Electronic Supplementary Information

Reduction of hexaazatrinaphthylenes by divalent lanthanocenes leads to ligand-based multiconfigurational properties

Siobhan R. Temple,^a Jinkui Tang,^b Graham J. Tizzard,^c Akseli Mansikkamäki,*^d Richard A. Layfield*^a

- a Department of Chemistry, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9QR, UK.
- b Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Renmin Street 5626, 130022 Changchun, China.
- ^c School of Chemistry, University of Southampton, University Road, Southampton, SO17 1BJ, UK.
- ^d NMR Research Unit, University of Oulu, P. O. Box 8000, FI-90014, Finland.
- E-mail: R.Layfield@sussex.ac.uk, Akseli.Mansikkamaki@oulu.fi

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General considerations

All manipulations were performed under anaerobic and anhydrous conditions using Schlenk line or glovebox techniques, unless otherwise stated. Benzene and toluene were refluxed for a minimum of three days over molten potassium, degassed by freeze-pump-thaw cycles, and stored over a potassium mirror or activated 4 Å molecular sieves. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian VNMR S400 spectrometer. Elemental analyses were carried at Elemental Lab (Okehampton, UK) or Mikroanalaytisches Labor Pascher (Remagen, Germany). UV/vis/NIR spectra were recorded using J-Young adapted quartz cuvettes on a Shimadzu UV-3600 Plus spectrometer, and FTIR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Alpha spectrometer with platinum-diamond ATR module housed within a glovebox. Literature procedures were used to synthesize $[Cp^*_{2}Yb(OEt_{2})]$, $[Cp^*_{2}Sm(THF)_{2}]$, hexaazaatrinaphthylene (HAN) and hexamethylhexaazaatrinaphthylene (Me₆HAN).^{1–3}

Synthesis of $[(Cp *_{2}Sm)_{3}HAN]\cdot C_{7}H_{8} (1_{Sm}\cdot C_{7}H_{8})$

Solid HAN (23.0 mg, 0.06 mmol) was added to a solution of $[CP^*_{2}Sm(THF)_{2}]$ (101.0 mg, 0.18 mmol) in toluene (15 mL) and the resulting dark red solution was left stirring at room temperature for 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was filtered, concentrated, and stored at –40 °C for three days. Brown crystals of $1_{\rm Sm}C_7H_8$ were isolated and dried under reduced pressure (59.0 mg, 57%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₈-tol, δ /ppm): –64.63(s, 6H, HAN-CH), -37.75 (s, 6H, HAN-CH), 2.91 (s, 90H, Cp^{*}). FTIR (\bar{v}/cm^{-1}): 3033, 2884, 2845, 2430, 1865, 1787, 1557, 1457, 1411, 1356, 1309, 1248, 1199, 1149, 1131, 1075, 1022, 892, 781, 727, 669, 613, 493. Elemental analysis (%), found (calculated) for $1_{Sm}C_7H_8$: C 62.75 (62.85), H 5.96 (6.38), N 5.11 (4.83).

Synthesis of $[(C_5Me_5)_2Yb)_3HAN-C_7H_8 (1_{Yb} \cdot C_7H_8)$

Compound 1_{Yb} was synthesised using the procedure described for 1_{Sm} , using $[Cp^*{}_{2}Yb(OEt_2)]$ (75.0 mg, 0.145 mmol) and HAN (18.5 mg, 0.048 mmol). Storage of a concentrated toluene solution at -40 °C for three days resulted in the formation of red crystals of $1_{Yb}C_7H_8$ (55.0 mg, 63 %).¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₈-tol, δ /ppm): -2.57 (s, 90H, Cp*), 0.37 (s, 6H, HAN-CH), 93.38 (s, 6H, HAN-CH). FTIR (ν/̄cm–1): 3034, 2971, 2900, 2845, 1554, 1463, 1418, 1372,1317, 1246, 1205, 1144, 1128, 1073, 1019, 893, 784, 736, 713, 627, 588, 485. Elemental analysis (%), found (calculated) for 1_{Yb} ·C₇H₈: C 60.39 (60.48), H 6.01 (6.14), N 4.78 (4.65).

