

# Functionalization of lanthanide complexes via microwave-enhanced Cu(I)-catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition

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## Experimental

**General Procedures.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, 400 MHz or 500 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz, 100 MHz or 125 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Varian 300, a Varian 400 or a Bruker 500 MHz instrument, respectively. Spectra were collected in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  unless noted otherwise. Chemical shifts were referenced to residual solvent peaks and are given as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ , ppm), multiplicity (s, singlet; br, broad singlet; d, doublet, t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), integration. Absorption spectra and fluorescence spectra were collected at room temperature in the solvent indicated at the experiment. HR-ESI-MS analyses were performed on a Bruker MicroTOF ESI mass spectrometer. For accurate mass determination of Eu complexes the  $^{153}\text{Eu}$ -isotope was used. Compounds **S1**,<sup>1</sup> **B**,<sup>2</sup> **F**,<sup>3</sup> **1**,<sup>4</sup> **Ln3**,<sup>5</sup> 2-azidoethanol,<sup>6</sup> **10**<sup>7</sup> and **12**<sup>8</sup> were synthesized following literature methods. All other chemicals were from commercial sources and used as received. Microwave heating was performed with a Biotage Initiator instrument. For temperatures and reaction times see Tables 1–2 and the detailed experimental procedures. **CAUTION: Low molecular weight azides are potentially explosive.**

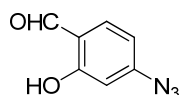
**Chromatography.** Preparative chromatography was performed using silica (230–400 mesh). Thin layer chromatography was performed on silica-coated aluminum plates. Samples were visualized by UV-light (254 and 356 nm), or staining with  $\text{KMnO}_4/\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  or cerium ammonium molybdate. The purity of cycloaddition products was assessed by RP-HPLC on an Agilent Technologies 1200 system using an Agilent Eclipse XDB-C18 column (5  $\mu\text{m}$  x 4.6 mm x 150 mm) with water: $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  eluent system (ramping from 100% water to 100%  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ).

**Photophysical measurements.** UV-Vis absorption spectroscopy was performed

on a Varian Cary 300 instrument; (sh) denotes shoulder to a peak. Steady state and time-resolved emission spectra were collected at room temperature using a Horiba Scientific FluoroMax 4 instrument equipped with a flash lamp. Hydration states ( $q$ ) were determined according to the method developed by Horrocks,<sup>9</sup> and Parker and Beeby.<sup>10</sup> Emission intensity changes were fitted to single exponential decays using the instrument's software (FluorEssence Version 3.5.1.20, based on Origin 8.1090). Fitting to double exponential was less suitable based on  $R^2$  and  $\chi$ .

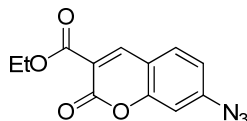
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR experiment for reaction optimization.** An NMR-tube was charged with **La2** (20.8 mg, 0.04 mmol), azide **B** (9.8 mg, 0.042 mmol), the Cu-source, ligand, reducing agent and additive in the amounts indicated in Table S1, and DMSO- $d_6$  (400  $\mu$ L) was added. The tube was capped, and immersed in a pre-heated oil-bath. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at several time points (10 min, 30 min, 1 h, 2 h, 4 h, 6 h, 12 h, 18 h, 24 h). Conversion was estimated by integrating the signals at 5.50 ppm (s,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}_3$ , starting material **B**) and at 6.62 ppm (br,  $\text{CH}_2$ -triazole **La2B**).

#### Additional syntheses.



**S2.** A solution of **S1**<sup>1</sup> (2.69 g, 19.9 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (50 mL) was treated consecutively with  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (10.7 mL),  $\text{MgCl}_2$  (2.84 g, 29.9 mmol), and paraformaldehyde (4.11 g, 137 mmol). The mixture was heated at 85 °C for 18 h, and then was allowed to cool back to room temperature. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc, and aqueous HCl (1 M) was added until all solids dissolved. The phases were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ). The solvent was removed at reduced pressure, and the dark oily

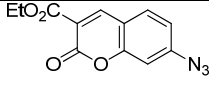
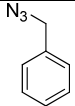
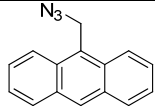
residue was purified by column chromatography [silica, pentane/EtOAc (10:1 → 6:1)] yielding a pale brown solid (2.32 g, 72%):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 6.61 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.64–6.66 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 9.80 (d,  $J = 0.5$  Hz, 1H), 11.31 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 107.2, 111.3, 118.1, 135.5, 149.0, 163.3, 194.9; HR-ESI-MS calcd 162.0309 obsd 162.0302  $[(\text{M} + \text{H})^+]$ ,  $\text{M} = \text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ .



