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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<sup>3</sup> 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-1 phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-one (8.7 g, 50 mmol) was dissolved in dry dioxane (60 ml) under gentle heating. Ca(OH) $_2$  (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 $\degree$ C; R<sub>f</sub> 0.51 (MeOH:CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 5:95). The NMR spectra were initially recorded in chloroform-d<sub>3</sub> 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  $C_6H_4$  unit of biphenyl are assigned as 'and those of Ph part as "; Ph means N-Ph.  $^1$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, DRX 250) 2.223 (s, 3H, C*H3*), 7.343 (ddt, 1H, J 1.2, 6.8, 8.1, Ar C*H*), 7.444-7.561 (m, 5H Ar C*H*), 7.699 (dd, 2H, J 1.6, 6.8, Ar C*H*), 7.778 (s, 4H, Ar C*H*, non-first order spectrum), 7.935 (dd, 2H, J 1.2, 8.7, Ar C*H*), 10.595 (bs, 1H, O*H*); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl3, DRX 250) 16.05 (*C*H3), 103.67 (*C*q), 120.78 (2 x *C*H), 126.68 (*C*H), 127.07 (2 x *C*H), 127.26 (2 x *C*H), 128.22 (*C*H), 128.67 (2 x *C*H), 129.01 (2 x *C*H), 129.14 (2 x *C*H), 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-d6, II+ 600) 1.977 (s, 3H, C*H3*), 6.972 (tt, 1H, J 1.0, 7.4, C*H*-4 of Ph), 7.138-7.221 (m, 5H, C*H*-3 and C*H*-5 of Ph and C*H*-3", C*H*-4" and C*H*-5" of biPh), 7.339 (dd, 2H, J 1.7, 8.3, C*H*-3' and C*H*-5' of biPh), 7.381 (dd, 2H, J 1.4, 8.4, C*H*-2" and C*H*-6" of biPh), 7.465 (dd, 2H, J 1.8, 8.3, C*H*-2' and C*H*-6' of biPh), 8.212 (dd, 2H, J 1.1, 8.7, C*H*-2 and C*H*-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<sub>q</sub>-4), 120.08 (CH-2) and *C*H-6 of Ph), 126.04 (*C*H- 4 of Ph), 126.74 (*C*H-3' and *C*H-5' of biPh), 127.20 (*C*H-4" of biPh), 128.00 (*C*H-2" and *C*H-6" of biPh), 128.84 (*C*H-3 and *C*H-5 of Ph or *C*H-3" and *C*H-5" of biPh), 128.86 (*C*H-3 and *C*H-5 of Ph or *C*H-3" and *C*H-5" of biPh), 129.01 (*C*H-2' and *C*H-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, 7.138-7.221/138.03, 7.138-7.221/139.92, 7.339/126.74, 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 S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**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<sub>3</sub> (up) and in benzene- $d_6$  (down).



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)-pyrazol-5-one in benzene $d_{6.}$ 



**Figure S5.** <sup>13</sup>C (down) and DEPT (up) NMR spectra of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-4-(4-phenylbenzoyl) pyrazol-5-one in benzene- $d_{6}$ .



**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- $d_6$ .



**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- $d_6$ .



**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- $d_{6}$ .



**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- $d_6$ .

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

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

#### **3. Solvent extraction of Ln3+ ions with HL alone using CHCl<sup>3</sup> as diluent.**



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

Log $D_L$  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	CHCl3			
	HL alone	$HL + S_{IV}$	HL alone	$HL + S_{\mathrm{IV}}$
La	1.02(0.979)	0.968 0.989	0.983 (0.974)	0.996
Nd	0.972(0.986)	0.993	nd	nd
Eu	1.00(0.973)	0.986	nd	nd
Ho	0.968(0.989)	9.984	nd	nd
Lu	0.990(0.989)		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 SIV**

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  $S_V$ , 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 S17.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H ROESY spectrum of S:HL 1:1 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]= $1.5 \times 10^{-2}$  mol/dm<sup>3</sup> and [S<sub>IV</sub>]=  $6 \times 10^{-4}$ 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  $[S_{IV}]$ = 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<sub>IV</sub>] 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> 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  $S_V$  used alone and  $IL$  as diluent.



**Figure S21**. Log*D*<sup>L</sup> 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  $[S_{IV}]$ =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<sub>IV</sub>] 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.