## Supporting Information for: Mapping the Distribution of Electronic States within the <sup>5</sup>D<sub>4</sub> and <sup>7</sup>F<sub>6</sub> Levels of Tb<sup>3+</sup> Complexes with Optical Spectroscopy

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**Figure S1.** Normalized emission spectra of 0.1 M Tb(CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>O (black) and D<sub>2</sub>O (red). Excitation wavelength at 351 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 8 and 1 nm respectively.



Figure S2. Emission spectra of 0.1 M Tb(CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Excitation wavelength at 353 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 5 nm and 1 nm respectively.



**Figure S3.** Excitation spectra of 0.1 M Tb(CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Emission was measured at 544 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 8 nm and 2 nm respectively.



**Figure S4.** Emission decay traces of 0.1 M Tb(CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>O (top row) and D<sub>2</sub>O (bottom row) at RT (left column) and 77 K (right column). The data was fitted with a mono-exponential function (red trace). Excitation was done at 372 nm and emission was measured at 488 nm. Both emission and excitation slits were kept at 5 nm.



**Figure S5.** High resolution emission spectra of the  ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{0}$  (right) and  ${}^{7}F_{1}$  peaks (left) of 0.1 M Tb(CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K. Excitation was done at 372 nm. Excitation and emission slits were kept at 5 nm and 1 nm respectively. The data was fitted with 4 Lorentzian peaks. Fit parameters are given in Table S1.

<b>Table S1.</b> Fit parameters for the emission spectra of the ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow$	<sup>7</sup> F <sub>0</sub> and <sup>7</sup> F <sub>1</sub> peaks of 0.1 M Tb(CF <sub>3</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> in D <sub>2</sub> O at 77 K, from
Figure S5.	

Peak #	Peak Center (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Width <sup>a</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Area
Peak 1	14717 ± 0.5	59.2 ± 1.2	88.5 ± 1.4
Peak 2	14990 ± 1.5	59.2 ± 1.2	47.7 ± 2.3
Peak 3	14943 ± 2.6	59.2 ± 1.2	33.9 ± 2.3
Peak 4	14890 ± 1.9	59.2 ± 1.2	33.0 ± 1.9

<sup>a</sup> Shared parameter



**Figure S6.** Normalized emission spectra of 0.05 M [Tb(EDTA)( $H_2O$ )<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> in  $H_2O$  (black) and [Tb(EDTA)( $D_2O$ )<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> in  $D_2O$  (red). Excitation wavelength at 372 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 5 nm and 1 nm respectively.



**Figure S7.** Emission spectra of 0.05 M [Tb(EDTA)( $D_2O$ )<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> in  $D_2O$  at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Excitation wavelength at 372 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 5 nm and 1 nm respectively.



**Figure S8.** Excitation spectra of 0.05 M [Tb(EDTA)( $D_2O_3$ ]<sup>-</sup> in  $D_2O$  at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Emission was measured at 545 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 3 nm and 3 nm respectively.



**Figure S9.** Emission decay traces of 0.05 M [Tb(EDTA)( $H_2O$ )<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> in  $H_2O$  (top row) and 0.05 M [Tb(EDTA)( $D_2O$ )<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> in  $D_2O$  (bottom row) at RT (left column) and 77 K (right column). The data was fitted with a mono-exponential function (red trace). Excitation was done at 372 nm and emission was measured at 488 nm. Both emission and excitation slits were kept at 5 nm.





**Table S2.** Fit parameters for the emission spectra of the  ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{0}$  and  ${}^{7}F_{1}$  peaks of 0.05 M [Tb(EDTA)(D<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K, from Figure S10.

Peak # (RT)	Peak Center (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Width <sup>a</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Area x10 <sup>5</sup>
Peak 1	14713 ± 0.6	75.2 ± 1.2	43.6 ± 0.56
Peak 2	14990 ± 0.8	75.2 ± 1.2	40.1 ± 0.76
Peak 3	14915 ± 2.6	75.2 ± 1.2	11.8 ± 0.68
<sup>a</sup> Shared parameter			



**Figure S11.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz) of EDTA<sup>4-</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O.  $\delta$  3.10 (s, 8H), 2.52 (s, 4H). pD was adjusted to ~8 using NaOD to make the sample soluble.



**Figure S12.** Normalized emission spectra of 0.05 M  $[Tb(DTPA)(H_2O)]^{2-}$  in  $H_2O$  (black) and  $[Tb(DTPA)(D_2O)]^{2-}$  in  $D_2O$  (red). Excitation wavelength at 372 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 5 nm and 1 nm respectively.



