

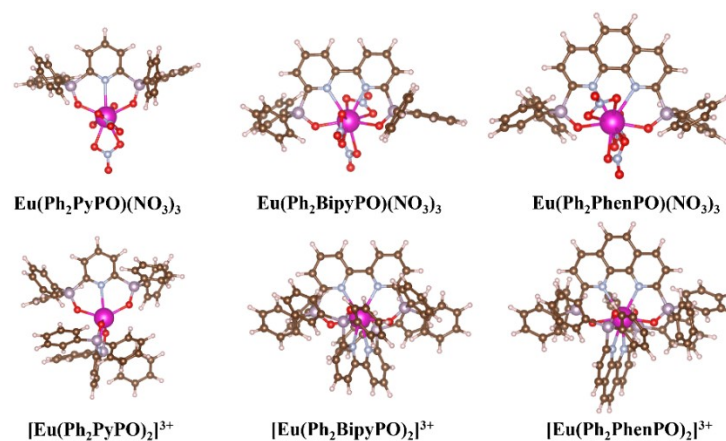
## Theoretically unraveling the separation of trivalent Am and Eu ions by phosphine oxide ligands with different central heterocyclic moieties

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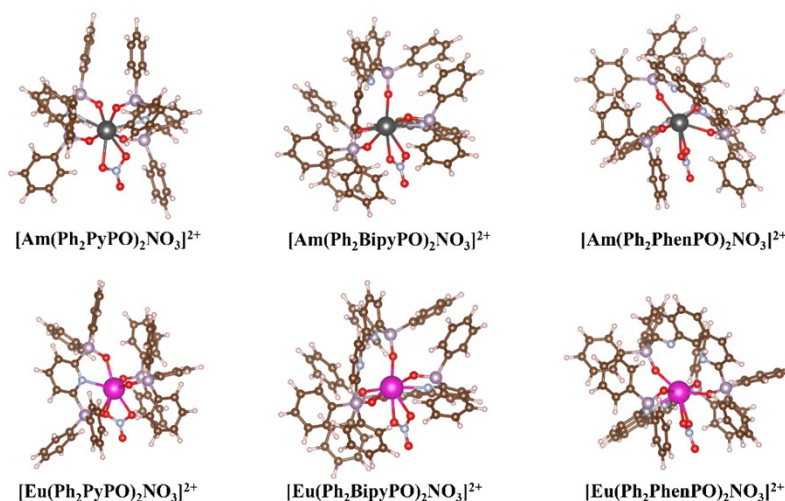
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**Figure S1** Optimized structures of the studied  $\text{EuL}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ ,  $[\text{Eu}(\text{L})_2]^{3+}$  complexes with  $\text{L} = \text{Ph}_2\text{PyPO}$ ,  $\text{Ph}_2\text{BipyPO}$ , and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{PhenPO}$ , respectively.



**Figure S2** Optimized structures of the studied  $[\text{Am}(\text{L})_2\text{NO}_3]^{2+}$  and  $[\text{Eu}(\text{L})_2\text{NO}_3]^{2+}$  complexes with  $\text{L} = \text{Ph}_2\text{PyPO}$ ,  $\text{Ph}_2\text{BipyPO}$ , and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{PhenPO}$ , respectively.

**Table S1.** Average M-O and M-N bond length (Å) in  $[\text{ML}_2\text{NO}_3]^{2+}$  complexes, optimized at the B3LYP/6-311g(d)//RECP level of theory. <sup>a</sup>

Complex	Bond length	
	M-N	M-O <sub>P=O</sub>
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PyPO})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}$	2.856/2.820	2.410/2.360
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{BipyPO})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}$	2.760/2.709 (3.690/3.892)	2.426/2.364
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PhenPO})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}$	2.790/2.715 (3.370/3.624)	2.439/2.379

<sup>a</sup>... /... represents results of M=Am and M=Eu, respectively.

**Table S2.** The Mayer bond orders of M-N and M-O<sub>P=O</sub> bonds in  $[\text{ML}_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}$  complexes. <sup>a</sup>

Complex	M-N	M-O <sub>P=O</sub>
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{BipyPO})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}$	0.172/0.162 (0.088/0.037)	0.301/0.314
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PhenPO})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}$	0.171/0.175 (0.106/0.054)	0.279/0.307

<sup>a</sup>... /... represents results of M=Am and M=Eu, respectively.

