

## Supporting Information

Contrasting Impact of Coordination Polyhedra and Site Symmetry on the  
Electronic Energy Levels in Nine-coordinated Eu(III) and Sm(III) Crystals Structures  
Determined from Single Crystal Luminescence Spectra

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This is the supporting information for the article, showing the additionally measured emission and excitation spectra, time-resolved emission decay profiles, crystallographic information, and PXRD. Additionally, Boltzmann population calculations, Voigt fitting of spectra, and arguments for the population analysis of the emission and excitation spectra resulting in the deconvoluted electronic energy levels for the Sm<sup>3+</sup> systems.

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# 1 Crystallographic Information

## 1.1 $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ Compounds Crystallographic Information

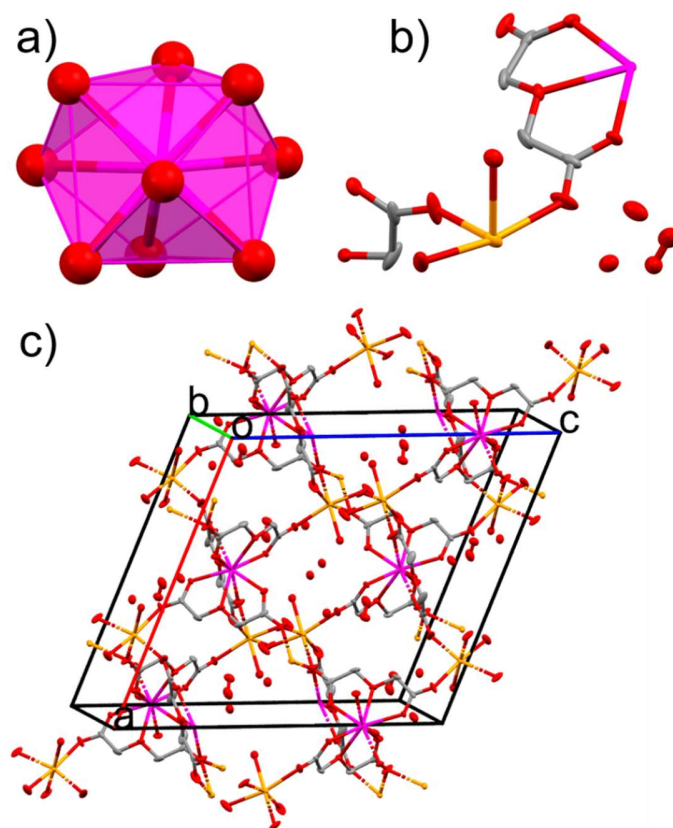
### 1.1.1 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Experimental and Crystallographic Information

#### 1.1.1.1 Picture of $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Crystals



**Figure S 1:** Pictures of  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  made following the description in the experimental section. The crystals have a difference in size, but all of the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with a prism structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the monoclinic  $C2/c$  space group.

### 1.1.1.2 Na<sub>3</sub>[Eu(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·8H<sub>2</sub>O Crystal Structure



**Figure S 2:** **a)** Polyhedral depicting coordination around the Eu<sup>3+</sup> ion in Na<sub>3</sub>[Eu(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·8H<sub>2</sub>O. **b)** The asymmetric unit for Na<sub>3</sub>[Eu(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·8H<sub>2</sub>O. **c)** The unit cell for Na<sub>3</sub>[Eu(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·8H<sub>2</sub>O. Colour code: Eu = pink, N = light blue, C = blue, O = red and Na = orange. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are 50% probability.

### 1.1.1.3 Na<sub>3</sub>[Eu(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·8H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

**Table S 1:** Crystal data and structure refinement for Na<sub>3</sub>[Eu(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·8H<sub>2</sub>O.

Crystal data	
Empirical formula	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>27</sub> EuNa <sub>3</sub> O <sub>23</sub>
Formula weight	760.26
Temperature/K	120
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	C2/c
a/Å	17.520(3)

b/Å	8.3804(13)
c/Å	19.059(3)
$\alpha$ /°	90
$\beta$ /°	111.350(4)
$\gamma$ /°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	2606.2(7)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.922
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	2.555
F(000)	1492.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.18 × 0.174 × 0.11
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073)

#### Data collection

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2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/°	4.59 to 63.012
Index ranges	-25 ≤ h ≤ 25, -12 ≤ k ≤ 12, -27 ≤ l ≤ 28
Reflections collected	29301
Independent reflections	4349 [ $R_{\text{int}}$ = 0.0518, $R_{\text{sigma}}$ = 0.0301]

#### Refinement

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Data/restraints/parameters	4349/6/202
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.297
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1$ = 0.0378, $wR_2$ = 0.1082
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1$ = 0.0388, $wR_2$ = 0.1086
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	2.58/-3.37

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## 1.1.2 $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Experimental and Crystallographic Information

### 1.1.2.1 Picture of $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Crystals



**Figure S 3:** Pictures of  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  made following the description in the experimental section. The crystals have a difference in size, but all of the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with a prism structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the orthorhombic  $C222_1$  space group.

### 1.1.2.2 $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Crystal Structure

The crystal created in the experimental section was found to be a twin, and the structure could not be determined. However, the Bravais lattice and unit cell was found to agree with the previously reported structure by by Brayshaw *et al.*<sup>1</sup> and the crystal was then used for single crystal luminescence measurements.

### 1.1.2.3 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

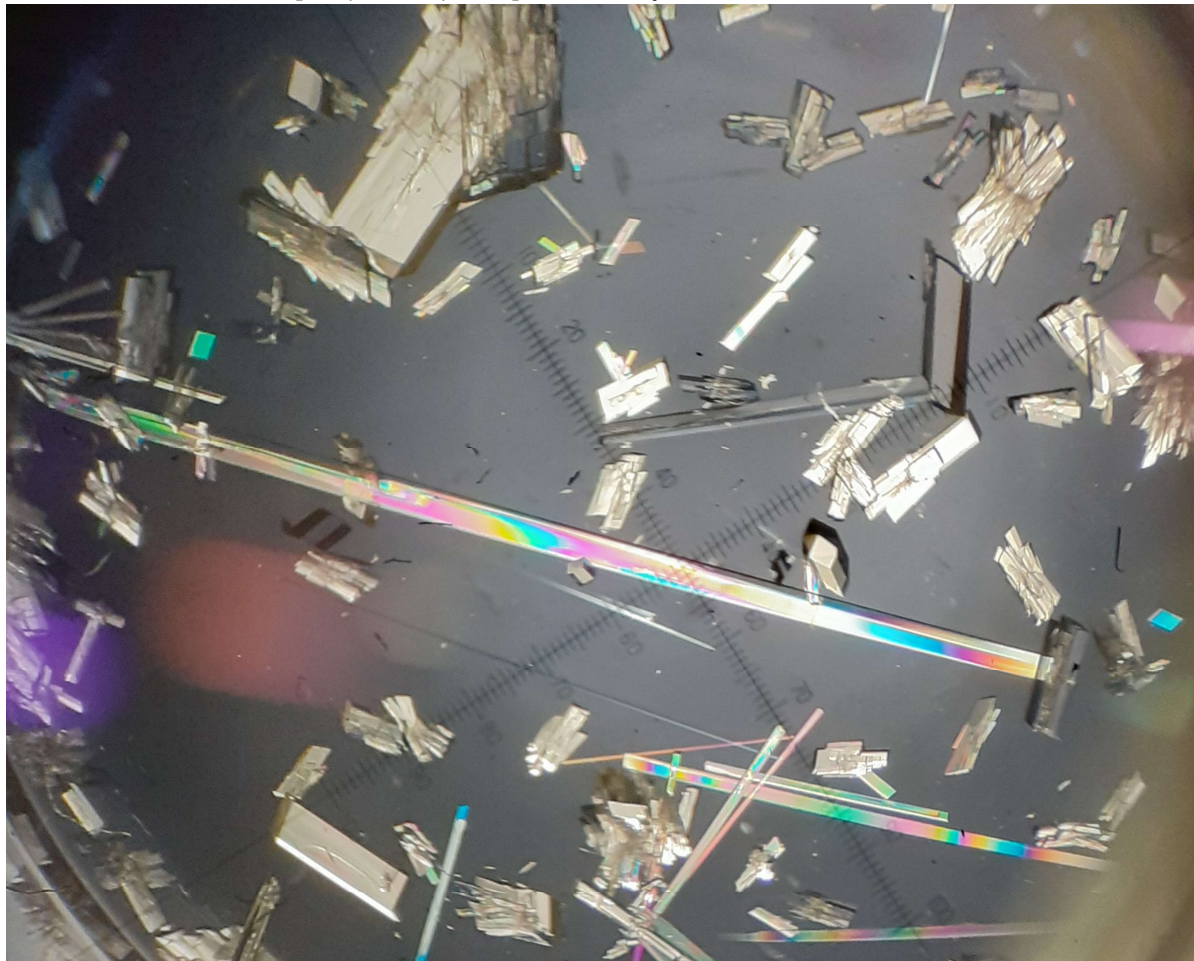
Table S 2: Crystal data and structure refinement for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O.

<b>Crystal data</b>	
Empirical formula	C <sub>20</sub> Cs <sub>2</sub> EuN <sub>3</sub> Na <sub>2</sub> O <sub>21</sub>
Formula weight	1081.99
Temperature/K	296.15
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	C222 <sub>1</sub>
a/Å	18.0233(9)
b/Å	10.0116(5)
c/Å	18.5298(9)
α/°	90
β/°	90
γ/°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	3343.6(3)
Z	4
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	2.149
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	4.135
F(000)	2016.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	? × ? × ?
Radiation	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)
<b>Refinement</b>	
2θ range for data collection/°	4.396 to 51.34
Index ranges	-21 ≤ h ≤ 21, -12 ≤ k ≤ 12, -21 ≤ l ≤ 22
Reflections collected	18157
Independent reflections	3175 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0319, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0226]



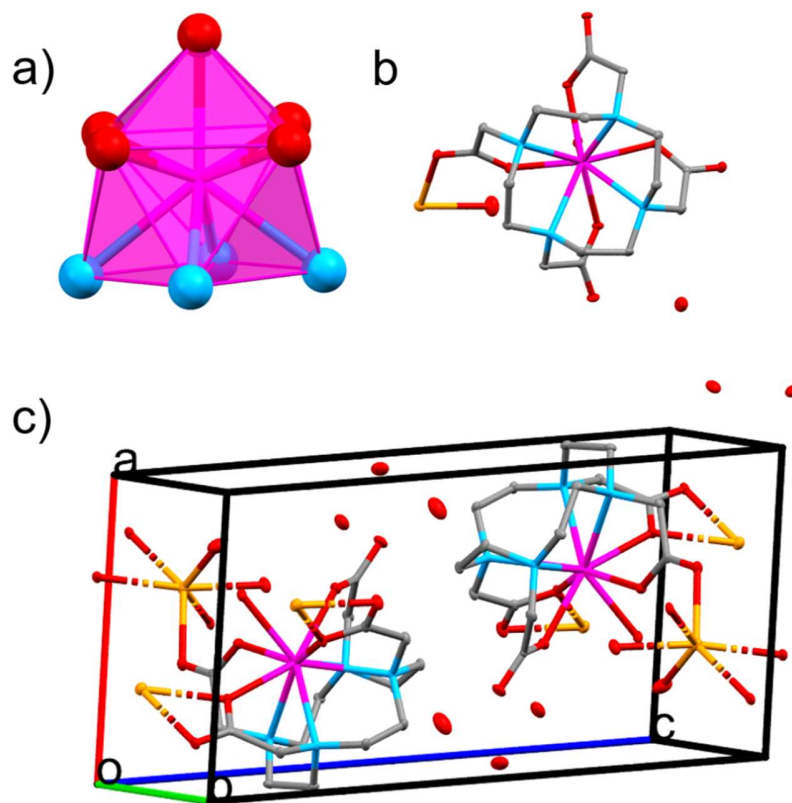
### 1.1.3 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Experimental and Crystallographic Information

#### 1.1.3.1 Picture of Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Crystals



**Figure S 4:** Pictures of Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O made following the description in the experimental section. The crystals have a difference in size, but all of the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with a prism structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the triclinic  $P\bar{1}$  space group.

### 1.1.3.2 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Crystal Structure



**Figure S 5:** **a)** Polyhedral depicting coordination around the Eu<sup>3+</sup> ion in Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. **b)** The asymmetric unit for Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. **c)** The unit cell for Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. Colour code: Eu = pink, N = light blue, C = blue, O = red and Na = orange. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are 50% probability.

### 1.1.3.3 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

**Table S 3:** Crystal data and structure refinement for Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O.

Crystal data	
Empirical formula	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>34</sub> EuN <sub>4</sub> NaO <sub>13</sub>
Formula weight	665.42
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	8.6270(5)

b/Å	9.1258(6)
c/Å	15.6209(9)
$\alpha$ /°	82.982(2)
$\beta$ /°	85.085(2)
$\gamma$ /°	81.209(3)
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1203.44(13)
Z	2
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ /g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.836
$\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.696
F(000)	672.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.205 × 0.14 × 0.06
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073)

### Refinement

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2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/°	4.544 to 61.012
Index ranges	-12 ≤ h ≤ 12, -13 ≤ k ≤ 13, -22 ≤ l ≤ 22
Reflections collected	57415
Independent reflections	7345 [ $R_{\text{int}}$ = 0.0667, $R_{\text{sigma}}$ = 0.0401]

### Refinement

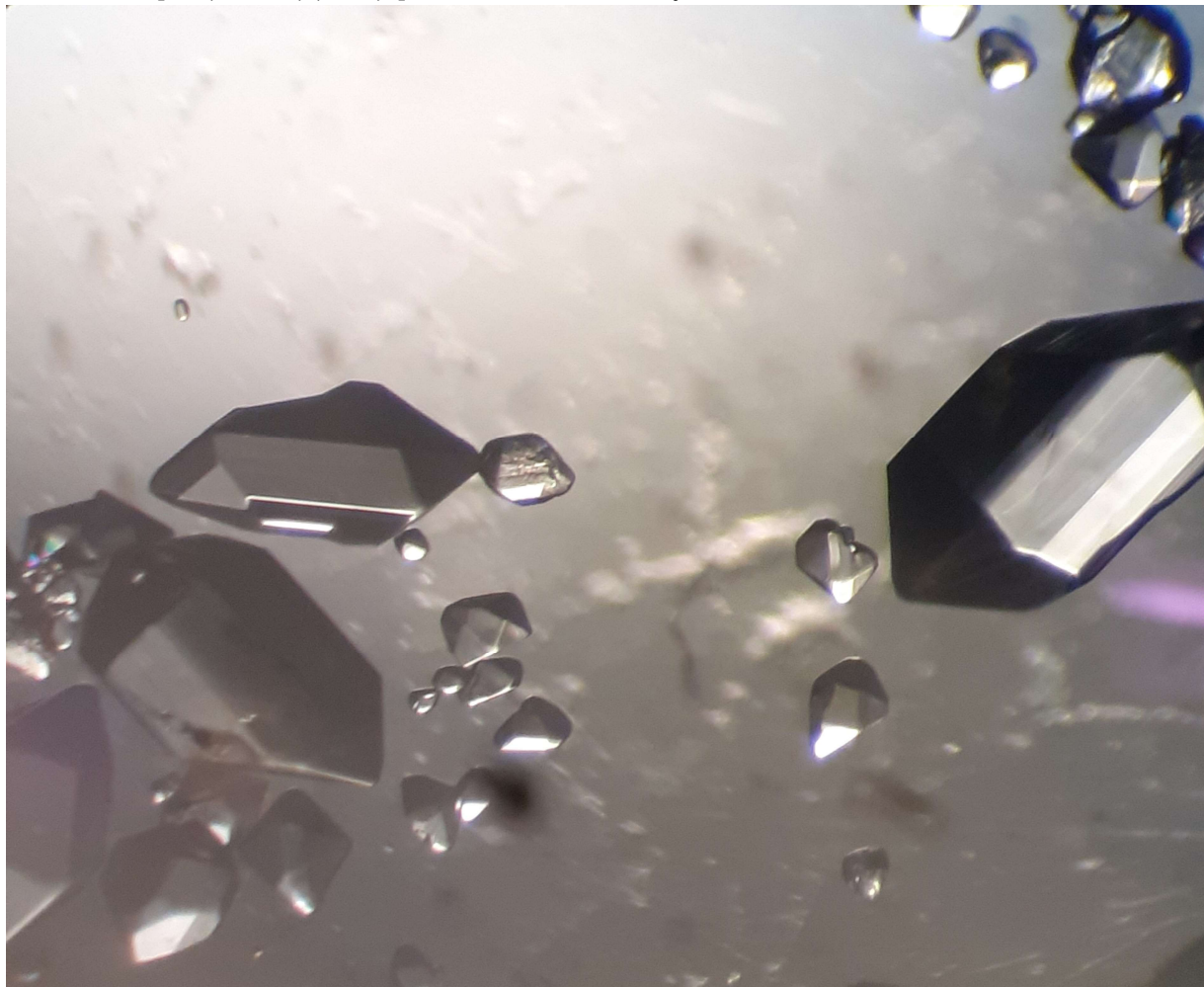
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Data/restraints/parameters	7345/2/343
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.049
Final R indexes [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0250$ , $wR_2 = 0.0467$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0341$ , $wR_2 = 0.0489$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.92/-0.93

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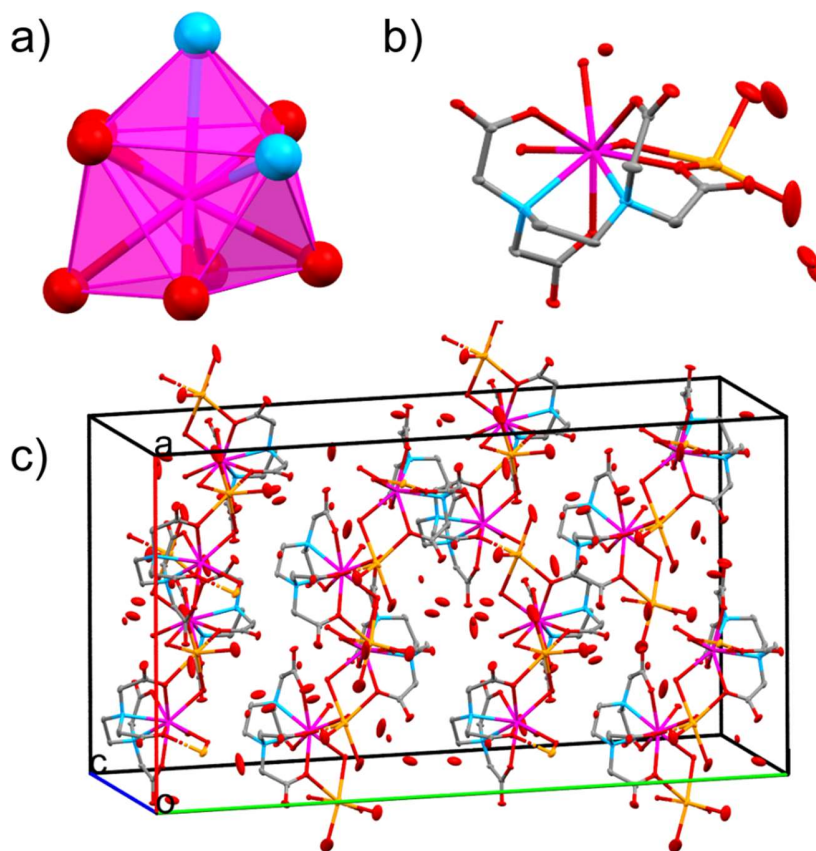
## 1.1.4 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Experimental and Crystallographic Information

### 1.1.4.1 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Picture of Crystals



**Figure S 6:** Pictures of Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O made following the description in the experimental section. The crystals have a difference in size, but all of the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with a prism structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the orthorhombic *Fdd2* space group.

#### 1.1.4.2 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Crystal Structure



**Figure S 7:** **a)** Polyhedral depicting coordination around the Eu<sup>3+</sup> ion in Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. **b)** The asymmetric unit for Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. **c)** The unit cell for Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. Colour code: Eu = pink, N = light blue, C = blue, O = red and Na = orange. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are 50% probability.

### 1.1.4.3 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

**Table S 4:** Crystal data and structure refinement for Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O.

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<b>Crystal data</b>	
Empirical formula	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>28</sub> EuN <sub>2</sub> NaO <sub>16</sub>
Formula weight	607.29
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	Fdd2
a/Å	19.3808(9)
b/Å	35.2814(17)
c/Å	12.0315(6)
α/°	90
β/°	90
γ/°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	8226.9(7)
Z	16
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.938
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	3.151
F(000)	4752.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.606 × 0.522 × 0.434
Radiation	MoKα (λ = 0.71073)

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<b>Data collection</b>	
2θ range for data collection/°	4.148 to 61.994
Index ranges	-27 ≤ h ≤ 28, -50 ≤ k ≤ 51, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17
Reflections collected	35327
Independent reflections	6527 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0431, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0328]

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**Refinement**

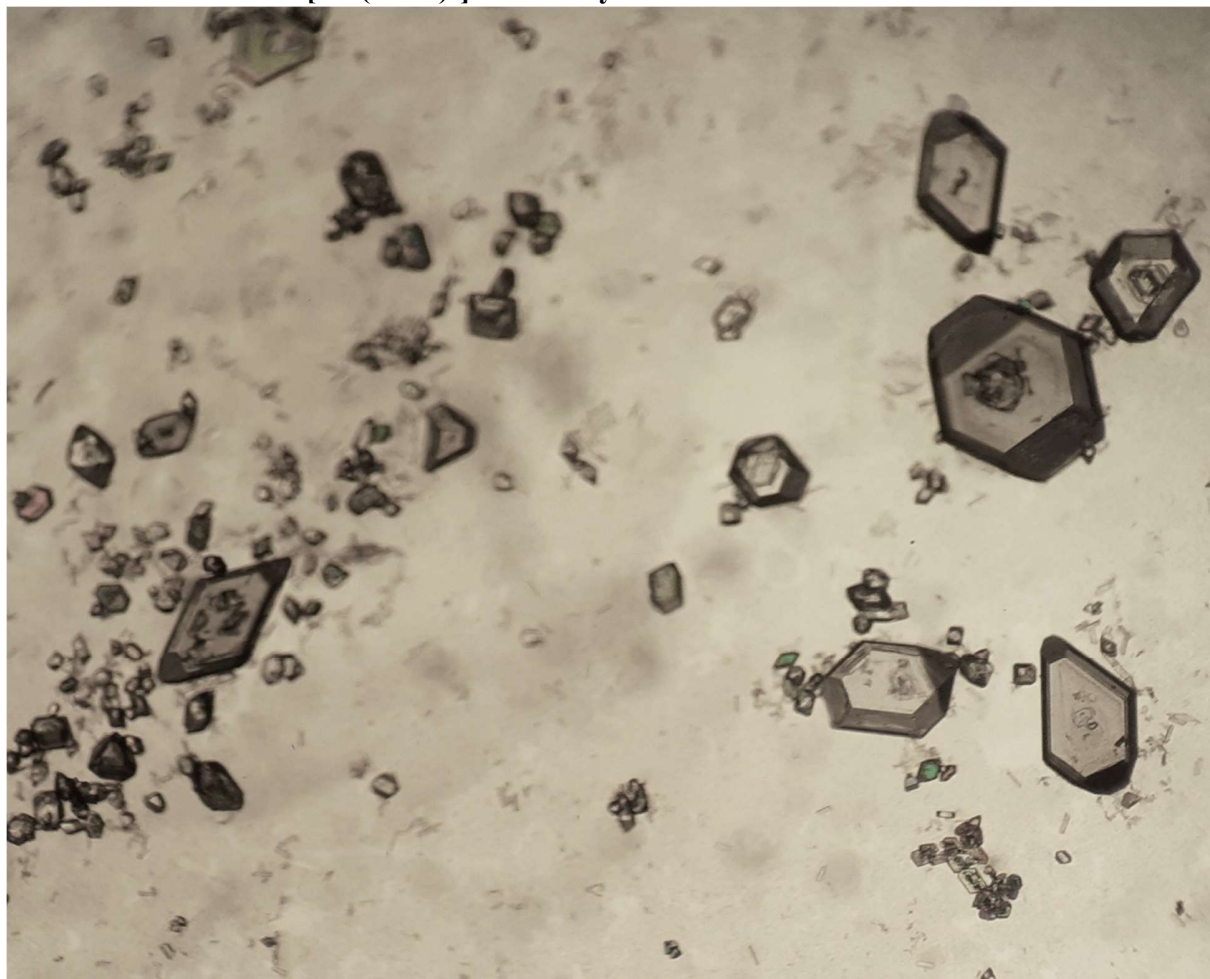
Data/restraints/parameters	6527/21/325
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.049
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0193$ , $wR_2 = 0.0461$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0199$ , $wR_2 = 0.0464$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$	1.13/-1.88
Flack parameter	0.018(10)

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## 1.2 Sm<sup>3+</sup> Compounds Crystallographic Information

### 1.2.1 Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O Experimental and Crystallographic Information

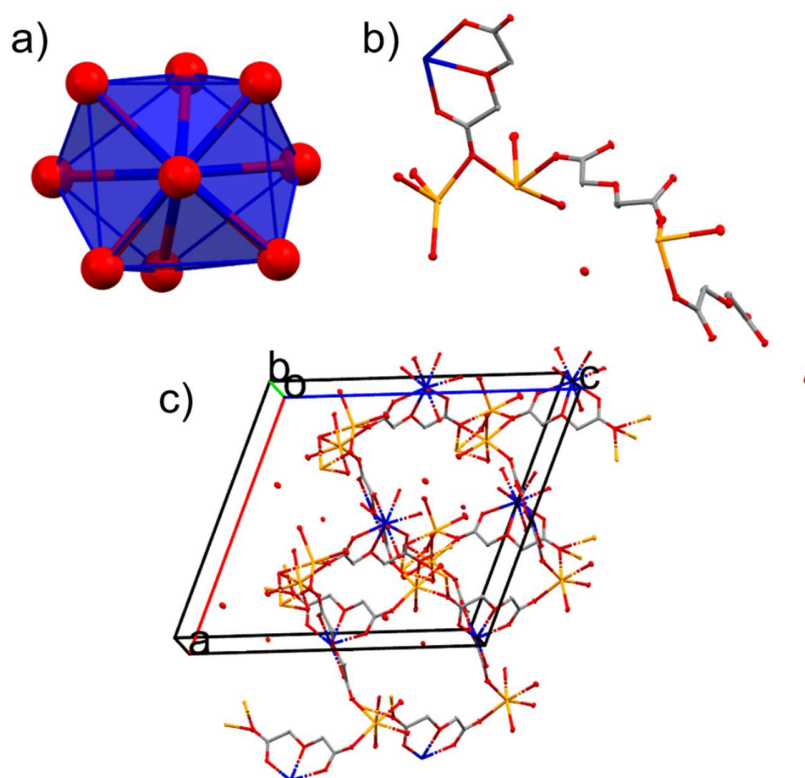
#### 1.2.1.1 Picture of Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O Crystals



**Figure S 8:** Pictures of Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O made following the description in the experimental section. The crystals have a difference in size, but all of the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with a prism structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the monoclinic *Cc* space group.



### 1.2.1.2 Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O Crystal Structure



**Figure S 9:** **a)** Polyhedral depicting coordination around the Sm<sup>3+</sup> ion in Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O. **b)** The asymmetric unit for Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O. **c)** The unit cell for Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O. Colour code: Sm = dark blue, N = light blue, C = blue, O = red and Na = orange. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are 50% probability.

