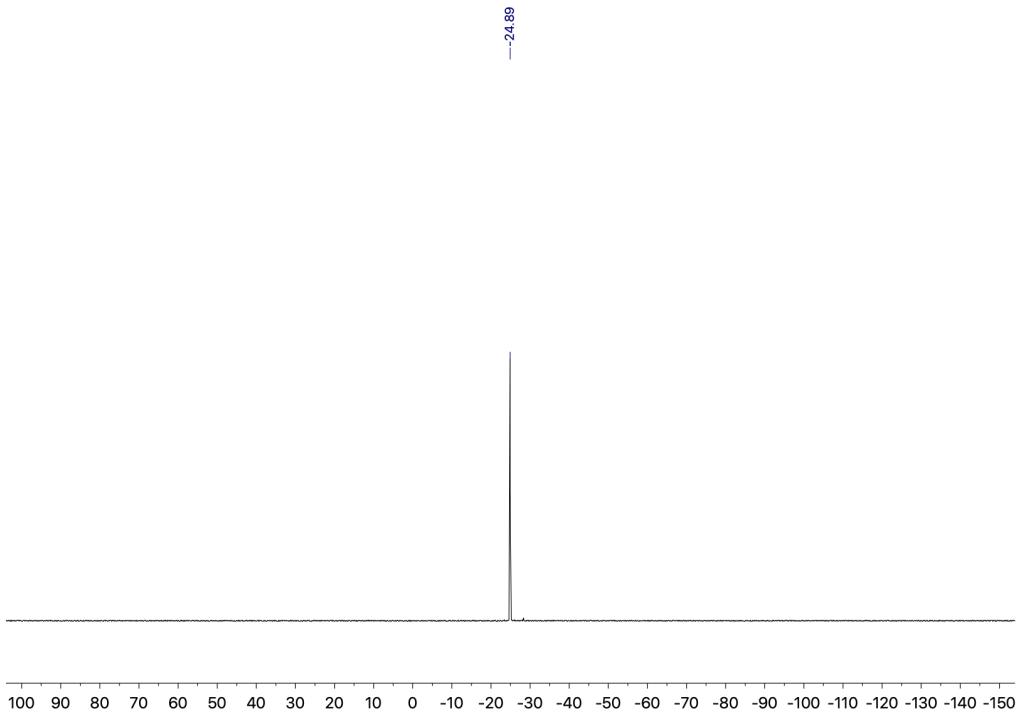
**Figure S3.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR of **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  when crystallized from diethyl ether.



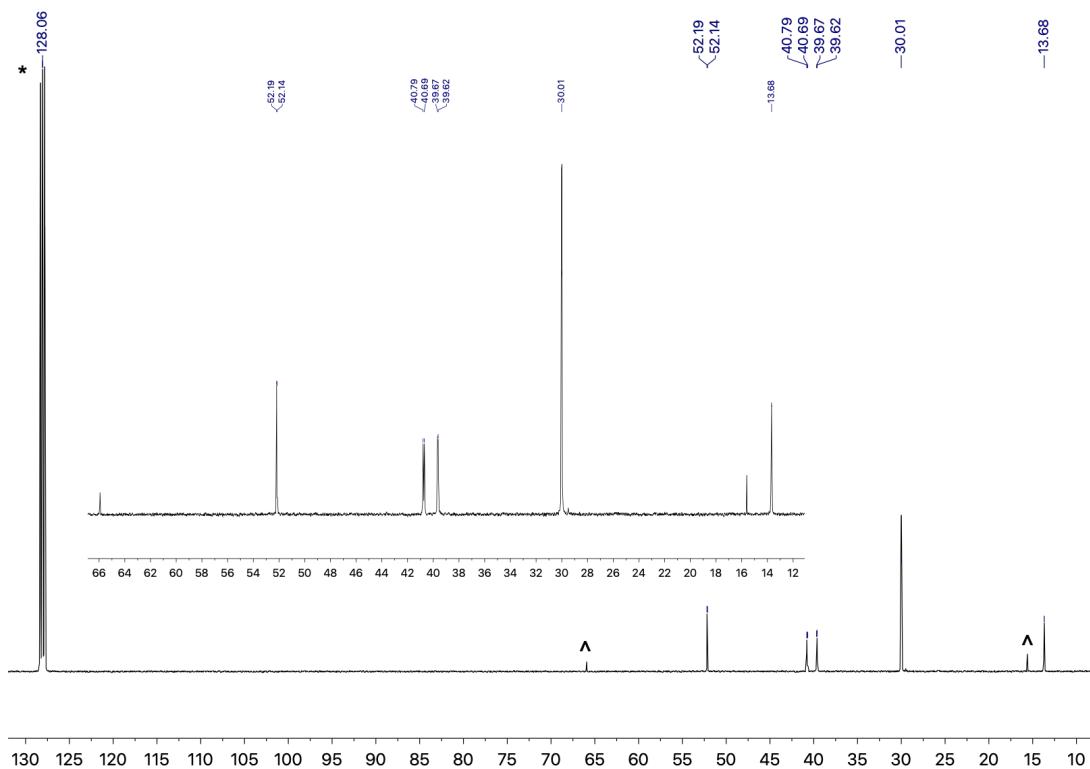
**Figure S4.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR of **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  when crystallized from diethyl ether. Peak of  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_5\text{H}$  is noted as \*. Residual diethyl ether is denoted by ^.



**Figure S5.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>. Peak of C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>H is noted as \*. Residual diethyl ether is denoted by ^.



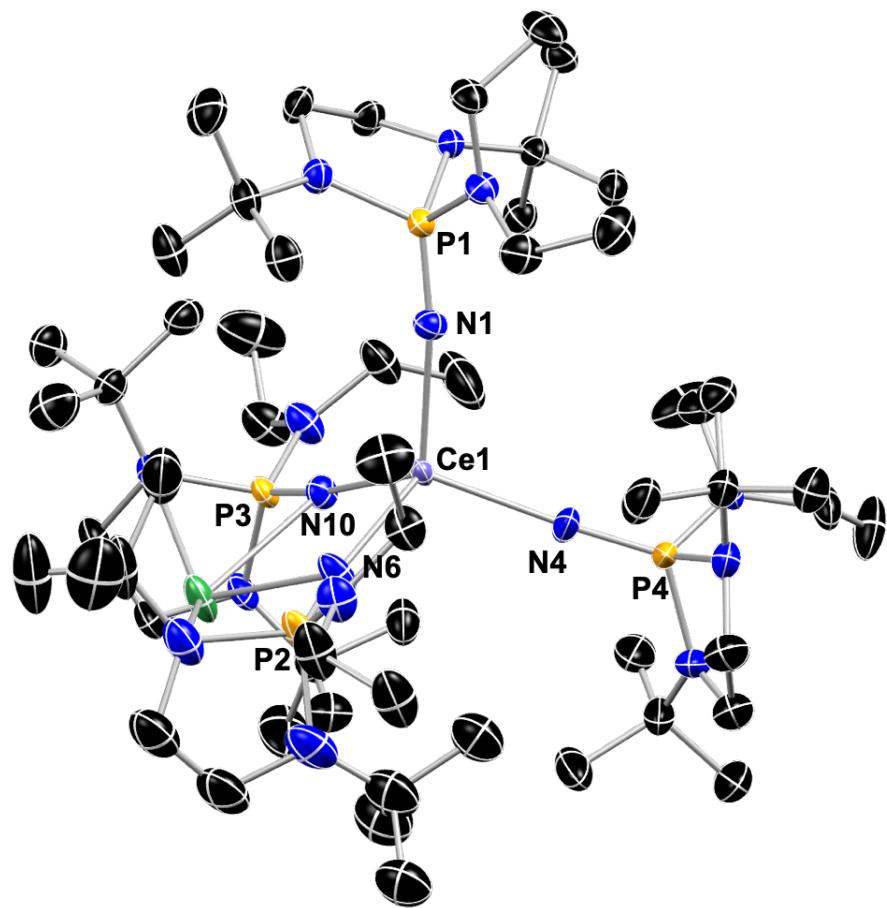
**Figure S6.**  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR of **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>.



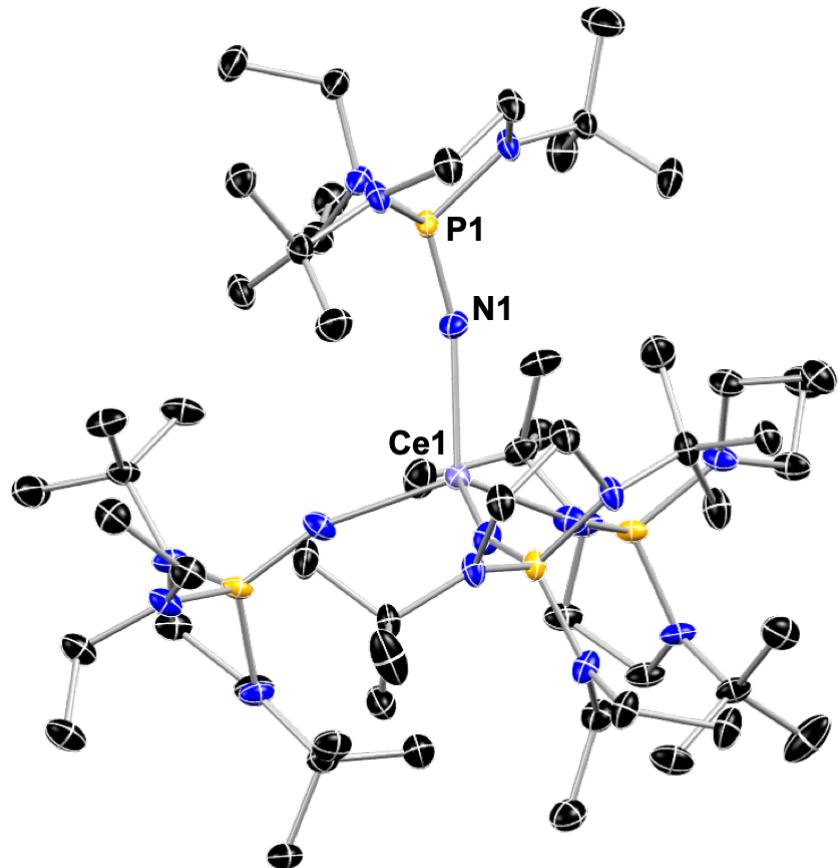
**Figure S7.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of **2-Ce(PN\*)** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ . Peak of  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_5\text{H}$  is noted as \*. Residual diethyl ether is denoted by ^.

## Crystallographic Analyses

Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were covered in paratone oil in a glove box and transferred to the diffractometer in a 20 mL capped vial. Crystals were mounted on a loop with paratone oil on a Bruker D8 VENTURE diffractometer. The crystals were cooled and kept at  $T = 100(2)$  K during data collections (except for 3 – following description – which was collected at  $T = 180(2)$  K). The structures were solved with the ShelXT structure solution program using the Intrinsic Phasing solution method and by using Olex2 as the graphical interface.<sup>5, 6</sup> The model was refined with version 2014/7 of XL using Least Squares minimization.<sup>7</sup>



**Figure S8.** Molecular structure of 1-Ce(PN\*) with thermal ellipsoids shown at 50% probability. H atoms are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S9.** Molecular structure of 2-Ce(PN\*)<sub>3</sub> with thermal ellipsoids shown at 50% probability. H atoms are omitted for clarity.