**Figure S13.** Emission spectra of 0.05 M  $[Tb(DTPA)(D_2O)]^2$  in  $D_2O$  at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Excitation wavelength at 372 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 5 nm and 1 nm respectively.



**Figure S14.** Excitation spectra of 0.05 M of  $[Tb(DTPA)(D_2O)]^{2-}$  in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Emission was measured at 545 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 3 nm and 3 nm respectively.



**Figure S15.** Emission decay traces of 0.05 M  $[Tb(DTPA)(H_2O)]^{2-}$  in  $H_2O$  (top row) and 0.05 M  $[Tb(DTPA)(D_2O)]^{2-}$  in  $D_2O$  (bottom row) at RT (left column) and 77 K (right column). The data was fitted with a mono-exponential function (red trace). Excitation was done at 372 nm and emission was measured at 488 nm. Both emission and excitation slits were kept at 5 nm.



**Figure S16.** Emission spectra of the  ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{0}$  transition of [Tb(DTPA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]<sup>-</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O at RT (top) and 77 K (bottom). The area of the fitted peak as well as the calculated Boltzmann distribution for a two state system is given in the figure. Fit parameters are found in Table S3.

<b>Table S3.</b> Fit parameters for the emission spectra of the ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow$	${}^{7}F_{0}$ and ${}^{7}F_{1}$ peaks of 0.05 M [Tb(DTPA)(H <sub>2</sub> O)] <sup>-</sup> in D <sub>2</sub> O at 77 K and
RT from Figure S15.	

Peak # (77 K)	Peak Center (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Width <sup>a</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Area x10 <sup>5</sup>
Peak 1	14688 ± 1.1	59.1 ± 3.3	19.4 ± 0.86
Peak 2	14763 ± 6.0	59.1 ± 3.3	3.75 ± 0.60
Peak # (RT)	Peak Center (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Width <sup>a</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Area x10⁵
Peak 1	14676 ± 1.0	59.8 ± 2.2	16.1 ± 0.46
Peak 2	14754 ± 1.3	59.8 ± 2.2	12.2 ± 0.41
<sup>a</sup> Shared parameter			



**Figure S17.** High-resolution spectra of the  ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{0-2}$  bands of [Tb(DTPA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]<sup>-</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K (black) and RT (red).







**Figure S19.** Emission spectra of 0.05 M  $[Tb(DOTA)(D_2O)]^{-}$  in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Excitation wavelength at 372 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 5 nm and 1 nm respectively.



**Figure S20.** Excitation spectra of 0.05 M [Tb(DOTA)(D<sub>2</sub>O)]<sup>-</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K (black) and RT (red). Emission was measured at 545 nm. Emission and excitation slits were set at 5 nm and 3 nm respectively.



**Figure S21.** Emission decay traces of 0.05 M [Tb(DOTA)( $H_2O$ )]<sup>-</sup> in  $H_2O$  (top row) and 0.05 M [Tb(DOTA)( $D_2O$ )]<sup>-</sup> in  $D_2O$  (bottom row) at RT (left column) and 77 K (right column). The data was fitted with a mono-exponential function (red trace). Excitation was done at 372 nm and emission was measured at 488 nm. Both emission and excitation slits were kept at 5 nm.



**Figure S22.** High resolution emission spectra of the  ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{0}$  (right) and  ${}^{7}F_{1}$  peaks (left) of 0.05 M [Tb(DOTA)(D\_{2}O)]<sup>-</sup> in D\_{2}O at 77 K. Excitation was done at 372 nm. Excitation and emission slits were kept at 8 nm and 2 nm respectively. The data was fitted with 2 Lorentzian peaks. Fit parameters are given in Table S4.

**Table S4.** Fit parameters for the emission spectra of the  ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{0}$  and  ${}^{7}F_{1}$  peaks of 0.05 M [Tb(EDTA)(D<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K, from Figure S20.

Peak #	Peak Center (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Width <sup>a</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak Area x10 <sup>5</sup>
Peak 1	14670 ± 0.9	62.8 ± 1.6	9.68 ± 0.23
Peak 2	14953 ± 0.8	62.8 ± 1.6	12.0 ± 0.25
<sup>a</sup> Shared parameter			

## Comparisons



**Figure S23.** Emission spectra of the  ${}^{5}D_{4} \rightarrow {}^{7}F_{2-0}$  transitions of  $[Tb(H_2O)_9]^{3+}$  (top left),  $[Tb(DOTA)(H_2O)]^{-}$  (top right),  $[Tb(DTPA)(H_2O)]^{2-}$  (bottom left) and  $[Tb(EDTA)(H_2O)_3]^{-}$  (bottom right) measured in D<sub>2</sub>O at 77 K (black) and RT (red).