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Table S1: Fluorescence decay parameters for NCS1 and 1,8-ANS: NCS1 complex in the presence/absence of metal ions.

NCS1	$\tau_1$ (ns)	$f_1$ (%)	$\tau_2$ (ns)	$f_2$ (%)	$\tau_3$ (ns)	$f_3$ (%)	$\langle\tau\rangle$ (ns)	$\chi^2$
Apo	0.66	9	3.20	56	6.30	36	4.11	0.9
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	0.64	16	2.99	53	5.65	41	3.63	1.5
Tb <sup>3+</sup>	0.29	5	2.12	36	4.84	59	3.60	2.0
Eu <sup>3+</sup>	0.47	8	2.45	44	4.99	48	3.54	1.5
NCS1:ANS								
Apo	0.28	8	4.25	15	16.60	77	13.50	1.8
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	0.28	7	4.47	17	17.20	76	14.05	1.5
Tb <sup>3+</sup>	0.28	7	5.08	14	17.45	79	14.80	1.1
Eu <sup>3+</sup>	0.28	7	5.12	14	17.20	79	14.25	1.1

Table S2: CCS values determined for Tb<sup>3+</sup> and Eu<sup>3+</sup> ion adducts at 9+ charge state using TIMS-MS.

Tb <sup>3+</sup> ion		Eu <sup>3+</sup> ion	
<sup>TIMS</sup> CCS <sub>N<sub>2</sub></sub> (Å <sup>2</sup> )	Ion specie	<sup>TIMS</sup> CCS <sub>N<sub>2</sub></sub> (Å <sup>2</sup> )	Ion specie
2182	[M-3Ca+3H] <sup>9+</sup>	2192	[M-3Ca+3H] <sup>9+</sup>
2204	[M-Tb+6H] <sup>9+</sup>	2201	[M-3Ca-Na+2H] <sup>9+</sup>
2189	[M-Ca-Tb+4H] <sup>9+</sup>	2204	[M-4Ca+H] <sup>9+</sup>
2201	[M-2Ca-Tb+2H] <sup>9+</sup>	2198	[M-2Na-Eu+4H] <sup>9+</sup>
2179	[M-3Ca-Tb] <sup>9+</sup>	2179	[M-2Ca-Eu+2H] <sup>9+</sup>
2195	[M-2Tb+3H] <sup>9+</sup>	2163	[M-3Ca-Eu] <sup>9+</sup>

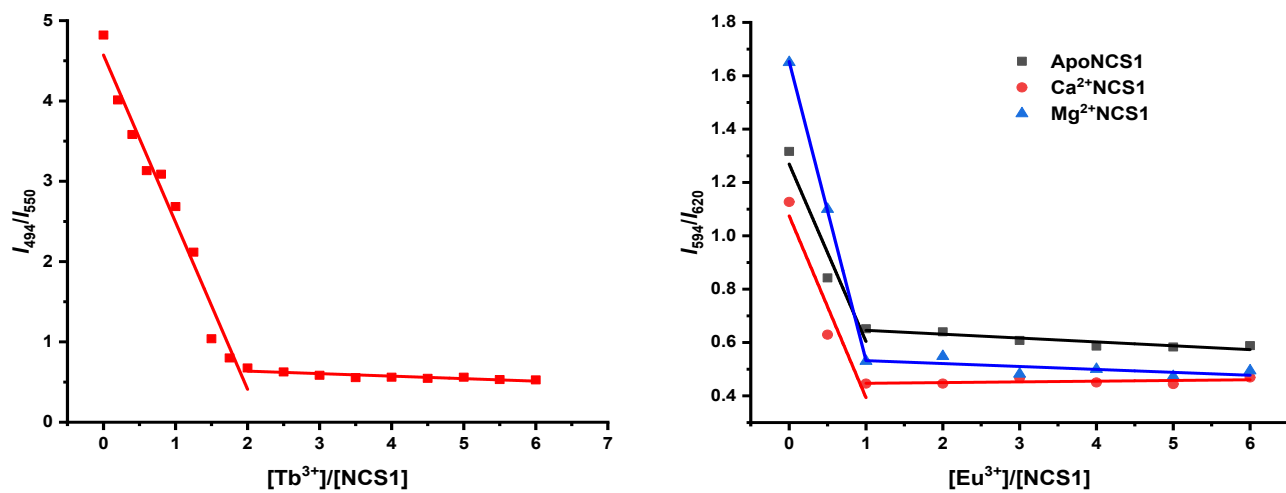


Figure S1: Determination of the stoichiometry of  $Tb^{3+}/Eu^{3+}$  bound NCS1.