Synthesis of $[(C_5Me_5)_2Sm)_3HANMe_6]$ (2.5(C_6H_6) (2_{Sm} 2.5(C_6H_6))

Solid Me₆HAN (46.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) was added to a solution of $[CP*₂Sm(THF)₂]$ (168.0 mg, 0.30 mmol) in benzene (5 mL). The reaction mixture was briefly swirled and left to stand overnight at room temperature, which resulted in the formation of red crystals of $2_{\rm sm}$ $2.5(C_6H_6)$ suitable for X-ray diffraction. The red crystals were subsequently isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure. The ¹H NMR spectrum revealed partial removal of the lattice solvent to give $2_{\rm sm}$.0.5(C₆H₆) as red polycrystalline material (123.0 mg, 69 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₈-tol, δ /ppm): –61.08 (s, 6H, HAN CH), 3.00 (s, 90H, Cp^{*}), 33.50 (s, 18H, HAN CH₃). FTIR (ν̄/cm–1): 3036, 2964, 2891, 2847, 1539, 1404, 1314, 1259, 1204, 1099, 1084, 1017, 1000, 831, 674, 635, 610, 472, 416. Elemental analysis (%) found (calculated) for 2_{5m} 0.5(C₆H₆): C 61.90 (63.10), H 6.51 (6.66), N 3.96 (4.75).

Synthesis of $[(C_5Me_5)_2Yb)_3HANMe_6]$ $2(C_6H_6)(2_{Yb}^2$ $2(C_6H_6))$

Solid Me₆HAN (24.0 mg, 0.051 mmol) was added to a solution of $[Cp^*_{2}Yb(OEt_{2})]$ (79.0 mg, 0.153 mmol) in benzene (5 mL). The reaction mixture was briefly swirled and left to stand overnight at room temperature, which resulted in the formation of red crystals of $2y_b$ 2(C₆H₆) suitable for X-ray diffraction. The red crystals were subsequently isolated by filtration and dried under reduced pressure. The ¹H NMR spectrum revealed partial removal of the lattice solvent to give 2_{Yb} $0.5(C_6H_6)$ as red polycrystalline material (86 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₈-tol, δ /ppm): 92.86 (s, 18H, HAN CH₃), -2.91 (s, 90H, Cp^{*}) (the HAN aromatic CH protons were not observed). FTIR (\bar{v} /cm⁻¹): 3033, 2965, 2888, 2849, 1540, 1480, 1403, 1312, 1255, 1202, 1098, 1085, 1016, 999, 836, 671, 632, 469, 417. Elemental analysis (%) found (calculated) for $2_{Yb} \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$: C 60.93 (60.77), H 6.35 (6.42), N 4.33 (4.57).

X-ray crystallography

Data for $1_{Sm}C_7H_8$ were collected on a Rigaku FR-007HF rotating anode diffractometer using CuK $_\alpha$ radiation (λ = 1.54184 Å), equipped with Saturn 724+ CCD area detector and a quarter-chi goniometer performing ω scans to fill the Ewald sphere at 100 K. Measurements on $1_{Yb}C_7H_8$ were made using an Agilent Gemini Ultra diffractometer using CuK_α radiation (λ = 1.54184 Å). Measurements on $2_{\rm Sm}$ 2.5(C₆H₆) and $2_{\rm Yb}$ 2(C₆H₆) were carried out at the EPSRC National Crystallography Service at the University of Southampton. For 2_{Yb} -2(C₆H₆), measurements were collected on a Rigaku 007HF diffractometer equipped with Arc-Sec VHF Varimax confocal mirrors and a UG2 goniometer and HyPix Arc-100 detector performing ω scans to fill the Ewald sphere at 100 K. For 2_{Sm} 2.5(C₆H₆), measurements were collected on a Rigaku FRE+ Rotating Anode (Mo-K_a) source, equipped with a UG2 goniometer and HyPix 6000HE detector performing ω scans to fill the Ewald sphere at 100 K. Structures $1_{Sm}C_7H_8$, $1_{Yb}C_7H_8$ and 2_{Yb} 2(C_6H_6) were solved with SHELXT using structural refinement and using least squares minimisation with SHELXL ($1_{Sm}C_7H_8$, $1_{Yb}C_7H_8$) or olex2.refine (2_{Yb} -2(C_6H_6)) within Olex2. Isotropic and anisotropic thermal parameters were used for hydrogen atoms and non-hydrogen atoms respectively.^{4–6} For 2_{sm} ·3(C₆H₆), the data was solved using hklf4 with SHELXT and refined against hklf5 using olex2.refine. Weak high angle data and two components were found, which allowed the atom connectivity to be established.

