

## Lanthanide luminescent di-metallic triple-stranded helicates formed from bis-tridentate (1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-picolinamide (tzpa) ligands and their higher order self-assemblies

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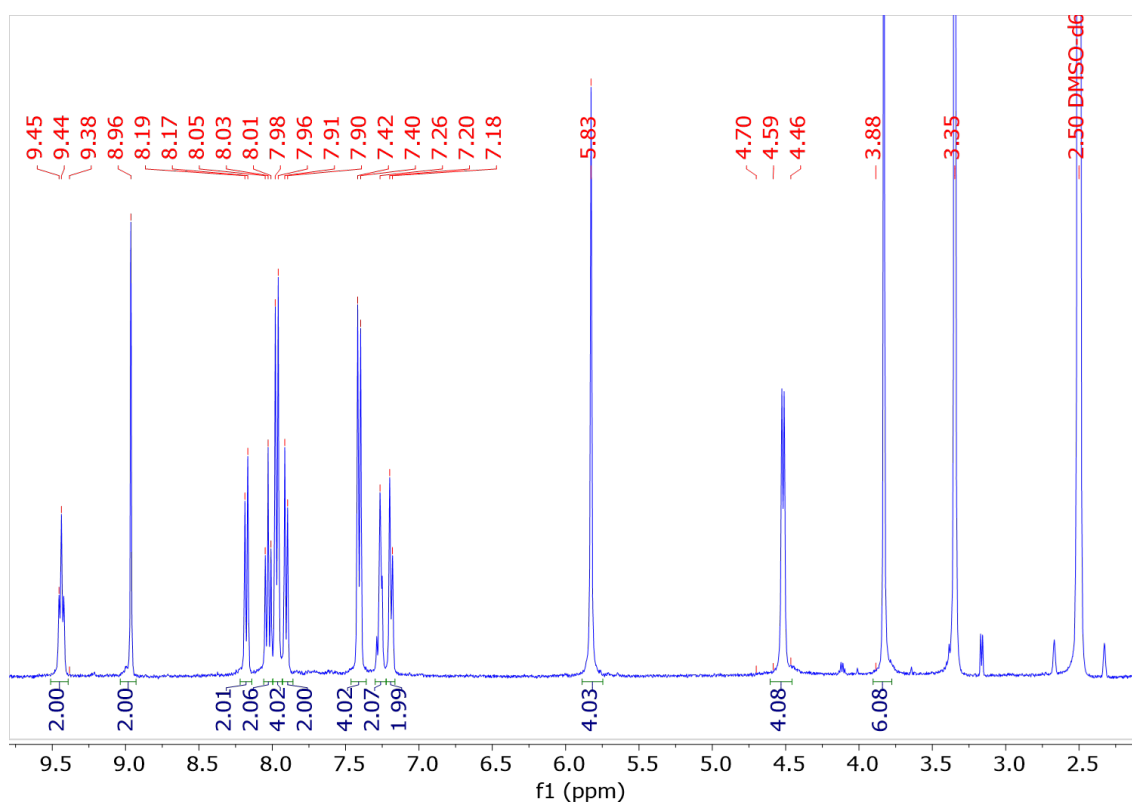


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 1 (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz).

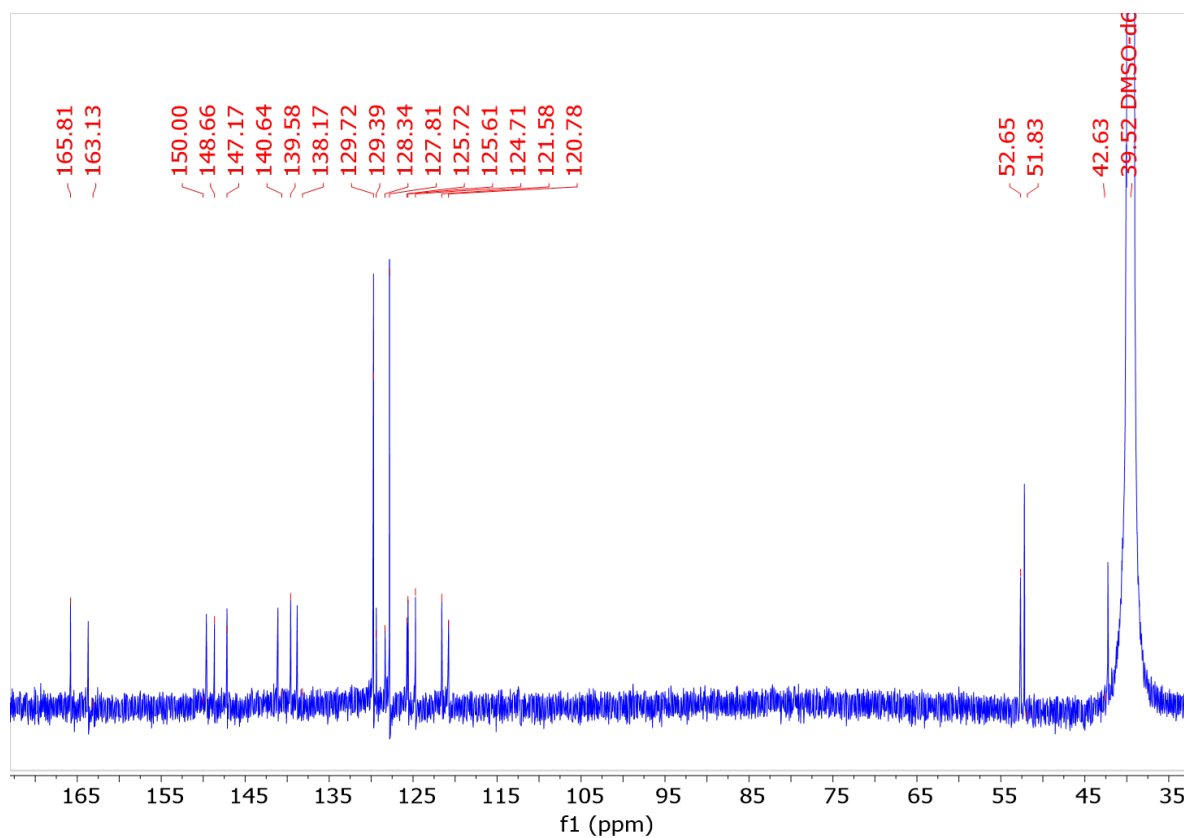


Figure S2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1** (DMSO- $d_6$ , 400 MHz).

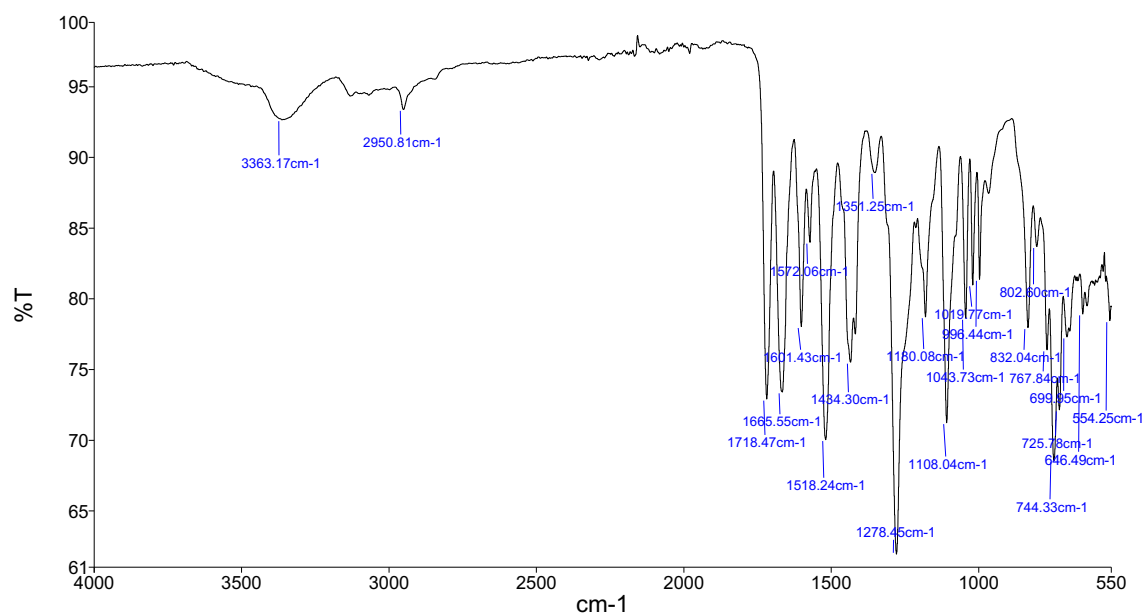


Figure S3. IR spectrum of **1**.

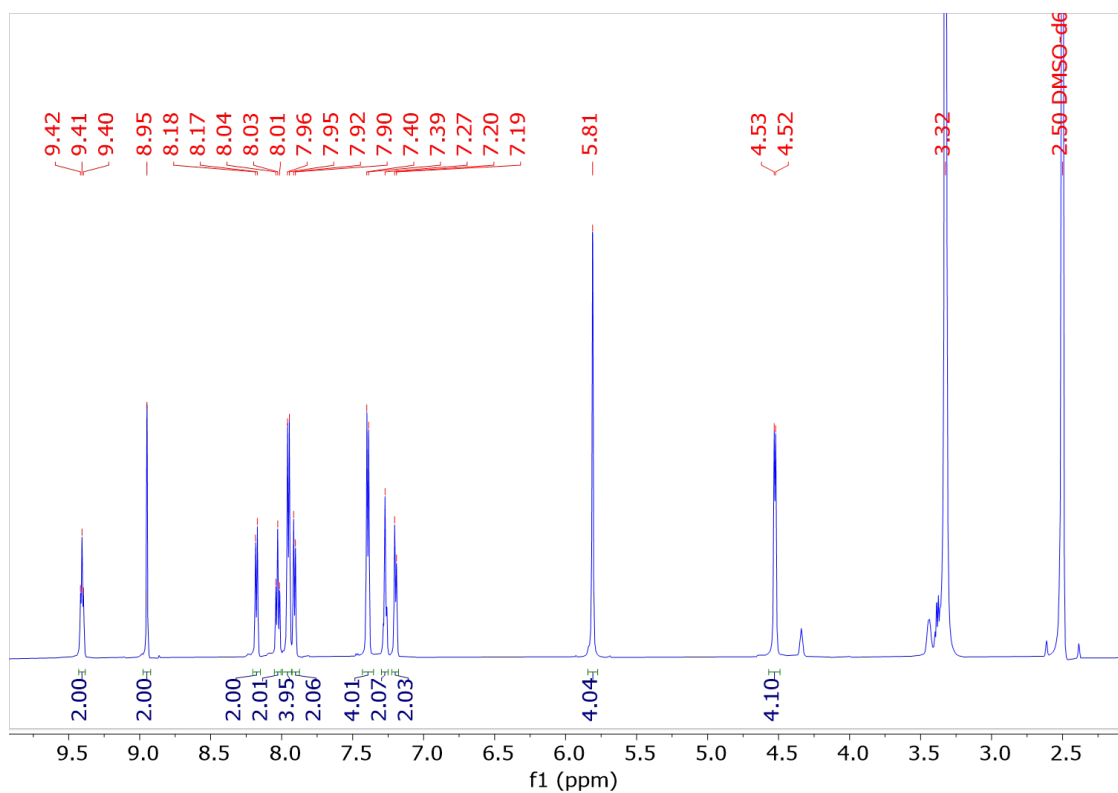


Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1a** (DMSO- $d_6$ , 600 MHz).

