

## Supplementary Information

### Enhanced near-infrared luminescence in Ln<sub>2</sub>Cd<sub>2</sub> (Ln = Nd, Yb) heterotetranuclear complexes

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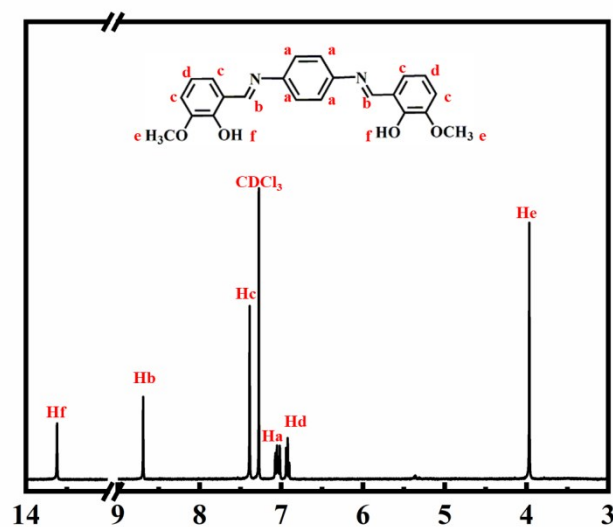


Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of H<sub>2</sub>L in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

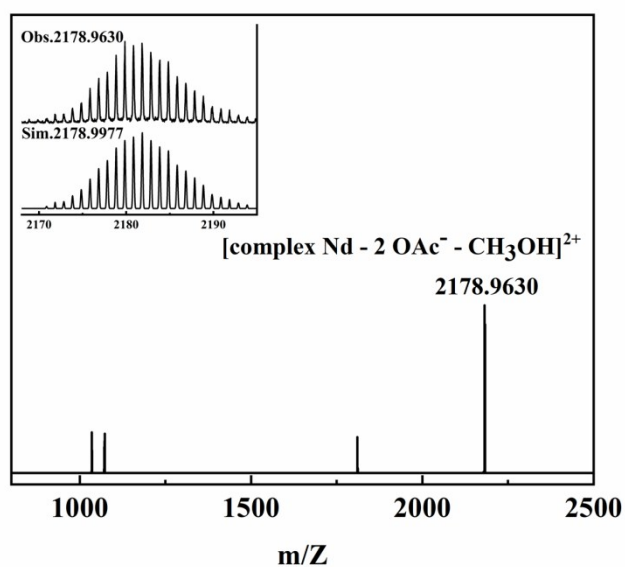
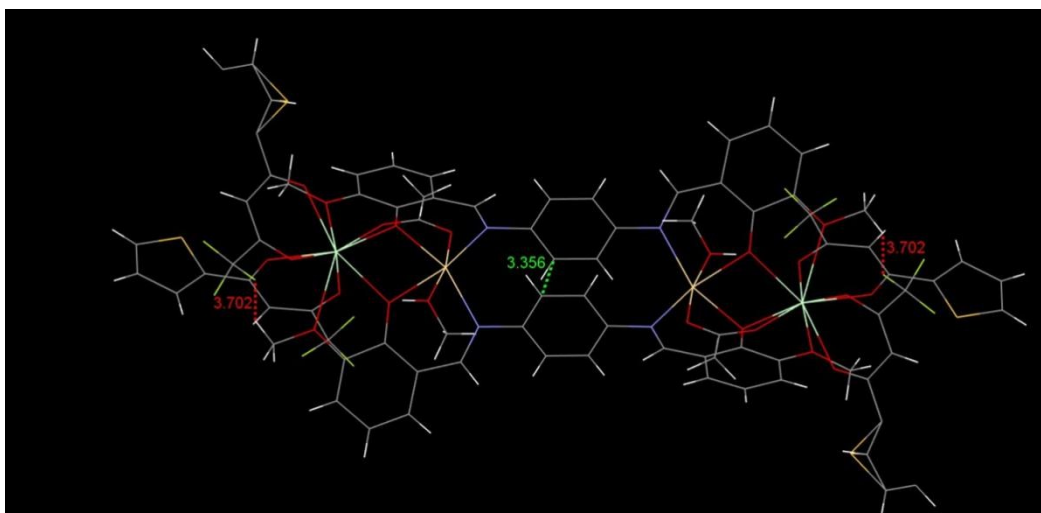
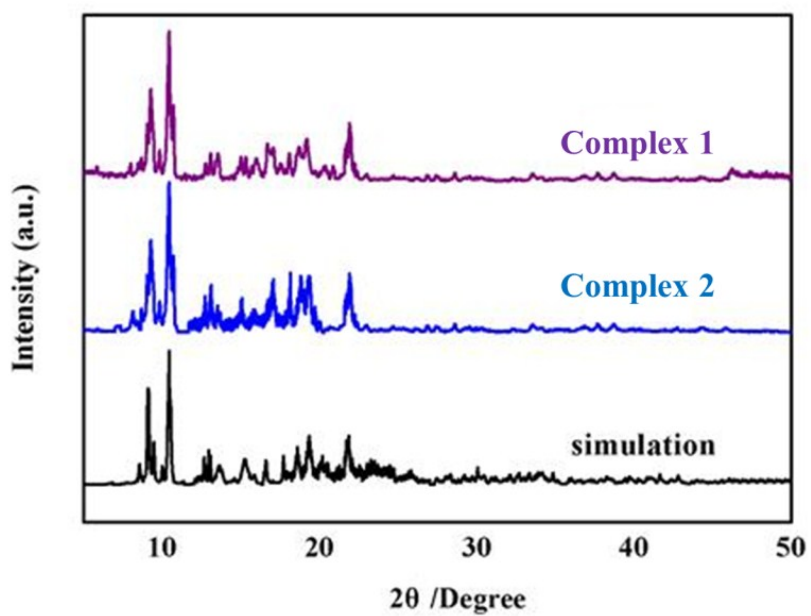