**Table S1.** Crystallographic Data

	<b>1-Ce(PN*)</b>	<b>2-Ce(PN*)</b>
<b>Empirical Formula</b>	C <sub>56</sub> H <sub>128</sub> KN <sub>16</sub> P <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>56</sub> H <sub>128</sub> CeN <sub>16</sub> P <sub>4</sub>
<b>Formula Weight</b>	1328.84	1289.74
<b>Temperature (K)</b>	100(2)	100(2)
<b>Crystal System</b>	triclinic	tetragonal
<b>Space Group</b>	P-1	I-4
<i>a</i> /Å	13.160(2)	13.3276(10)
<i>b</i> /Å	13.956(3)	13.3276(10)
<i>c</i> /Å	23.750(5)	21.0511(17)
<i>α</i> /°	74.835(8)	90
<i>β</i> /°	81.559(8)	90
<i>γ</i> /°	65.275(7)	90
<b>Volume/Å<sup>3</sup></b>	3820.6(13)	3764.5(6)
<b>Z</b>	2	2
<b>Z'</b>	1	0.25
<i>ρ</i> (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.155	1.138
<i>μ</i> (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.776	0.732
<i>F</i> (000)	1428	1388
<b>Crystal Size/mm<sup>3</sup></b>	0.32 x 0.28 x 0.23	0.355 x 0.326 x 0.301
<b>Radiation</b>	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ =0.71073)	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ =0.71073)
<b>2θ range for data collection(°)</b>	2.138 to 29.130	2.896 to 36.303
<b>Index Ranges</b>	*-22 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 22, -23 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 23, -40 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 40	*-22 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 22, -22 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 22, -35 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 35
<b>Reflections Collected</b>	66228	44868
<b>Independent Reflections</b>	20511 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0625, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0633]	9035 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0331, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0303]
<b>Data/Restraints/Parameters</b>	66228/266/745	44868/0/183
<b>Goodness-of-Fit on F<sup>2</sup></b>	1.046	1.048
<b>Final R Indexes [I&gt;=2σ(I)]</b>	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0465, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.1145	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0263, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.0689
<b>Final R Indexes [all data]</b>	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0534, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.1195	R <sub>1</sub> =0.0266, wR <sub>2</sub> =0.0692
<b>Largest Diff. Peak/Hole/ (e Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>	1.696/-1.274	1.256/-0.535
<b>Flack Parameter</b>	-	0.189(8)
<b>Completeness to 2θ</b>	99.8	99.5

**Table S2:** Bond Lengths in Å for **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å
Ce1	N6	2.381(2)
Ce1	N10	2.372(2)
Ce1	N1	2.322(2)
Ce1	N14	2.303(3)
P3	N10	1.530(2)
P3	N13	1.673(3)
P3	N11	1.710(3)
P3	N12	1.715(3)
P1	N5	1.692(2)
P1	N1	1.533(2)
P1	N2	1.719(2)
P1	N4	1.696(3)
P2	N6	1.532(2)
P2	N9	1.680(3)
P2	N7	1.707(4)
P2	N8	1.733(3)
P4	N14	1.528(3)
P4	N16	1.682(3)
P4	N15	1.726(3)
P4	N44	1.694(3)
N5	C10	1.471(4)
N5	C12	1.453(4)
N9	C24	1.466(4)
N9	C26	1.469(4)
N2	C3	1.489(3)
N2	C4	1.461(4)
N13	C38	1.458(4)
N13	C40	1.474(4)
C3	C1	1.539(4)
C3	C2	1.538(4)
C3	C0AA	1.531(4)
N11	C34	1.484(4)
N11	C28	1.444(4)
N7	C20	1.451(6)
N7	C14	1.484(5)
N16	C53	1.451(4)
N16	C55	1.460(4)
N15	C49	1.466(5)
N15	C42	1.471(5)
N4	C6	1.482(4)
N4	C5	1.449(4)
N12	C30	1.483(5)
N12	C29	1.442(4)

<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Length/Å</b>
N8	C16	1.482(6)
N8	C15	1.454(5)
C4	C5	1.522(4)
C34	C35	1.530(4)
C34	C36	1.533(4)
C34	C37	1.531(5)
C54	C53	1.501(4)
C24	C25	1.516(5)
C10	C11	1.525(4)
N44	C43	1.462(5)
N44	C45	1.470(5)
C6	C7	1.535(5)
C6	C8	1.524(5)
C6	C9	1.532(5)
C38	C39	1.474(4)
C12	C13	1.510(5)
C43	C42	1.512(7)
C40	C41	1.477(4)
C31	C30	1.515(5)
C49	C50	1.542(5)
C49	C51	1.548(5)
C49	C52	1.533(5)
C27	C26	1.520(5)
C30	C32	1.570(6)
C30	C33	1.504(5)
C28	C29	1.491(5)
C17	C16	1.504(6)
C55	C56	1.471(6)
C20	C21	1.521(6)
C20	C22	1.534(7)
C20	C23	1.551(6)
C16	C18	1.547(6)
C16	C19	1.544(7)
C45	C46	1.526(7)
C45	C47	1.544(5)
C45	C48	1.534(5)
C14	C15	1.460(7)

**Table S3:** Bond Angles in ° for **1-Ce(PN\*)**.

<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Angle/°</b>
N10	Ce1	N6	92.00(9)
N1	Ce1	N6	114.52(9)
N1	Ce1	N10	114.49(8)

<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Angle/<math>^{\circ}</math></b>
N14	Ce1	N6	112.61(10)
N14	Ce1	N10	112.92(11)
N14	Ce1	N1	109.49(10)
N10	P3	N13	114.04(14)
N10	P3	N11	116.09(14)
N10	P3	N12	120.17(14)
N13	P3	N11	108.77(15)
N13	P3	N12	104.00(15)
N11	P3	N12	91.02(13)
N5	P1	N2	102.12(12)
N5	P1	N4	106.41(13)
N1	P1	N5	113.41(13)
N1	P1	N2	121.32(13)
N1	P1	N4	119.44(13)
N4	P1	N2	90.77(12)
N6	P2	N9	113.46(14)
N6	P2	N7	121.02(18)
N6	P2	N8	115.08(16)
N9	P2	N7	105.06(17)
N9	P2	N8	108.60(16)
N7	P2	N8	91.09(18)
N14	P4	N16	112.80(15)
N14	P4	N15	120.67(17)
N14	P4	N44	120.76(16)
N16	P4	N15	104.99(14)
N16	P4	N44	103.37(16)
N44	P4	N15	90.95(16)
P2	N6	Ce1	165.51(16)
P3	N10	Ce1	170.80(15)
C10	N5	P1	120.5(2)
C12	N5	P1	120.0(2)
C12	N5	C10	115.9(2)
C24	N9	P2	121.7(2)
C24	N9	C26	115.5(3)
C26	N9	P2	121.9(3)
P1	N1	Ce1	167.53(15)
P4	N14	Ce1	168.8(2)
C3	N2	P1	122.78(18)
C4	N2	P1	107.79(18)
C4	N2	C3	115.6(2)
C38	N13	P3	121.6(2)
C38	N13	C40	117.5(3)
C40	N13	P3	120.9(2)
N2	C3	C1	110.0(2)
N2	C3	C2	111.8(2)

<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Angle/°</b>
N2	C3	C0AA	108.6(2)
C2	C3	C1	108.3(2)
C0AA	C3	C1	108.3(2)
C0AA	C3	C2	109.8(2)
C34	N11	P3	125.6(2)
C28	N11	P3	114.0(2)
C28	N11	C34	118.2(3)
C20	N7	P2	123.9(3)
C20	N7	C14	117.2(4)
C14	N7	P2	110.5(3)
C53	N16	P4	119.2(2)
C53	N16	C55	116.3(3)
C55	N16	P4	120.9(2)
C49	N15	P4	122.9(2)
C49	N15	C42	114.6(3)
C42	N15	P4	110.8(3)
C6	N4	P1	127.9(2)
C5	N4	P1	114.16(19)
C5	N4	C6	117.9(2)
C30	N12	P3	122.0(2)
C29	N12	P3	113.1(2)
C29	N12	C30	118.0(3)
C16	N8	P2	124.3(3)
C15	N8	P2	111.9(3)
C15	N8	C16	116.6(3)
N2	C4	C5	104.1(2)
N11	C34	C35	110.8(3)
N11	C34	C36	110.8(3)
N11	C34	C37	108.6(3)
C35	C34	C36	108.5(3)
C35	C34	C37	109.2(3)
C37	C34	C36	108.9(3)
N9	C24	C25	114.7(3)
N5	C10	C11	115.3(3)
C43	N44	P4	112.6(3)
C43	N44	C45	119.3(3)
C45	N44	P4	125.5(3)
N4	C6	C7	109.8(3)
N4	C6	C8	110.6(3)
N4	C6	C9	108.9(3)
C8	C6	C7	108.9(3)
C8	C6	C9	109.5(3)
C9	C6	C7	109.2(3)
N4	C5	C4	104.7(2)
N13	C38	C39	116.1(3)

<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Atom</b>	<b>Angle/<math>^{\circ}</math></b>
N16	C53	C54	116.5(3)
N5	C12	C13	114.7(3)
N44	C43	C42	109.8(3)
N13	C40	C41	114.2(3)
N15	C49	C50	111.9(3)
N15	C49	C51	109.4(3)
N15	C49	C52	109.8(3)
C50	C49	C51	109.7(4)
C52	C49	C50	109.1(3)
C52	C49	C51	106.8(3)
N12	C30	C31	110.6(3)
N12	C30	C32	109.8(3)
N12	C30	C33	110.7(3)
C31	C30	C32	106.2(3)
C33	C30	C31	109.9(4)
C33	C30	C32	109.5(4)
N11	C28	C29	107.1(3)
N16	C55	C56	114.7(3)
N7	C20	C21	111.8(4)
N7	C20	C22	111.0(4)
N7	C20	C23	109.0(4)
C21	C20	C22	109.0(4)
C21	C20	C23	107.6(4)
C22	C20	C23	108.2(4)
N8	C16	C17	111.2(3)
N8	C16	C18	109.6(5)
N8	C16	C19	112.7(4)
C17	C16	C18	106.8(4)
C17	C16	C19	109.5(5)
C19	C16	C18	106.8(4)
N44	C45	C46	111.0(3)
N44	C45	C47	109.7(4)
N44	C45	C48	109.1(3)
C46	C45	C47	109.0(3)
C46	C45	C48	108.2(4)
C48	C45	C47	109.8(3)
C15	C14	N7	106.5(4)
N12	C29	C28	107.6(3)
N8	C15	C14	104.8(4)
N9	C26	C27	115.2(3)
N15	C42	C43	103.4(4)

**Table S4:** Bond Lengths in Å for **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å
Ce1	N1 <sup>1</sup>	2.2370(17)
Ce1	N1 <sup>2</sup>	2.2370(17)
Ce1	N1	2.2370(17)
Ce1	N1 <sup>3</sup>	2.2370(17)
P1	N4	1.6751(17)
P1	N2	1.6796(16)
P1	N1	1.5567(17)
P1	N3	1.6935(16)
N4	C11	1.465(4)
N4	C13	1.461(3)
N2	C7	1.475(2)
N2	C1	1.457(2)
N3	C3	1.492(3)
N3	C2	1.461(3)
C11	C12	1.526(3)
C7	C8	1.526(3)
C7	C9	1.523(3)
C7	C10	1.537(3)
C3	C4	1.538(3)
C3	C5	1.529(3)
C3	C6	1.546(3)
C2	C1	1.536(3)
C13	C14	1.531(3)

<sup>1</sup>1-x,1-y,+z; <sup>2</sup>+y,1-x,1-z; <sup>3</sup>1-y,+x,1-z

**Table S5:** Bond Angles in ° for **2-Ce(PN\*)**.

Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
N1 <sup>1</sup>	Ce1	N1 <sup>2</sup>	107.41(4)
N1 <sup>2</sup>	Ce1	N1 <sup>3</sup>	113.68(9)
N1 <sup>1</sup>	Ce1	N1 <sup>3</sup>	107.41(4)
N1 <sup>3</sup>	Ce1	N1	107.41(4)
N1 <sup>2</sup>	Ce1	N1	107.41(4)
N1 <sup>1</sup>	Ce1	N1	113.68(9)
N4	P1	N2	104.97(9)
N4	P1	N3	106.07(9)
N2	P1	N3	91.70(8)
N1	P1	N4	112.44(9)
N1	P1	N2	119.76(9)
N1	P1	N3	119.23(10)
C11	N4	P1	122.23(13)
C13	N4	P1	120.48(13)
C13	N4	C11	117.24(15)
C7	N2	P1	126.85(12)
C1	N2	P1	114.16(13)
C1	N2	C7	118.11(14)
P1	N1	Ce1	163.02(11)
C3	N3	P1	124.09(13)
C2	N3	P1	108.93(12)
C2	N3	C3	115.81(16)
N4	C11	C12	113.97(17)
N2	C7	C8	108.83(16)
N2	C7	C9	111.48(16)
N2	C7	C10	109.53(18)
C8	C7	C10	110.8(2)
C9	C7	C8	108.2(2)
C9	C7	C10	107.94(17)
N3	C3	C4	107.58(16)
N3	C3	C5	110.43(17)
N3	C3	C6	112.13(17)
C4	C3	C6	110.07(18)
C5	C3	C4	107.84(17)
C5	C3	C6	108.69(19)
N3	C2	C1	104.51(16)
N2	C1	C2	105.41(15)
N4	C13	C14	115.01(19)