**S3.** A mixture of **S2** (322 mg, 1.98 mmol), diethyl malonate (948 mg, 5.93 mmol) and 3Å molecular sieves (1 g) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (3.5 mL) was treated with piperidine (34 mg, 0.39 mmol). The mixture was heated at 65 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was cooled back to room temperature, filtered, concentrated, and the dark orange oily residue was purified by column chromatography [silica, pentane/EtOAc (3:1)] affording an orange solid (318 mg, 62%):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 1.41 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 4.41 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.96–7.00 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 9.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 14.3, 62.1, 106.8, 115.0, 116.2, 116.8, 131.0, 146.8, 148.1, 156.3, 156.5, 163.1; HR-ESI-MS calcd 282.0485 obsd 282.0500  $[(\text{M} + \text{Na})^+]$ ,  $\text{M} = \text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$ .

**La2B.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) 2.07–4.11 (m, 24H), 6.74 (br, 2H), 7.57 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.70 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.51 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 8.68 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) 46.9–54.3 (br m), 122.8, 125.3, 127.7, 129.3, 129.9, 130.7, 131.6.

**Table S1.** Screening of cycloaddition reaction conditions.

Azide					
Lanthanide complex	Ln1	Ln2	Ln1	Ln2	Ln2
Cu-source, additives	Solvent, temperature, heating method, observations				
CuSO <sub>4</sub> ·5H <sub>2</sub> O, NaAsc, TBTA	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, RT	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, 85 °C (benzoic acid instead of TBTA)			
	MeOH, RT				
Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> , NaAsc, TBTA	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, RT				
	MeOH, RT				
CuCl, TBTA	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, RT		DMF, 85 °C (MW)		
	MeOH, RT				
CuCl, benzoic acid		H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, 120 °C (MW)			
Cu <sub>2</sub> O, benzoic acid		H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, 120 °C (MW)			
CuBr, thioanisole		H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, 120 °C (MW)			
CuOAc, TBTA	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, 100 °C (MW)	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, 120 °C (MW)	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, RT at 85 °C (MW)	H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/THF, 100 °C (MW)	
Cu(acac) <sub>2</sub> , DIPEA, TMEDA	DMSO, 85 °C	DMF, 100 °C (MW)	DMSO, RT	DMF, 100 °C (MW)	
	DMF, 85 °C		DMF, RT		
	DMSO, 100 °C (MW)		DMF, 100 °C (2h, MW)		
	DMF, 100 °C (MW)				
	DMF + benzoic acid, 100 °C (MW)				
Cu(OAc) <sub>4</sub> , NaAsc					H <sub>2</sub> O/BuOH/DMF (1:1:1), RT, 26 h
CuI (10%)					DMSO, 80 °C, 3 h (NMR exp)
					DMSO, DIPEA (70 µL), 85 °C, overnight (39% conversion, NMR exp)
Cu(OAc) <sub>4</sub> (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 µL), 85 °C, 21 h (50% conversion, NMR exp)
CuSO <sub>4</sub> ·5H <sub>2</sub> O (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 µL), TMEDA (10%), 85 °C, 21 h (63% conversion, NMR exp)
CuBr <sub>2</sub> (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 µL), TMEDA (10%), 85 °C, 21 h (81% conversion, NMR exp)

