## **Supporting information**

## Lanthanide(III) oxalatophosphonates: syntheses, crystal structures and luminescence properties

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Fig. S1 The X-ray powder diffraction patterns of compounds 1–5 and the simulated XRD pattern of compound 2.



**Fig. S2** The X–ray powder diffraction pattern of the final product in the thermal decomposition for compound **2.** The final product is mixture of  $Sm(PO_3)_3$  (JCPDS 00–052–1762) and  $SmPO_4$  (JCPDS 01–083–0655).



Fig. S3 TGA curves of compound 2 (black line) and  $[Sm(H_2L)(C_2O_4)(H_2O)] \cdot 2H_2O^1$  (red line).



Fig. S4 Simulated (a), experimental (b), heated (100 °C) (c) and heated (160 °C) (d) powder X–ray diffraction patterns for compound 2 as prepared and experimental pattern for the dehydrated sample (200 °C) (e)/hydrated sample (f) of compound 2.



Fig. S5 Results of the temperature–dependent IR study of compound 2.

## References

 Y. Zhao, C.-Q. Jiao, Z.-G. Sun, Y.-Y. Zhu, K. Chen, C.-L. Wang, C. Li, M.-J. Zheng, H. Tian, S.-H. Sun and W. Chu, *Cryst. Growth Des.*, 2012, **12**, 3191.