$1-x, 1-y, +z; ^21-y, +x, 1-z; ^3+y, 1-x, 1-z$

## Voronoi-Dirichlet Polyhedral Analysis

**Table 6.** Analysis of the Voronoi polyhedron of **2-Ce(PN\*)**

Traditional coordination number = 4

Rsd:1.555 Å

CN=12:0:4 NV=28 V=15.743/71.045 S=36.674 Cpac=0.376 Ccov=2.282

G3=0.0867 (the degree of asymmetry)

	Atom	x	y	z	Dist.	SAng.	Valence
							4(SAng/100%)
1	N	0.402	0.601	0.442	2.244	19.53	0.7812
2	N	0.399	0.402	0.558	2.244	19.53	0.7812
3	N	0.598	0.399	0.442	2.244	19.53	0.7812
4	N	0.601	0.598	0.558	2.244	19.53	0.7812
5	H	0.45	0.731	0.565	3.44	1.91	0.0764
6	H	0.55	0.269	0.565	3.44	1.91	0.0764
7	H	0.269	0.45	0.435	3.44	1.91	0.0764
8	H	0.731	0.55	0.435	3.44	1.91	0.0764
9	H	0.408	0.413	0.355	3.489	2.65	0.106
10	H	0.587	0.408	0.645	3.489	2.65	0.106
11	H	0.413	0.592	0.645	3.489	2.65	0.106
12	H	0.592	0.587	0.355	3.489	2.65	0.106
*13	H	0.741	0.38	0.517	3.618	0.91	0.0364
*14	H	0.259	0.62	0.517	3.618	0.91	0.0364
*15	H	0.38	0.259	0.483	3.618	0.91	0.0364
*16	H	0.62	0.741	0.483	3.618	0.91	0.0364

**Table S7.** Analysis of the Voronoi polyhedron of **2-Tb(PN\*)**

Traditional coordination number = 4

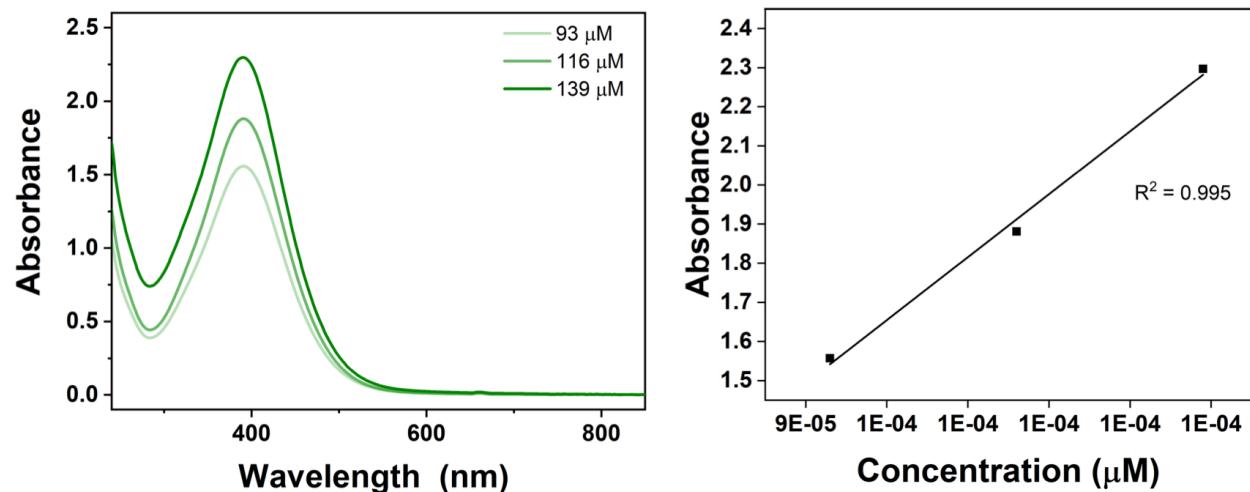
Rsd:1.487 Å

CN=12:0:4 NV=28 V=13.769/58.134 S=34.618 Cpac=0.355 Ccov=2.479

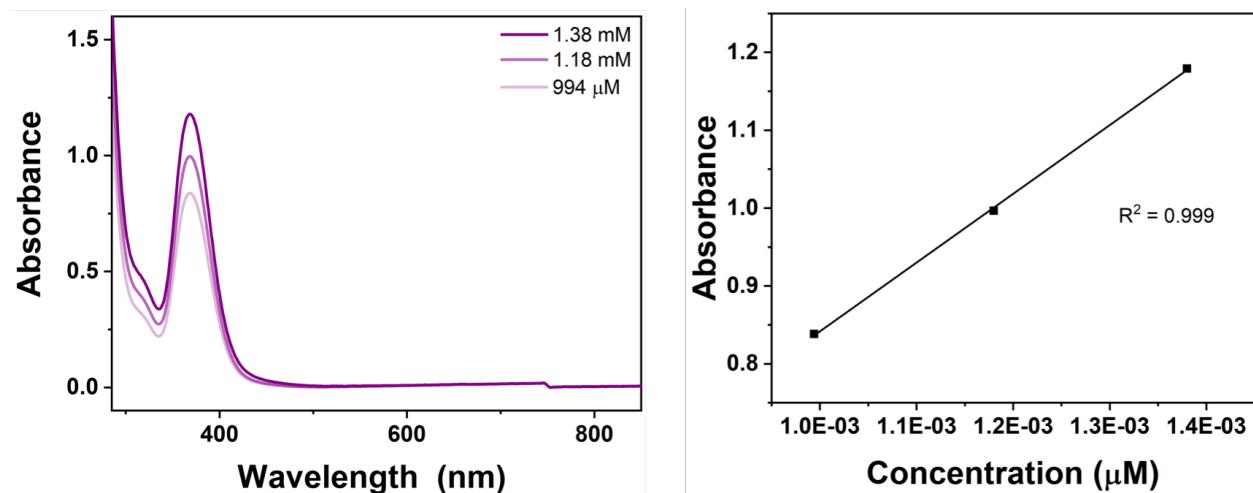
G3=0.0890 (the degree of asymmetry)

ATOM	X	Y	Z	DIST.	SANG.	VALENCE	
					4(SANG/100%)		
1	N	0.592	0.406	0.444	2.106	21	0.84
2	N	0.408	0.594	0.444	2.106	21	0.84
3	N	0.594	0.592	0.556	2.106	21	0.84
4	N	0.406	0.408	0.556	2.106	21	0.84
5	H	0.561	0.726	0.434	3.407	1.64	0.0656
6	H	0.439	0.274	0.434	3.407	1.64	0.0656
7	H	0.726	0.439	0.566	3.407	1.64	0.0656
8	H	0.274	0.561	0.566	3.407	1.64	0.0656
* 9	H	0.738	0.616	0.481	3.54	0.79	0.0316
*10	H	0.262	0.384	0.481	3.54	0.79	0.0316
*11	H	0.384	0.738	0.519	3.54	0.79	0.0316
*12	H	0.616	0.262	0.519	3.54	0.79	0.0316
13	H	0.598	0.589	0.354	3.545	1.57	0.0628
14	H	0.402	0.411	0.354	3.545	1.57	0.0628
15	H	0.589	0.402	0.646	3.545	1.57	0.0628
16	H	0.411	0.598	0.646	3.545	1.57	0.0628

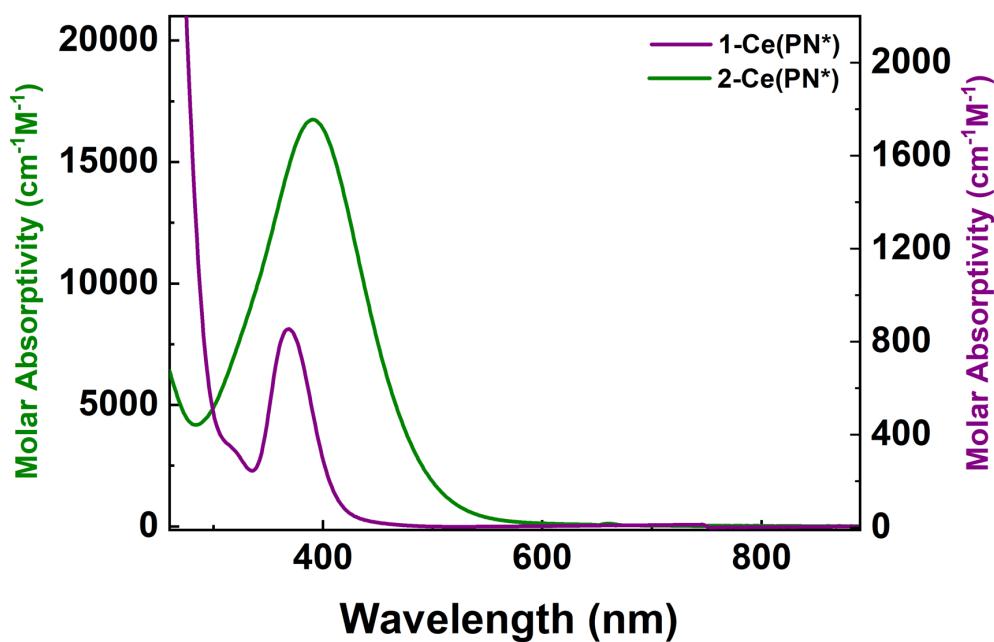
## Electronic Absorption Spectra



**Figure S10.** (left) UV-vis-NIR spectra of **2-Ce(PN\*)** in THF. (right) Linear regression of absorbance at 391 nm maximum where  $\varepsilon = 16,100 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1}$ .



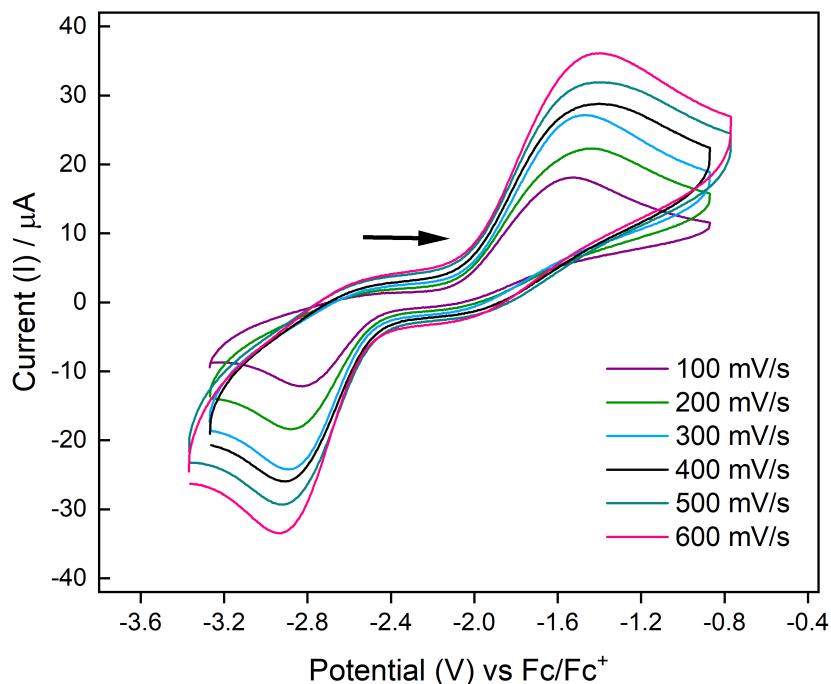
**Figure S11.** (left) UV-vis-NIR spectra of **1-Ce(PN\*)** in THF. (right) Linear regression of absorbance at 369 nm maximum where  $\varepsilon = 883 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1}$ .



