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# **ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

# Are fancy acidic or neutral ligands really needed for synergism in ionic liquids? A comparative study of lanthanoids extraction in CHCl<sub>3</sub> and an ionic liquid.

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#### 1. Synthesis and characterization of HL.

The pyrazolone derivative, 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one (HL) [1], was obtained according to an adapted literature procedure [2] in excellent yield. Shortly, 3-methyl-1phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-one (8.7 g, 50 mmol) was dissolved in dry dioxane (60 ml) under gentle heating. Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> (7.4 g, 100 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. 4-Phenylbenzoyl chloride (6.5 ml, 50 mmol) was then added and the mixture was refluxed with stirring for 2 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into 10 % aq. HCl (250 ml). The solid phase formed was filtered off, washed with water, dried on air, and recrystallized from ethanol/acetone to give pure product in 86-94 % yield. Second recrystallization from ethanol afforded the analytically pure compound: 71-76 % yield; m. p. 151.1-151.5°C; Rf 0.51 (MeOH:CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 5:95). The NMR spectra were initially recorded in chloroform- $d_3$  as 0.01 M solutions. However, the proton spectrum of the ligand showed overlapped signal for 5 aromatic protons. Also, four protons appeared as a sharp singlet due to non-first order spectrum. This pattern made the assignment of the signals impossible. So, the spectra were recorded in benzene- $d_6$ , where the most part of the protons give separate and well defined signals. The full assignment was accomplished by analysing the interactions in 2D experiments. For simplicity, the nuclei of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> unit of biphenyl are assigned as 'and those of Ph part as "; Ph means N-Ph. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, DRX 250) 2.223 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.343 (ddt, 1H, J 1.2, 6.8, 8.1, Ar CH), 7.444-7.561 (m, 5H Ar CH), 7.699 (dd, 2H, J 1.6, 6.8, Ar CH), 7.778 (s, 4H, Ar CH, non-first order spectrum), 7.935 (dd, 2H, J 1.2, 8.7, Ar *CH*), 10.595 (bs, 1H, O*H*); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, DRX 250) 16.05 (*C*H<sub>3</sub>), 103.67 (*C*<sub>a</sub>), 120.78 (2 x *C*H), 126.68 (CH), 127.07 (2 x CH), 127.26 (2 x CH), 128.22 (CH), 128.67 (2 x CH), 129.01 (2 x CH), 129.14 (2 x CH), 136.24 ( $C_{q}$ ), 137.32 ( $C_{q}$ ), 139.89 ( $C_{q}$ ), 144.86 ( $C_{q}$ ), 147.87 ( $C_{q}$ ), 161.69 ( $C_{q}$ ), 191.41 (C=O); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>, II+ 600) 1.977 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.972 (tt, 1H, J 1.0, 7.4, CH-4 of Ph), 7.138-7.221 (m, 5H, CH-3 and CH-5 of Ph and CH-3", CH-4" and CH-5" of biPh), 7.339 (dd, 2H, J 1.7, 8.3, CH-3' and CH-5' of biPh), 7.381 (dd, 2H, J 1.4, 8.4, CH-2" and CH-6" of biPh), 7.465 (dd, 2H, J 1.8, 8.3, CH-2' and CH-6' of biPh), 8.212 (dd, 2H, J 1.1, 8.7, CH-2 and CH-6 of Ph), 12.237 (bs, 1H, OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>, II+ 600) 15.85 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 103.86 ( $C_{q}$ -4), 120.08 (CH-2) and CH-6 of Ph), 126.04 (CH-4 of Ph), 126.74 (CH-3' and CH-5' of biPh), 127.20 (CH-4" of biPh), 128.00 (CH-2" and CH-6" of biPh), 128.84 (CH-3 and CH-5 of Ph or CH-3" and CH-5" of biPh), 128.86 (CH-3 and CH-5 of Ph or CH-3" and CH-5" of biPh), 129.01 (CH-2' and CH-6' of biPh), 135.94 ( $C_q$ -1' of biPh), 138.03 ( $C_q$ -1 of Ph), 139.92 ( $C_q$ -1" of biPh), 144.56 ( $C_q$ -4' of biPh), 147.17 ( $C_q$ -3), 162.74 ( $C_q$ -5), 189.99 (C=O); COSY cross peaks: 6.972/7.138-7.221, 7.138-7.221/7.381, 7.138-7.221/8.212, 7.339/7.465; NOESY cross peaks: 1.977/7.465, 6.972/7.138-7.221, 7.138-7.221/7.381, 7.138-7.221/8.212, 7.339/7.465; HSQC cross peaks: 1.977/15.85, 6.972/126.04, 7.138-7.221/127.20, 7.138-7.221/128.84, 7.138-7.221/128.86, 7.339/126.74, 7.381/128.00, 7.465/129.01, 8.212/120.08; HMBC cross peaks: 1.977/103.86, 1.977/147.17, 6.972/120.08, 6.972/128.84 or 128.86, 6.972/138.03, 7.138-7.221/120.08, 7.138-7.221/128.00, 7.138-7.221/128.84, 7.138-7.221/128.86, 7.339/135.94, 7.339/139.92, 7.381/127.20, 7.381/128.00, 7.381/144.56, 7.465/129.01, 7.465/144.56, 7.465/189.99, 8.212/120.08, 8.212/126.04, 8.212/138.03 (weak).