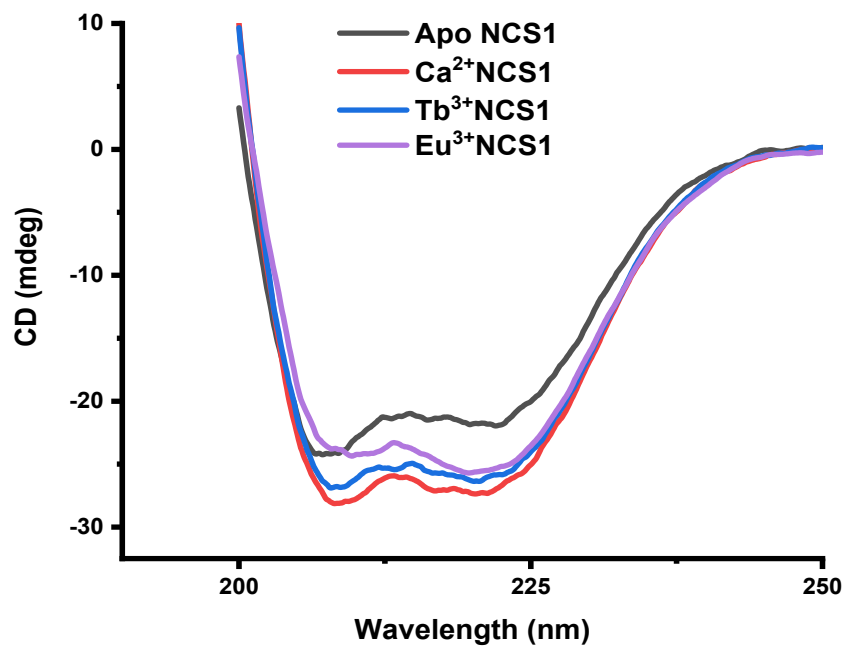


Figure S2: Far-UV circular dichroism spectra of NCS1 in absence and presence of metal ions. Conditions as in the figure 1.