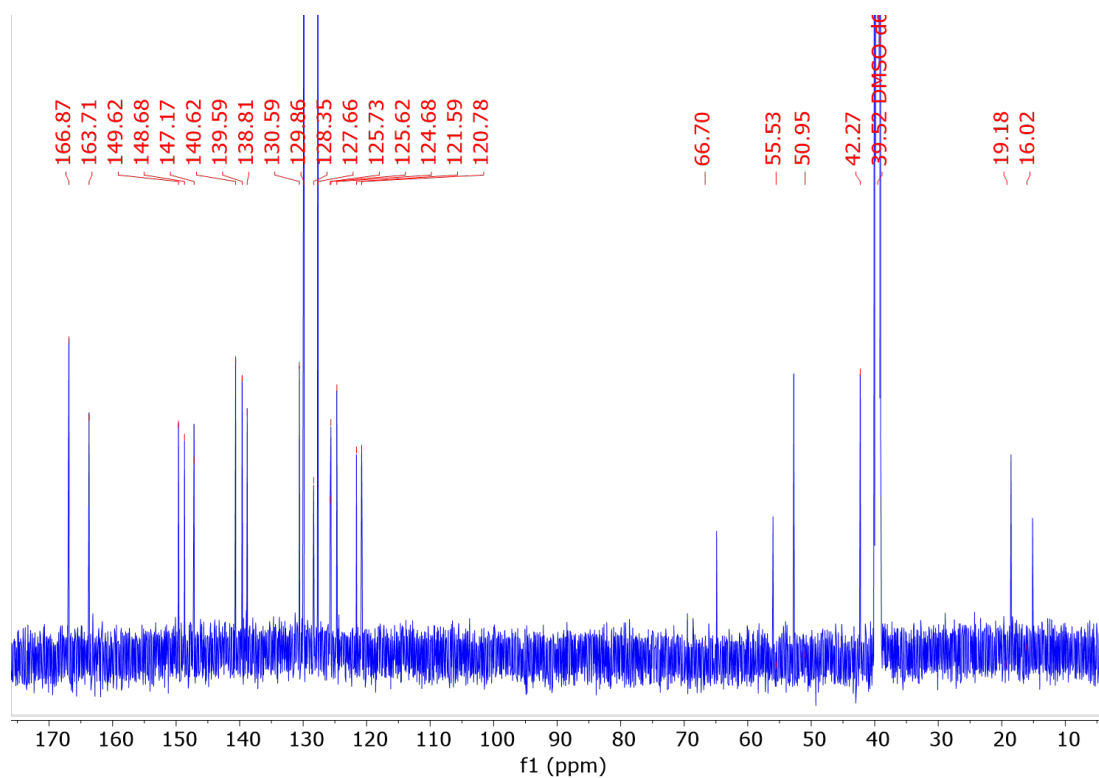
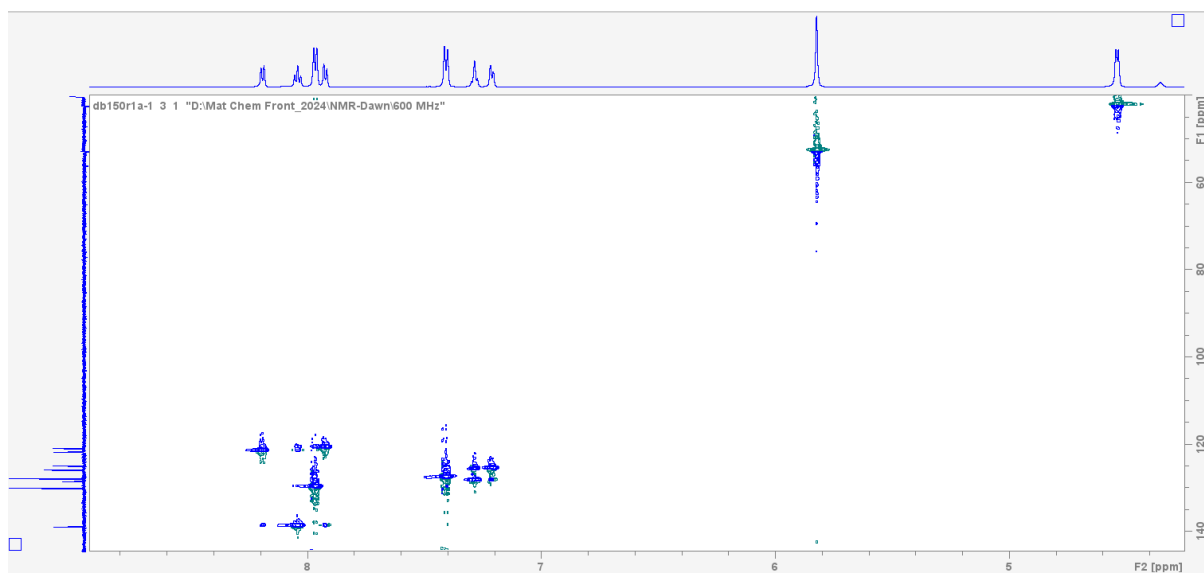
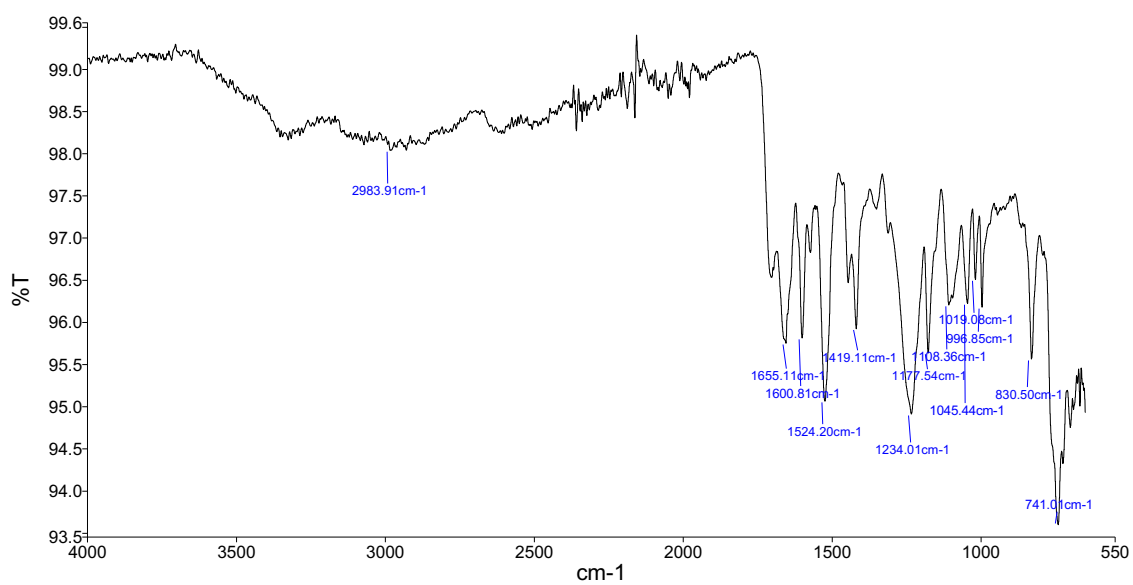


Figure S5.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **1a** (DMSO- $d_6$ , 150 MHz).



**Figure S6.** HSQC of **1a** (DMSO- $d_6$ ).



**Figure S7.** IR of **1a**.

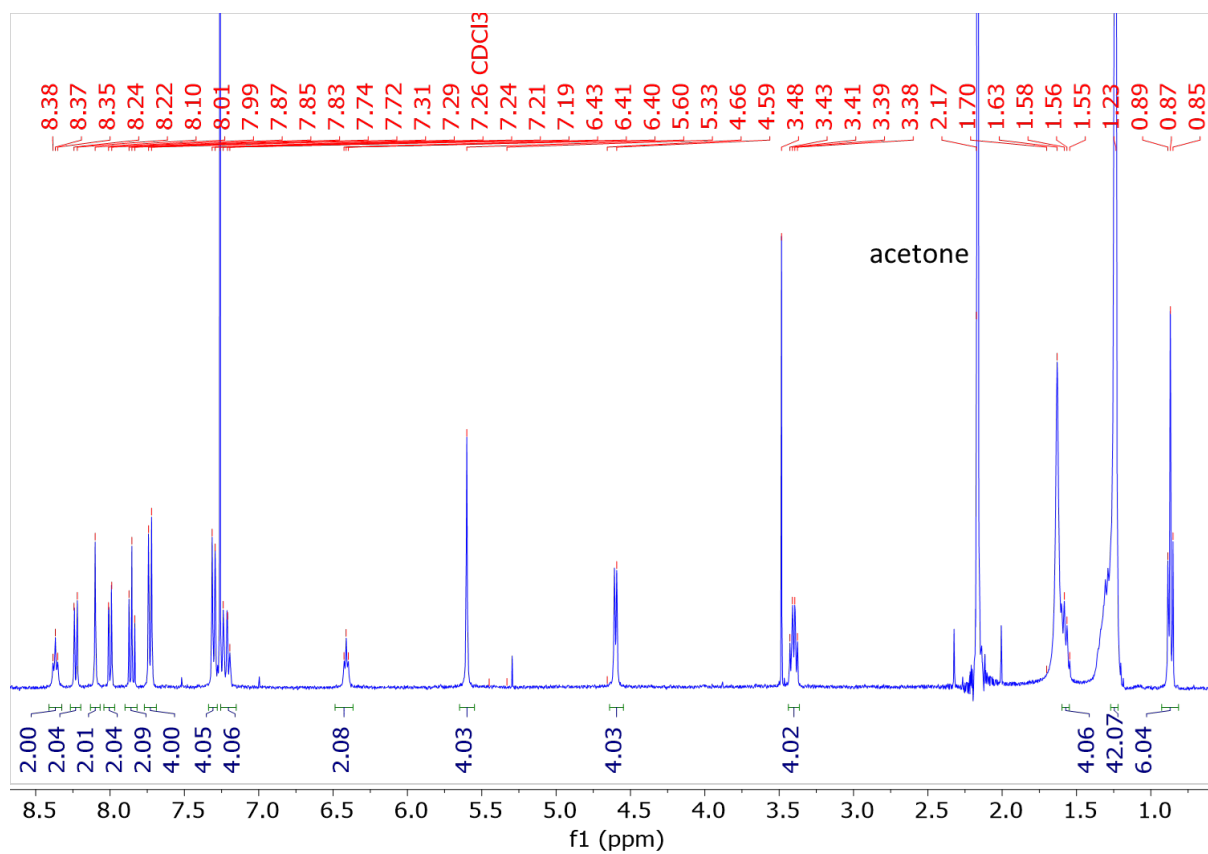


Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 2 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz).