#### References

[1] F. Manetti, M. Magnani, D. Castagnolo, L. Passalacqua, M. Botta, F. Corelli, M. Saddi, D. Deidda, A. De Logu, Ligand-based virtual screening, parallel solution-phase and microwave-assisted synthesis as tools to identify and synthesize new inhibitors of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, ChemMedChem 1 (2006) 973-989.

[2] B.S. Jensen, The synthesis of 1-phenyl-3-methyl-4-acyl-pyrazolones-5, Acta Chim. Scand. 13 (1959) 1668-1670.







**Figure S2.** <sup>13</sup>C (down) and DEPT (up) NMR spectra of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in CDCl<sub>3.</sub>



**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in  $CDCl_3$  (up) and in benzene-d<sub>6</sub> (down).



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in benzened<sub>6.</sub>



190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 ppm Figure S5.  $^{13}C$  (down) and DEPT (up) NMR spectra of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in benzene-d<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in benzene-d<sub>6.</sub>



**Figure S7.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H NOESY NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in benzene-d<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S8.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HSQC NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in benzene-d<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S9.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HMBC NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in benzene-d<sub>6</sub>.

#### 2. NMR characterization of S<sub>IV</sub>

The quality of 5,11,17,23-tetra-*tert*-butyl-25,26,27,28-tetrakis-(dimethylphosphinoylmethoxy)calix[4]arene ( $S_{IV}$ ) has been checked by <sup>1</sup>H NMR in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (250 MHz, 25°C):  $\delta = 1.074$ (s, 36H, ( $CH_3$ )<sub>3</sub>C), 1.532(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HP</sub>=12.9 Hz, 24H, ( $CH_3$ )<sub>2</sub>P=O), 3.268(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub>=13.0 Hz, 4H, Ar- $CH_2$ -Ar), 4.688(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HP</sub>=1.3 Hz, 8H,  $CH_2$ P=O), 4.836(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub>=13.0 Hz, 4H, Ar- $CH_2$ -Ar), 6.800(s, 8H, Ar-H) and in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (250MHz, 25°C):  $\delta = 1.001$ (s, 36H, ( $CH_3$ )<sub>3</sub>C), 1.527(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HP</sub>=13.1 Hz, 24H, ( $CH_3$ )<sub>2</sub>P=O), 3.292(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub>=13.2 Hz, 4H, Ar- $CH_2$ -Ar), 4.668(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HP</sub>=1.3 Hz, 8H,  $CH_2$ P=O), 4.780(d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub>=13.2 Hz, 4H, Ar- $CH_2$ -Ar), 6.891(s, 8H, Ar-H).

## 3. Solvent extraction of Ln<sup>3+</sup> ions with HL alone using CHCl<sub>3</sub> as diluent.



**Figure S10**. Log $D_L$  vs. pH for the extraction of lanthanoid(III) ions with HL alone at [HL]=  $1.5 \times 10^{-2}$  mol/dm<sup>3</sup> in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.

 $LogD_L$  vs. [HL] for the extraction of lanthanoid(III) ions with HL alone in CHCl<sub>3</sub>: La, pH=4.30; Nd, pH=4.25; Eu, pH=4.25; Ho, pH=4.15; Lu, pH=3.95.

| Ln | CHCl <sub>3</sub> |                    | IL                 |                  |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|    | HL alone          | $HL + S_{IV}$      | HL alone           | $HL + S_{IV}$    |
| La | 1.02 (0.979)      | $0.968 \\ (0.989)$ | $0.983 \\ (0.974)$ | 0.985<br>(0.996) |
| Nd | 0.972 (0.986)     | 1.00<br>(0.993)    | nd                 | nd               |
| Eu | 1.00 (0.973)      | 1.02<br>(0.986)    | nd                 | nd               |
| Но | 0.968 (0.989)     | 0.984<br>(0.945)   | nd                 | nd               |
| Lu | 0.990 (0.989)     | 0.984 (0.958)      | nd                 | nd               |

**Table S1**: Ratio and linear correlation coefficient (in parenthesis) between experimental and fitted D values.

nd: not determined.