### 1.2.1.3 Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

**Table S 5:** Crystal data and structure refinement for Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O.

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#### Crystal data

Empirical formula	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>28</sub> Na <sub>3</sub> O <sub>23</sub> Sm
Formula weight	759.66
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	Cc
a/Å	17.5900(13)
b/Å	8.3808(6)

$c/\text{\AA}$	19.0418(16)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	111.266(3)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/ $\text{\AA}^3$	2616.0(4)
$Z$	8
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.929
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	2.393
$F(000)$	1516.0
Crystal size/ $\text{mm}^3$	$0.416 \times 0.324 \times 0.202$
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )

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#### Data collection

$2\Theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	4.59 to 68.674
Index ranges	$-26 \leq h \leq 27, -13 \leq k \leq 13, -30 \leq l \leq 30$
Reflections collected	46134
Independent reflections	10560 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0428, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0434$ ]

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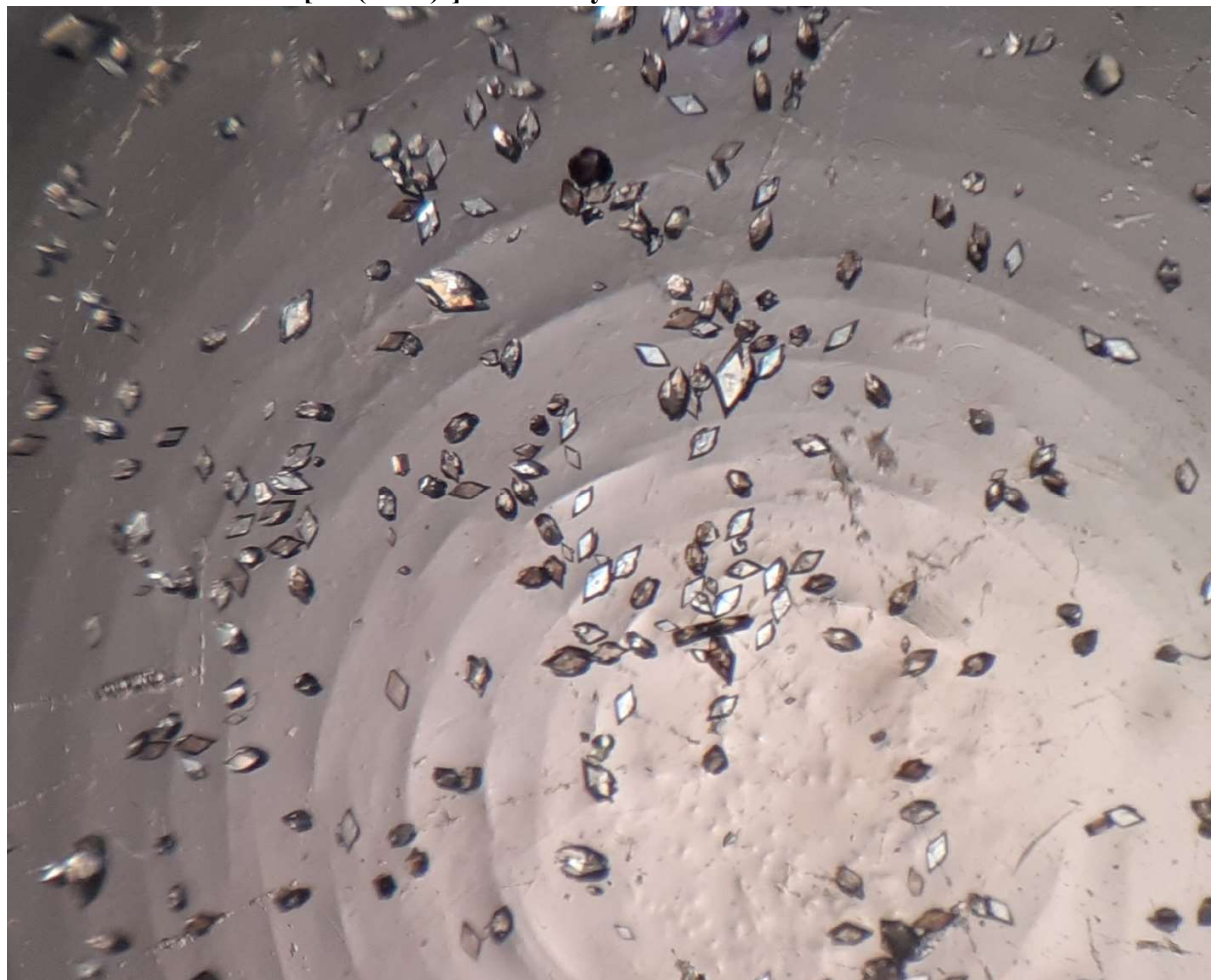
#### Refinement

Data/restraints/parameters	10560/3/371
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.063
Final R indexes [ $ I  \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0228, wR_2 = 0.0448$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0273, wR_2 = 0.0461$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.44/-0.61
Flack parameter	0.032(7)

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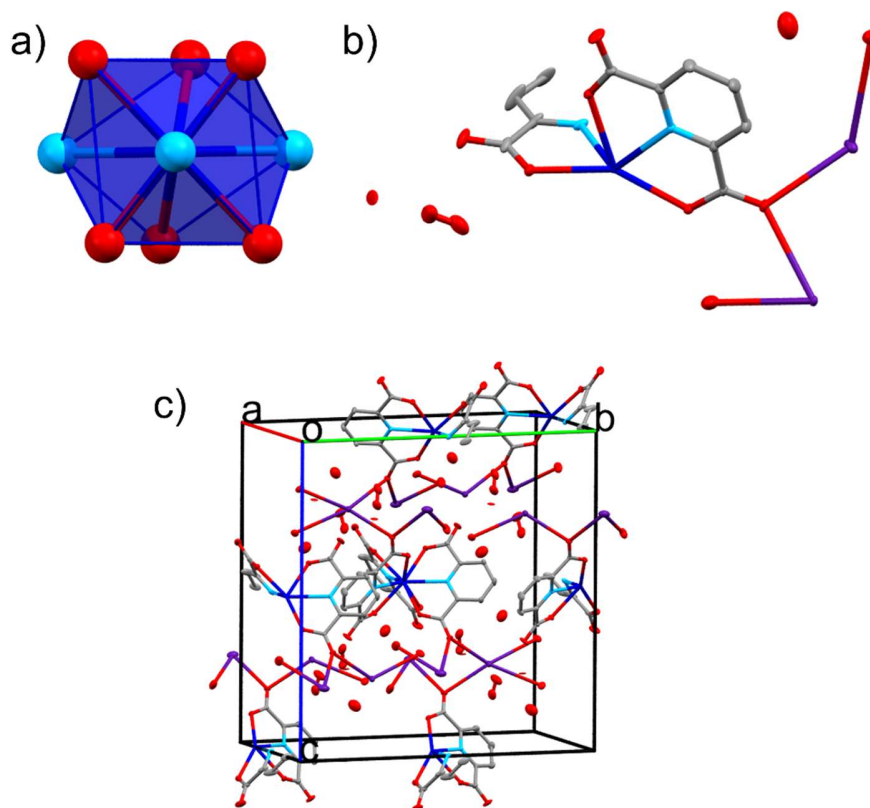
## 1.2.2 $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Experimental and Crystallographic Information

### 1.2.2.1 Picture of $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Crystals



**Figure S 10:** Pictures of  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  made following the description in the experimental section. The crystals have a difference in size, but all of the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with a prism structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the orthorhombic  $C222_1$  space group.

### 1.2.2.2 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Crystal Structure



**Figure S 11:** **a)** Polyhedral depicting coordination around the Sm<sup>3+</sup> ion in Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O. **b)** The asymmetric unit for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O. **c)** The unit cell for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O. Colour code: Sm = dark blue, N = light blue, C = blue, O = red and Na = orange. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are 50% probability.

### 1.2.2.3 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

**Table S 6:** Crystal data and structure refinement for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O.

#### Crystal data

Empirical formula	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>23</sub> Cs <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>21</sub> Sm
Formula weight	1202.50
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	C222 <sub>1</sub>
a/Å	10.0017(13)

b/Å	18.033(3)
c/Å	18.530(3)
$\alpha$ /°	90
$\beta$ /°	90
$\gamma$ /°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	3342.1(8)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ /cm <sup>3</sup>	2.398
$\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	5.068
F(000)	2268.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.162 × 0.127 × 0.071
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073)

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### Data collection

2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/°	4.396 to 72.66
Index ranges	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -30 ≤ k ≤ 30, -30 ≤ l ≤ 30
Reflections collected	64847
Independent reflections	8116 [ $R_{\text{int}}$ = 0.0502, $R_{\text{sigma}}$ = 0.0283]

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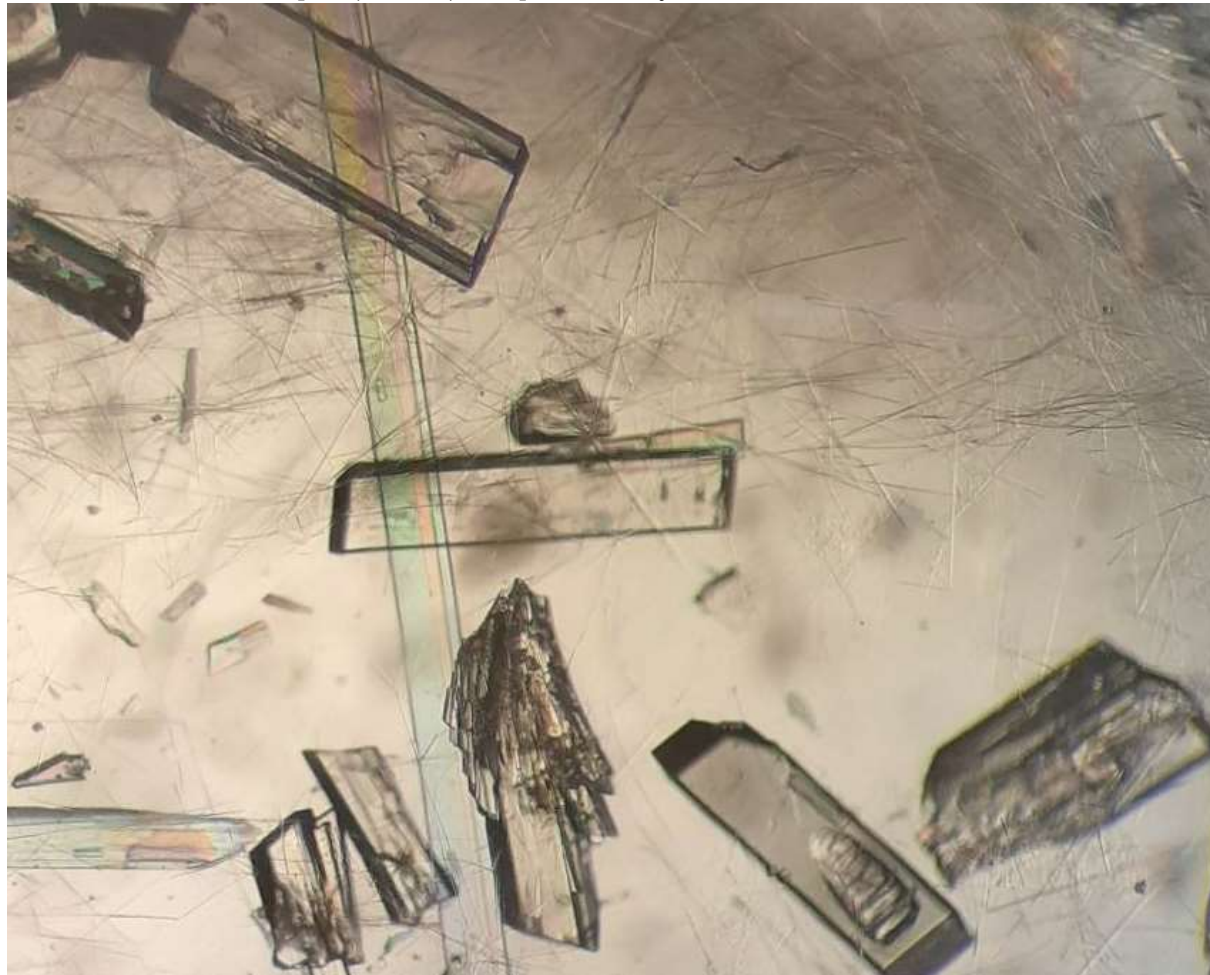
### Refinement

Data/restraints/parameters	8116/15/257
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.068
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1$ = 0.0244, $wR_2$ = 0.0617
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1$ = 0.0284, $wR_2$ = 0.0637
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	2.35/-2.02
Flack parameter	0.132(16)

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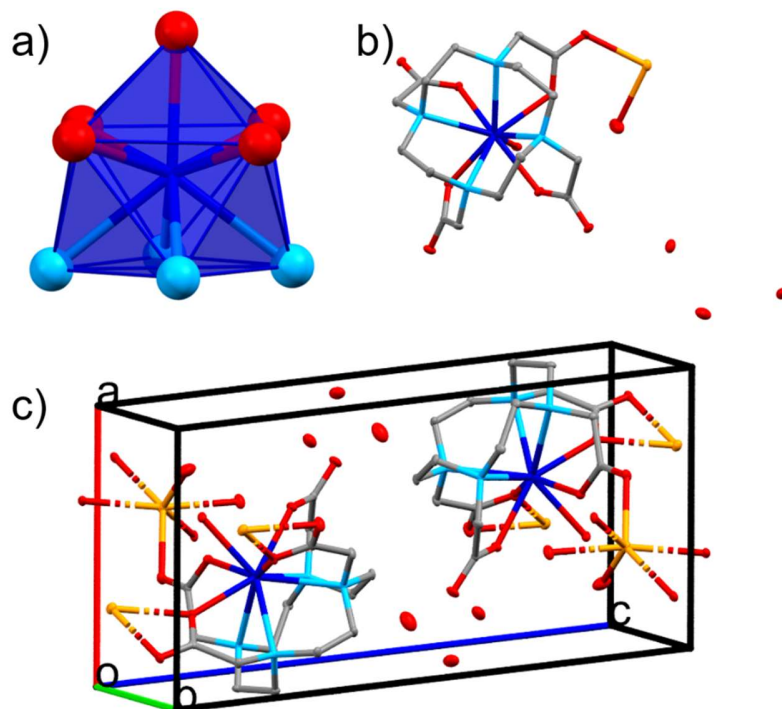
### 1.2.3 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Experimental and Crystallographic Information

#### 1.2.3.1 Picture of Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Crystals



**Figure S 12:** Pictures of Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O made following the description in the experimental section. The crystals have a difference in size, but all the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with an irregular structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the triclinic  $P\bar{1}$  space group.

### 1.2.3.2 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Crystal Structure



**Figure S 13:** **a)** Polyhedral depicting coordination around the Sm<sup>3+</sup> ion in Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. **b)** The asymmetric unit for Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. **c)** The unit cell for Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. Colour code: Sm = dark blue, N = light blue, C = blue, O = red and Na = orange. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are 50% probability.

### 1.2.3.3 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

**Table S 7:** Crystal data and structure refinement for Na[Sm(DOTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·5H<sub>2</sub>O.

#### Crystal data

Empirical formula	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>34</sub> N <sub>4</sub> NaO <sub>13</sub> Sm
Formula weight	663.81
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	8.6233(8)
b/Å	9.1615(8)
c/Å	15.6526(14)

$\alpha/^\circ$	82.938(3)
$\beta/^\circ$	84.975(3)
$\gamma/^\circ$	80.994(3)
Volume/ $\text{\AA}^3$	1209.13(19)
Z	2
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.823
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	2.518
F(000)	670.0
Crystal size/ $\text{mm}^3$	$0.291 \times 0.134 \times 0.083$
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )

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#### Data collection

2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	4.53 to 64.06
Index ranges	$-12 \leq h \leq 12, -13 \leq k \leq 13, -23 \leq l \leq 23$
Reflections collected	59699
Independent reflections	8427 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0513, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0305$ ]

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#### Refinement

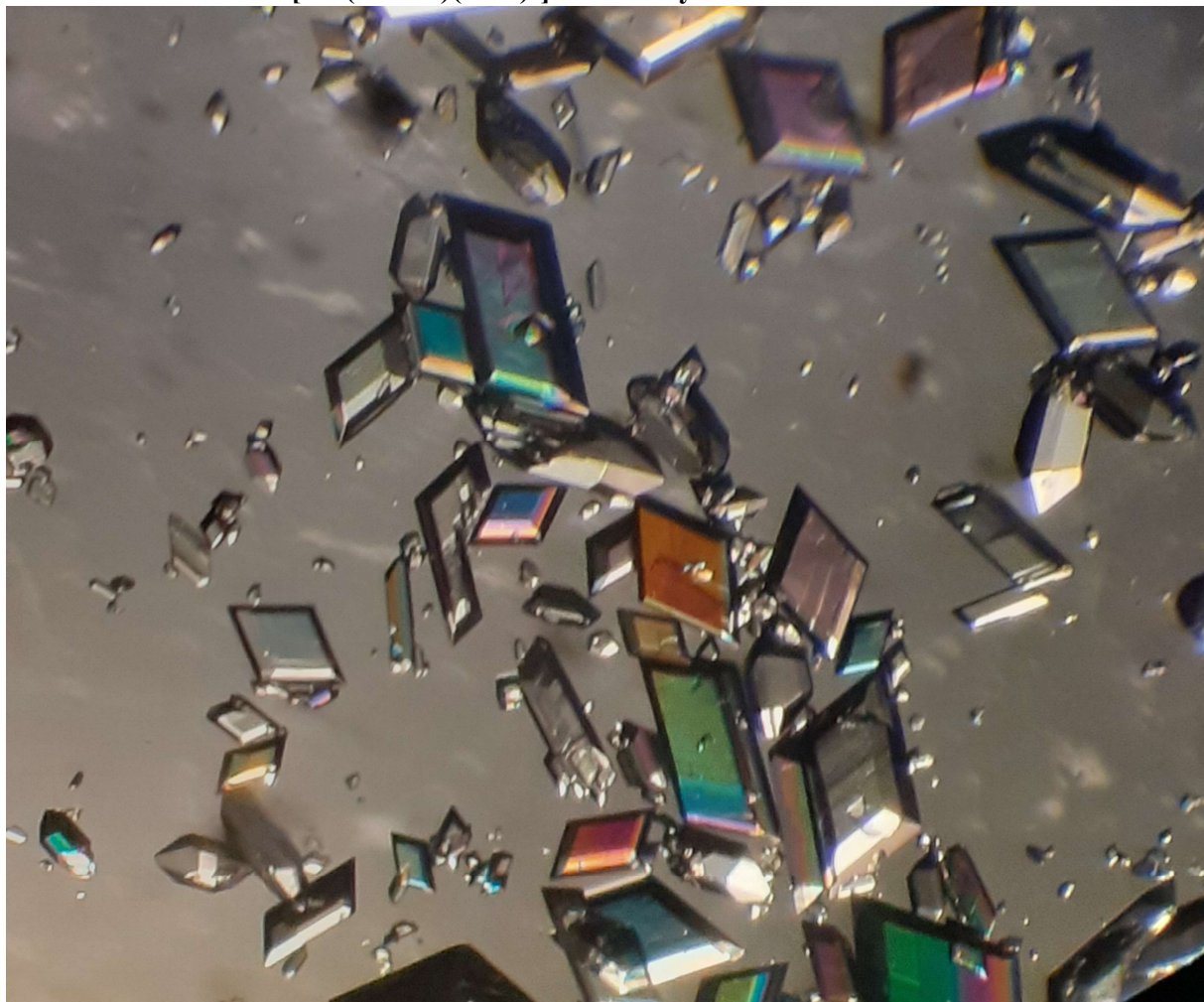
Data/restraints/parameters	8427/0/332
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.065
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0200, wR_2 = 0.0435$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0249, wR_2 = 0.0450$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.79/-0.56

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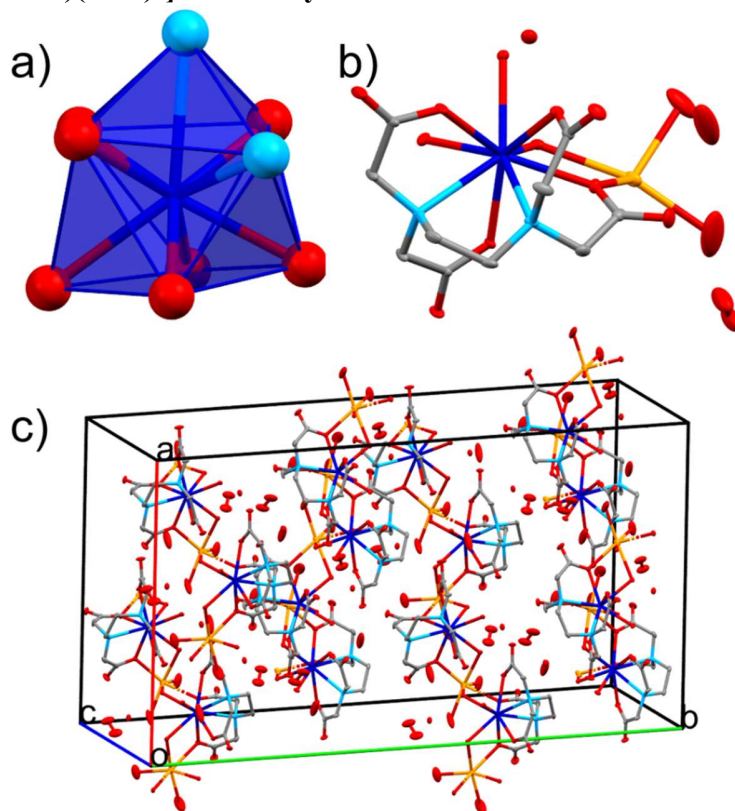
## 1.2.4 Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Experimental and Crystallographic Information

### 1.2.4.1 Picture of Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Crystals



**Figure S 14:** Pictures of Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O made following the description in the experimental section. All of the crystal were found to be clear, light, and colourless with a rhombohedral structure. All crystals were observed to have the same phase. The complex crystallises in the orthorhombic *Fdd2* space group.

### 1.2.4.2 Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Crystal Structure



**Figure S 15:** a) Polyhedral depicting coordination around the Sm<sup>3+</sup> ion in Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. b) The asymmetric unit for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. c) The unit cell for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. Colour code: Sm = dark blue, N = light blue, C = blue, O = red and Na = orange. Hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are 50% probability.

### 1.2.4.3 Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Crystallographic Information

**Table S 8:** Crystal data and structure refinement for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O.

#### Crystal data

Empirical formula	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>2</sub> NaO <sub>16</sub> Sm
Formula weight	605.68
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	Fdd2
a/Å	19.459(3)

b/Å	35.397(6)
c/Å	12.032(2)
$\alpha$ /°	90
$\beta$ /°	90
$\gamma$ /°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	8288(2)
Z	16
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.935
$\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.936
F(000)	4829.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.576 × 0.308 × 0.122
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073)

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#### Data collection

2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/°	4.142 to 69.942
Index ranges	-31 ≤ h ≤ 31, -56 ≤ k ≤ 56, -19 ≤ l ≤ 19
Reflections collected	42482
Independent reflections	8972 [ $R_{\text{int}}$ = 0.0458, $R_{\text{sigma}}$ = 0.0418]

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#### Refinement







Data/restraints/parameters	8972/5/333
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.013
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1$ = 0.0236, $wR_2$ = 0.0505
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1$ = 0.0268, $wR_2$ = 0.0516
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	1.57/-1.03
Flack parameter	0.024(10)

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## 2 Symmetry Deviation Values

### 2.1 Symmetry Deviation Values for Ideal Nine-coordinated Structures


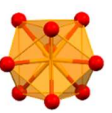


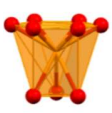
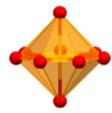
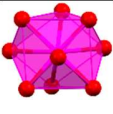
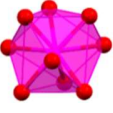
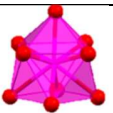
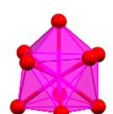
**Table S 9:** Symmetry deviation values,  $\sigma_{ideal}$ , for comparison of ideal nine-coordinated structures. Values were calculated using AlignIt.<sup>2</sup>

						
	<b>cSAP</b>	<b>TTP</b>	<b>MFF</b>	<b>HOOP</b>	<b>TCup</b>	<b>HBPy</b>
<b>cSAP</b>	0	0.97	13.51	20.15	16.71	26.83
<b>TTP</b>		0	9.63	14.12	19.26	23.25
<b>MUFF</b>			0	14.61	20.40	24.92
<b>HOOP</b>				0	19.79	14.49
<b>TCup</b>					0	21.52
<b>HBPy</b>						0

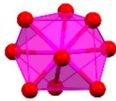
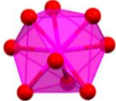
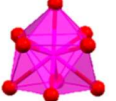
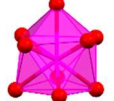
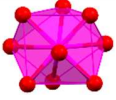
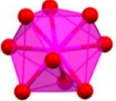
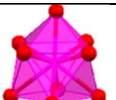
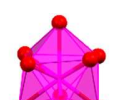
## 2.2 Symmetry Deviation Values for the $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ and $\text{Sm}^{3+}$ Compounds

### 2.2.1 Symmetry Deviation Values for the $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ Compounds

Table S 10: Symmetry deviation values,  $\sigma_{ideal}$ , for the  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  complexes.



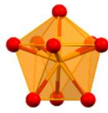
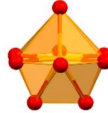
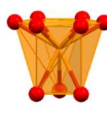
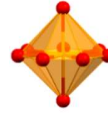
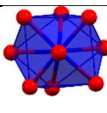
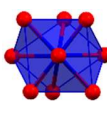
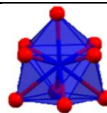
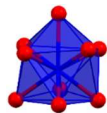
							
		cSAP	TTP	MFF	HOOP	TCup	HBPy
	$\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.26	<b>0.76</b>	11.55	19.94	18.33	24.65
	$\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.87	<b>0.89</b>	9.88	14.84	18.96	23.85
	$\text{Na}[\text{Eu}(\text{DOTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	<b>0.38</b>	1.48	14.32	20.21	18.41	26.25
	$\text{Na}[\text{Eu}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	<b>0.63</b>	0.96	14.35	18.78	17.03	25.31

**Table S 11:** Symmetry deviation values,  $\sigma_{ideal}$ , for the  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  complexes.

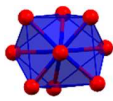
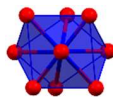
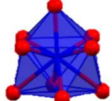
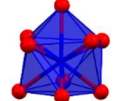
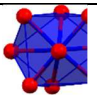
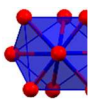
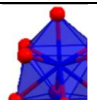

				
	$\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Na}[\text{Eu}(\text{DOTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Na}[\text{Eu}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$
 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$	-	-	-	-
 $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.19	-	-	-
 $\text{Na}[\text{Eu}(\text{DOTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.15	1.97	-	-
 $\text{Na}[\text{Eu}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1.73	1.29	1.07	-

## 2.2.2 Symmetry Deviation Values for the Sm<sup>3+</sup> Compounds

Table S 12: Symmetry deviation values,  $\sigma_{ideal}$ , for the Sm<sup>3+</sup> complexes.

