

## Supporting Information

### Rare-earth metal-mediated addition/cyclization of 2-cyanobenzoamino anion

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## Experimental Section

**General Procedure.** All operations involving air- and moisture-sensitive compounds were carried out under an inert atmosphere of purified argon or nitrogen using standard Schlenk techniques. The solvents of THF, toluene, *n*-hexane were refluxed and distilled over sodium benzophenone ketyl under nitrogen immediately prior to use.  $(C_5H_5)_2LnCl(THF)$  was prepared by the literature methods.<sup>1</sup> Anthranilonitrile and  $HN(SiMe_3)_2$  were purchased from Aldrich and were used without purification. Elemental analyses for C, H and N were carried out on a Rapid CHN-O analyzer. Infrared spectra were obtained on a NICOLET FT-IR 360 spectrometer with samples prepared as Nujol mulls. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data were obtained on a Brüker DMX-400 NMR spectrometer.

**Synthesis of  $[2-NCC_6H_4NHLi(THF)]_n$  (1):** A 30 mL THF solution of anthranilonitrile (0.688 g, 5.80 mmol) was added into the 30 mL THF solution of  $LiN(SiMe_3)_2$  (0.970 g, 5.80 mmol) at room temperature. After stirring for 24 h, all volatile substances were removed under vacuum to give pale yellow powder. Yield: 1.09 g (96 %). Recrystallization of the power from the mixture solvent of THF and *n*-hexane gave suited X-ray single crystal diffraction analysis crystals of **1**. C, H, N analysis (%) for  $C_{11}H_{13}N_2OLi$ : calcd: C 67.35, H 6.68, N 14.28; found: C 67.17, H 6.63, N 14.46; IR (Nujol): 3274 s, 2206 s, 1604 s, 1536 s, 1273 s, 1078 s, 1045 s, 910 m, 895 s, 741 s, 734s, 692 s  $cm^{-1}$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (THF-d<sub>8</sub> 3.58, 1.72):  $\delta$  6.82, 6.72, 6.32,

5.73 (m, 4H NHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CN), δ 3.90 (s, 1H NHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CN), δ 3.54 (m, 4H O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) δ 1.67 (m, 4H O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (THF-d<sub>8</sub> 67.21, 25.31): δ 167.28, 132.54, 132.47, 118.98, 107.60.

**Synthesis of (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Er[κ<sup>3</sup>-(4-NH=(C<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)(2-NHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)]Li(THF)<sub>3</sub> (2):** A 15 mL THF solution of **1** (0.295 g, 1.50 mmol) was added into the 15 mL THF solution of (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>ErCl(THF) (0.304 g, 0.75 mmol) at room temperature. After stirring for 24 h, the reaction solution was concentrated to ca. 5 mL by reduced pressure. Pink crystals of **2** were obtained at -20 °C for several days. Yield: 0.430 g (76 %). C, H, N analysis (%): calcd for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>ErLi: C 57.27, H 5.87, N 7.42; found: C 57.15, H 5.84, N 7.59; IR (Nujol): 3385 m, 3374 m, 1597 s, 1573 s, 1544 s, 1327 m, 1258 m, 1070 s, 1010 s, 962 s, 913 m, 888 m, 760 s, 704 w, 660 m.

**Synthesis of (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Y[κ<sup>3</sup>-(4-NH=(C<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)(2-NHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)]Li(THF)<sub>3</sub> (3):** Following the procedure described for **2**, reaction of (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>YCl(THF) (0.291 g, 0.89 mmol) with **1** (0.350 g, 1.78 mmol) gave **3** as colorless crystals. Yield: 0.486 g (81%). C, H, N analysis (%) for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>YLi: calcd: C 63.91, H 6.56, N 8.28; found: C 63.97, H 6.62, N, 8.11; IR (Nujol): 3388 m, 3376 m, 1596 s, 1571 s, 1541 s, 1323 m, 1256 m, 1074 s, 1011 s, 962 s, 910 m, 886 m, 761 s, 702 w, 661 m. cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> 7.16): δ 7.06, 7.02, 6.83, 6.13 (m, 8H C<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), δ 6.33 (s, 10H C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), δ 4.86 (b, 2H NHC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, NH=C<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), δ 3.54 (m, 12H O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), δ 1.45 (m, 4H O(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> 128.06): δ 110.21 (Cp ring), δ 165.02, 134.24, 131.91, 123.36, 119.27, 111.20, 108.81, 91.71.

**X-ray Data Collection, Structure Determination and Refinement.** Suitable single crystals of complexes **1-2** were sealed under argon in Lindemann glass capillaries for X-ray structural analysis. Diffraction data were collected on a Bruker SMART Apex CCD diffractometer using graphite-monochromated MoKα ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) radiation. During the intensity data collection, no significant decay was observed. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz-polarization effects and empirical absorption with SADABS program.<sup>2</sup> The structures were solved by the direct method using the SHELXL-97 program.<sup>3</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were found

from the difference Fourier syntheses. The H atoms were included in calculated positions with isotropic thermal parameters related to those of the supporting carbon atoms, but were not included in the refinement. All calculations were performed using the SHELXL program. A summary of the crystallographic data and selected experimental information are given in Table 1.

**Table 1** Crystal and Data Collection Parameters of Complexes **1** and **2**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Formula	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> OLi	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>44</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ErLi
Molecular weight	196.17	754.95
Crystal color	colorless	Pink
Crystal dimens (mm)	0.15 x 0.12 x 0.10	0.12 x 0.10 x 0.06
Crystal system	Monocline	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2(1)/c	<i>P</i> 2(1)/c
Unit cell dimensions		
<i>a</i> (Å)	10.813(10)	13.067(4)
<i>b</i> (Å)	8.566(8)	20.093(6)
<i>c</i> (Å)	12.667(11)	14.494(5)
$\beta$ (deg)	99.228(12)	115.783(4)
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1158.0(18)	4592(2)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
<i>Dc</i> (g.cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.125	1.463
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.072	2.489
<i>F</i> (000)	416	1532
Radiation ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073 Å)	Mo- <i>K</i> <sub>α</sub>	Mo- <i>K</i> <sub>α</sub>
Temperature (K)	293.2	293.2
Scan type	$\omega$ -2 $\theta$	$\omega$ -2 $\theta$
$\theta$ range (deg)	1.91 to 25.00	1.73 to 25.01
<i>h,k,l</i> range	-12 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 12, -10 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 10 -15 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 12	-15 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 15 -23 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 23 -17 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 8
No. of reflections measured	4634	14065
No. of unique reflections	2021 ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> = 0.0521)	6043 ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> = 0.0623)
Completeness to $\theta$	99.1 % ( $\theta$ = 25.00)	100.0 % ( $\theta$ = 25.01)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	2021/1/139	6043/2/412
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	0.994	0.780
Final R indices [ <i>I</i> >2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0835, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.2364	<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> = 0.0387, <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> = 0.0380

$R$ indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.1231,$ $wR_2 = 0.2638$	$R_1 = 0.1000,$ $wR_2 = 0.0441$
Largest diff. peak and hole ( $e \cdot \text{\AA}^{-3}$ )	0.237 and -0.201	0.648 and -0.764

### References:

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3. G. M. Sheldrick, SHELXL-97, Program for the refinement of the crystal structure; University of Göttingen: Germany, 1997.