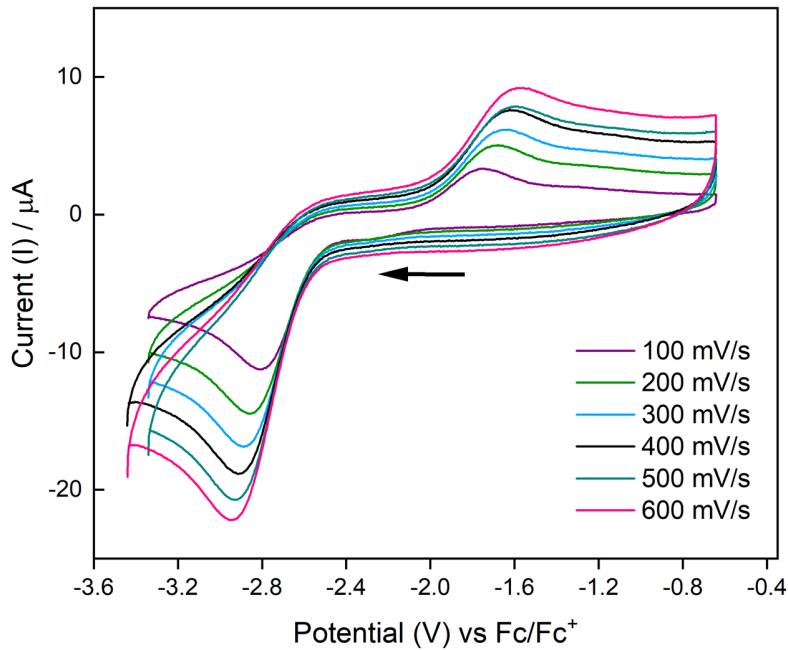
**Figure S12.** UV-vis-NIR spectra of **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** (*right axis*) and **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** (*left axis*) in THF.

## Electrochemistry

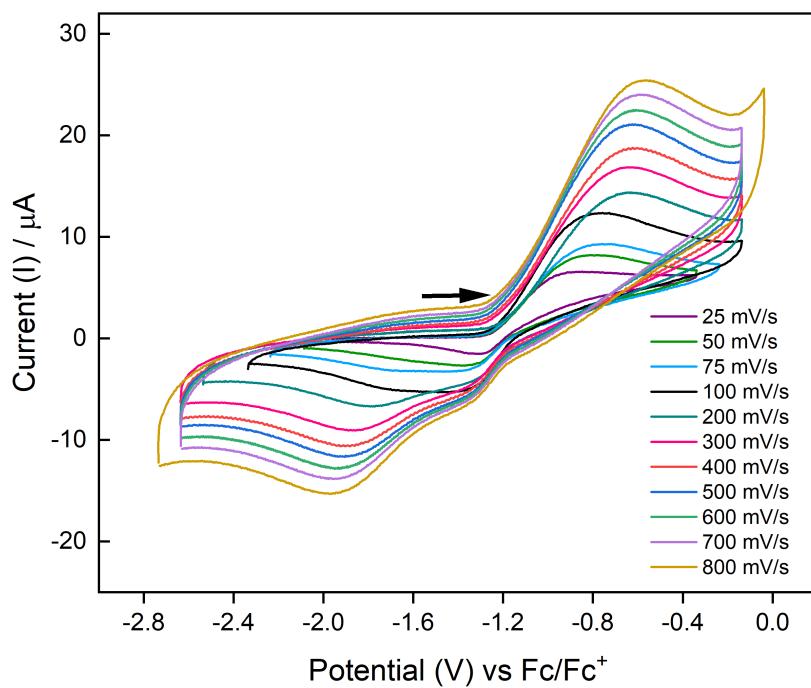
Electrochemical measurements were performed on a Pine Wave Driver 20 Bipotentiostat/Galvanostat. Measurements were performed inside a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere glovebox in a 20 mL electrochemical cell with a glassy carbon working electrode, a platinum wire counter electrode, and a Ag/AgCl pseudo reference electrode. Electrodes were polished before each use. Measurements were performed in a positive feedback IR compensation mode and referenced versus Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>.



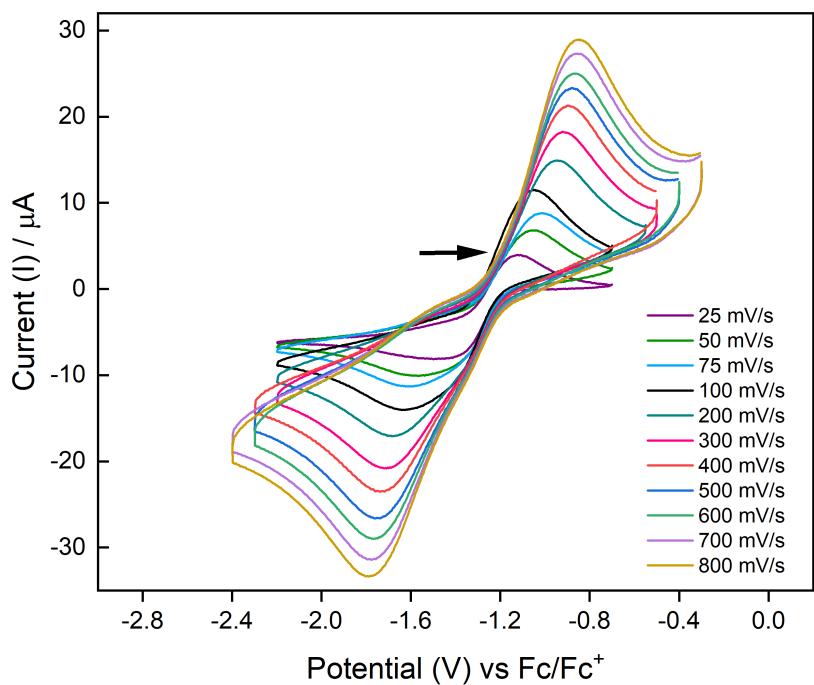
**Figure S13.** Scan rate dependence of **1-Ce(PN\*)** (2.5 mM) vs. Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup> in 0.1 M [*n*(Bu)<sub>4</sub>N][PF<sub>6</sub>] in THF.



**Figure S14.** Scan rate dependence of **2-Ce(PN\*)** (2.5 mM) vs. Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup> in 0.1 M [<sup>n</sup>(Bu)<sub>4</sub>N][PF<sub>6</sub>] in THF.



**Figure S15.** Scan rate dependence of **1-Tb(PN\*)** (3 mM) vs. Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup> in 0.1 M [<sup>n</sup>(Bu)<sub>4</sub>N][PF<sub>6</sub>] in THF.



**Figure S16.** Scan rate dependence of **2-Tb(PN\*)** (3 mM) vs. Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup> in 0.1 M [*n*(Bu)<sub>4</sub>N][PF<sub>6</sub>] in THF.

## Ce L<sub>3</sub>-Edge X-ray Absorption Near Edge Spectroscopy

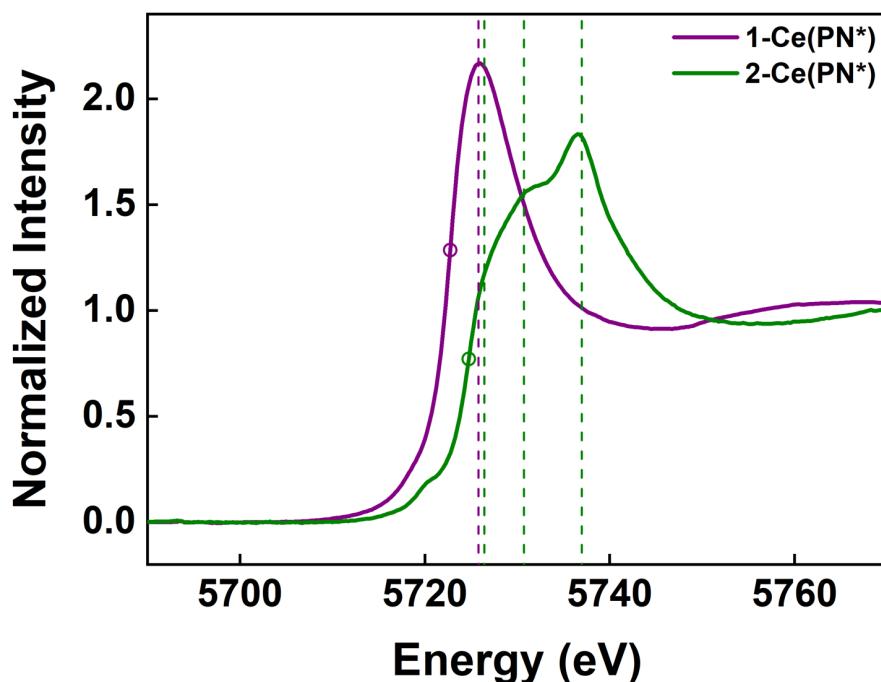
Cerium samples were prepared in an argon glovebox at Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource (SSRL) because both Ce<sup>4+</sup> and Ce<sup>3+</sup> complexes are air-sensitive. A mixture of the analyte and boron nitride (BN) was weighed, such that the edge jump for the absorbing atom was calculated to be at one absorption length in transmission (~8–12 mg for the cerium samples). The samples were diluted with BN (~10 mg), which had been dried at elevated temperature (250 °C) under vacuum ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  Torr) for 24 h prior to use. Samples were ground with a mortar and pestle.

Solid-state sample holders for the Ce samples consisted of an aluminum plate with a 3 × 15 mm<sup>2</sup> oval window and screw holes. One side of the plate was covered with 0.5 mm Kapton tape, and the sample was evenly loaded in the window. The powder was then secured by covering the sample with a second piece of 0.5 mm Kapton tape. A second layer of compound was painted onto a third piece of Kapton tape, which was subsequently fixed to the backside of the sample holder. The sample holder was then loaded onto a sample rod, taken out of the glovebox, and transported to the beamline while submerged within a N<sub>2</sub>(liq) cooling bath. Once at the beam, the rod with the sample was placed at 45° inside the Oxford He(liq) cryostat, which was precooled at 85 K and attached to the SSRL Beamline 11-2 rail. When the cryostat was closed, the system was put under vacuum and flushed with helium five times. The valve was closed, and the measurements were performed in the cryostat at 10 K.

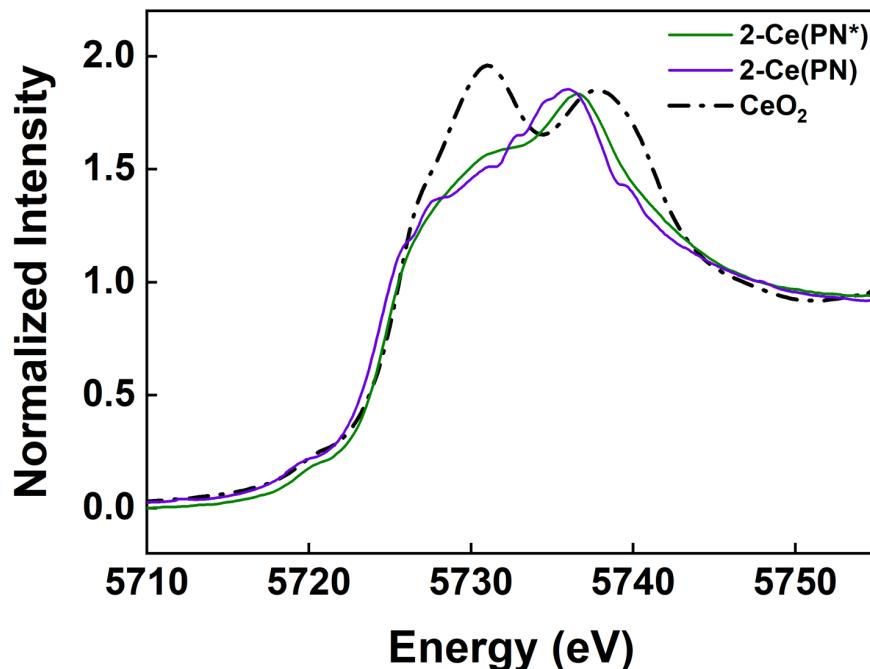
The solid-state cerium complexes were characterized by metal L<sub>3</sub>-edge X-ray measurements. The X-ray absorption measurements were made at SSRL, under dedicated operating conditions (3.0 GeV, 5%, 500 mA using continuous top-off injections) on end station 11-2. With the use of a liquid-nitrogen-cooled double-crystal Si(220) ( $\phi = 0$ ) monochromator that employed collimating and focusing mirrors, a single energy was selected from the incident white beam. For Ce measurements, the beam was fully tuned at 6800 eV, and harmonic rejection was achieved with a Rh-coated mirror. The horizontal slit sizes were 10 mm, and vertical slit sizes were 1 mm in all measurements.