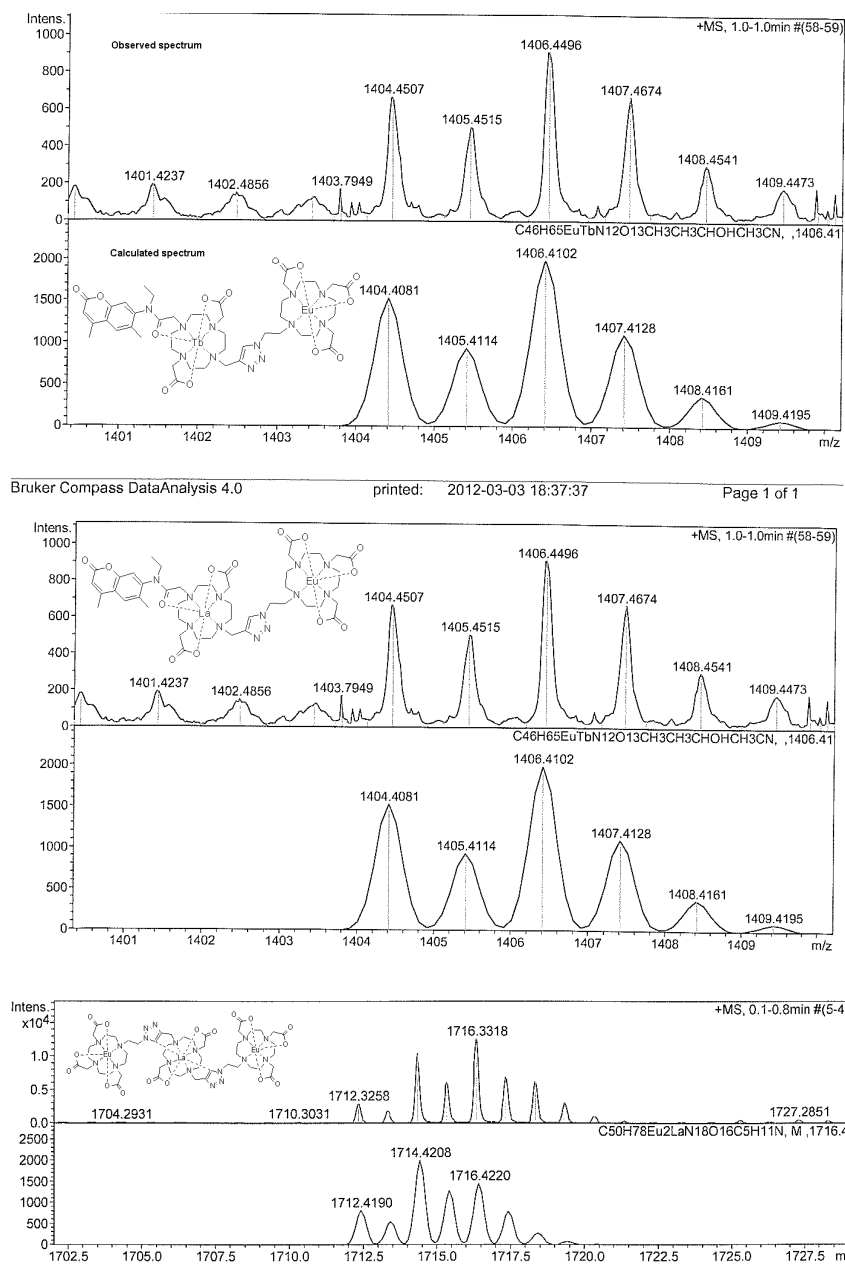
					exp); attempted isolation gave poor yield
CuSO <sub>4</sub> (anhydrous, 10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 μL), TMEDA (10%) 85 °C, 21 h (65% conversion, <i>NMR exp</i> )
Cuacac <sub>2</sub> (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 μL), TMEDA (10%) 85 °C, 21 h (55% conversion, <i>NMR exp</i> )
Cuacac <sub>2</sub> (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, TMEDA (10%) 85 °C, 12 h (immediate precipitate formation, <b>B</b> only seen, <i>NMR exp</i> )
Cuacac <sub>2</sub> (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 μL), 85 °C, 21 h (61% conversion, <i>NMR exp</i> )
Cuacac <sub>2</sub> (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 μL), TMEDA (10%) 85 °C, 21 h (55% conversion, <i>NMR exp</i> )
Cuacac <sub>2</sub> (10%), NaAsc (25%)					DMSO, DIPEA (70 μL), phen (12%) 85 °C, 20 h (68% conversion, <i>NMR exp</i> )
CuI (5%),				Pr <sub>2</sub> NH:CH <sub>3</sub> CN (4:1), 80 °C, oil bath, 22 h, incomplete conv.	

Colour code Product isolated in good yield. Product detected by MS, low conversion (not isolated). Conversion determined by integration of starting material and product peaks. Trace amounts of product after 1 h, < 30% conversion after 4 h as determined by TLC and ESI-MS analysis of the reaction mixture. In all other cases: No product observed by ESI-MS and TLC analysis.

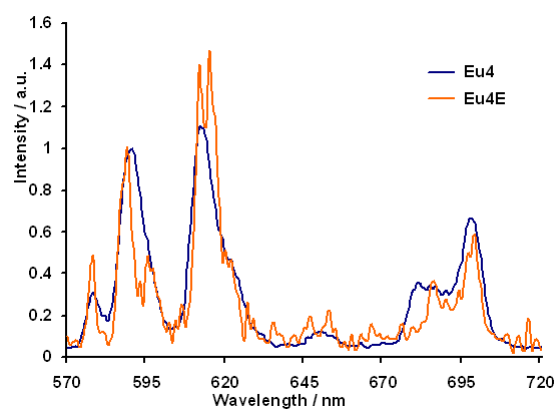
**Table S2** Optimisation of cycloaddition reaction.