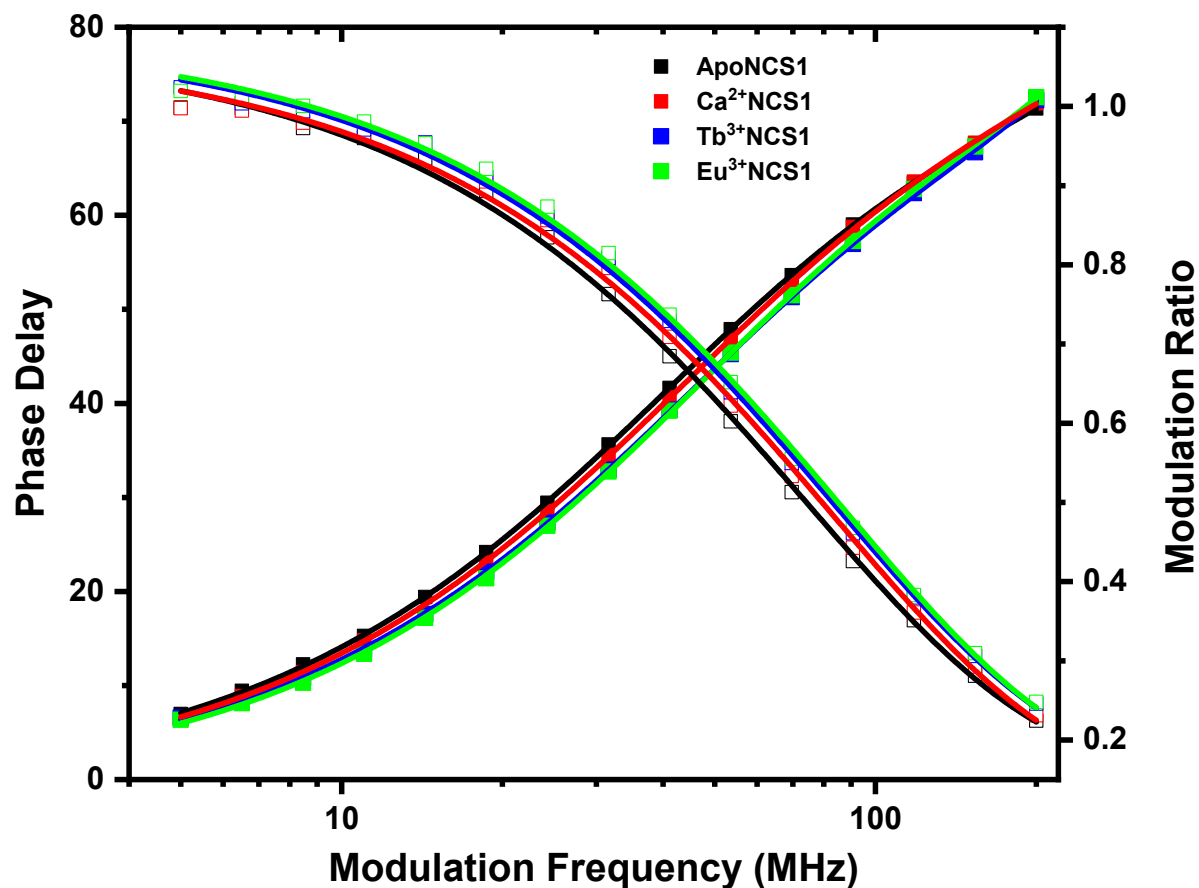


Figure S3: Frequency domain intensity decay of apo- and metal bound NCS1. Solid and open symbols indicate modulation ratio and phase delay data points, respectively. The solid line corresponds to the fit of the experimental data using a sum of three discrete exponential decay model. Conditions: 10  $\mu$ M NCS1, 20 mM Tris buffer, pH 7.40, and 1 mM EDTA or 1 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>, 40  $\mu$ M Tb<sup>3+</sup>, 40  $\mu$ M Eu<sup>3+</sup>.

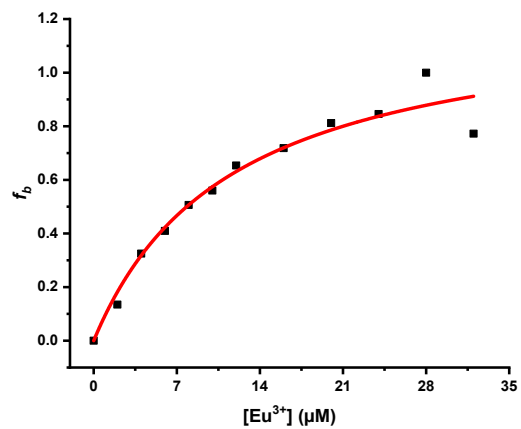
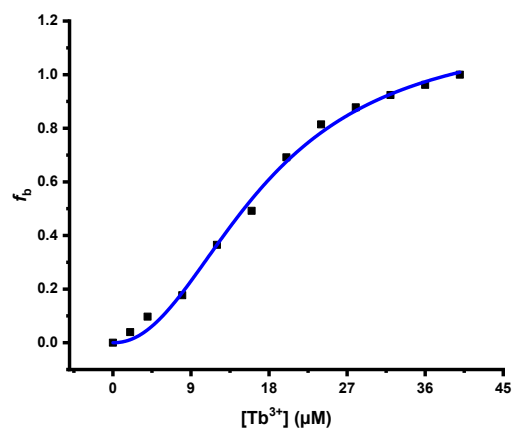


Figure S4: Titration curves of Tb<sup>3+</sup>/Eu<sup>3+</sup> binding to Ca<sup>2+</sup>NCS1:1,8-ANS. Conditions: 10 μM NCS1, 20 μM 1,8-ANS, 1 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>, 40 μM Tb<sup>3+</sup>, 32 μM Eu<sup>3+</sup> and λ<sub>exc</sub>=350 nm.