							
		<b>cSAP</b>	<b>TTP</b>	<b>MFF</b>	<b>HOOP</b>	<b>TCup</b>	<b>HBPy</b>
	<b>Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	1.40	<b>0.87</b>	11.49	16.54	18.81	23.94
	<b>Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	1.92	<b>0.96</b>	11.19	20.24	19.35	24.12
	<b>Na[Sm(DOTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·4H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	<b>0.39</b>	1.49	13.63	21.10	17.77	26.14
	<b>Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	<b>0.64</b>	0.99	13.97	18.55	18.24	25.34

**Table S 13:** Symmetry deviation values,  $\sigma_{ideal}$ , for the  $\text{Sm}^{3+}$  complexes.

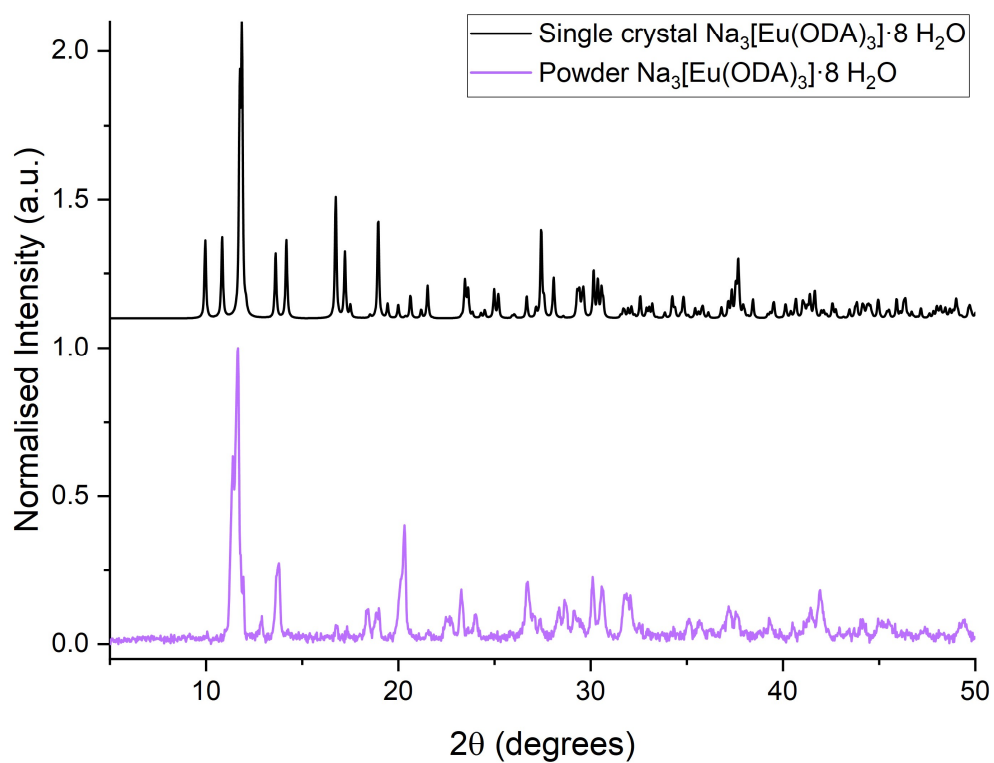
				
	$\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{DOTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$
 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	-			
 $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.25	-		
 $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{DOTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.85	1.62	-	
 $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.85	1.33	0.73	-



### 3 PXRD

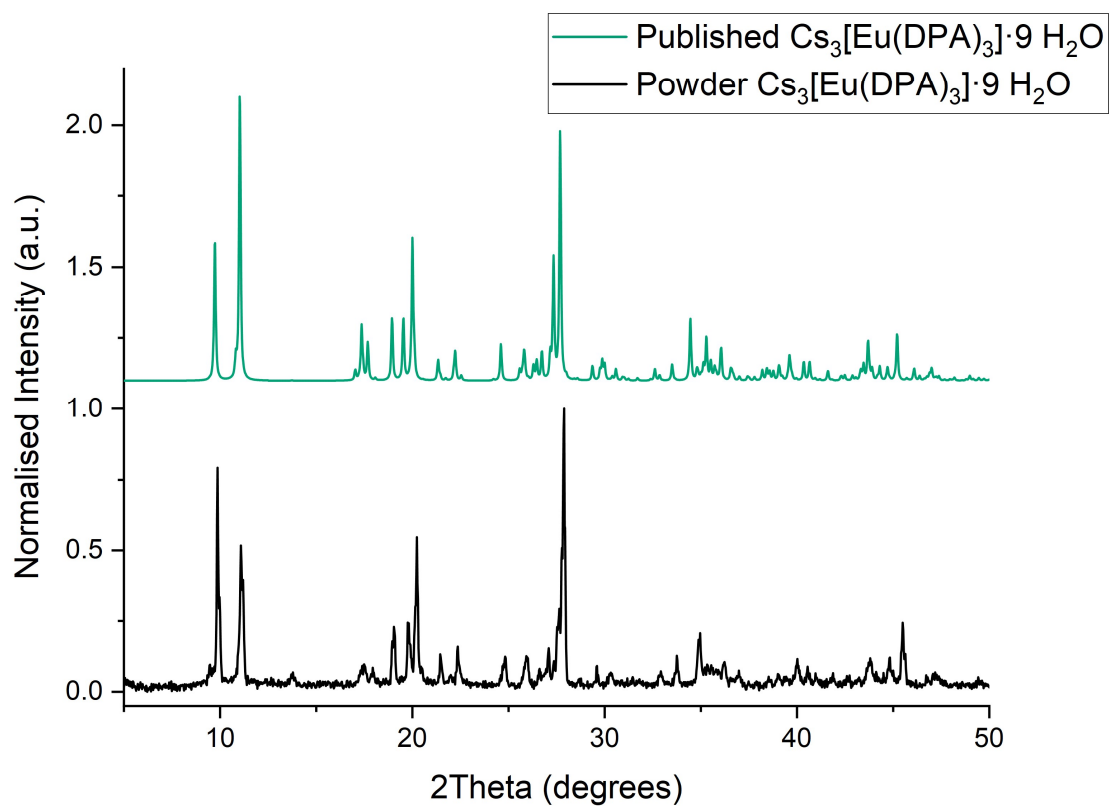
#### 3.1 PXRD $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ Compounds

##### 3.1.1 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ PXRD



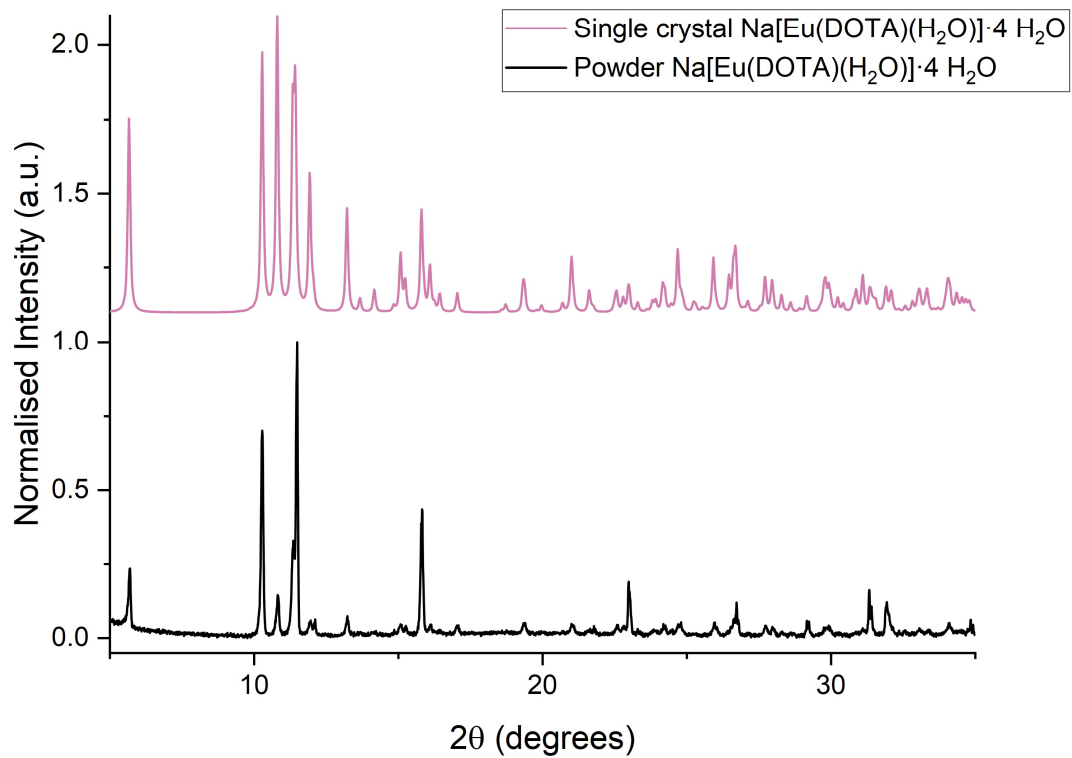
**Figure S 16:** PXRD for  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The black diffractogram is recorded for the powder made from crystals crushed to a powder. The purple diffractogram is simulated from the structure determined for the single crystal.

### 3.1.2 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O PXRD



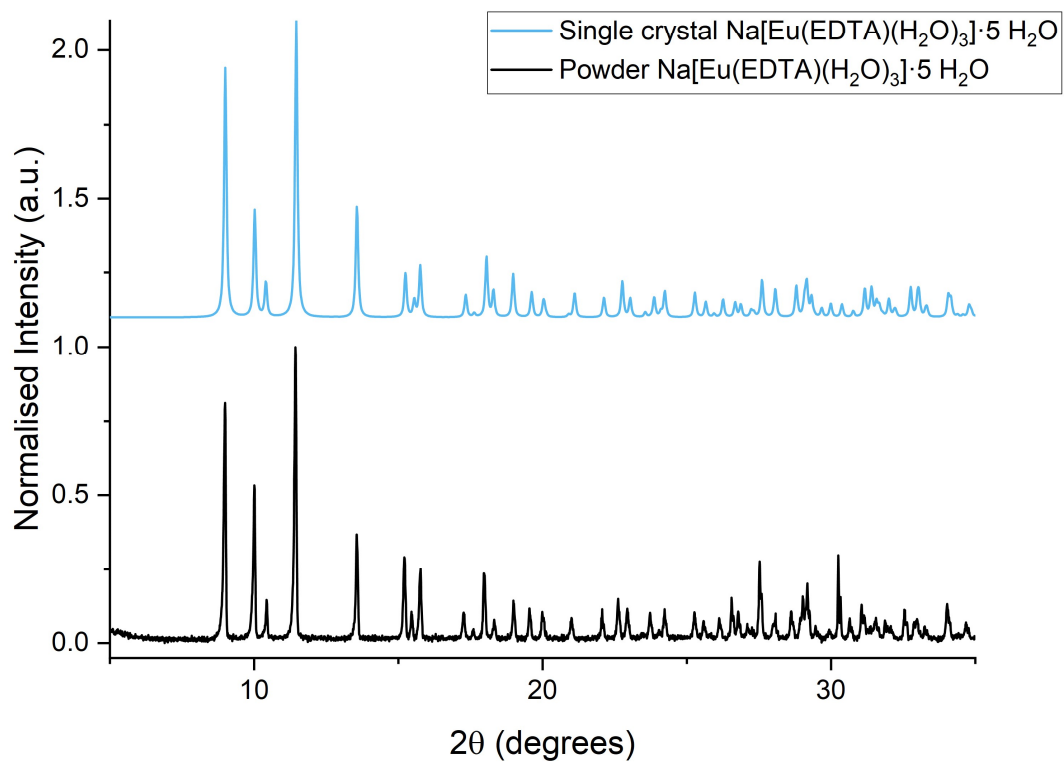
**Figure S 17:** PXRD for Na<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O. The black diffractogram is recorded for the powder made from crystals crushed to a powder. The green diffractogram is simulated from the published structure by Brayshaw *et al.*<sup>1</sup> as the crystal created in the experimental section was found to be a twin, and the structure could not be determined.

### 3.1.3 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O PXRD



**Figure S 18:** PXRD for Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. The black diffractogram is recorded for the powder made from crystals crushed to a powder. The pink diffractogram is simulated from the structure determined for the single crystal.

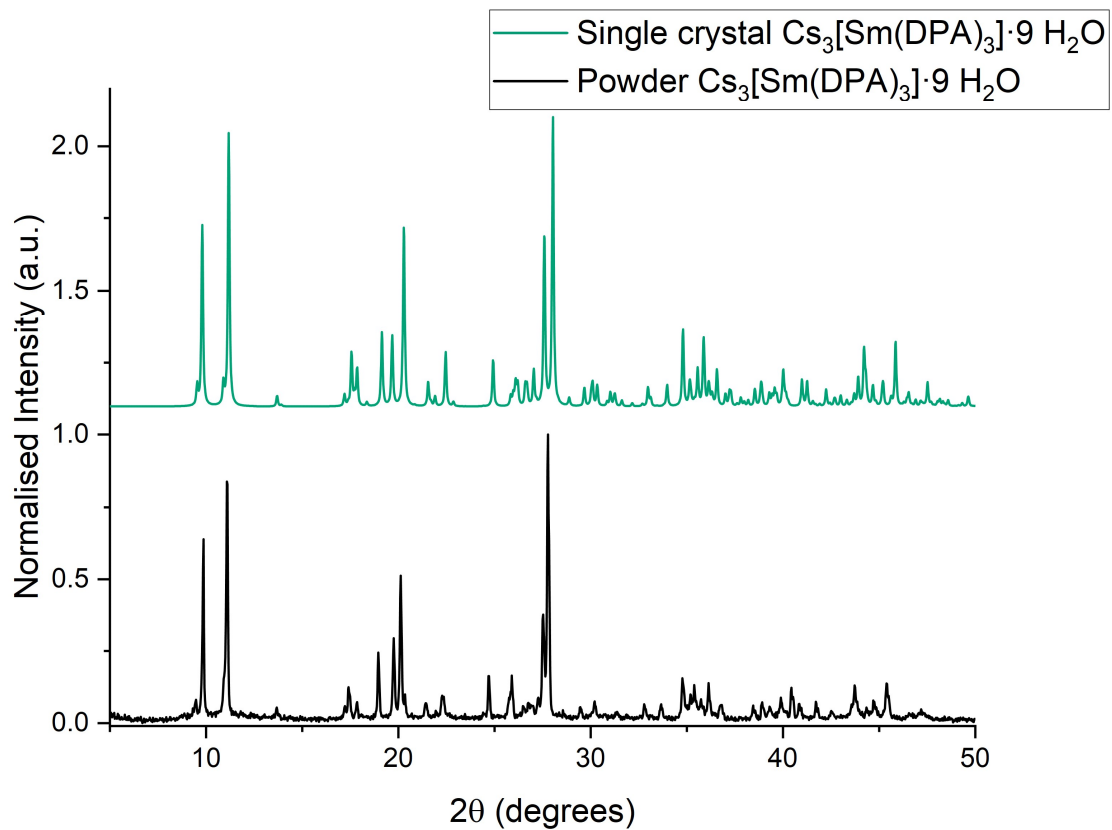
### 3.1.4 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O PXRD



**Figure S 19:** PXRD for Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. The black diffractogram is recorded for the powder made from crystals crushed to a powder. The light blue diffractogram is simulated from the structure determined for the single crystal.

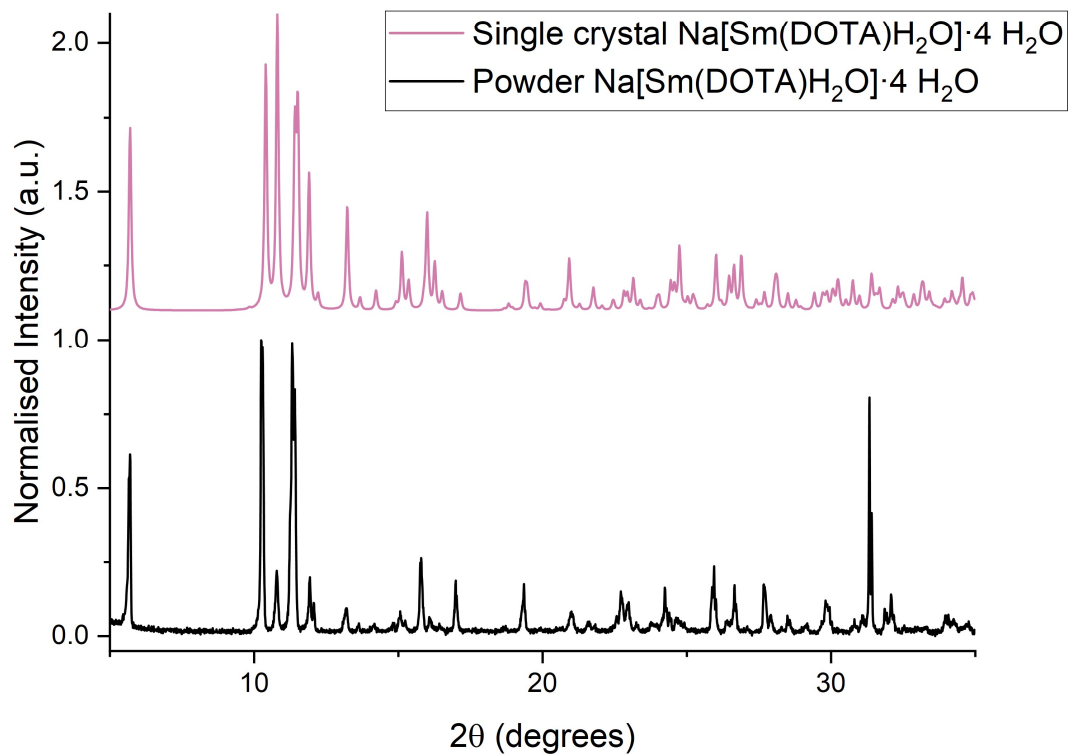
## 3.2 PXRD $\text{Sm}^{3+}$ Compounds

### 3.2.1 $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ PXRD



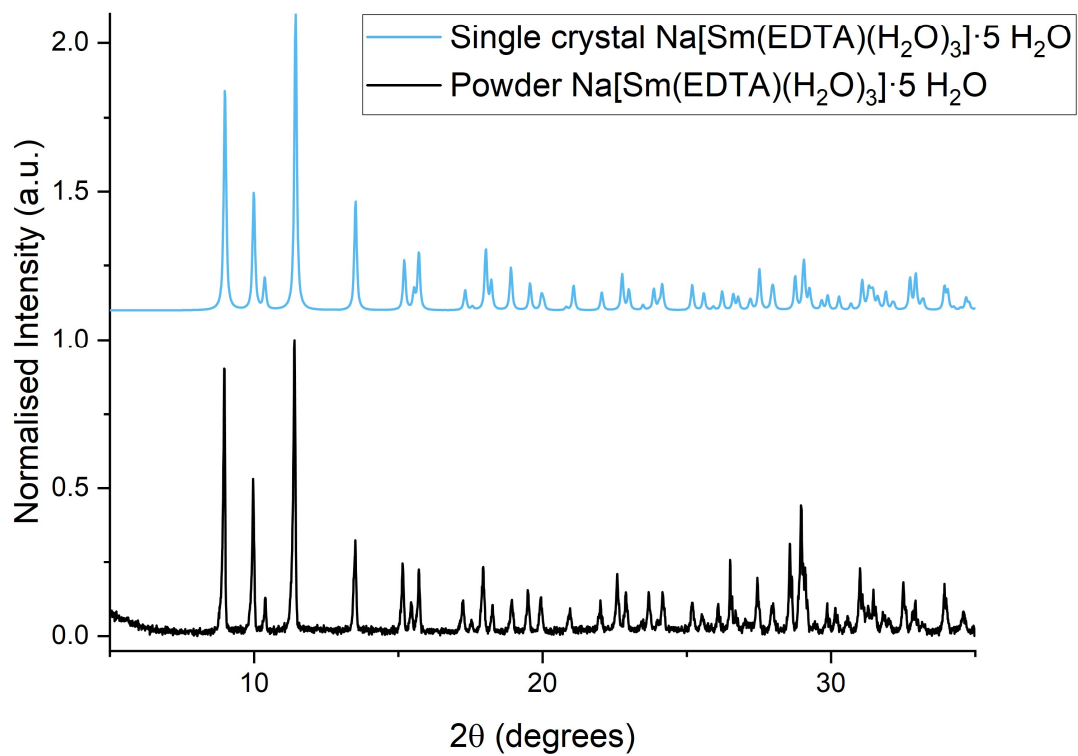
**Figure S 20:** PXRD for  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The black diffractogram is recorded for the powder made from crystals crushed to a powder. The light blue diffractogram is simulated from the structure determined for the single crystal.

### 3.2.2 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O PXRD



**Figure S 21:** PXRD for Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. The black diffractogram is recorded for the powder made from crystals crushed to a powder. The light blue diffractogram is simulated from the structure determined for the single crystal.

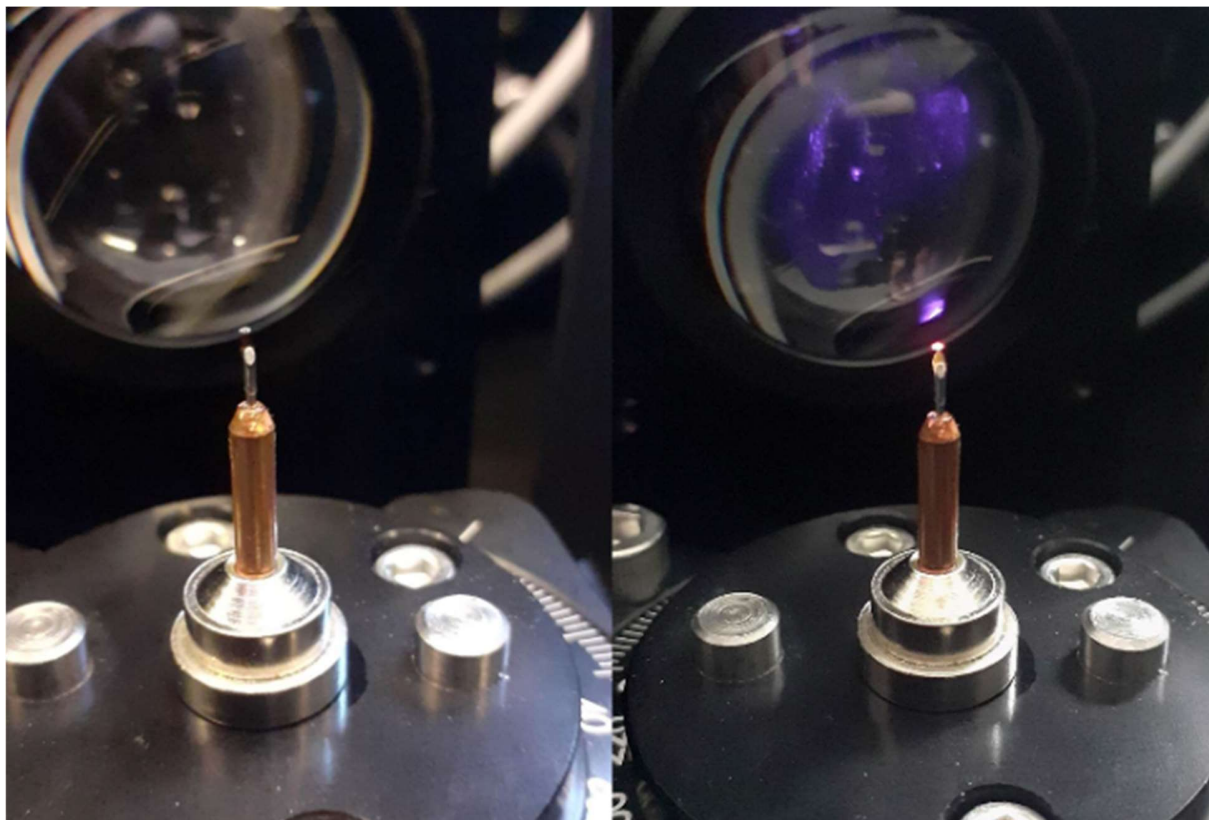
### 3.2.3 Na[Sm(EDTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·5H<sub>2</sub>O PXRD



**Figure S 22:** PXRD for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. The black diffractogram is recorded for the powder made from crystals crushed to a powder. The light blue diffractogram is simulated from the structure determined for the single crystal.

## 4 Spectroscopy Data

### 4.1 Experimental Setup for Solid State Single Crystal Luminescence



**Figure S 23:** Solid-state single crystal emission setup using a crystal mounting loop. Emission was measured at 293 K. The picture shows a  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  crystal. The picture to the right show excitation at 394 nm.



## 4.2 Spectroscopy Data for Eu<sup>3+</sup> Compounds

### 4.2.1 Luminescence Lifetimes for Eu<sup>3+</sup> Compounds

**Table S 14:** Luminescence lifetimes of the Eu<sup>3+</sup> complexes for crystals ground to a powder in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

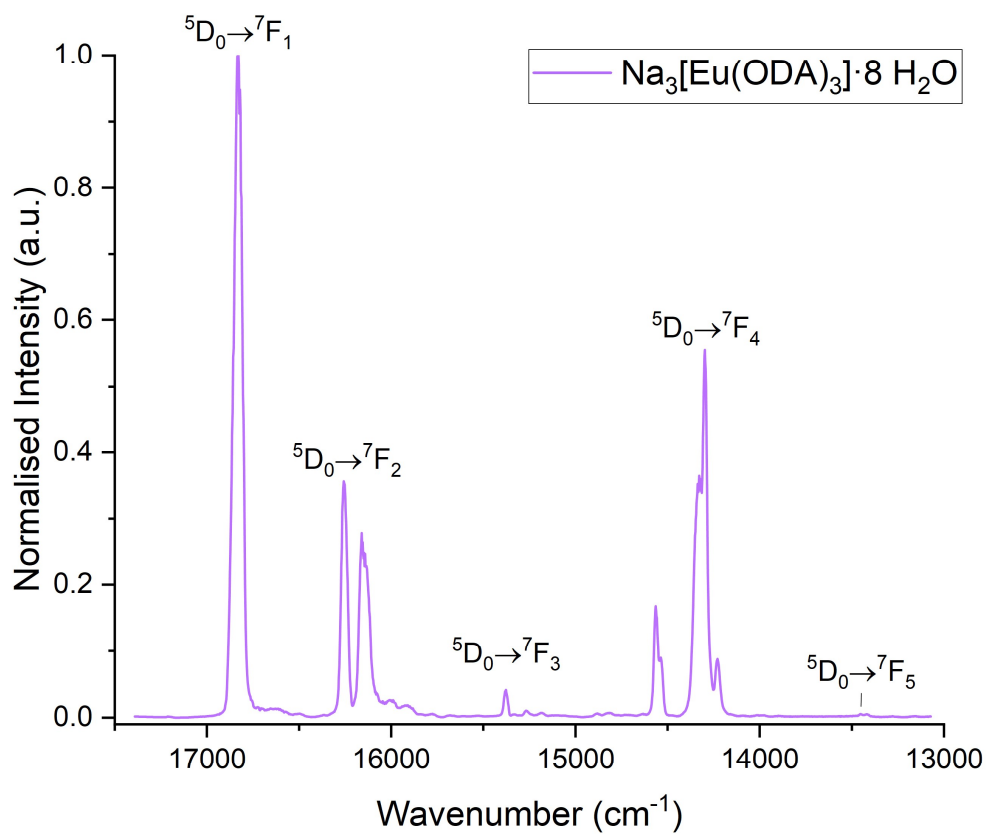
Complex	$\tau_{obs}$ ( $\mu$ s)
Na <sub>3</sub> [Eu(ODA) <sub>3</sub> ]·8H <sub>2</sub> O	2860.21
Cs <sub>3</sub> [Eu(DPA) <sub>3</sub> ]·9H <sub>2</sub> O	1697.99
Na[Eu(DOTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O)]·4H <sub>2</sub> O	731.06
Na[Eu(EDTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> ]·5H <sub>2</sub> O	364.10

**Table S 15:** Luminescence lifetimes of the Eu<sup>3+</sup> complexes for single crystals at 293 K.

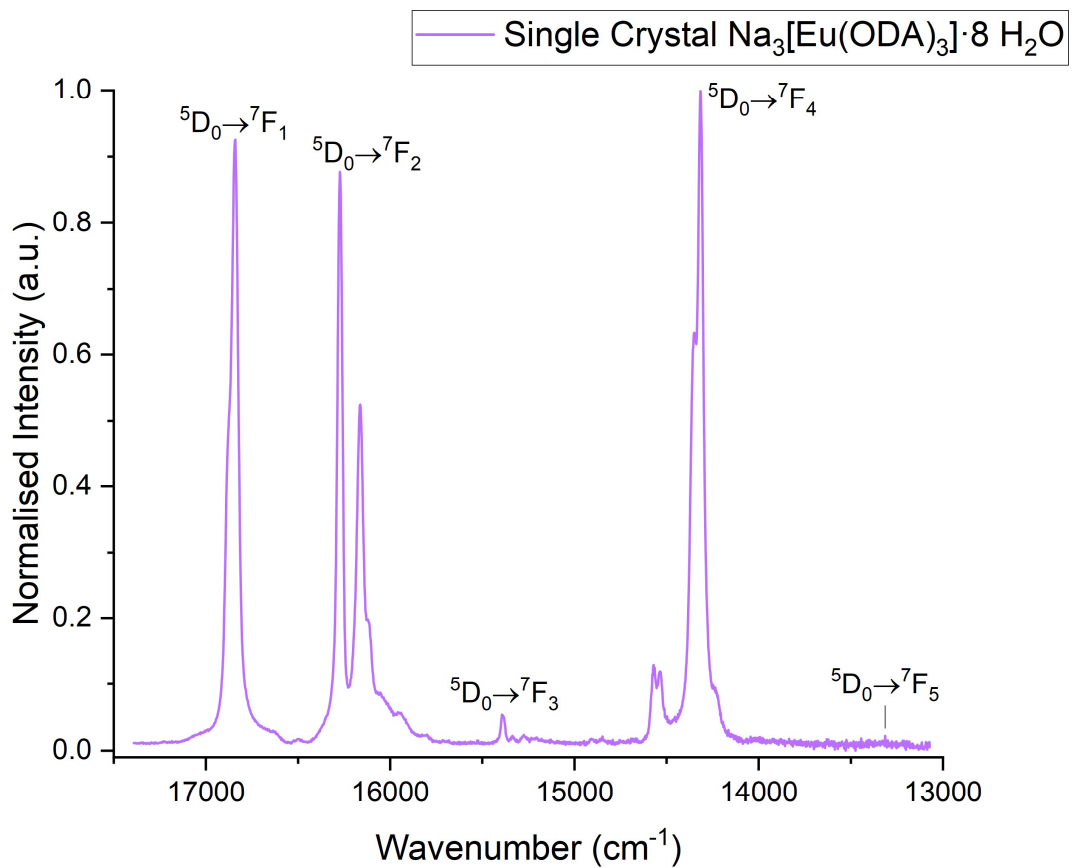
Complex	$\tau_{obs}$ ( $\mu$ s)
Na <sub>3</sub> [Eu(ODA) <sub>3</sub> ]·8H <sub>2</sub> O	1965.36
Cs <sub>3</sub> [Eu(DPA) <sub>3</sub> ]·9H <sub>2</sub> O	1415.91
Na[Eu(DOTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O)]·4H <sub>2</sub> O	748.44
Na[Eu(EDTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> ]·5H <sub>2</sub> O	355.38