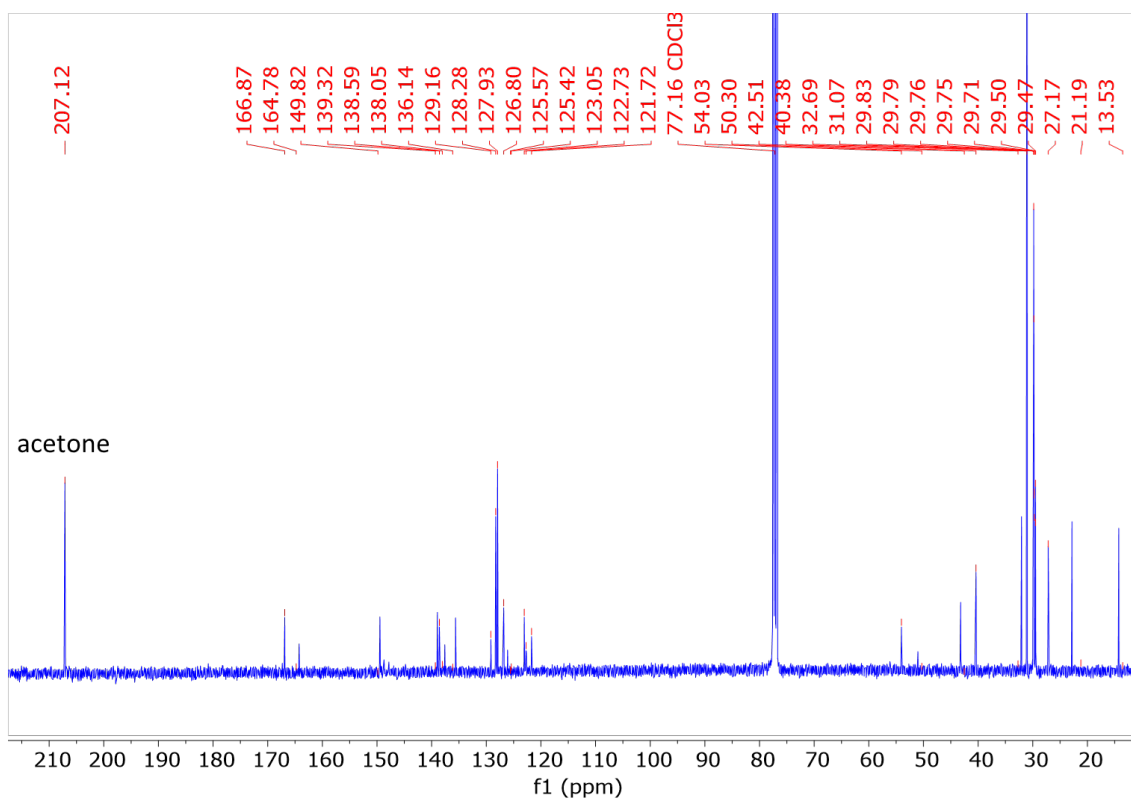


Figure S9.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of **2** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz).

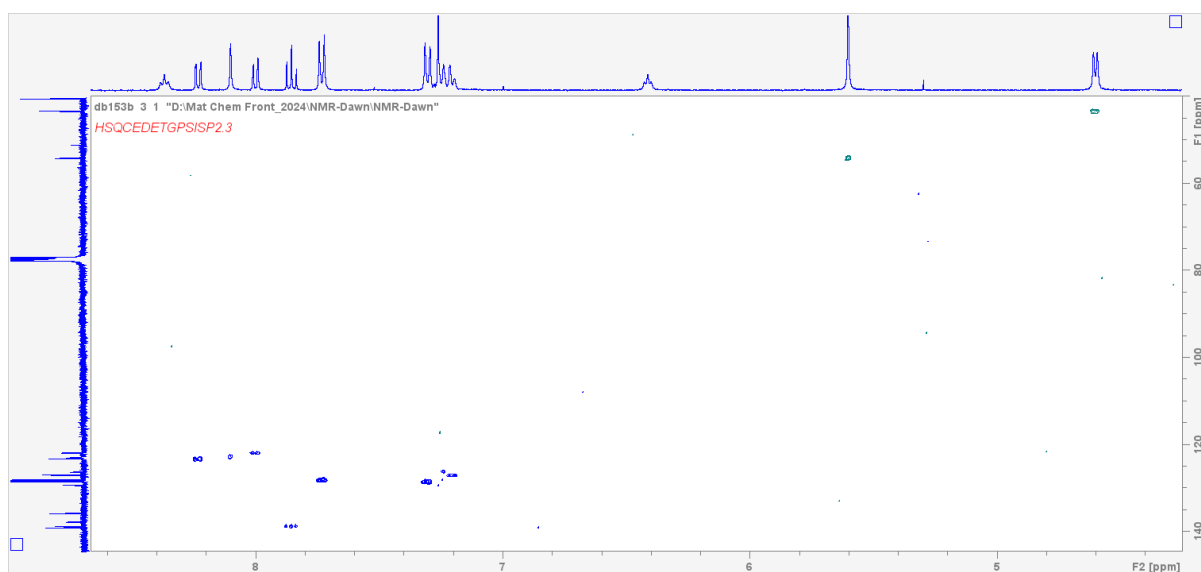


Figure S10. HSQC of **2** ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ).

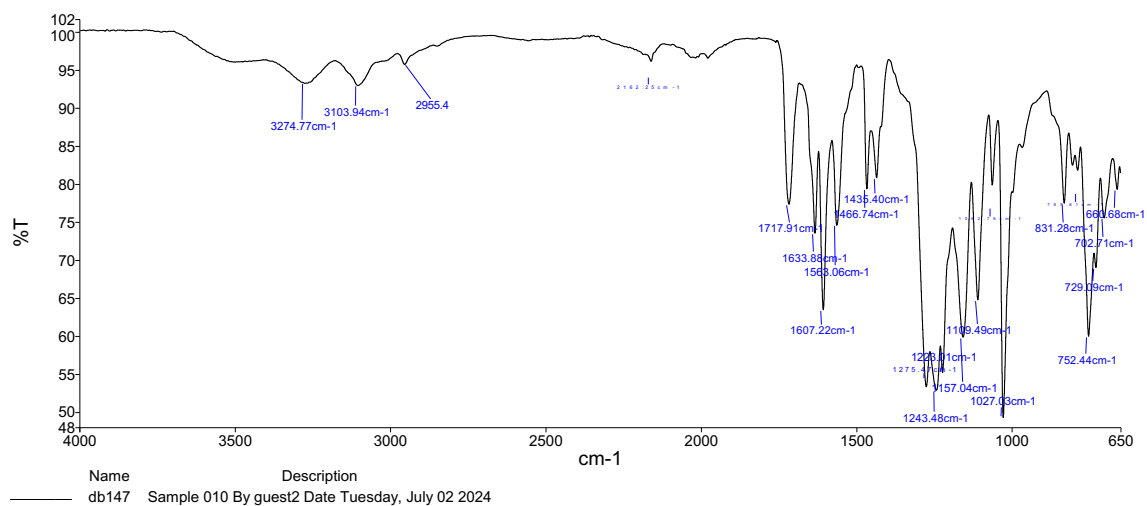


Figure S11. IR of 2.

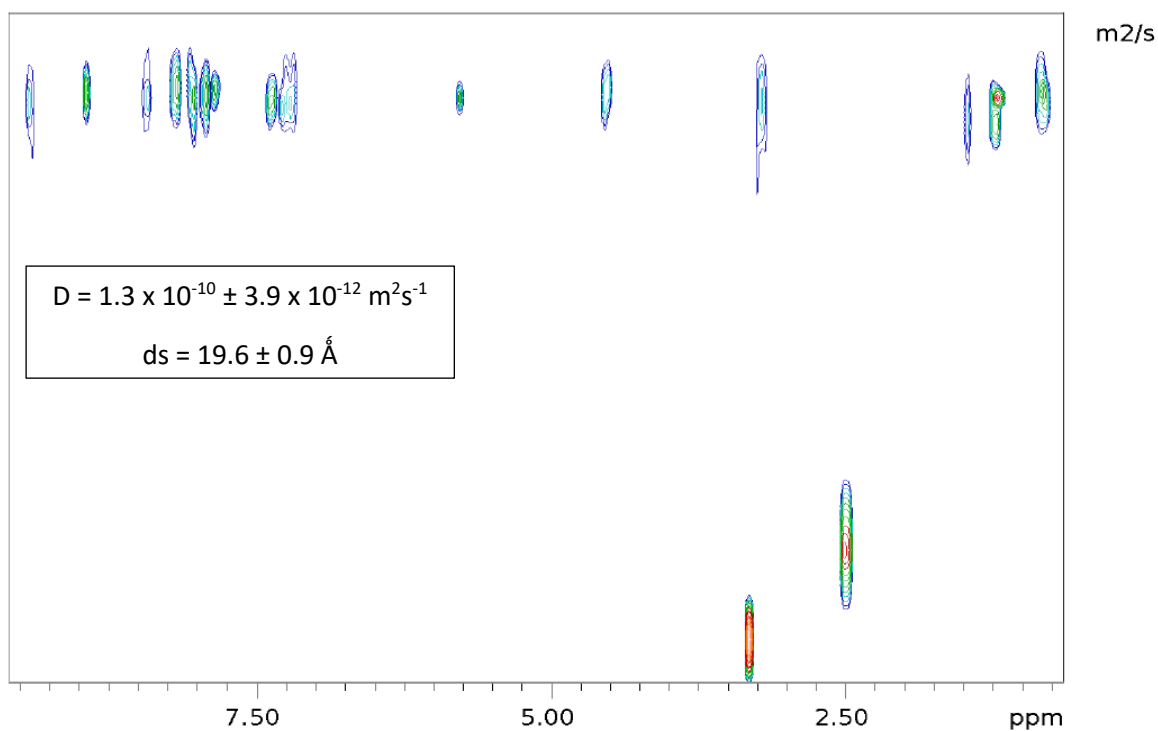
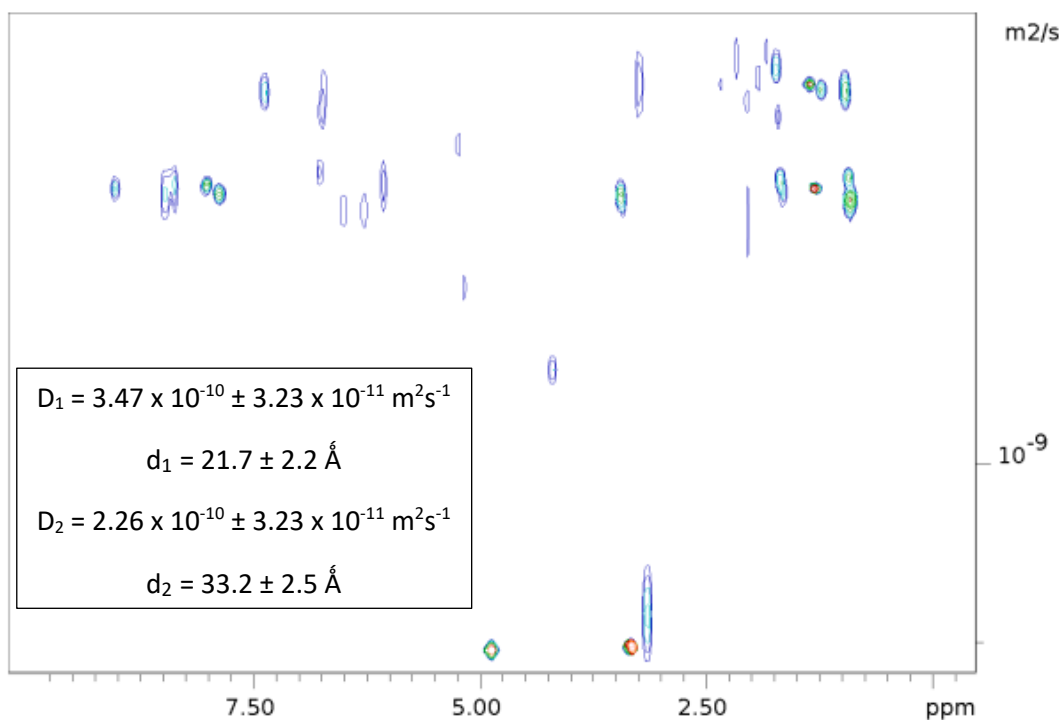
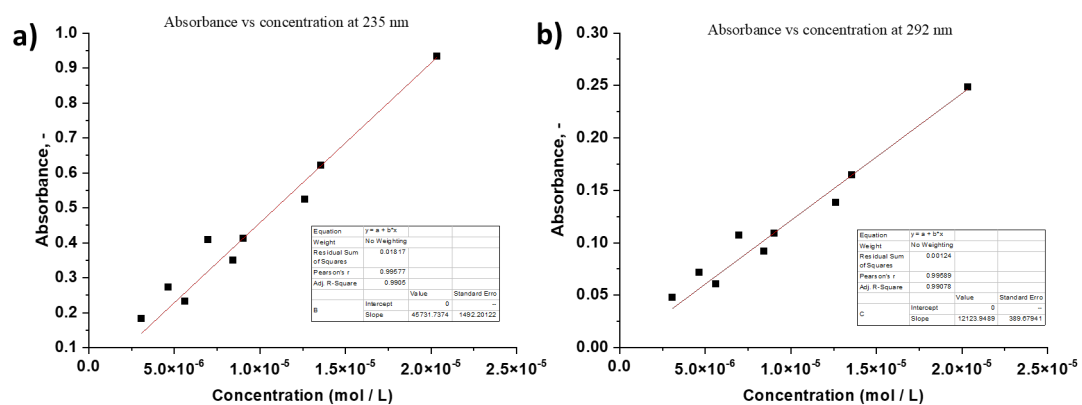