Entry	Reactants	Cu-source	Additive	Solvent	T (°C)	Time	Conversion <sup>a</sup> (yield) <sup>b</sup>
1	<b>La2</b> + <b>B</b>	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> <sup>c</sup>	Et <sub>3</sub> PrN	H <sub>2</sub> O / <sup>1</sup> BuOH / DMF	r.t.	22 h	44%
2	<b>La2</b> + <b>B</b>	Cu(acac) <sub>2</sub> <sup>c</sup>	Et <sub>3</sub> PrN, TMEDA	DMSO	85	4h	63%
3	<b>La2</b> + <b>B</b>	CuI	-	DMSO	80	3 h	0%
4	<b>La2</b> + <b>B</b>	CuI	Et <sub>3</sub> PrN	DMSO	85	16 h	0%
5	<b>La2</b> + <b>A</b>	CuI	Piperidine	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	20 min	100% <sup>d</sup> (62%)
6	<b>La2</b> + <b>A</b>	CuI	Piperidine	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	10 min	100% <sup>d</sup> (67%)
7	<b>La2</b> + <b>A</b>	CuI	Piperidine	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	5 min	100% <sup>d</sup> (72%)
8	<b>La2</b> + <b>A</b>	CuI	<sup>1</sup> Pr <sub>2</sub> NH	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	5 min	(61%) <sup>d</sup>
9	<b>La2</b> + <b>A</b>	CuI	Et <sub>3</sub> N	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	5 min	(55%) <sup>d</sup>
10	<b>La2</b> + <b>A</b>	CuI	Et <sub>3</sub> PrN	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	100	5 min	0% <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Conversion determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yield after precipitation. <sup>c</sup> With NaAsc. <sup>d</sup> Some starting material observed by ESI-MS analysis. <sup>e</sup> **La2** recovered.



Simulated and observed HR-ESI-MS spectra of biheterometallic complexes **EuTb17** and **LaEu17**, and triheterometallic complex **Eu<sub>2</sub>La18**.

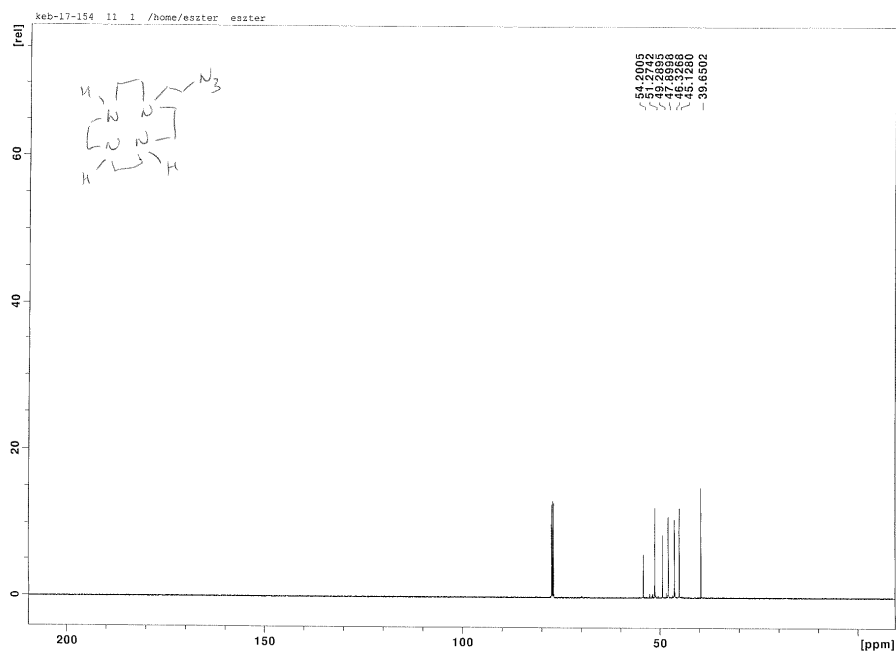
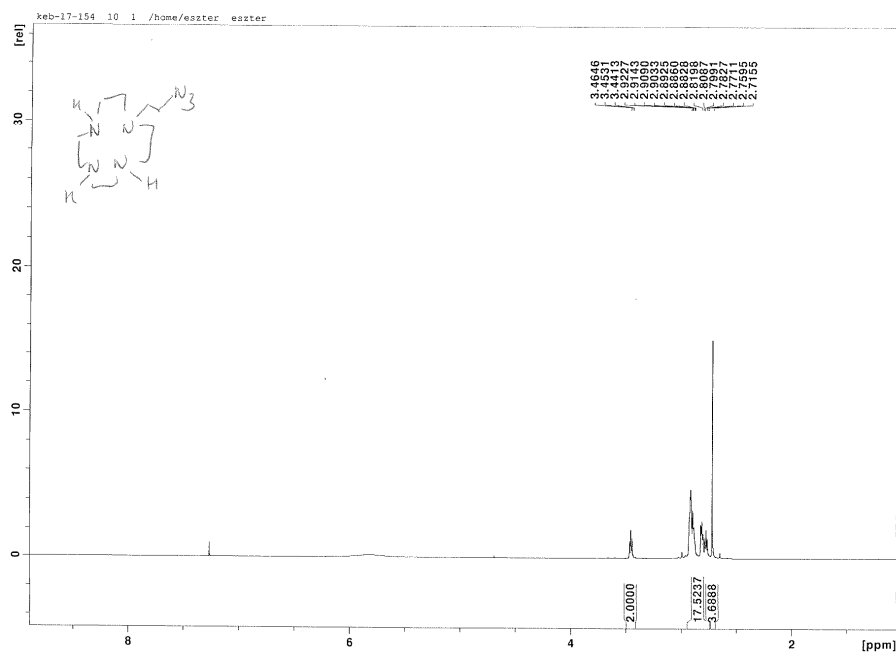