	$1_{\text{Sm}}\text{-}C_7H_8$	$1_{Yb} \cdot C_7H_8$	$2_{\rm Sm}$ 2.5(C ₆ H ₆)	2_{Yb} 2(C ₆ H ₆)
Empirical formula	$C_{91}H_{110}N_6Sm_3$	$C_{91}H_{110}N_6Yb_3$	$C_{105}H_{129}N_6Sm_3$	$C_{102}H_{126}N_6Yb_3$
Formula weight	1738.89	1809.96	1926.334	1955.291
T/K	100.00(10)	100.0(3)	100(2)	100.00(10)
Crystal system	orthorhombic	orthorhombic	monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	Pnma	Pnma	C ₂	$P\overline{1}$
a/Å	17.9992(2)	17.65820(10)	29.9712(5)	17.0853(1)
b/Å	23.8500(2)	23.6916(2)	17.2882(3)	17.1129(1)
c/Å	18.1211(2)	18.15350(10)	17.9740(3)	34.9475(3)
α /°	90	90	90	89.480(1)
β /°	90	90	93.570(2)	82.341(1)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90	90	90	60.059(14)
V/\AA ³	7779.04(14)	7594.54(9)	9295.1(3)	8755.59(14)
Z	$\overline{\mathbf{4}}$	4	4	4
ρ_{calc} (g/cm ³)	1.485	1.580	1.377	1.483
F(000)	3536	3632	3951.843	3883.171
Reflections collected	48843	37386	105765	265385
Independent reflections	7082	7573	105765	33773
R_{int} (%)	0.0584	0.0542		0.0680
GOF on F^2	1.070	1.213	0.9947	1.0433
R_1^a	0.0546	0.0465	0.0670	0.0567
wR_2^b	0.1569	0.1166	0.1688	0.1435

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement details.

Figure S1. Molecular structure of 2_{sm}. Thermal ellipsoids are set to 50 % probability. Atoms in grey are carbon, blue are nitrogen and green are Samarium. Solvent molecules and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

Figure S2. Molecular structure of 1_{Yb} . Thermal ellipsoids are set to 50 % probability. Atoms in grey are carbon, blue are nitrogen and green are ytterbium. Disorder components are shown 'ghosted' atoms, and solvent molecules and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

Figure S3. FTIR spectra of $1_{\rm{Sm}} \cdot C_7H_8$ (black), $1_{\rm{Yb}} \cdot C_7H_8$ (red), $2_{\rm{Sm}} \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$ (blue) and $2_{\rm{Yb}} \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$ (green).

Figure S4. ¹H NMR spectrum of $1_{\text{sm}}\text{-}C_7\text{H}_8$ in toluene-D₈ at 300 K.

Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum of 1_{Yb} ·C₇H₈ in toluene-D₈ at 300 K.

Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of 2_{Yb} -0.5(C_6H_6) in toluene-D₈ at 300 K.

Variable Temperature ¹H NMR spectra

Figure S8. Variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectra of $1_{\text{Sm}}\text{-C}_7\text{H}_8$ in toluene-D₈.

Figure S9. Temperature dependence of the ¹H chemical shift for 1_{Sm} ·C₇H₈, plotted as δ vs T⁻¹ at temperatures in the range 213-373 K at intervals of 10 K.

Figure S10. Variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectra of 1_{Yb} ·C₇H₈ in toluene-D₈.

Figure S11. Temperature dependence of the ¹H chemical shift for 1_{Yb} ·C₇H₈, plotted as δ vs T⁻¹ at temperatures in the range 213-373 K at intervals of 10 K.

373 K
363 K
353 K
343 K
333 K
323 K
313 K
303 K
293 K
283 K
273 K
263 K
253 K
243 K
233 K
223 K
213 K

Figure S12. Variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectra of 2_{sm} 0.5(C_6H_6) in toluene-D₈.

Figure S13. Temperature dependence of the ¹H chemical shift for $2_{\text{Sm}} \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$, plotted as δ vs T^{-1} at temperatures in the range 213-373 K at intervals of 10 K.

Figure S14. Variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectra of $2y_b \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$ in toluene-D₈.