Figure S12. DOSY NMR of 2 ( $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz).<sup>1</sup>

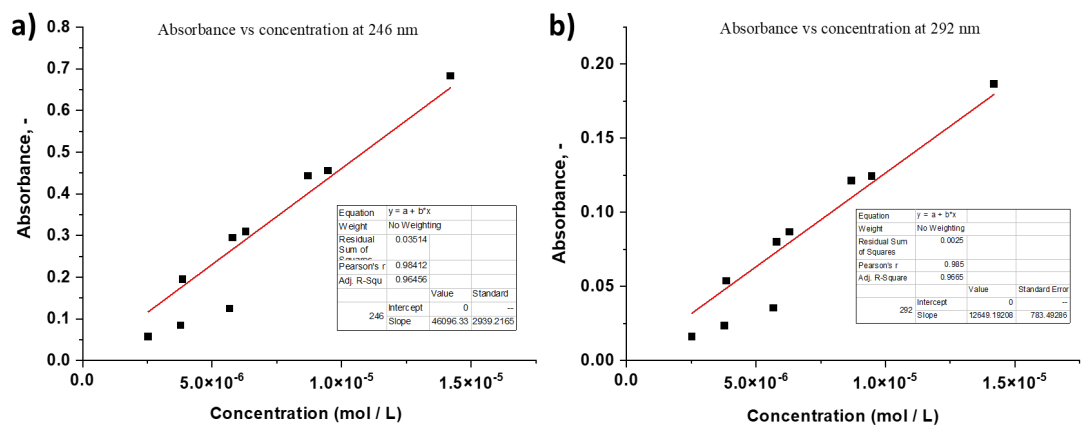


**Figure S13:** DOSY NMR of **2** ( $1.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$ ) with 0.66 equivalents of  $\text{Eu}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 400 MHz).<sup>2</sup>

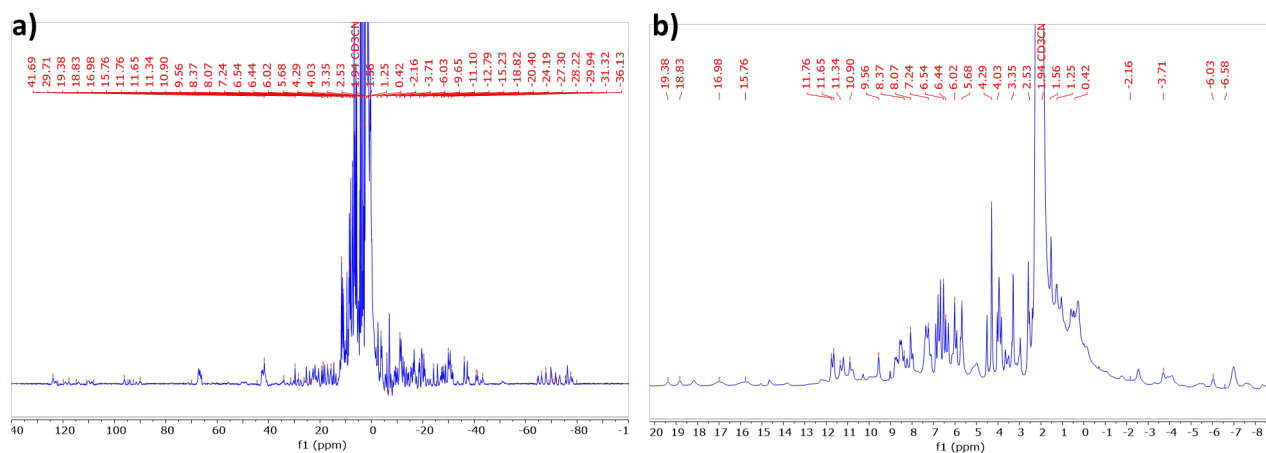


**Figure S14.** Absorbance of **1** vs concentration recorded in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at **a)** 235 nm and **b)** 292 nm.

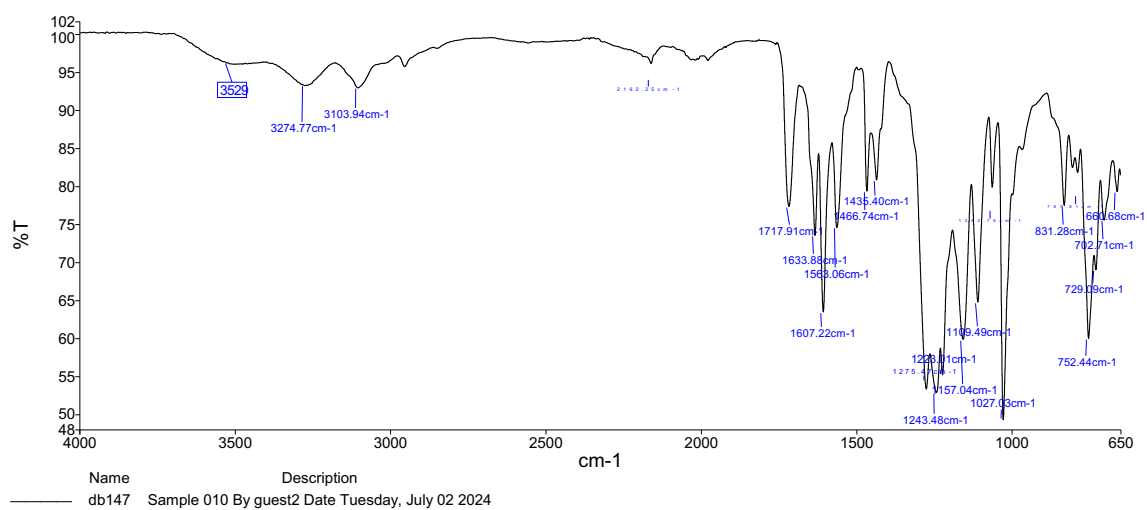




**Figure S15.** Absorbance of **2** vs concentration recorded in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}:\text{CHCl}_3$  (80:20) at **a)** 235 nm and **b)** 292 nm.



**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **3** (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): **a)** full spectrum and **b)** zoomed area.



**Figure S17.** IR of **3**.

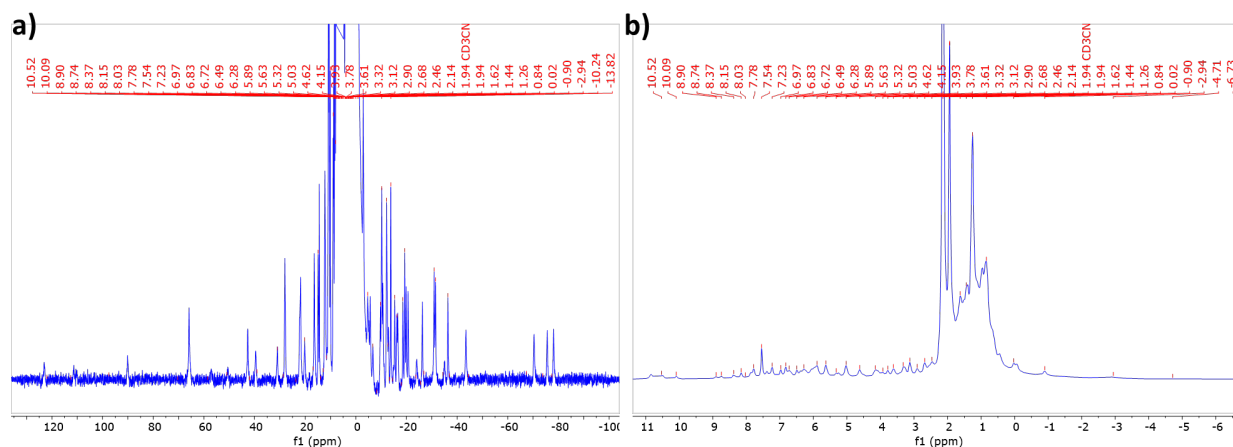


Figure S18.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **4** (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ): a) full spectrum and b) zoomed area.

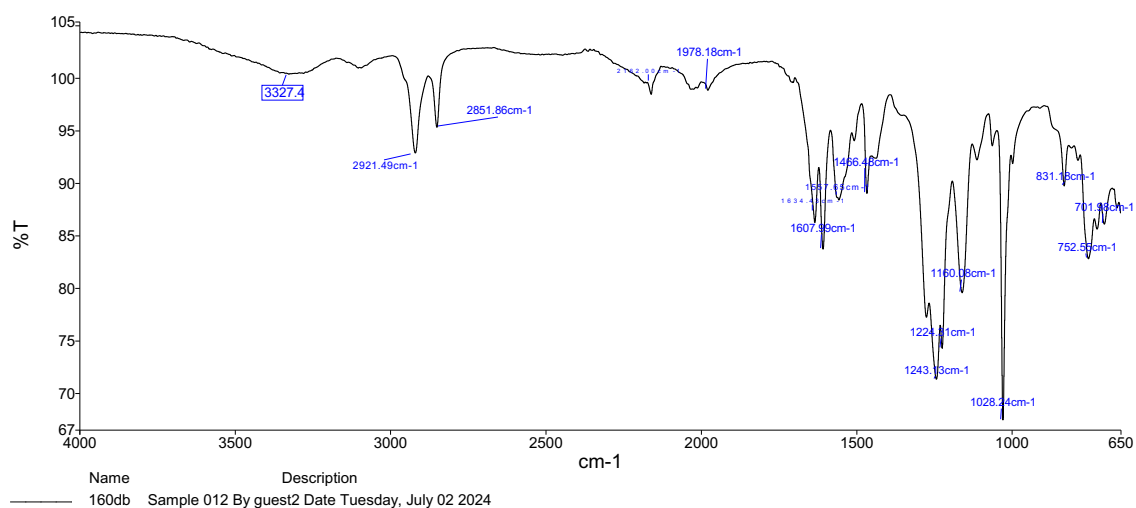


Figure S19. IR of **4**.