**Table S3.** The Wiberg bond indices of M-N and M-OP=O bonds in the studied metal complexes. <sup>a</sup>

Complex	M-N	M-O <sub>P=O</sub>
$\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PyPO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$	0.167/0.155	0.311/0.332
WBI(Am-N/O)- WBI(Eu-N/O)	0.012	-0.021
$\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{BipyPO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$	0.198/0.195	0.325/0.338
WBI(Am-N/O)- WBI(Eu-N/O)	0.003	-0.013
$\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PhenPO})(\text{NO}_3)_3$	0.194/0.188	0.334/0.345
WBI(Am-N/O)- WBI(Eu-N/O)	0.006	-0.011
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PyPO})_2]^{3+}$	0.386/0.341	0.737/0.797
WBI(Am-N/O)- WBI(Eu-N/O)	0.045	-0.060
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{BipyPO})_2]^{3+}$	0.435/0.414	0.758/0.784
WBI(Am-N/O)- WBI(Eu-N/O)	0.021	-0.026
$[\text{M}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PhenPO})_2]^{3+}$	0.410/0.408	0.746/0.769
WBI(Am-N/O)- WBI(Eu-N/O)	0.002	-0.023

<sup>a</sup>.../... represents results of Am- and Eu-complexes, respectively.

**Table S4.** Changes in Gibbs free energy ( $\Delta G$ , kcal/mol) for the extraction reactions with Ph<sub>2</sub>PyPO (L<sup>a</sup>), Ph<sub>2</sub>BipyPO (L<sup>b</sup>) and Ph<sub>2</sub>PhenPO (L<sup>c</sup>) in aqueous-nitrobenzene with [M(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>9</sub>]<sup>3+</sup> at the B3LYP/6-311G(2df,p) level of theory.<sup>a</sup>

Reactions	$\Delta G_{\text{aq}}$ (kcal/mol)	$\Delta\Delta G$ (kcal/mol)
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 3\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{aq}} + \text{L}^{\text{a}}_{\text{nitro}} \rightarrow \text{ML}^{\text{a}}(\text{NO}_3)_{3, \text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-85.03/-51.71	-33.32
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 3\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{aq}} + \text{L}^{\text{b}}_{\text{nitro}} \rightarrow \text{ML}^{\text{b}}(\text{NO}_3)_{3, \text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-67.52/-37.15	-30.37
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 3\text{NO}_3^-_{\text{aq}} + \text{L}^{\text{c}}_{\text{nitro}} \rightarrow \text{ML}^{\text{c}}(\text{NO}_3)_{3, \text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-59.24/-31.50	-27.74
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 2\text{L}^{\text{a}}_{\text{nitro}} \rightarrow [\text{M}(\text{L}^{\text{a}})_2]^{3+}_{\text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-75.05/-38.28	-36.77
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 2\text{L}^{\text{b}}_{\text{nitro}} \rightarrow [\text{M}(\text{L}^{\text{b}})_2]^{3+}_{\text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-76.74/-48.26	-28.49
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 2\text{L}^{\text{c}}_{\text{nitro}} \rightarrow [\text{M}(\text{L}^{\text{c}})_2]^{3+}_{\text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-72.29/-44.11	-28.17
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 2\text{L}^{\text{a}}_{\text{nitro}} + \text{NO}_3^-_{\text{aq}} \rightarrow [\text{M}(\text{L}^{\text{a}})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}_{\text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-78.50/-49.89	-28.61
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 2\text{L}^{\text{b}}_{\text{nitro}} + \text{NO}_3^-_{\text{aq}} \rightarrow [\text{M}(\text{L}^{\text{b}})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}_{\text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-69.21/-38.97	-30.25
$[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{3+}_{\text{aq}} + 2\text{L}^{\text{c}}_{\text{nitro}} + \text{NO}_3^-_{\text{aq}} \rightarrow [\text{M}(\text{L}^{\text{c}})_2(\text{NO}_3)]^{2+}_{\text{nitro}} + 9\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{aq}}$	-67.33/-43.36	-23.97

<sup>a</sup>... /... represents results of M=Am and M=Eu, respectively.