Figure S15. Temperature dependence of the ¹H chemical shift for $2_{Yb} \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$, plotted as δ vs T^{-1} at temperatures in the range 213-373 K at intervals of 10 K.

Figure S16. UV/vis/NIR spectra of $1_{Sm}C_7H_8$ (black) and $1_{Yb}C_7H_8$ (red) in toluene (0.1 mM).

Figure S17. UV/vis/NIR spectra of 2_{sm} ·0.5(C₆H₆) (black) and 2_{Yb} ·0.5(C₆H₆) (red) in toluene (0.1 mM).

Magnetic Property Measurements

Magnetic measurements were recorded on a quantum design MPMS-XL7 SQUID magnetometer equipped with a 7 T magnet. Samples were restrained in eicosane and sealed in 7 mm NMR tubes. Direct current magnetic susceptibility measurements were performed on samples, in an applied field of 1000 Oe with temperature range 1.9-300 K. Diamagnetic corrections were calculated using Pascals constants.⁷

Figure S18. $\chi_M T$ vs. T (circular data points) and μ_{eff} vs. T (triangular data points) for $1_{Sm}C_7H_8$ (red) and 2_{Sm} .0.5(C₆H₆) (blue).

Figure S19. Magnetization (M) vs. magnetic field (H) for $1_{Sm}C_7H_8$ (red) and $2_{Sm}O.5(C_6H_6)$ (blue) at 1.9 K.

Figure S20. $\chi_M T$ vs. T (circular data points) and μ_{eff} vs. T (triangular data points) for $1_{Yb}C_7H_8$ (red) and $2_{Yb} \cdot 0.5(C_6H_6)$ (blue).

Figure S21. Magnetization (M) vs. magnetic field (H) for 1_{Yb} ·C₇H₈ (red) and 2_{Yb} ·0.5(C₆H₆) (blue) at 1.9 K.

Computational Details

The geometries of 1_{Sm} and $1_{\gamma_{\text{D}}}$ were extracted from their respective crystal structures. The positions of hydrogen atoms were optimized while the positions of heavier atoms were frozen to their crystal-structure coordinates. The geometry optimizations were carried out using density functional theory (DFT) as implemented in the Gaussian 16 software revision C.02.⁸ The range-separated hybrid CAM-B3LYP exchangecorrelation functional⁹ was used in all DFT calculations. To avoid complications that arise from the strong degeneracies within the 4f shell, the 4f electrons were treated with 4f-in-core pseudopotentials with corresponding valence-polarized basis sets.¹⁰ The Stuttgart-type MWB51 and MWB59 pseudopotentials were used for 1_{Sm} and 1_{Yb} , respectively, which treat 51 and 59 electrons as part of the pseudopotential. The remaining atoms were treated with valence-polarized double-ζ def2-SVP basis sets.¹¹ Consecutive singlepoint calculations were carried out at the same level of theory. Stability analyses¹² were carried out to ensure that the wave functions correspond to minima in the molecular orbital coefficient space.

Multireference calculations were carried out with the Orca software version 5.0.4.¹³ The calculations correlated the 4f electrons of one ion and the three electrons from the $[HAN]^{3-}$ anion. The remaining two ions in each calculation were replaced by diamagnetic Y(III) ions. Two of the lanthanide ions in both structures are crystallographically equivalent, so the calculations were carried out on the two nonequivalent ions in separately in the case of each structure. First, state-averaged (SA) complete active space self-consistent field (CASSCF) calculations¹⁴ were carried out. The orbital space consisted of the seven 4f orbitals and three [HAN]^{3–} orbitals. In the case of 1_{Sm} , 8 electrons were correlated and in case of 1_{Yb} , 16 electrons. The number of roots solved in the SA calculations was based on a trial-and-error procedure to select entire groups of manifolds of states. In the case of 1_{Sm} , 18, 124, 124, 66 and 48 states with spins $S = 9$, $S = 7$, $S = 5$, $S = 3$ and S = 1, respectively, were chosen that correspond to a rough energy cutoff of 23,000 cm⁻¹. In the case of 1_{Yb} , 7, 63 and 56 states with respective spins $S = 5$, $S = 3$ and $S = 1$ were chosen that correspond to a rough energy cutoff of 34,000 cm^{-1} . The energy cutoffs were chosen at places where there is a natural discontinuity of the energy spectrum. Electron correlation effects outside the active space were estimated using the second-order N-electron valence-state perturbation theory (NEVPT2) in its strongly contracted formulation.¹⁵