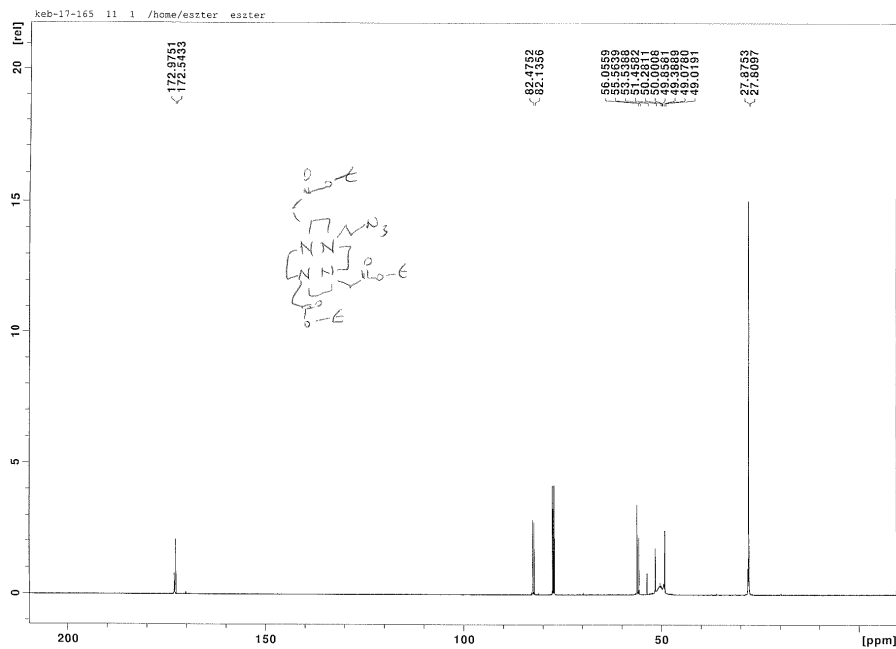
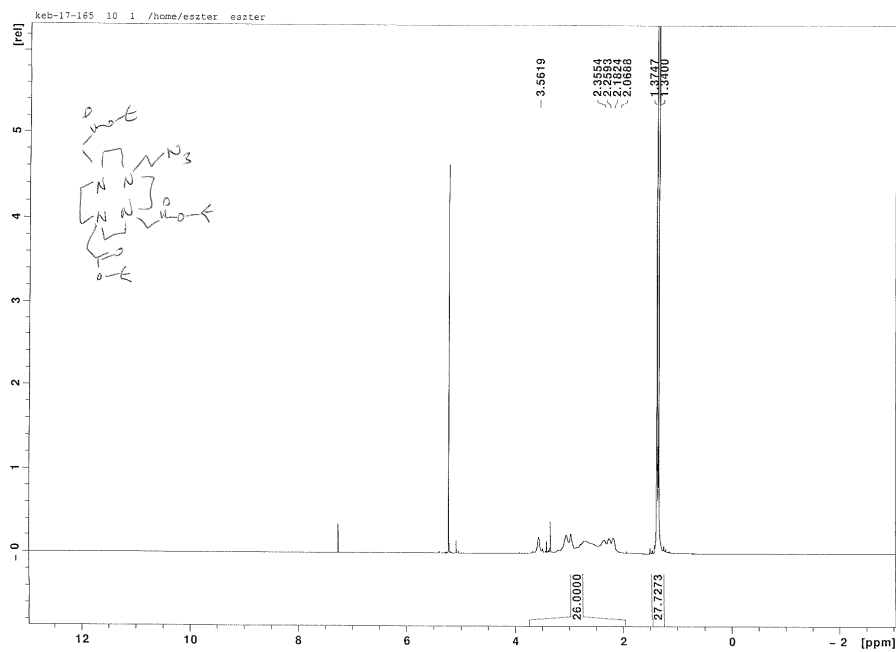
Normalized emission spectra of **Eu4** ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 397$  nm, delay time 0.05 ms) and **Eu4E**. ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 280$  nm, delay time 0.05 ms).

