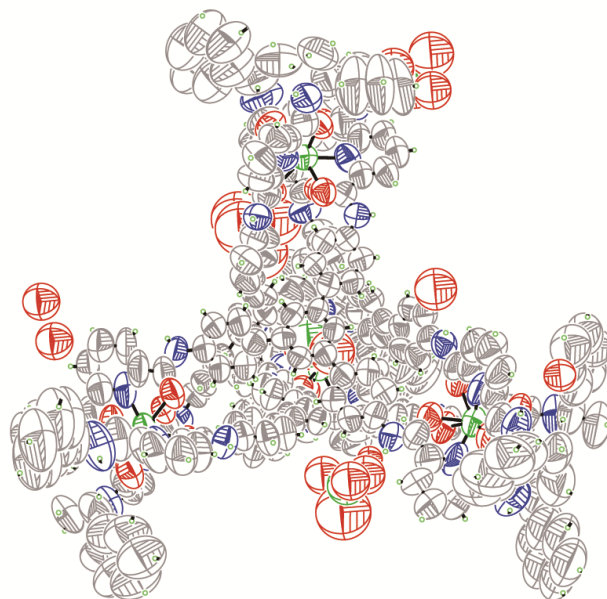


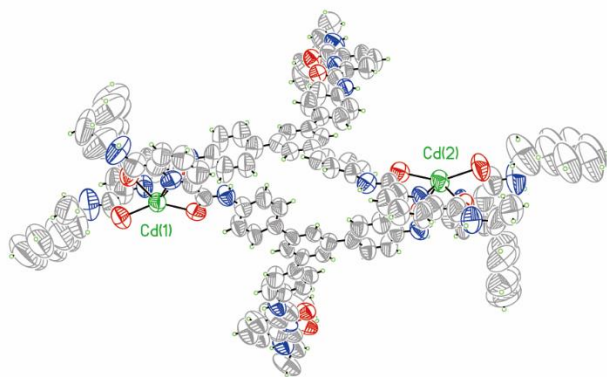
A Supramolecular Lanthanide Separation Approach Based on Multivalent Cooperative Enhancement of Metal Ion Selectivity

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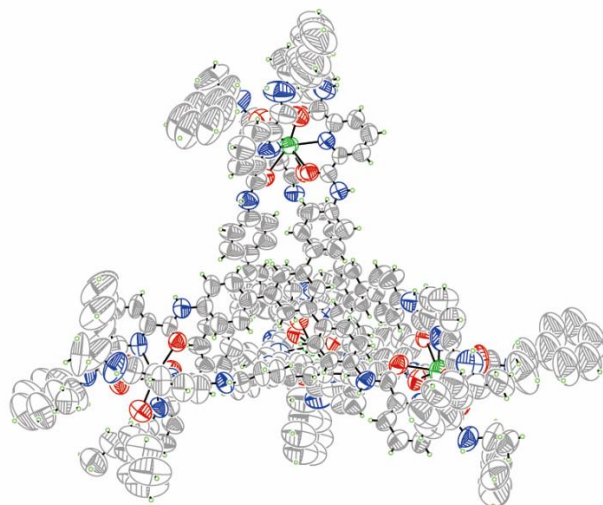
Supplementary Figures



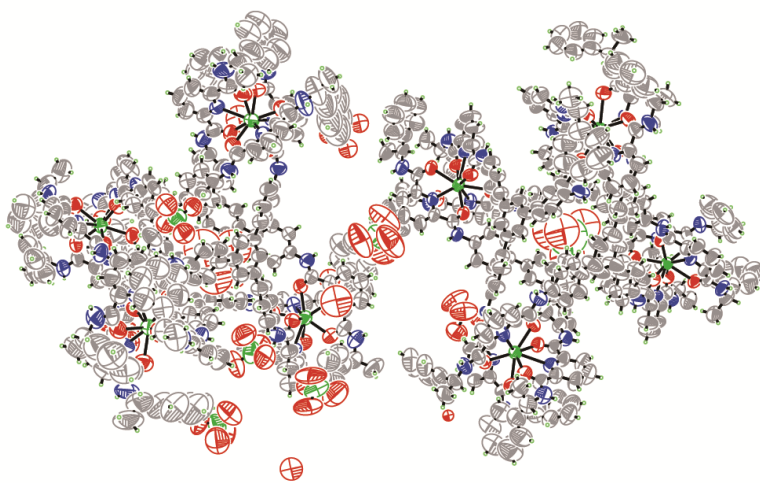
Supplementary Figure 1. Ortep drawing of the crystal structure of Cd_4L_4 (ClO_4^- salt) at 50% probability level.



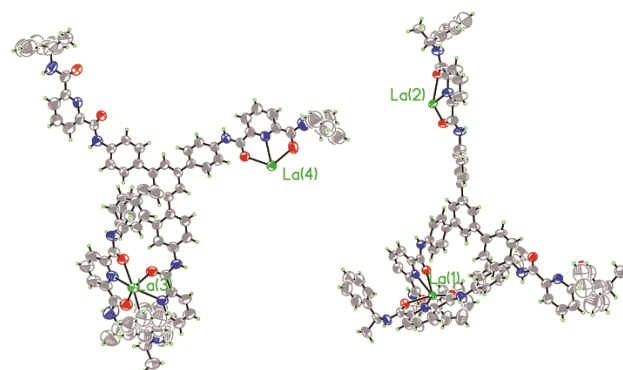
Supplementary Figure 2. ORTEP drawing of the individual metal centres and ligands in the asymmetrical unit of Cd_4L_4 at 30% ellipsoids level.



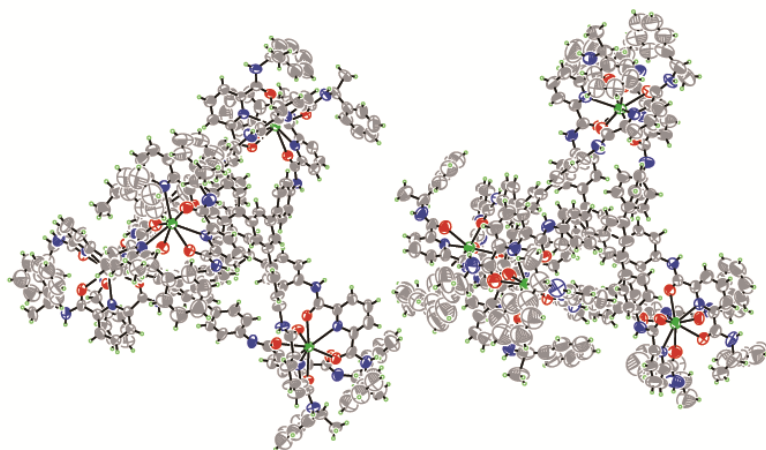
Supplementary Figure 3. ORTEP drawing of the Cd_4L_{14} tetrahedral complex at 30% ellipsoids level.



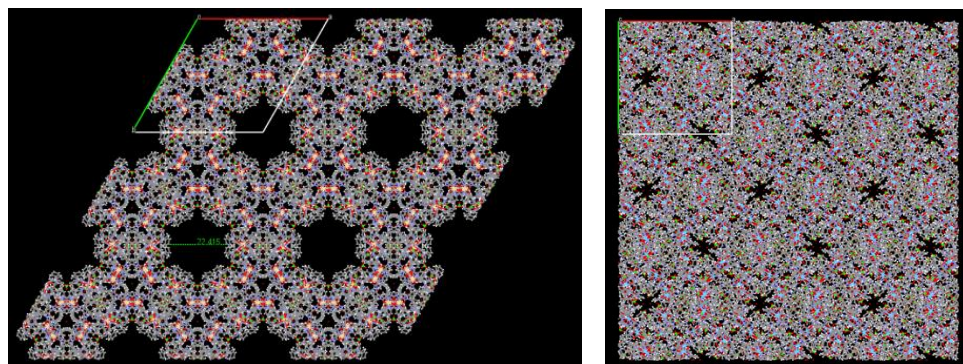
Supplementary Figure 4. Ortep drawing of the crystal structure of La_4L_{14} (ClO_4^- salt) at 50% probability level.



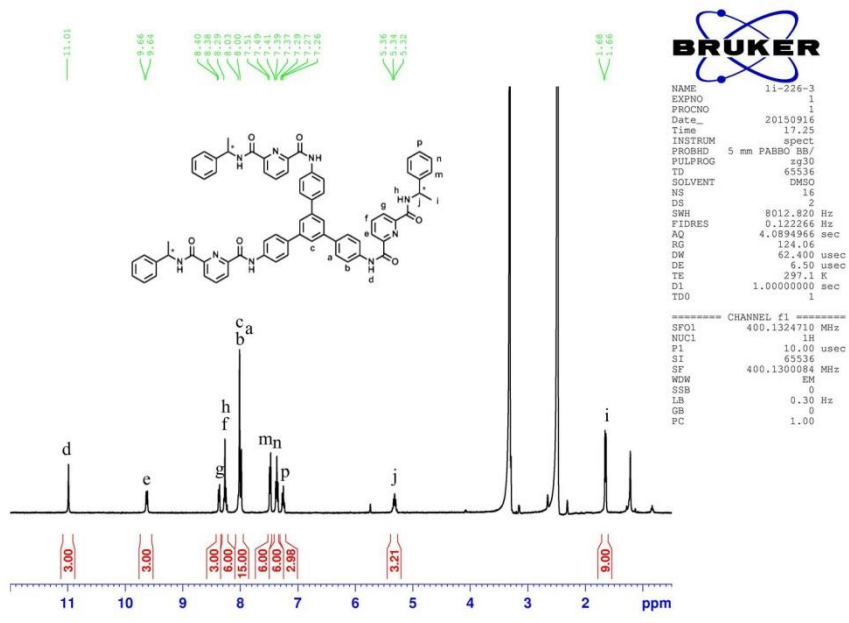
Supplementary Figure 5. ORTEP drawing of the individual metal centres and ligands in the asymmetrical unit of La_4L^1_4 at 30% ellipsoids level.



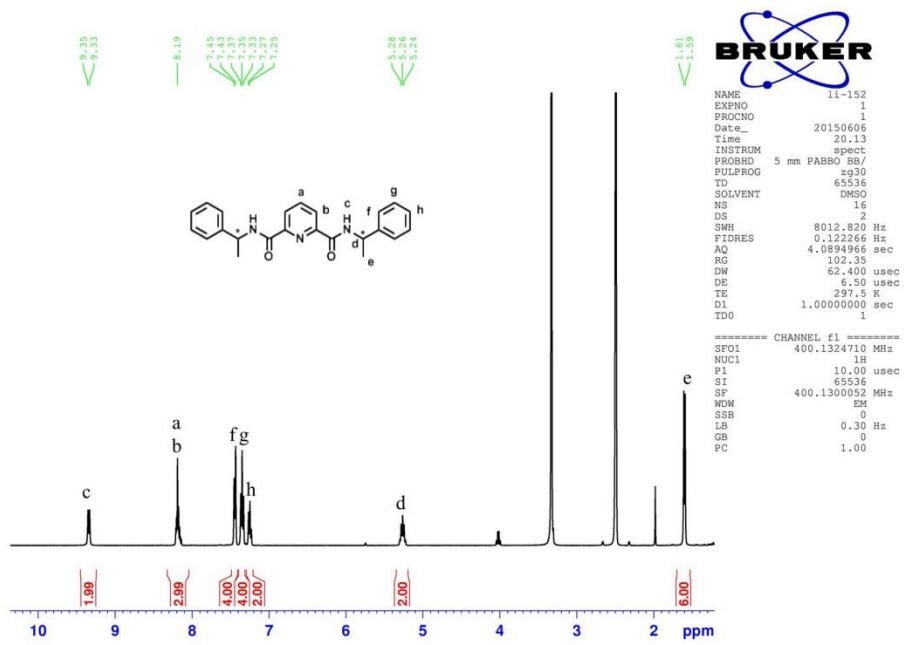
Supplementary Figure 6. ORTEP drawing of the La_4L^1_4 tetrahedral complex at 30% ellipsoids level.



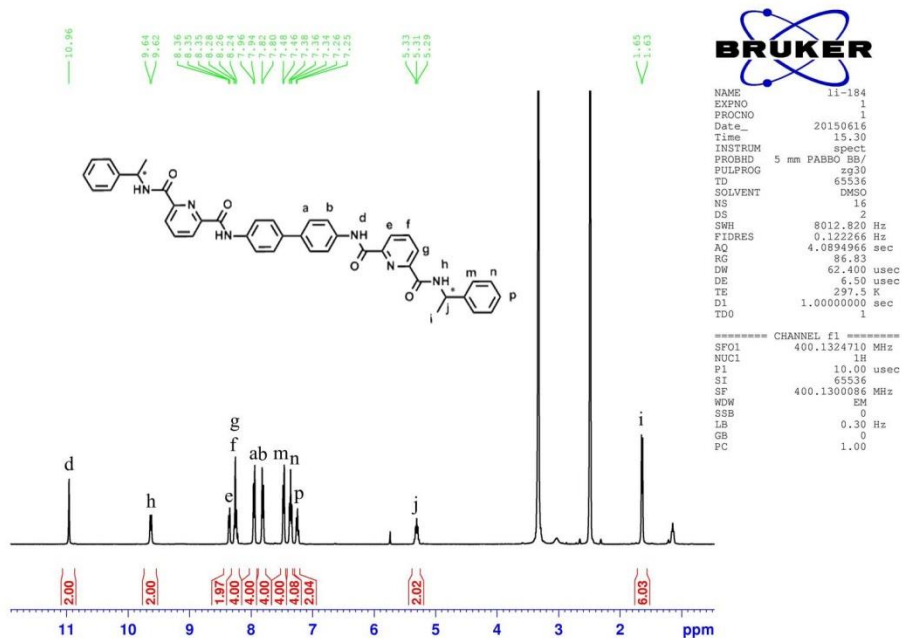
Supplementary Figure 7. Different crystal packing diagrams for the $\text{Cd}_4(\text{L}^1)_4$ (left) and $\text{La}_4(\text{L}^1)_4$ (right) tetrahedral cages viewing along the c axes.



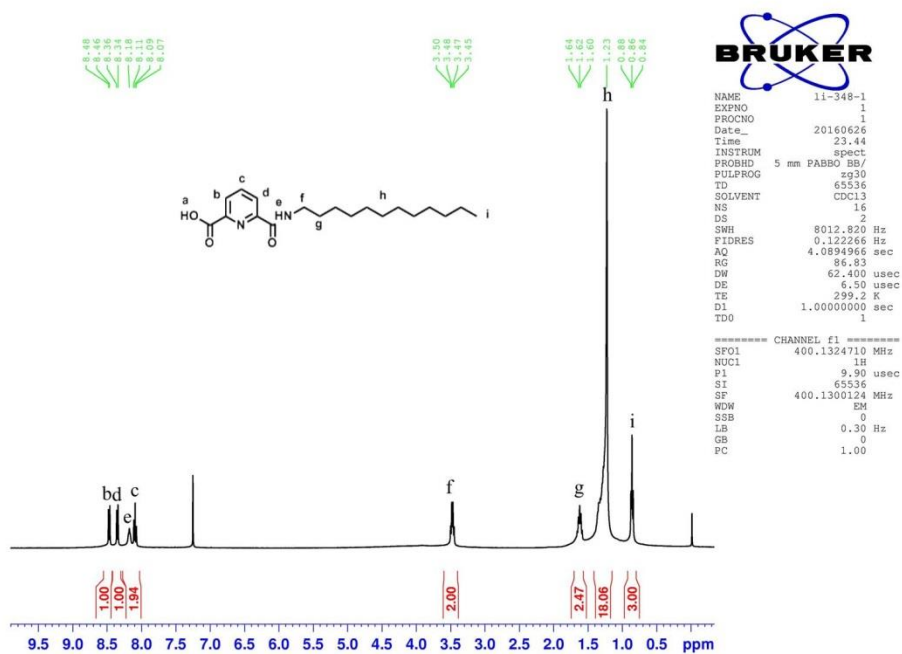
Supplementary Figure 8. ^1H NMR spectrum of L^{15} (DMSO, 400 MHz, 298K).



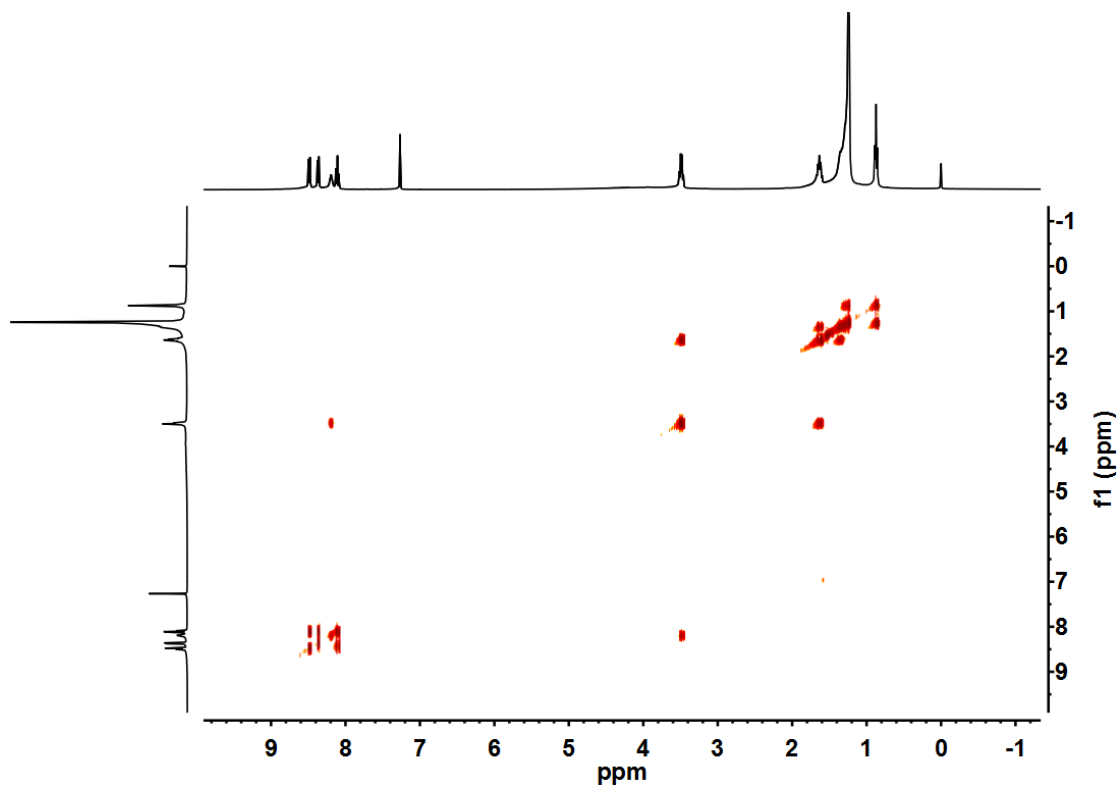
Supplementary Figure 9. ^1H NMR spectrum of L^{25} (DMSO, 400 MHz, 298 K).



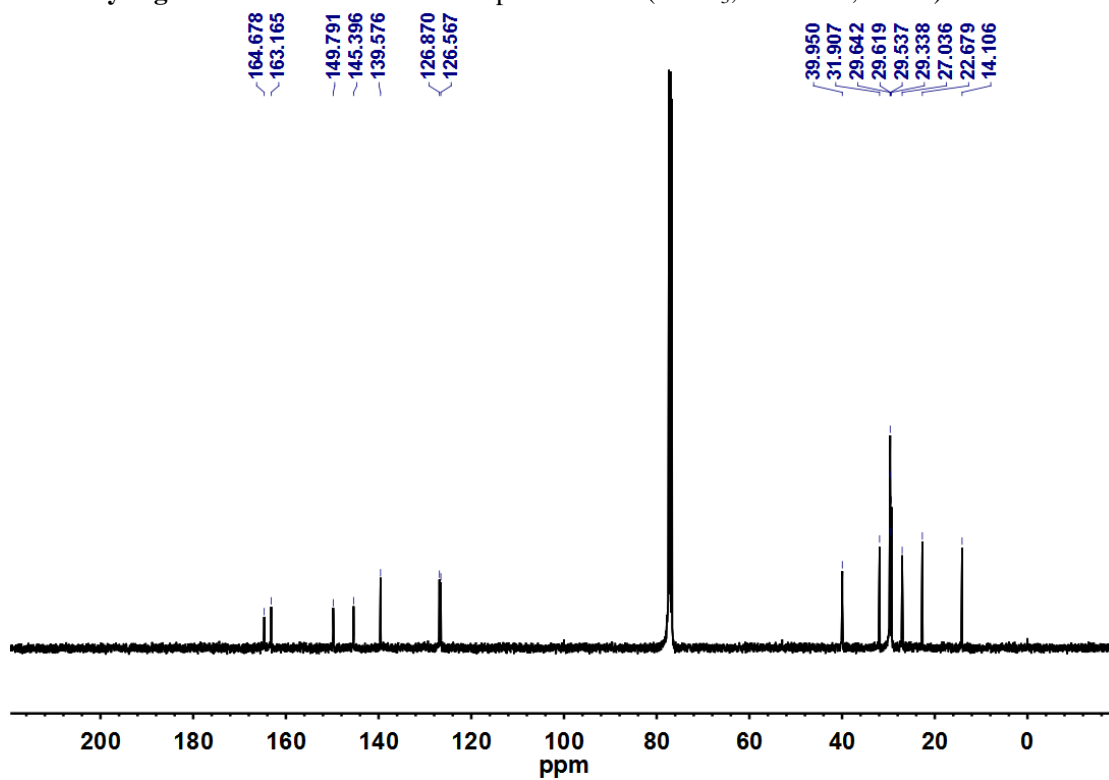
Supplementary Figure 10. ^1H NMR spectrum of $\text{L}^{3\text{S}}$ (DMSO, 400 MHz, 298 K).



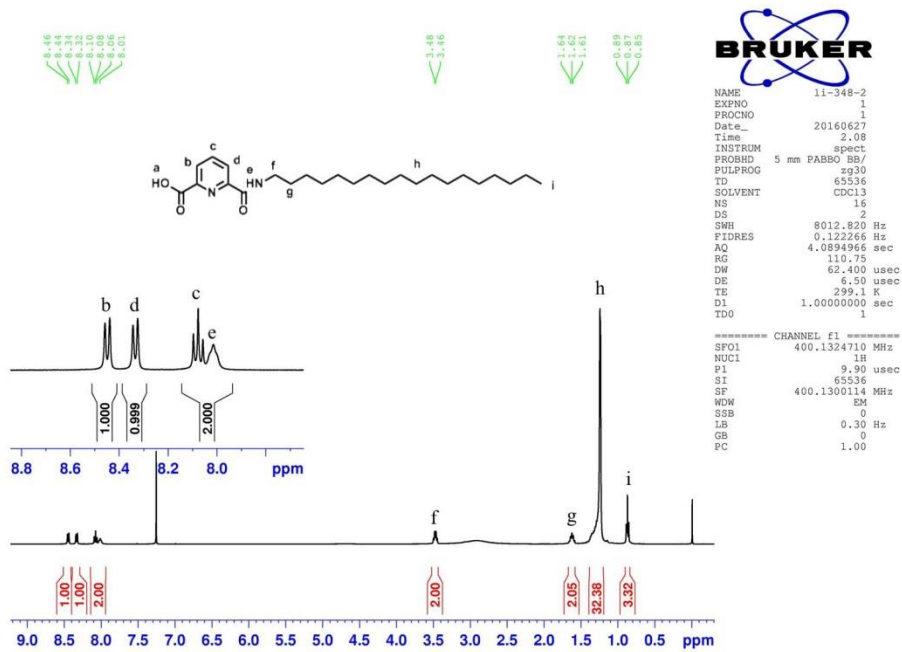
Supplementary Figure 11. ^1H NMR spectrum of **4** (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



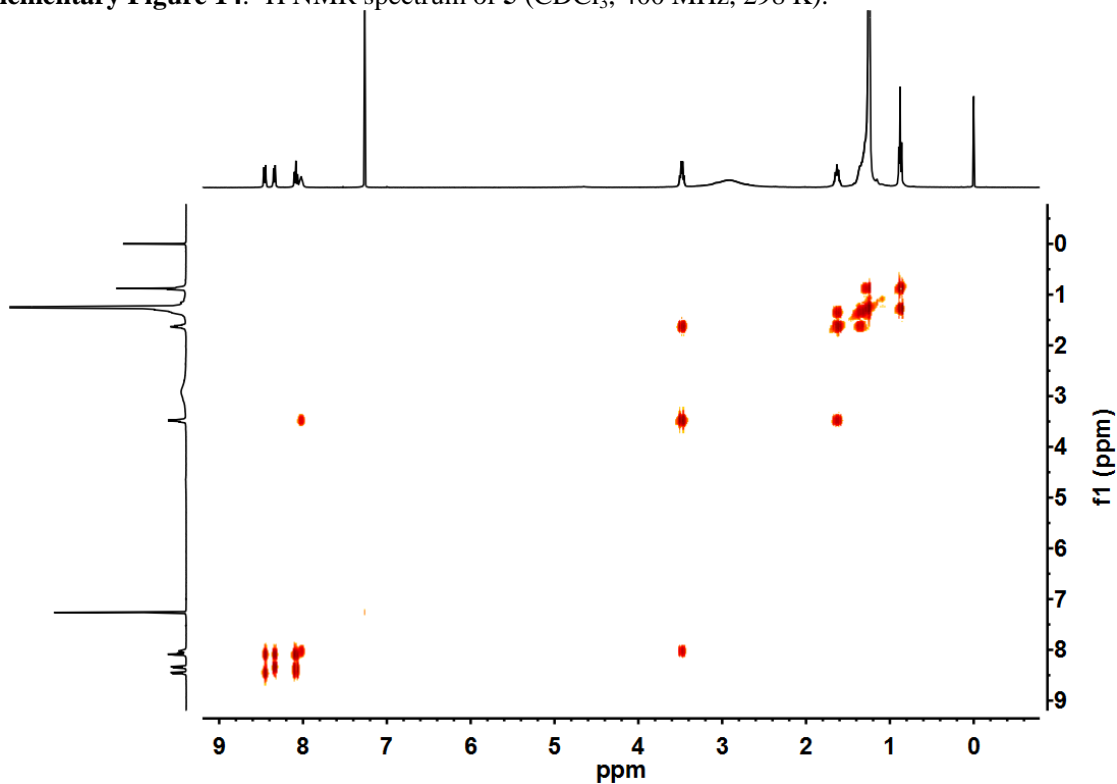
Supplementary Figure 12. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of **4** (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



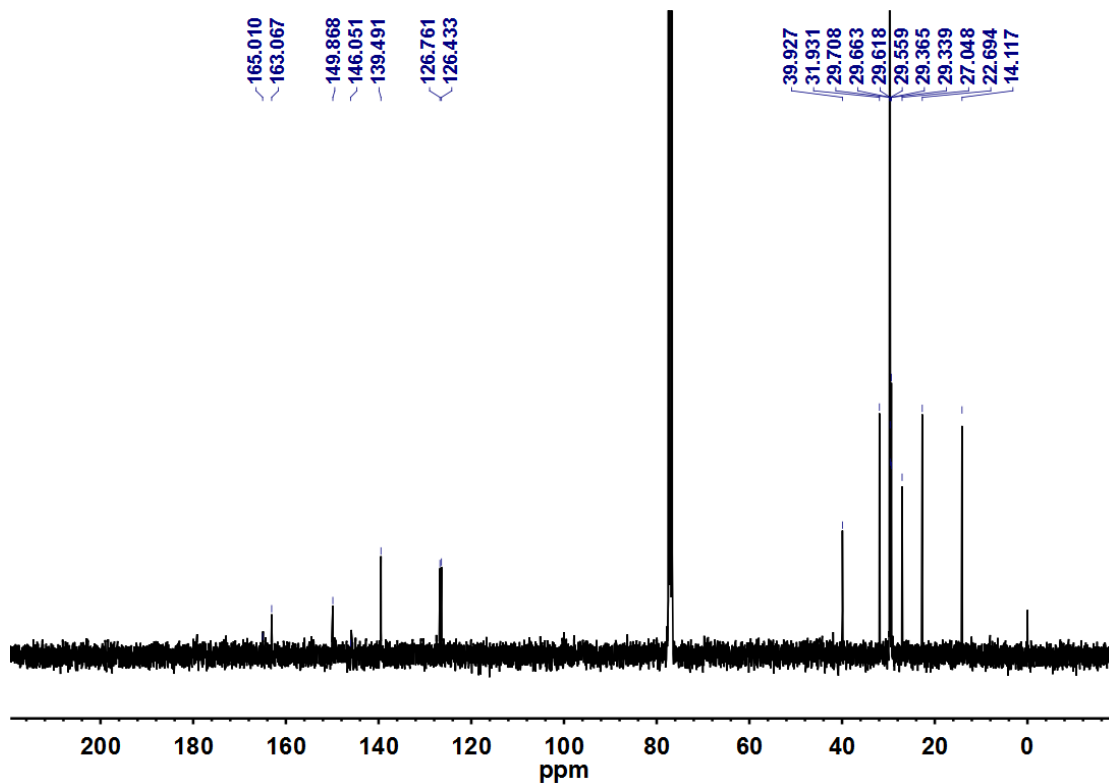
Supplementary Figure 13. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **4** (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz, 298 K).



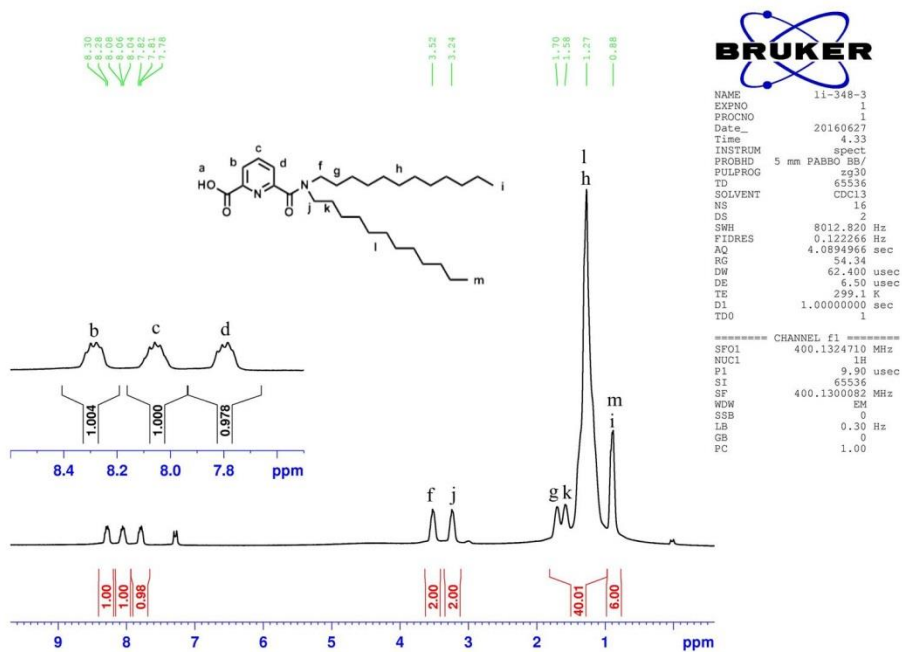
Supplementary Figure 14. ¹H NMR spectrum of 5 (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K).



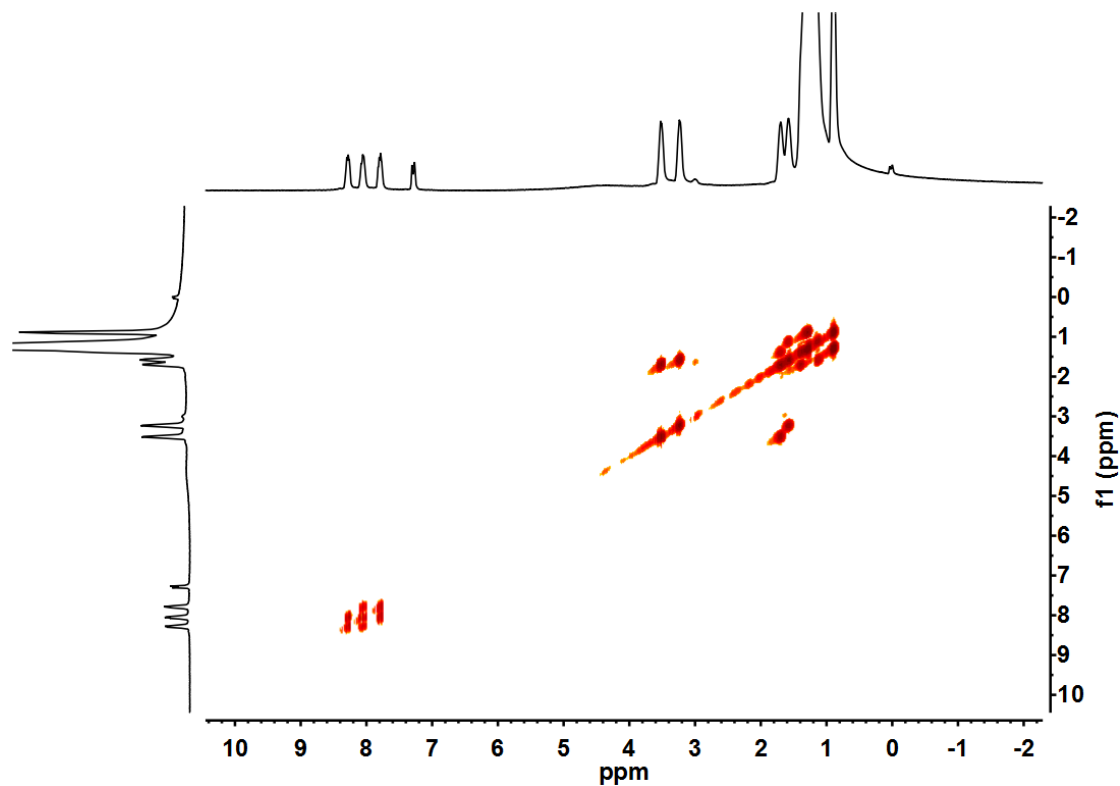
Supplementary Figure 15. ¹H-¹H COSY NMR spectrum of 5 (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K).