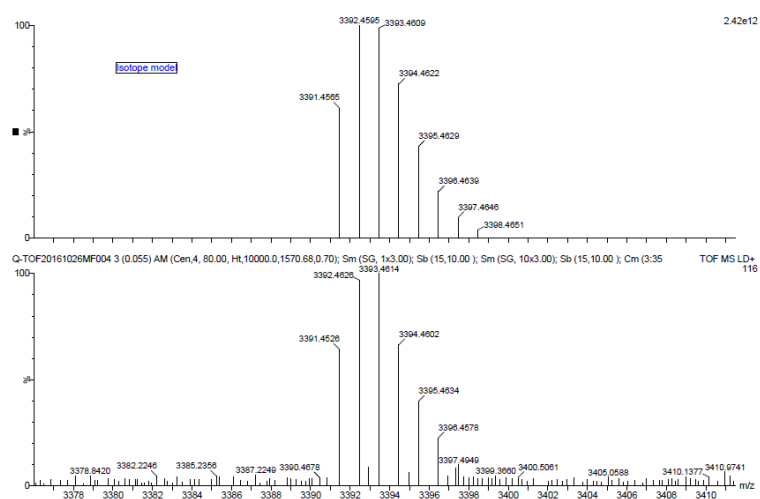
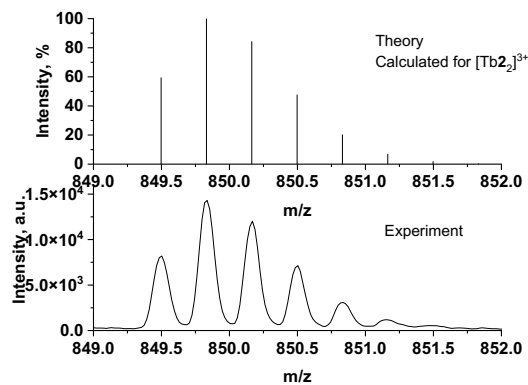
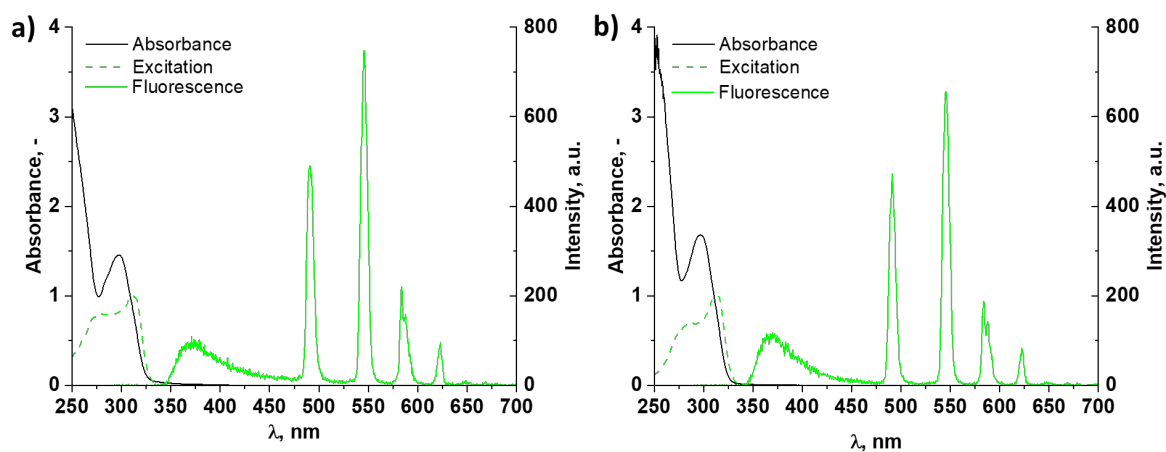


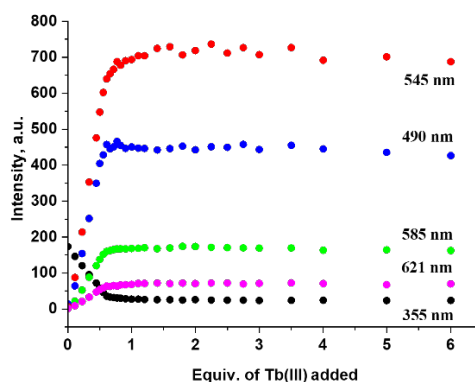
Figure S20. MALDI MS where the experimental and theoretical isotopic distribution are shown for  $[\text{Tb}_2\mathbf{1}_3(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_5]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{131}\text{H}_{108}\text{F}_{15}\text{N}_{30}\text{O}_{33}\text{S}_5\text{Tb}_2^+$ ) of **3**.



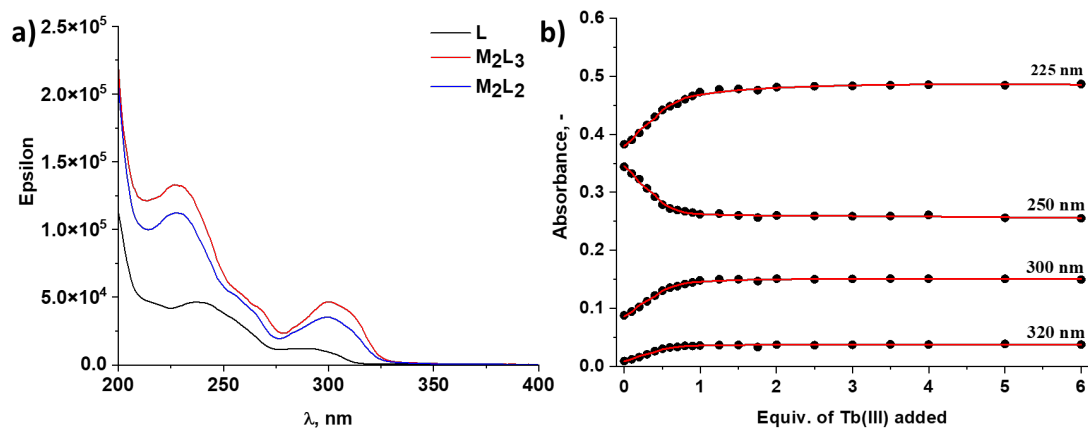
**Figure S21.** ESI-MS of **4** showing experimental and theoretical isotopic distribution for  $[\text{Tb}_2]^{3+}$ .



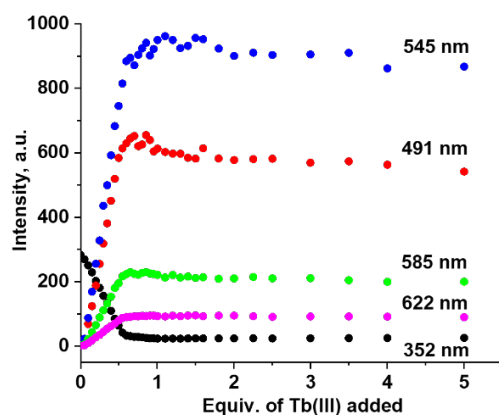
**Figure S22.** Absorbance, fluorescence ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 279 \text{ nm}$ ) and delayed excitation spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545 \text{ nm}$ ) of **a) 3** ( $c = 3.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ) and **b) 4** ( $c = 2.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ .



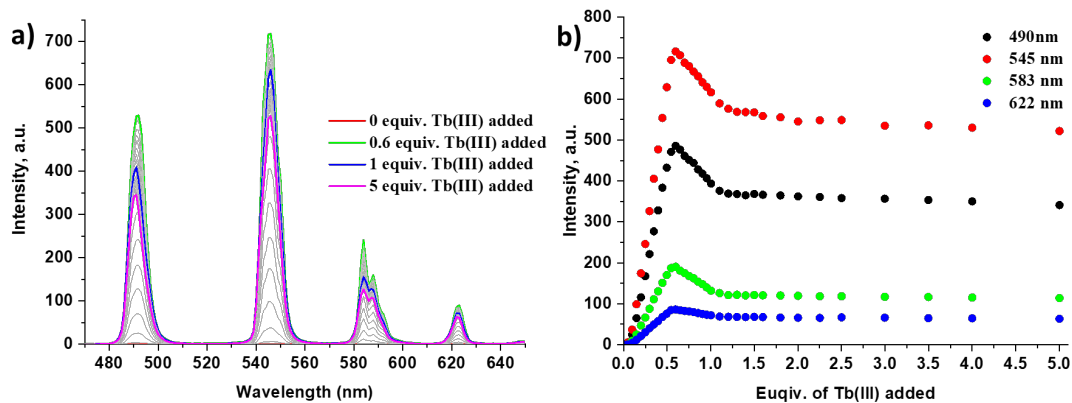
**Figure S23.** The experimental binding isotherms at  $\lambda = 355, 490, 545$  and  $621 \text{ nm}$  of the fluorescence for the titration of **1** ( $1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ) against  $\text{Tb}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$  ( $0 \rightarrow 6$  equiv.) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at  $22 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



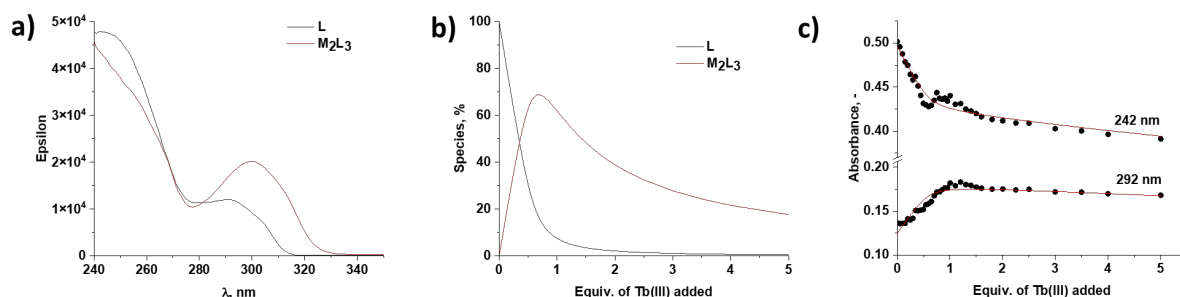
**Figure S24.** a) Recalculated spectra, b) experimental binding isotherms ( $\lambda = 225, 250, 300$  and  $320$  nm;  $\bullet\bullet\bullet$ ) and their fit (—) for the titration of **1** ( $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M) against  $\text{Tb}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$  ( $0 \rightarrow 6$  equiv.) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at  $22^\circ\text{C}$ .