Fig. S2. ESI-TOF-MS of complex 1.



**Fig. S3.** The intramolecular C-H...F interactions between the F atoms of TTA and H atoms of L and  $\pi - \pi$  conjugate effect for complex 2.



**Fig. S4.** The powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns of complexes 1 and 2

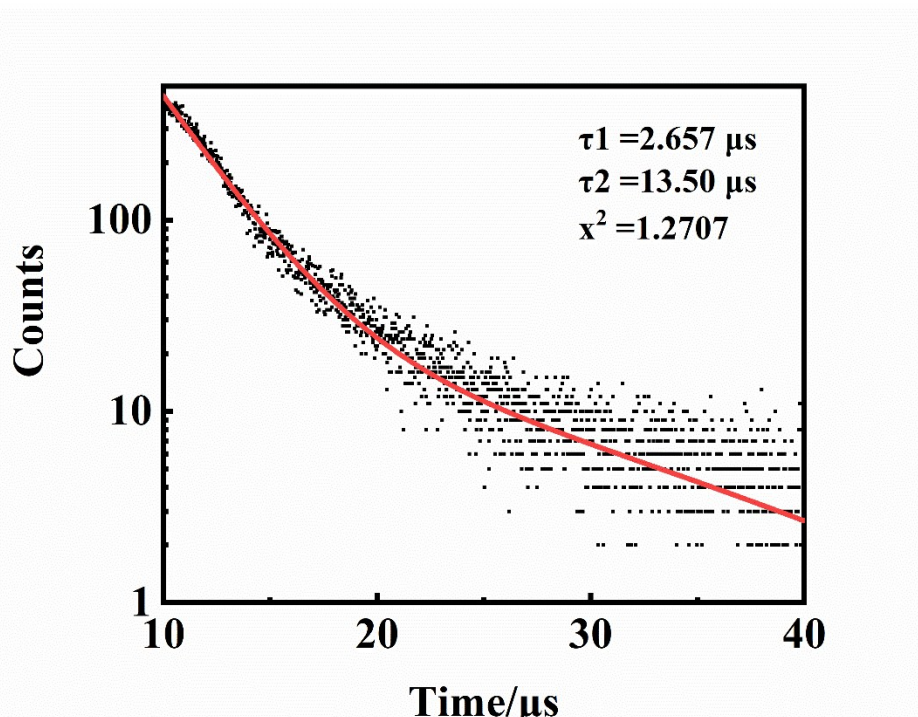


Fig. S5 Luminescence decay curves of **1** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .