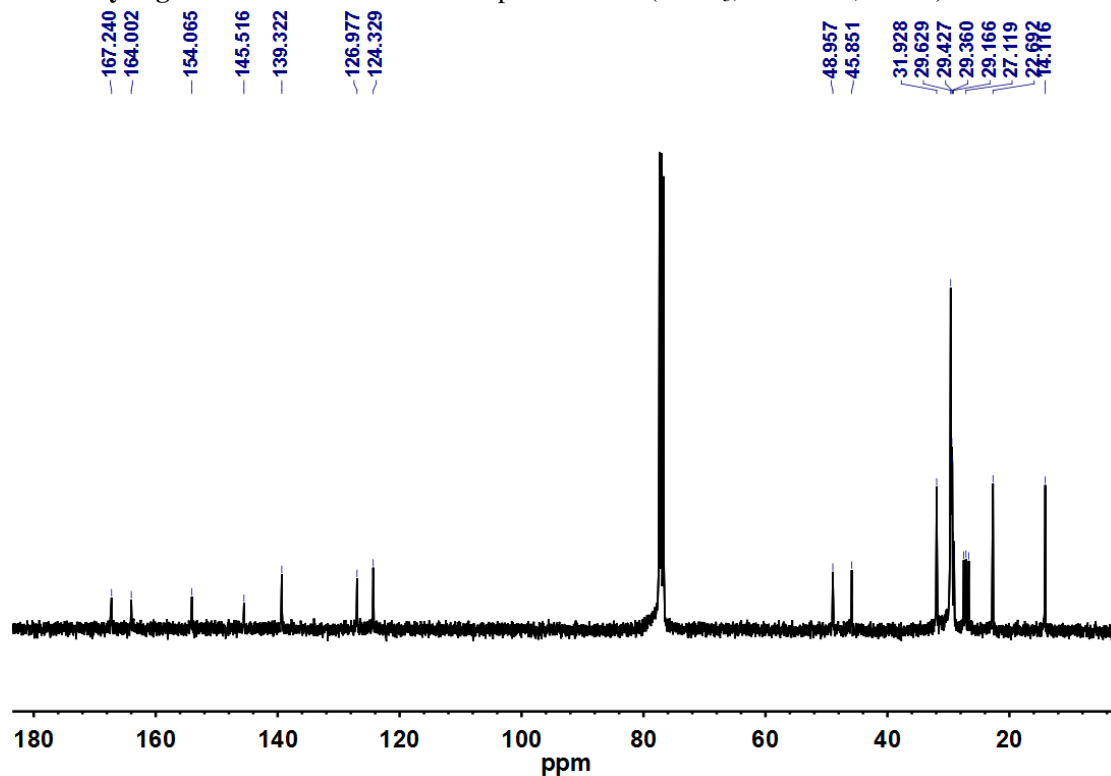
Supplementary Figure 16. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **5** (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz, 298 K).



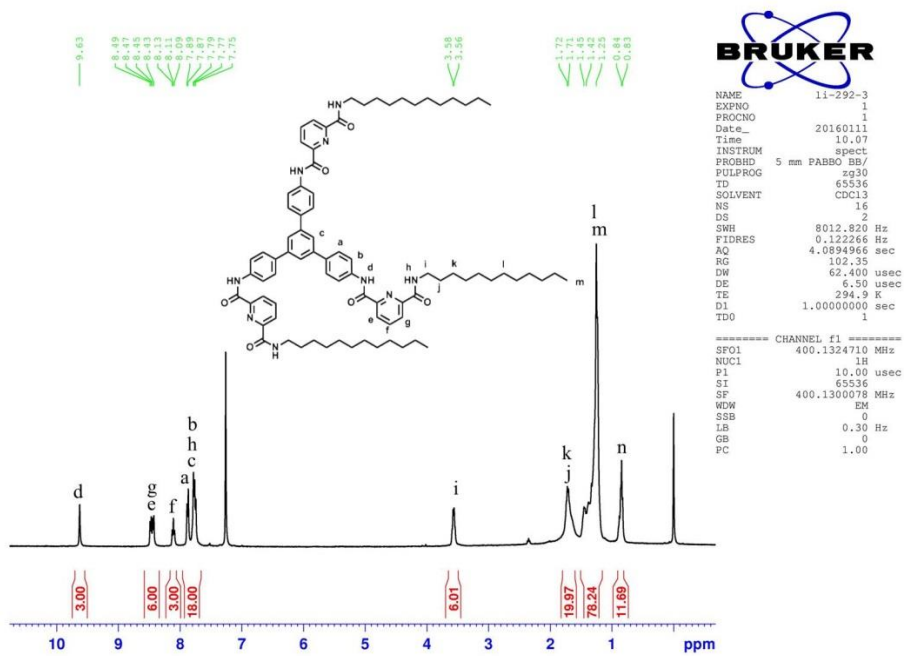
Supplementary Figure 17. ^1H NMR spectrum of **6** (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



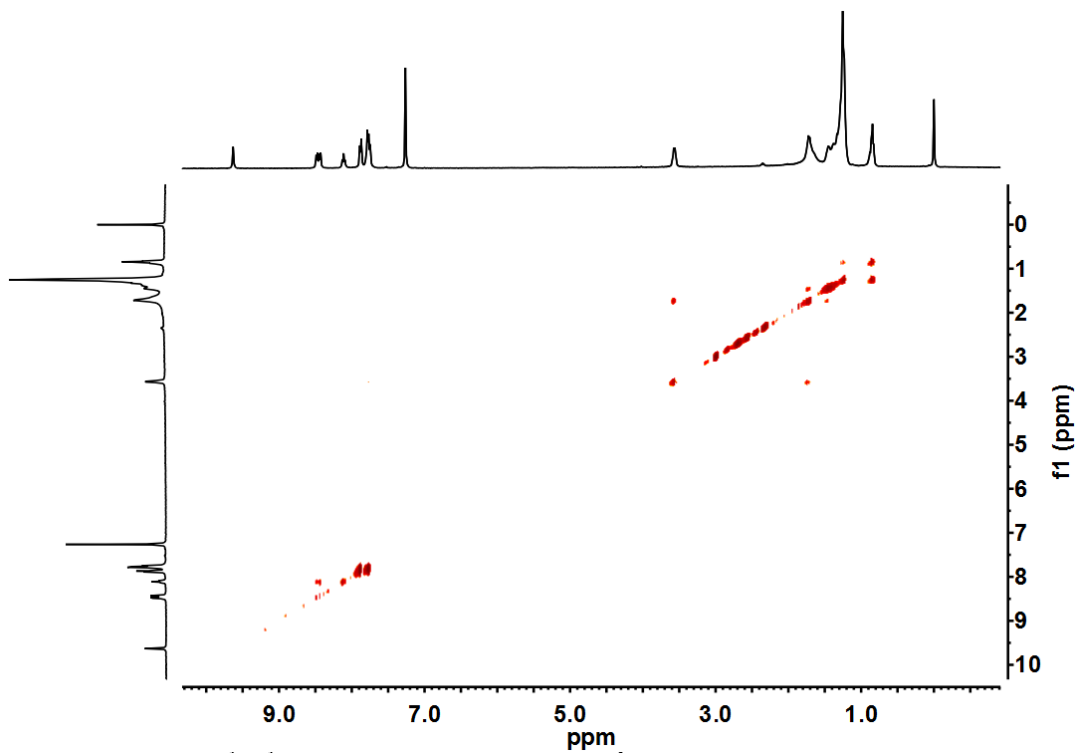
Supplementary Figure 18. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of **6** (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



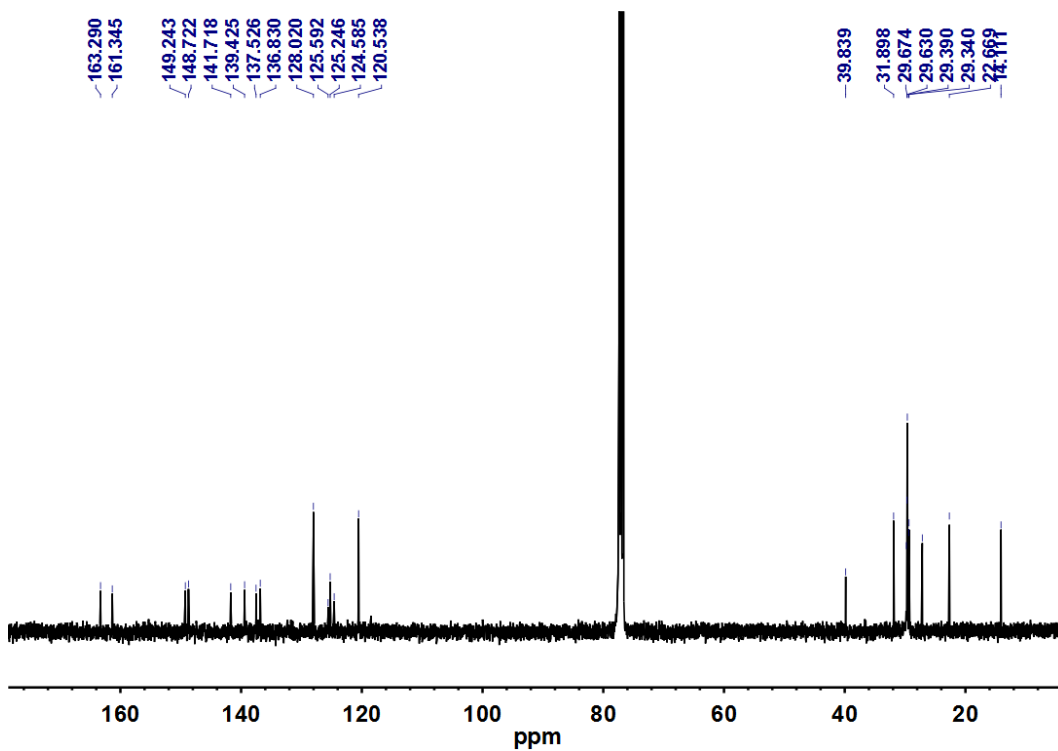
Supplementary Figure 19. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **6** (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz, 298 K).



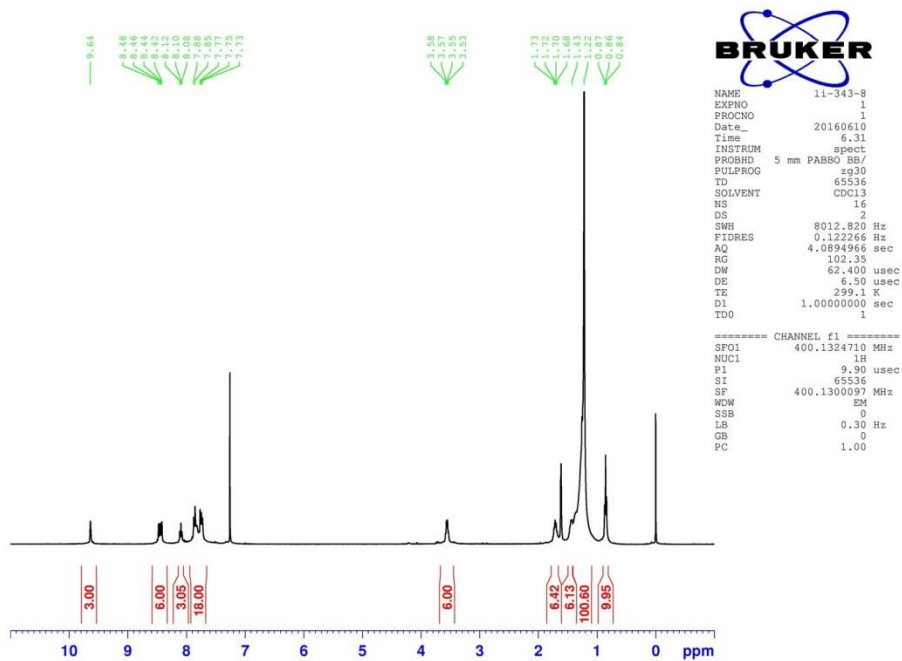
Supplementary Figure 20. ^1H NMR spectrum of L^4 (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



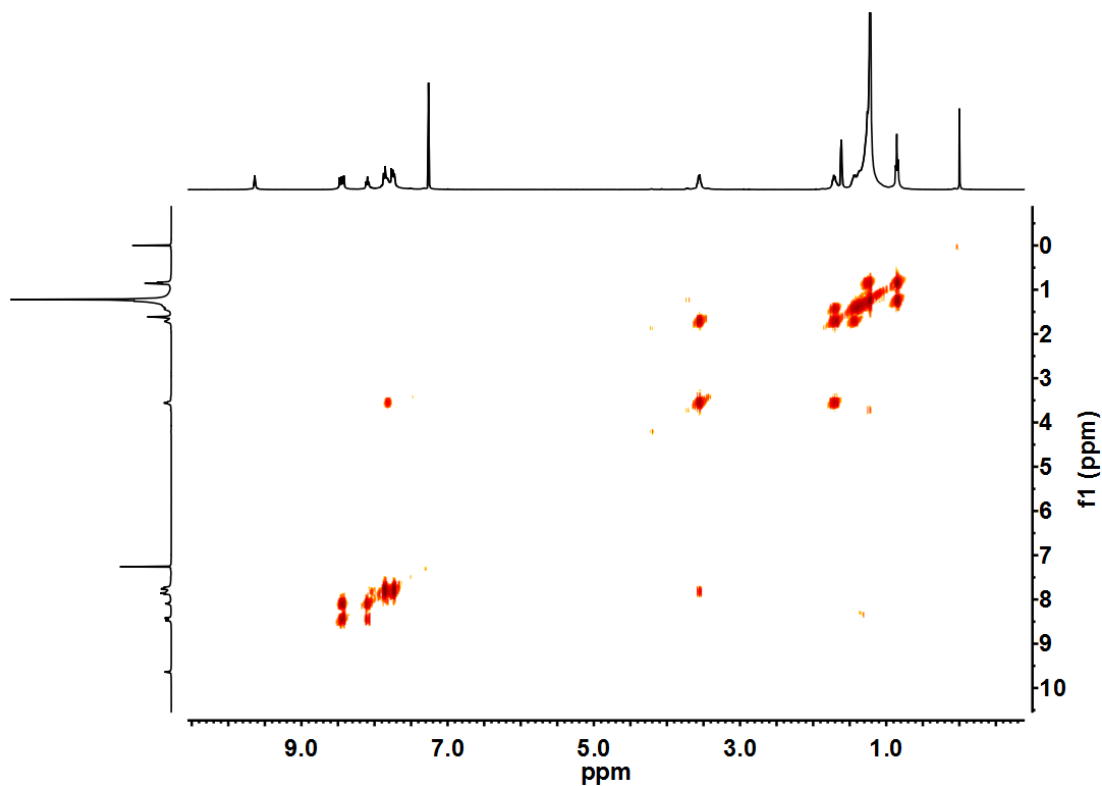
Supplementary Figure 21. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of L^4 (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



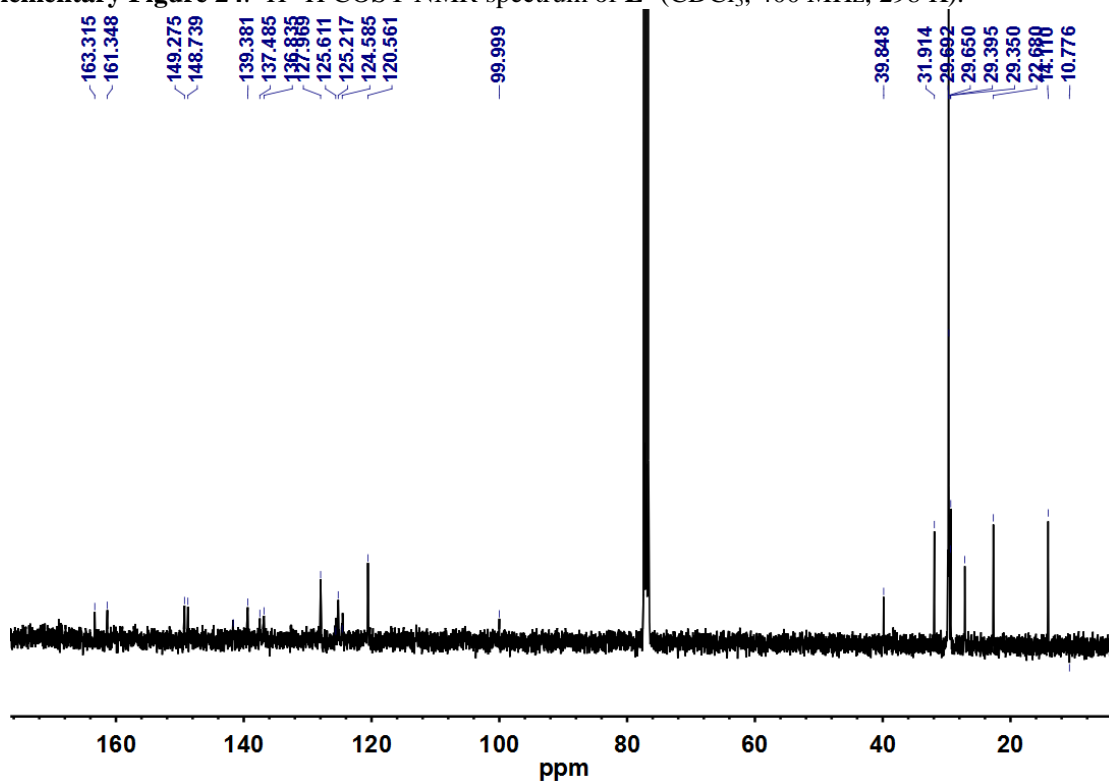
Supplementary Figure 22. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of L^4 (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz, 298 K).



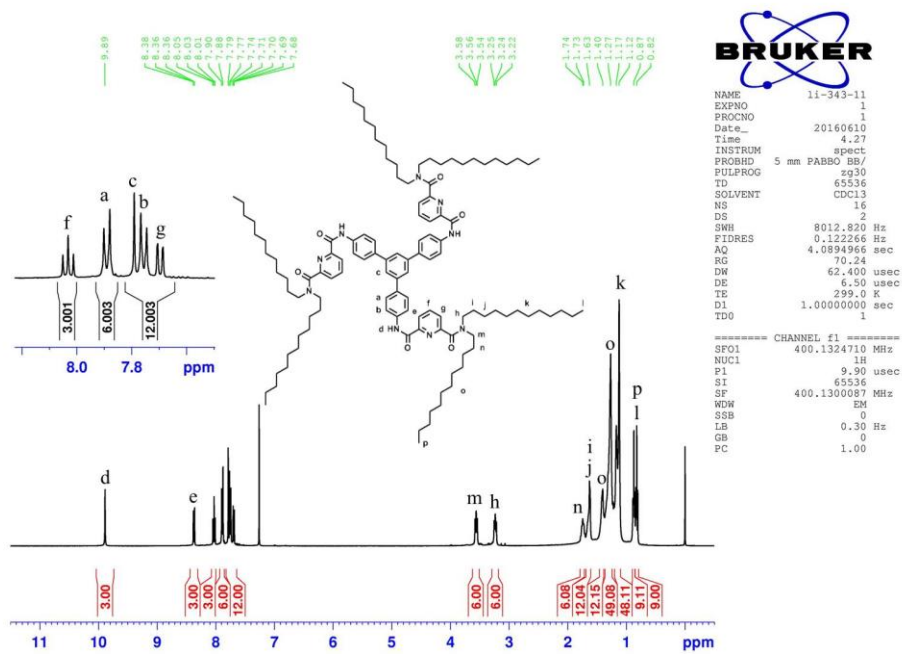
Supplementary Figure 23. ^1H NMR spectrum of L^5 (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



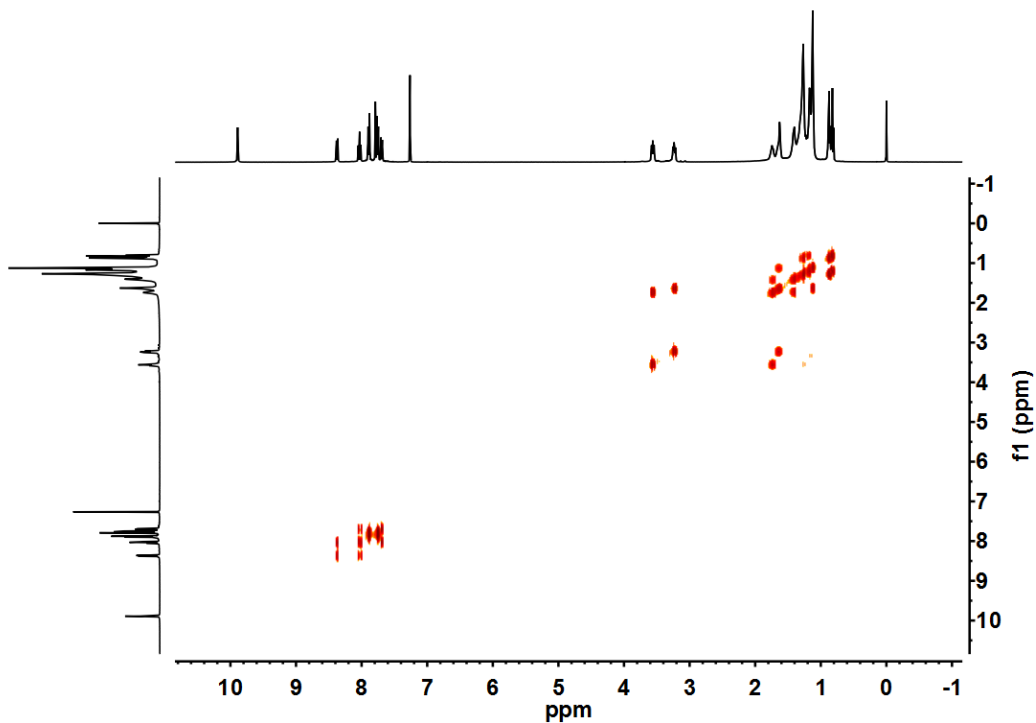
Supplementary Figure 24. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of L^5 (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



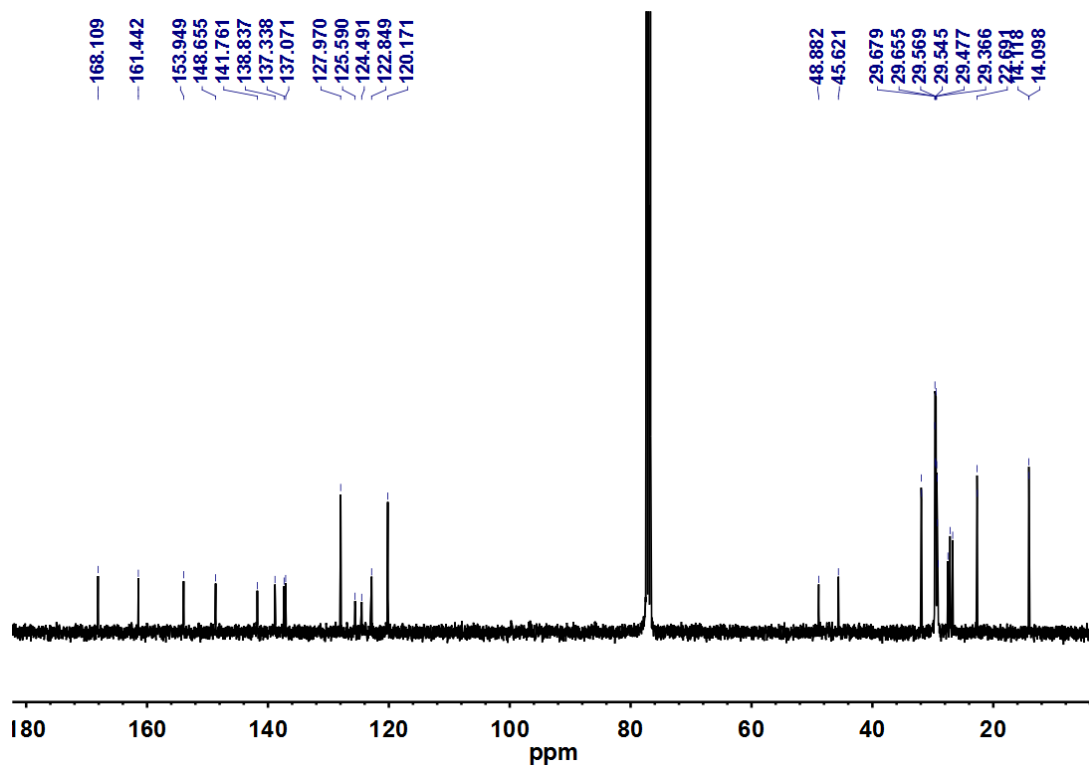
Supplementary Figure 25. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of L^5 (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz, 298 K).



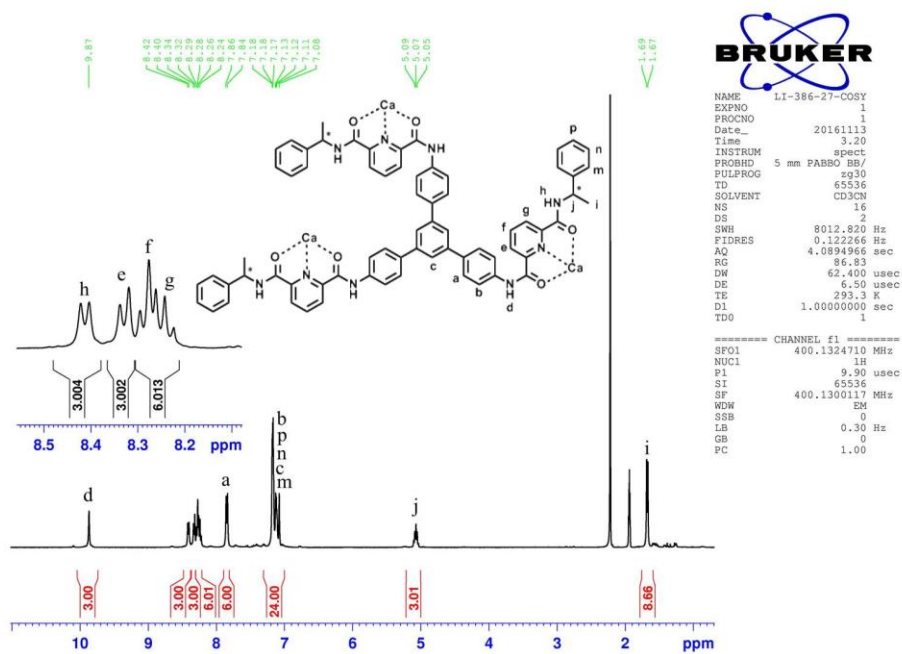
Supplementary Figure 26. ^1H NMR spectrum of L^6 (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



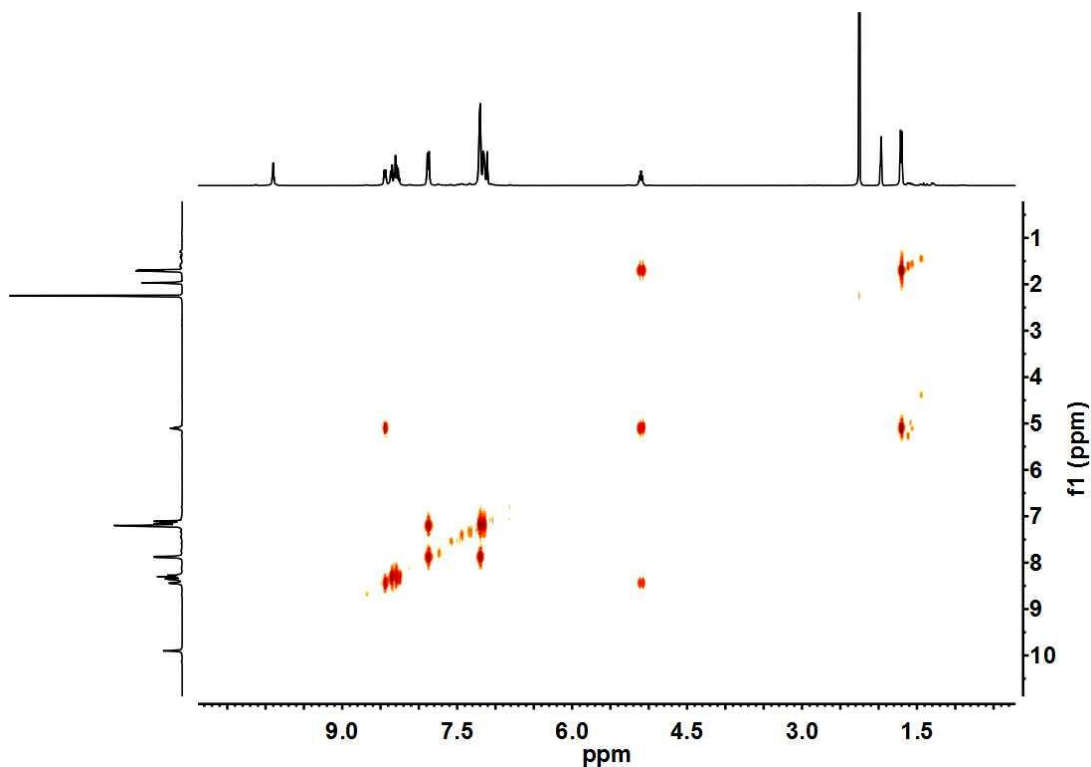
Supplementary Figure 27. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of L^6 (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz, 298 K).



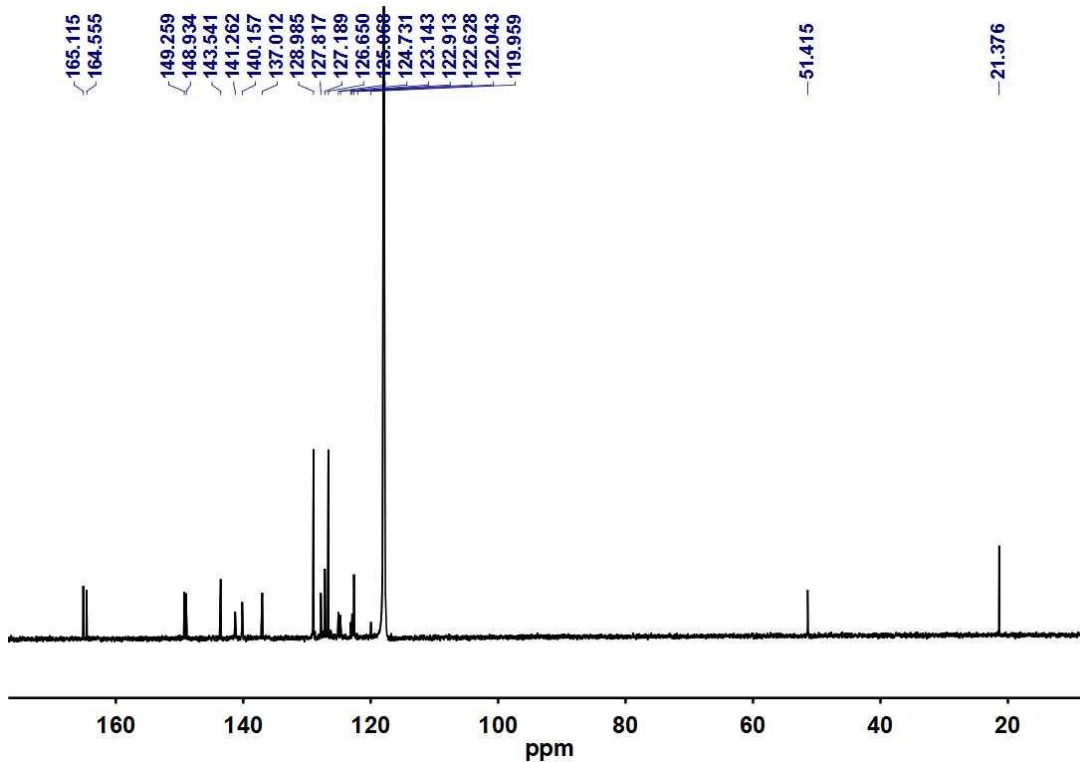
Supplementary Figure 28. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of L^6 (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz, 298 K).