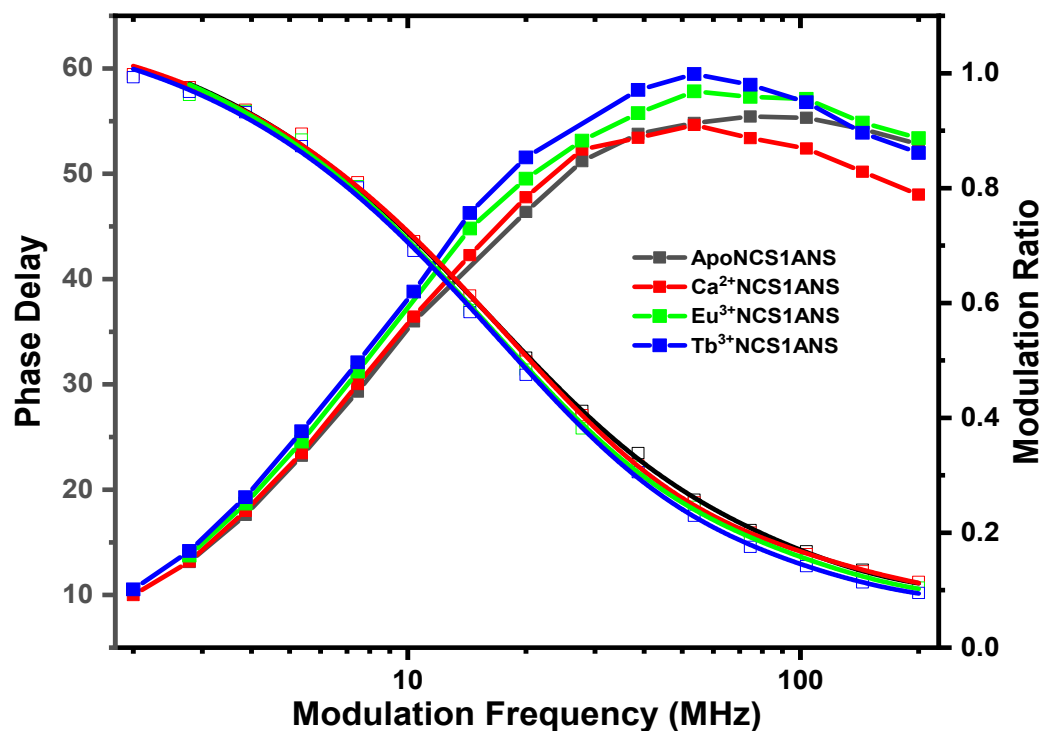


Figure S5: Frequency domain intensity decay of apo- and metal bound NCS1:1,8-ANS complex. Open and solid symbols indicate modulation ratio and phase delay data points, respectively. The solid line corresponds to the fit of the experimental data using a sum of three discrete exponential decay model. Conditions: 10  $\mu\text{M}$  NCS1, 20  $\mu\text{M}$  1,8-ANS, 20 mM Tris buffer, pH 7.40, and 1 mM EDTA or 1 mM  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , 40  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ , 40  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ .



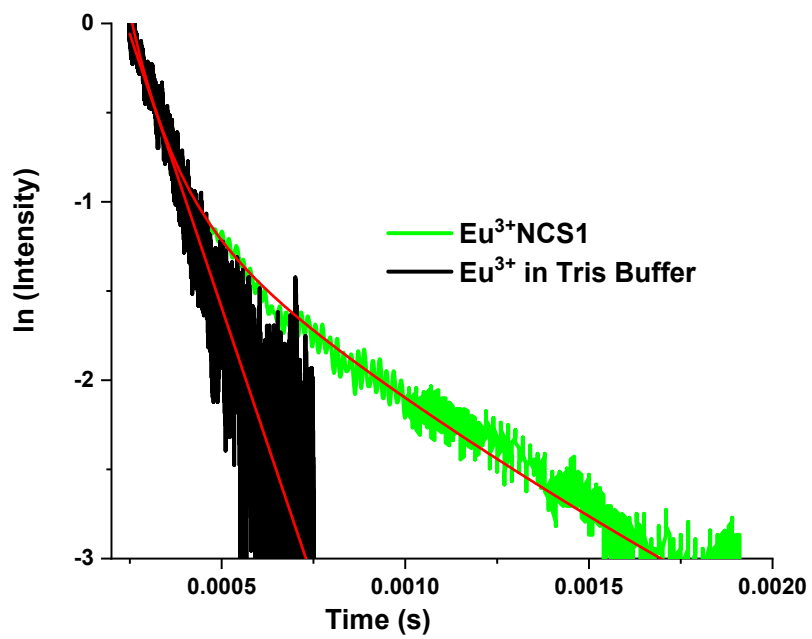


Figure S6: Luminescence decay of  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  itself and in presence of NCS1. Conditions:  $40 \mu\text{M}$  NCS1 and  $20 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ .

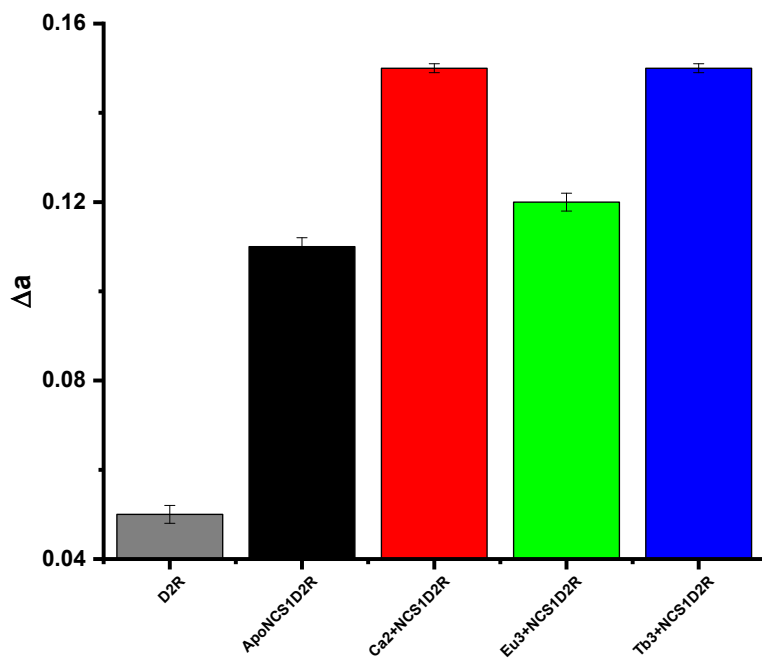


Figure S7: Steady state anisotropy of isolated D2R peptide and NCS1:D2R complex in the absence or presence of metal ions. Conditions: 10  $\mu\text{M}$  NCS1, 500 nM D2R, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , 40  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ , 40  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  and  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=490$  nm.