## 4.2.2 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Spectra

### 4.2.2.1 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Emission Spectra

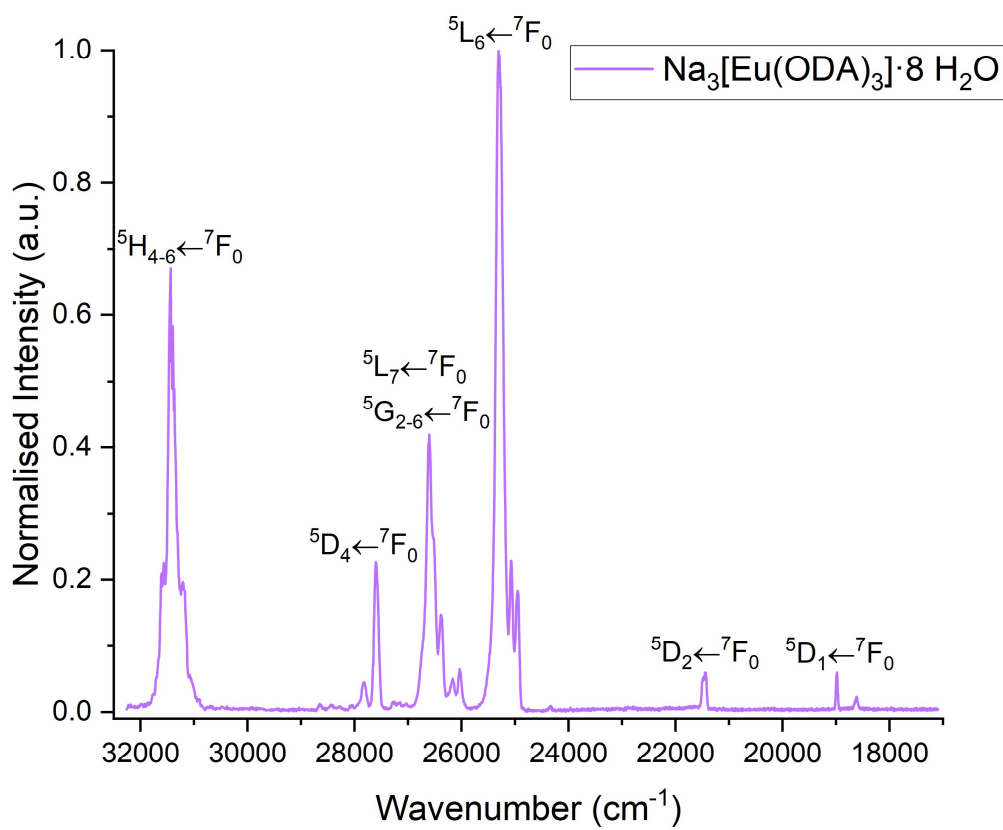


**Figure S 24:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.

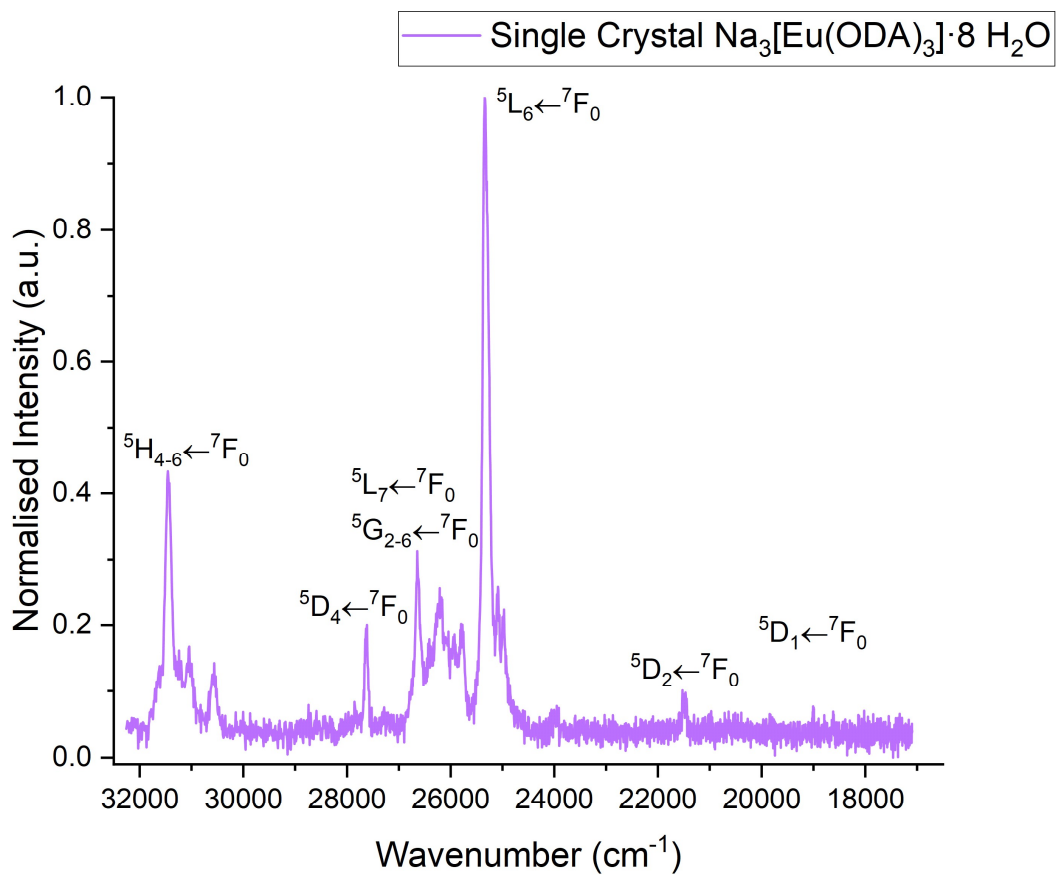


**Figure S 25:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for single crystal  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 293 K.

#### 4.2.2.2 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Excitation Spectra

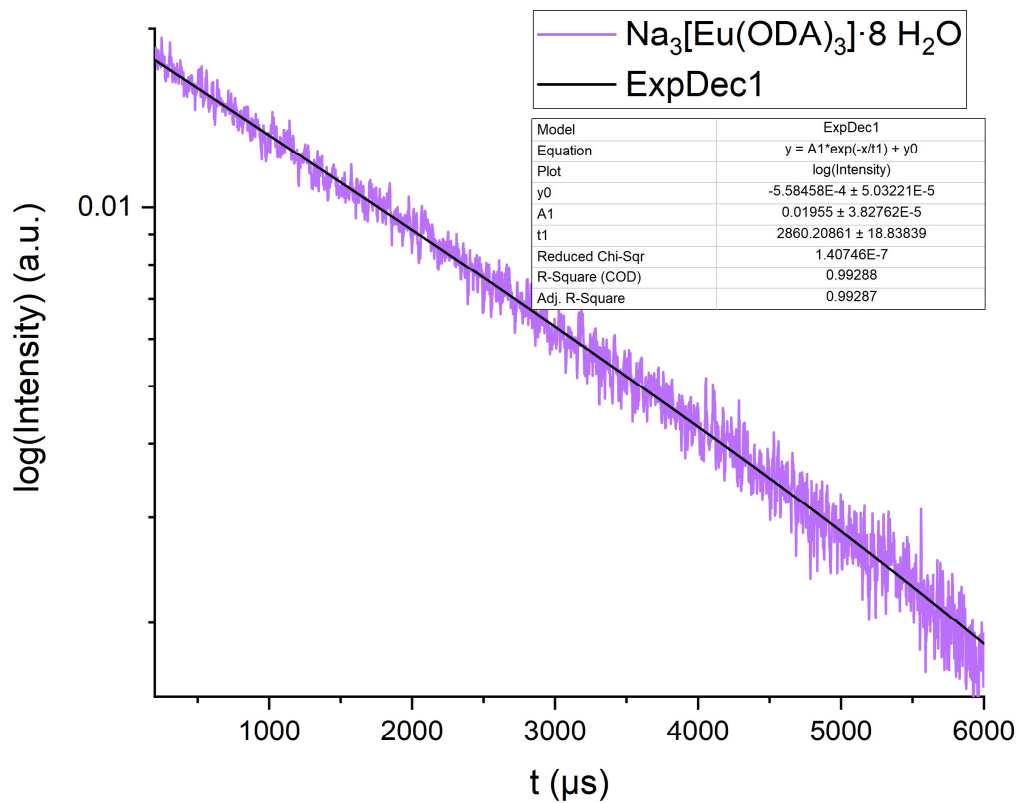


**Figure S 26:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.

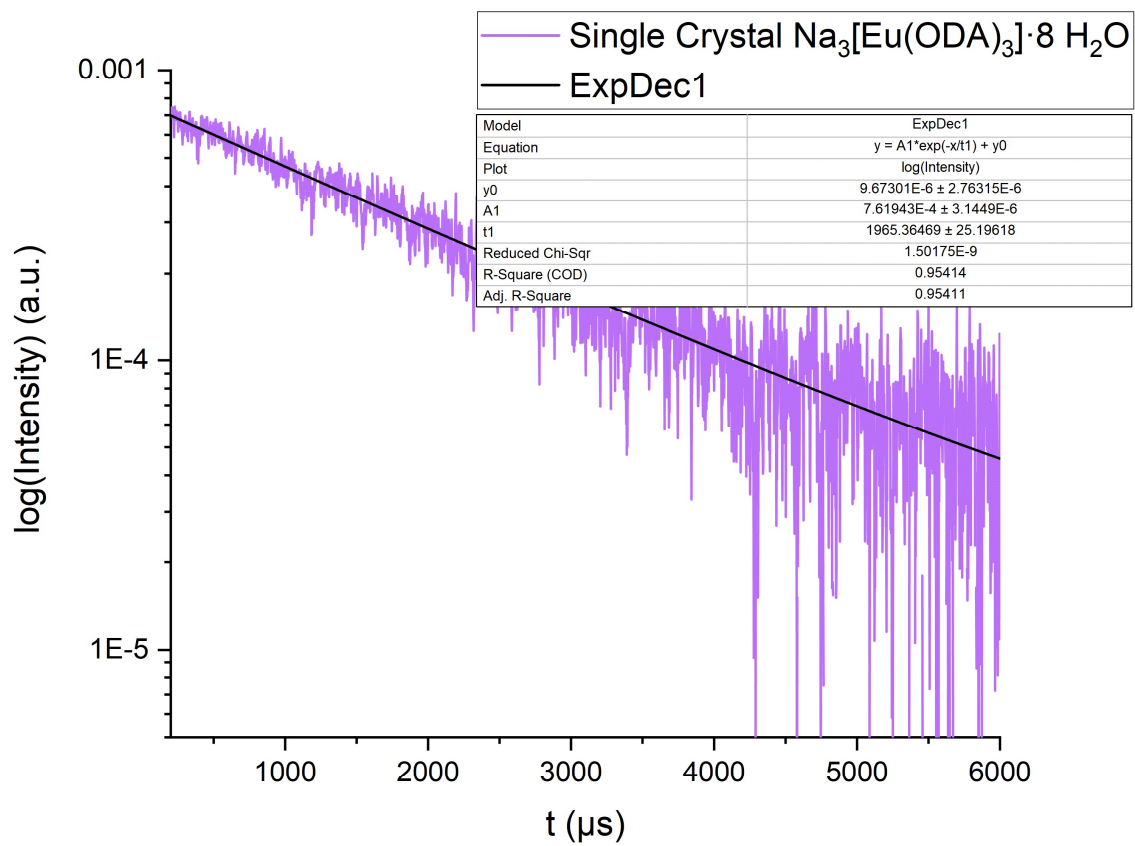


**Figure S 27:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for single crystal  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 293 K.

### 4.2.2.3 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Luminescence Lifetimes



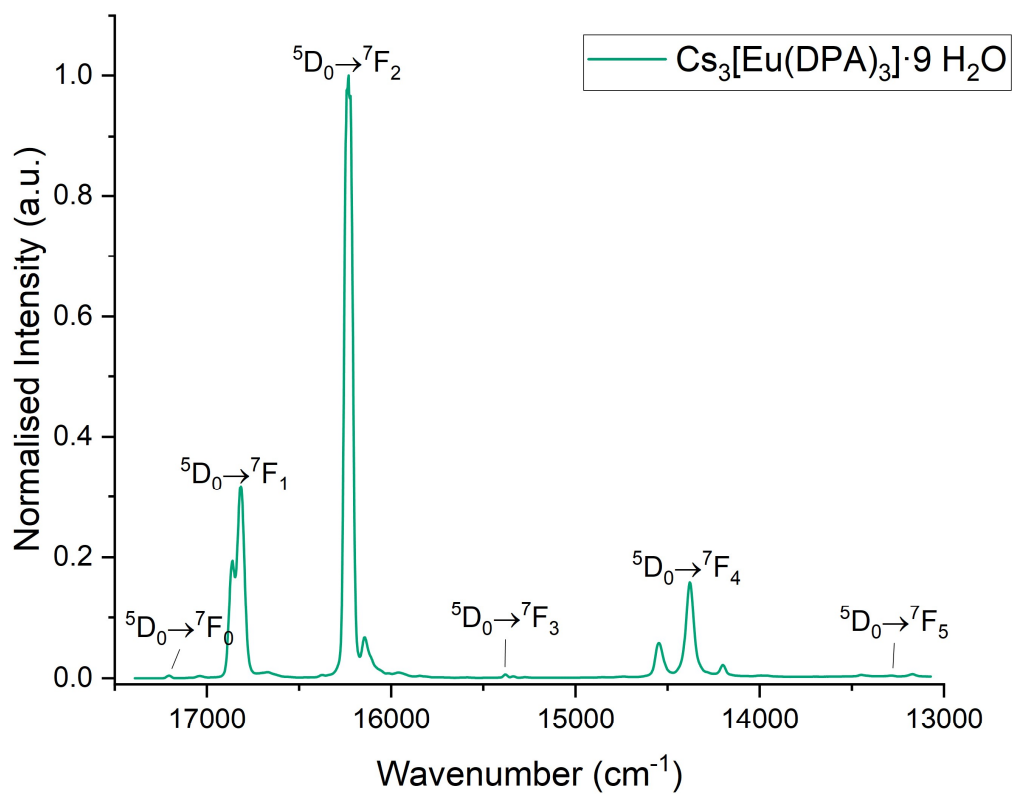
**Figure S 28:**  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.



**Figure S 29:**  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$  single crystal luminescence lifetime at 293 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.

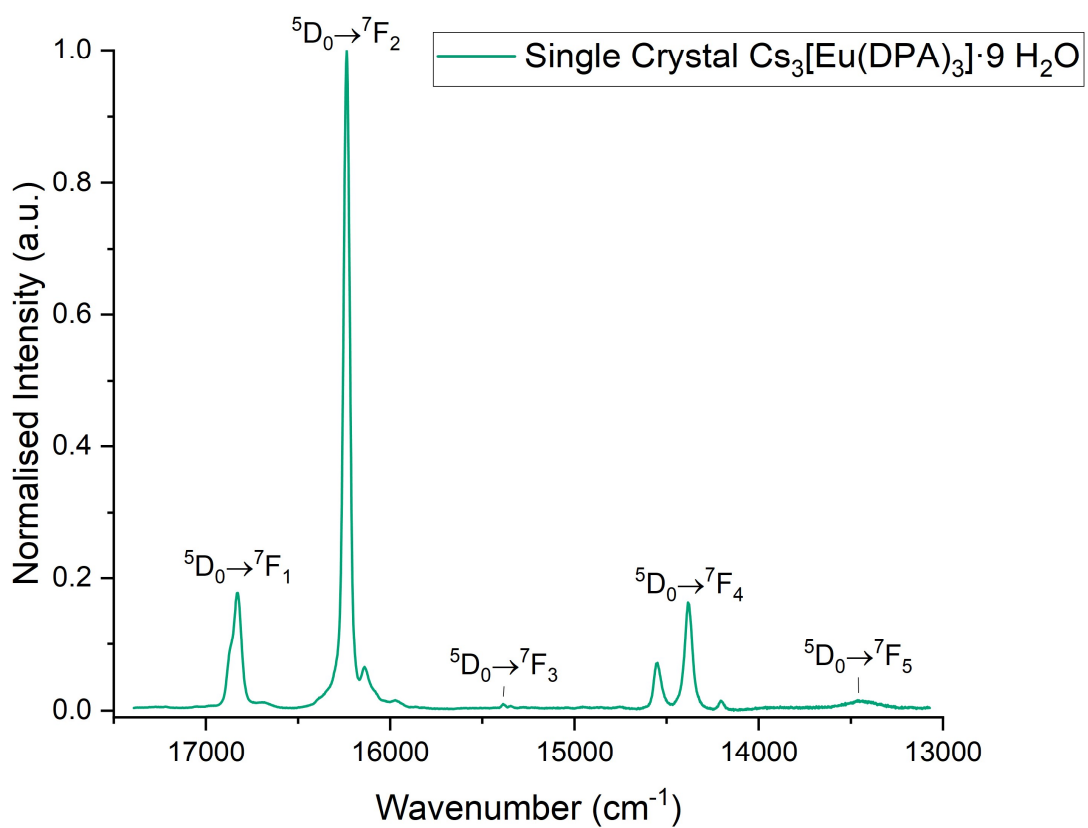
## 4.2.3 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Spectra

### 4.2.3.1 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Emission Spectra



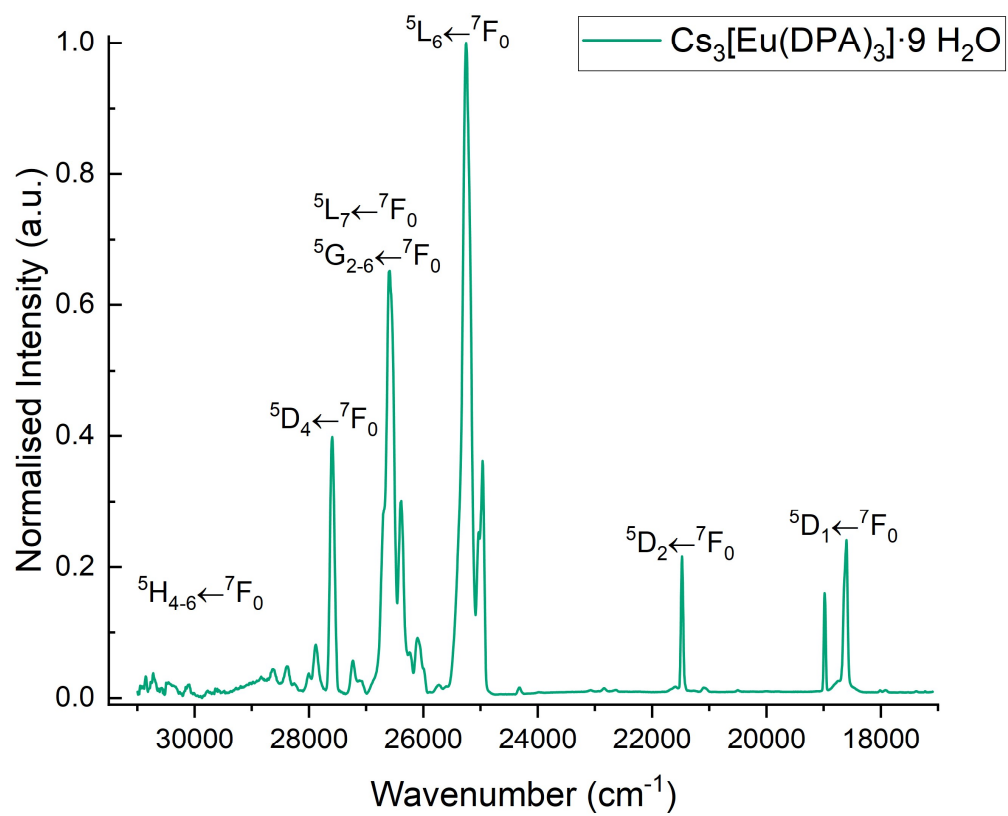
**Figure S 30:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.



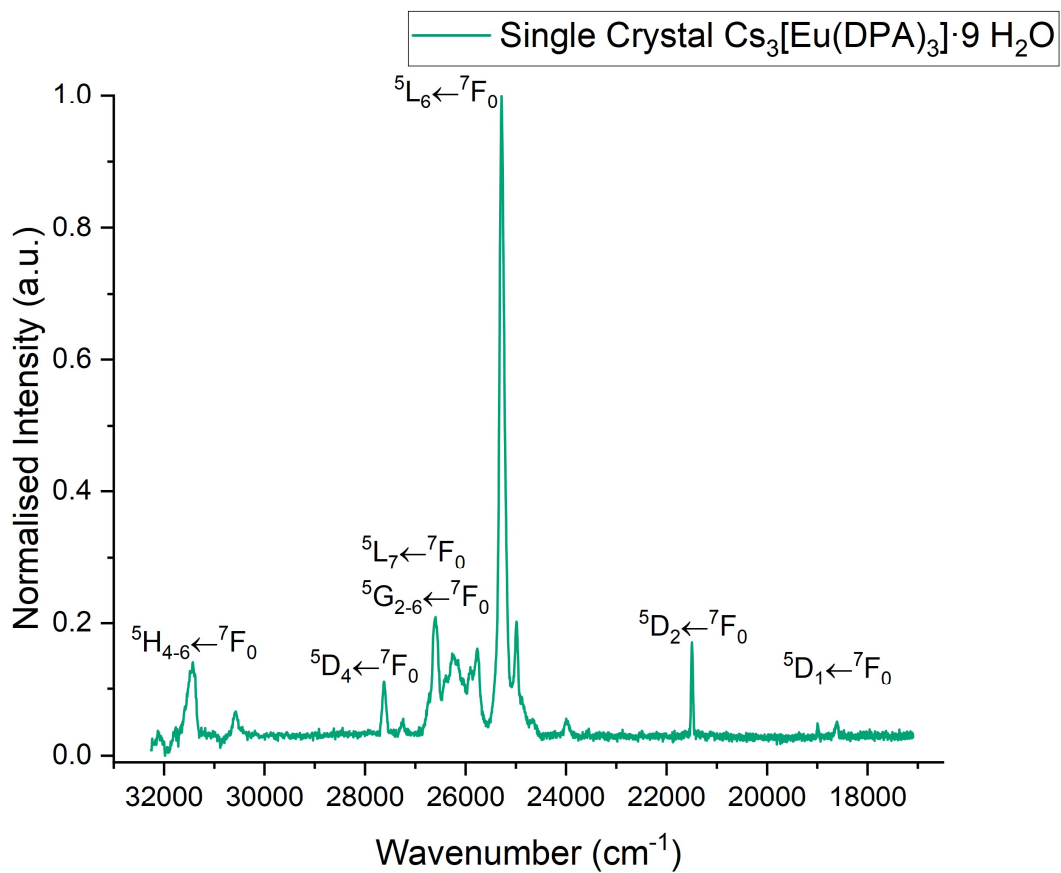


**Figure S 31:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for single crystal  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 293 K.

#### 4.2.3.2 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Excitation Spectra

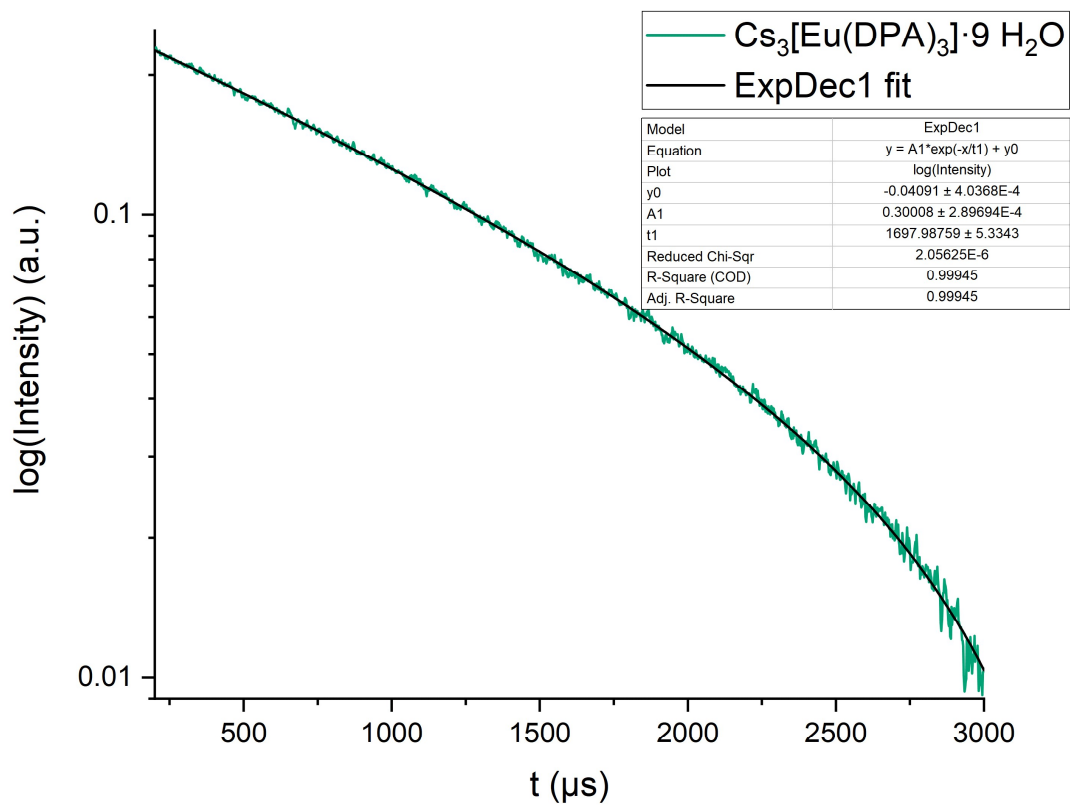


**Figure S 32:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.

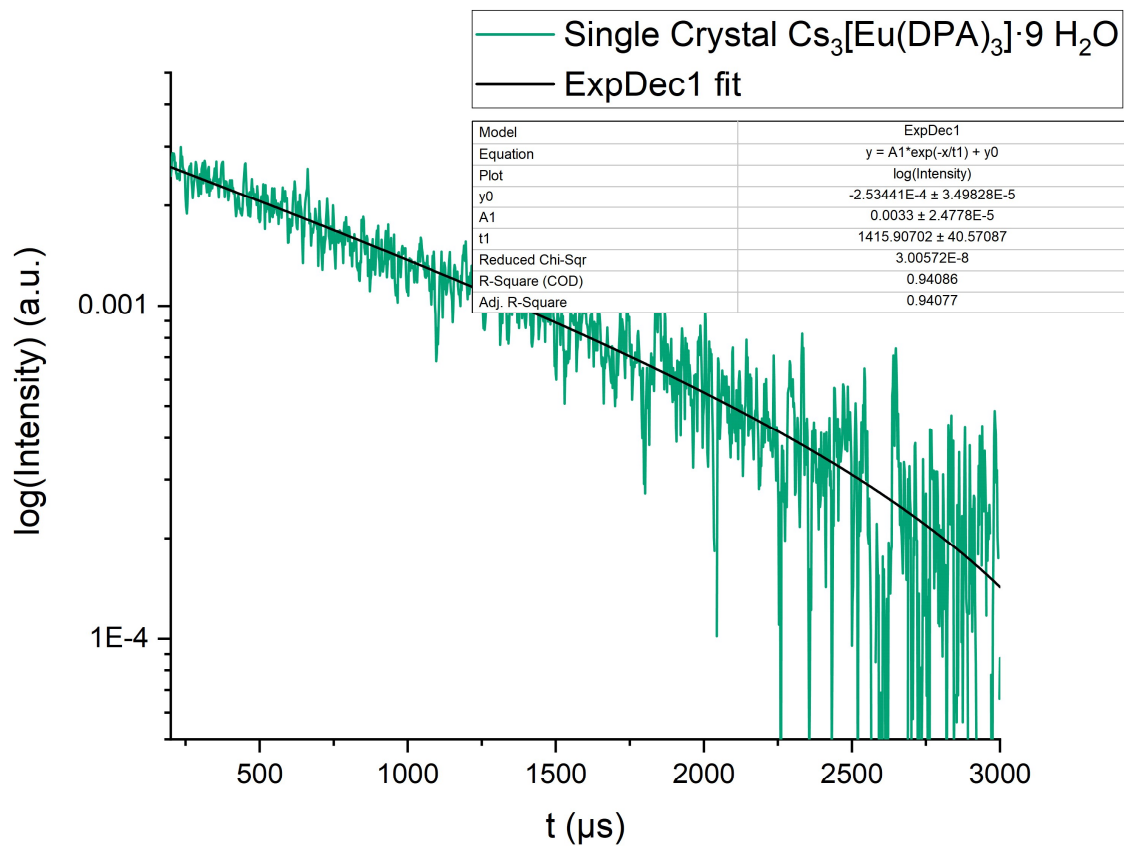


**Figure S 33:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for single crystal  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3]$  at 293 K.