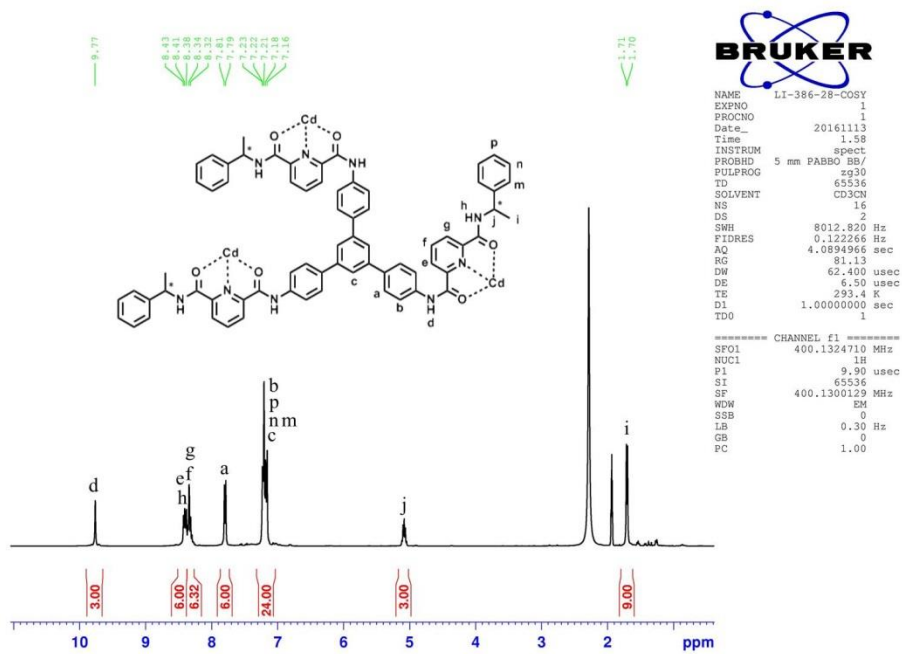
Supplementary Figure 29. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ca}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_8$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



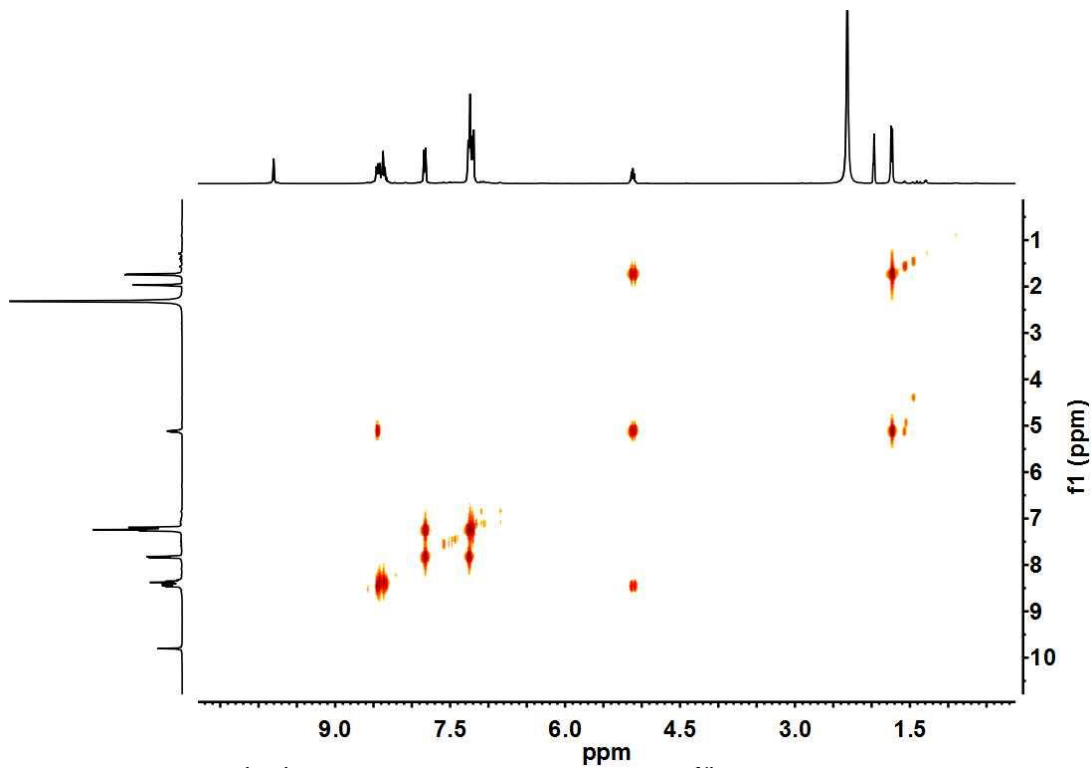
Supplementary Figure 30. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ca}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_8$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



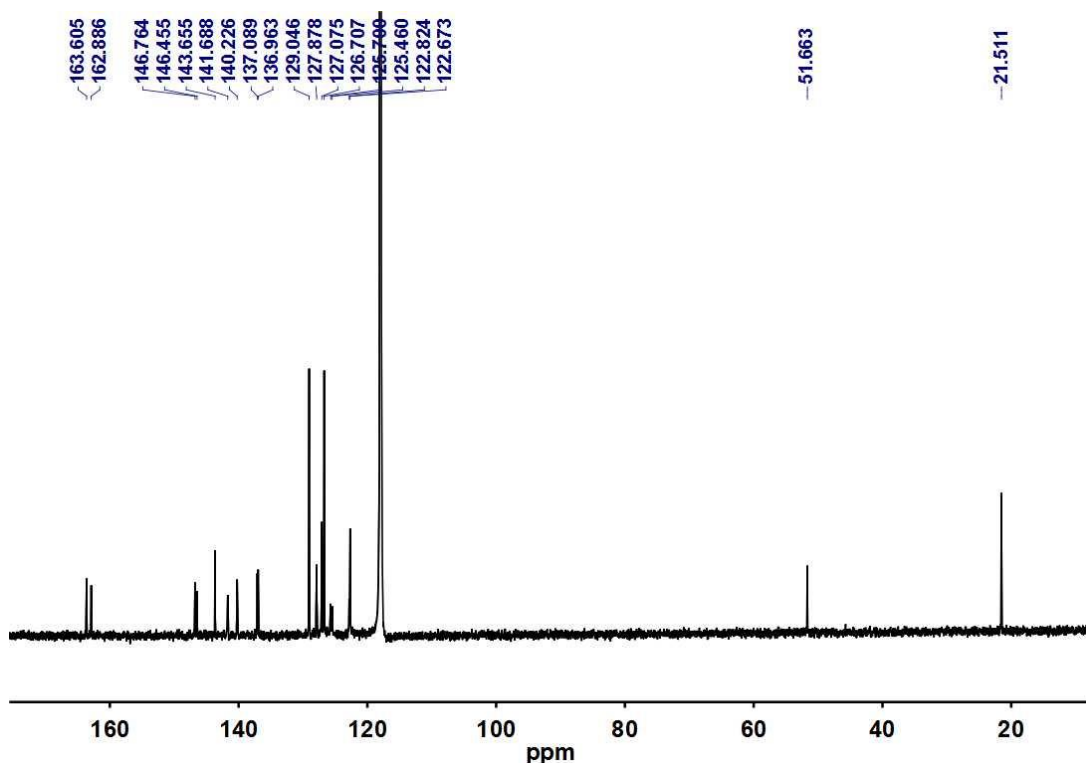
Supplementary Figure 31. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ca}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_8$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



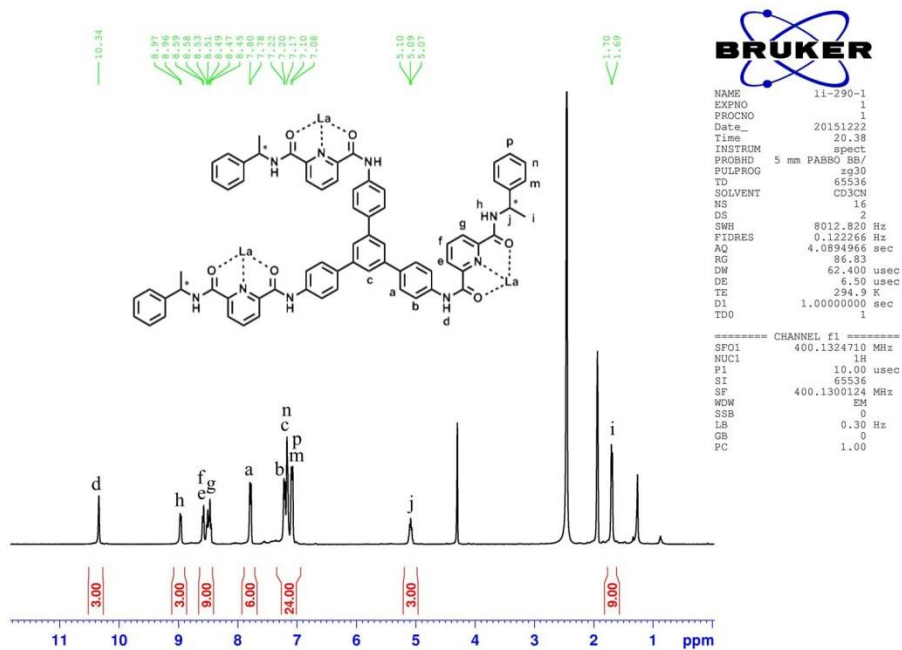
Supplementary Figure 32. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Cd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_8$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



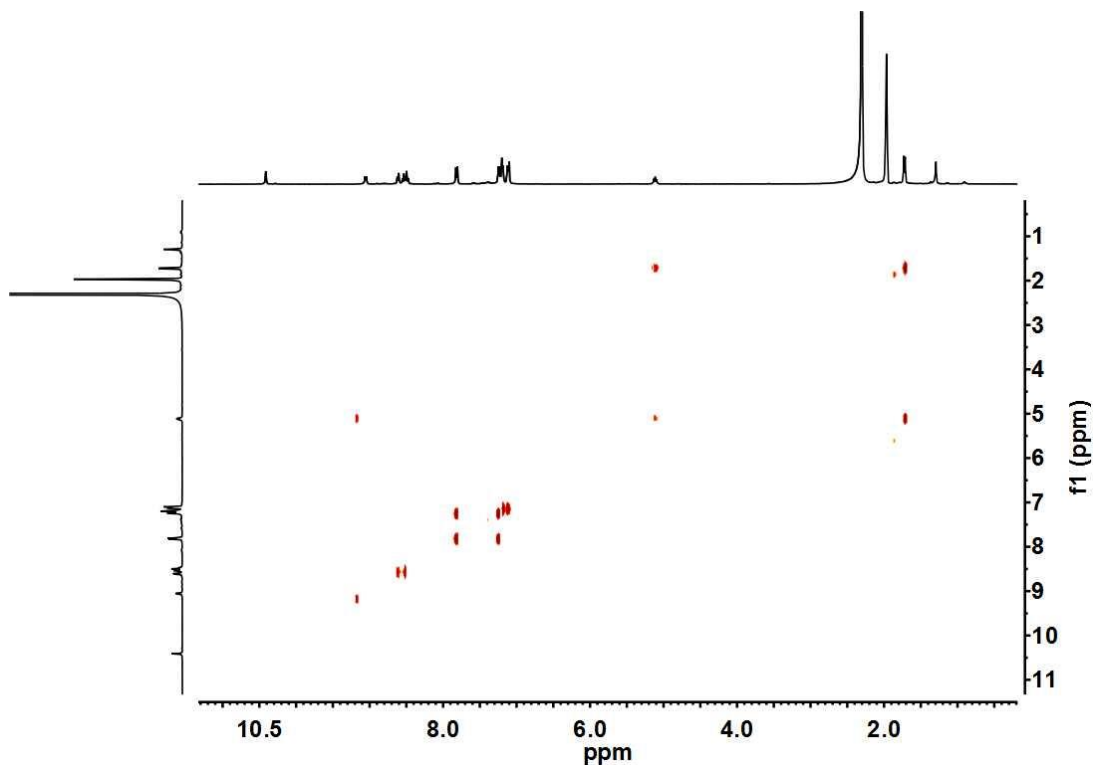
Supplementary Figure 33. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Cd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_8$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



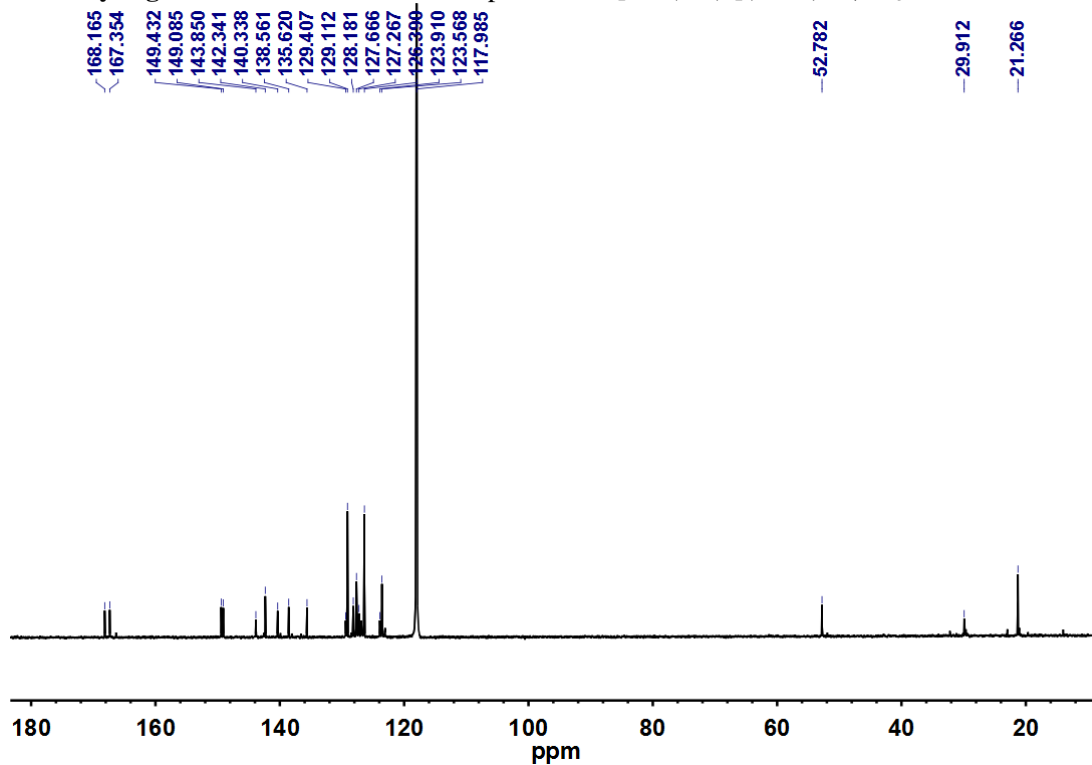
Supplementary Figure 34. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Cd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_8$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



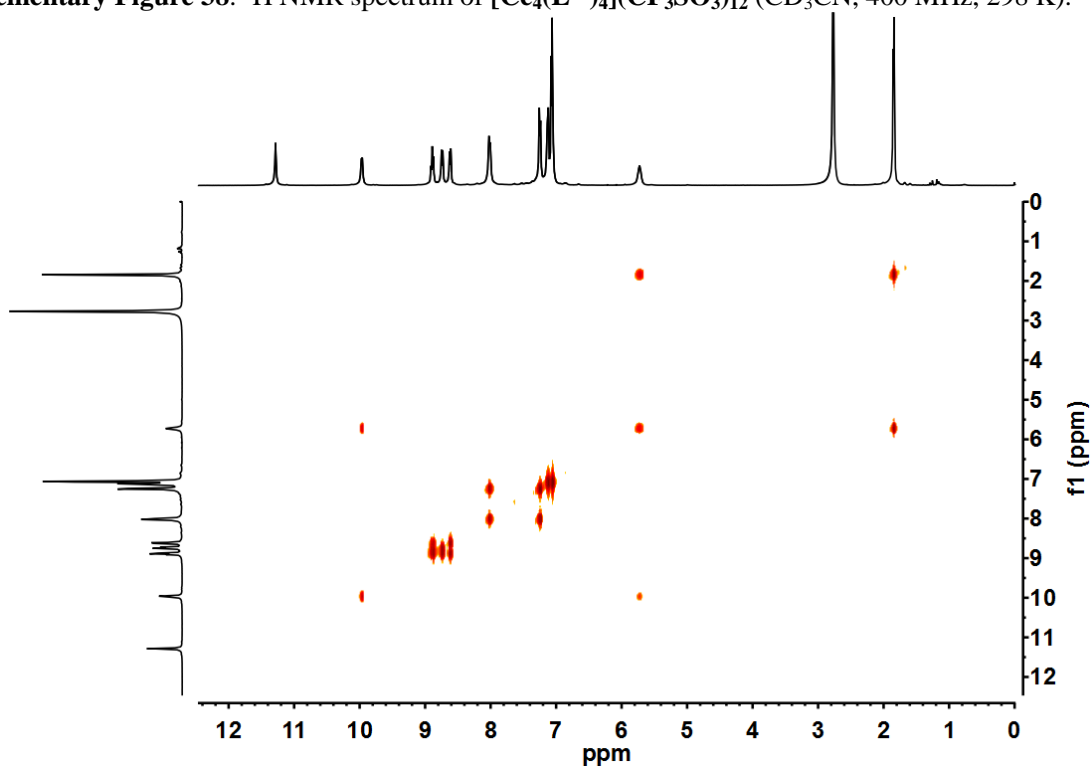
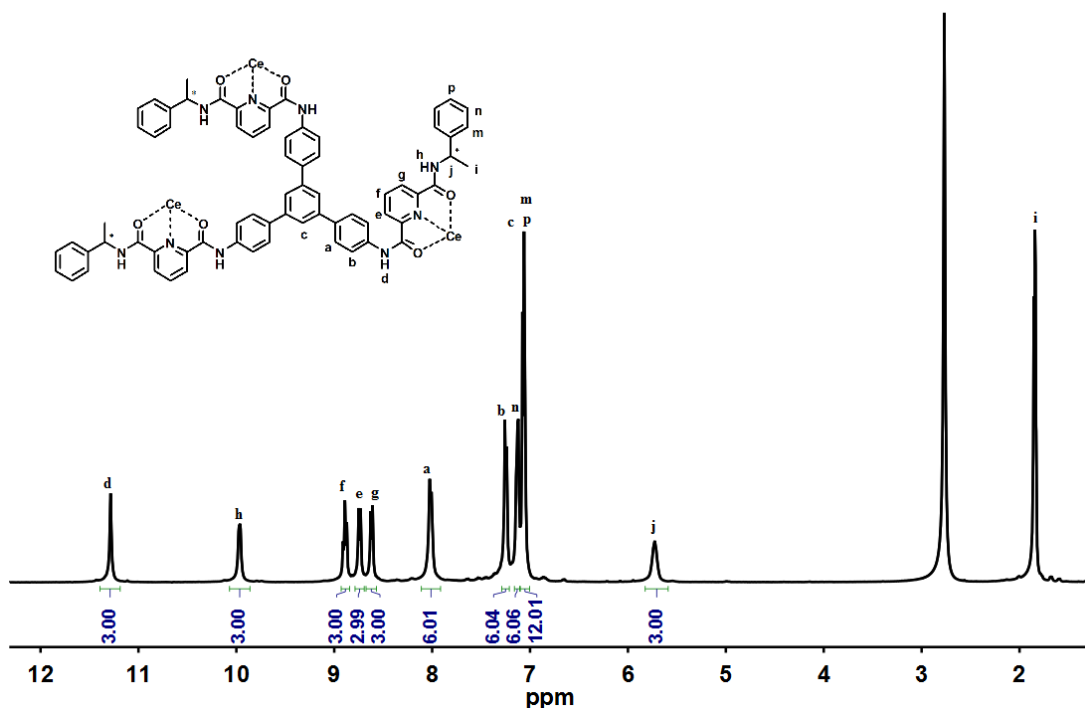
Supplementary Figure 35. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).

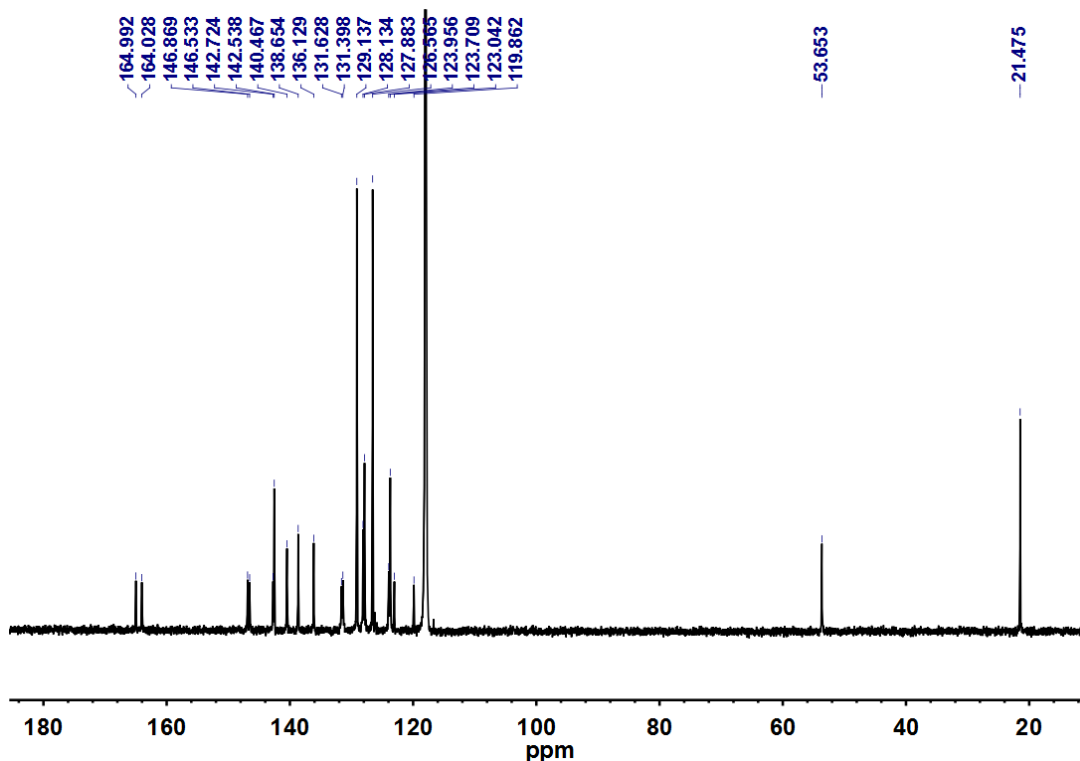


Supplementary Figure 36. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).

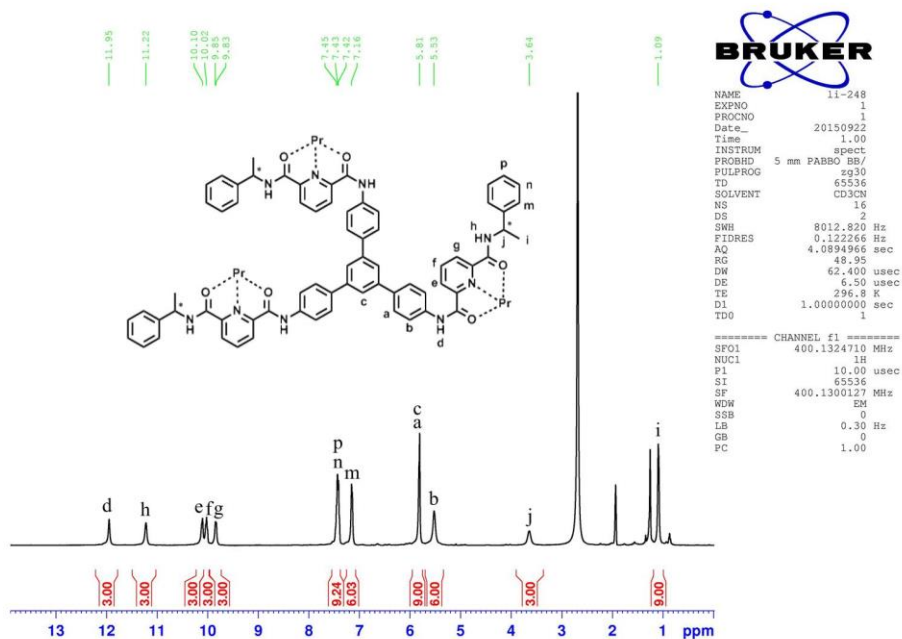


Supplementary Figure 37. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).

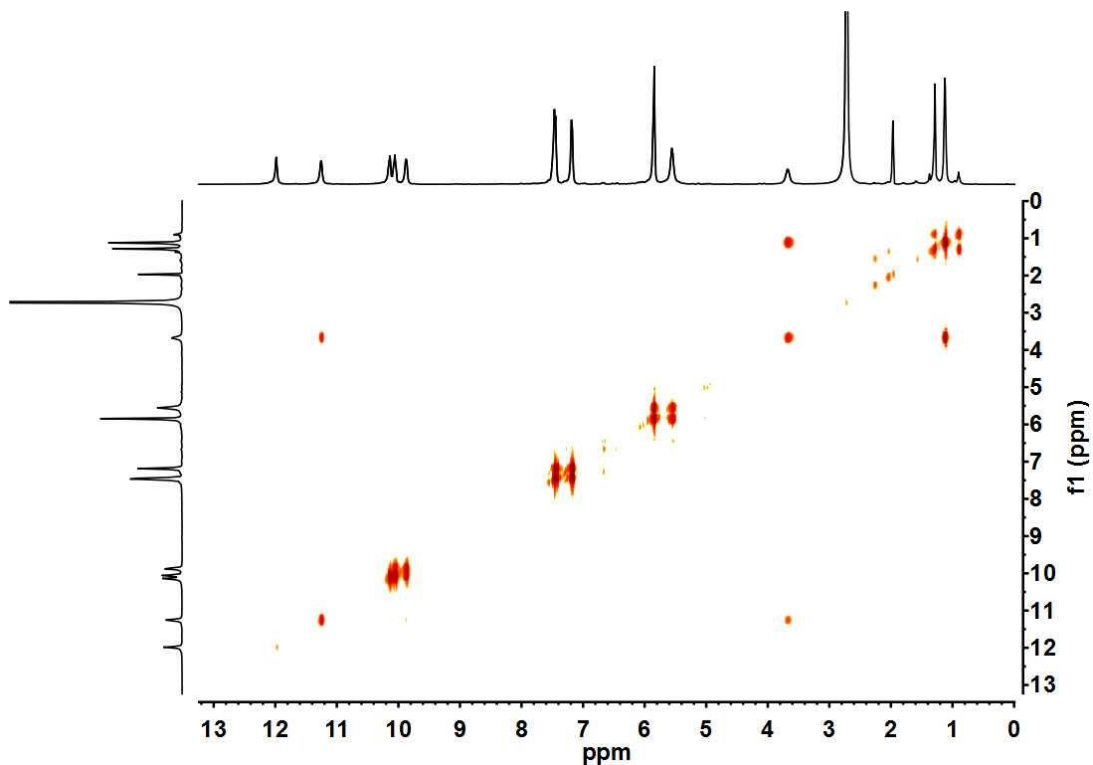




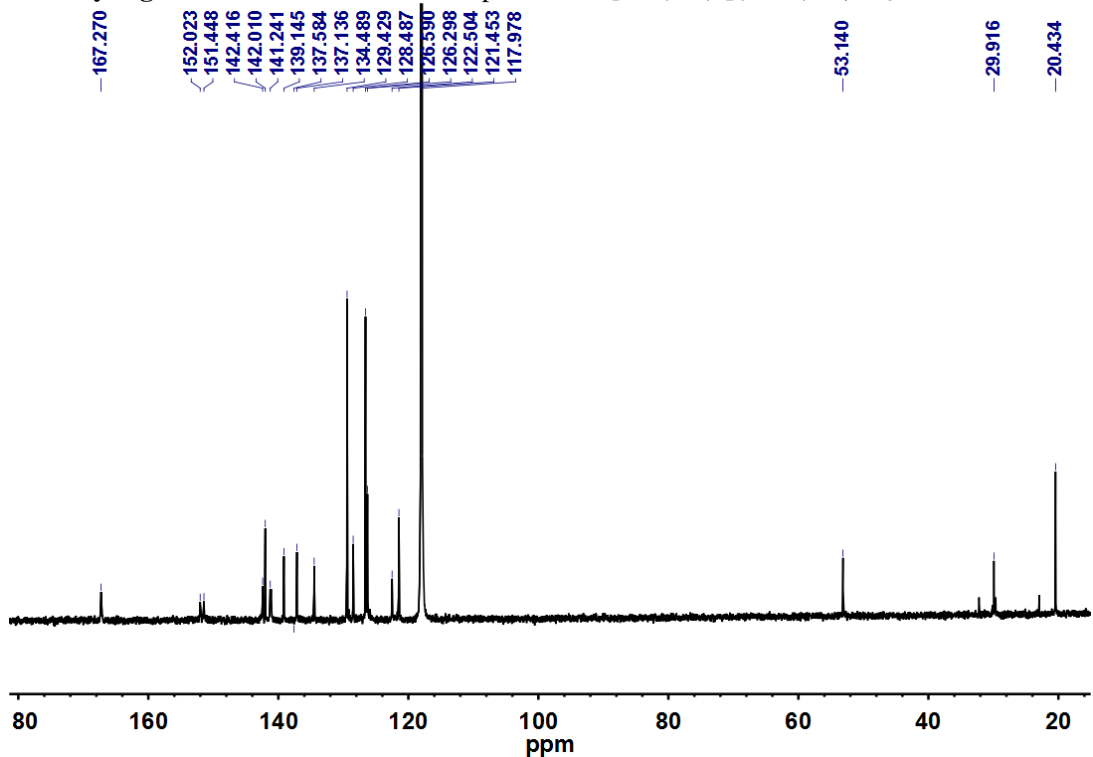
Supplementary Figure 40. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ce}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



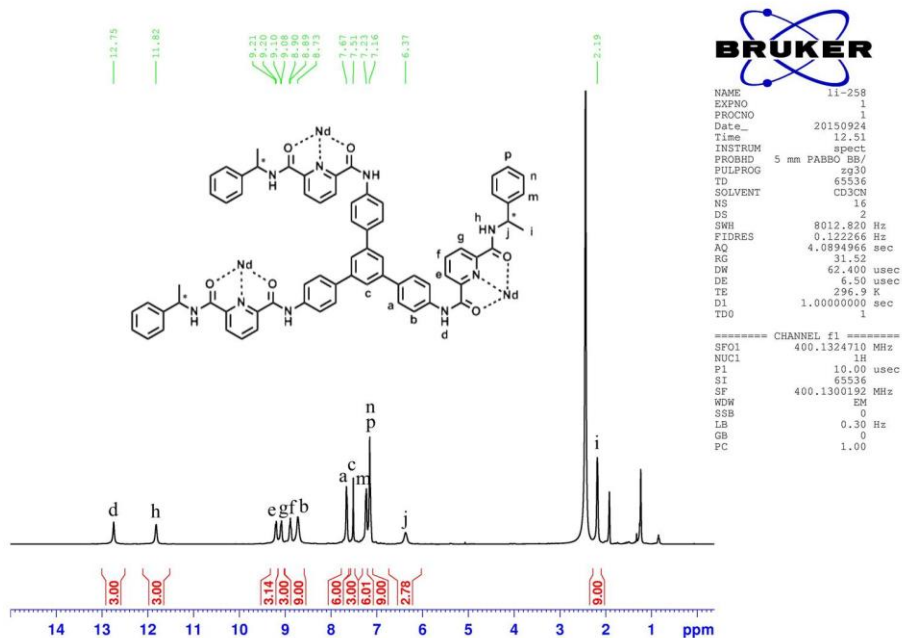
Supplementary Figure 41. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