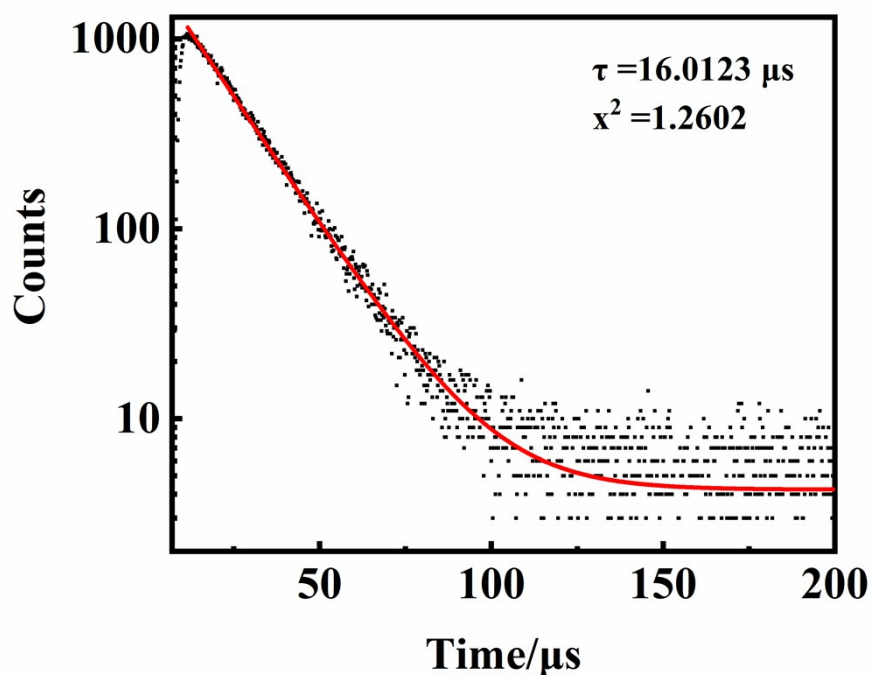


Fig. S6. Luminescence decay curves of **2** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .

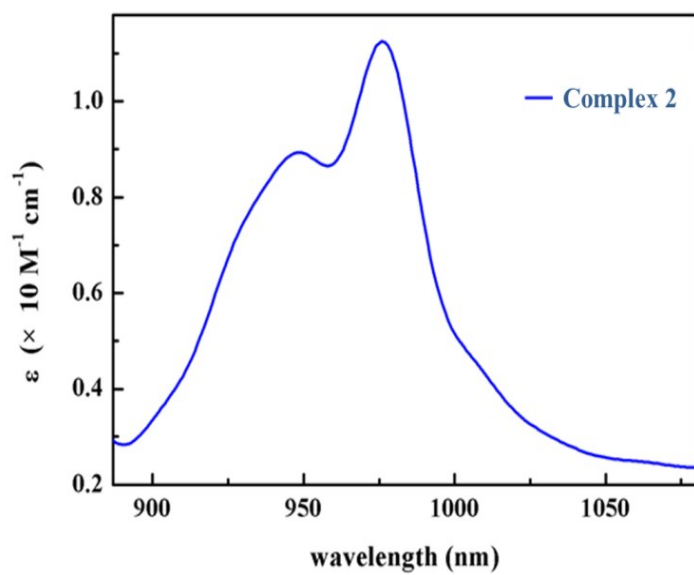


Fig. S7. Near-infrared spectrum of f–f absorption transition for **2** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .