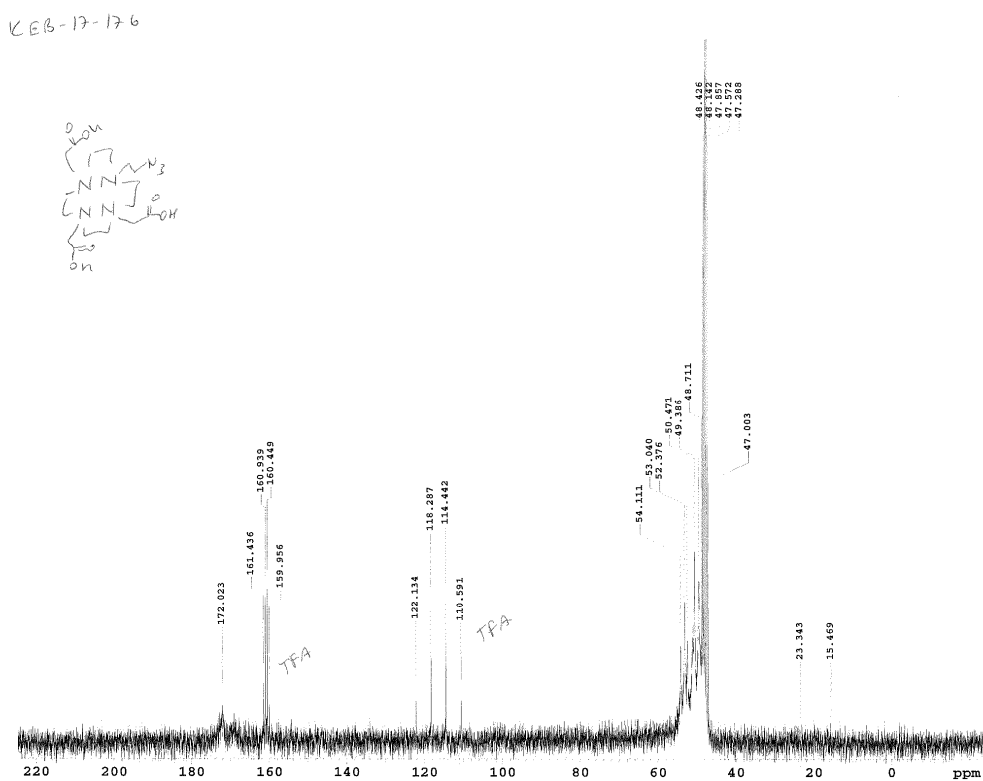
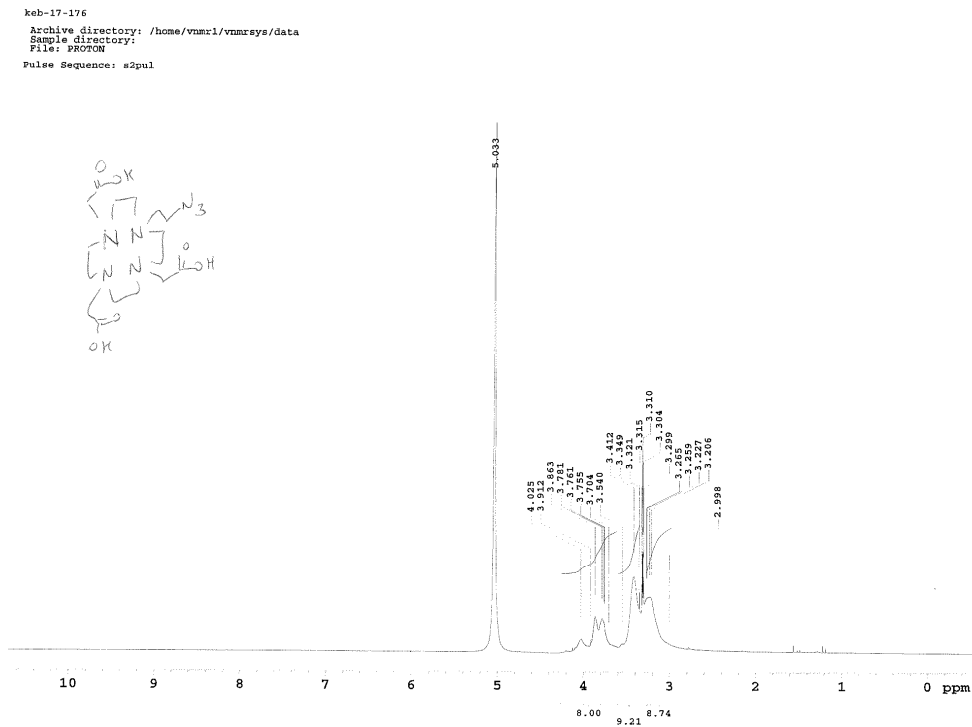