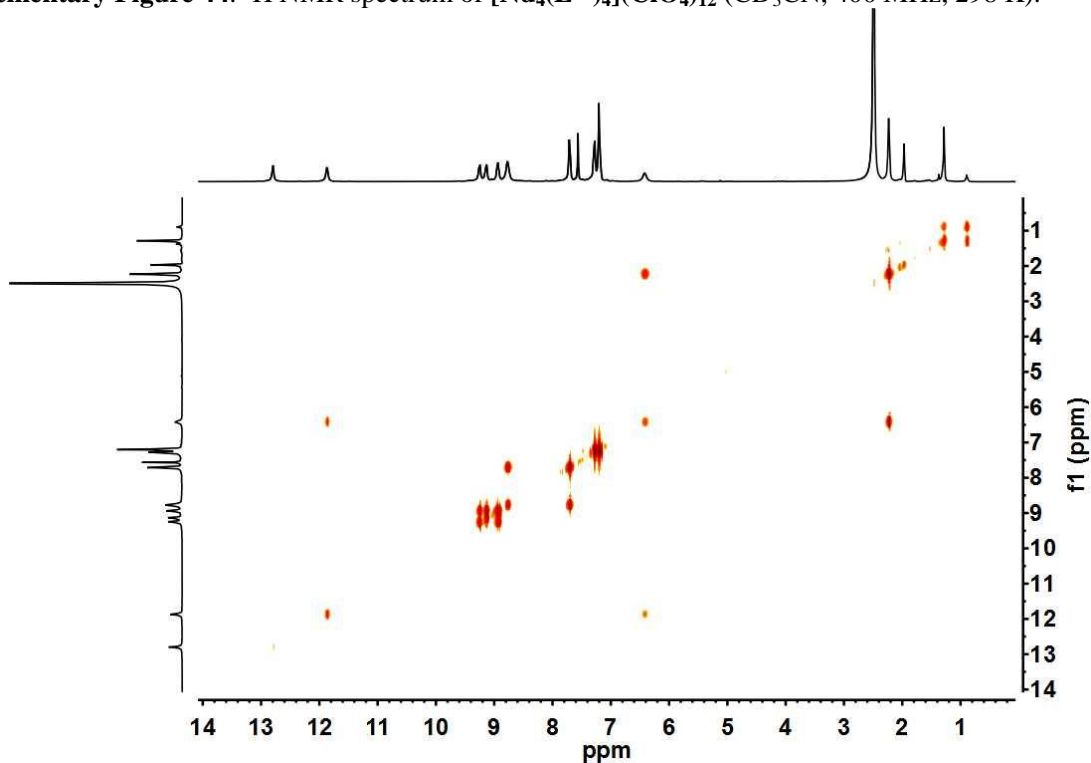
Supplementary Figure 42. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



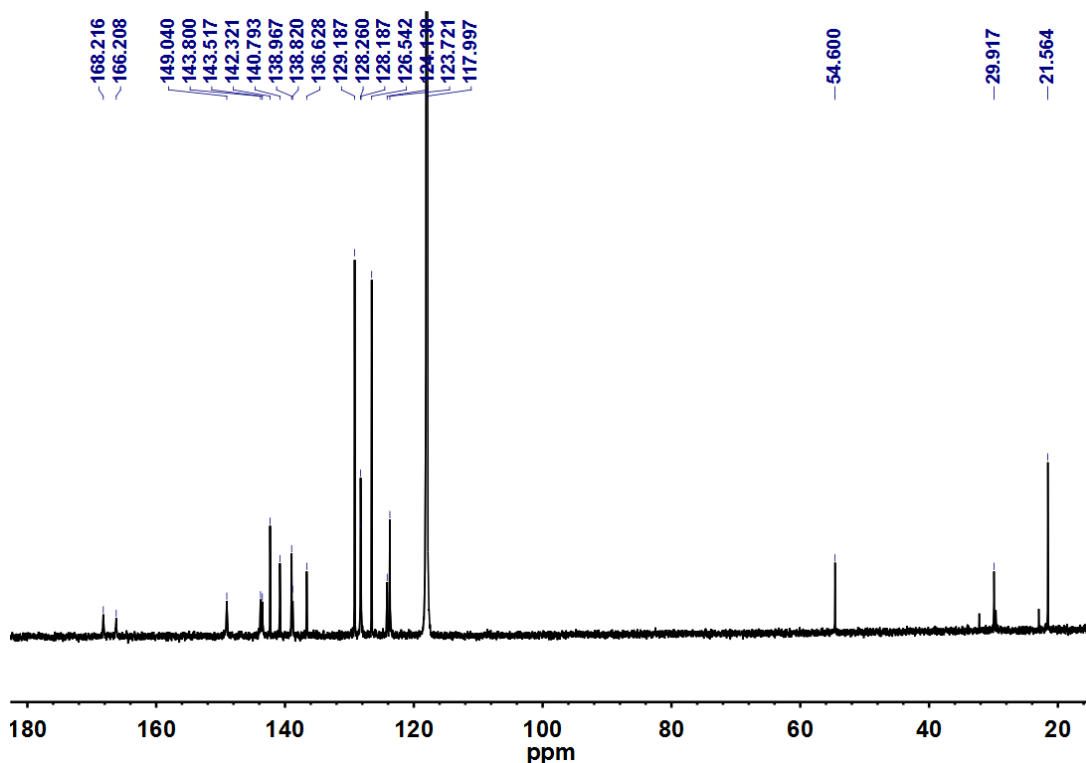
Supplementary Figure 43. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



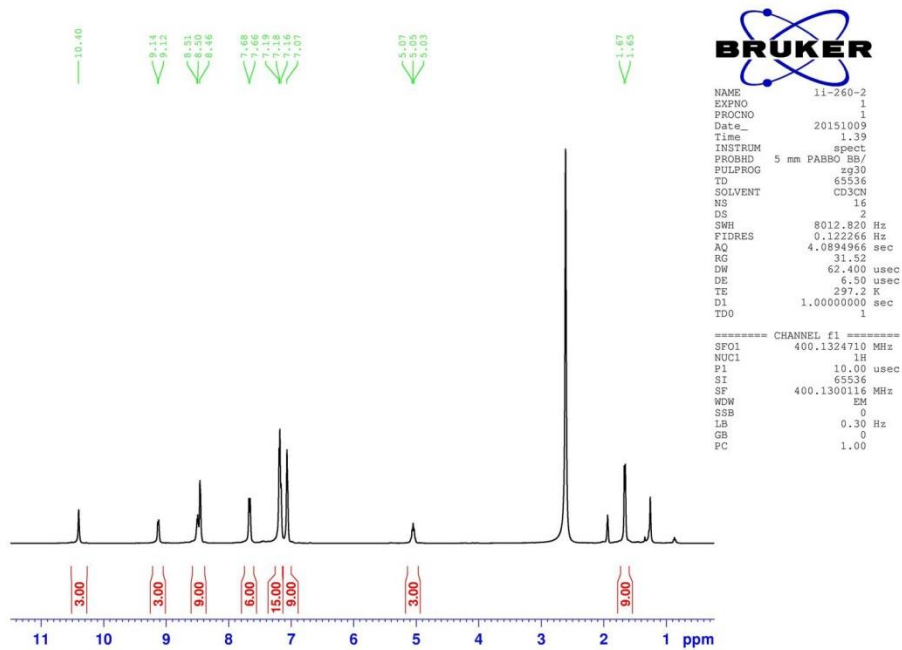
Supplementary Figure 44. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Nd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



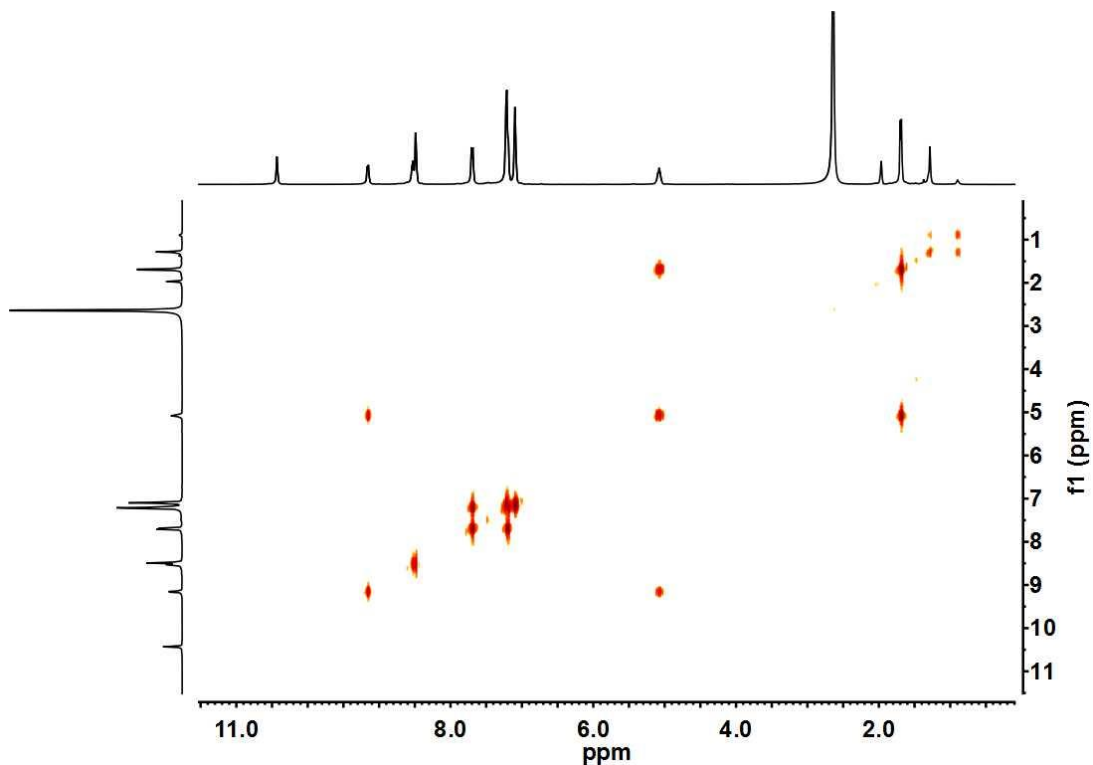
Supplementary Figure 45. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Nd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



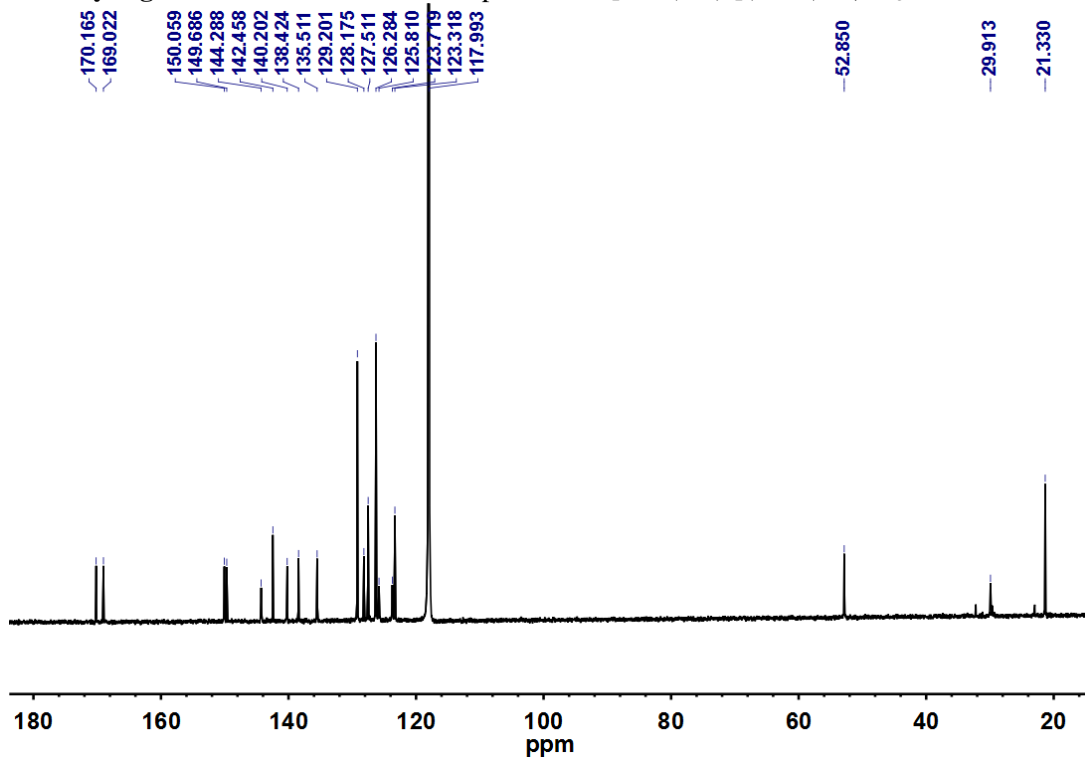
Supplementary Figure 46. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Nd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



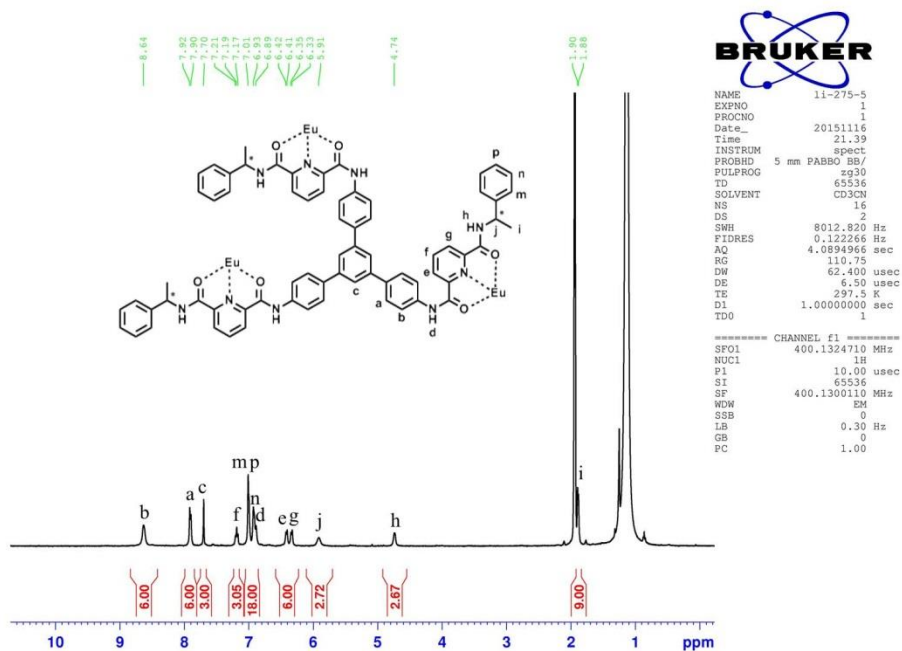
Supplementary Figure 47. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Sm}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



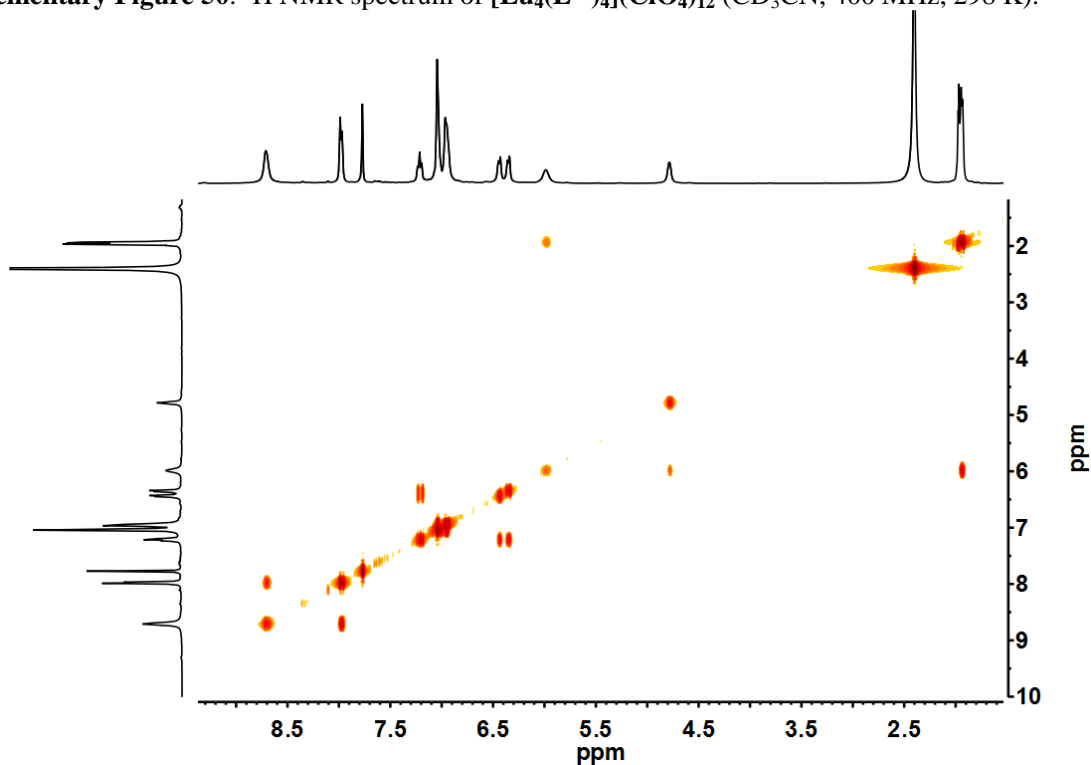
Supplementary Figure 48. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Sm}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



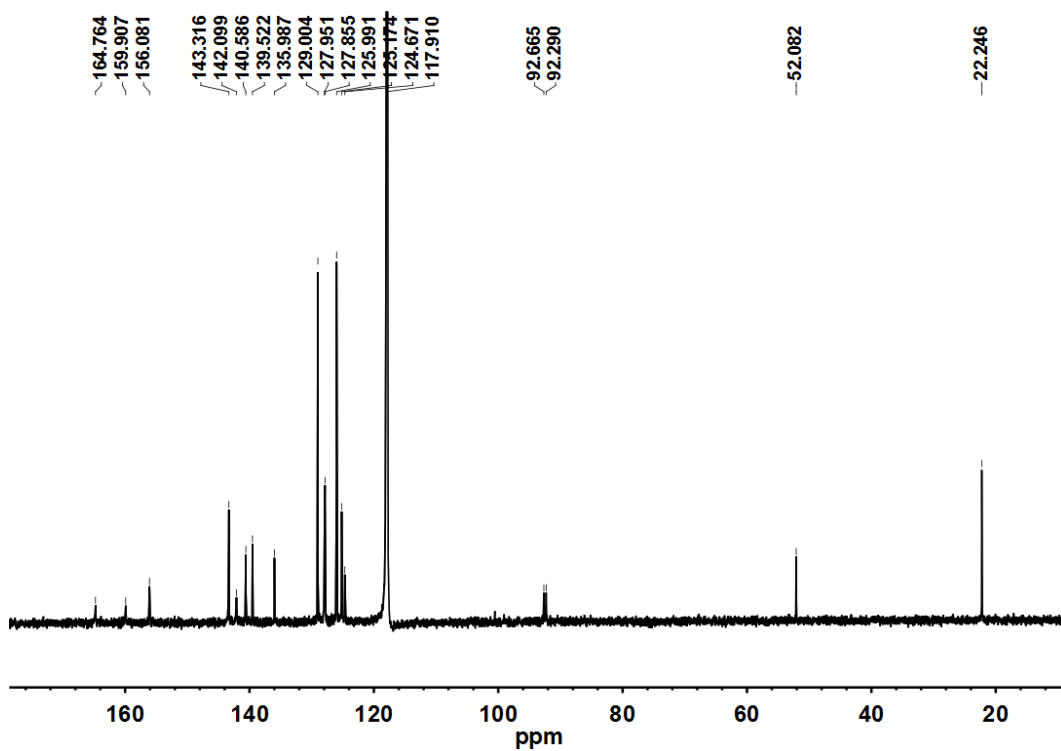
Supplementary Figure 49. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Sm}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



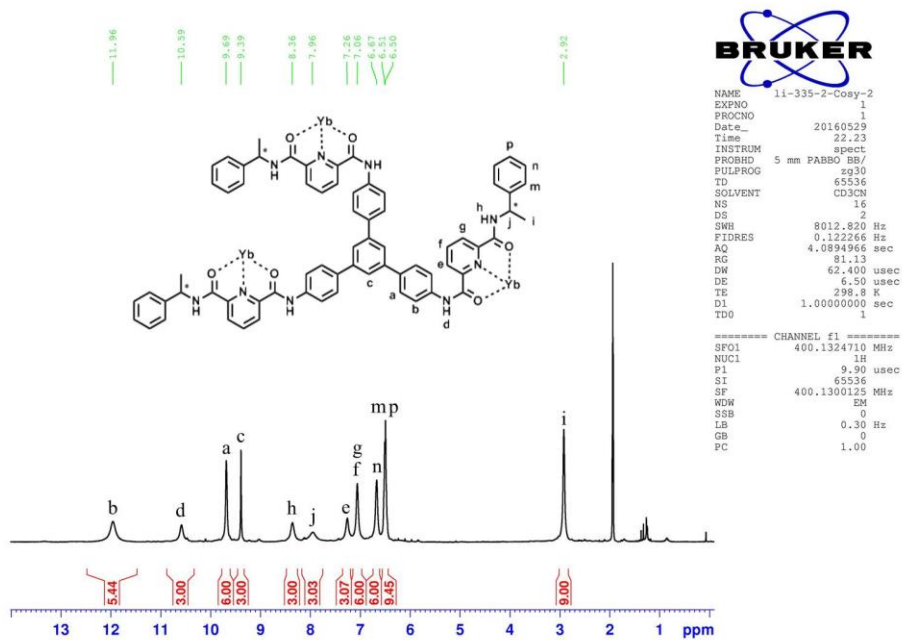
Supplementary Figure 50. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



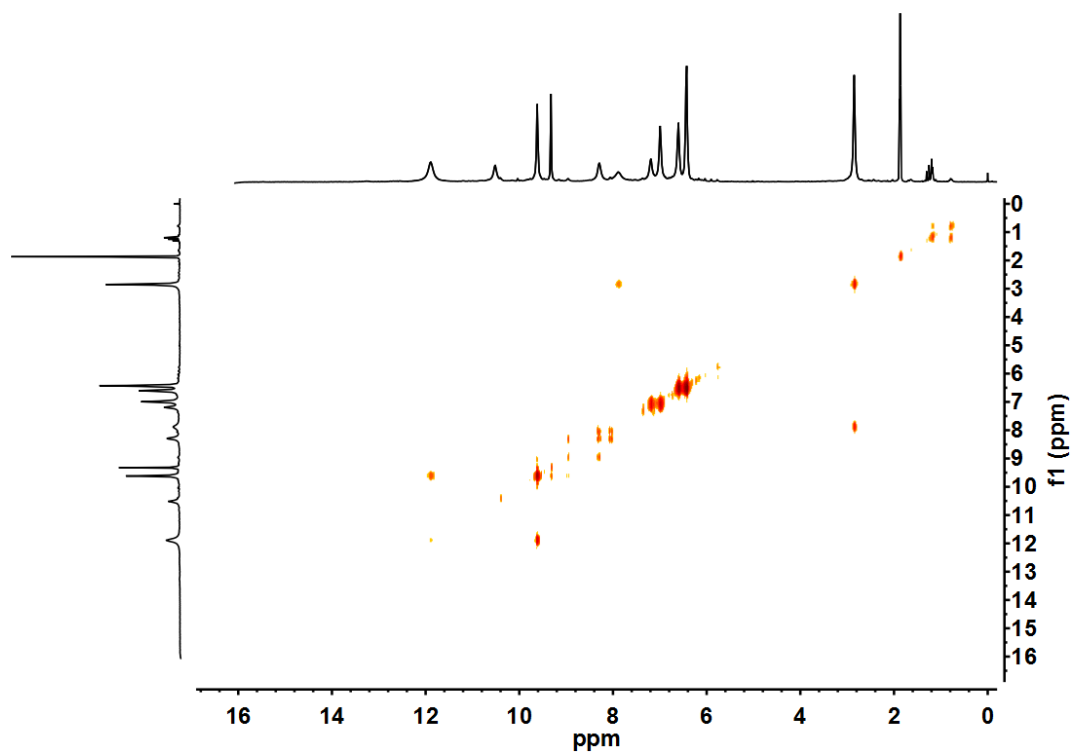
Supplementary Figure 51. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



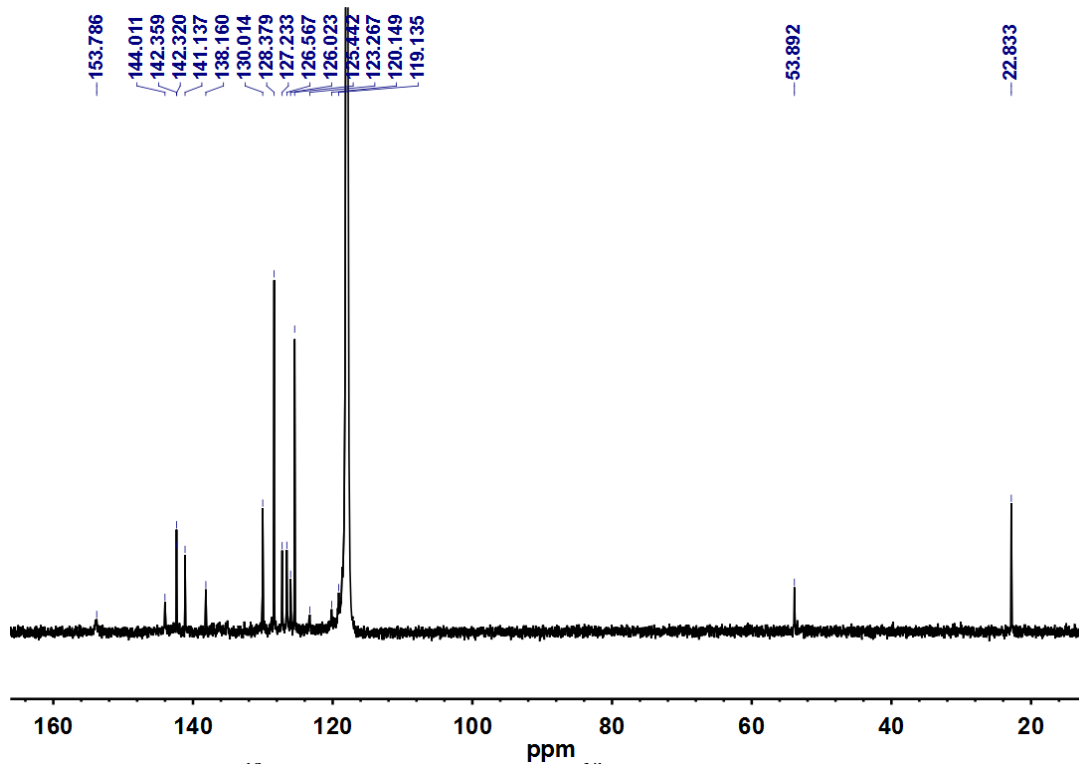
Supplementary Figure 52. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



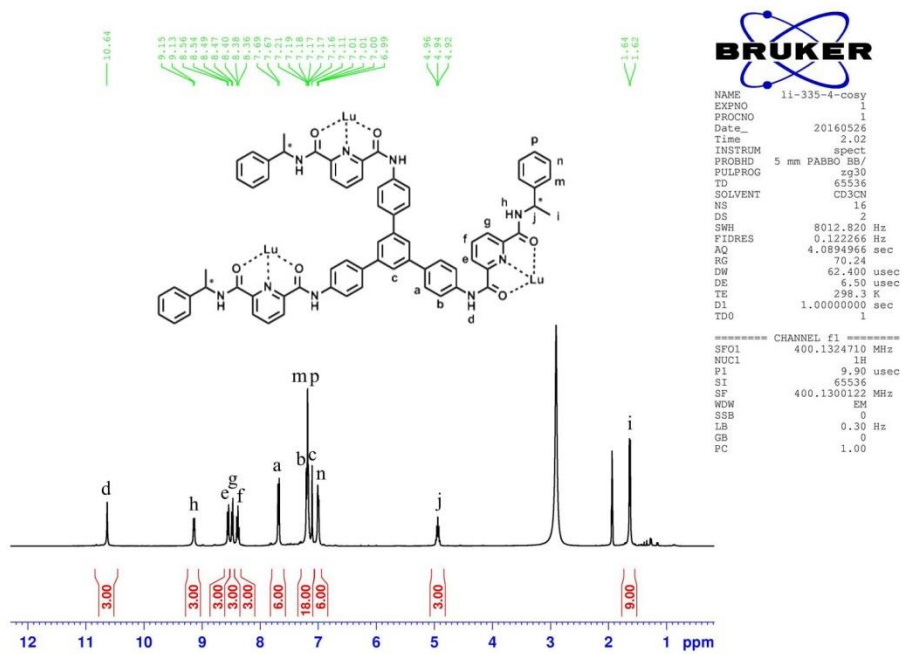
Supplementary Figure 53. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Yb}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



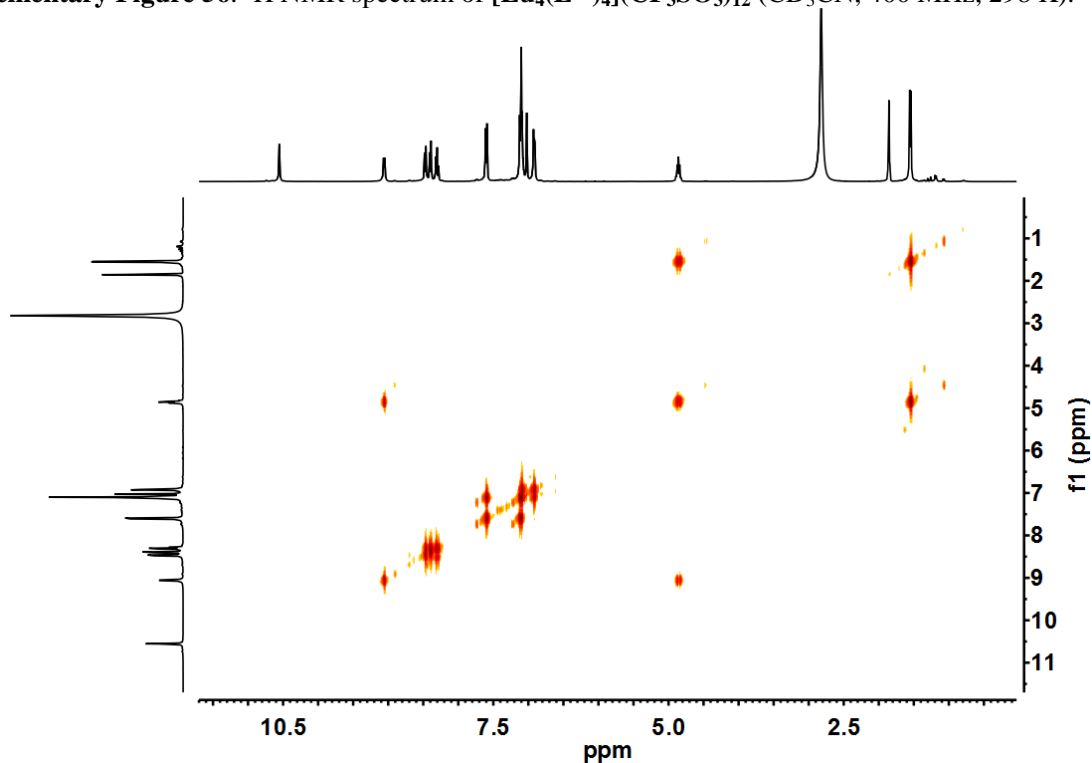
Supplementary Figure 54. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Yb}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



