## The recognition of anions using delayed lanthanide luminescence: The use of Tb(III) based urea functionalised cyclen complexes

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## **Electronic Supporting Information**



Figure S1<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of ligand 1

Figure S2a <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) of Tb.1



**Figure S2b** ESMS of **Tb.1** showing the Tb(III) characteristic isotopic distribution pattern for the M/2 peak







**Figure S3** Changes in the absorption spectra of **Tb.1** (4µM) upon gradual additions of  $H_2P_2O_7^{2-}$  (0  $\rightarrow$  56.3 µM) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Insert shows the titration profile for the changes at 270 nm versus the equivalents of  $H_2P_2O_7^{2-}$ .



**Figure S4** Speciation distribution diagram obtained for the absorption titration of **Tb.1** (H) with  $H_2P_2O_7^{2-}$  (G). Insert: The experimental binding isotherm and corresponding fit obtained using SPECFIT.



**Figure S5** Experimental binding isotherm for the absorption titration of **Tb.1** (4 $\mu$ M) with H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> and corresponding fit obtained using SPECFIT.



**Figure S6** Absorption spectra showing the changes in the absorbance of **Tb.1** (4 $\mu$ M) upon gradual additions of: **a**) 0  $\rightarrow$  7 equivalents of F<sup>-</sup>; **b**) 8  $\rightarrow$  17 equivalents of F<sup>-</sup>, light blue line represents free **Tb.1** 



**Figure S7** Speciation distribution diagram obtained for the absorption titration of **Tb.1** (H) with  $F^{-}(G)$ .



**Figure S8** Absorption spectra showing the changes in the absorbance of **Tb.1** (4 $\mu$ M) upon gradual additions of Cl<sup>-</sup> (0  $\rightarrow$  28.1  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Insert: The titration profile for the changes at 264 nm versus the equivalents of Cl<sup>-</sup>



**Figure S9** Changes in the fluorescence spectra of **Tb.1** (4µM) upon gradual additions of  $H_2PO_4^-$  (0  $\rightarrow$  57.3 µM) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Insert: The titration profile for the changes at 422 nm versus the equivalents of  $H_2PO_4^-$ 



**Figure S10 a)** Changes in the fluorescence spectra of **Tb.1** (4 $\mu$ M) upon gradual additions of F<sup>-</sup> (0  $\rightarrow$  56.3  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Insert: Changes observed between 0  $\rightarrow$  5 equivalents of F<sup>-</sup>; **b)** Titration profile for the changes at 334 and 422 nm, versus the equivalents of F<sup>-</sup>



b)

a)



**Figure S11** Changes in the fluorescence spectra of **Tb.1** (4 $\mu$ M) upon gradual additions of Cl<sup>-</sup> (0  $\rightarrow$  28.1  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Insert: The titration profile for the changes at 330 nm versus the equivalents of Cl<sup>-</sup>



**Figure S12** Changes in the lanthanide emission intensity of **Tb.1** (4 $\mu$ M) upon gradual additions of CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup> (0  $\rightarrow$  74.9  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN







**Figure S14** The changes in the lifetimes of the **Tb.1** emission upon titration with  $H_2PO_4^-$ . These results mirror the changes in the Tb(III) emission intensity shown in Figure 10 in the manuscript



**Figure S15** Profile of the Tb(III) emission intensity at 546 nm versus the equivalents of  $H_2P_2O_7^{2-}$ . Insert: The family of spectra obtained upon titration of **Tb.1** (4µM) with  $H_2P_2O_7^{2-}$  (0  $\rightarrow$  56.3 µM) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN



**Figure S16** Speciation distribution diagram for the lanthanide luminescence titration of **Tb.1** (H) with  $H_2P_2O_7^{2-}$  (G). Insert: The experimental binding isotherm and corresponding fit using SPECFIT







**Figure S18** Changes in the lanthanide emission of **Tb.1** (4 $\mu$ M) upon gradual additions of Cl<sup>-</sup> (0  $\rightarrow$  28.1  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Insert: The changes at 546 nm versus the equivalents of Cl<sup>-</sup>



**Figure S19** Speciation distribution diagram for the lanthanide luminescence titration of **Tb.1** (H) with Cl<sup>-</sup> (G). Insert: The experimental binding isotherm and corresponding fit using SPECFIT