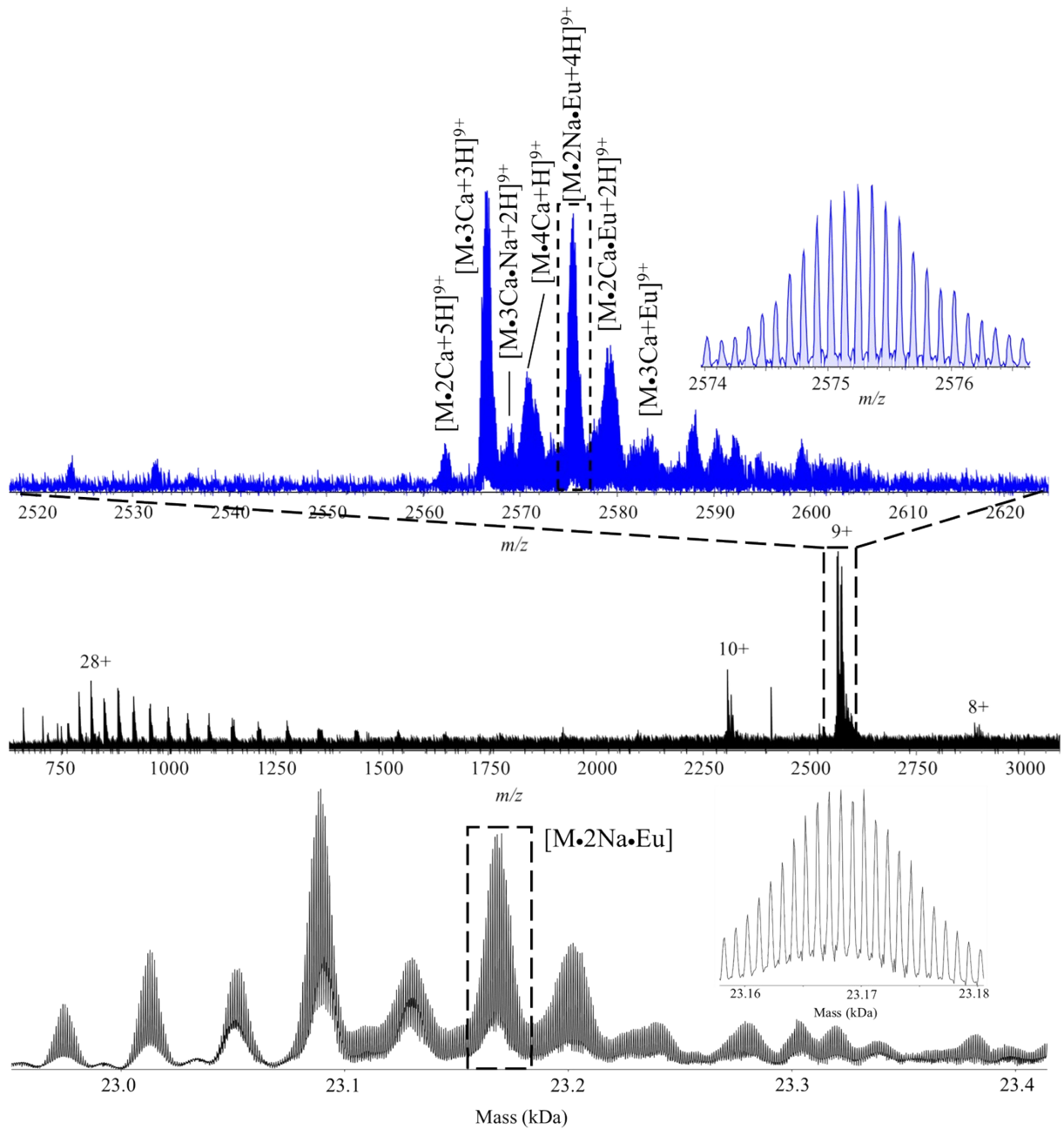


Figure S8: Expanded view of the 9+ charge state with annotated adduct species and the isotopic pattern of the ion  $[M\cdot 2Na\cdot Eu+4H]^{9+}$  shown in the inset (A). Typical broadband nESI-FT-ICR MS spectrum of NCS1 in the presence of  $Eu^{3+}$  (B). Deconvoluted spectrum showing the neutral species. The isotopic pattern shown in the inset confirms the theoretical isotopic average mass of the NCS1 protein 22.976 kDa (C).