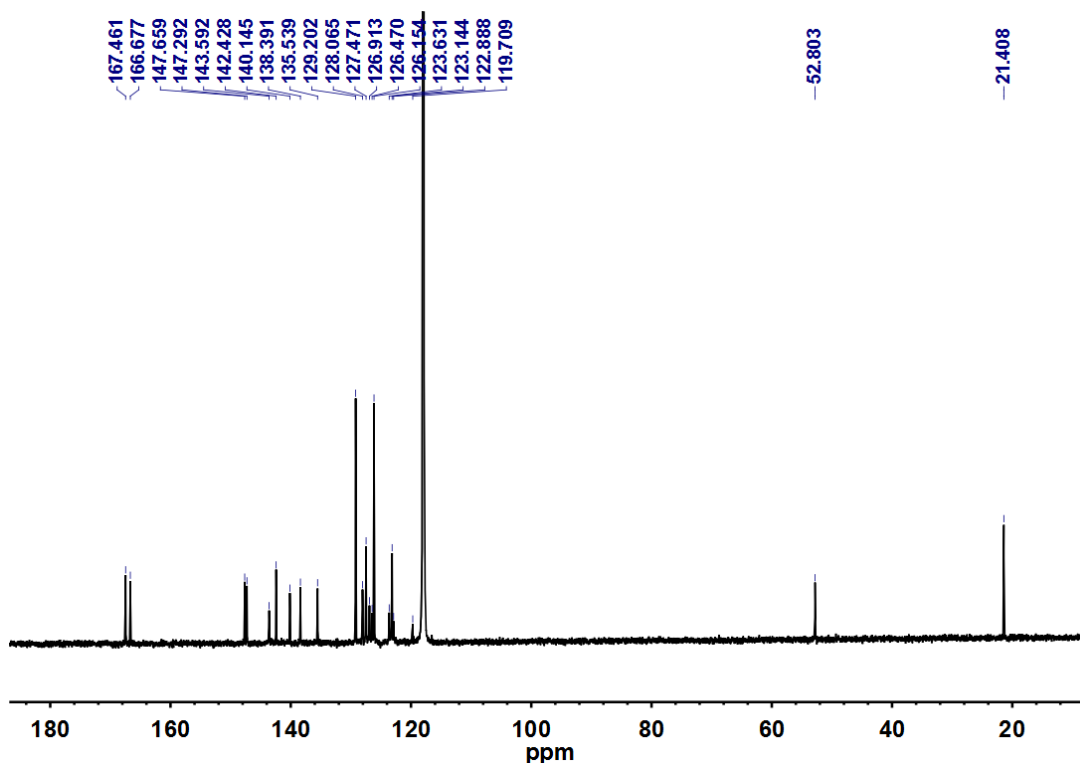
Supplementary Figure 55. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Yb}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



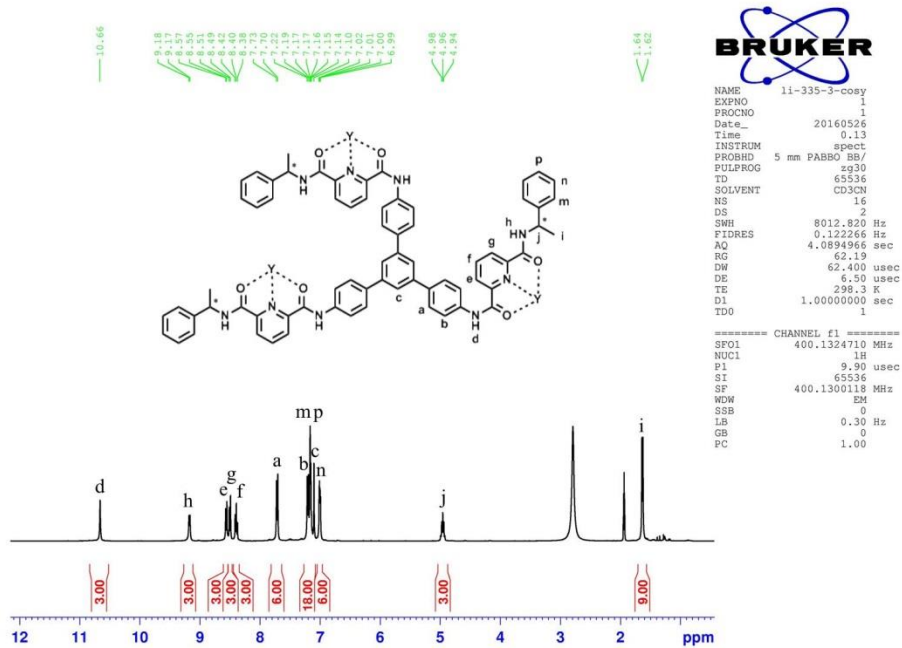
Supplementary Figure 56. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Lu}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



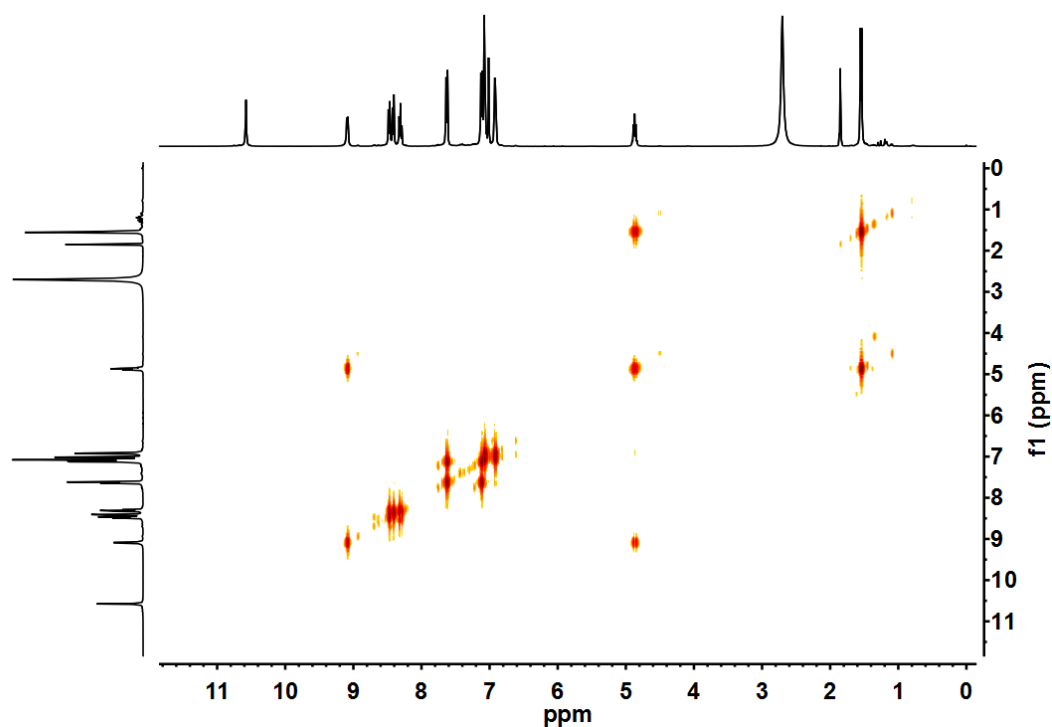
Supplementary Figure 57. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Lu}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



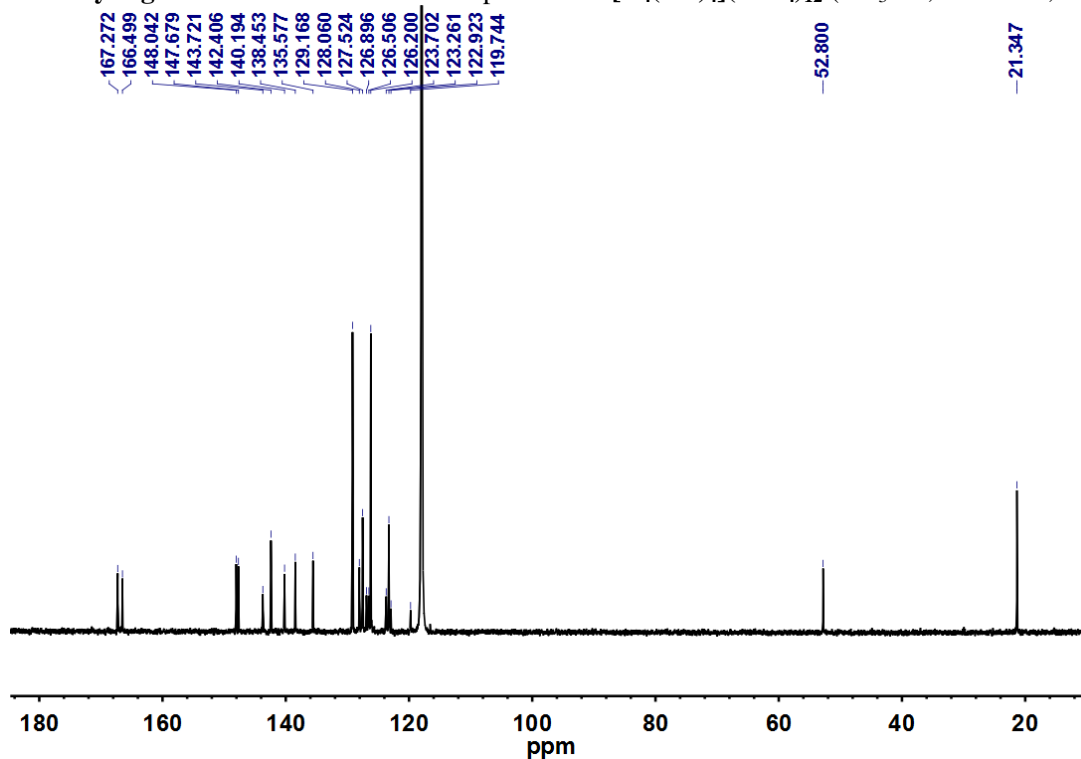
Supplementary Figure 58. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Lu}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



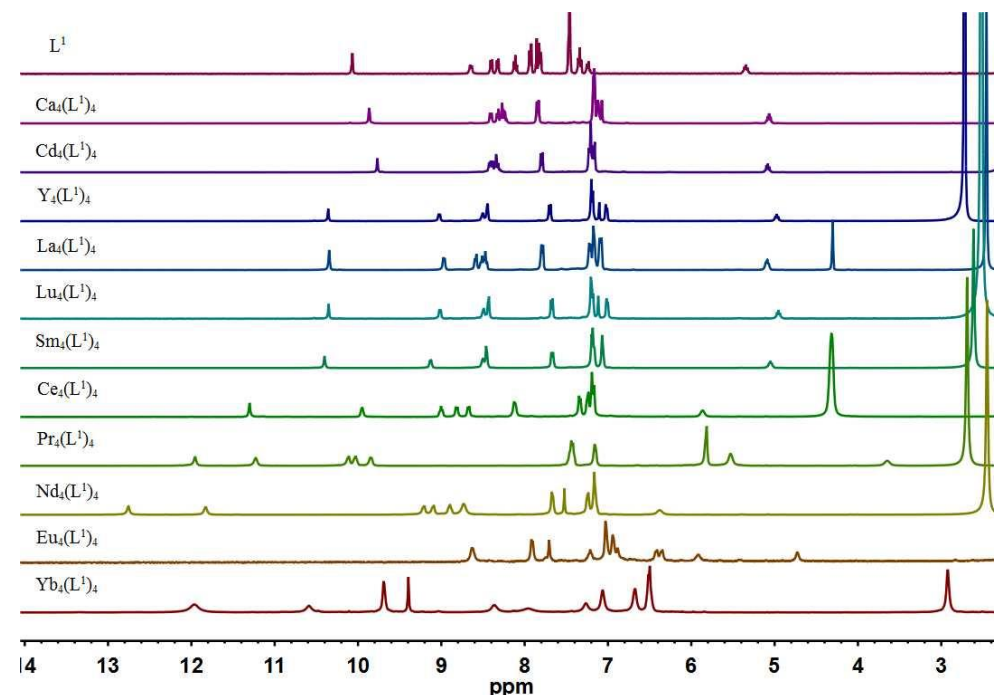
Supplementary Figure 59. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Y}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



Supplementary Figure 60. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Y}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



Supplementary Figure 61. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Y}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).



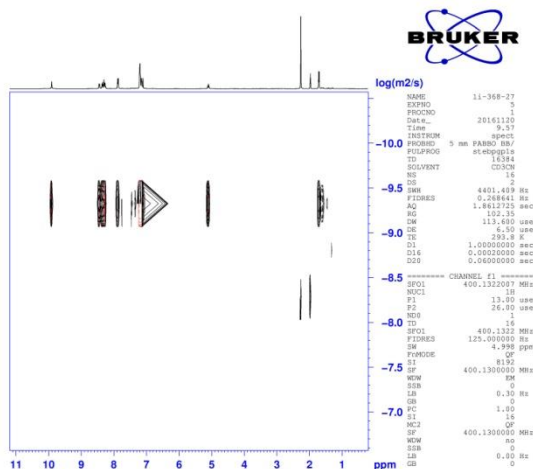
Supplementary Figure 62. ^1H NMR spectra of L^1 and $[\text{M}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$ ($\text{M} = \text{Ca}^{\text{II}}, \text{Cd}^{\text{II}}, \text{Y}^{\text{III}}, \text{La}^{\text{III}}, \text{Lu}^{\text{III}}, \text{Sm}^{\text{III}}, \text{Ce}^{\text{III}}, \text{Pr}^{\text{III}}, \text{Nd}^{\text{III}}, \text{Eu}^{\text{III}}, \text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$) (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K).

DOSY spectra

Stokes-Einstein equation

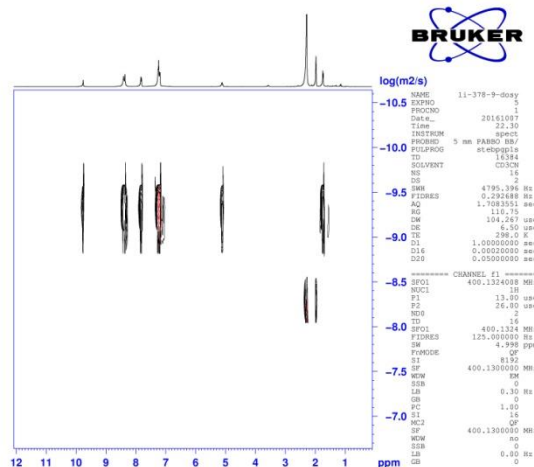
$$D = \frac{K_B T}{6\pi\eta r}$$

was applied to estimate the dynamic radius of $[\text{M}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{8+}$ ($\text{M} = \text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$ or Cd^{II}) $[\text{Ln}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ complexes. D is diffusion coefficient obtained from DOSY spectrum, K_B is Boltzmann constant, T is the absolute temperature, viscosity tested to be 0.343 mPa S, and r is the estimated dynamic radius.



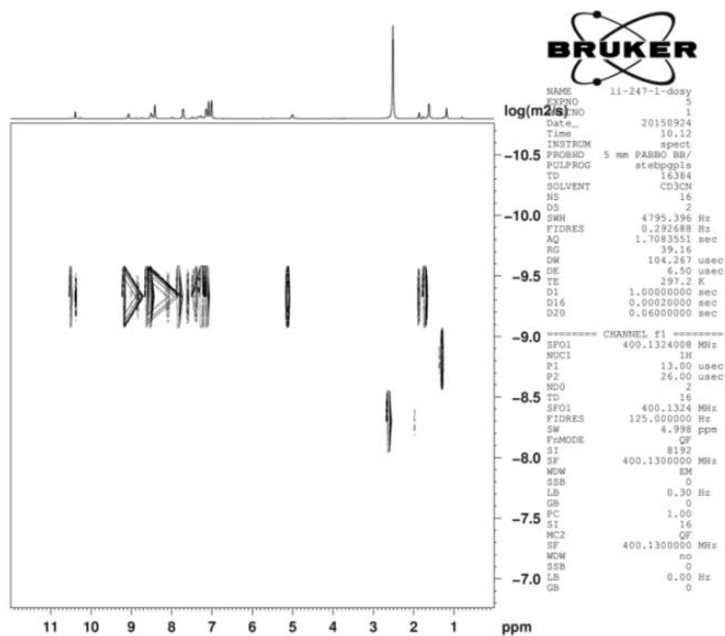
Diffusion Constant = $4.198\text{E-}10\text{m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.9 \text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 63. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Ca}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_8$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



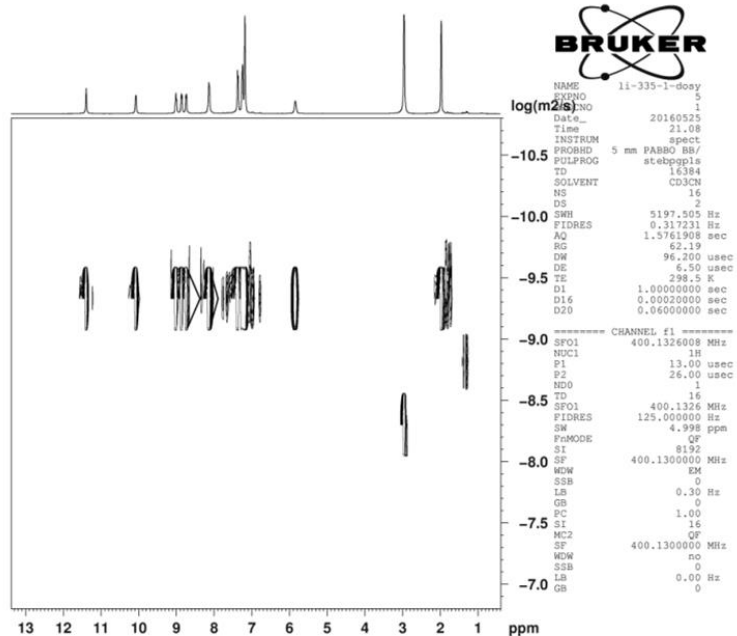
Diffusion Constant = $4.276 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.8 \text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 64. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Cd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_8$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



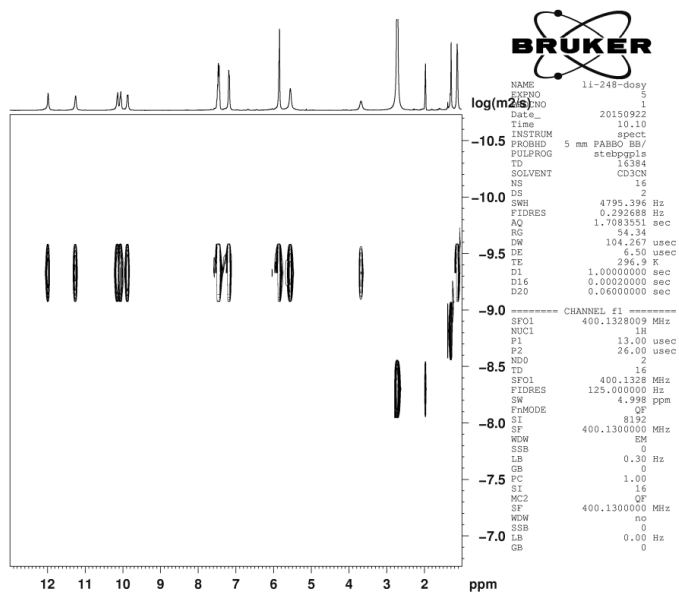
Diffusion Constant = $4.198 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.9 \text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 65. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



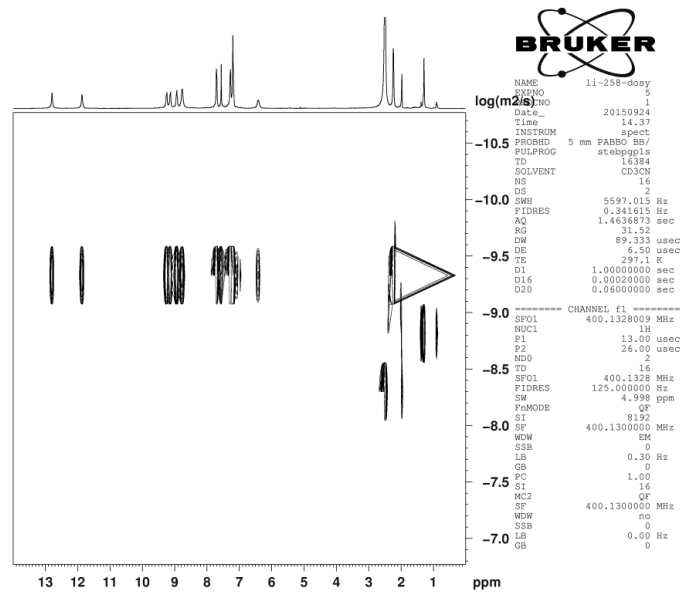
Diffusion Constant = $4.121\text{E-}10\text{m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 3.0\text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 66. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Ce}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



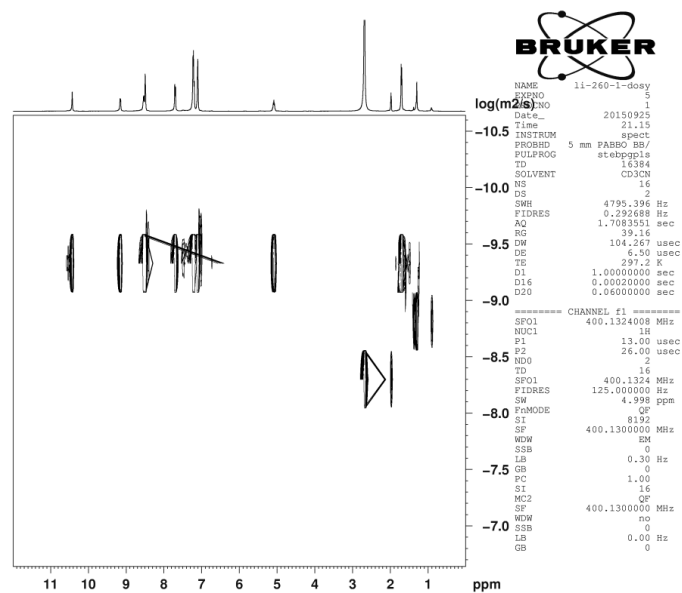
Diffusion Constant = $4.198\text{E-}10\text{m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.9\text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 67. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



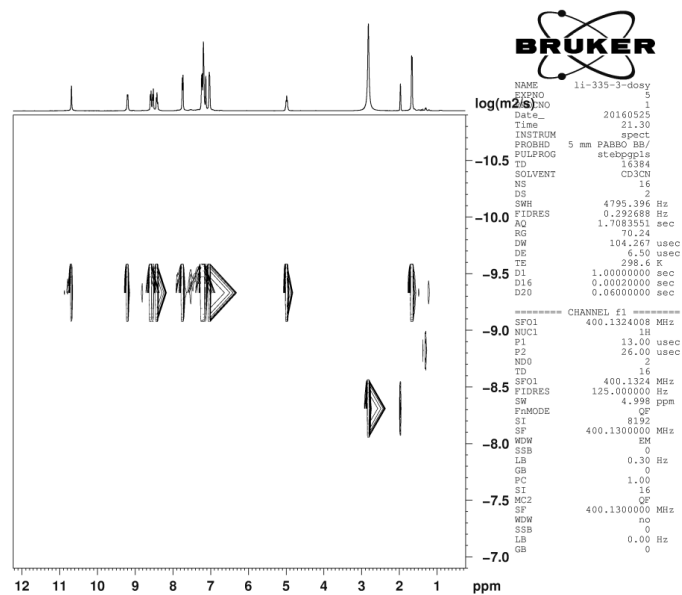
Diffusion Constant = $4.198 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.9 \text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 68. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Nd}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



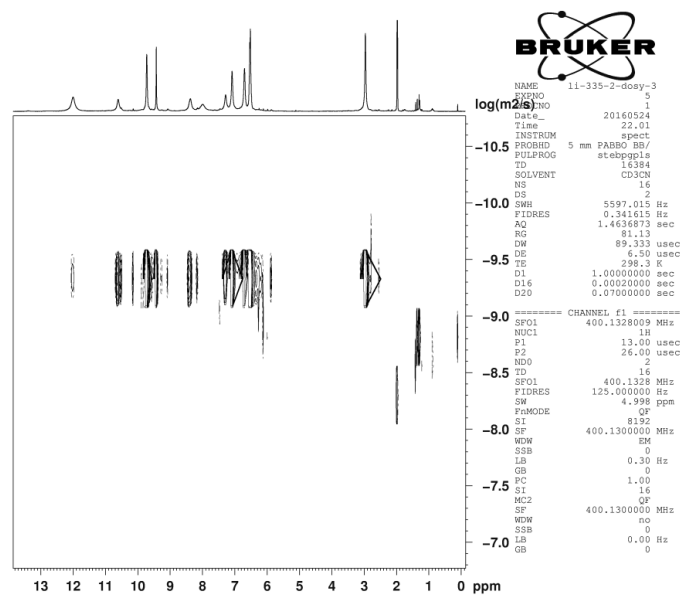
Diffusion Constant = $4.198 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.9 \text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 69. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Sm}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



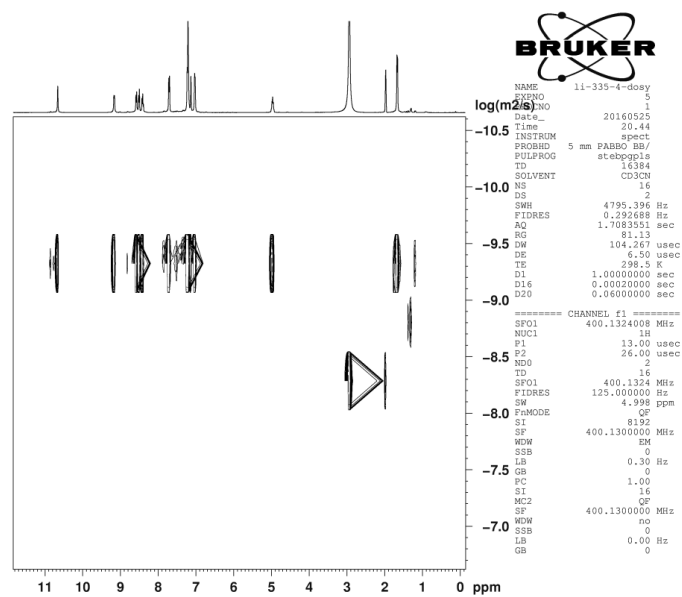
Diffusion Constant = $4.198 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.9 \text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 70. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Y}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



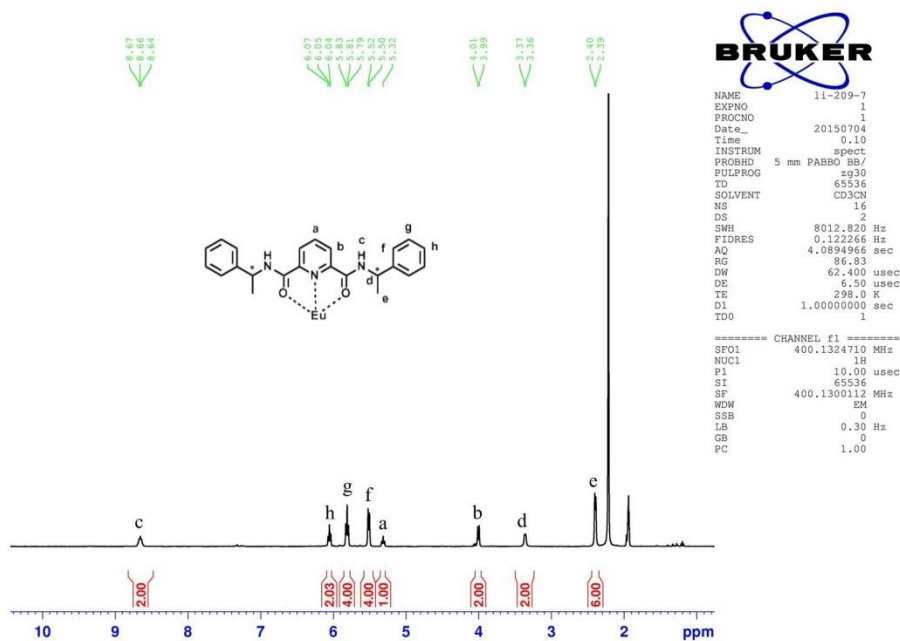
Diffusion Constant = $4.121 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 3.0 \text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 71. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Y}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).

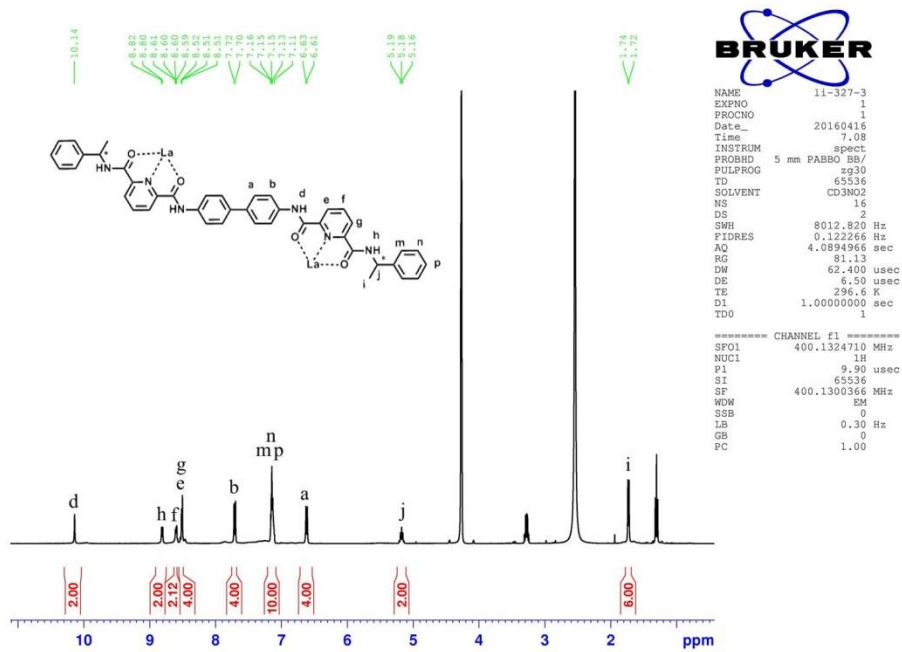


Diffusion Constant = $4.198 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 2.9 \text{ nm}$

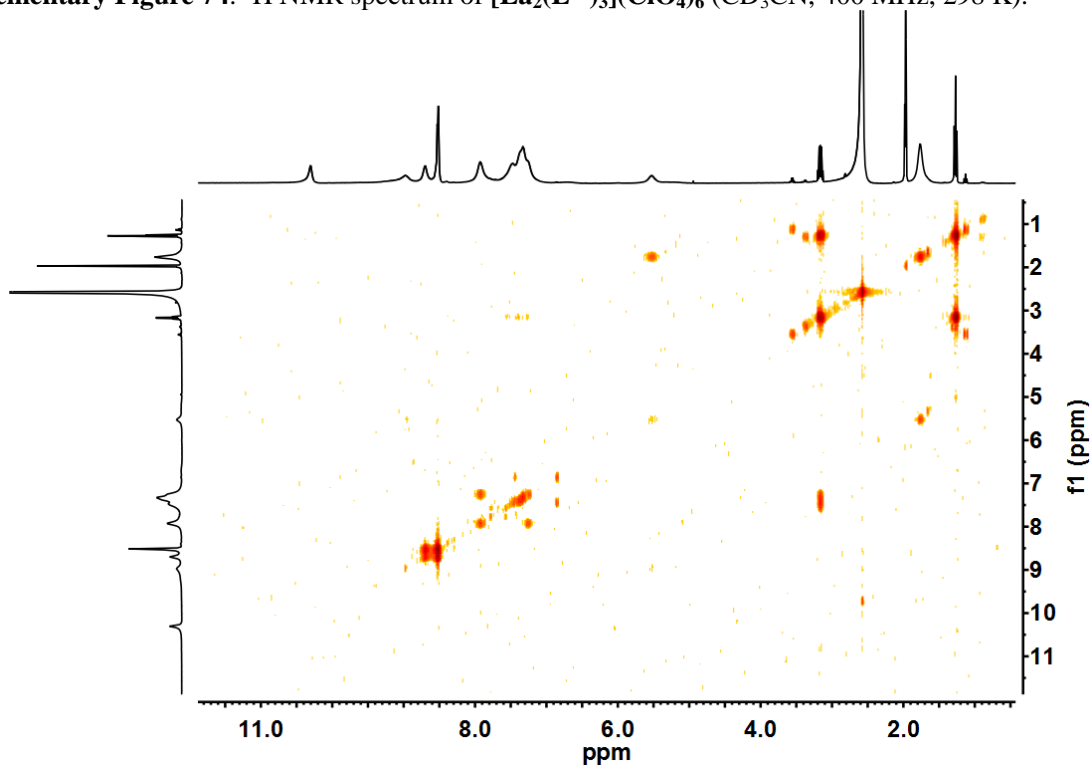
Supplementary Figure 72. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Lu}_4(\text{L}^{15})_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



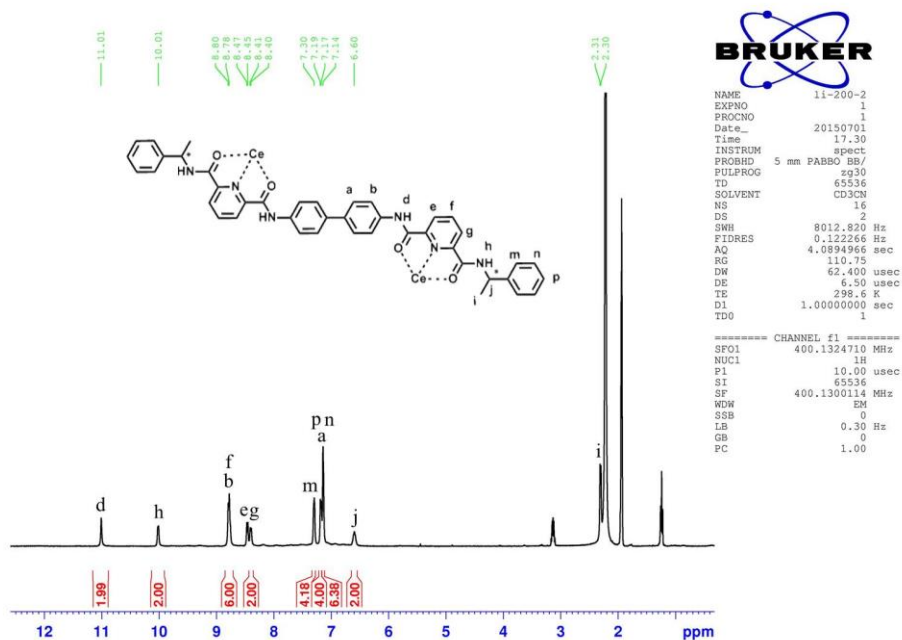
Supplementary Figure 73. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_1(\text{L}^{25})_3](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