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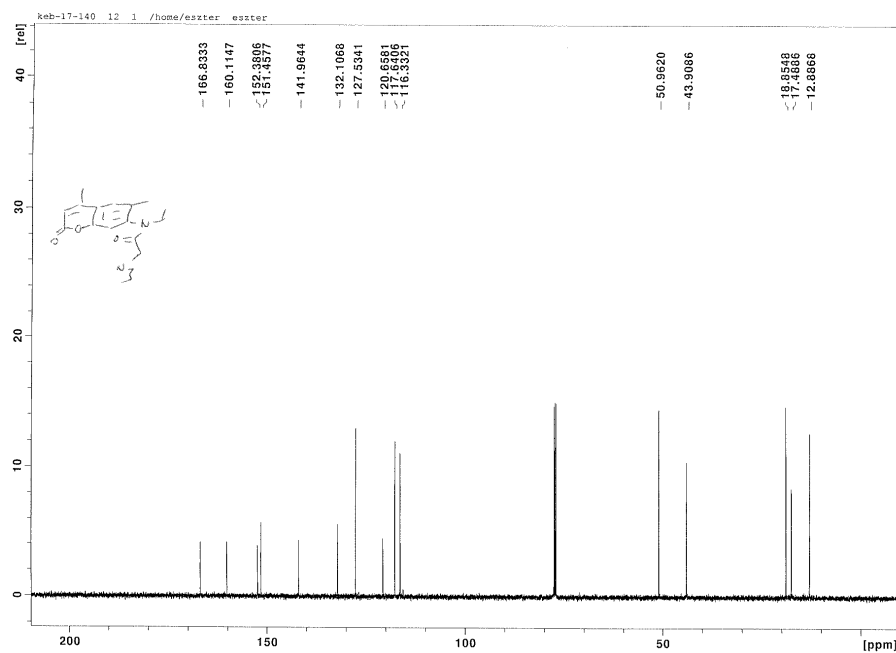
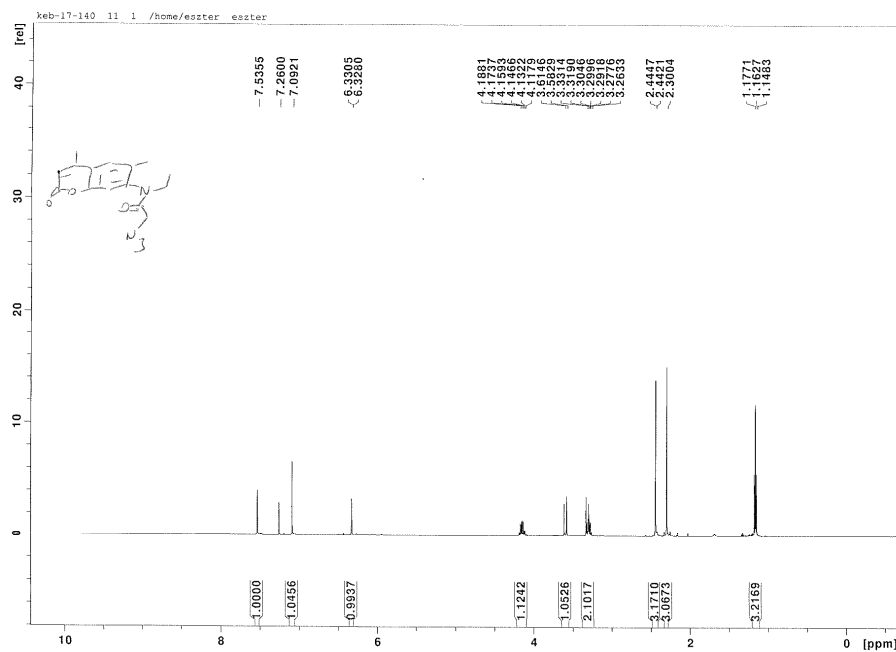