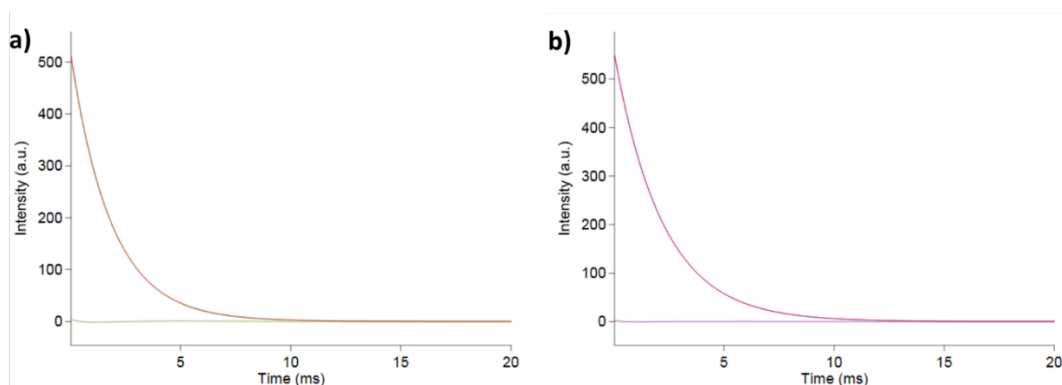
**Figure S25.** The experimental binding isotherms at  $\lambda = 352, 491, 545$  and  $622$  nm of the fluorescence for the titration of **2** ( $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) against  $\text{Tb}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$  ( $0 \rightarrow 6$  equiv.) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at  $22^\circ\text{C}$ .



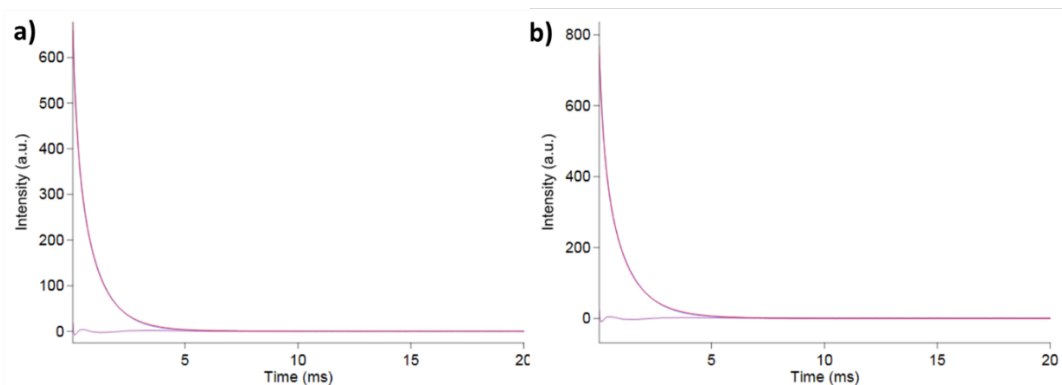
**Figure S26.** Overall changes in the: **a)** phosphorescence [delayed Tb(III)] emission upon titrating **2** ( $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) against Tb(CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0 → 6 equiv.) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN at 22 °C ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 292$  nm), and **b)** experimental binding isotherms representing the changes at  $\lambda = 490, 545, 583$  and 622 nm versus number of equivalents of Tb(III) added to the solution.



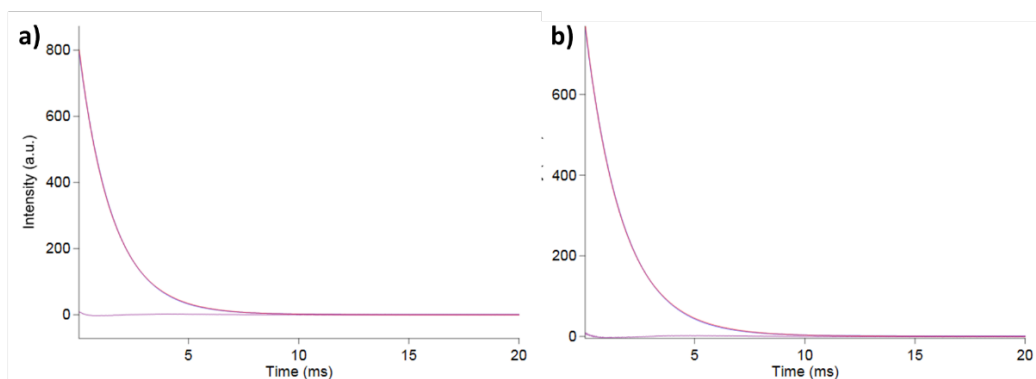
**Figure S27.** **a)** Recalculated spectra, **b)** speciation-distribution diagram, **c)** experimental binding isotherms (●●●) and their fit (—) for the titration of **2** ( $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) against Tb(CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0 → 6 equiv.) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN at 22 °C.



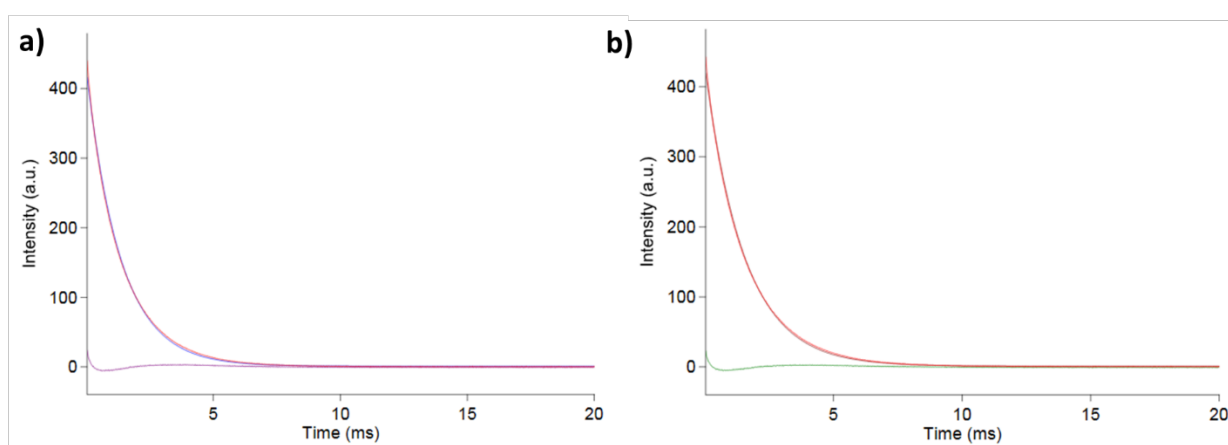
**Figure S28.** Life-times of Tb(III)-centred emission ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 292$  nm;  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545$  nm) decays and their mono-exponential fits recorded for **3** in **a)** CH<sub>3</sub>OH and **b)** CD<sub>3</sub>OD.



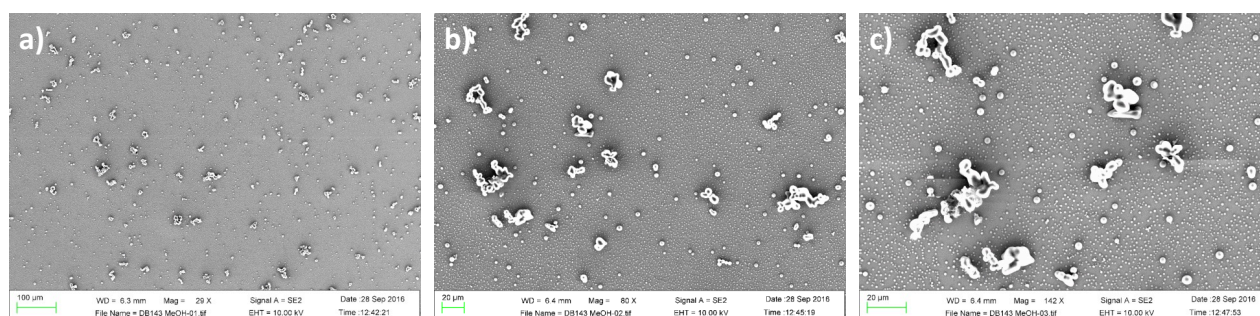
**Figure S29.** Life-times of Tb(III)-centred emission ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 292$  nm;  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545$  nm) decays and their bi-exponential fits recorded for **3** in **a)** H<sub>2</sub>O and **b)** D<sub>2</sub>O.



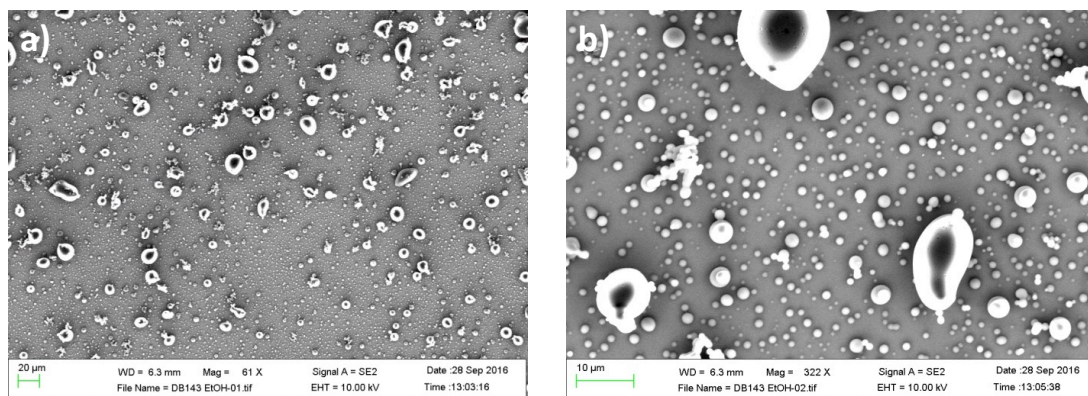
**Figure S30.** Life-times of Tb(III)-centred emission ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 292 \text{ nm}$ ;  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545 \text{ nm}$ ) decays and their mono-exponential fits recorded for **4** in **a)**  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  and **b)**  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ .



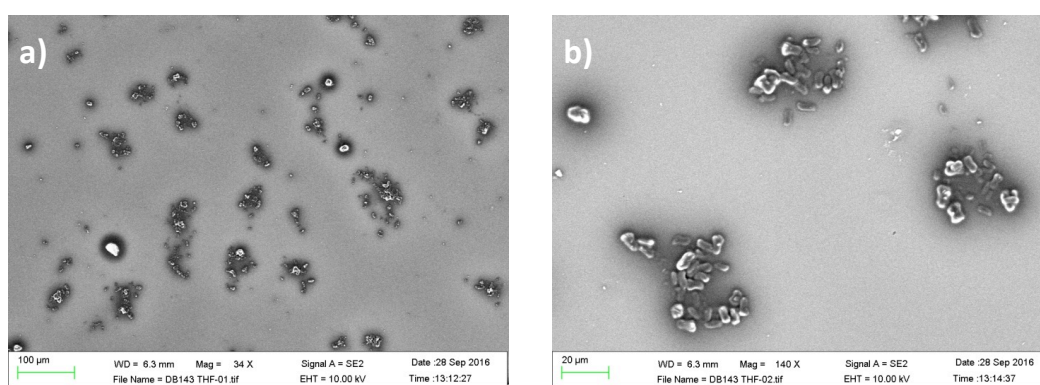
**Figure S31.** Life-times of Tb(III)-centred emission ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 292 \text{ nm}$ ;  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545 \text{ nm}$ ) decays and their mono-exponential fits recorded for **4** in **a)**  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and **b)**  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .