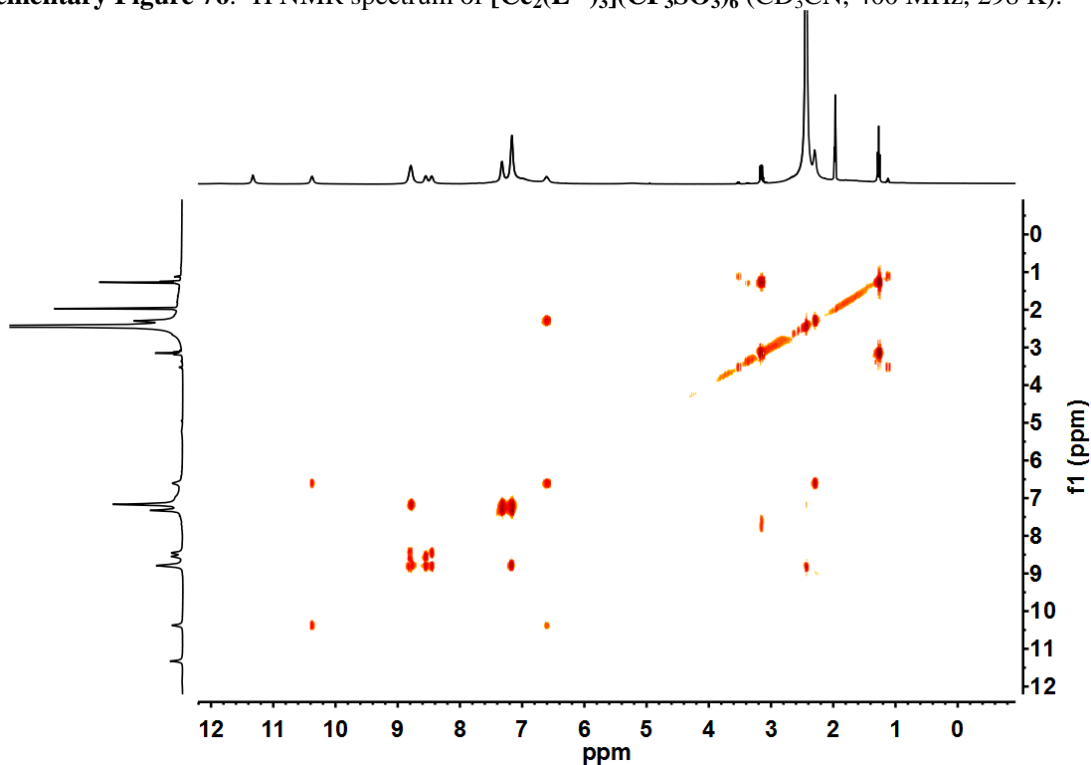
Supplementary Figure 74. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



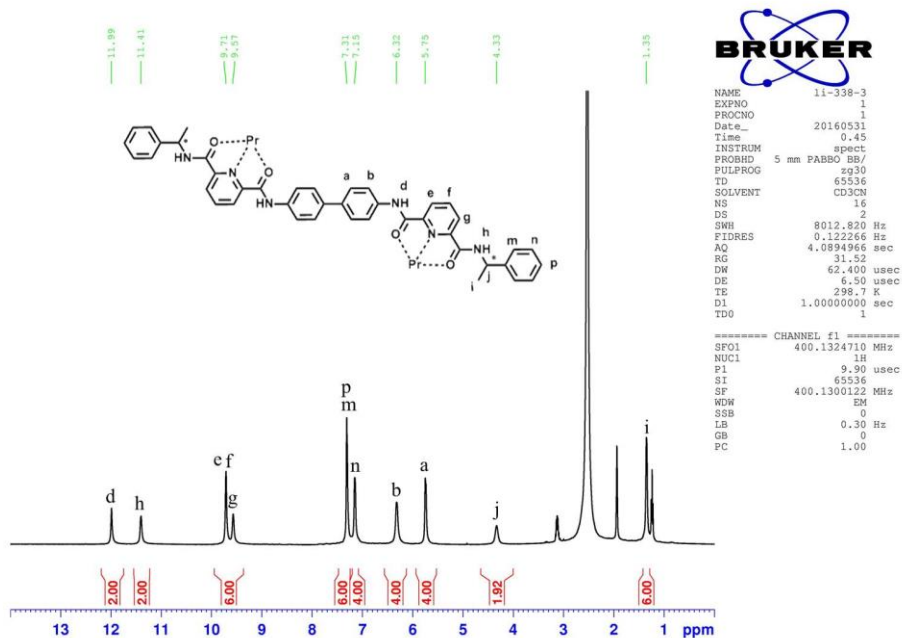
Supplementary Figure 75. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



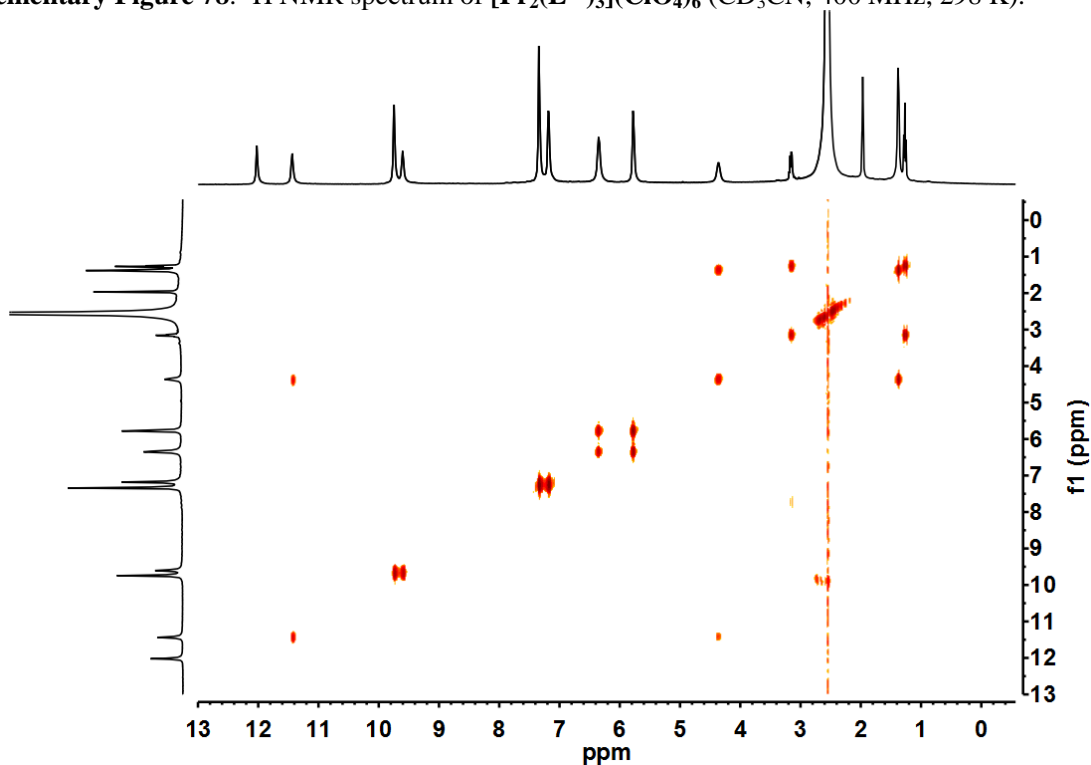
Supplementary Figure 76. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ce}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



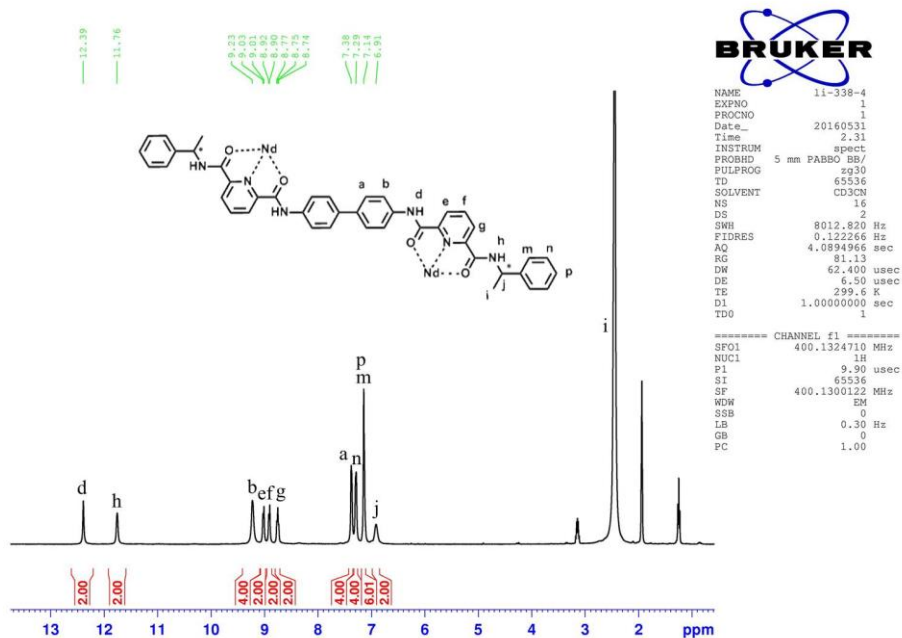
Supplementary Figure 77. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ce}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



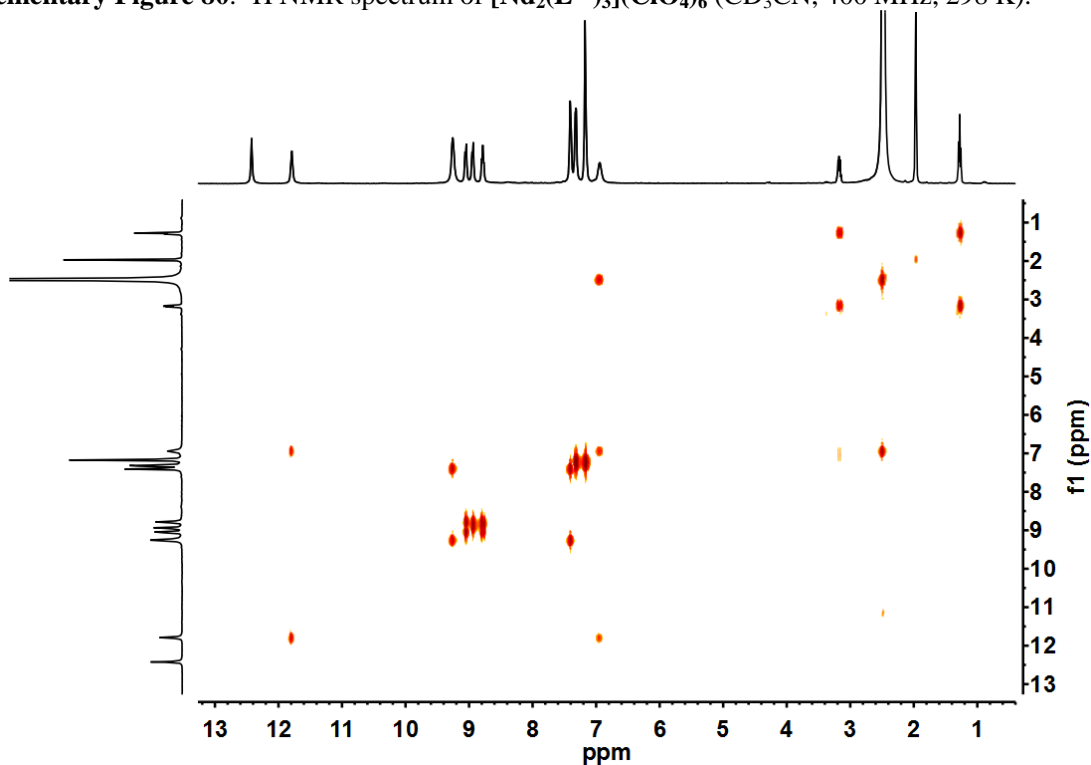
Supplementary Figure 78. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



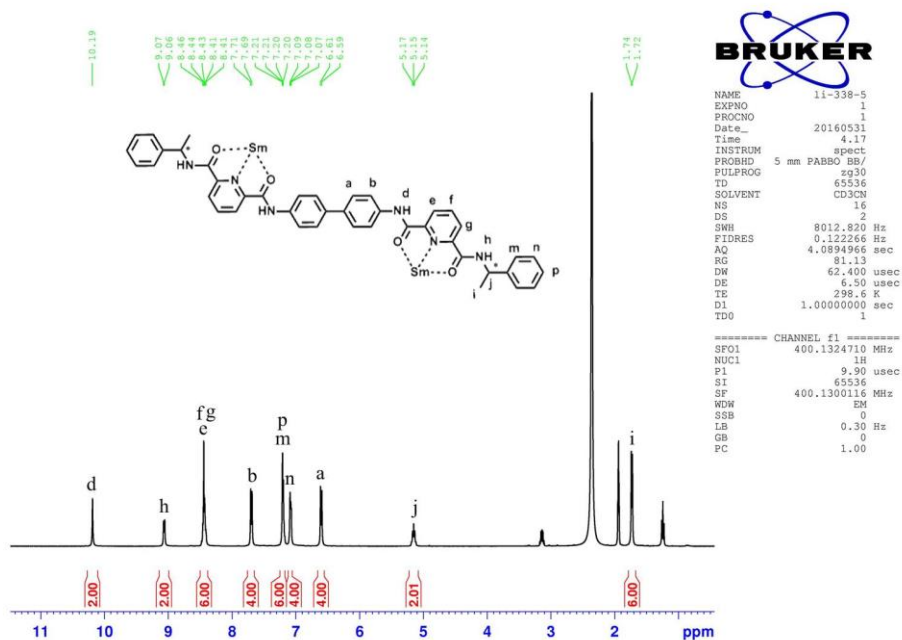
Supplementary Figure 79. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



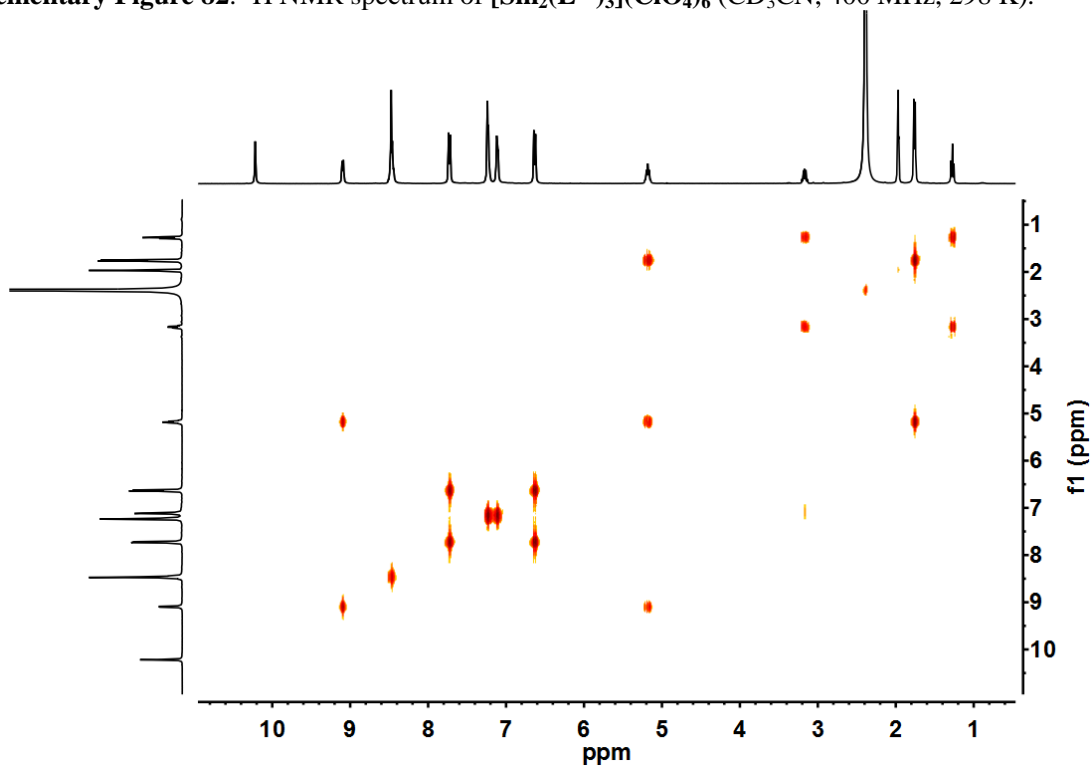
Supplementary Figure 80. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Nd}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



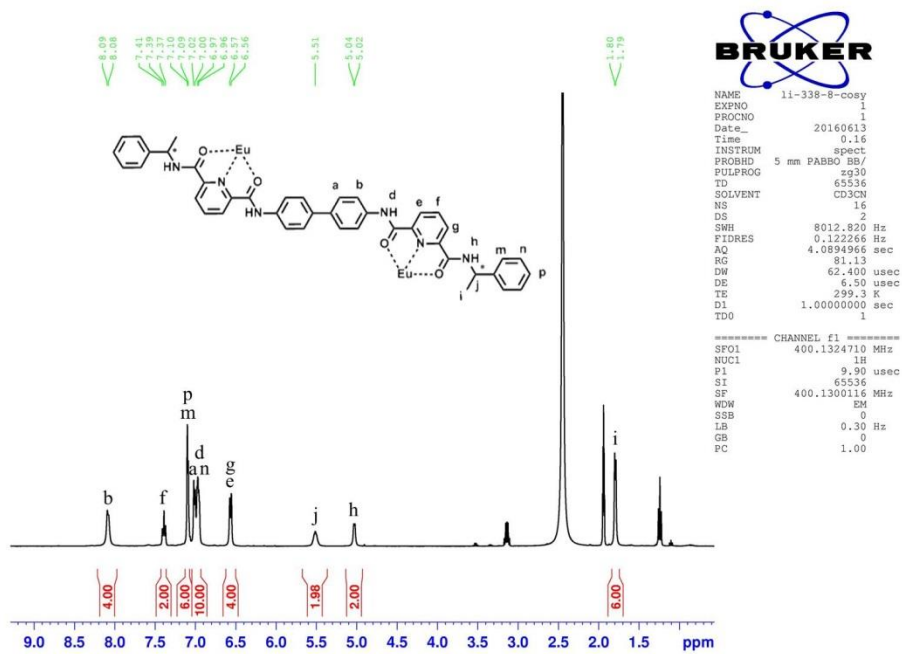
Supplementary Figure 81. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Nd}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



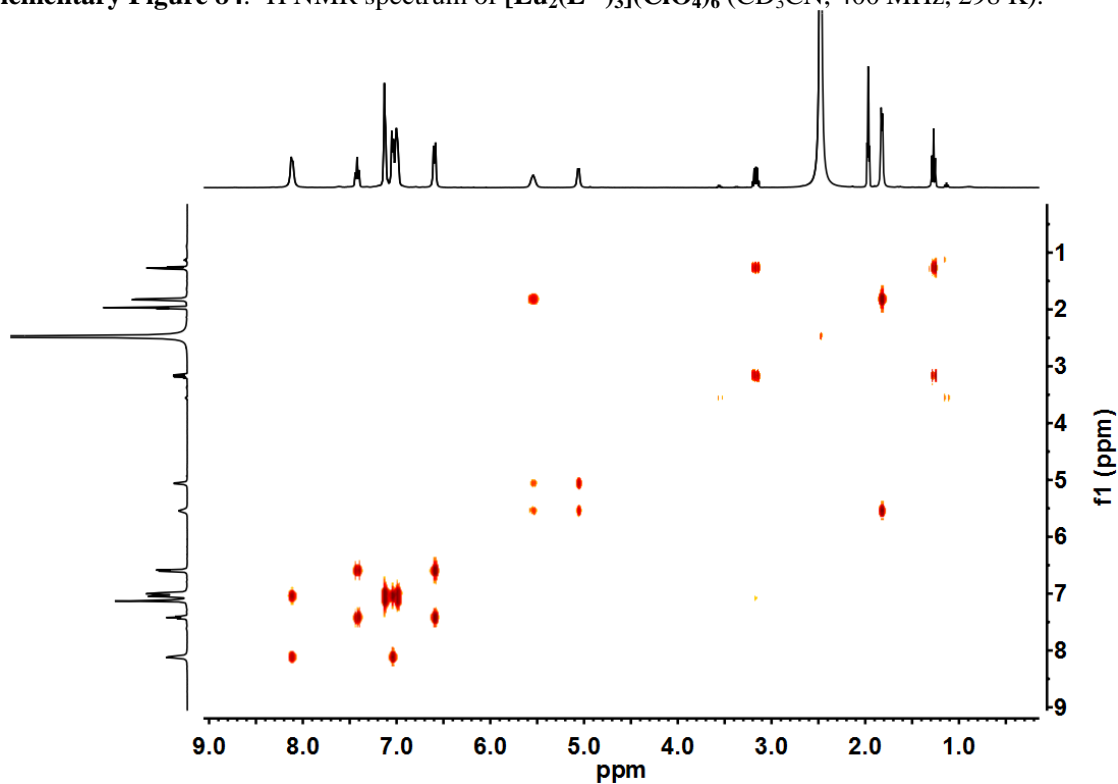
Supplementary Figure 82. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Sm}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



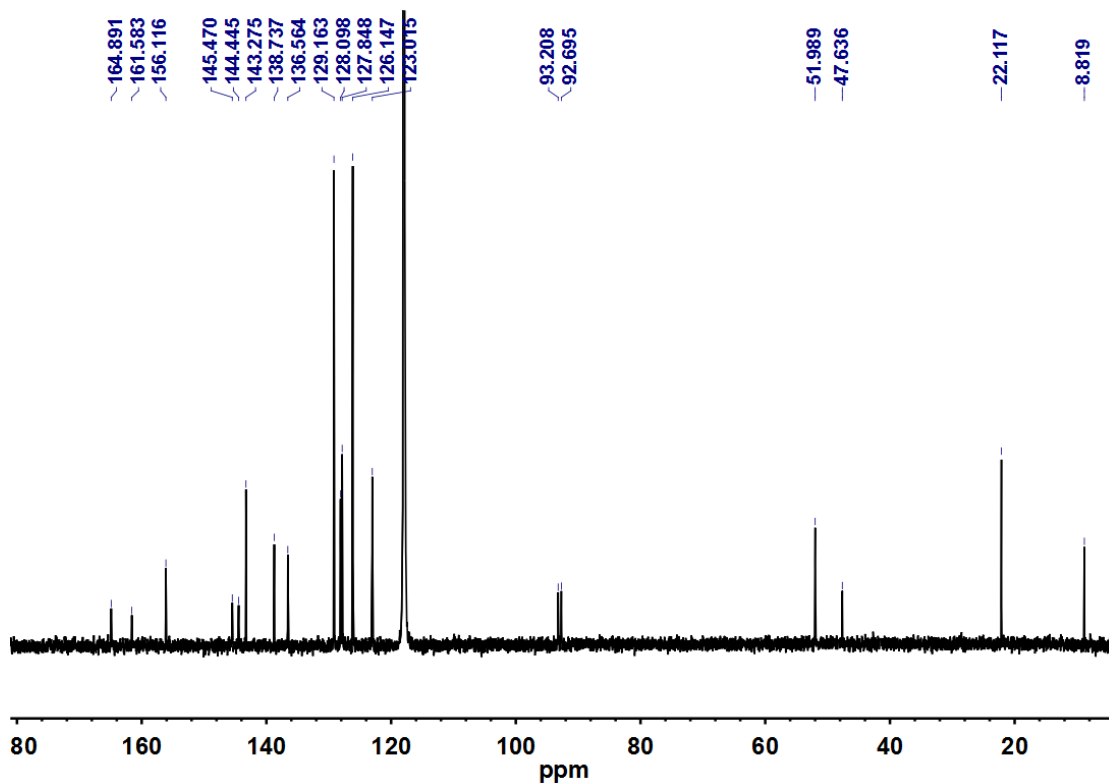
Supplementary Figure 83. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Sm}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



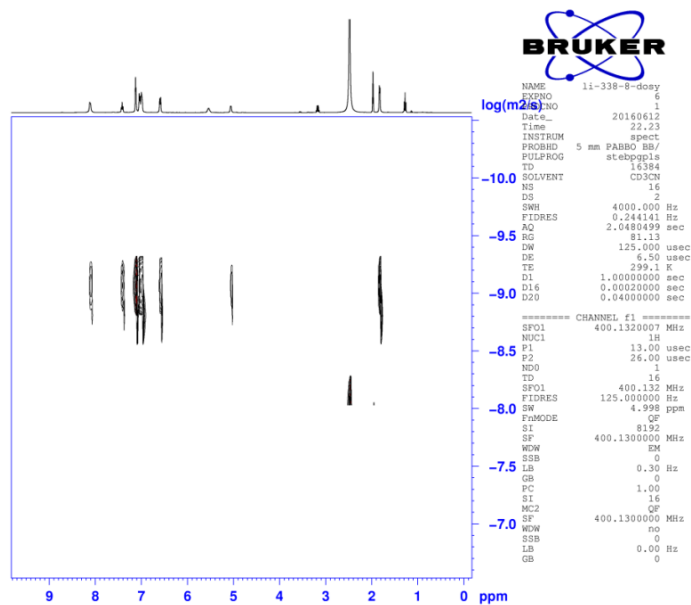
Supplementary Figure 84. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



Supplementary Figure 85. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).

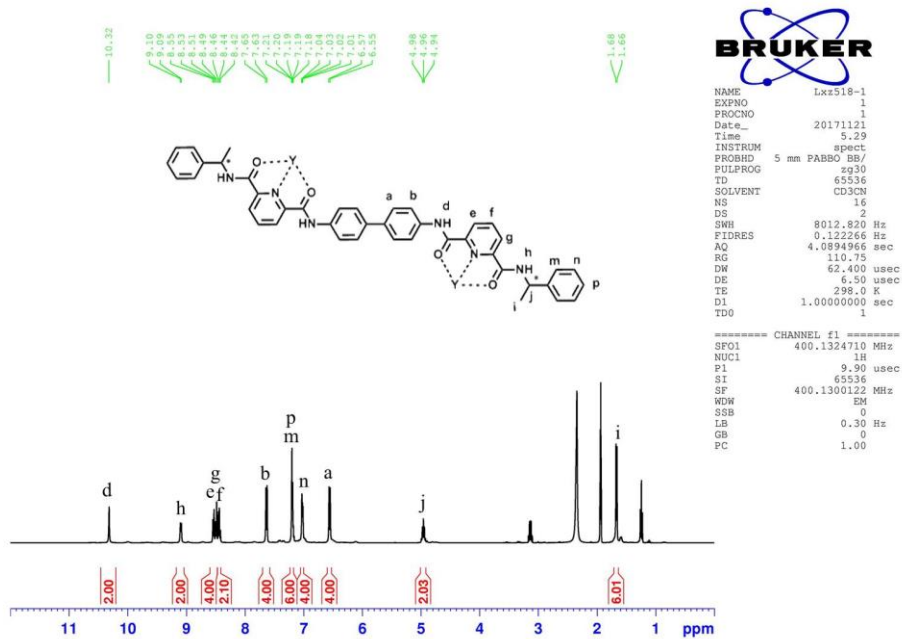


Supplementary Figure 86. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 101 MHz, 298 K).