### 4.2.3.3 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Luminescence Lifetimes



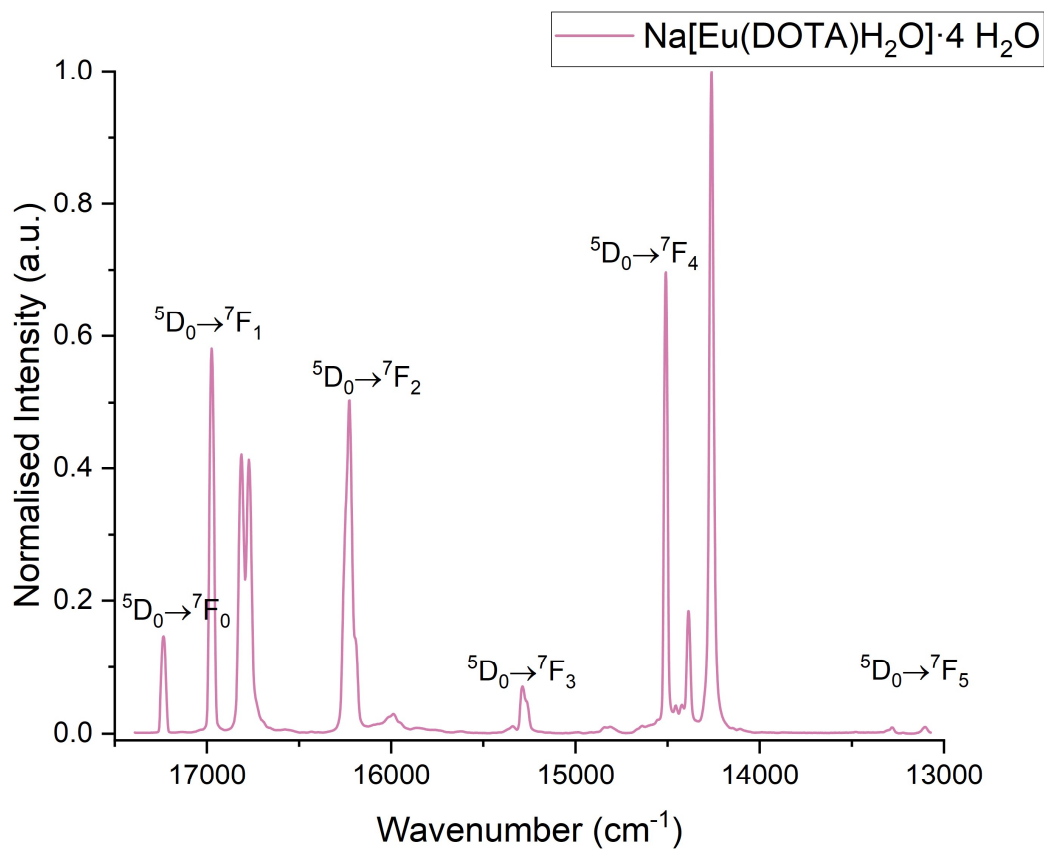
**Figure S 34:** Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.



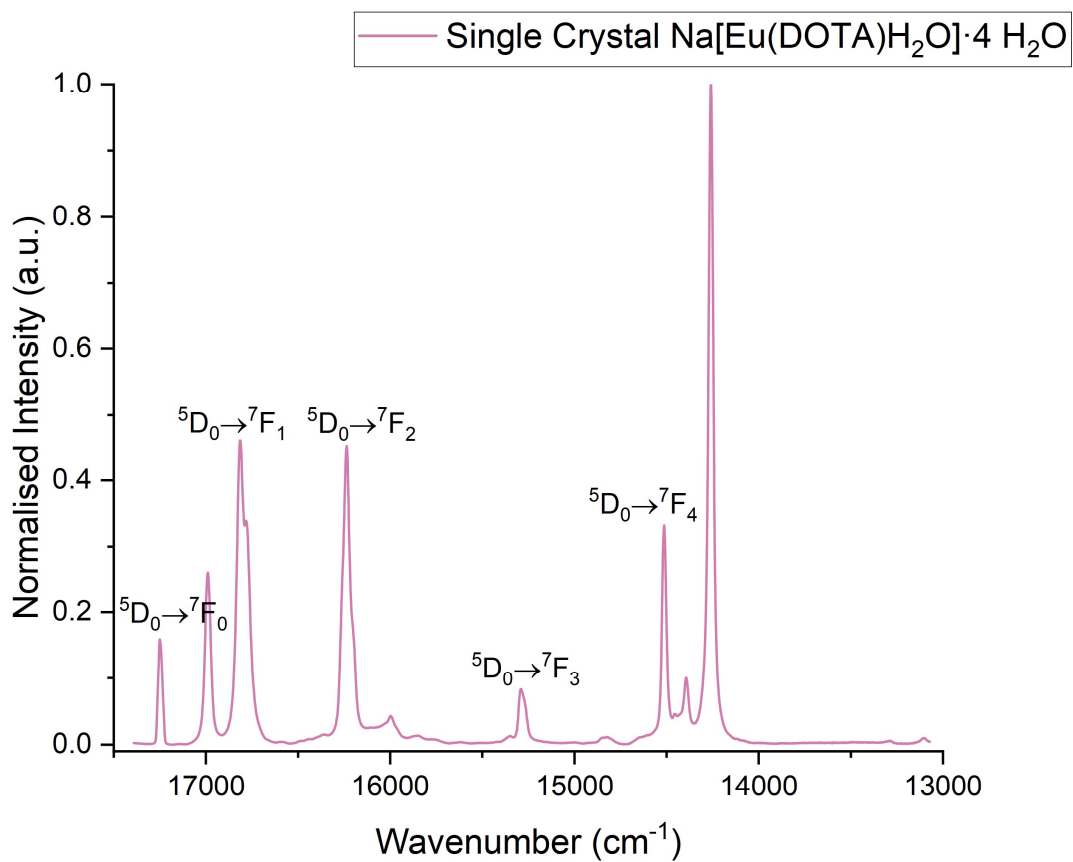
**Figure S 35:**  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Eu}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  single crystal luminescence lifetime at 293 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.

## 4.2.4 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Spectra

### 4.2.4.1 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Emission Spectra

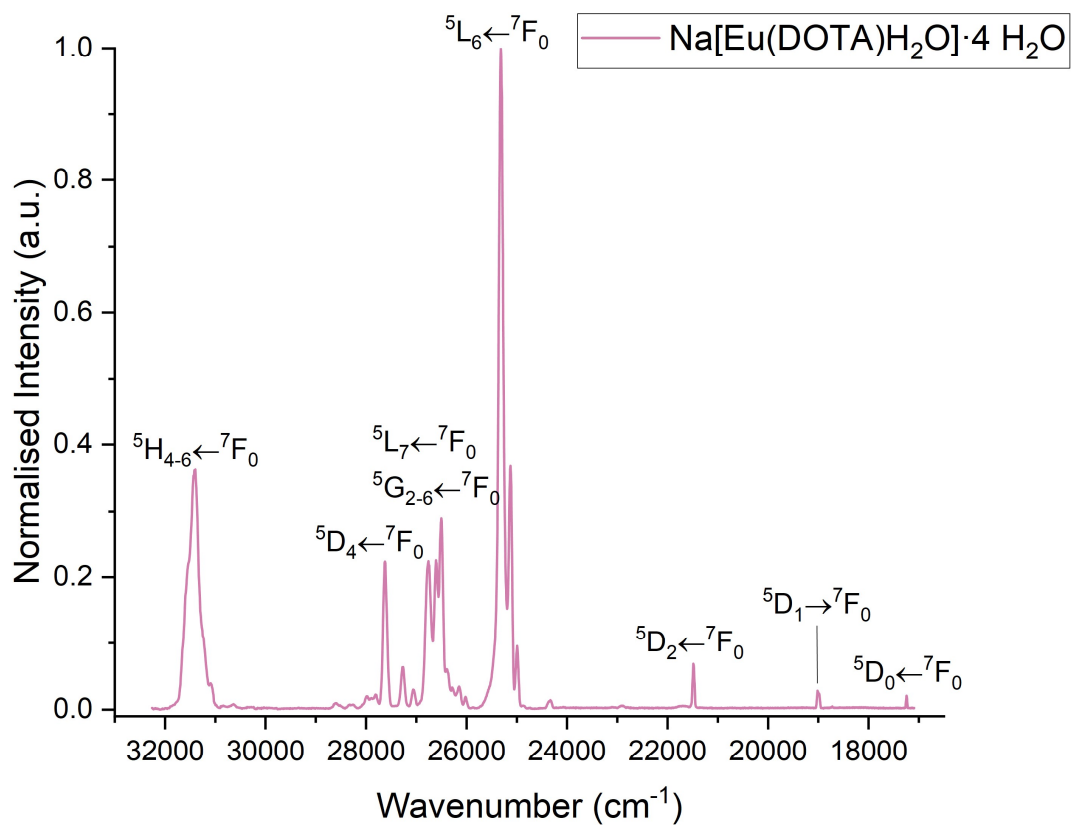


**Figure S 36:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.



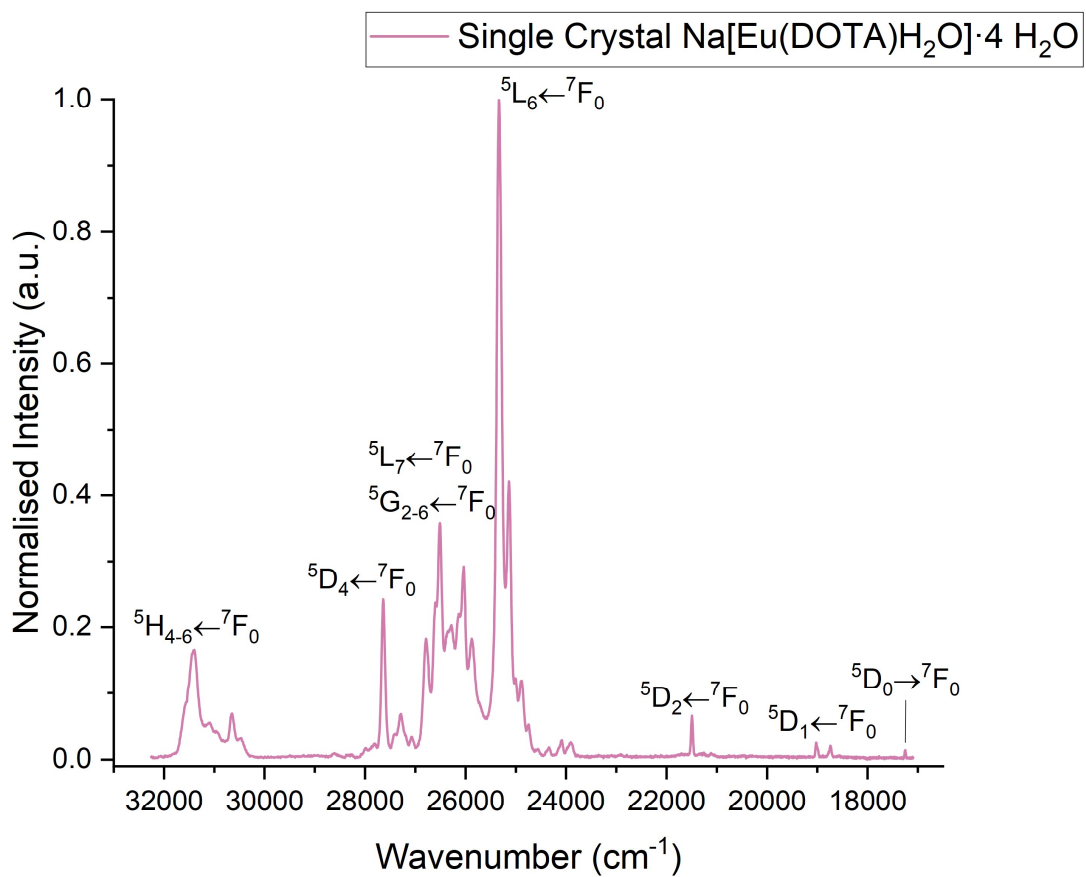
**Figure S 37:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for single crystal  $\text{Na}[\text{Eu}(\text{DOTA})\text{H}_2\text{O}] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at 293 K.

#### 4.2.5 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Excitation Spectra



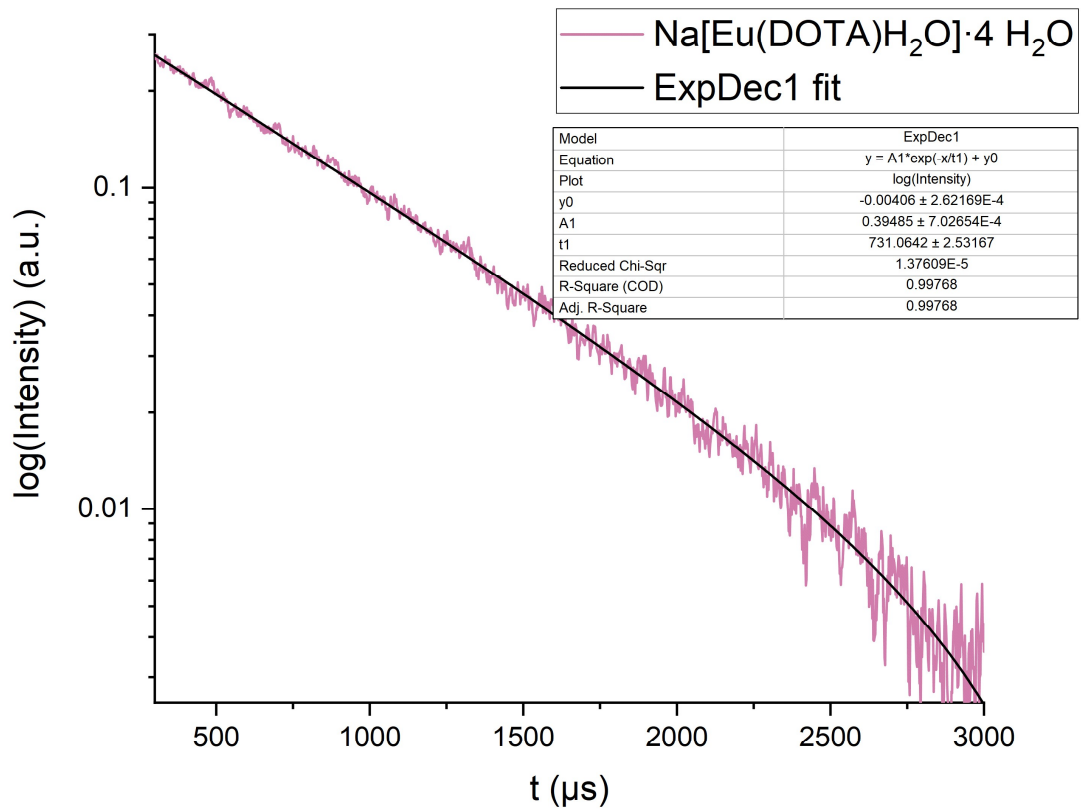
**Figure S 38:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.



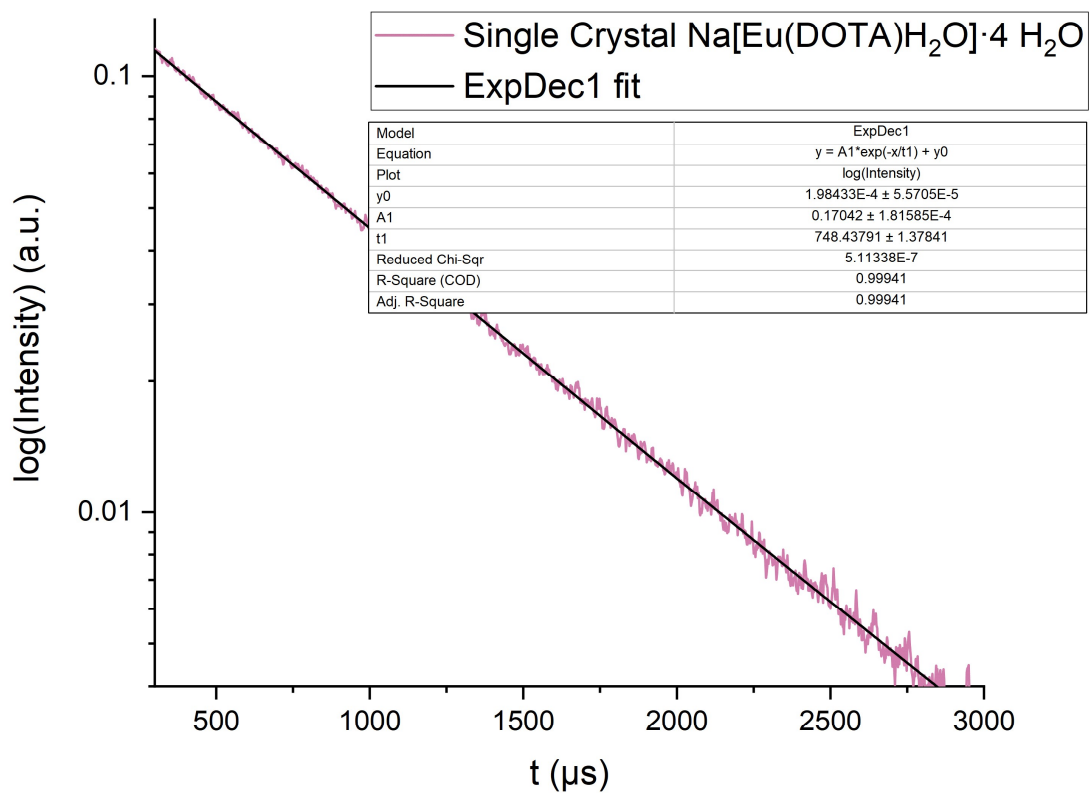


**Figure S 39:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for single crystal Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O at 293 K.

#### 4.2.5.1 Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Luminescence Lifetimes



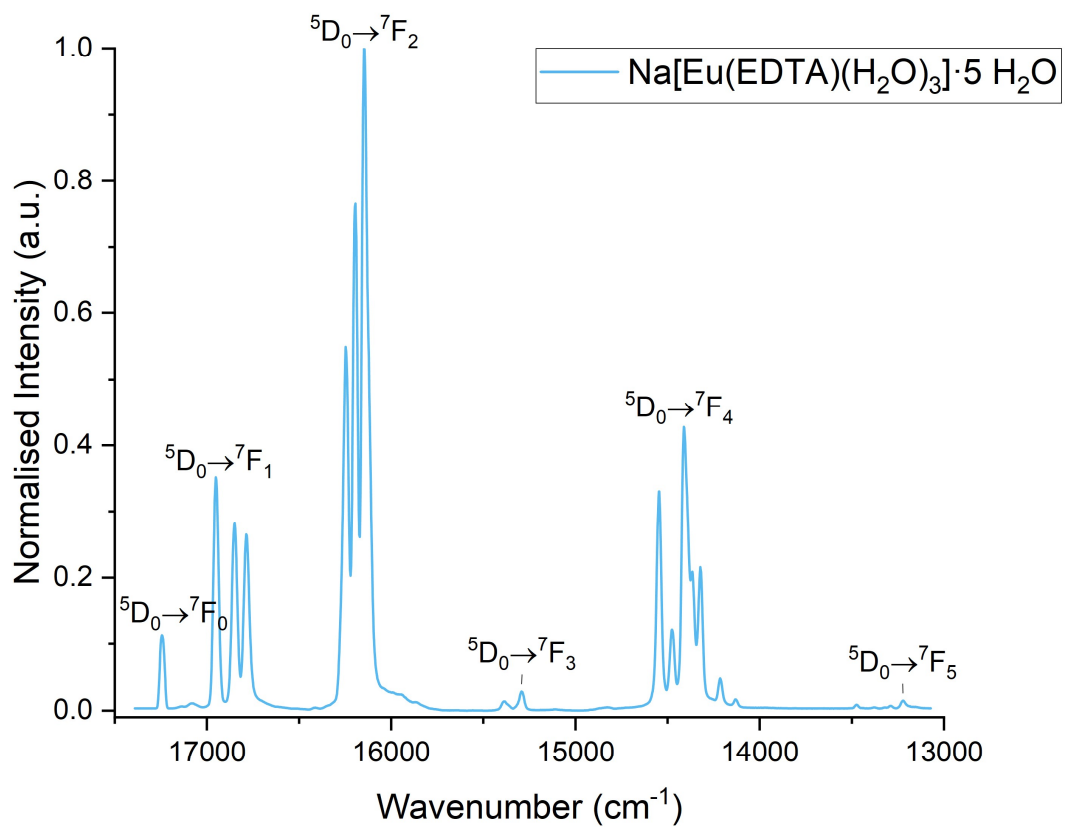
**Figure S 40:** Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.



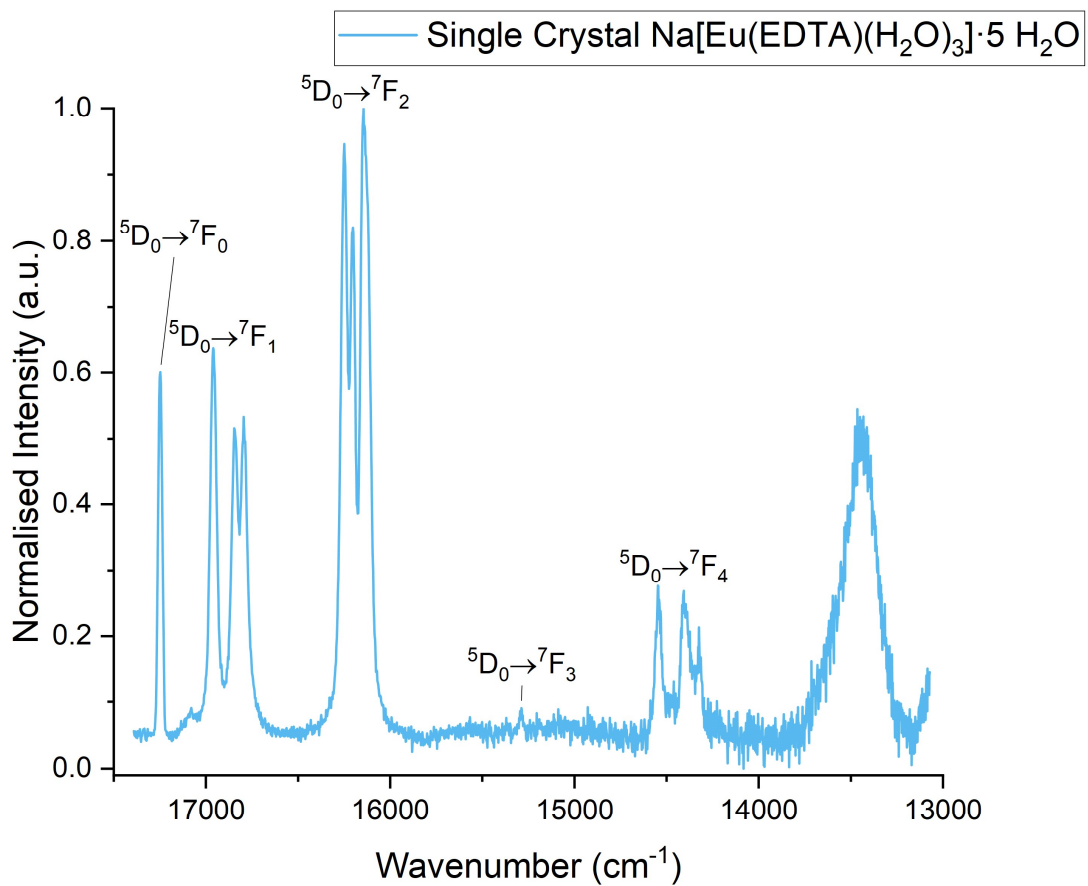
**Figure S 41:** Na[Eu(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O single crystal luminescence lifetime at 293 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.

## 4.2.6 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Spectra

### 4.2.6.1 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Emission Spectra

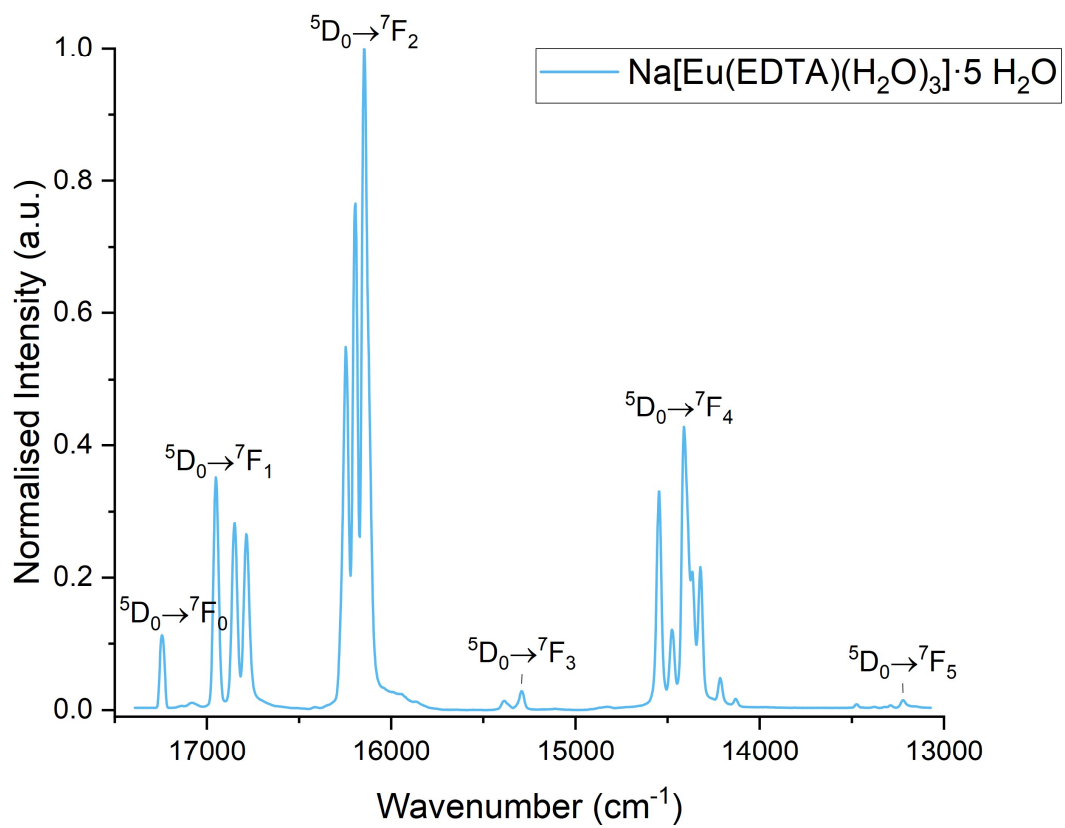


**Figure S 42:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.

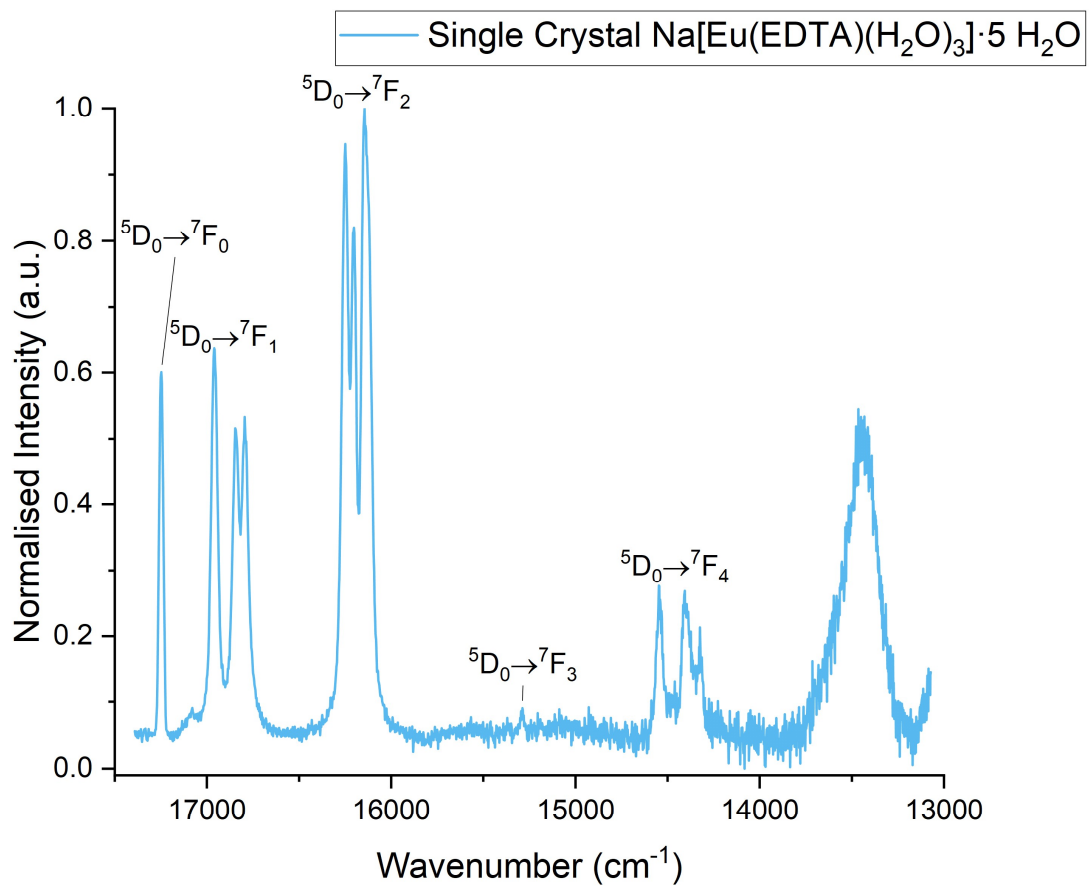


**Figure S 43:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 394 nm) for single crystal Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O at 293 K.