The cryostat was attached to the beamline 11-2 XAS rail (SSRL), which was equipped with three ionization chambers, through which nitrogen gas was continually flowed. One chamber was positioned before the helium beam pass and the cryostat (10 cm) to monitor the incident radiation ( $I_0$ ). The second chamber was positioned after the cryostat (30 cm) so that sample transmission ( $I_1$ ) could be evaluated against  $I_0$  and so that the absorption coefficient ( $\mu$ ) could be calculated as  $\ln(I_0/I_1)$ . The third chamber ( $I_2$ ; 30 cm) was positioned downstream from  $I_1$  so that the XANES of a calibration foil could be measured against  $I_1$ . A potential of 1100 V was applied in series to the ionization chambers. A PIPS detector under argon was placed on one side of the cryostat (4 cm) to detect the fluorescence from the samples. The Ce samples were calibrated *in situ* to the energy of the first inflection point of the K-edge of chromium foil (5989 eV). Data were acquired in triplicate and averaged. Background subtraction and normalization (at 5800 eV) were performed in Athena.

Curve fitting was performed in IgorPro 7.0 using a modified version of EDG\_FIT.<sup>8</sup> Derivative spectra were used as guides to determine the number and positions of the peaks, and edge features were modeled by pseudo-Voigt line shapes and an additional function consisting of arctangent and error function contributions, which was used to model the absorption threshold. Deconvoluted spectral models were performed over several energy ranges. In the spectrum of **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**, four pseudo-Voigts were employed to fit the spectrum: p<sub>1</sub> (the quadrupole-allowed 2p<sub>3/2</sub> → 4f transition), p<sub>2</sub> and p<sub>3</sub> and p<sub>4</sub> to model the double-white line feature. In the spectrum of **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**, a single pseudo-Voigt was employed to model the white-line feature. The area under the pseudo-Voigt functions (defined as the intensity) was calculated with the formula  $ph \times fwhm \times \frac{1}{4}([\pi/\ln(2)]^{1/2} + \pi)$ , where ph = peak height (normalized intensity), fwhm = full-width at half-maximum height (eV), and the value  $\frac{1}{4}([\pi/\ln(2)]^{1/2} + \pi) \approx 1.318$  is a constant associated with the pseudo-Voigt function. The fits are shown in Figures 4 and summarized in Table S8. Relative parameter error estimates are calculated from the covariance matrix assuming normally distributed variances in the data. The absolute error in nf is about 0.04 or 10% for **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** and 0.02 or 6 % for **2-Ce(PN)**.



**Figure S17.** Overlay of L<sub>3</sub>-edge XAS spectra of **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** and **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**. Dashed lines correspond to peak energies of the fit. Open circles correspond to the inflection point of the associated spectrum.



**Figure S18.** Overlay of L<sub>3</sub>-edge XAS spectra of **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** and **2-Ce(PN)** with CeO<sub>2</sub>.

**Table S8.** Summary of fit parameters for Ce L<sub>3</sub>-edge XANES of **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**, **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**, and **2-Ce(PN)**.

Complex	Peak 1 Intensity	Energy (eV)	Peak 2 Intensity	Energy (eV)	Peak 3 Intensity	Energy (eV)	Peak 4 Intensity	Energy (eV)
<b>1-Ce(PN<sup>*</sup>)</b>	5.72(8)	5725.8(0)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>2-Ce(PN<sup>*</sup>)</b>	0.14(0)	5719.7(0)	3.7(3)	5730.44(9)	9.0(1)	5736.57(6)	2.4(2)	5726.45(8)
<b>2-Ce(PN)</b>	0.14(0)	5719.7(0)	4.83(9)	5728.91(8)	9.59(6)	5735.96(3)	1.13(7)	5725.67(3)

**Table S9.** Background subtracted and normalized spectrum of Ce L<sub>3</sub>-edge XANES of **1-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)** and **2-Ce(PN<sup>\*</sup>)**.

1-Ce(PN <sup>*</sup> )_eV	1-Ce(PN <sup>*</sup> )_Int	2-Ce(PN <sup>*</sup> )_eV	2-Ce(PN <sup>*</sup> )_Int
5683.2495	2.65E-03	5683.2495	3.12E-03
5686.2515	1.66E-03	5686.2515	3.85E-03
5689.249	9.92E-04	5689.249	2.51E-03
5692.25	8.51E-04	5692.25	2.96E-03
5693.2485	2.29E-03	5693.2485	7.14E-03

5693.4995	6.35E-03	5693.999	6.64E-04
5693.751	5.07E-03	5694.2505	7.87E-04
5693.999	-1.41E-03	5694.4985	2.23E-04
5694.2505	-1.27E-03	5694.75	-2.15E-04
5694.4985	-2.84E-04	5695.001	-2.12E-04
5694.75	-2.32E-04	5695.2495	6.36E-04
5695.001	-1.28E-05	5695.501	1.31E-03
5695.2495	2.82E-04	5695.7495	2.29E-04
5695.501	4.37E-04	5696.001	3.36E-04
5695.7495	9.25E-04	5696.2495	-1.16E-03
5696.001	6.76E-04	5696.501	8.88E-04
5696.2495	-2.22E-04	5696.7495	1.75E-03
5696.501	-1.02E-03	5697.001	-1.25E-04
5696.7495	-2.45E-03	5697.2495	-1.03E-03
5697.001	-3.35E-03	5697.501	-7.19E-05
5697.2495	-3.08E-03	5697.7495	9.02E-04
5697.501	-3.54E-03	5698.0015	-5.08E-04
5697.7495	-3.35E-03	5698.25	-1.73E-03
5698.0015	-3.22E-03	5698.499	4.52E-05
5698.25	-2.48E-03	5698.7505	-1.78E-03
5698.499	-2.25E-03	5698.9995	-1.47E-03
5698.7505	-1.60E-03	5699.251	1.00E-03
5698.9995	-1.51E-03	5699.5	-2.65E-03
5699.251	-1.26E-03	5699.749	-1.81E-03
5699.5	-1.98E-04	5700.0005	-1.34E-03
5699.749	-8.25E-04	5700.2495	-2.14E-03
5700.0005	-9.65E-04	5700.4985	-2.94E-03
5700.2495	-1.21E-03	5700.7505	-1.05E-03
5700.4985	-1.18E-04	5700.9995	1.16E-04
5700.7505	9.97E-04	5701.2485	-1.84E-03
5700.9995	9.80E-04	5701.5005	-2.30E-03
5701.2485	5.55E-04	5701.75	-3.31E-03
5701.5005	2.51E-04	5701.999	-2.54E-03
5701.75	2.29E-04	5702.251	1.94E-04
5701.999	4.27E-04	5702.5	-6.28E-04
5702.251	7.64E-04	5702.7495	1.45E-03
5702.5	2.90E-04	5702.9985	9.68E-04
5702.7495	8.57E-06	5703.251	2.80E-03
5702.9985	2.43E-04	5703.5	-5.32E-04
5703.251	7.01E-04	5703.7495	-1.49E-03
5703.5	6.72E-04	5703.999	-1.91E-03
5703.7495	-9.44E-05	5704.251	-1.41E-03
5703.999	5.49E-04	5704.5005	-1.86E-03

5704.251	1.19E-03	5704.75	-2.21E-03
5704.5005	1.87E-03	5704.9995	-1.11E-03
5704.75	2.63E-03	5705.249	-3.84E-04
5704.9995	2.89E-03	5705.5015	-2.58E-04
5705.249	2.71E-03	5705.751	7.70E-04
5705.5015	2.21E-03	5706.0005	-4.33E-04
5705.751	2.69E-03	5706.25	8.43E-04
5706.0005	3.19E-03	5706.5	-1.79E-03
5706.25	3.57E-03	5706.7495	-3.65E-03
5706.5	4.10E-03	5706.999	-1.45E-03
5706.7495	5.29E-03	5707.249	-1.14E-03
5706.999	5.16E-03	5707.4985	-4.35E-04
5707.249	5.23E-03	5707.7515	1.08E-04
5707.4985	6.30E-03	5708.001	-4.43E-04
5707.7515	7.46E-03	5708.251	-6.56E-04
5708.001	7.78E-03	5708.501	-1.36E-04
5708.251	8.96E-03	5708.7505	-1.12E-04
5708.501	9.53E-03	5709.0005	5.38E-04
5708.7505	1.14E-02	5709.2505	1.81E-03
5709.0005	1.18E-02	5709.5005	2.15E-03
5709.2505	1.32E-02	5709.7505	2.67E-03
5709.5005	1.37E-02	5710.0005	1.64E-04
5709.7505	1.52E-02	5710.2505	1.42E-03
5710.0005	1.75E-02	5710.5005	2.54E-03
5710.2505	1.97E-02	5710.7505	2.55E-03
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5710.7505	2.12E-02	5711.251	5.61E-03
5711.0005	2.37E-02	5711.501	5.81E-03
5711.251	2.56E-02	5711.7515	5.49E-03
5711.501	2.73E-02	5711.9985	7.25E-03
5711.7515	2.90E-02	5712.249	7.93E-03
5711.9985	3.12E-02	5712.499	8.47E-03
5712.249	3.34E-02	5712.7495	1.09E-02
5712.499	3.55E-02	5713	1.24E-02
5712.7495	3.84E-02	5713.25	1.42E-02
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5713.25	4.52E-02	5713.751	1.59E-02
5713.5005	4.84E-02	5714.0015	1.67E-02
5713.751	5.22E-02	5714.249	1.77E-02
5714.0015	5.58E-02	5714.4995	2.08E-02
5714.249	5.95E-02	5714.75	2.39E-02
5714.4995	6.51E-02	5715.0005	2.67E-02
5714.75	7.08E-02	5715.251	2.85E-02

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5862.249	0.99311069	5862.249	0.98320646
5865.2495	0.987317	5865.2495	0.97682497

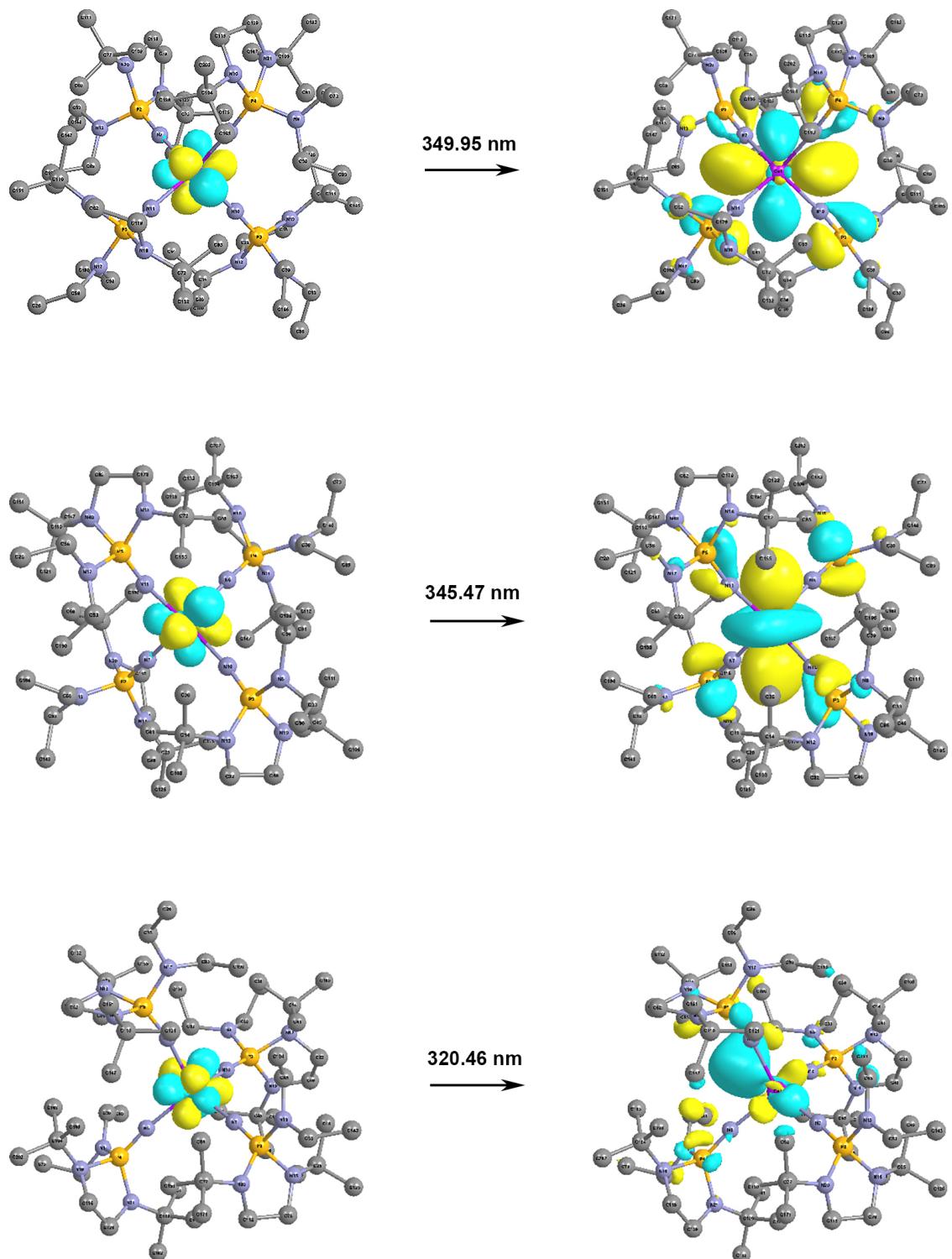
5868.2505	0.98379769	5868.2505	0.97279239
5871.2495	0.98258	5871.2495	0.96823263
5874.249	0.98329876	5874.249	0.96675475
5877.249	0.98699492	5877.249	0.96270628
5880.2495	0.9914745	5880.2495	0.96038226
5883.2505	0.9967433	5883.2505	0.9573894
5886.2495	1.0037953	5886.2495	0.95444982
5889.2485	1.0083374	5889.2485	0.9547269
5892.2515	1.0122342	5892.2515	0.95794666
5895.2485	1.0139345	5895.2485	0.96174294
5898.2495	1.0150752	5898.2495	0.96851978