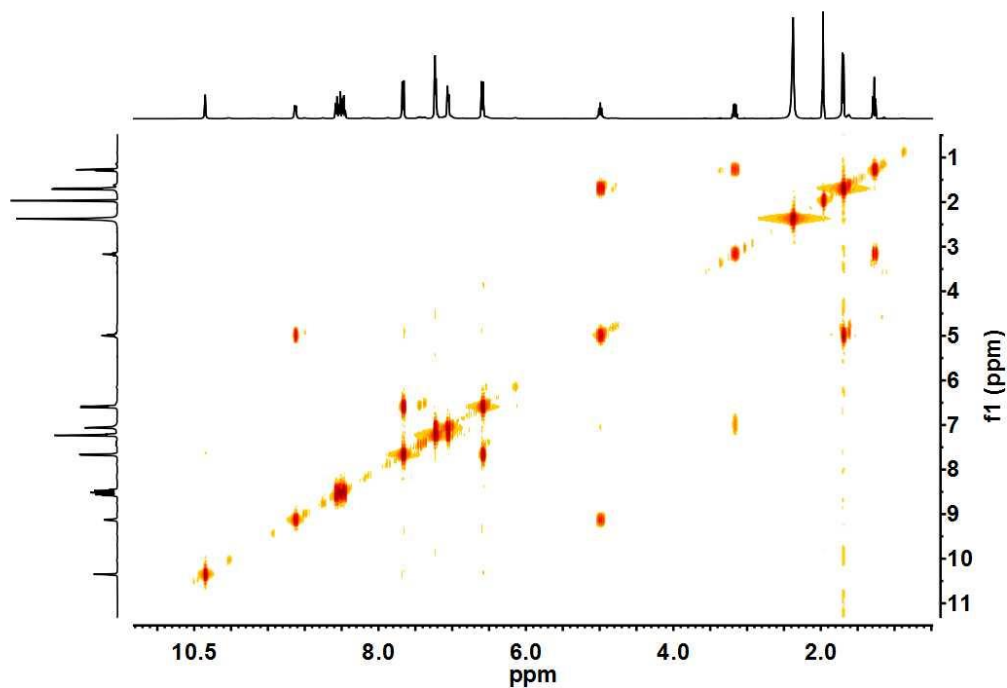


Diffusion Constant = $7.534\text{E-}10\text{m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 1.6 \text{ nm}$

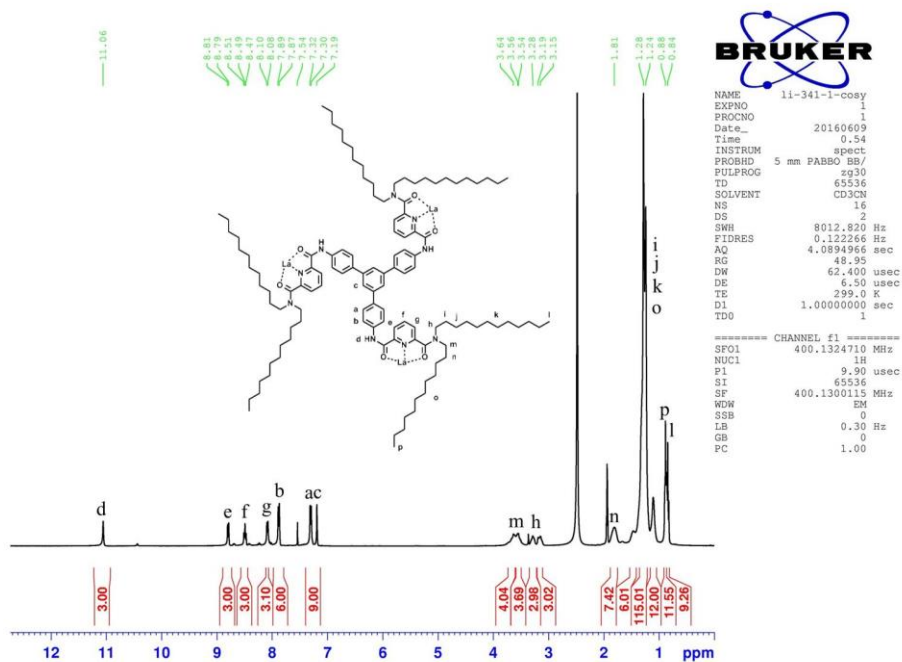
Supplementary Figure 87. ^1H DOSY spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



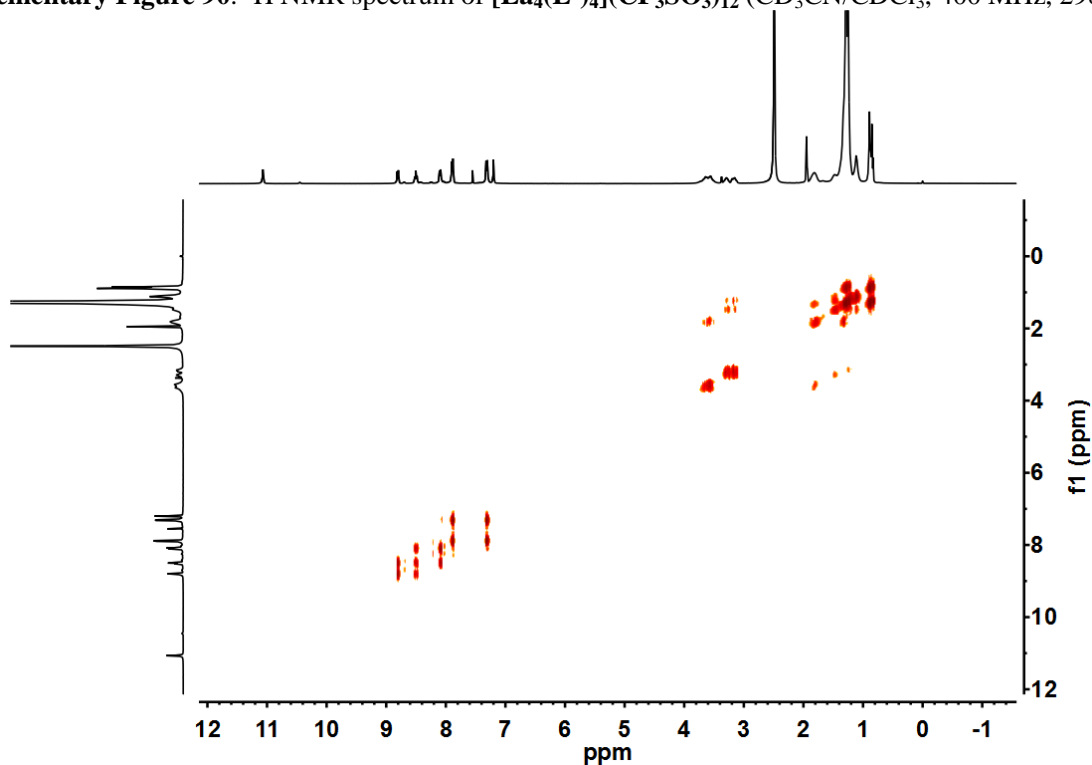
Supplementary Figure 88. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Y}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



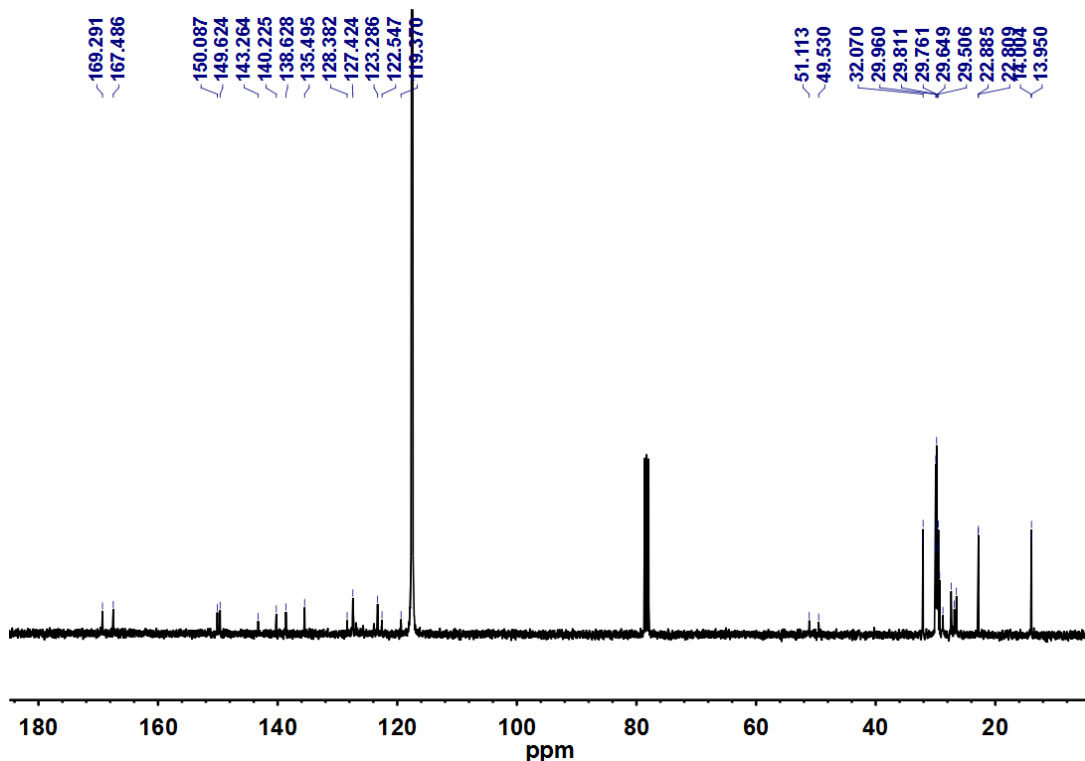
Supplementary Figure 89. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Y}_2(\text{L}^{35})_3](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_6$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).



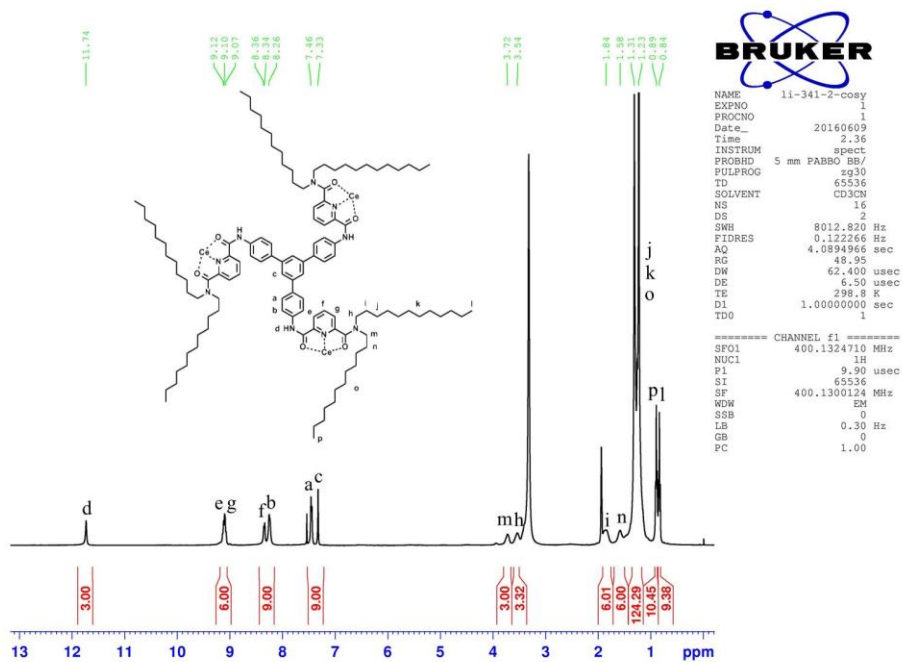
Supplementary Figure 90. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



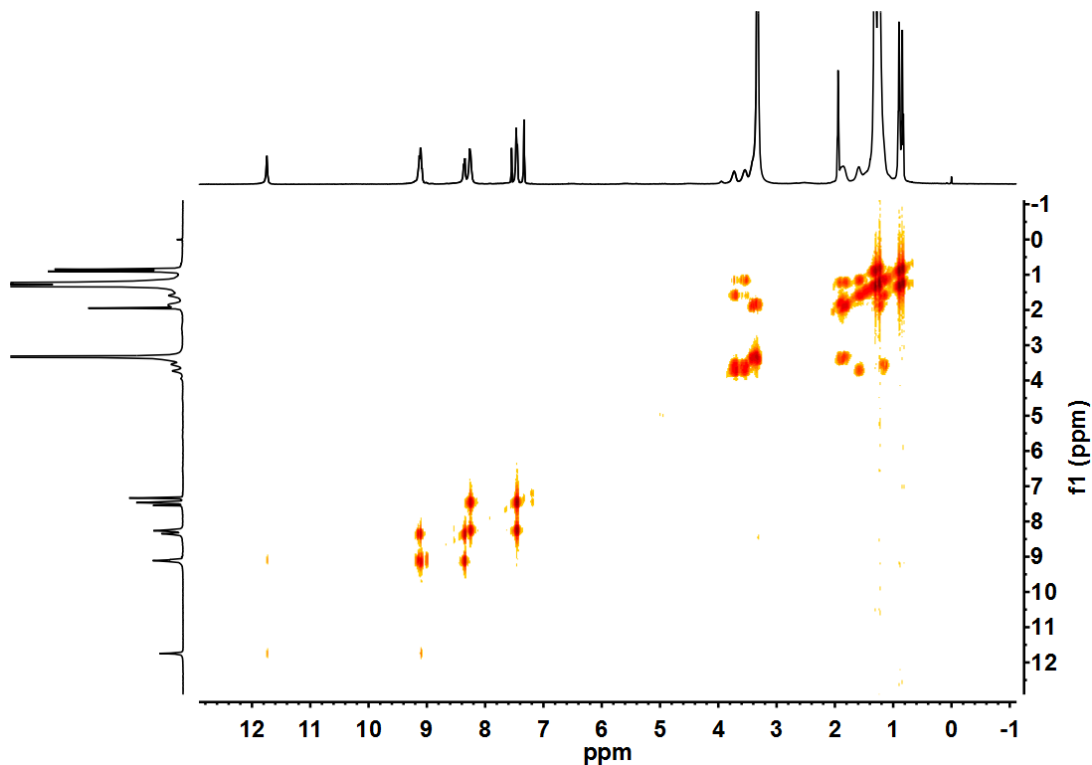
Supplementary Figure 91. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



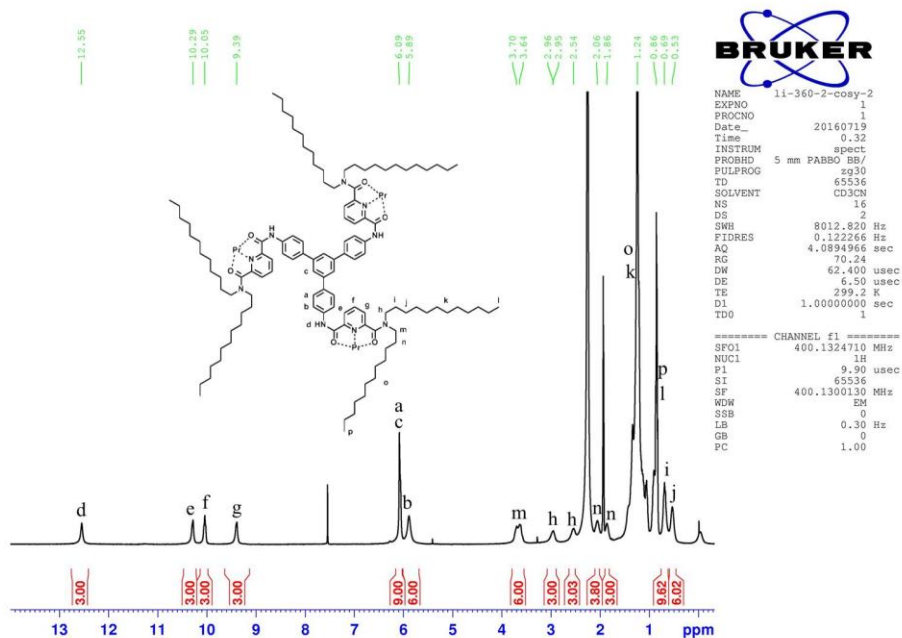
Supplementary Figure 92. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 101 MHz, 298 K).



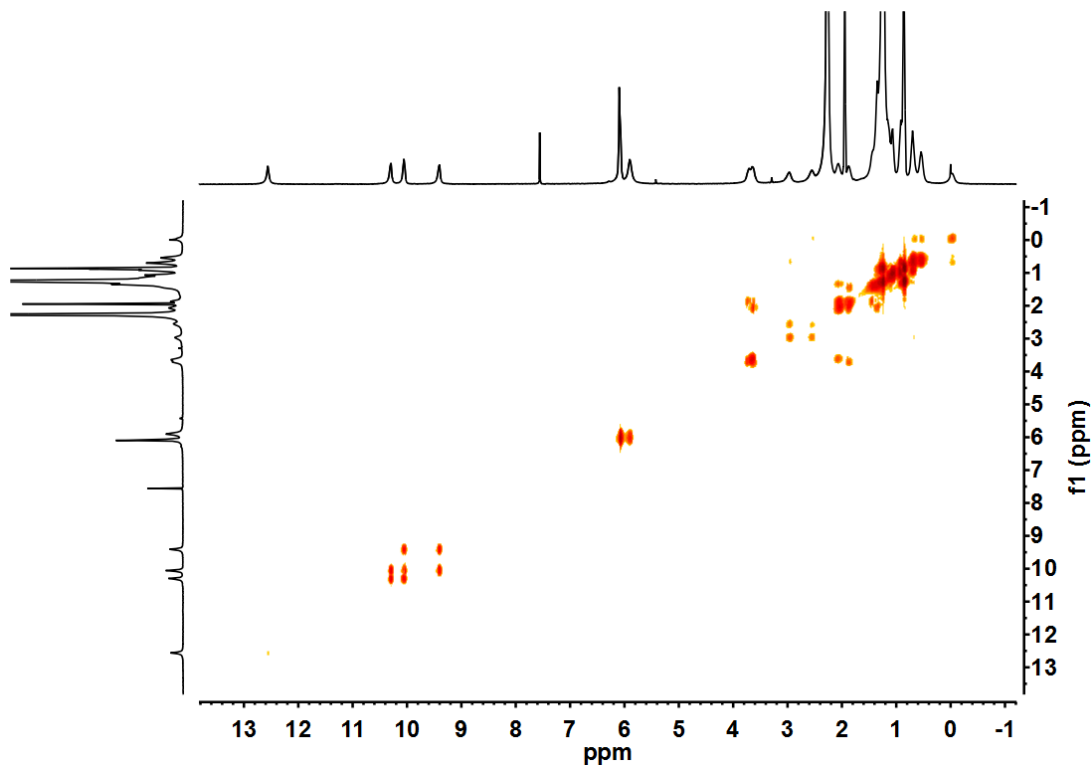
Supplementary Figure 93. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ce}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



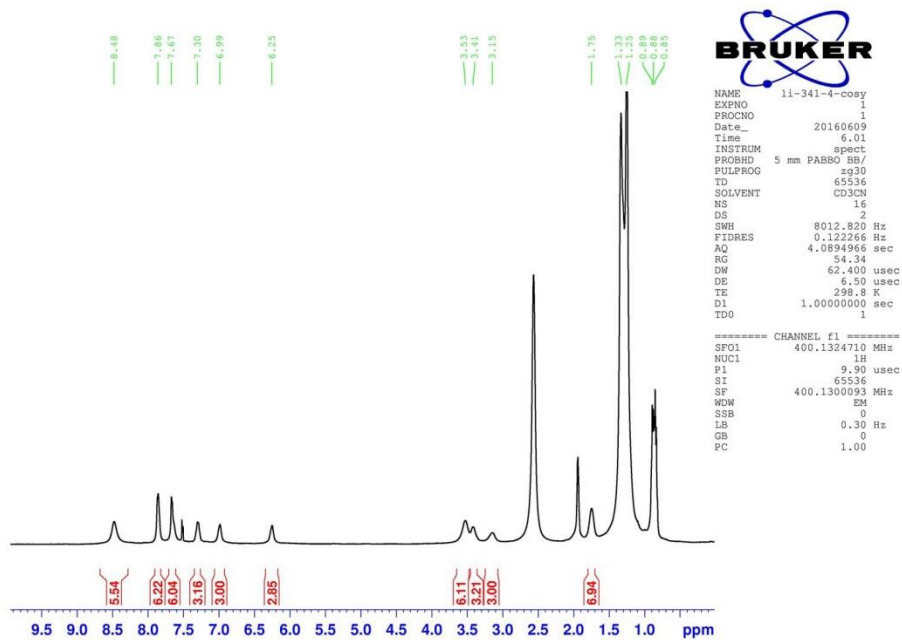
Supplementary Figure 94. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Ce}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



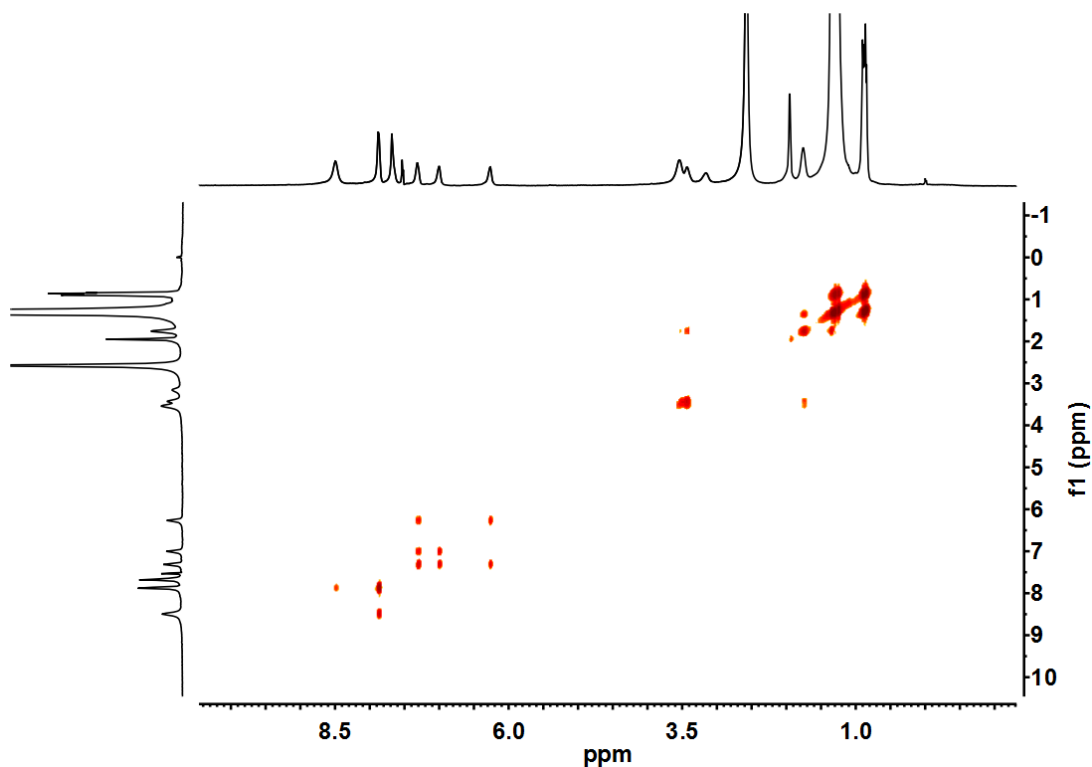
Supplementary Figure 95. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



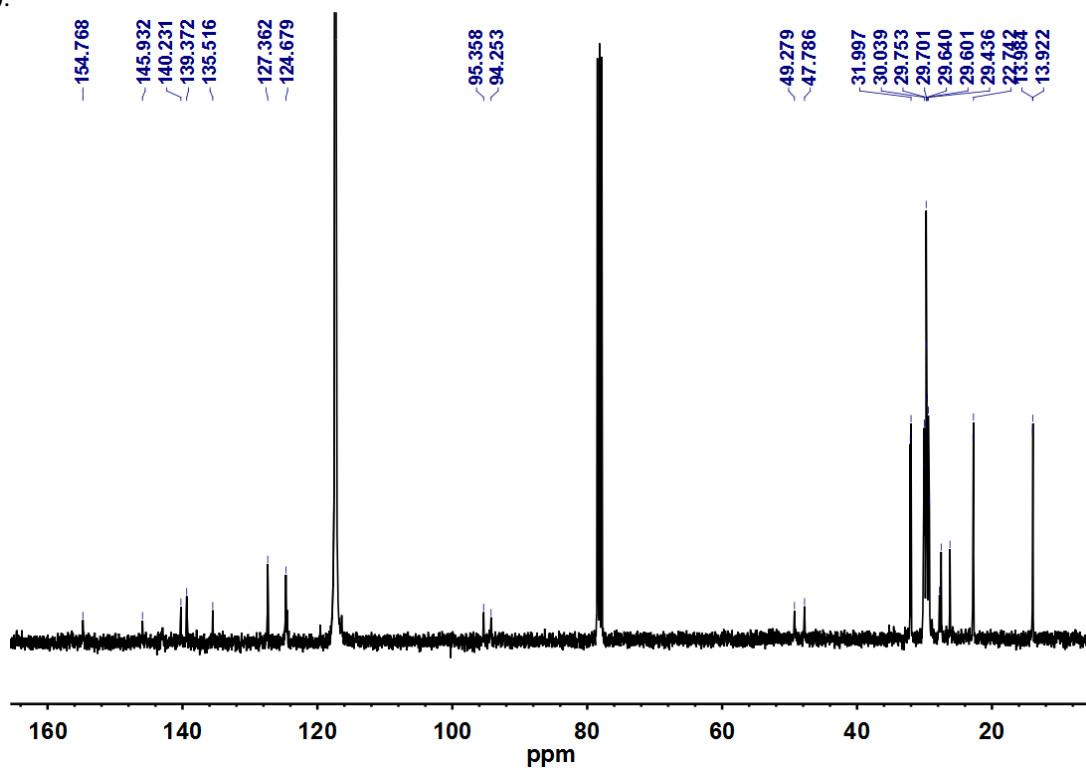
Supplementary Figure 96. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Pr}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



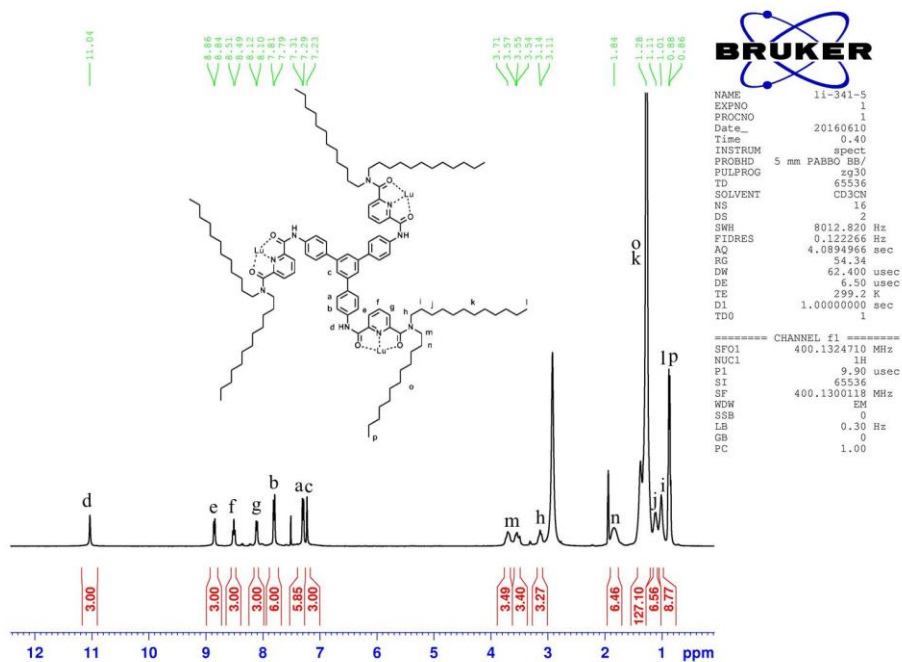
Supplementary Figure 97. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



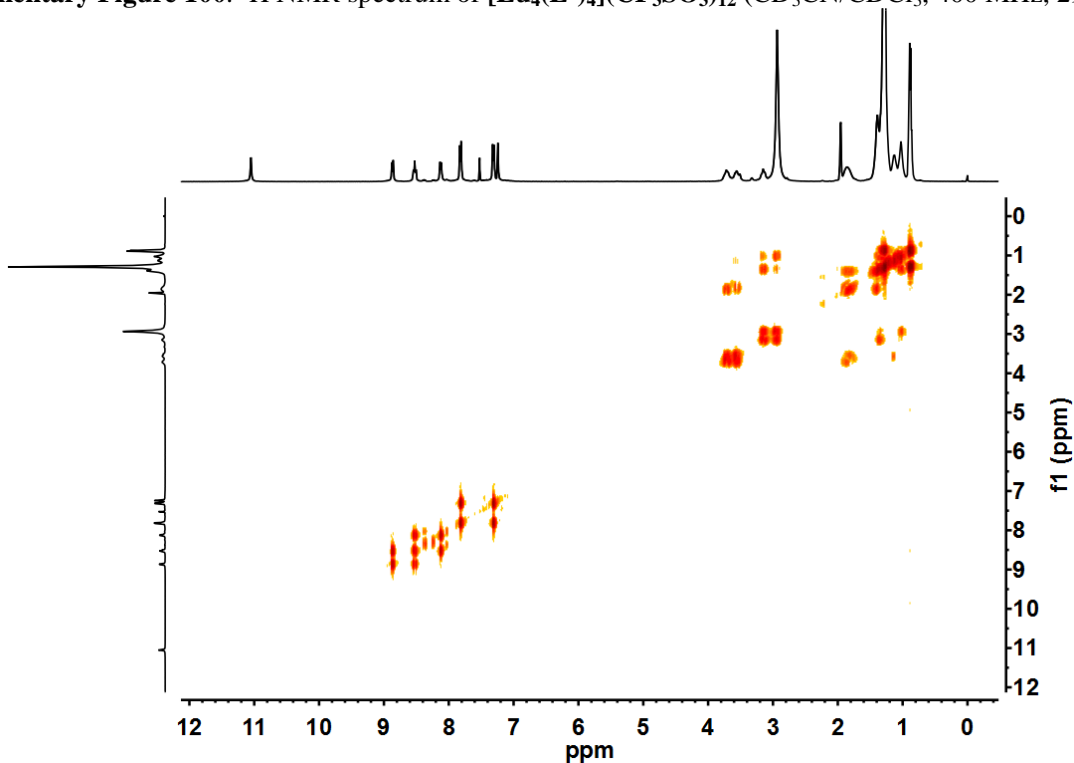
Supplementary Figure 98. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



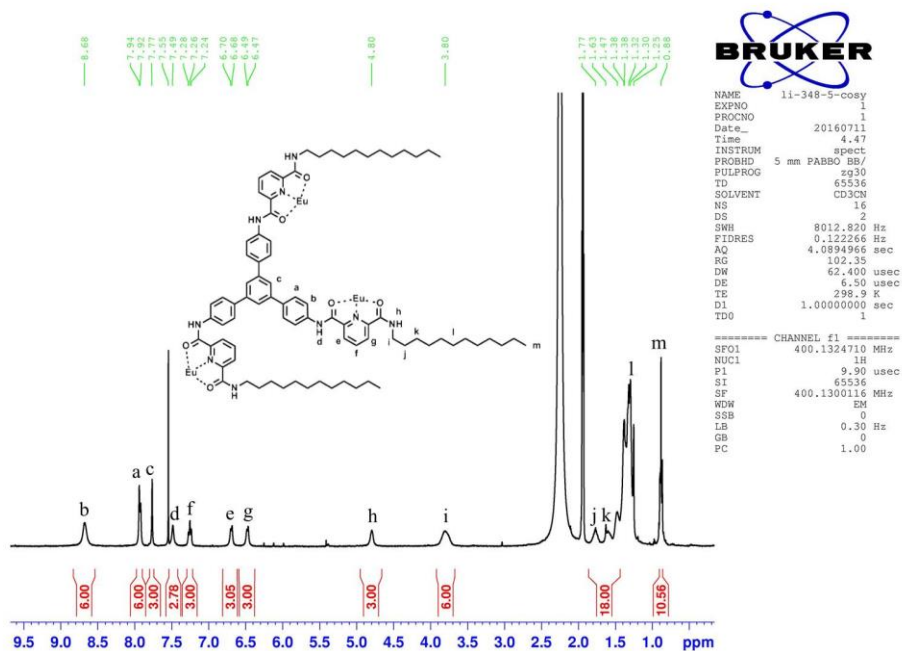
Supplementary Figure 99. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 101 MHz, 298 K).