#### 4.2.6.2 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Excitation Spectra

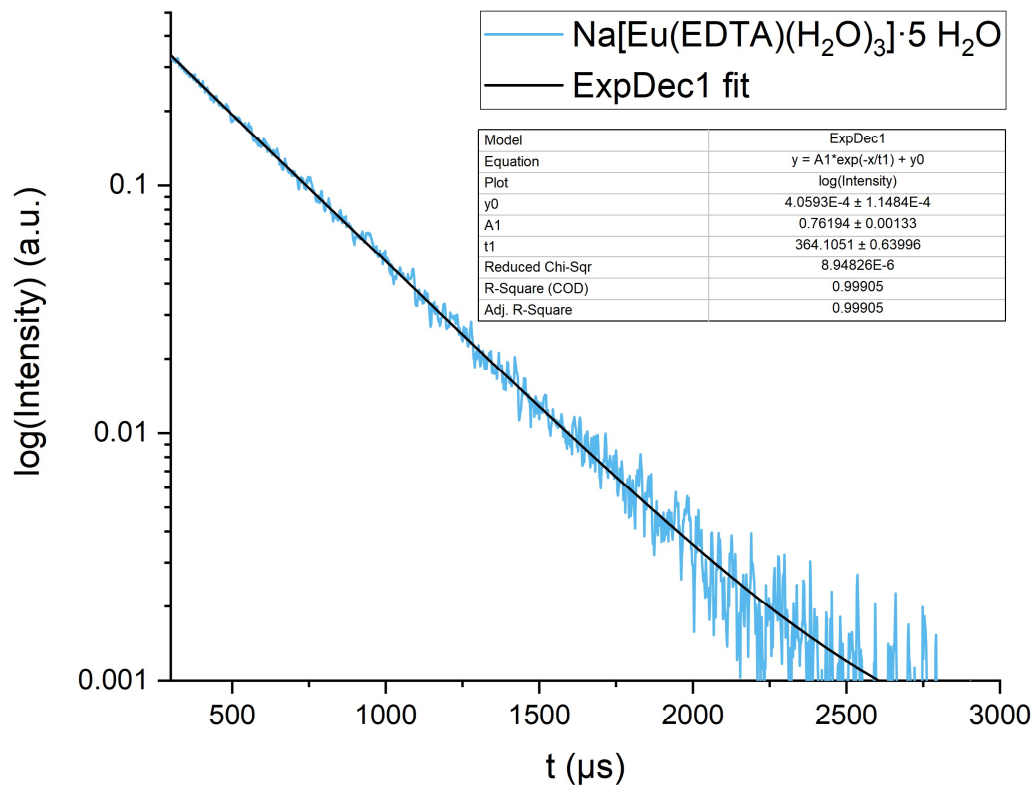


**Figure S 44:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyl tetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K.



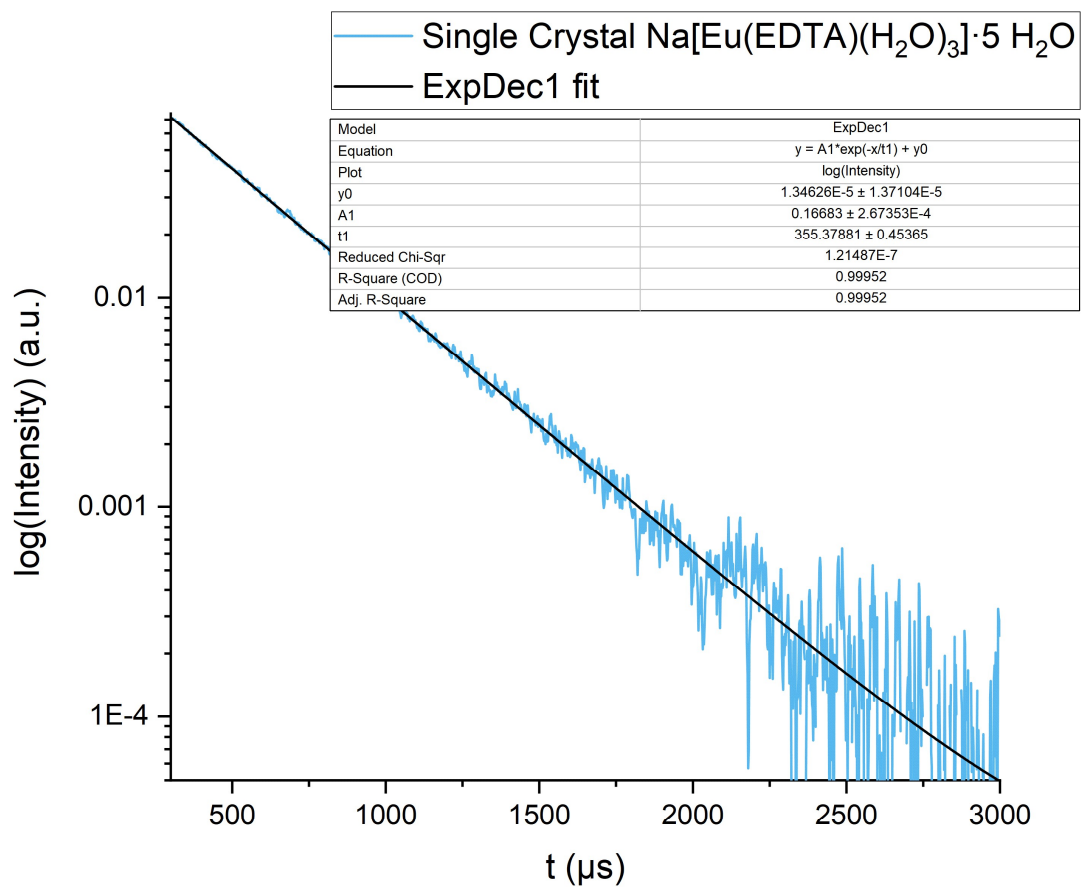
**Figure S 45:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 614 nm) for single crystal Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O at 293 K.

#### 4.2.6.3 Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Luminescence Lifetimes



**Figure S 46:** Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran glass at 77 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.





**Figure S 47:** Na[Eu(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>] $\cdot$ 5H<sub>2</sub>O single crystal luminescence lifetime at 293 K. Fitted using OriginPro's ExpDec1 function.

### 4.3 Spectroscopy Data for Sm<sup>3+</sup> Compounds

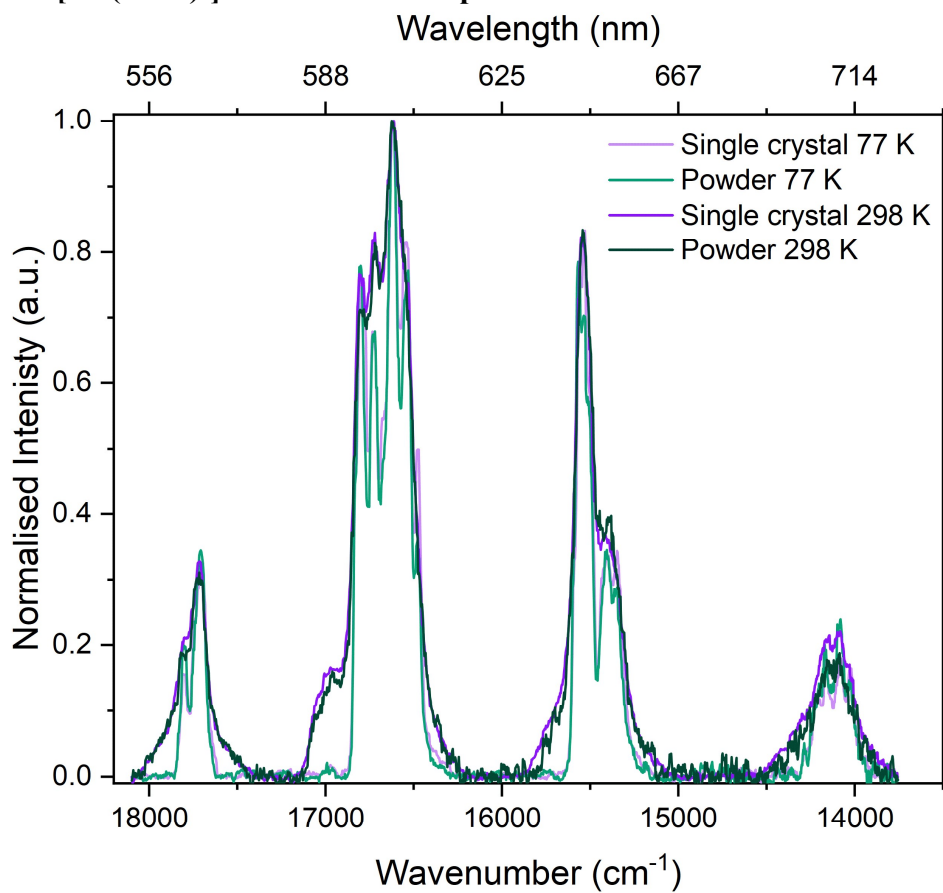
#### 4.3.1 Luminescence Lifetimes for Sm<sup>3+</sup> Compounds

**Table S 16:** Luminescence lifetimes of the Sm<sup>3+</sup> complexes for crystals ground to a powder in 2-methyl tetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

Complex	$\tau_{obs}$ ( $\mu$ s)
Na <sub>3</sub> [Sm(ODA) <sub>3</sub> ]·7H <sub>2</sub> O	35.14
Cs <sub>3</sub> [Sm(DPA) <sub>3</sub> ]·9H <sub>2</sub> O	42.24
Na[Sm(DOTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O)]·4H <sub>2</sub> O	10.88
Na[Sm(EDTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> ]·5H <sub>2</sub> O	7.63

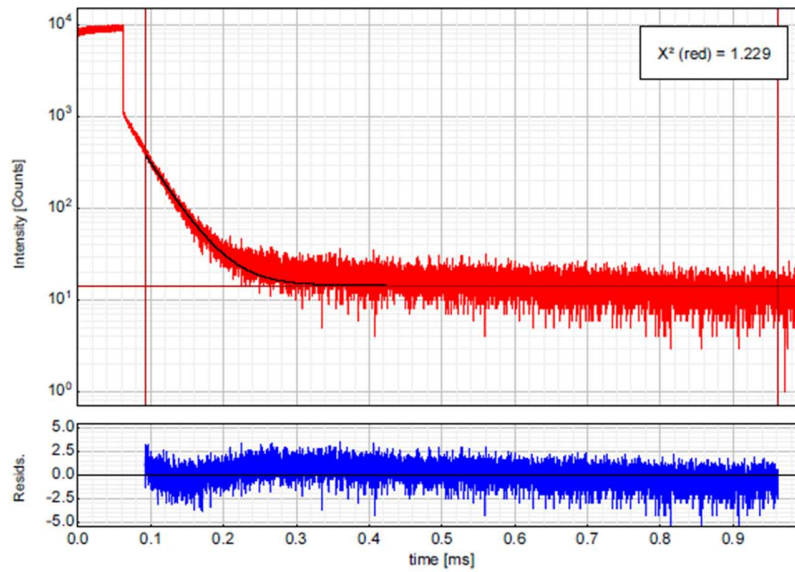
## 4.3.2 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Spectra

### 4.3.2.1 $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Emission Spectra



**Figure S 48:** Normalised emission (excitation at 463 nm) for single crystal and powder  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , at 77 K and 298 K.

### 4.3.2.2 Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O Luminescence Lifetime



$$I(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_i}}$$

Parameter	Value	Conf. Lower	Conf. Upper	Conf. Estimation
A <sub>1</sub> [Cnts]	377.0	-18.2	+18.2	Fitting
τ <sub>1</sub> [ms]	0.03514	-0.00150	+0.00150	Fitting
Bkgr. Dec [Cnts]	14.420	-0.760	+0.760	Fitting

Average Lifetime:

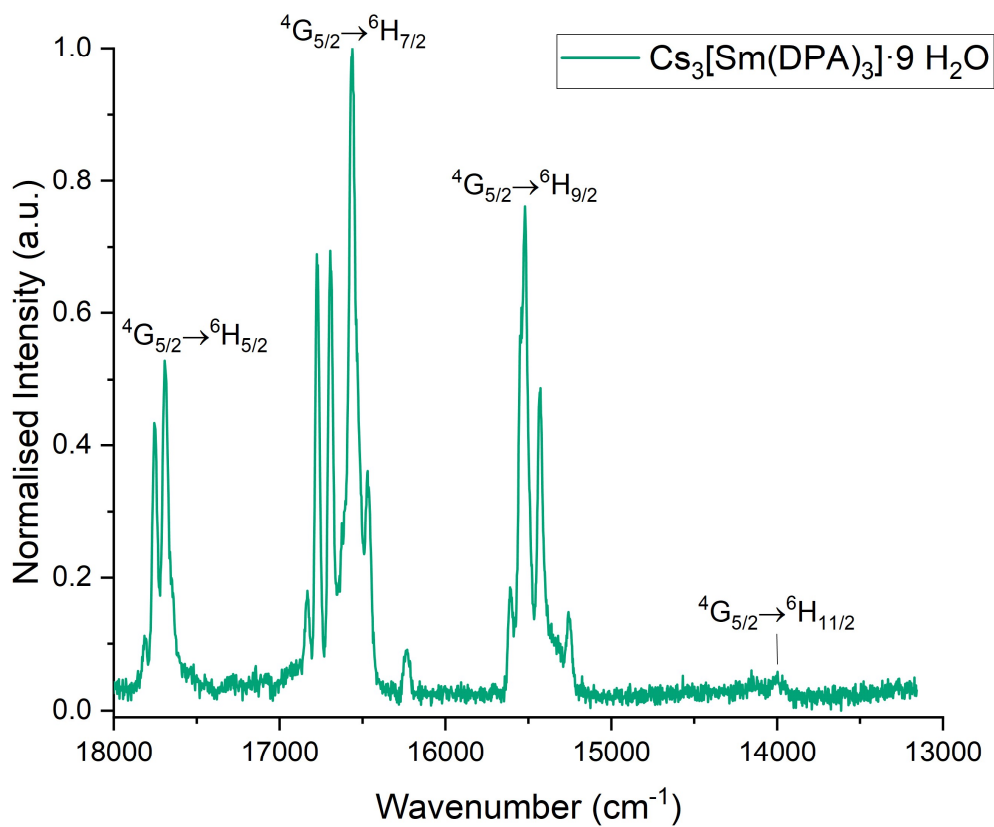
τ<sub>Av.1</sub> = 0.03514 ms (intensity weighted)

τ<sub>Av.2</sub> = 0.03514 ms (amplitude weighted)

**Figure S 49:** Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K. Fitted using the PicoQuant FluoFit software.

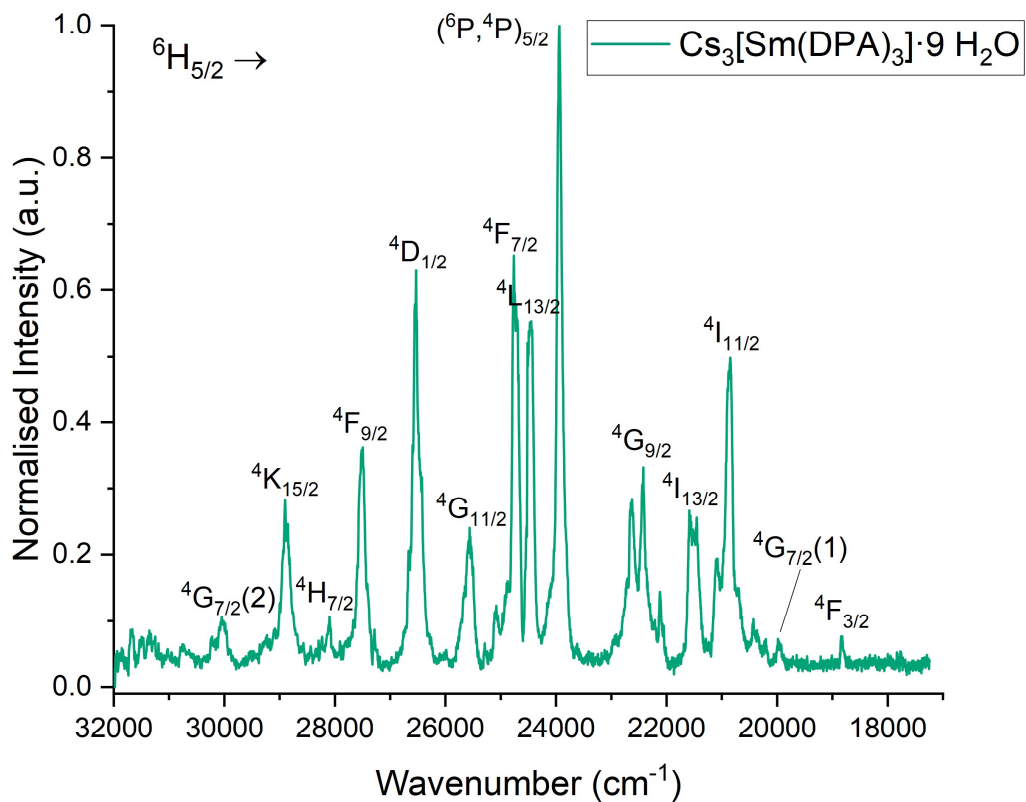
### 4.3.3 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Spectra

#### 4.3.3.1 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Emission Spectrum



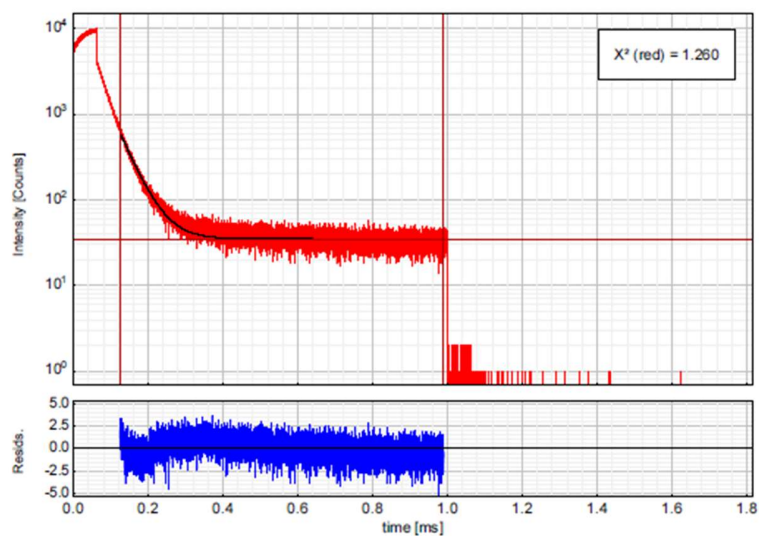
**Figure S 50:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 401 nm) for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

### 4.3.3.2 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Excitation Spectrum



**Figure S 51:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 598 nm) for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

### 4.3.3.3 Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O Luminescence Lifetime



$$I(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_i}}$$

Parameter	Value	Conf. Lower	Conf. Upper	Conf. Estimation
A <sub>1</sub> [Cnts]	581.4	-21.4	+21.4	Fitting
τ <sub>1</sub> [ms]	0.04224	-0.00143	+0.00143	Fitting
Bkgr. Dec. [Cnts]	35.11	-1.16	+1.16	Fitting

Average Lifetime:

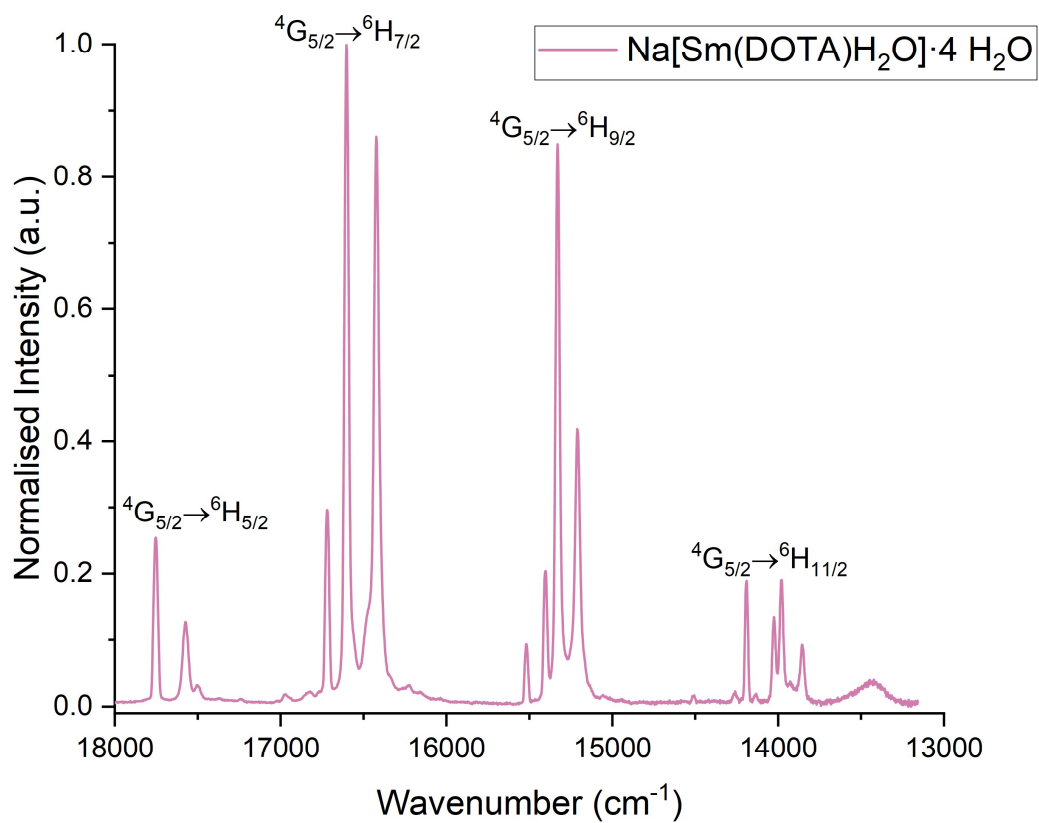
$$\tau_{Av,1} = 0.04224 \text{ ms (intensity weighted)}$$

$$\tau_{Av,2} = 0.04224 \text{ ms (amplitude weighted)}$$

**Figure S 52:** Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K. Fitted using the PicoQuant FluorFit software.

### 4.3.4 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Spectra

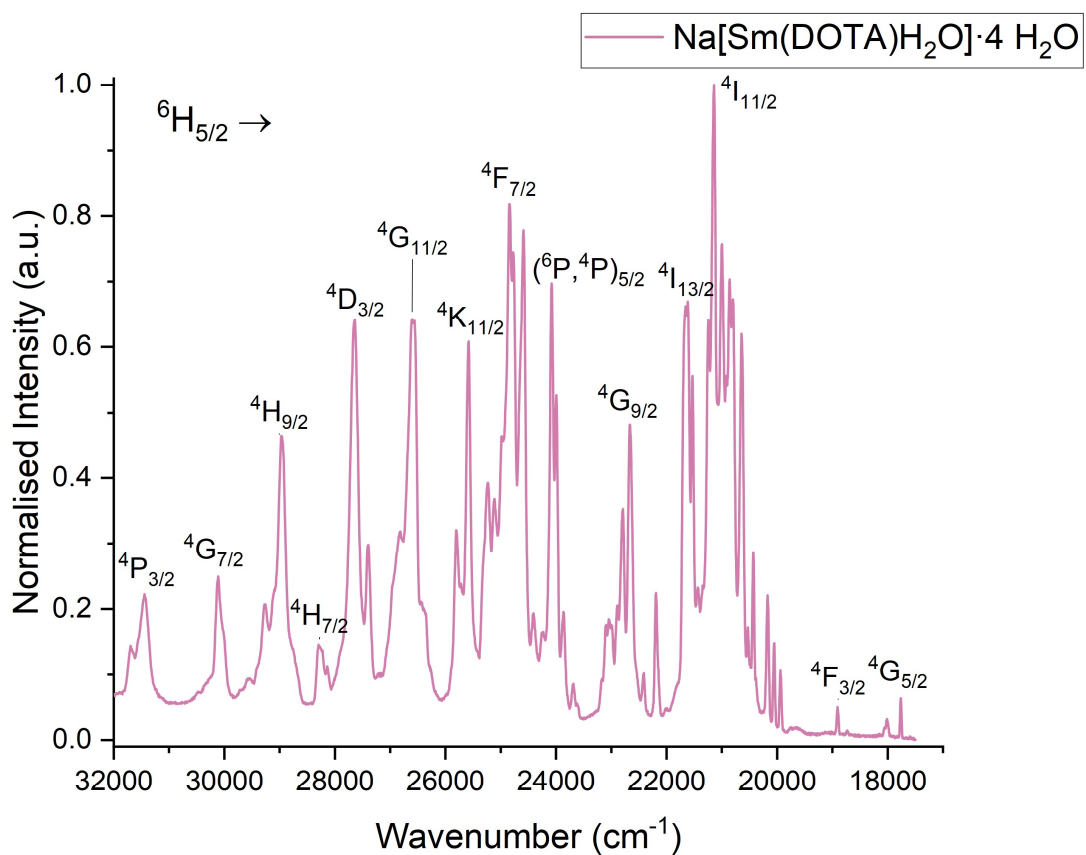
#### 4.3.4.1 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Emission Spectrum



**Figure S 53:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 401 nm) for Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

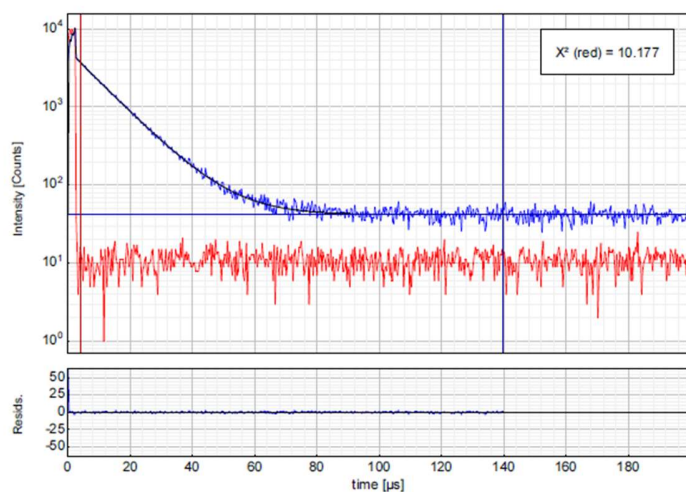


#### 4.3.4.2 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Excitation Spectrum



**Figure S 54:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 598 nm) for Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

#### 4.3.4.3 Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O Luminescence Lifetime



$$I(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t IRF(t') \sum_{i=1}^n A_i e^{-\frac{t-t'}{\tau_i}} dt'$$

Parameter	Value	Conf. Lower	Conf. Upper	Conf. Estimation
A <sub>1</sub> [Cnts]	5636	-157	+157	Fitting
τ <sub>1</sub> [μs]	10.876	-0.228	+0.228	Fitting
Bkgr. Dec [Cnts]	41.78	-4.18	+4.18	Fitting
Bkgr. IRF [Cnts]	-102	-114	+114	Fitting
Shift IRF [μs]	0.00183	-0.0302	+0.0302	Fitting
A <sub>Sat</sub> [Cnts]	46040	-2940	+2940	Fitting

Average Lifetime:

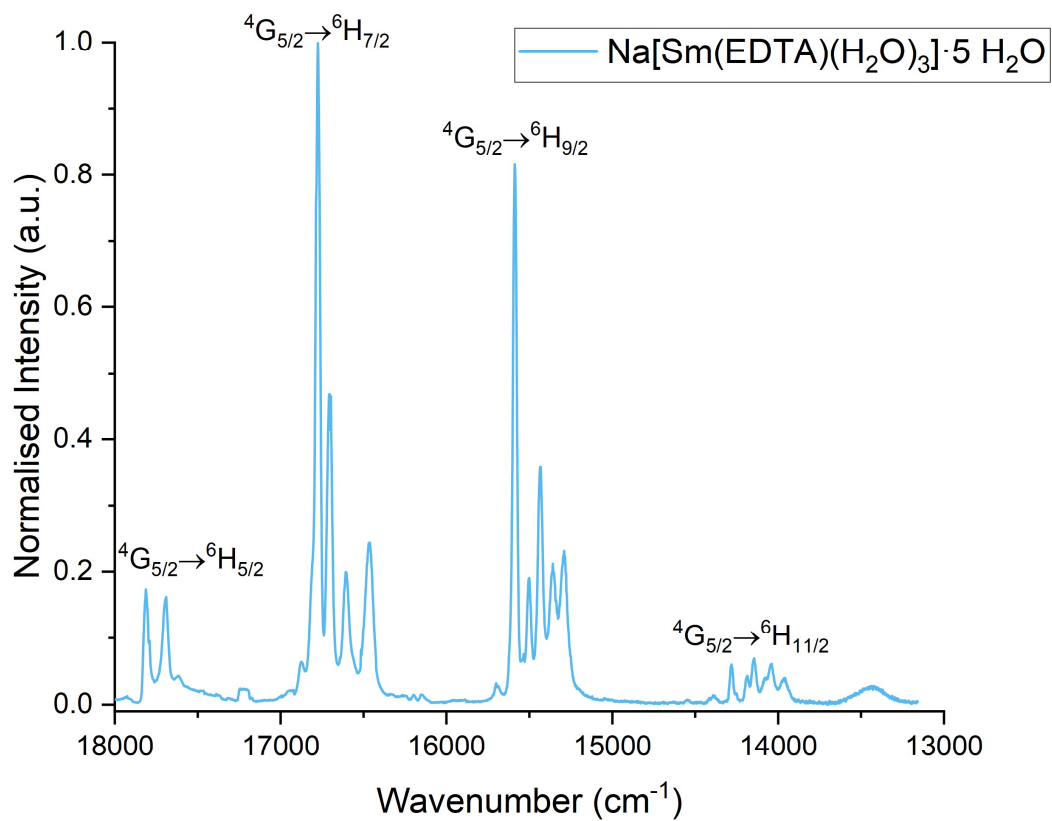
$$\tau_{Av,1} = 10.876 \mu\text{s (intensity weighted)}$$

$$\tau_{Av,2} = 10.876 \mu\text{s (amplitude weighted)}$$

**Figure S 55:** Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K. Fitted using the PicoQuant FluoFit software.

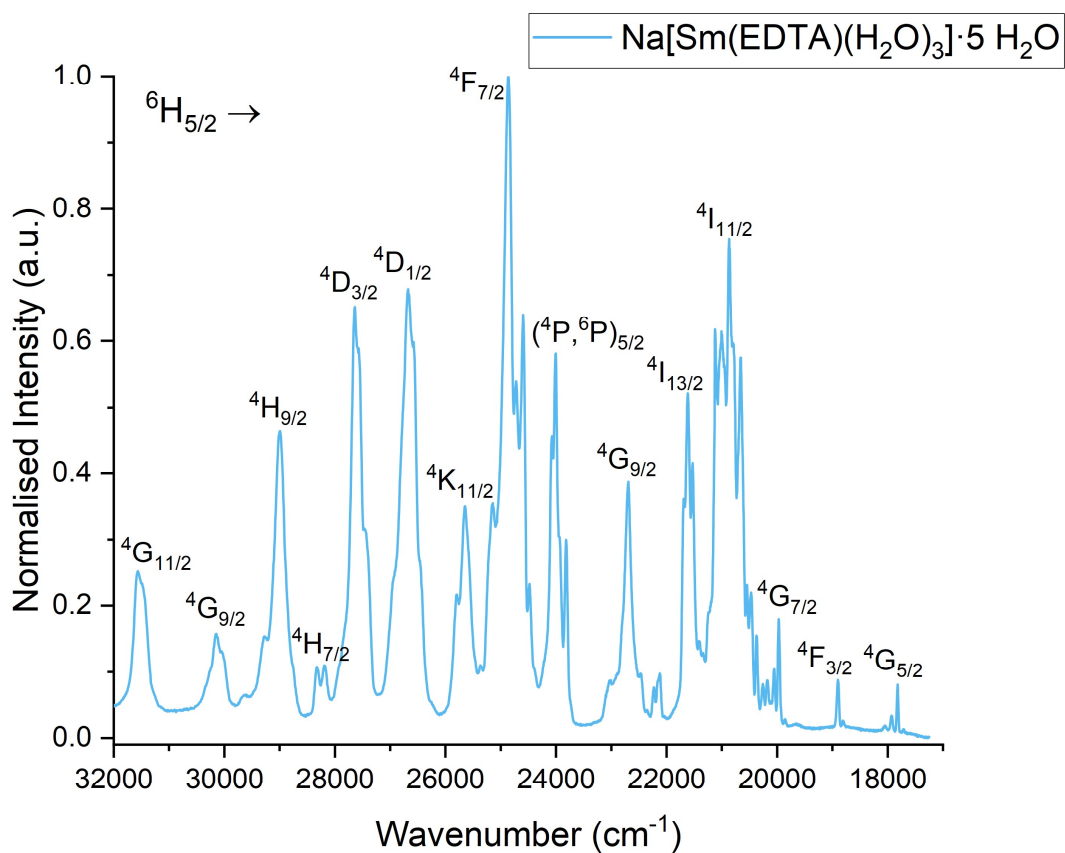
### 4.3.5 Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Spectra

#### 4.3.5.1 Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Emission Spectrum



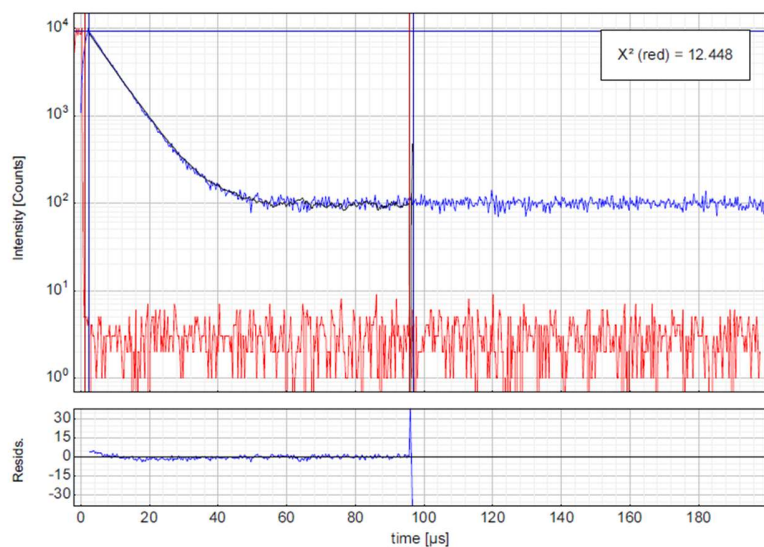
**Figure S 56:** Normalised emission spectrum (excitation at 401 nm) for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

#### 4.3.5.2 Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Excitation Spectrum



**Figure S 57:** Normalised excitation spectra (emission at 598 nm) for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K.

### 4.3.5.3 Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O Luminescence Lifetime



$$I(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t IRF(t') \sum_{i=1}^n A_i e^{-\frac{t-t'}{\tau_i}} dt'$$

Parameter	Value	Conf. Lower	Conf. Upper	Conf. Estimation
A <sub>1</sub> [Cnts]	-107035.5	-73.8	+73.8	Fitting
τ <sub>1</sub> [μs]	7.62527	-0.00521	+0.00521	Fitting
Bkgr. Dec. [Cnts]	9294.89	-6.84	+6.84	Fitting
Bkgr. IRF [Cnts]	-280.064	-0.211	+0.211	Fitting
Shift IRF [μs]	-1.861	-0.420	+0.420	Fitting
A <sub>Scat</sub> [Cnts]	199640	-1720	+1720	Fitting

Average Lifetime:

$$\tau_{Av,1} = 7.62527 \mu\text{s (intensity weighted)}$$

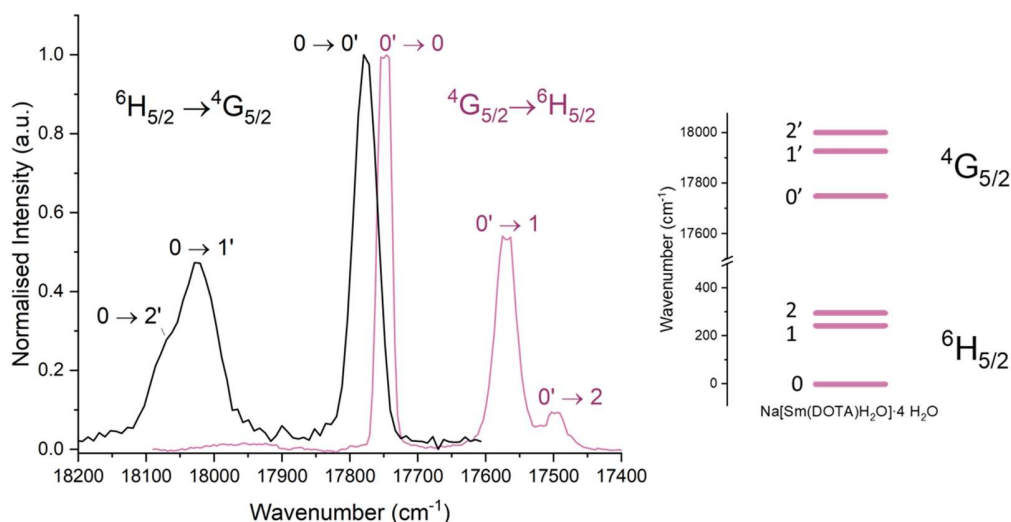
$$\tau_{Av,2} = 7.62527 \mu\text{s (amplitude weighted)}$$

**Figure S 58:** Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O luminescence lifetime in 2-methyltetrahydrofuran at 77 K. Fitted using the PicoQuant FluoFit software.

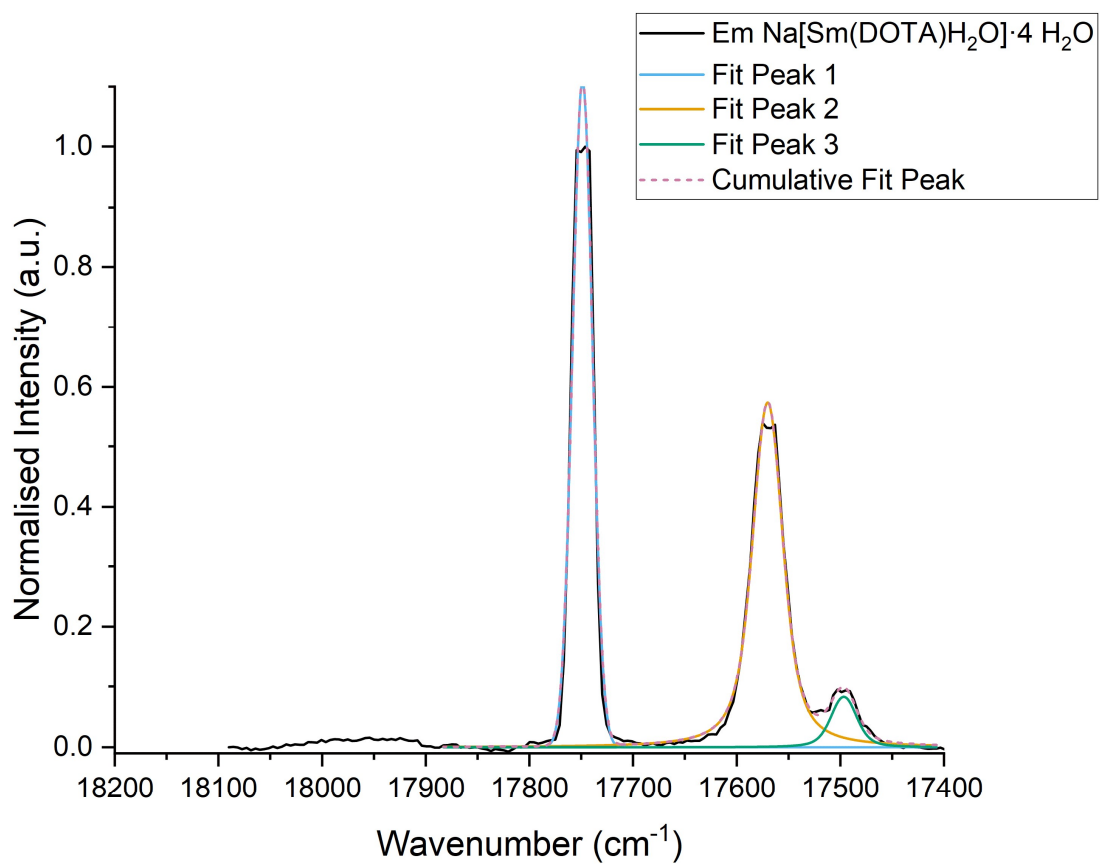
## 5 Deconvolution of the Electronic Energies using Voigt fitting and Boltzmann Population Analysis

### 5.1 Fits for Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O

In the case of Na[Sm(DOTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·4H<sub>2</sub>O three peaks were observed in both the emission and excitation spectra at 77 K. One of the peaks is observed in both emission and excitation. From this we unambiguously resolve the energy levels in both <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> and <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub> as is seen in Figure S58. The spectra are fitted in Figure S59 and S60 and the fit values provided in Table S17 and SX18.



**Figure S59:** Results for Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O. Left: Normalised powdered emission (excitation at 463 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub> → <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> band. Normalised powdered excitation (emission scan from 520 nm to 580 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub> ← <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> band. The spectra were normalised to the transition from the lowest *m<sub>J</sub>* state in the ground state multiplet (<sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub>) to the lowest *m<sub>J</sub>* state in the first emitting state multiplet (<sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub>). The black and pink labels indicate the assumed transitions from the electronic energy levels. Right: Resolved energy levels in <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> and <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub>.



**Figure S 60:** Voigt fitting of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{DOTA})\text{H}_2\text{O}] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  emission spectra at 77 K.

		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17748.75666	0.15021	118160.80277	0	0.00322
	A	26.6606	0.36211	73.6247	3.90728E-94	0.33884
	wG*	22.5977	0.35479	63.69243	1.72542E-87	0.38306
	wL	5.32291E-16	0.07638	6.969E-15	1	2.02607E-4
	FWHM	22.5977	0.35479			
Peak2(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17570.08898	0.38728	45368.48286	0	0.02286
	A	26.59476	0.75356	35.29225	4.04868E-61	0.64695
	wG*	22.5977	0.35479	63.69243	1.72542E-87	0.38306
	wL	19.46843	1.31199	14.83883	7.99864E-28	0.65818
	FWHM	34.75431	0.89838			
Peak3(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17496.66776	2.39568	7303.42468	0	0.01704
	A	3.04238	0.66583	4.56933	1.30636E-5	0.66425
	wG*	22.5977	0.35479	63.69243	1.72542E-87	0.38306
	wL	11.59985	8.01491	1.44728	0.15071	0.64768
	FWHM	29.43489	5.15851			

Reduced Chi-sqr = 6.19485291645E-4

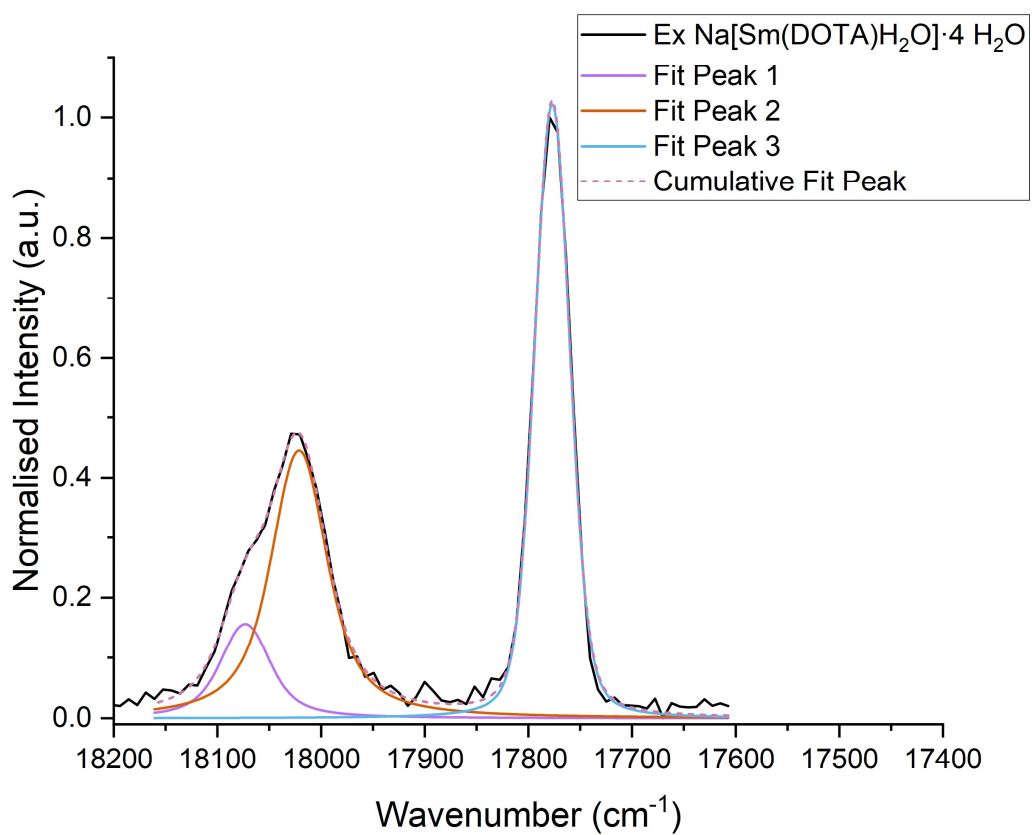
COD(R^2) = 0.98874932624925

Iterations Performed = 5

Total Iterations in Session = 25

**Table S 17:** Voigt fit parameters of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O emission spectra at 77 K.





**Figure S 61:** Voigt fitting of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{DOTA})\text{H}_2\text{O}] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  excitation spectra at 77 K.

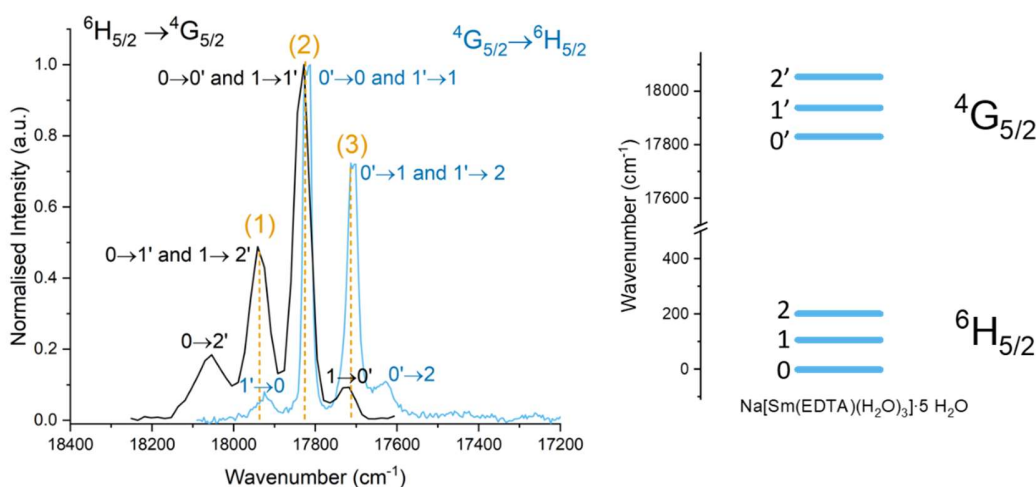
		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	18073.18816	3.66763	4927.75277	4.89487E-170	0.83707
	A	12.03993	3.14974	3.82252	3.16424E-4	0.97733
	wG*	34.60451	1.21327	28.52158	1.35806E-36	0.90207
	wL	34.67883	10.20331	3.39878	0.00121	0.91602
	FWHM	56.72255	7.35749			
Peak2(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	18021.247	1.53554	11736.1328	1.02155E-192	0.86962
	A	40.26348	3.24597	12.40414	3.31395E-18	0.97442
	wG*	34.60451	1.21327	28.52158	1.35806E-36	0.90207
	wL	44.79979	3.38593	13.23115	1.9128E-19	0.89114
	FWHM	64.35038	2.72712			
Peak3(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17776.97088	0.17693	100476.07014	6.2181E-249	0.00116
	A	48.21849	0.71166	67.75513	2.14885E-58	0.76874
	wG*	34.60451	1.21327	28.52158	1.35806E-36	0.90207
	wL	9.8168	1.49435	6.56927	1.3515E-8	0.94361
	FWHM	40.15287	0.50983			

Reduced Chi-sqr = 2.02168298544E-4  
COD(R^2) = 0.99673235705564  
Iterations Performed = 4  
Total Iterations in Session = 34

**Table S 18:** Voigt fit parameters of the  $^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow ^6H_{5/2}$  band in the Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O excitation spectra at 77 K.

### 5.1.1 Boltzmann Population Calculations for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O

For Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O four peaks were observed in both the emission and excitation spectra at 77 K. Similar as was found for the Na[Sm(DOTA)H<sub>2</sub>O]·4H<sub>2</sub>O sample, the three energy levels in levels in both <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> and <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub> are unambiguously resolved as is seen in Figure S61. Different to the DOTA complex, the crystal field splitting is found to be slightly lower and thermally populated transitions are observed from 1 and 1'. Only 1' → 0 and 1 → 0 can be seen as the other three lines convoluted with the primary transitions from 0 and 0'. The spectra are fitted in Figure S62 and S63 and the fit values provided in Table S19 and Table S20.



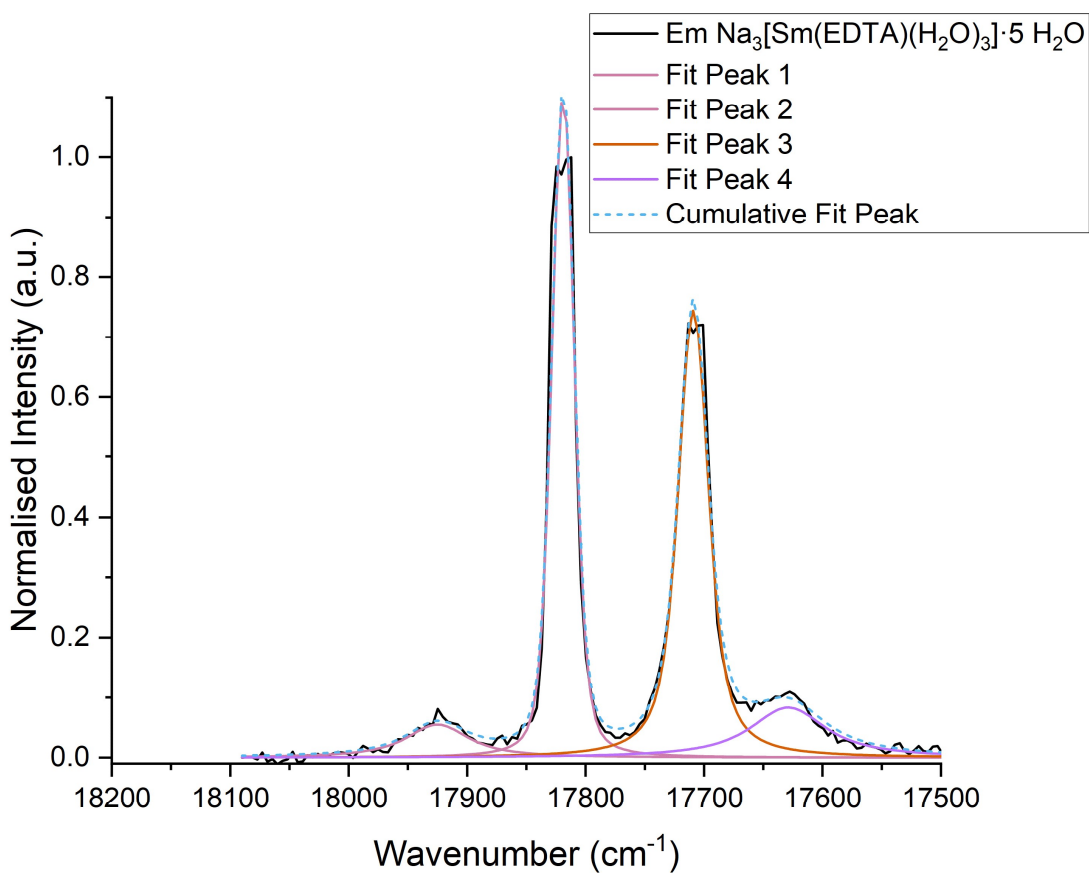
**Figure S 62:** Results for for Na[Sm(EDTA)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·5H<sub>2</sub>O. Left: Normalised powdered emission (excitation at 463 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub> → <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> band. Normalised powdered excitation (emission scan from 520 nm to 580 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub> ← <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> band. The spectra were normalised to the transition from the lowest *m<sub>J</sub>* state in the ground state multiplet (<sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub>) to the lowest *m<sub>J</sub>* state in the first emitting state multiplet (<sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub>). Orange labels indicate the numbering of the shared peaks. Right: Resolved energy levels in <sup>6</sup>H<sub>5/2</sub> and <sup>4</sup>G<sub>5/2</sub>.

## 5.2 Boltzmann Population Analysis for

### $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$

#### 5.2.1 Voigt Fitting for $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$

The spectra are fitted such that the spacing between the shared peaks are the same for emission and excitation, but only shifted by a Stokes shift, which in this case was found to be  $12.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The excitation spectrum was fitted first, and the emission spectrum fitted afterwards with the peak position fixed. The spectra were fitted with Voigt functions with shared Gaussian width but separate Lorentzian widths for each peak.



**Figure S 63:** Voigt fitting of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  emission spectra at 77 K.

		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17925	0	--	--	0
	A	5.28904	36.3944	0.14533	0.88448	0.62034
	wG*	18.58295	34.24125	0.54271	0.58742	0.90558
	wL	57.58969	592.17534	0.09725	0.92254	0.59734
	FWHM	63.4018	547.65505			
Peak2(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17819	0	--	--	0
	A	30.10155	23.31782	1.29092	0.19695	0.78901
	wG*	18.58295	34.24125	0.54271	0.58742	0.90558
	wL	6.98775	41.68065	0.16765	0.86688	0.94122
	FWHM	22.60102	14.54687			
Peak3(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17709	0	--	--	0
	A	31.03679	31.80021	0.97599	0.32925	0.80944
	wG*	18.58295	34.24125	0.54271	0.58742	0.90558
	wL	18.83968	45.17743	0.41702	0.67673	0.83898
	FWHM	30.61931	26.3484			
Peak4(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17629.06173	151.42211	116.4233	0	0.21725
	A	9.82237	49.31771	0.19917	0.84216	0.75336
	wG*	18.58295	34.24125	0.54271	0.58742	0.90558
	wL	71.96948	484.11748	0.14866	0.88184	0.69156
	FWHM	76.77931	458.29441			

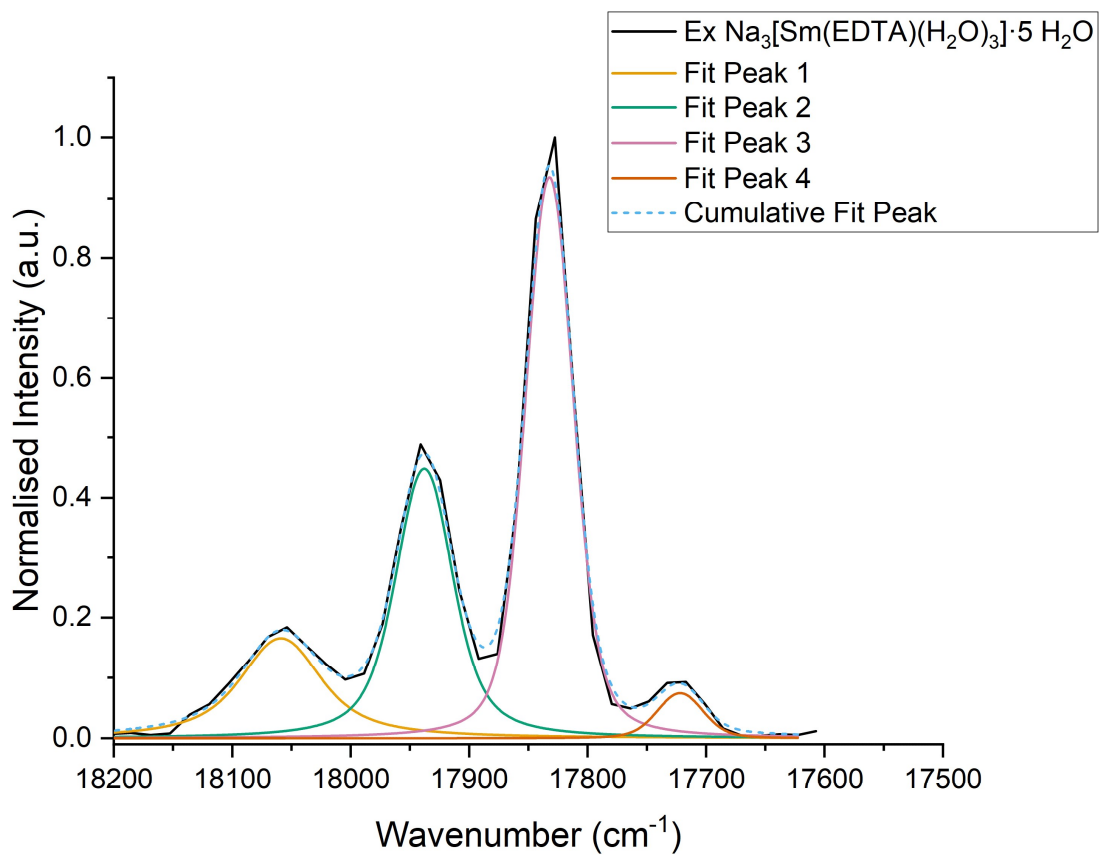
Reduced Chi-sqr = 0.63908162107

COD(R^2) = -0.13332200411659

Iterations Performed = 1

Total Iterations in Session = 4

**Table S 19:** Voight fit parameters of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  emission spectra at 77 K.



**Figure S 64:** Voigt fitting of the  $^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow ^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  excitation spectra at 77 K.