## Theoretical Details

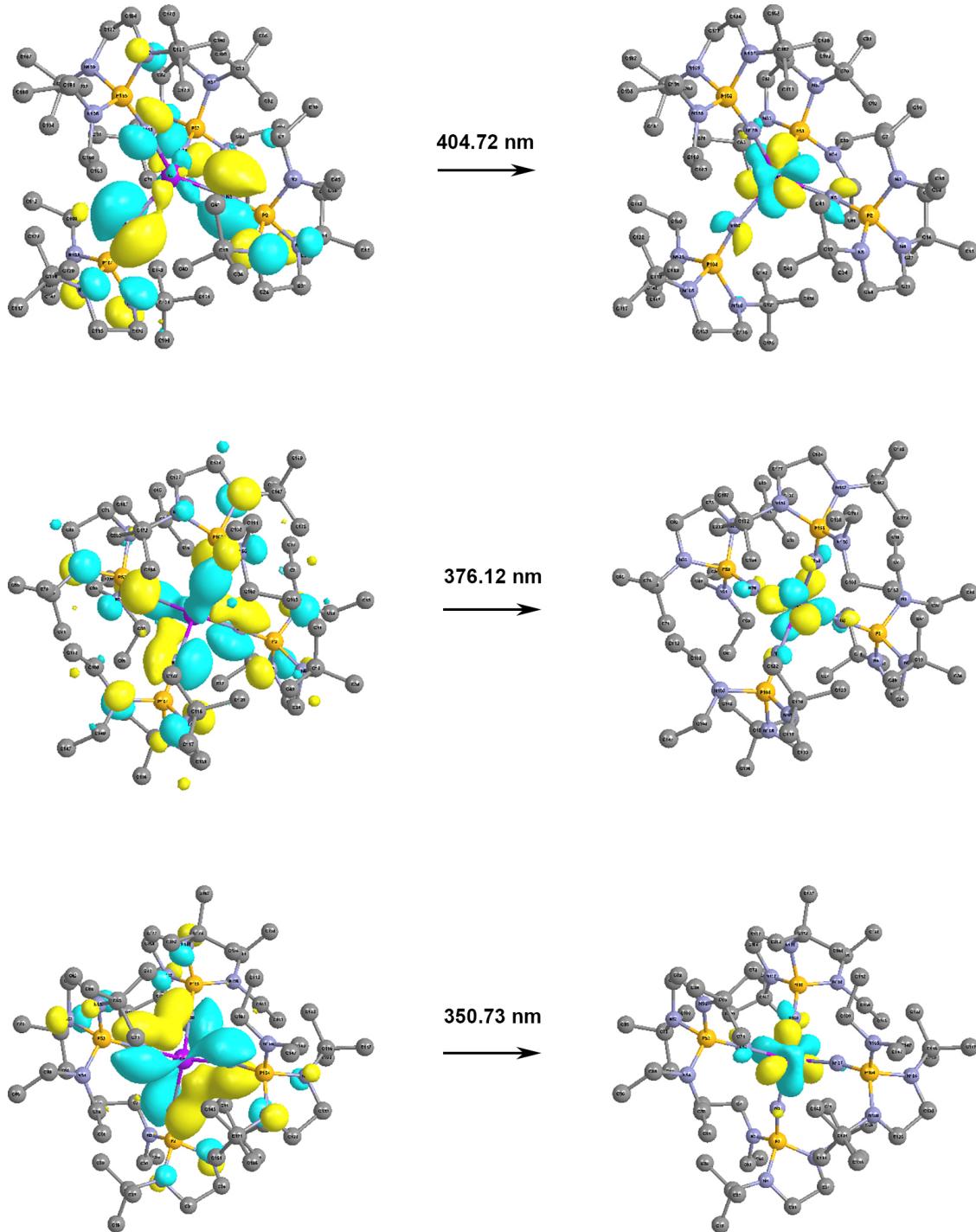
All the calculations were carried out with the PBE0<sup>9</sup> hybrid functional as implemented in the Gaussian 16 software package revision B.01.<sup>10</sup> ECP28MWB<sup>11</sup> small core quasi-relativistic pseudopotential and ECP28MWB\_ANO<sup>12</sup> basis set were used to describe Ce, and the remaining atoms were described with the all-electron Pople basis set 6-311G(d).<sup>13</sup> The geometries of compounds **1-Ce(PN\*)** (excluding the K<sup>+</sup> counter ion) and **2-Ce(PN\*)** were optimized in gas phase without any constraints. Harmonic frequency calculations were performed to confirm that the optimized structures were stationary points on the potential energy surface. The computed structural metrics are in good agreement with the XRD data, with Ce–N and N–P bond distances, as well as Ce–N–P and N–Ce–N valence angles within 2.0%, 0.3%, 3.3%, and 0.4% of the experimental ones, respectively, providing confidence to the theoretical model (Table S10). In all calculations, spin contamination was found to be less than 0.2% with  $\langle S^2 \rangle$  values being close to the corresponding values of the considered spin states, *i.e.* doublet for **1-Ce(PN\*)** (C<sub>1</sub> point group symmetry) and singlet for **2-Ce(PN\*)** (S<sub>4</sub> point group symmetry). Wavefunctions of the studied species were found to be stable indicating that the calculations converged to the ground electronic state. Time-dependent DFT calculations (TD-DFT) of up to 150 excited states were carried out to simulate the experimental UV-vis spectrum of both complexes. The computed UV-vis spectra were plotted broadening the calculated excitation lines with Gaussian-type peaks using 0.1 eV half-width at half height (Fig. 6 of the main text) and 0.3 eV half-width at half height (Fig. S21). Natural transition orbitals (NTOs),<sup>14</sup> which most of the time can yield a single electron-hole representations of the electronic excitations, were employed to interpret the calculated excitation spectra. To gain more insight into electronic structure of these complexes, chemical bonding analyses were performed using Natural Bond Orbital<sup>15, 16</sup> (NBO) method. The GaussView 6<sup>17</sup> was used for molecular orbitals visualization of the NBO results. Chemissian 4.60<sup>18</sup> was used to plot molecular orbital energy level diagrams and the computed TD-DFT spectra.

**Table S10.** Experimental (exp) vs. optimized (opt) Ce–N and N–P bond lengths (Å) and Ce–N–P, N–Ce–N valence angles (°) of complexes **1-Ce(PN\*)** and **2-Ce(PN\*)**.

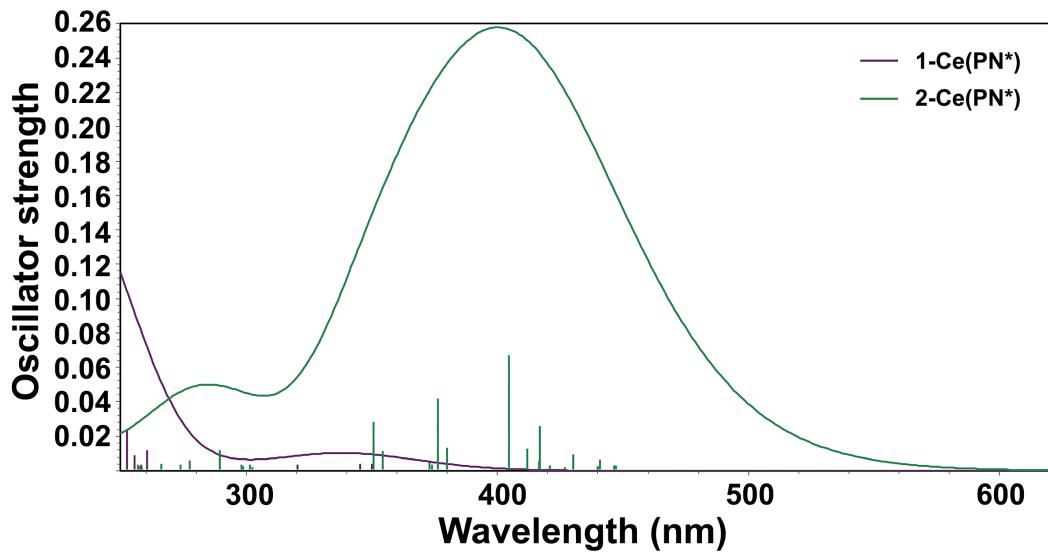
	<b>1</b> (exp)	<b>1</b> (opt)	<b>2</b> (exp)	<b>2</b> (opt)
avg. Ce–N (K <sup>+</sup> capped)	2.377	2.350	2.237	2.193
avg. Ce–N (terminal)	2.313			
avg. N <sub>imido</sub> –P (K <sup>+</sup> capped)	1.531	1.535	1.557	1.558
avg. N <sub>imido</sub> –P (terminal)	1.531			
avg. Ce–N–P (K <sup>+</sup> capped)	168.2	173.0	163.0	168.3
avg. Ce–N–P (terminal)	168.2			
avg. N–Ce–N	109.3	109.5	109.5	109.1



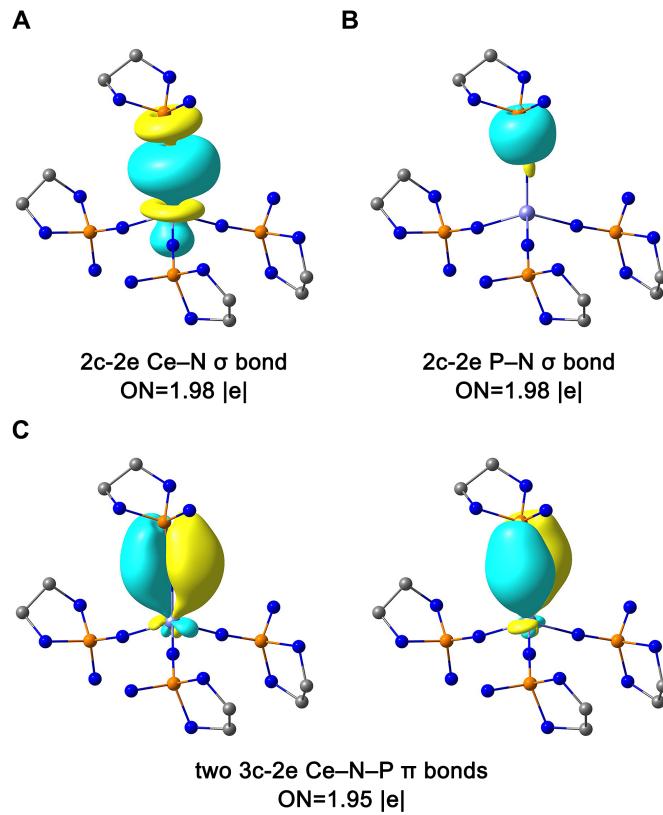
**Figure S19.** Dominant NTO pairs (“hole” (on the left) → “particle” (on the right)) corresponding to the f-d transitions at a particular energy (nm) of complex **1-Ce(PN\*)**.



**Figure S20.** Dominant NTO pairs (“hole” (on the left) → “particle” (on the right)) corresponding to the three LMCT transitions with the highest oscillator strength values within the ~330-480 nm range of complex **2-Ce(PN\*)**.