#### 4. Interaction between HL and $S_{\rm IV}$

All samples were prepared separately by using pure dry compounds dissolved in deuterochloroform (Deutero GmbH). The spectra of the individual ligand (HL) and the synergist  $S_{IV}$ , assigned as S in figures captions for simplicity, were recorded in 0.05 M concentrations. The spectra of the 2:1 and 1:1 S:HL mixtures were recorded as 0.05 M calixarene and 0.025 M and 0.05 M pyrazolone, respectively.



Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H spectra of (from bottom to top): S, S:HL 2:1, S:HL 1:1 and HL in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S12.** The aromatic area of <sup>1</sup>H spectra of (from bottom to top): S, S:HL 2:1, S:HL 1:1 and HL in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S13. <sup>13</sup>C spectra of (from bottom to top): S, S:HL 2:1, S:HL 1:1 and HL in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S14.** The aromatic area of <sup>13</sup>C spectra of (from bottom to top): S, S:HL 2:1, S:HL 1:1 and HL in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S15. <sup>31</sup>P spectra of S (bottom), S:HL 2:1 (middle) and S:HL 1:1 (top) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H ROESY spectrum of S:HL 2:1 mixture in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.







**Figure S18.** Log $D_{L,S}$  vs. pH for the extraction of lanthanoid(III) ions with mixtures HL-S<sub>IV</sub> at [HL]=1.5×10<sup>-2</sup> mol/dm<sup>3</sup> and [S<sub>IV</sub>]= 6×10<sup>-4</sup>mol/dm<sup>3</sup> in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S19.** Log $D_{L,S}$  vs. log[HL] for the extraction of lanthanoid(III) ions with mixtures HL–S<sub>IV</sub> at [S<sub>IV</sub>]= 6×10<sup>-4</sup>mol/dm<sup>3</sup> in CHCl<sub>3</sub> : La, pH=3.20; Nd, pH=2.95; Eu, pH=2.95; Ho, pH=2.75; Lu, pH=2.70.



**Figure S20.** Log $D_{L,S}$  vs. log $[S_{IV}]$  for the extraction of lanthanoid(III) ions with mixtures HL– $S_{IV}$  at [HL]= 1.5×10<sup>-2</sup>mol/dm<sup>3</sup> in CHCl<sub>3</sub>: La, pH=3.15; Nd, pH=2.95; Eu, pH=2.95; Ho, pH=2.80; Lu, pH=2.65.

## 5. Solvent extraction of $La^{3+}$ ion with HL and $S_{IV}$ used alone and IL as diluent.



**Figure S21**. Log $D_L$  vs. pH for the extraction of lanthanum(III) ions with HL alone in IL. Log $D_L$  vs. [HL] for the extraction of lanthanum(III) ions with HL alone in IL at pH=2.80. Log $D_L$  vs. [S] for the extraction of lanthanum(III) ions with S alone in IL at pH=3.05.



Figure S22. Log $D_L$  vs. pH for the extraction of Ln(III) ions with [HL]=7x10<sup>-3</sup> mol/dm<sup>3</sup> alone in IL.



**Fig. 23**. Log $D_{L,S}$  vs. pH for La(III) extraction with mixture HL–S<sub>IV</sub> at [S<sub>IV</sub>]=7x10<sup>-4</sup>mol/dm<sup>3</sup> in IL. Log $D_{L,S}$  vs. log[HL] for La(III) ions extraction with mixture HL–S<sub>IV</sub> at [S<sub>IV</sub>]=7x10<sup>-4</sup>mol/dm<sup>3</sup> and pH=2.20.

 $Log D_{L,S}$  vs.  $log[S_{IV}]$  for La(III) ions extraction with mixture HL-S<sub>IV</sub> at [HL]=5x10<sup>-3</sup> mol/dm<sup>3</sup> and pH=2.20.



**Figure S24.** Chemical structures of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one, HL' and partially substituted calix[4]arenes by phosphinoyl functions.