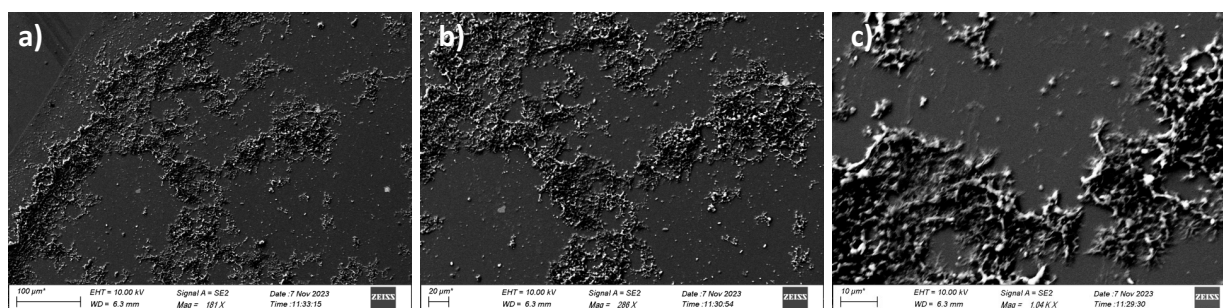
**Figure S32.** SEM Images of sample **1** prepared in MeOH [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu\text{L}$ )] where 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 100  $\mu\text{m}$ ], **b)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ], and **c)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ], respectively.



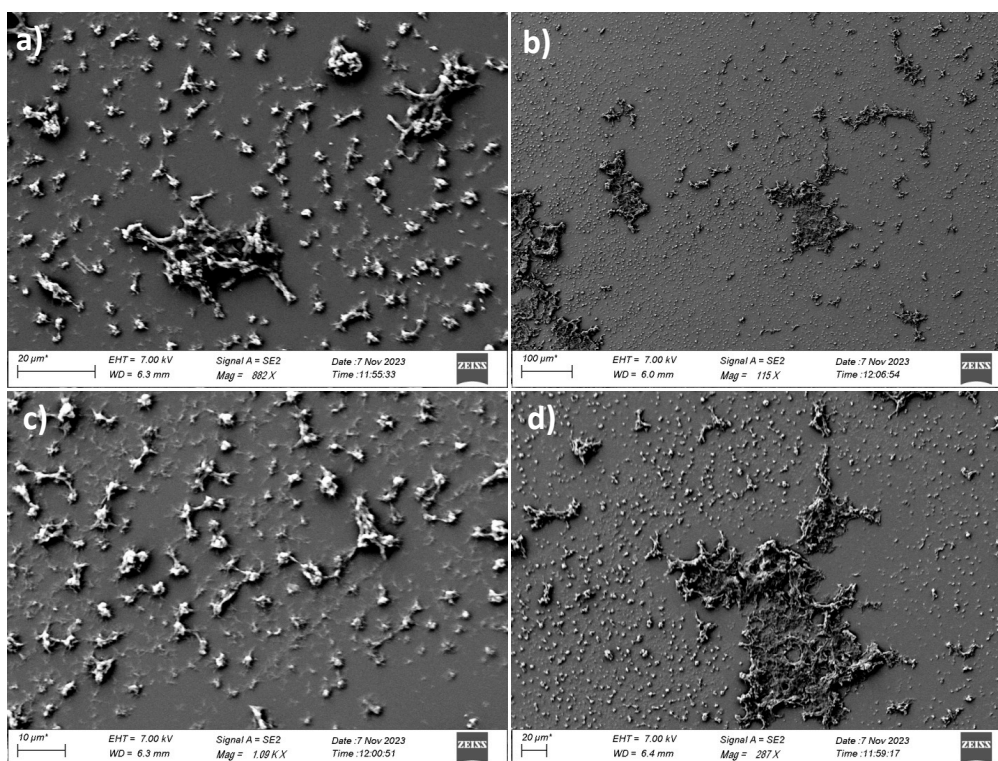
**Figure S33.** SEM Images of sample **1** prepared in EtOH [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], and **b)** [scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m], respectively.



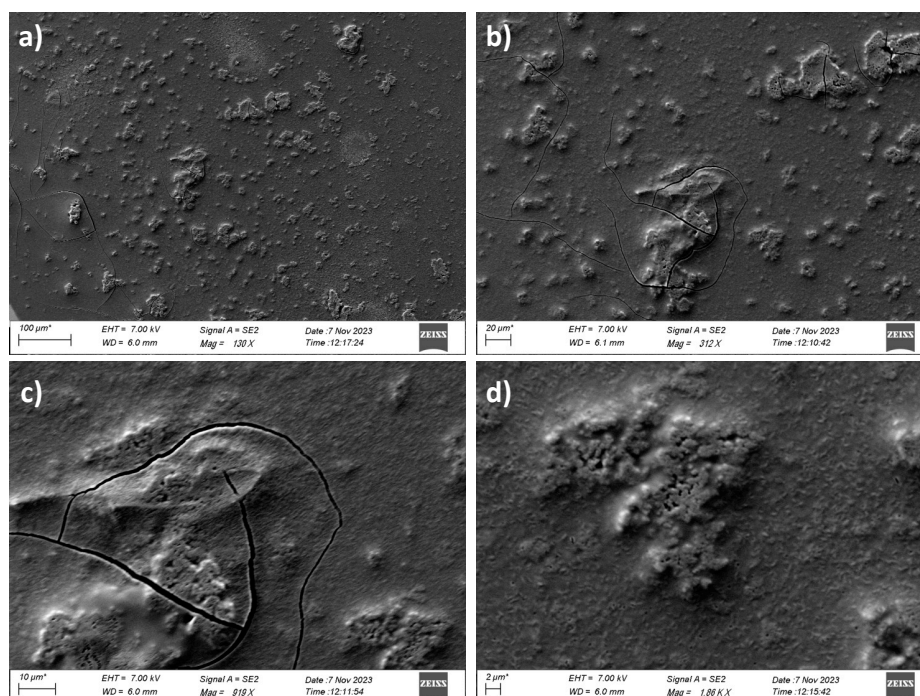
**Figure S34.** SEM Images of sample **1** prepared in THF [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m], and **b)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], respectively.



**Figure S35.** SEM Images of samples **2** prepared in MeOH [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m], **b)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], and **c)** [scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m], respectively.

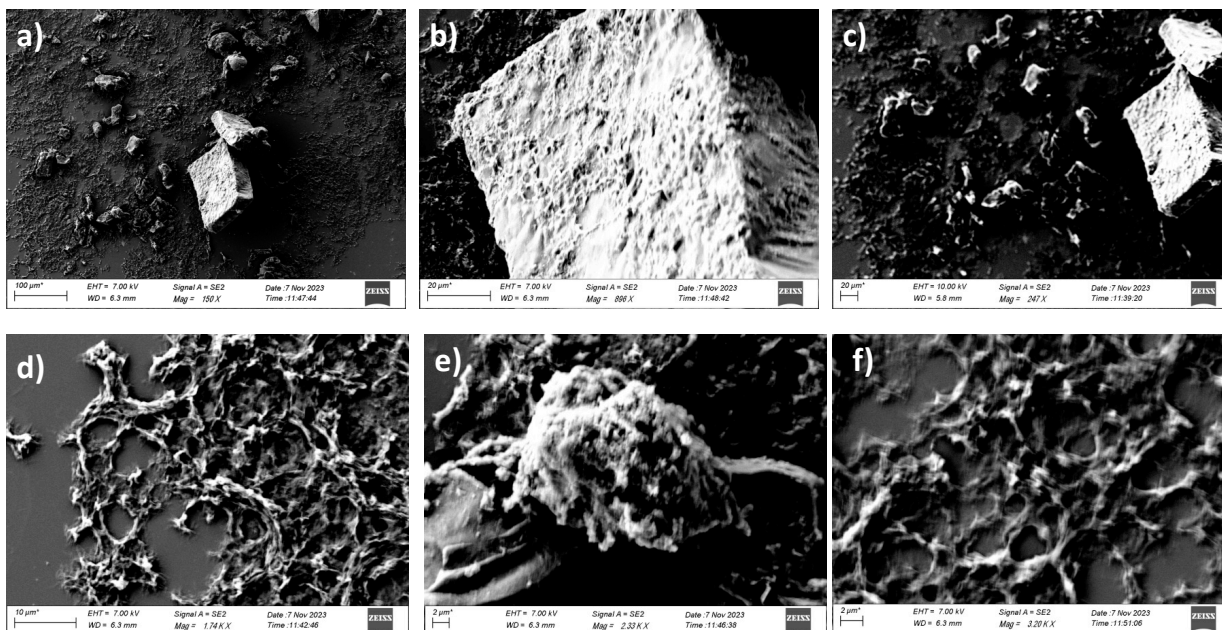


**Figure S36.** SEM Images of samples **2** prepared in EtOH [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a**) [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], **b**) [scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m], **c**) [scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m], **d**) [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], respectively.

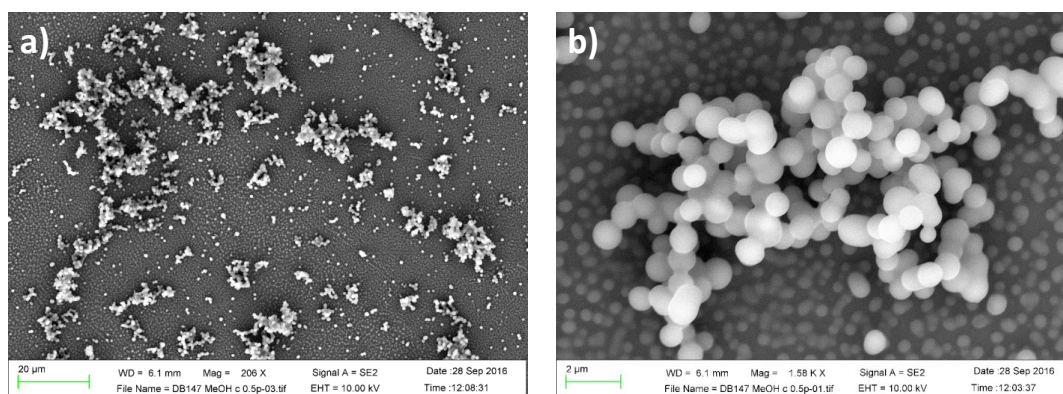


**Figure S37.** SEM Images of samples **2** prepared in THF [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a**) [scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m], **b**) [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], **c**) [scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m], and **d**) [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], respectively.