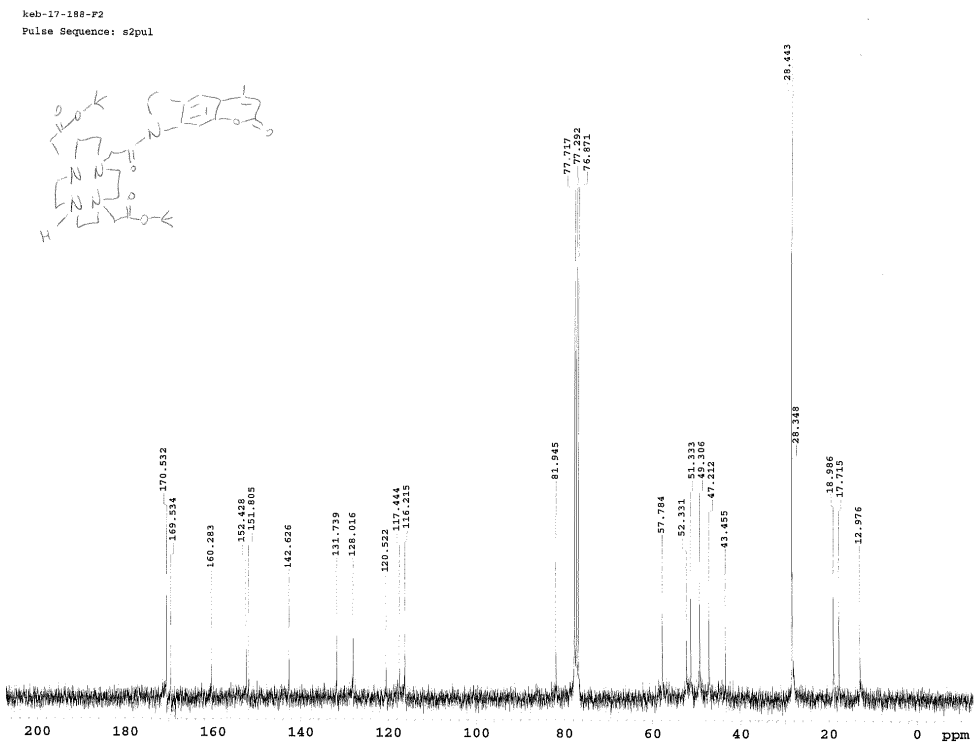
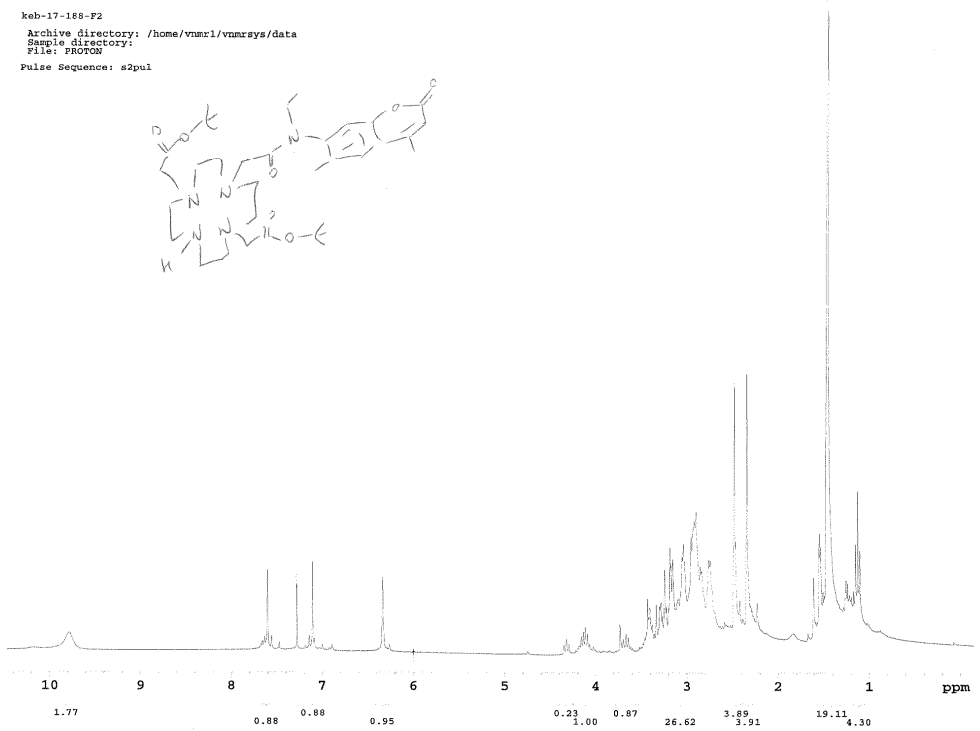






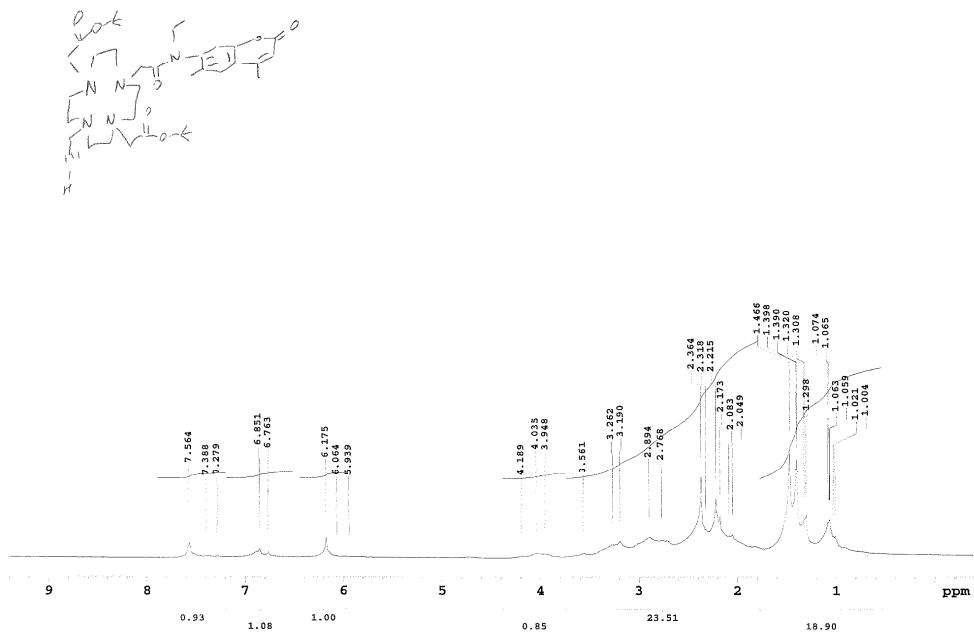








tetraalkyl  
Pulse Sequence: s2pul



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