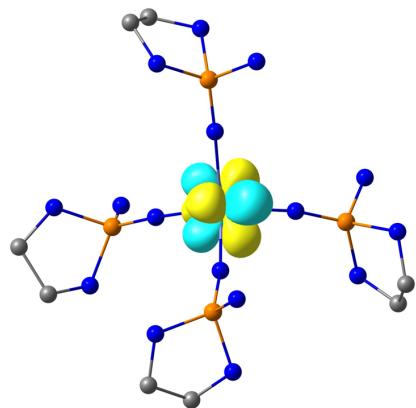
**Figure S21.** Computed TD-DFT spectra of **1-Ce(PN\*)** (purple) and **2-Ce(PN\*)** (green) using 0.3 eV half-width at half height. Vertical bars depict theoretical oscillator strength of single-electron excitations.



**Figure S22.** Bonding analysis of the Ce–N–P interactions in **2-Ce(PN\*)**. (A) Two-center two-electron Ce–N $\sigma$  bond. (B) Two-center two-electron P–N $\sigma$  bond. (C, D) Three-center two-electron Ce–N–P $\pi$  bonds. ON denotes occupation number. Side groups of the ligands ( $^t\text{Bu}$ ,  $\text{Et}_2$ ) are omitted for simplicity. An equivalent set of bonds is identified for other three ligands.

**Table S11.** ON values ( $|e|$ ) of the Ce–N  $\sigma$  bonds, N–P  $\sigma$  bonds, Ce–N–P  $\pi$  bonds, and 1c-1e  $\alpha$  NBO (unpaired f electron on Ce) in **1-Ce(PN\*)** and **2-Ce(PN\*)**.

Bonds	Ce–N $\sigma$ bond	N–P $\sigma$ bond	Ce–N–P $\pi$ bonds	1c-1e $\alpha$ NBO
<b>1-Ce(PN*)</b>	1.97	1.99	1.94	1.00
<b>2-Ce(PN*)</b>	1.98	1.98	1.95	N/A



**Figure S23.** Unpaired Ce 4f electron identified as 1c-1e NBO on Ce with ON=1.00  $|e|$  in **1-Ce(PN\*)**. Side groups of the ligands ( $t\text{Bu}$ ,  $\text{Et}_2$ ) are omitted for simplicity.

**Table S12.** Bond polarization (%) of the NBOs shown in Figure S22.

Bonds	Ce–N σ bond		N–P σ bond		Ce–N–P π bonds		
	Ce	N	N	P	Ce	N	P
1-Ce(PN*)	5.82	94.18	69.94	30.06	1.32	96.48	2.20
2-Ce(PN*)	10.43	89.57	70.17	29.83	4.37	94.02	1.61

**Table S13.** Ce hybrids (%) of the Ce-containing NBOs.

Bonds	1-Ce(PN*)				2-Ce(PN*)			
	s	p	d	f	s	p	d	f
Ce–N σ bond	0.96	0.70	69.71	28.40	0.28	0.32	64.42	34.82
Ce–N–P π bonds	0.67	4.48	27.19	63.69	0.05	3.41	26.87	65.68
1c-1e α NBO on Ce	0.00	0.00	0.42	99.58			N/A	

**Table S14.** Cartesian coordinates of **1-Ce(PN\*)** (excluding K<sup>+</sup> counterion) and **2-Ce(PN\*)**.

1-Ce(PN*)				2-Ce(PN*)			
Ce	0.02123400	-0.03481900	-0.01965200	Ce	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000
P	0.32307100	3.17842500	-2.19083500	P	-2.37617400	1.77746600	2.26440000
P	3.32399600	-2.06284900	-0.27052200	N	-3.82165800	2.21659700	1.51330500
P	-0.60478600	1.13621600	3.61560700	N	-1.95488300	3.09674800	3.25379600
P	-3.03116300	-2.17314300	-1.04140200	N	-1.33921900	1.20269200	1.25338700
N	-0.41724000	0.57498600	2.19856600	N	-2.83835200	0.85276500	3.63964100
N	0.22138300	1.87356600	-1.38585500	C	-4.10561900	1.88505900	0.12982100
N	3.33299000	-3.60172100	0.48476300	H	-4.86188300	1.08768800	0.07427000
N	-0.06690200	0.08270500	4.84350200	H	-3.18721400	1.46551400	-0.28554900
N	2.01148100	-1.29170900	-0.07609800	C	-4.56754300	3.06811900	-0.70955400
N	-1.75296500	-1.36261200	-0.79079800	H	-4.72495000	2.74996900	-1.74388100
N	3.94205400	-2.43378400	-1.85815100	H	-3.82487800	3.86865300	-0.71279900
N	-0.12420100	3.01080000	-3.82671700	H	-5.51408100	3.48775300	-0.35559400
C	3.02728000	-2.82106700	-2.95368600	C	-1.50436000	4.43495000	2.84101900
N	1.80115300	4.06793300	-2.23412700	C	-2.25588700	5.50396700	3.64196600
N	-2.16969200	1.67184600	4.17994400	H	-3.33701400	5.40060400	3.51289100
N	-3.00591200	-3.01602200	-2.53501400	H	-1.96744100	6.50048200	3.29537900
N	-3.59010200	-3.37171100	0.09782800	H	-2.03281600	5.45472900	4.71152700
N	4.84164800	-1.36711300	0.16120100	C	-3.18161700	-0.58244300	3.58829200
N	-0.53633100	4.62182700	-1.73571900	C	-1.77957500	4.66956600	1.35959800
N	0.08002900	2.64169400	4.07807600	H	-1.33531400	3.88664700	0.74239000
C	4.96292200	-1.45690700	-2.19271000	H	-1.34705100	5.62814100	1.05871200
H	4.53648400	-0.48542400	-2.48703500	H	-2.85110200	4.70281800	1.15763000
H	5.59412800	-1.81110900	-3.01330300	C	-2.07658500	1.30567500	4.78980000
C	3.13311200	3.46440200	-2.34779700	H	-1.04737300	0.91498600	4.79041300
C	-4.51806200	-3.97707700	-4.28349300	H	-2.55508700	0.99795400	5.72338400
H	-4.84239100	-2.98288700	-4.60399500	C	0.00000000	4.57142900	3.09011800
H	-5.36122800	-4.66666700	-4.40285700	H	0.25335100	4.40645000	4.14161800
H	-3.72875800	-4.30842400	-4.96382600	H	0.35161300	5.57265400	2.82007600
C	0.19778900	-1.31055700	4.54919600	H	0.54041500	3.83650200	2.49206400
H	0.20404300	-1.39542400	3.46009500	C	-2.05606100	2.81563800	4.67042800
H	-0.62136500	-1.95568500	4.90967900	H	-2.97586000	3.24207500	5.10201200
C	4.57005600	-4.34627500	0.62607900	H	-1.20712600	3.23166200	5.22385300
H	4.61695000	-4.75024700	1.64926400	C	-4.20929300	-0.87326100	4.68751800
H	5.41030700	-3.65019500	0.54186200	H	-3.80581000	-0.70482300	5.68976400
C	2.00141300	-3.82905100	-2.43870700	H	-4.52655400	-1.91935700	4.64049500
H	2.49114100	-4.70889000	-2.01805800	H	-5.09177300	-0.23987900	4.56597500
H	1.35834300	-4.14812200	-3.26452000	C	-4.85775400	2.89892500	2.26909100

H	1.36833200	-3.38604000	-1.66747700		H	-5.00939000	3.90953900	1.85990800
N	-4.58385600	-1.43868500	-1.02996100		H	-4.49059500	3.03885800	3.28702500
C	2.29003500	-1.61608300	-3.54841500		C	-3.81814100	-0.93235400	2.24606000
H	1.73002300	-1.09555700	-2.76946000		H	-3.12083200	-0.78546600	1.41887400
H	1.59005100	-1.93838000	-4.32509100		H	-4.70809300	-0.33107400	2.05523100
H	2.97944500	-0.90180000	-4.00794000		H	-4.11477500	-1.98411800	2.25314600
C	5.21193500	-0.79434400	1.45809200		C	-6.19643200	2.17671100	2.32159300
C	5.78228500	-1.28723400	-0.92830500		H	-6.61946000	2.01171200	1.32670300
H	6.55131300	-2.07740500	-0.86687400		H	-6.91930500	2.77207500	2.88766500
H	6.30519500	-0.32245400	-0.94597700		H	-6.10239000	1.20656900	2.81439700
C	3.07251600	2.19907300	-3.20211500		C	-1.95038900	-1.46774200	3.79637000
H	2.42116200	1.45137100	-2.74631100		H	-1.17523300	-1.25248000	3.05573100
H	4.07644900	1.77212500	-3.29059100		H	-2.22637800	-2.52216200	3.70867400
H	2.70274100	2.41404500	-4.20703300		H	-1.51696000	-1.33143400	4.79204100
C	-0.13579000	4.15004300	-4.71875200		P	1.77746600	2.37617400	-2.26440000
H	-0.03110600	5.04654800	-4.10516600		N	2.21659700	3.82165800	-1.51330500
H	-1.12583200	4.23411500	-5.19435700		N	3.09674800	1.95488300	-3.25379600
C	-4.05573000	-3.96706600	-2.83207000		N	1.20269200	1.33921900	-1.25338700
H	-4.90588100	-3.73683300	-2.18761600		N	0.85276500	2.83835200	-3.63964100
H	-3.74040000	-4.99027600	-2.55737800		C	1.88505900	4.10561900	-0.12982100
C	2.26550600	-3.95402000	1.39783900		H	1.08768800	4.86188300	-0.07427000
H	1.43901700	-3.26948400	1.19601100		H	1.46551400	3.18721400	0.28554900
H	2.57483200	-3.77242700	2.44322300		C	3.06811900	4.56754300	0.70955400
C	-5.50138900	-2.01920900	-0.07925100		H	2.74996900	4.72495000	1.74388100
H	-6.22036200	-2.70290000	-0.56415700		H	3.86865300	3.82487800	0.71279900
H	-6.08412200	-1.25116700	0.44348900		H	3.48775300	5.51408100	0.35559400
C	-0.31961100	1.69742600	-4.40528100		C	4.43495000	1.50436000	-2.84101900
H	-0.40585500	1.00178100	-3.56704700		C	5.50396700	2.25588700	-3.64196600
H	0.56757700	1.37893800	-4.97887800		H	5.40060400	3.33701400	-3.51289100
C	-2.73633600	3.63122700	-2.18657700		H	6.50048200	1.96744100	-3.29537900
H	-2.67229700	3.94016900	-3.23248400		H	5.45472900	2.03281600	-4.71152700
H	-3.78717900	3.64162300	-1.88302800		C	-0.58244300	3.18161700	-3.58829200
H	-2.37097500	2.60625500	-2.10562700		C	4.66956600	1.77957500	-1.35959800
C	-2.66238700	-4.29390400	0.77393100		H	3.88664700	1.33531400	-0.74239000
C	-1.00641200	-0.12819600	7.16569500		H	5.62814100	1.34705100	-1.05871200
H	-2.02251600	0.16127800	6.88964300		H	4.70281800	2.85110200	-1.15763000
H	-0.82746500	0.20012400	8.19577900		C	1.30567500	2.07658500	-4.78980000
H	-0.94698400	-1.22127400	7.15517400		H	0.91498600	1.04737300	-4.79041300
C	-1.94084000	4.57536400	-1.28918300		H	0.99795400	2.555508700	-5.72338400
C	1.69301400	5.40589900	-1.69922300		C	4.57142900	0.00000000	-3.09011800
H	1.73365900	6.16364300	-2.49976100		H	4.40645000	-0.25335100	-4.14161800
H	2.50396500	5.63276600	-0.99657200		H	5.57265400	-0.35161300	-2.82007600
C	2.38931800	1.86857200	3.74449700		H	3.83650200	-0.54041500	-2.49206400
H	2.40567400	1.35215600	4.70711600		C	2.81563800	2.05606100	-4.67042800
H	3.40341100	2.20600800	3.51288500		H	3.24207500	2.97586000	-5.10201200
H	2.08235700	1.15360300	2.97894500		H	3.23166200	1.20712600	-5.22385300
C	-1.96068200	-3.63865400	1.96815000		C	-0.87326100	4.20929300	-4.68751800
H	-1.44873800	-2.72819600	1.64891300		H	-0.70482300	3.80581000	-5.68976400
H	-1.22409400	-4.31936200	2.40751300		H	-1.91935700	4.52655400	-4.64049500
H	-2.66964500	-3.37209200	2.75731900		H	-0.23987900	5.09177300	-4.56597500
C	1.51449400	-1.82638800	5.11212500		C	2.89892500	4.85775400	-2.26909100
H	1.52428600	-1.84985800	6.20717500		H	3.90953900	5.00939000	-1.85990800
H	2.35271500	-1.21104000	4.77732700		H	3.03885800	4.49059500	-3.28702500
H	1.68986500	-2.84897700	4.76407600		C	-0.93235400	3.81814100	-2.24606000
C	-1.74109100	-3.21035400	-3.22167500		H	-0.78546600	3.12083200	-1.41887400
H	-1.62557800	-4.27976700	-3.45970700		H	-0.33107400	4.70809300	-2.05523100
H	-0.93764300	-2.94682000	-2.53108300		H	-1.98411800	4.11477500	-2.25314600
C	4.77173000	-5.47166800	-0.38211700		C	2.17671100	6.19643200	-2.32159300
H	3.96850600	-6.21141600	-0.33862900		H	2.01171200	6.61946000	-1.32670300
H	5.72034700	-5.98967900	-0.19531200		H	2.77207500	6.91930500	-2.88766500
H	4.80083900	-5.05754400	-1.39160600		H	1.20656900	6.10239000	-2.81439700
C	3.84278400	-3.50638600	-4.05604900		C	-1.46774200	1.95038900	-3.79637000
H	4.53689500	-2.82057200	-4.55016000		H	-1.25248000	1.17523300	-3.05573100
H	3.17084700	-3.89443200	-4.82790000		H	-2.52216200	2.22637800	-3.70867400
H	4.41776100	-4.34358500	-3.64975700		H	-1.33143400	1.51696000	-4.79204100
C	-3.39298500	0.90897600	3.86697700		P	2.37617400	-1.77746600	2.26440000
C	6.63796500	-1.21905500	1.83264800		N	3.82165800	-2.21659700	1.51330500
H	6.72863500	-2.30866900	1.86603300		N	1.95488300	-3.09674800	3.25379600
H	6.89470500	-0.82864600	2.82239800		N	1.33921900	-1.20269200	1.25338700
H	7.38157400	-0.83652700	1.12708100		N	2.83835200	-0.85276500	3.63964100

