## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

<u>Title:</u> Visible-Light Excitation of Infrared Lanthanide Luminescence via Intra-Ligand Charge-Transfer State in 1,3-Diketonates Containing Push-Pull Chromophores

Author(s): Nail M. Shavaleev, Rosario Scopelliti, Frédéric Gumy, Jean-Claude G. Bünzli\*

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## Attempt to prepare lanthanide complexes [La(L-NMe2)3Phen].

The reaction was performed under air. Ligand HL-NMe<sub>2</sub> (50 mg, 0.16 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (9.7 mg, 0.053 mmol) and NaOH (6.4 mg, 0.16 mmol, dissolved in 1 ml of water) were dissolved in boiling ethanol (9 ml) to give yellow solution. The solution was stirred for 5 min, followed by dropwise addition of LaCl<sub>3</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O (Aldrich, 0.053 mmol) dissolved in 2 ml of ethanol. This resulted in the immediate formation of bright yellow precipitate. After stirring for 15 min at reflux the suspension was filtered while warm; the resulting solid was washed with ethanol, 1:1 mixture of ethanol:water, ethanol again and ether. The yield of the solid was 33 mg. It was soluble in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and dmso. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the solid in dmso contained signals due to 1,3-diketonate ligand and Phen. According to integration of <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals, Phen was present in the sample in approx. 1:6 molar ratio relative to 1,3-diketonate ligand, indicating that the synthesis was not successful (the expected ratio was 1:3).

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for HL.

Empirical formula	$C_{17}H_{16}N_2O_4$
Formula weight	312.32
Temperature	100(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Orthorhombic

Space group Pbca

Unit cell dimensions  $a=6.8169(14)~\textrm{Å} \qquad \alpha=90^{\circ}.$   $b=12.179(2)~\textrm{Å} \qquad \beta=90^{\circ}.$ 

c = 34.775(7) Å  $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$ .

Volume 2887.1(10) Å<sup>3</sup>

Z 8

Density (calculated) 1.437 Mg/m<sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient 0.104 mm<sup>-1</sup>

F(000) 1312

Crystal size  $0.75 \times 0.16 \times 0.07 \text{ mm}^3$ 

Theta range for data collection 3.35 to 25.02°.

Index ranges -6 <= h <= 8, -14 <= k <= 14, -41 <= l <= 41

Reflections collected 36574

Independent reflections 2538 [R(int) = 0.1882]

Completeness to theta =  $25.02^{\circ}$  99.6 %

Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents

Max. and min. transmission 1.0000 and 0.4164

Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F<sup>2</sup>

Data / restraints / parameters 2538 / 0 / 208

Goodness-of-fit on F<sup>2</sup> 1.058

Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R1 = 0.1018, wR2 = 0.2258 R indices (all data) R1 = 0.1868, wR2 = 0.2893

Largest diff. peak and hole 0.356 and -0.611 e.Å<sup>-3</sup>

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for [Nd(L)<sub>3</sub>Phen].

Empirical formula	$C_{64.15}H_{55.30}Cl_{2.30}N_8NdO_{12}$
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Formula weight 1356.04
Temperature 140(2) K
Wavelength 0.71073 Å
Crystal system Triclinic

Space group P-1

Unit cell dimensions a = 12.9664(6) Å  $\alpha = 90.803(3)^{\circ}$ .

b = 14.6395(6) Å  $\beta$ = 94.021(4)°. c = 17.3452(7) Å  $\gamma$  = 113.024(4)°.

Volume 3019.7(2) Å<sup>3</sup>

Z 2

Density (calculated) 1.491 Mg/m<sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient 1.032 mm<sup>-1</sup>

F(000) 1383

Crystal size  $0.17 \times 0.15 \times 0.13 \text{ mm}^3$ 

Theta range for data collection 2.74 to 25.03°.

Index ranges -15 <= h <= 15, -17 <= k <= 17, -20 <= l <= 20

Reflections collected 23943

Independent reflections 10612 [R(int) = 0.0814]

Completeness to theta =  $25.03^{\circ}$  99.4 %

Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents

Max. and min. transmission 1.00000 and 0.82447

Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F<sup>2</sup>

Data / restraints / parameters 10612 / 21 / 817

Goodness-of-fit on  $F^2$  1.057

Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R1 = 0.0770, wR2 = 0.1563 R indices (all data) R1 = 0.1367, wR2 = 0.1888

Largest diff. peak and hole 1.485 and -1.145 e.Å<sup>-3</sup>

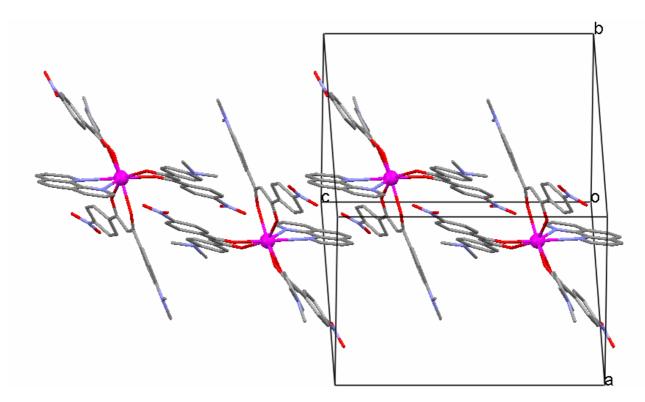


Figure S1. Packing of molecules of [NdL<sub>3</sub>Phen] in a chain-like structure running along the crystallographic c-axis as a result of  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions between pairs of 1,3-diketonate ligands and Phen ligands (H atoms and co-crystallized solvent molecules omitted).