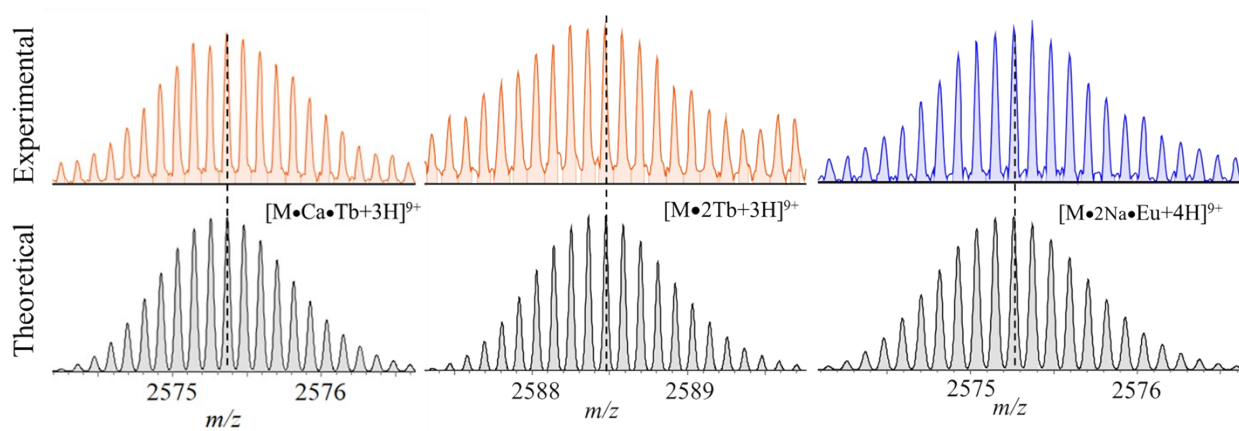


Figure S9: Comparison of experimental isotopic distributions of NCS1:Tb (red) and NCS1:Eu (blue) adduct species obtained from nESI-FT-ICR MS with their theoretical isotope patterns (black). Note the good agreement between profiles indicated by the dashed lines.

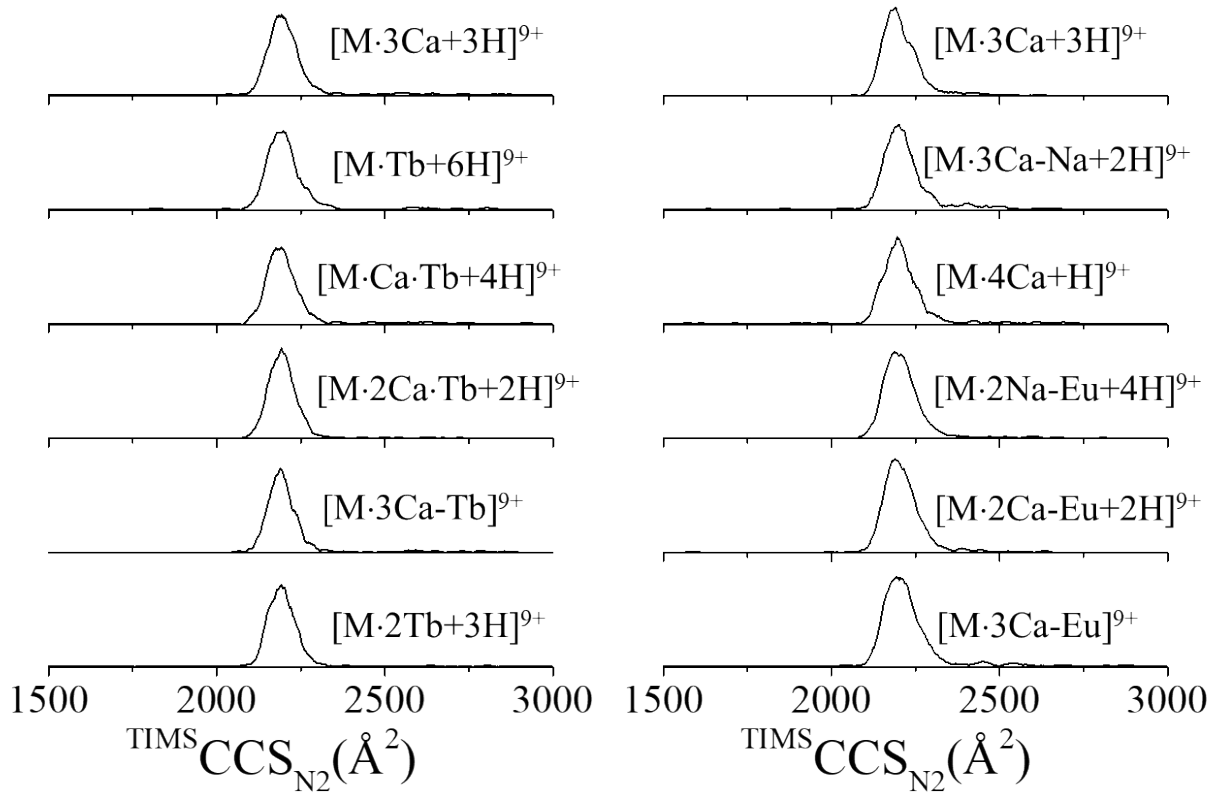


Figure S10:  $\text{TMS} \text{CCS}_{\text{N}_2}$  profiles for the charge state 9+ of NCS1 in the presence of  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$  (left) and  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  (right) obtained from nESI-TIMS-TOF MS.