Spin-orbit coupling was introduced using the quasi-degenerate perturbation theory (QDPT) approach where the spin-orbit coupled Hamiltonian is constructed in the basis of the CASSCF eigenstates and diagonalized to yield the spin-orbit coupled states.¹⁶ The operator was constructed using the spin-orbit mean-field (SOMF) method.¹⁷ The NEVPT2 correction was taken into account as energy shifts in the diagonal values of the Hamiltonian, whereas the off-diagonal elements were calculated purely on the basis of the SA-CASSCF eigenstates. Scalar relativistic effects were introduced using the standard second-order Douglas–Kroll–Heß (DKH) transformation.¹⁸ The valence-polarized triple-ζ SARC-DKH-TZVP basis sets¹⁹ were used for the lanthanides, valence-polarized double-ζ DKH-def2-SVP basis sets were used for the C and N atoms, and the plain double-ζ DKH-def2-SV basis set was used for H atoms.^{11,20}

Table S2. Energies and $\langle S^2 \rangle$ expectation values calculated at the DFT level (using 4f-in-core pseudopotentials) for the different spin states of $\mathbf{1}_{Sm}$ and $\mathbf{1}_{Yb}$.

		Energy / Hartree atomic units		$\langle S^2 \rangle$
	Doublet	Quartet	Doublet	Quartet
$\mathbf{1}_{\mathsf{Sm}}$	-3690.69330016	-3690.69598751	1.6180	3.7896
$1\rm_{Yb}$	–3704.83600679	-3704.83873506	1.6225	3.7888

	Yb1			Yb ₂	
Root index	Multiplicity	Energy	Root index	Multiplicity	Energy
$\mathbf 0$	3	0.0	$\mathbf 0$	3	0.0
$\boldsymbol{0}$	5	82.7	$\mathbf 0$	5	79.3
$\mathbf{1}$	5	233.6	$\mathbf 1$	5	232.5
1	3	253.5	1	3	252.5
$\overline{2}$	5	398.8	$\overline{2}$	5	370.3
$\overline{2}$	3	413.1	$\overline{2}$	3	384.9
3	3	542.7	$\mathsf 3$	3	515.1
3	5	550.3	3	5	520.8
$\overline{4}$	5	842.4	4	5	794.4
$\overline{4}$	3	853.4	5	5	803.2
5	5	855.3	4	3	805.4
5	3	865.3	5	3	813.3
6	5	944.3	6	5	898.4
6	3	954.1	6	3	908.7

Table S4. Energies (in cm^{-1}) of low-lying CASSCF eigenstates calculated for 1_{Yb} .

	Yb1 ion		Yb2 ion
CASSCF	NEVPT2	CASSCF	NEVPT2
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.75	5.50	1.70	9.78
1.82	6.19	1.78	10.45
46.37	12.83	44.63	10.89
46.37	269.41	44.63	225.02
53.10	281.97	51.19	234.22
53.23	282.90	51.33	234.28
55.08	285.90	53.13	234.50
317.36	582.91	294.15	517.44
317.36	587.31	294.15	519.17
320.67	587.38	297.06	522.38
320.78	587.71	297.32	526.48
322.82	699.59	299.01	629.29
326.86	700.16	303.09	630.41
328.92	701.44	304.85	631.25
328.95	702.25	304.90	635.01
659.48	2468.97	614.40	2364.71
659.84	2493.16	614.76	2406.30
659.97	2493.40	614.91	2406.33
662.95	2493.94	617.71	2407.51
662.96	2664.89	617.72	2566.06
665.42	2723.31	620.32	2592.07
665.61	2725.99	620.49	2592.62
665.96	2726.15	620.84	2592.78
766.61	2782.79	721.65	2666.21
766.62	2789.19	721.66	2671.55
768.25	2789.62	723.46	2671.82
769.02	2816.58	724.17	2672.19
769.92	3023.41	725.26	2840.27
772.21	3025.00	727.37	2843.90
773.39	3030.03	728.73	2844.17
773.44	3032.26	728.77	2845.12

Table S8. Energies (in cm⁻¹) of low-lying SOC eigenstates calculated using NEVPT2 and CASSCF diagonal energies for 1_{Yb} .

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