C	1.45138200	3.07180300	3.78561700	C	4.10561900	-1.88505900	0.12982100
C	-5.04362600	-0.30394700	-1.83818700	H	4.86188300	-1.08768800	0.07427000
C	4.26714400	-1.28863200	2.55023300	H	3.18721400	-1.46551400	-0.28554900
H	3.22581700	-1.07707500	2.29773500	C	4.56754300	-3.06811900	-0.70955400
H	4.50312200	-0.78422800	3.49196200	H	4.72495000	-2.74996900	-1.74388100
H	4.37107600	-2.36515800	2.70693900	H	3.82487800	-3.86865300	-0.71279900
C	-2.24468400	3.11021800	4.00322300	H	5.51408100	-3.48775300	-0.35559400
H	-2.42060900	3.39850700	2.95524500	C	1.50436000	-4.43495000	2.84101900
H	-3.04653000	3.54224100	4.61009300	C	2.25588700	-5.50396700	3.64196600
C	0.35913400	5.47327100	-0.97536000	H	3.33701400	-5.40060400	3.51289100
H	0.48459000	5.13010400	0.06287400	H	1.96744100	-6.50048200	3.29537900
H	-0.00740600	6.50411200	-0.94628100	H	2.03281600	-5.45472900	4.71152700
C	-4.04424900	0.02263600	-2.94345200	C	3.18161700	0.58244300	3.58829200
H	-3.05320600	0.22369900	-2.53146700	C	1.77957500	-4.66956600	1.35959800
H	-4.38411000	0.91014900	-3.48518000	H	1.33531400	-3.88664700	0.74239000
H	-3.95092400	-0.80359300	-3.64900100	H	1.34705100	-5.62814100	1.05871200
C	4.08254000	4.45544500	-3.03022200	H	2.85110200	-4.70281800	1.15763000
H	3.70107400	4.74767300	-4.01297600	C	2.07658500	-1.30567500	4.78980000
H	5.06608300	3.99558900	-3.16871000	H	1.04737300	-0.91498600	4.79041300
H	4.22751000	5.36506400	-2.44005700	H	2.55508700	-0.99795400	5.72338400
C	-0.89509000	3.63849800	4.45606500	C	0.00000000	-4.57142900	3.09011800
H	-0.69540200	4.60525100	3.97855800	H	-0.25335100	-4.40645000	4.14161800
H	-0.89783900	3.80571100	5.54692000	H	-0.35161300	-5.57265400	2.82007600
C	-3.45019900	-5.51942900	1.25163300	H	-0.54041500	-3.83650200	2.49206400
H	-4.17187900	-5.27213700	2.03542000	C	2.05606100	-2.81563800	4.67042800
H	-2.76633000	-6.26572400	1.66819100	H	2.97586000	-3.24207500	5.10201200
H	-3.99174200	-5.97321300	0.41644400	H	1.20712600	-3.23166200	5.22385300
C	5.14457000	0.73429800	1.39641000	C	4.20929300	0.87326100	4.68751800
H	5.80228300	1.13084300	0.61691800	H	3.80581000	0.70482300	5.68976400
H	5.45356100	1.18189400	2.34742300	H	4.52655400	1.91935700	4.64049500
H	4.12615900	1.05439200	1.17439900	H	5.09177300	0.23987900	4.56597500
C	0.00821500	0.50932000	6.22383700	C	4.85775400	-2.89892500	2.26909100
H	-0.11561800	1.59366800	6.23976000	H	5.00939000	-3.90953900	1.85990800
H	1.02235300	0.31999500	6.60919500	H	4.49059500	-3.03885800	3.28702500
C	0.93315900	4.13862900	-5.80484500	C	3.81814100	0.93235400	2.24606000
H	0.82633400	5.01546500	-6.45325300	H	3.12083200	0.78546600	1.41887400
H	0.86457900	3.25046400	-6.44094400	H	4.70809300	0.33107400	2.05523100
H	1.93294200	4.16196600	-5.36628200	H	4.11477500	1.98411800	2.25314600
C	-5.21210800	0.93949400	-0.95711900	C	6.19643200	-2.17671100	2.32159300
H	-5.92664200	0.77276100	-0.14565100	H	6.61946000	-2.01171200	1.32670300
H	-5.58022700	1.78498700	-1.54805500	H	6.91930500	-2.77207500	2.88766500
H	-4.25496900	1.21783000	-0.51306000	H	6.10239000	-1.20656900	2.81439700
C	-6.38834000	-0.64880300	-2.49127800	C	1.95038900	1.46774200	3.79637000
H	-6.29958200	-1.55169600	-3.10248200	H	1.17523300	1.25248000	3.05573100
H	-6.71657300	0.17099700	-3.13815800	H	2.22637800	2.52216200	3.70867400
H	-7.17540700	-0.81634700	-1.74948300	H	1.51696000	1.33143400	4.79204100
C	-1.60971800	-4.77861400	-0.21946200	P	-1.77746600	-2.37617400	-2.26440000
H	-2.07745700	-5.22488300	-1.10075600	N	-2.21659700	-3.82165800	-1.51330500
H	-0.98151400	-5.53741300	0.25339100	N	-3.09674800	-1.95488300	-3.25379600
H	-0.96438700	-3.95875200	-0.54014400	N	-1.20269200	-1.33921900	-1.25338700
C	-2.07041300	4.11185900	0.16625000	N	-0.85276500	-2.83835200	-3.63964100
H	-1.59766500	3.13673500	0.30211900	C	-1.88505900	-4.10561900	-0.12982100
H	-3.12512000	4.03331300	0.45052000	H	-1.08768800	-4.86188300	-0.07427000
H	-1.59707200	4.81695500	0.85695500	H	-1.46551400	-3.18721400	0.28554900
C	-3.13318200	-0.58264300	4.06493500	C	-3.06811900	-4.56754300	0.70955400
H	-2.38887100	-0.94560700	3.35396500	H	-2.74996900	-4.72495000	1.74388100
H	-4.06086700	-1.13853300	3.89710200	H	-3.86865300	-3.82487800	0.71279900
H	-2.78405800	-0.79739900	5.07622900	H	-3.48775300	-5.51408100	0.35559400
C	1.50772600	3.80076200	2.43883500	C	-4.43495000	-1.50436000	-2.84101900
H	1.16514300	3.14126900	1.63805200	C	-5.50396700	-2.25588700	-3.64196600
H	2.52633200	4.13173600	2.20826100	H	-5.40060400	-3.33701400	-3.51289100
H	0.86660800	4.68871600	2.44420000	H	-6.50048200	-1.96744100	-3.29537900
C	-2.54973500	5.97504900	-1.43414600	H	-5.45472900	-2.03281600	4.71152700
H	-2.10480100	6.69830500	-0.74476200	C	0.58244300	-3.18161700	-3.58829200
H	-3.62165900	5.94002500	-1.21557100	C	-4.66956600	-1.77957500	-1.35959800
H	-2.41714500	6.34563600	-2.45489100	H	-3.88664700	-1.33531400	-0.74239000
C	3.67658500	3.09425100	-0.96523900	H	-5.62814100	-1.34705100	-1.05871200
H	3.73844200	3.96861600	-0.30886200	H	-4.70281800	-2.85110200	-1.15763000
H	4.68004200	2.66223000	-1.03563400	C	-1.30567500	-2.07658500	-4.78980000
H	3.01464700	2.36171900	-0.50009300	H	-0.91498600	-1.04737300	-4.79041300

C	-4.64325000	-2.78854000	0.90514600		H	-0.99795400	-2.55508700	-5.72338400
H	-4.25541700	-2.10392700	1.67535100		C	-4.57142900	0.00000000	-3.09011800
H	-5.23496400	-3.56135400	1.40579300		H	-4.40645000	0.25335100	-4.14161800
C	1.93614000	4.00455600	4.90148500		H	-5.57265400	0.35161300	-2.82007600
H	1.35021600	4.92667100	4.95715900		H	-3.83650200	0.54041500	-2.49206400
H	2.97803000	4.28900200	4.72434800		C	-2.81563800	-2.05606100	-4.67042800
H	1.87916500	3.50500100	5.87345300		H	-3.24207500	-2.97586000	-5.10201200
C	1.80370100	-5.39877700	1.27542600		H	-3.23166200	-1.20712600	-5.22385300
H	0.96526900	-5.58311000	1.95511300		C	0.87326100	-4.20929300	-4.68751800
H	2.59541700	-6.10750600	1.53963800		H	0.70482300	-3.80581000	-5.68976400
H	1.47396200	-5.62172000	0.25759300		H	1.91935700	-4.52655400	-4.64049500
C	-1.57015600	-2.36858800	-4.47972700		H	0.23987900	-5.09177300	-4.56597500
H	-2.37826800	-2.51852400	-5.20026300		C	-2.89892500	-4.85775400	-2.26909100
H	-0.62523100	-2.61211800	-4.97834600		H	-3.90953900	-5.00939000	-1.85990800
H	-1.54461000	-1.30999700	-4.21446200		H	-3.03885800	-4.49059500	-3.28702500
C	-1.54713700	1.59737300	-5.30042700		C	0.93235400	-3.81814100	-2.24606000
H	-2.45188200	1.89072900	-4.76277100		H	0.78546600	-3.12083200	-1.41887400
H	-1.67760300	0.56646700	-5.64154300		H	0.33107400	-4.70809300	-2.05523100
H	-1.46589500	2.22554700	-6.19391200		H	1.98411800	-4.11477500	-2.25314600
C	-3.86778600	1.12880300	2.42759300		C	-2.17671100	-6.19643200	-2.32159300
H	-4.12795100	2.17455900	2.23735600		H	-2.01171200	-6.61946000	-1.32670300
H	-4.76075000	0.52935400	2.22332000		H	-2.77207500	-6.91930500	-2.88766500
H	-3.08405400	0.83150700	1.72784500		H	-1.20656900	-6.10239000	-2.81439700
C	-4.49718600	1.33044600	4.84270300		C	1.46774200	-1.95038900	-3.79637000
H	-4.15613700	1.22789100	5.87720200		H	1.25248000	-1.17523300	-3.05573100
H	-5.37972800	0.69762800	4.70535800		H	2.52216200	-2.22637800	-3.70867400
H	-4.81657600	2.36517200	4.68870800		H	1.33143400	-1.51696000	-4.79204100

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