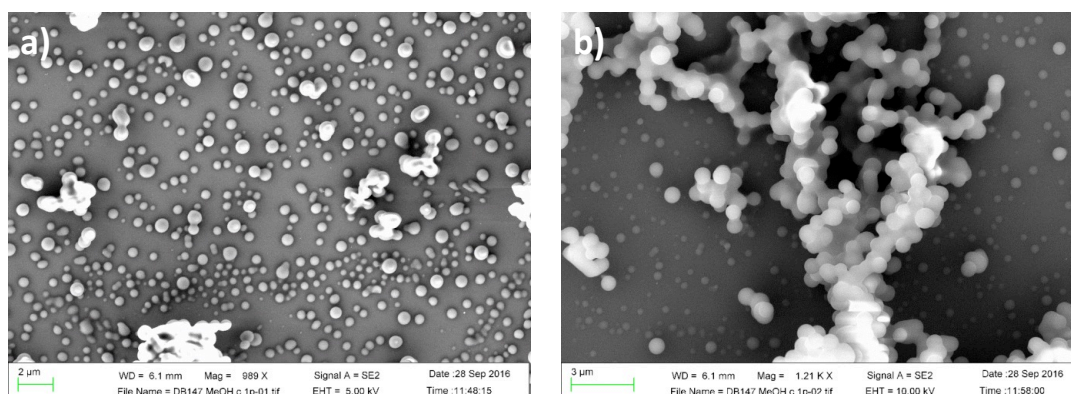




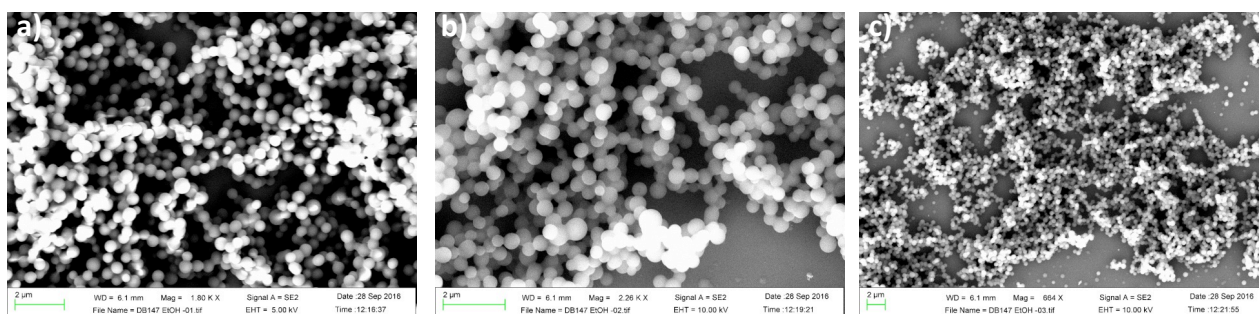
**Figure S38.** SEM Images of samples **2** prepared in MeOH [1.0 % w/v (2 mg in 200  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m], **b)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], **c)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], **d)** [scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m], **e)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], and **f)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], respectively.



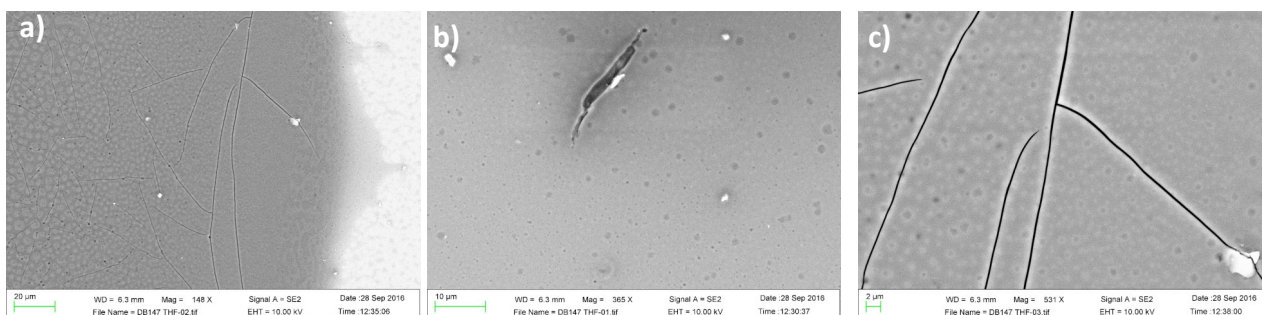
**Figure S39.** SEM Images of samples **3** prepared in MeOH [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], and **b)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], respectively.



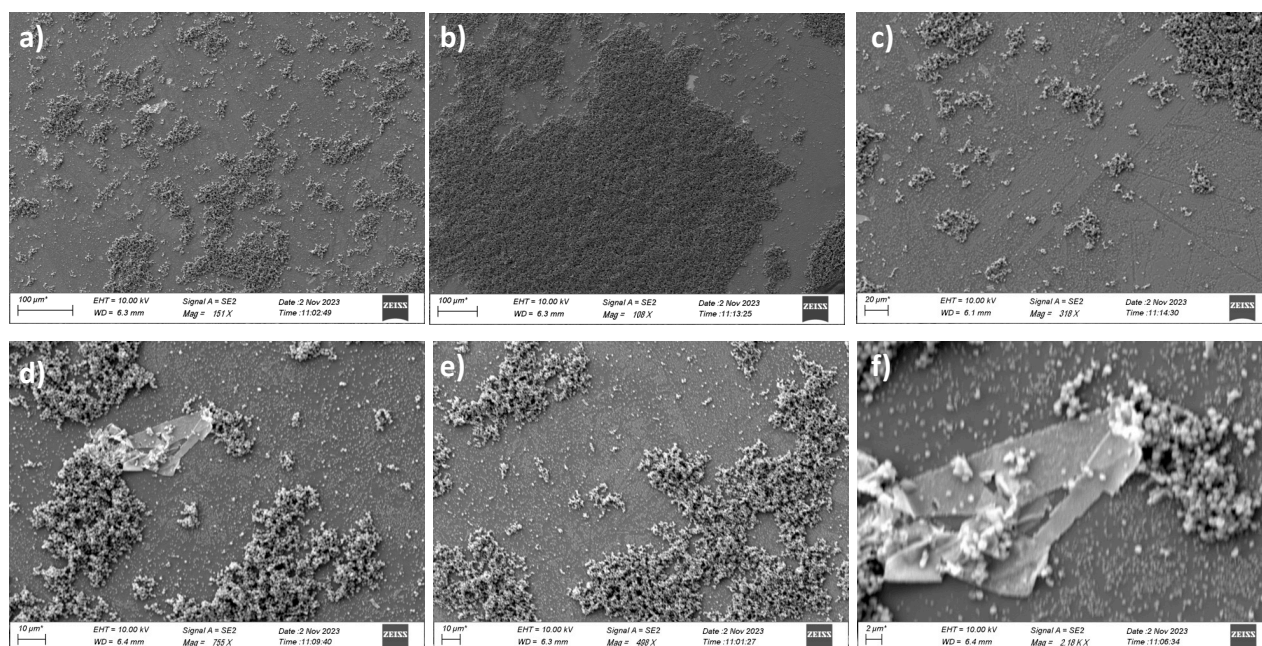
**Figure S40.** SEM Images of samples **3** prepared in MeOH [1.0 % w/v (2 mg in 200  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], and **b)** [scale bar = 3  $\mu$ m], respectively.



**Figure S41.** SEM Images of samples **3** prepared in EtOH [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], **b)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], and **c)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], respectively.

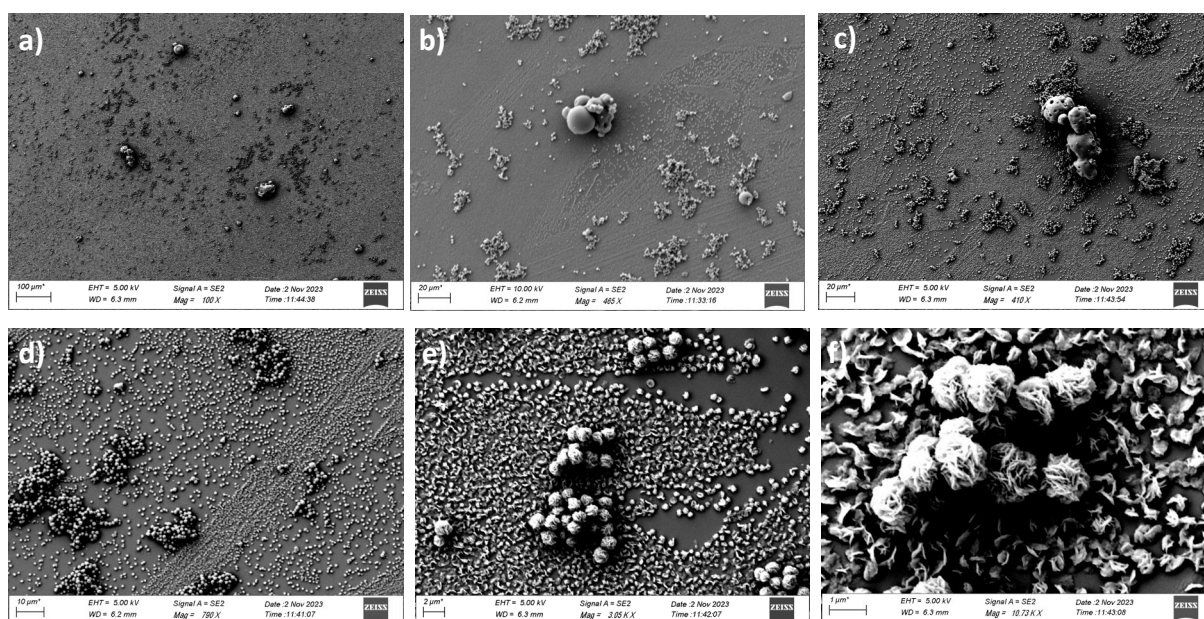


**Figure S42.** SEM Images of samples **3** prepared in THF [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 20  $\mu$ m], **b)** [scale bar = 10  $\mu$ m], and **c)** [scale bar = 2  $\mu$ m], respectively.

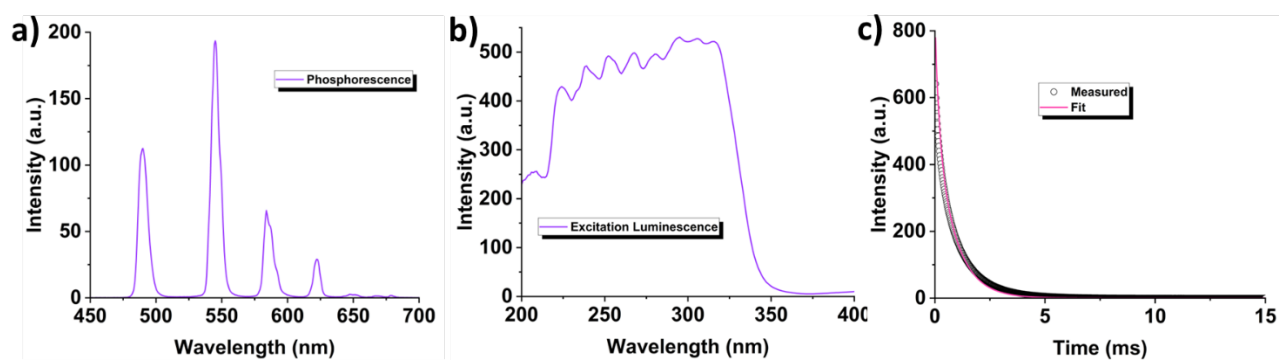


**Figure S43.** SEM Images of samples **4** prepared in MeOH [1.0 % w/v (2 mg in 200  $\mu$ L)] where 10  $\mu$ L of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a)** [scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m], **b)** [scale bar =

100  $\mu\text{m}$ ], **c**] [scale bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ], **d**] [scale bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ], and **e**] [scale bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ], and **f**] [scale bar = 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ], respectively.



**Figure S44.** SEM Images of samples **4** prepared in EtOH [0.5 % w/v (2 mg in 400  $\mu\text{L}$ )] where 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of solution was deposited onto silica wafers and dried overnight: **a**] [scale bar = 100  $\mu\text{m}$ ], **b**] [scale bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ], **c**] [scale bar = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ], **d**] [scale bar = 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ], and **e**] [scale bar = 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ], and **f**] [scale bar = 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ], respectively.



**Figurer S45.** **a**) The emission ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 290 \text{ nm}$ ) and **b**) excitation ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545 \text{ nm}$ ) spectra recorded for the solid **3** in phosphorescence mode. **c**) The excited state decay recorded in phosphorescence mode ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 545 \text{ nm}$ ), which was best fitted to bi-exponential decay ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 290 \text{ nm}$ ).

## References

1. H. Günther, NMR spectroscopy: Basic principles, concepts, and applications in chemistry, Wiley-VCH, 2013.