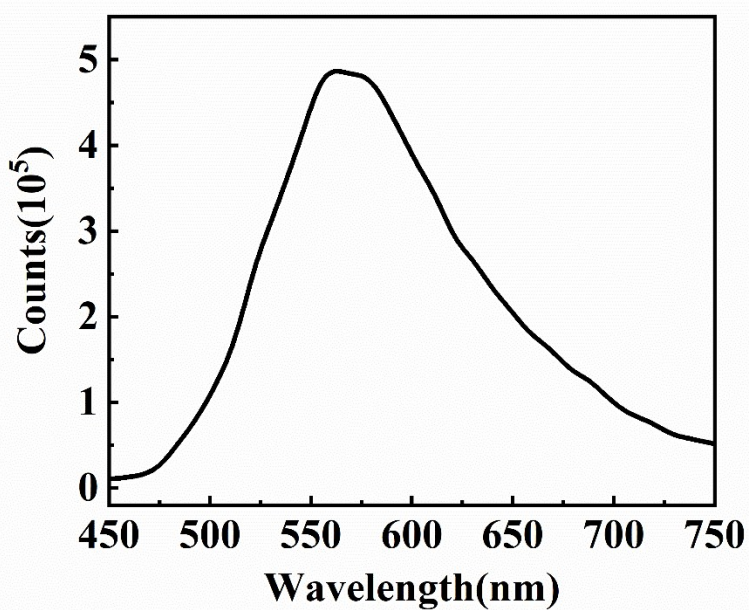


Fig. S8. Emission spectrum of  $\text{Gd}_2\text{L}_2$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at 77 K.

**Table S1.** Some absolute quantum yields of related literatures.

References	Complex	$\Phi_{em}$ (%)
This text	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	2.13
	Nd <sup>3+</sup>	0.34
16(a)	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	0.04
16(b)	Nd <sup>3+</sup> (1)	0.17
	Nd <sup>3+</sup> (2)	0.46
16(c)	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	1.07
	Nd <sup>3+</sup>	0.36
16(d)	Nd <sup>3+</sup>	0.56
	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	1.32
16(e)	Nd <sup>3+</sup> (1)	0.45
	Nd <sup>3+</sup> (2)	1.07
	Yb <sup>3+</sup> (1)	1.69
	Yb <sup>3+</sup> (2)	3.08
16(f)	Nd <sup>3+</sup>	0.62
	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	0.79
16(g)	Yb <sup>3+</sup>	0.41

**Table S2.** Crystallographic data for **1**.

Complex	<b>1</b>
CCDC number	1977217
Empirical formula	C <sub>86</sub> H <sub>74</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>22</sub> F <sub>12</sub> S <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>8</sub> Nd <sub>2</sub> Cd <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	2668.61
Temperature (K)	100
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
<i>a</i> (Å)	10.7102(8)
<i>b</i> (Å)	12.4241(9)
<i>c</i> (Å)	18.9297(14)
$\alpha$ (°)	88.674(2)
$\beta$ (°)	81.057(3)
$\gamma$ (°)	77.969(2)

$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2433.5(3)
$Z$	1
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ /cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.821
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	1.880
$F(000)$	1318.0
$\theta$ range	5.84 to 56.58
Index ranges	-14 $\leq$ h $\leq$ 14
	-16 $\leq$ k $\leq$ 16
	-25 $\leq$ l $\leq$ 25
Reflections collected	127756
Completeness to theta =	99.3%
Data/restraints/parameters	12059/207/658
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.070
Final $R$ indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0516$
	$wR_2 = 0.1321$
Final $R$ indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0543$
	$wR_2 = 0.1346$

**Table S3.** Purity and producing factory of reagents

Reagents and chemicals	Purity	Manufacturer
CH <sub>3</sub> OH	Analytical pure	Tianjin Kemiou Chemical Reagent Development Center
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	$\geq 99.5\%$	Tianjin Kemiou Chemical Reagent Development Center
CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\geq 99.5\%$	Tianjin Kemiou Chemical Reagent Development Center
Cd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	99.9%	Shanghai Yuelong Chemical Co., Ltd.
NaOH	99.9%	Shanghai Yuelong Chemical Co., Ltd.
2-Hydroxy-3-methoxy-benzaldehyde	98%	Aladdin Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.
2-thenoyltrifluoroacetone	98%	Aladdin Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.
p-phenylenediamine	98%	Aladdin Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.