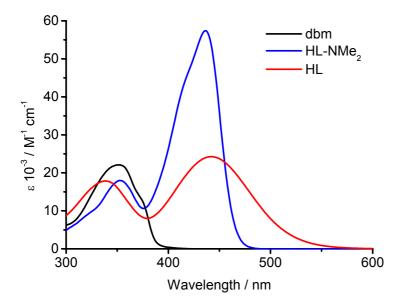


Figure S2. Comparison of the absorption spectra of dibenzoylmethane (dbm)  $(2.45\times10^{-4} \text{ M})$ , di-(4-dimethylaminobenzoyl)methane (HL-NMe<sub>2</sub>)  $(9.75\times10^{-5} \text{ M})$  and ligand HL  $(2.69\times10^{-4} \text{ M})$  in dmso solution at rt.

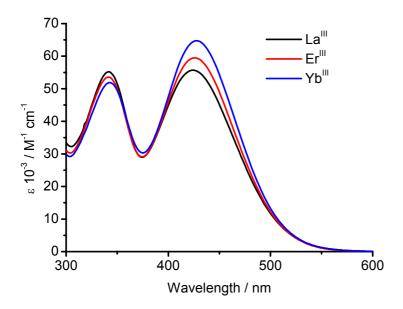


Figure S3. Comparison of the absorption spectra of the complexes [LnL<sub>3</sub>Phen] [Ln = La<sup>III</sup> (9.13×10<sup>-5</sup> M), Er<sup>III</sup> (8.31×10<sup>-5</sup> M), and Yb<sup>III</sup> (1.26×10<sup>-4</sup> M)] in dmso solution. Absorption spectra of Nd<sup>III</sup> (1.01×10<sup>-4</sup> M) and Gd<sup>III</sup> (9.16×10<sup>-5</sup> M) complexes coincided with the spectrum of La<sup>III</sup> and thus are not shown.

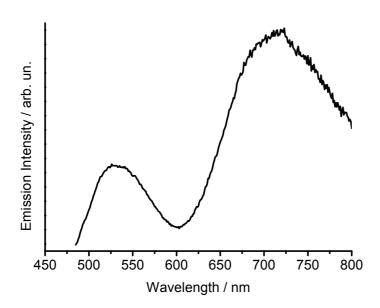


Figure S4. Corrected luminescence spectrum of [GdL<sub>3</sub>Phen] in solid state at 77 K.

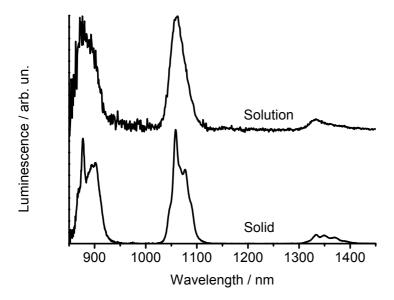


Figure S5. Corrected and normalized luminescence spectra of [NdL<sub>3</sub>Phen]·H<sub>2</sub>O in dmso solution  $(3.5\times10^{-6} \text{ M})$  and in solid state at rt.

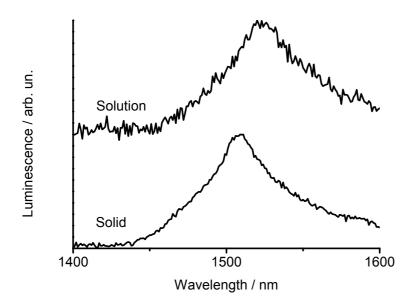


Figure S6. Corrected and normalized luminescence spectra of [ErL<sub>3</sub>Phen] in dmso solution (8.31×10<sup>-5</sup> M) and in solid state at rt.

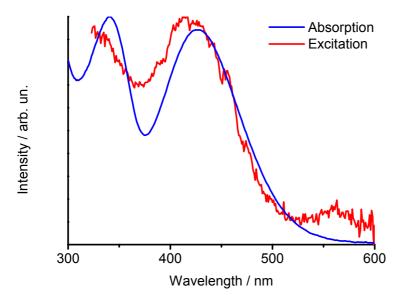


Figure S7. Comparison of the normalized absorption and excitation (corrected) spectra of [NdL<sub>3</sub>Phen] in dmso solution rt  $(3.5\times10^{-6} \text{ M})$  The luminescence was monitored at 1060 nm; excitation slit was 10 nm; optical density of the solution of the Nd<sup>III</sup> complex was less than 0.2. Poor quality of excitation spectrum is a result of weak emission intensity.

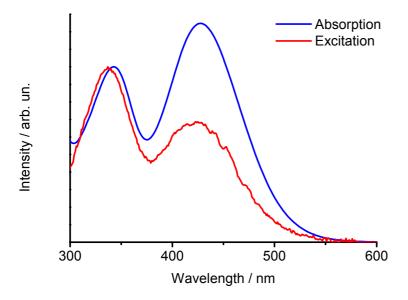


Figure S8. Comparison of the absorption and excitation (corrected) spectra of [YbL<sub>3</sub>Phen] in dmso solution rt (1.8×10<sup>-6</sup> M) The spectra were normalized with respect to the intensity of the UV band. The luminescence was monitored at 980 nm; excitation slit was 10 nm; optical density of the solution of the Yb<sup>III</sup> complex was less than 0.1.