		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	18058.95619	4.51514	3999.64561	1.35355E-79	0.13301
	A	19.29867	2.87632	6.70949	3.33958E-7	0.7363
	wG*	39.15061	5.16585	7.57874	3.75247E-8	0.95289
	wL	61.11802	15.30037	3.99454	4.49001E-4	0.69697
	FWHM	81.06646	12.49706			
Peak2(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17937.89357	1.38214	12978.34559	1.67986E-93	0.18403
	A	33.59118	2.59455	12.94681	4.28225E-13	0.808
	wG*	39.15061	5.16585	7.57874	3.75247E-8	0.95289
	wL	29.47274	6.50108	4.53352	1.06657E-4	0.84906
	FWHM	57.24007	4.19472			
Peak3(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17832.20906	0.54785	32549.41276	2.15669E-104	0.05237
	A	54.24611	2.85607	18.99328	3.75688E-17	0.88678
	wG*	39.15061	5.16585	7.57874	3.75247E-8	0.95289
	wL	15.2651	6.54289	2.33308	0.02734	0.97332
	FWHM	47.9507	1.76383			
Peak4(Normalised Intensity)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17721.88204	6.58753	2690.21792	6.42895E-75	0.06125
	A	3.98461	1.78785	2.22872	0.03435	0.74671
	wG*	39.15061	5.16585	7.57874	3.75247E-8	0.95289
	wL	11.37161	22.34855	0.50883	0.615	0.66943
	FWHM	45.58596	15.22849			

Reduced Chi-sqr = 6.1883115501E-4

COD(R^2) = 0.99173988409474

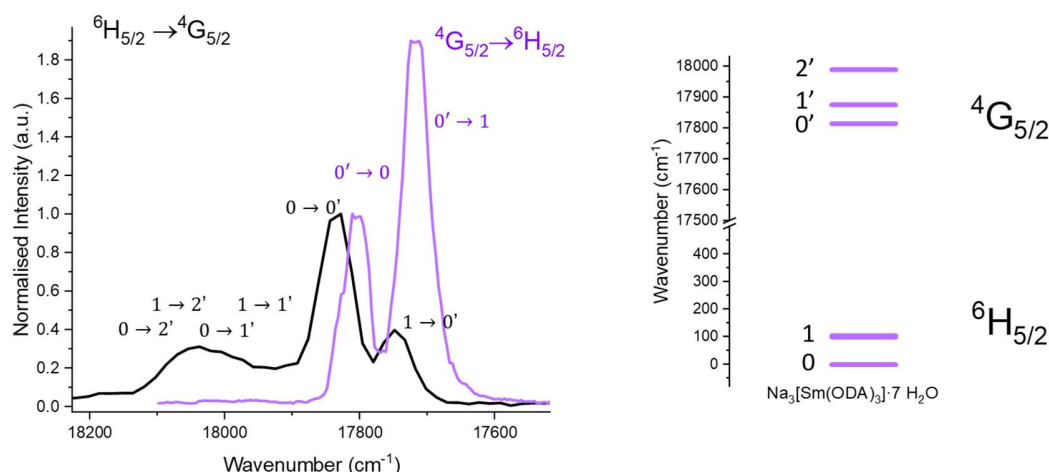
Iterations Performed = 1

Total Iterations in Session = 34

**Table S 20:** Voigt fit parameters of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  excitation spectra at 77 K.

### 5.3 Boltzmann Population Analysis for $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$

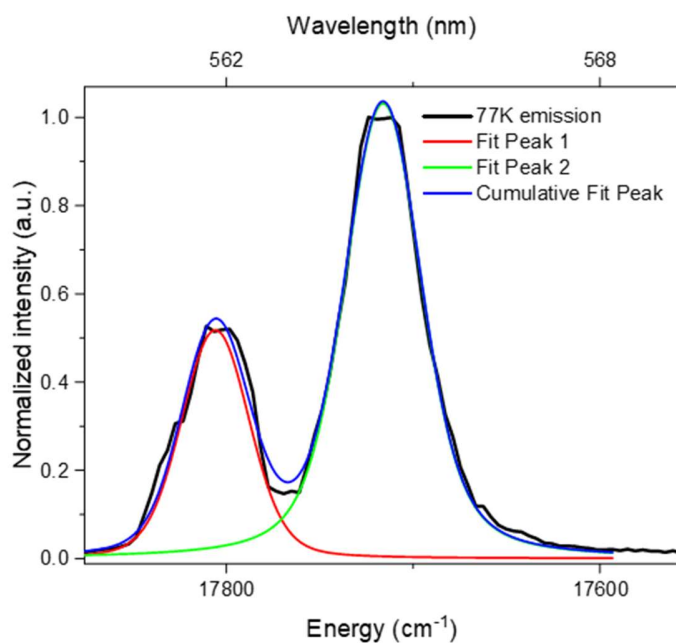
For  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  the spectra recorded at 77 K are not as easily interpreted as for the  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{EDTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3] \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Na}[\text{Sm}(\text{DOTA})(\text{H}_2\text{O})] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  samples. The crystal field splitting is smaller and therefore a larger contribution of thermally populated states are found in the spectra. To arrive at the results seen in Figure S 64 we use a Boltzmann population approach.



**Figure S 65:** Result for for  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Left: Normalised powdered emission (excitation at 463 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the  ${}^4\text{G}_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$  band. Normalised powdered excitation (emission scan from 520 nm to 580 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the  ${}^4\text{G}_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$  band. The spectra were normalised to the transition from the lowest  $m_J$  state in the ground state multiplet ( ${}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$ ) to the lowest  $m_J$  state in the first emitting state multiplet ( ${}^4\text{G}_{5/2}$ ). Right: Resolved energy levels in  ${}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$  and  ${}^4\text{G}_{5/2}$ .

In the thermal analysis it is exploited only two lines are observed in the emission spectra. These are fitted and the results are used as initial fit parameters for the excitation spectrum. In the emission spectra the splitting between the two observed states in  ${}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$  are found to be  $90 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  therefore the excitation spectrum is fitted with a set of double Voigt functions with a shared splitting parameter initialised at  $90 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The fit of the emission spectrum and the fit of the excitation spectrum is shown in Figure S65 and 66. Based on these results the thermal analysis is performed as shown in the main text.

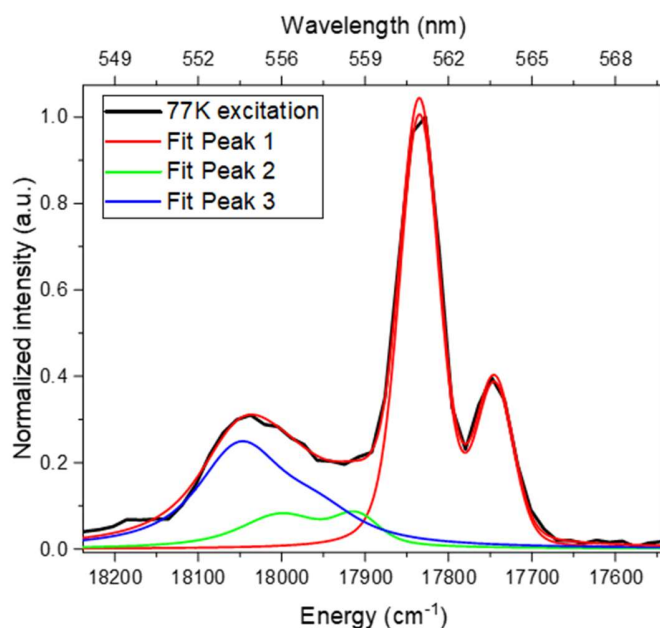




**Figure S 66:** Voigt fitting of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  emission spectra at 77 K.

		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(77K emission)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17805.932716	0.468734	37987.286154	1.360048E-254	0.06774
	A	25.692759	0.835914	30.736111	5.396064E-42	0.725065
	wG*	38.087069	1.95439	19.487961	9.145427E-30	0.936522
	wL	8.695158	2.619667	3.319184	0.001444	0.880229
	FWHM	42.949881	1.241136			
	ymax	0.5178	0.010405			
Peak2(77K emission)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17716.139483	0.254799	69529.835501	8.681761E-273	0.053914
	A	63.046158	1.136488	55.474535	5.636831E-59	0.806294
	wG*	38.087069	1.95439	19.487961	9.145427E-30	0.936522
	wL	18.886249	2.277336	8.293133	5.816601E-12	0.952409
	FWHM	49.184745	0.801029			
	ymax	1.031413	0.010485			

**Table S 21:** Voigt fit parameters of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  emission spectra at 77 K.



**Figure S 67:** Voigt fitting of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  excitation spectra at 77 K with two sets of two Voigt functions fitted with a shared parameter.

		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(77K excitation)	y0*	0	0	--	--	0
	Delta*	-90.393957	29.7666	-3.036758	0.004429	0.554872
	wG*	47.957257	167.580491	0.286174	0.776385	0.991204
	xc1	17834.766453	126.825333	140.624637	6.119653E-51	0.983455
	A1	69.360019	244.416172	0.283778	0.778206	0.996205
	wL1	16.990711	285.09868	0.059596	0.952807	0.996967
	A2	21.312751	62.267396	0.342278	0.734132	0.954204
	wL2*	7.891567	220.973561	0.035713	0.971709	0.967088
Peak2(77K excitation)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	Delta*	-90.393957	29.7666	-3.036758	0.004429	0.554872
	wG*	47.957257	167.580491	0.286174	0.776385	0.991204
	xc1	18000.403651	9733.864246	1.849256	0.072645	0.999701
	A1	14.182178	12113.235881	0.001171	0.999072	0.999995
	wL1	100	40883.112323	0.002446	0.998062	0.999943
	A2	4.963538	1023.225032	0.004851	0.996156	0.999741
	wL2*	25.325132	3067.92647	0.008255	0.993459	0.992476
Peak3(77K excitation)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	Delta*	-90.393957	29.7666	-3.036758	0.004429	0.554872
	wG*	47.957257	167.580491	0.286174	0.776385	0.991204
	xc1	18050	334.980323	53.883762	5.099572E-36	0.962398
	wL1	100	5883.326629	0.016997	0.986533	0.999659

	A2	12.296676	6554.984144	0.001876	0.998514	0.999984
	wL2*	100	18448.288659	0.005421	0.995705	0.999629

**Table S 22:** Voight fit parameters of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  excitation spectra at 77 K.

The calculations for the thermal analysis on the two levels in  ${}^6H_{5/2}$  are provided here:

***Relative transition probabilities***

$$A_{0' \rightarrow 0}^{rel} = \frac{I_{0' \rightarrow 0}^{rel}}{\sum I_{0' \rightarrow i}^{rel}} = \frac{38.08}{101.126}$$

$$A_{0' \rightarrow 1}^{rel} = \frac{I_{0' \rightarrow 1}^{rel}}{\sum I_{0' \rightarrow i}^{rel}} = \frac{63.05}{101.126}$$

$$B_{0 \rightarrow 0'}^{rel} = \frac{I_{0 \rightarrow 0'}^{rel}}{\sum I_{0 \rightarrow i'}^{rel}} = \frac{43.08}{113.6}$$

$$B_{0 \rightarrow 1'}^{rel} = \frac{I_{0 \rightarrow 1'}^{rel}}{\sum I_{0 \rightarrow i'}^{rel}} = \frac{63.05}{113.6}$$

***Relative thermal populations as observed from relative transition probabilities***

Using these values we calculated the observed thermal populations:

$$P_{i_{obs}}^{6H5/2} = \frac{I_{i \rightarrow j}^{rel}}{N \cdot B_{i \leftarrow j}^{rel}}, N = \sum_j \frac{I_{i \rightarrow j}^{rel}}{B_{i \leftarrow j}^{rel}}$$

$$P_{0_{obs}}^{6H5/2} = 0.730$$

$$P_{1_{obs}}^{6H5/2} = 0.269$$

***Relative thermal populations as calculated based on the Boltzmann distribution***

The two energy levels are separated by  $90 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , using the Boltzmann distribution we find:

$$P_{i_{calc}}^{system} = \frac{e^{\frac{-E_i}{k_B T}}}{\sum_i^{system} e^{\frac{-E_i}{k_B T}}}$$

$$P_{0_{calc}}^{6H5/2} = 0.843$$

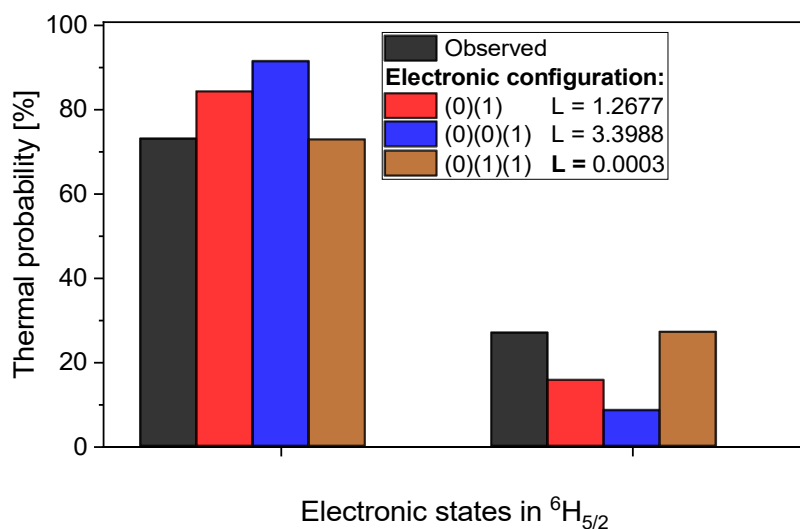
$$P_{1_{calc}}^{6H5/2} = 0.156$$

### Evaluating interpretations with the Loss function

Three interpretations can be done with the knowledge that 3 energy levels are present in  ${}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$ : Only two levels are observed, (0,1), the first level is degenerate, (0,0,1), the second level is degenerate, (0,1,1). These interpretations are evaluated using the loss function:

$$L = \sum_i 100 \cdot \frac{(P_{i_{obs}}^{6H5/2} - P_{i_{calc}}^{6H5/2})^2}{N}$$

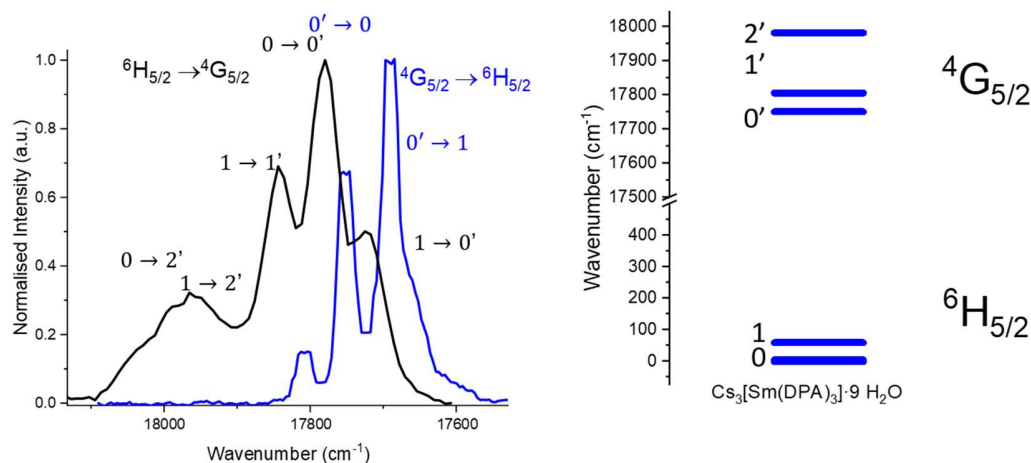
The results are compiled in Figure S67. The Loss values found are unambiguously in favour of the (0,1,1) splitting.



**Figure S 68:** Thermal populations of the electronic states in  ${}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$  for  $\text{Na}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{ODA})_3] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

## 5.4 Boltzmann Population Analysis for Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O

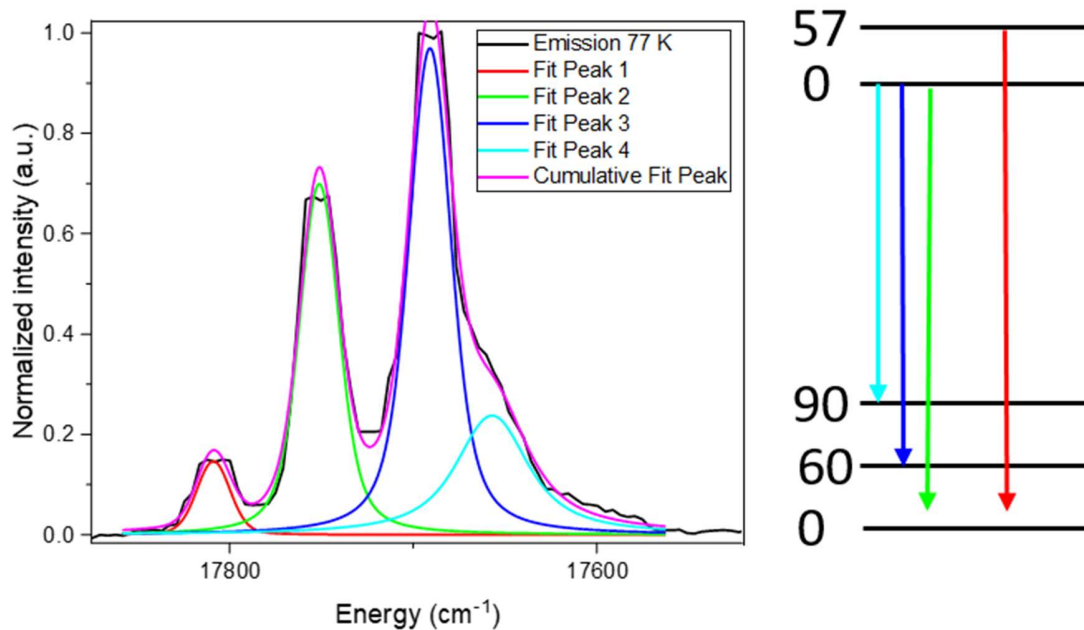
For Cs<sub>3</sub>[Sm(DPA)<sub>3</sub>]·9H<sub>2</sub>O the spectra recorded at 77 K are following the same patterns as for the ODA complex and the spectra are analysed with the same approach. The final results obtained are shown in Figure S68.



**Figure S 69:** Left: Normalised powdered emission (excitation at 463 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band. Normalised powdered excitation (emission scan from 520 nm to 580 nm) recorded at 77 K normalised to the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band. The spectra were normalised to the transition from the lowest  $m_J$  state in the ground state multiplet ( ${}^6H_{5/2}$ ) to the lowest  $m_J$  state in the first emitting state multiplet ( ${}^4G_{5/2}$ ). Orange labels indicate the numbering of the shared peaks. Right: Resolved energy levels in  ${}^6H_{5/2}$  and  ${}^4G_{5/2}$ .

However, for this sample, the crystal field splitting in the  ${}^4G_{5/2}$  state allows for a larger contribution of thermal populated emission. This further complicates the spectra. In the emission spectrum all states of  ${}^6H_{5/2}$  are resolved, but these cannot be resolved in the excitation spectrum as the spectral resolution is slightly lower. See figure 69 and S70 where the fits are provided and Table S23 and S24 where the fit parameters are provided.

Therefore, the areas from the emission is summed and the centre of emission is chosen to be 75, the average of 60 and 90. Using this interpretation, the splitting of the  ${}^6H_{5/2}$  is evaluated with the loss function similar as was done for the Na<sub>3</sub>[Sm(ODA)<sub>3</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O sample. The results are visualised in Figure S71. Similarly, the (1) state is found to be degenerate, matching the already expected result obtained for the fitting of the emission spectrum in Figure S69.

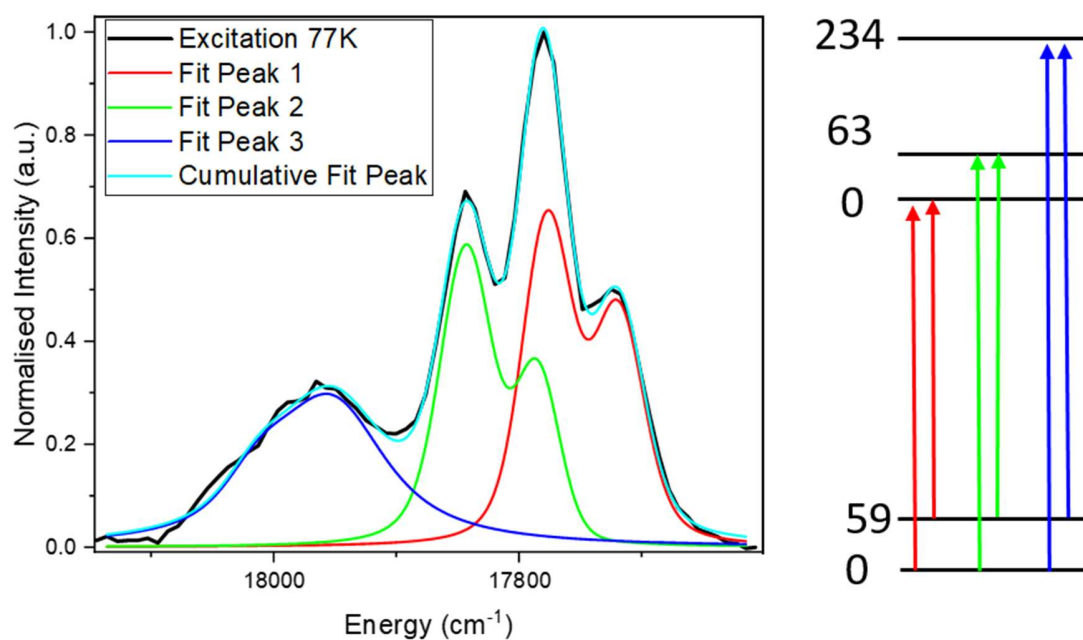


**Figure S 70:** Voigt fitting of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  emission spectra at 77 K.

		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(B)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17808.807523	1.466287	12145.516655	1.296234E-193	0.022352
	A	3.640053	0.697021	5.222301	2.331239E-6	0.677047
	wG*	19.234844	1.951762	9.855116	3.703431E-14	0.929935
	wL	4.206583	5.101737	0.824539	0.412899	0.676362
	FWHM	21.583058	3.158188			
	ymax	0.14643	0.018711			
Peak2(B)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17751.160081	0.351635	50481.792535	6.749193E-231	0.063616
	A	22.639247	0.902559	25.083412	1.677888E-33	0.729482
	wG*	19.234844	1.951762	9.855116	3.703431E-14	0.929935
	wL	10.823412	2.127991	5.086212	3.854374E-6	0.897485
	FWHM	25.669684	1.109348			
	ymax	0.699046	0.018144			

Peak3(B)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17690.865645	0.432816	40873.83215	2.281773E-225	0.649894
	A	34.753511	3.02374	11.493552	8.469125E-17	0.972811
	wG*	19.234844	1.951762	9.855116	3.703431E-14	0.929935
	wL	13.688745	2.808595	4.873876	8.370152E-6	0.966642
	FWHM	27.580433	1.243806			
	ymax	0.969496	0.03352			
Peak4(B)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	xc	17657.032468	3.547168	4977.78366	2.665885E-170	0.838483
	A	16.365799	3.486003	4.694718	1.595119E-5	0.956327
	wG*	19.234844	1.951762	9.855116	3.703431E-14	0.929935
	wL	38.370137	7.672364	5.001084	5.267104E-6	0.86049
	FWHM	46.759053	6.578574			
	ymax	0.237487	0.025174			

**Table S 23:** Voight fit parameters of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $Cs_3[Sm(DPA)_3] \cdot 9H_2O$  emission spectra at 77 K.



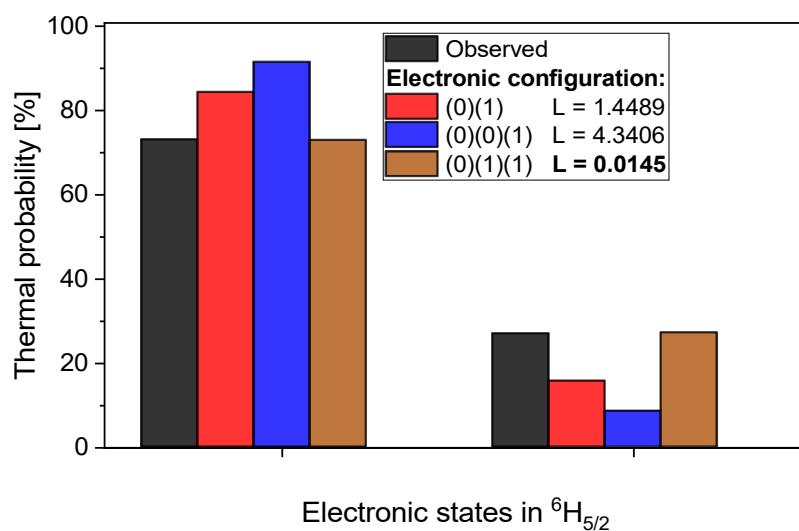
**Figure S 71:** Voigt fitting of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $\text{Cs}_3[\text{Sm}(\text{DPA})_3] \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  excitation spectra at 77 K with two sets of two Voigt functions fitted with a shared parameter.

		Value	Standard Error	t-Value	Prob> t	Dependency
Peak1(C)	y0*	0	0	--	--	0
	Delta*	-58.780459	1.326807	-44.302187	3.405765E-41	0.890433
	wG*	44.756484	3.81032	11.746121	7.39535E-16	0.990895
	xc1	17779.373352	19.343302	919.148838	1.682629E-105	0.999074
	A1	29.744507	8.291096	3.587524	7.692259E-4	0.998399
	wL1	8.687704E-16	8.901622E7	9.759686E-24	1	--
	A2	31.313266	5.914108	5.294672	2.795433E-6	0.99516
	wL2*	17.034953	4.13481	4.119888	1.454724E-4	0.952176
Peak2(C)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	Delta*	-58.780459	1.326807	-44.302187	3.405765E-41	0.890433
	wG*	44.756484	3.81032	11.746121	7.39535E-16	0.990895
	xc1	17842.45976	11.364862	1569.967167	6.525571E-117	0.996458
	A1	35.218887	19.324358	1.822513	0.074482	0.999603



	wL1	10.253762	14.654039	0.699723	0.487409	0.997827
	A2	15.80605	17.565622	0.899829	0.372613	0.999596
	wL2*	4.285784	33.029872	0.129755	0.897292	0.998498
Peak3(C)	y0	0	0	--	--	0
	Delta*	-58.780459	1.326807	-44.302187	3.405765E-41	0.890433
	wG*	44.756484	3.81032	11.746121	7.39535E-16	0.990895
	xc1	17990	7.488532	2402.339879	5.529525E-126	0.966395
	A1	27.930153	6.589692	4.238461	9.911423E-5	0.990098
	wL1	74.65384	20.978402	3.558605	8.395423E-4	0.978381
	A2	27.06199	8.752826	3.0918	0.003279	0.994075
	wL2*	78.490868	51.160237	1.534216	0.131409	0.995551

**Table S 24:** Voigt fit parameters of the  ${}^4G_{5/2} \leftarrow {}^6H_{5/2}$  band in the  $Cs_3[Sm(DPA)_3] \cdot 9H_2O$  excitation spectra at 77 K.



**Figure S 72:** Thermal populations of the electronic states in  ${}^6H_{5/2}$  for  $Cs_3[Sm(DPA)_3] \cdot 9H_2O$ .

## 5.5 Electronic Energy Levels for the Sm<sup>3+</sup> Compounds

The electronic energy levels determined from the Boltzmann population analysis of the excitation and emission spectra.

**Table S 25:** Electronic energy levels (cm<sup>-1</sup>) for the Sm<sup>3+</sup> compounds determined from the spectra.

	Na <sub>3</sub> [Sm(ODA) <sub>3</sub> ]·7H <sub>2</sub> O	Cs <sub>3</sub> [Sm(DPA) <sub>3</sub> ]·9H <sub>2</sub> O	Na[Sm(DOTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O)]·4H <sub>2</sub> O	Na[Sm(EDTA)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>3</sub> ]·5H <sub>2</sub> O
<sup>6</sup> H <sub>5/2</sub>	0	0	0	0
	2x90	2x59	244	110
	-	-	296	202
<sup>4</sup> G <sub>5/2</sub>	17834	17779	17749	17832
	18000	17842	17927	17940
	18050	18013	18001	18054

## 6 References

- 1 Brayshaw, P. A. *et al.* Synthetic, Structural, and Spectroscopic Studies on Solids Containing Tris(dipicolinato) Rare Earth Anions and Transition or Main Group Metal Cations. *Inorganic Chemistry* **34**, 2068-2076, doi:10.1021/ic00112a019 (1995).
- 2 Thomsen, M. S., Anker, A. S., Kacenauskaite, L. & Sørensen, T. J. We Are Never Ever Getting (back to) Ideal Symmetry: Structure and Luminescence in a Ten-Coordinated Europium (III) Sulfate Crystal. (2022).