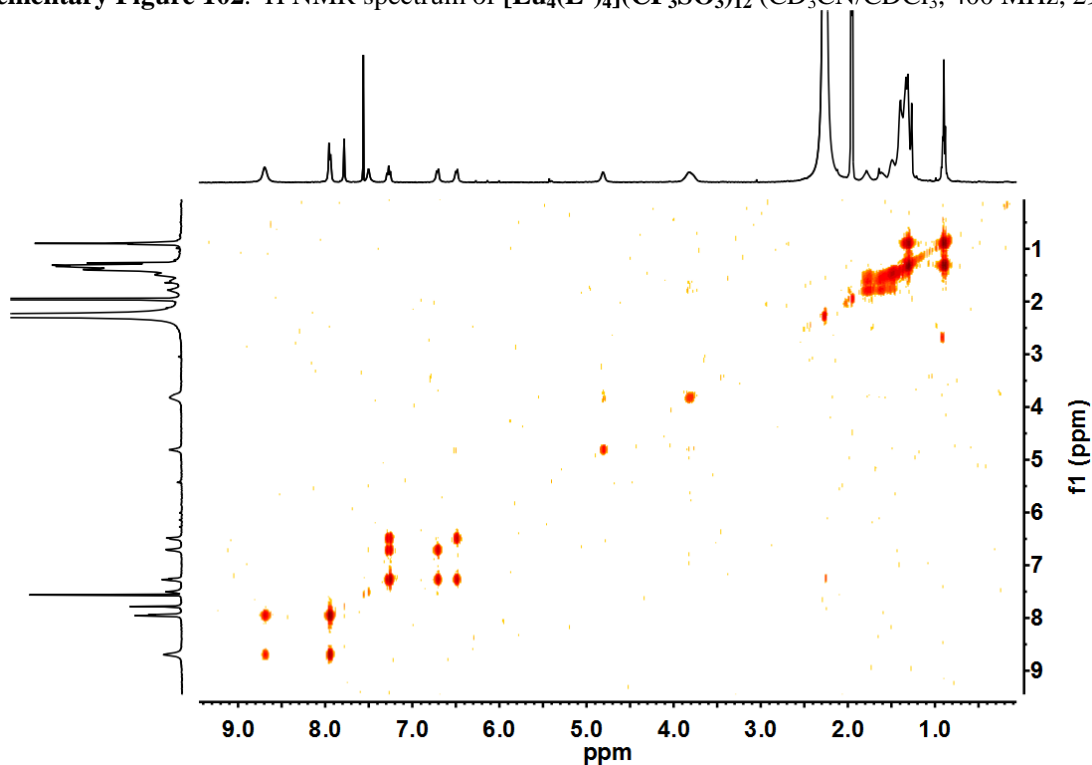
Supplementary Figure 100. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Lu}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



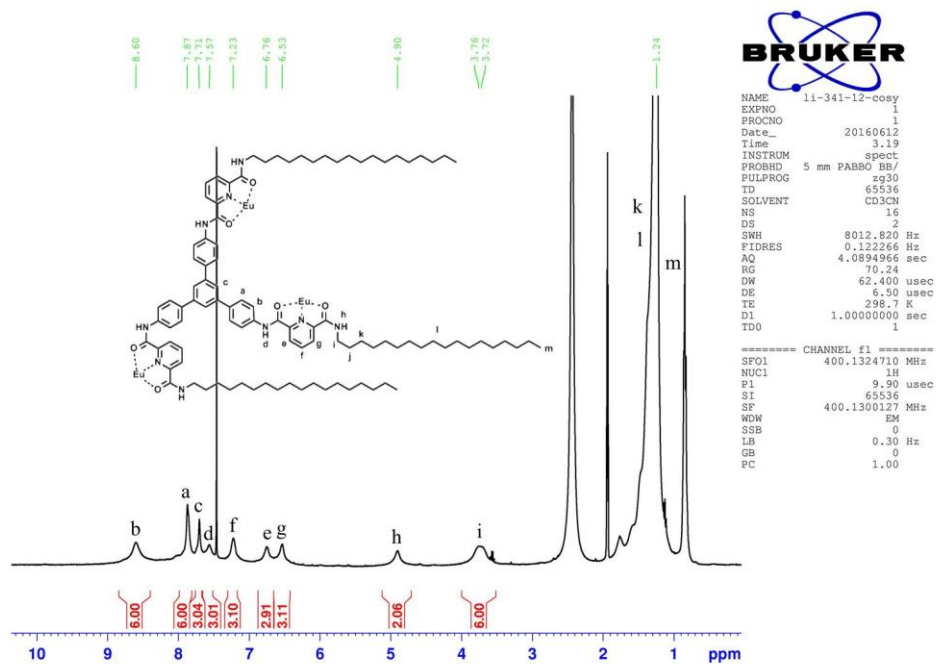
Supplementary Figure 101. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Lu}_4(\text{L}^6)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



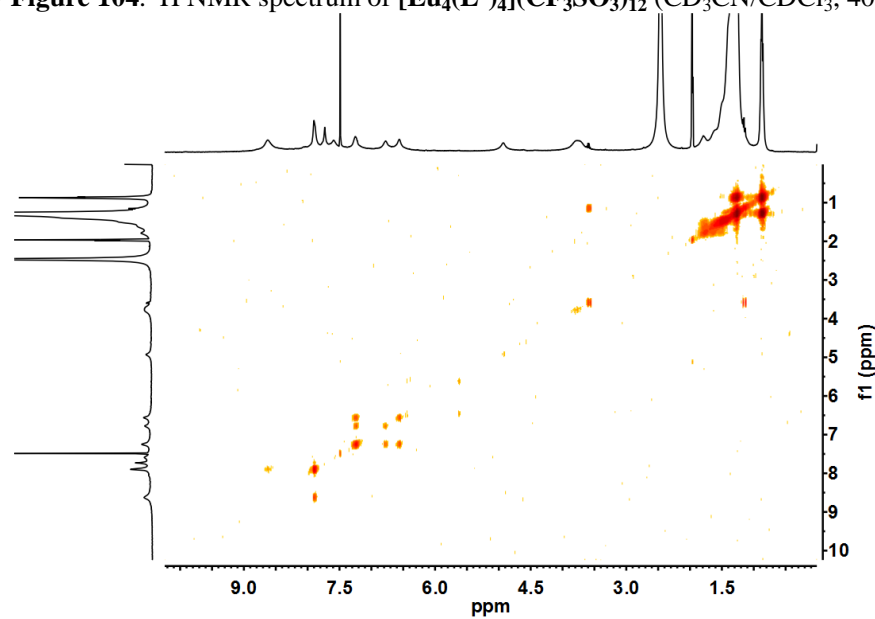
Supplementary Figure 102. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^4)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



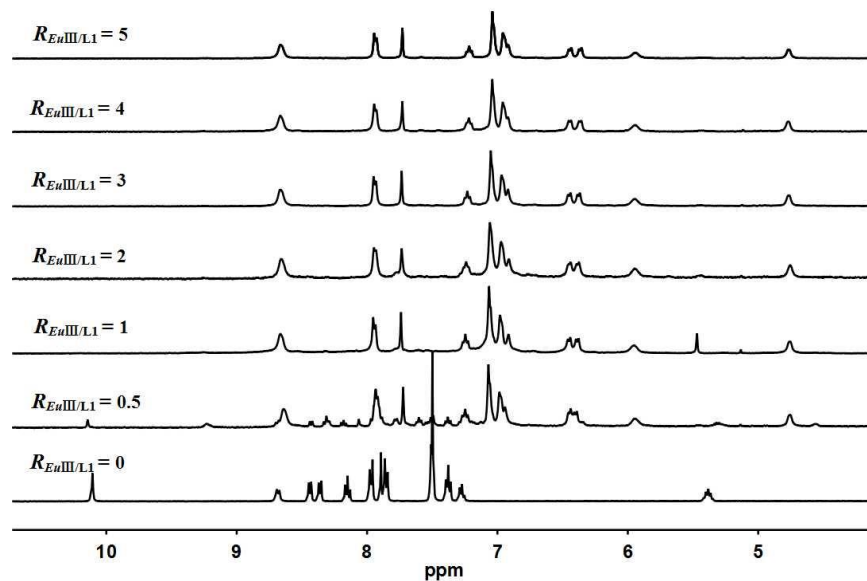
Supplementary Figure 103. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^4)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



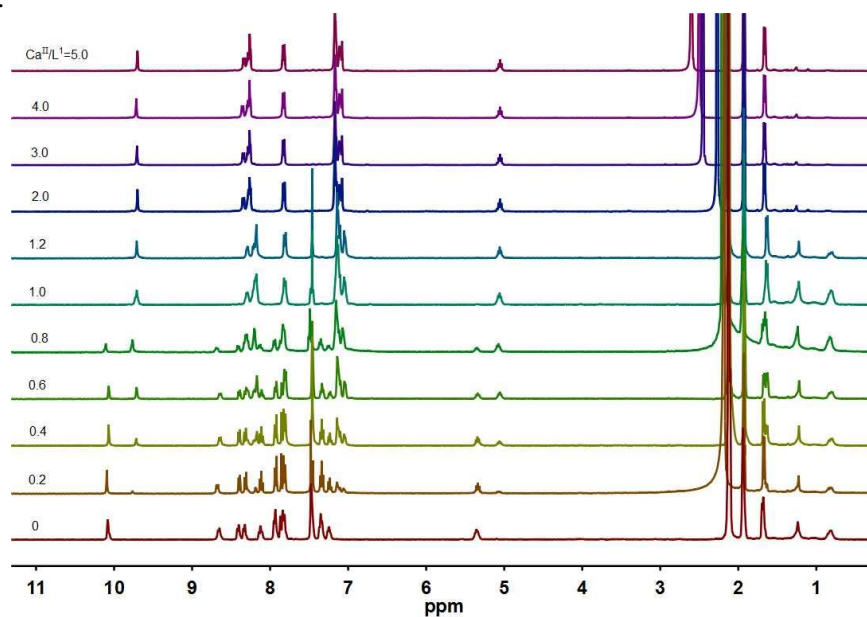
Supplementary Figure 104. ^1H NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^5)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K).



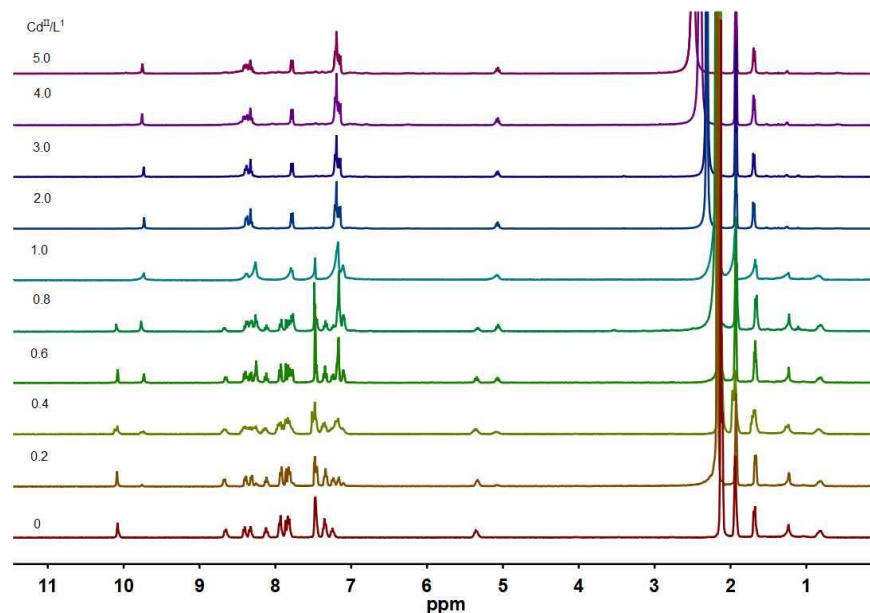
Supplementary Figure 105. ^1H - ^1H COSY NMR spectrum of $[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^5)_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 400 MHz, 298 K)



Supplementary Figure 106. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^1 (0.002M) with $\text{Eu}(\text{ClO}_4)_3$ (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298 K).

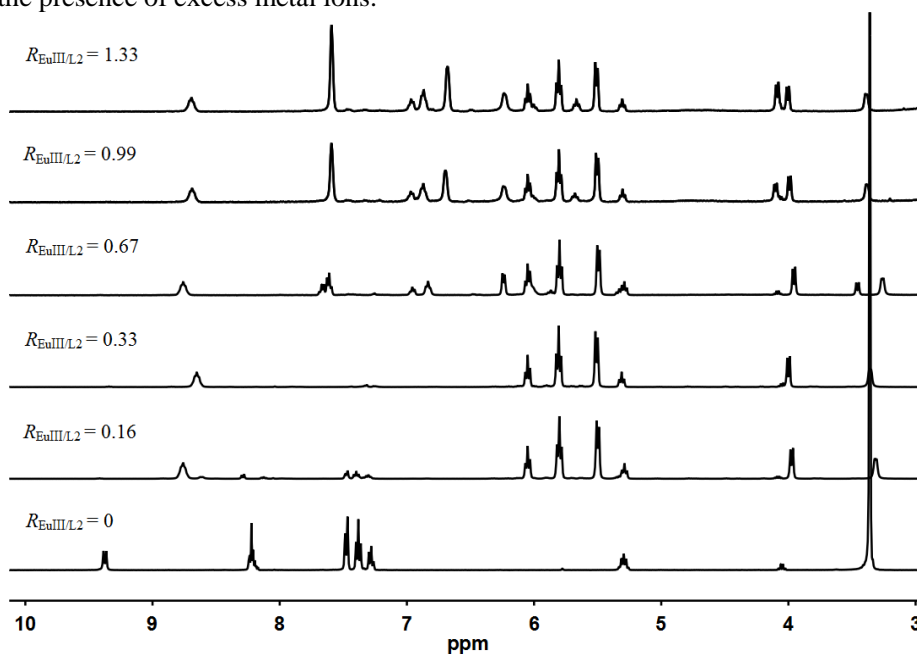


Supplementary Figure 107. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^1 (0.002M) with $\text{Ca}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$ for $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}/\text{L}^1 = 0-1.2$ and CD_3CN for $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}/\text{L}^1 = 2.0-5.0$, 298 K).

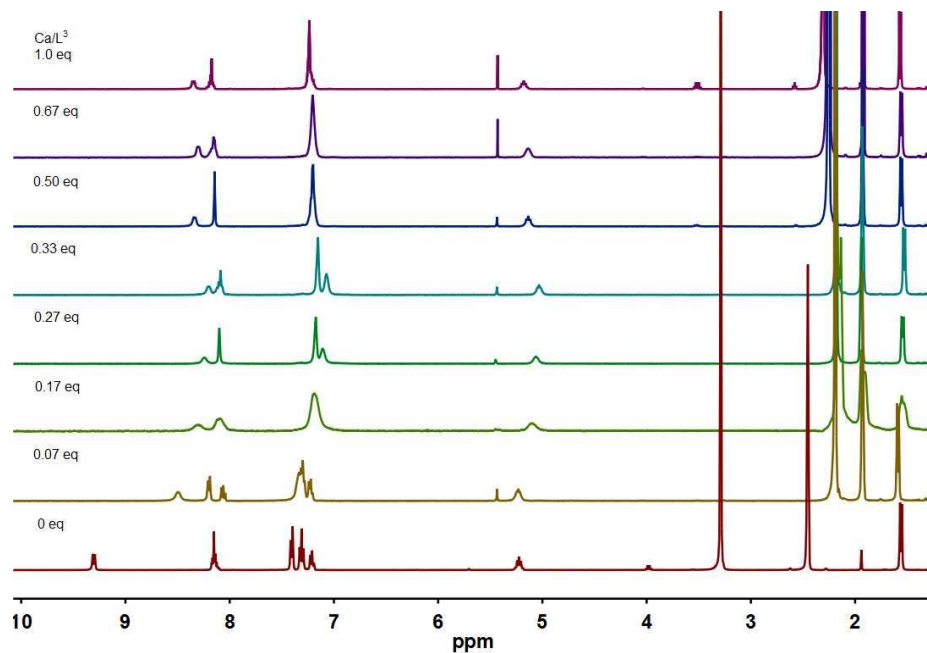


Supplementary Figure 108. ¹H NMR spectra for the titration of L¹ (0.002M) with Cd(ClO₄)₂ (400 MHz, CD₃CN/CDCl₃ for Cd^{II}/L¹=0-1.0 and CD₃CN for Cd^{II}/L¹=2.0-5.0, 298 K).

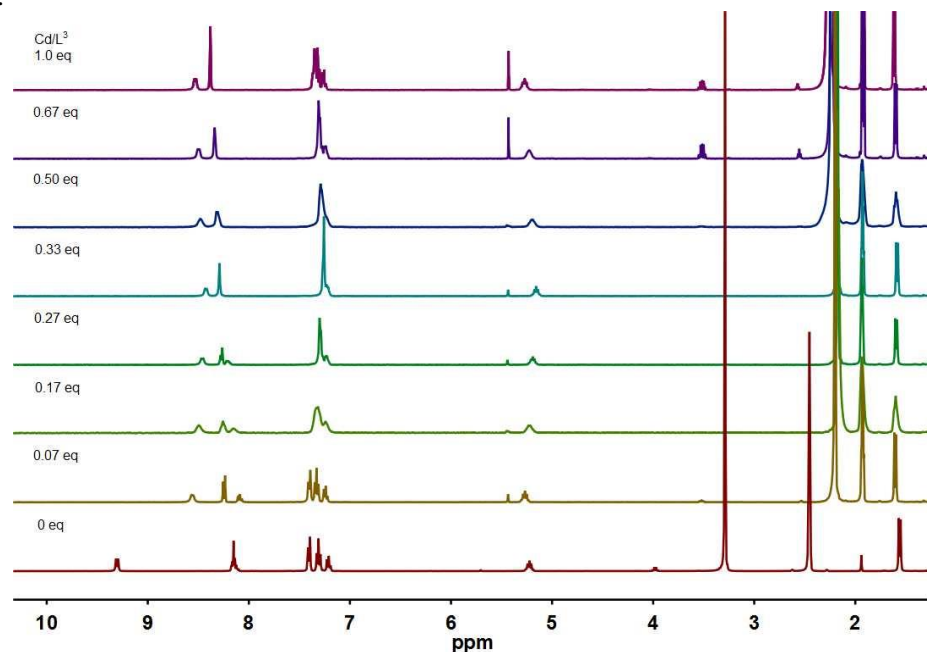
These titration experiments of L¹ with metal ions (M = Eu^{III}, Ca^{II}, Cd^{II}) confirmed the exclusive formation of M₄L₄¹ metal-organic complexes when $R_{M/L1} = 0 - 1$ and the high structural stability of these tetrahedral complexes in the presence of excess metal ions.



Supplementary Figure 109. ¹H NMR spectra for the titration of L² (0.005M) with Eu(ClO₄)₃ (CD₃CN, 400 MHz, 298 K).

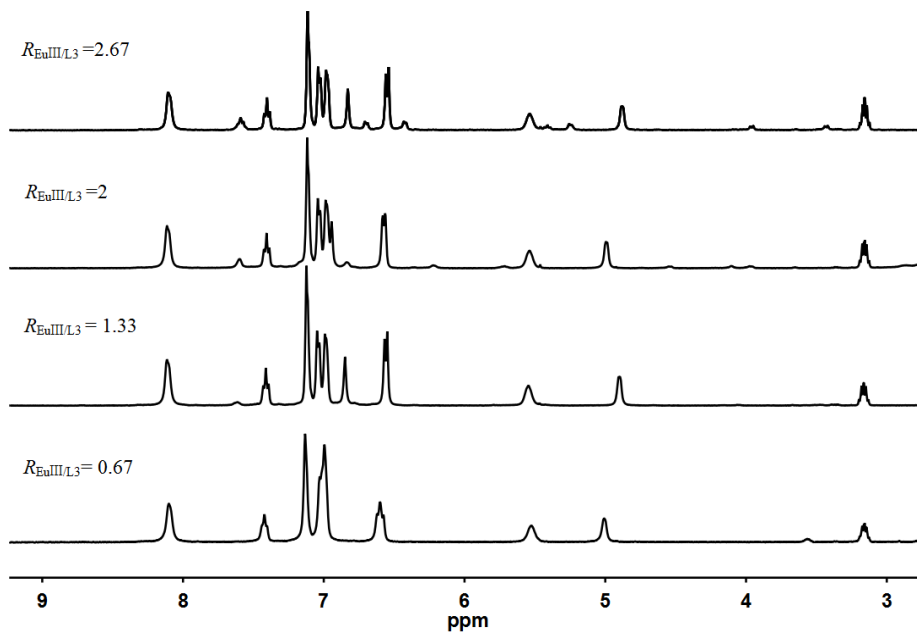


Supplementary Figure 110. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^2 (0.005M) with $\text{Ca}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).

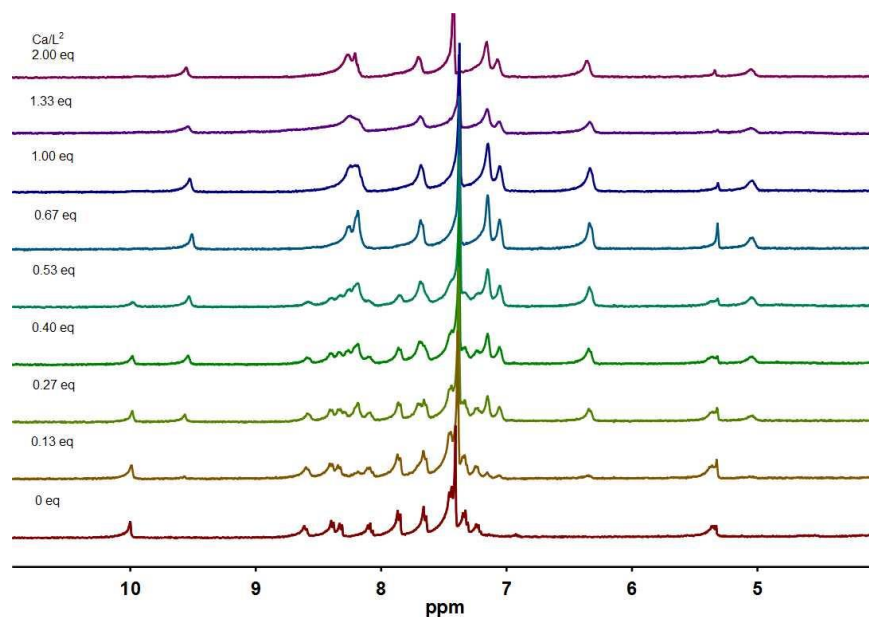


Supplementary Figure 111. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^2 (0.005M) with $\text{Cd}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).

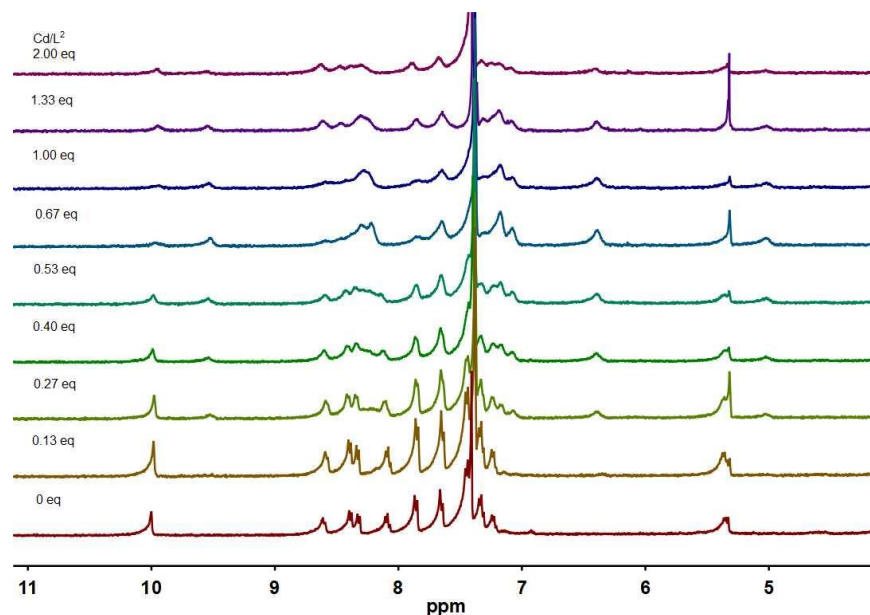
The titration experiments of L^2 with metal ions ($\text{M} = \text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$, Ca^{II} , Cd^{II}) indicated the formation of more than one kind of metal-organic assembly species with the ratio $R_{\text{M/L1}}$ ranging from 0 to 1.0, suggesting a rather low stability of the monometallic complexes, which hindered its application of in metal ion separation.



Supplementary Figure 112. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^3 (0.005M) with $\text{Eu}(\text{ClO}_4)_3$ (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K).

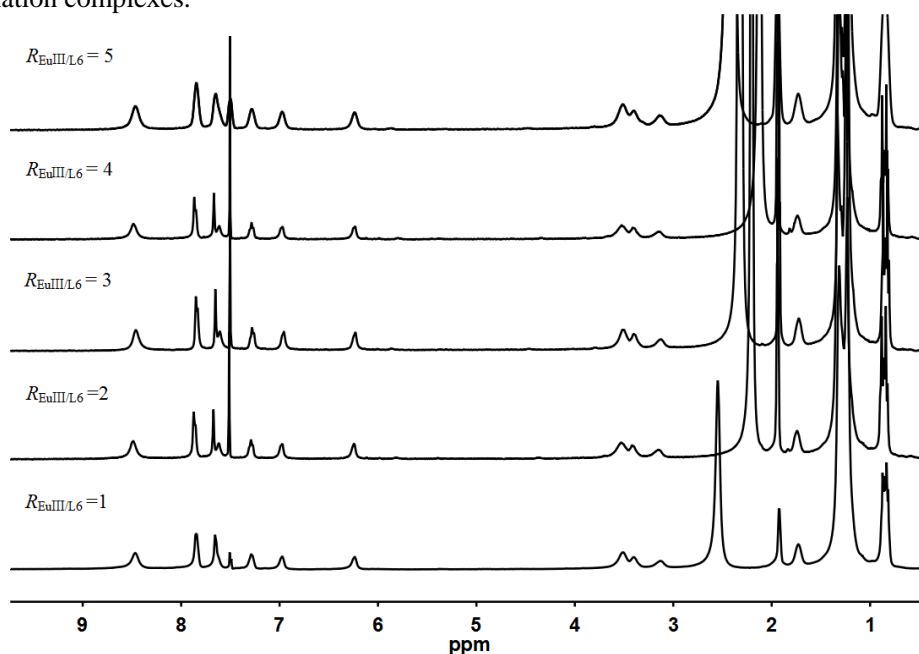


Supplementary Figure 113. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^3 (0.0015M) with $\text{Ca}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, ($\nu:\nu=1:3$) 400 MHz, 298 K).

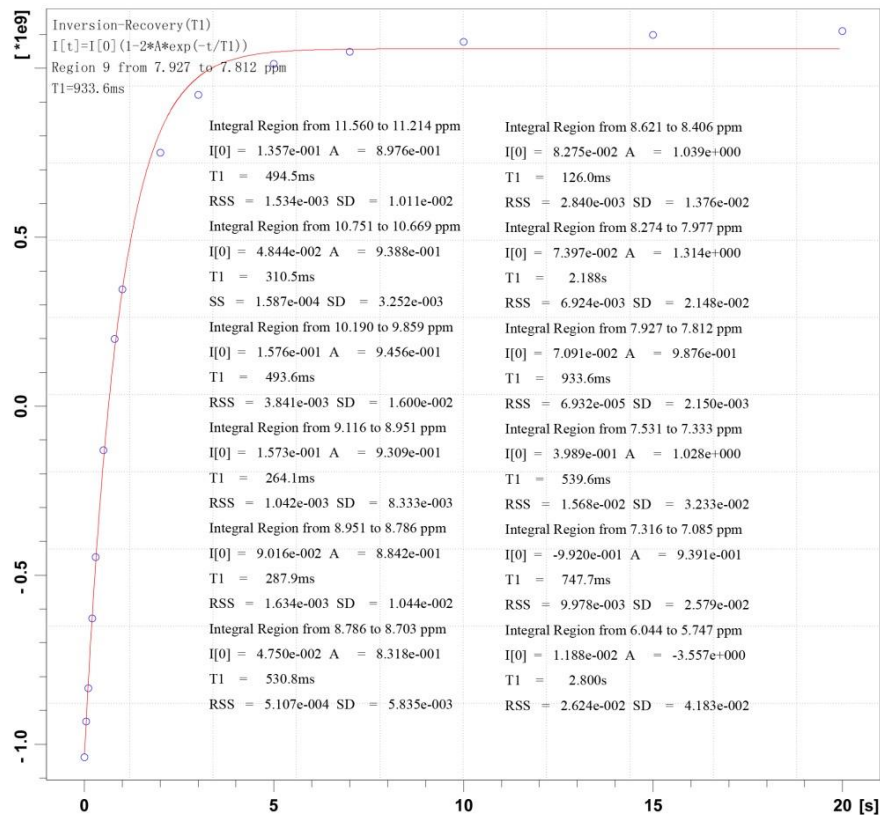


Supplementary Figure 114. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^3 (0.0015M) with $\text{Cd}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ ($\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, ($v:v=1:3$)400 MHz, 298 K).

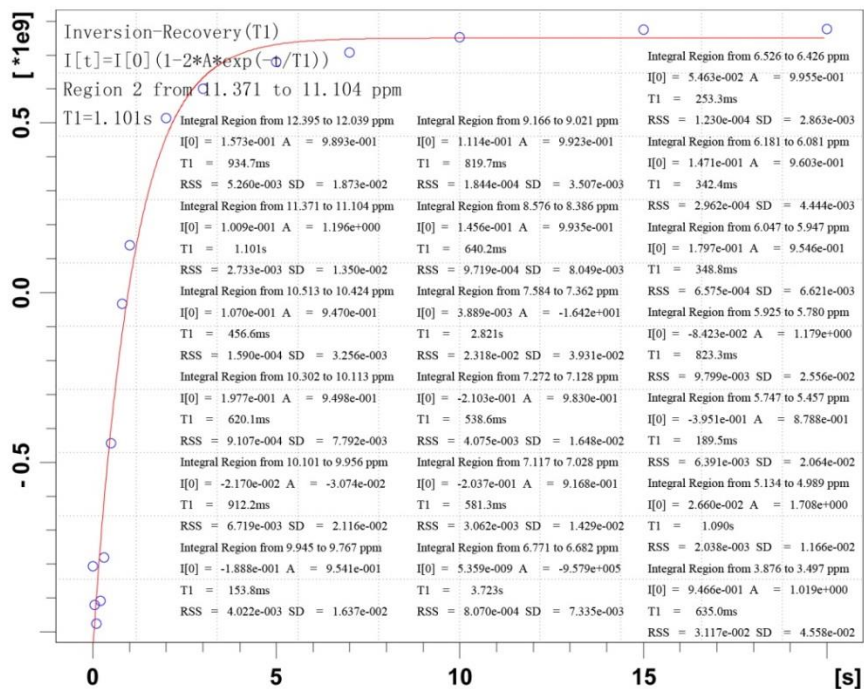
No successful self-assembly complexes were obtained in the titration experiments of L^3 with $\text{Cd}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$. And it is worth noting that, both Ca^{II} and Cd^{II} cannot assemble with L^3 in CD_3CN as no clear reaction solution can be obtained and no ^1H NMR signals can be acquired. The titration experiments can only be taken in mixture solution of $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$ ($v:v=1:3$) at a rather low concentration of the ligands, because of the low solubility of the coordination complexes.



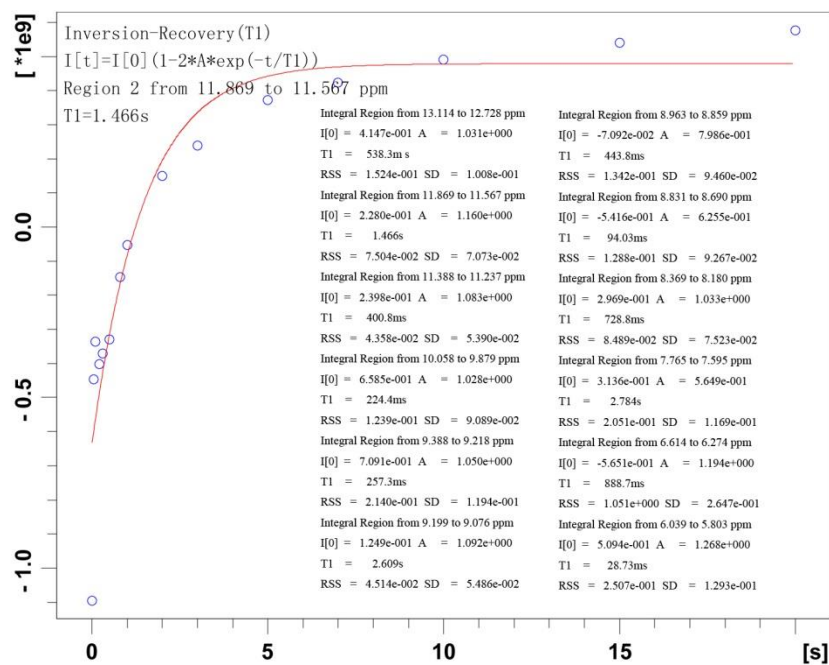
Supplementary Figure 115. ^1H NMR spectra for the titration of L^6 (0.002M) with $\text{Eu}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$ (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 298 K)



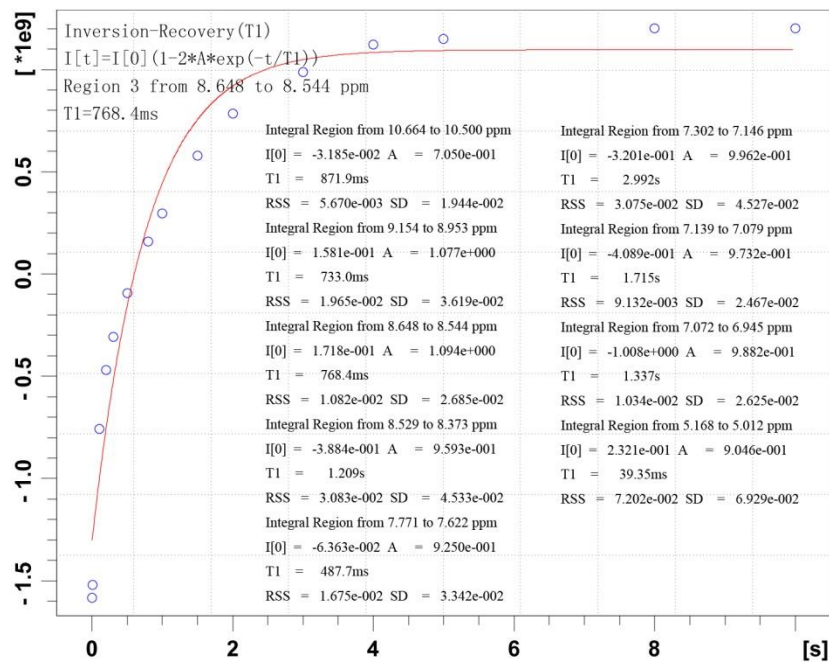
Supplementary Figure 116. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of La^{III}/Ce^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



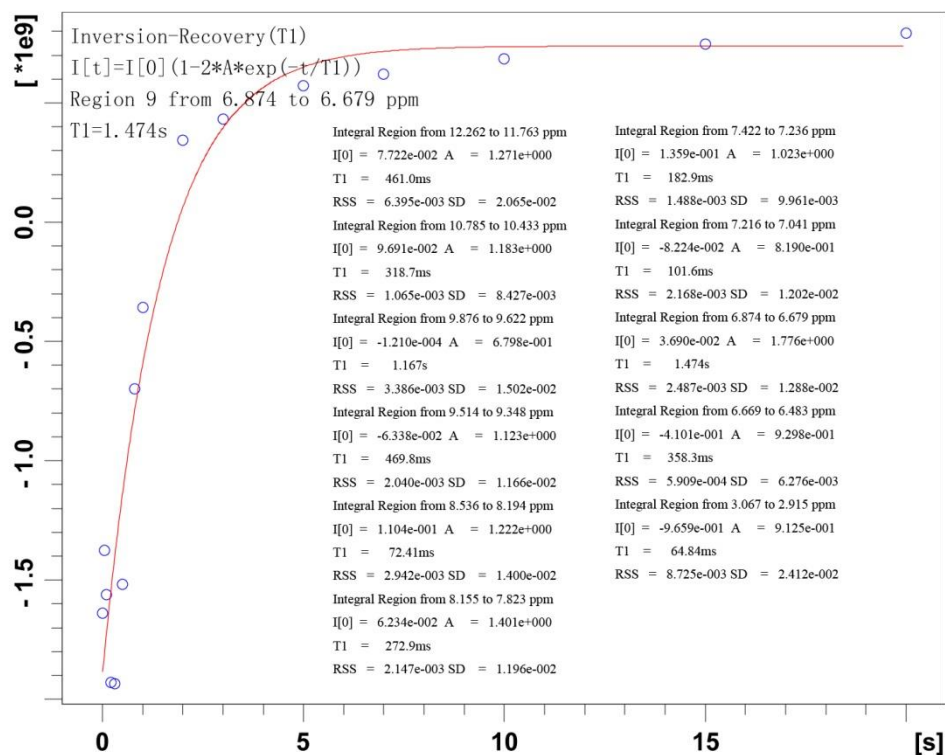
Supplementary Figure 117. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of La^{III}/Pr^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



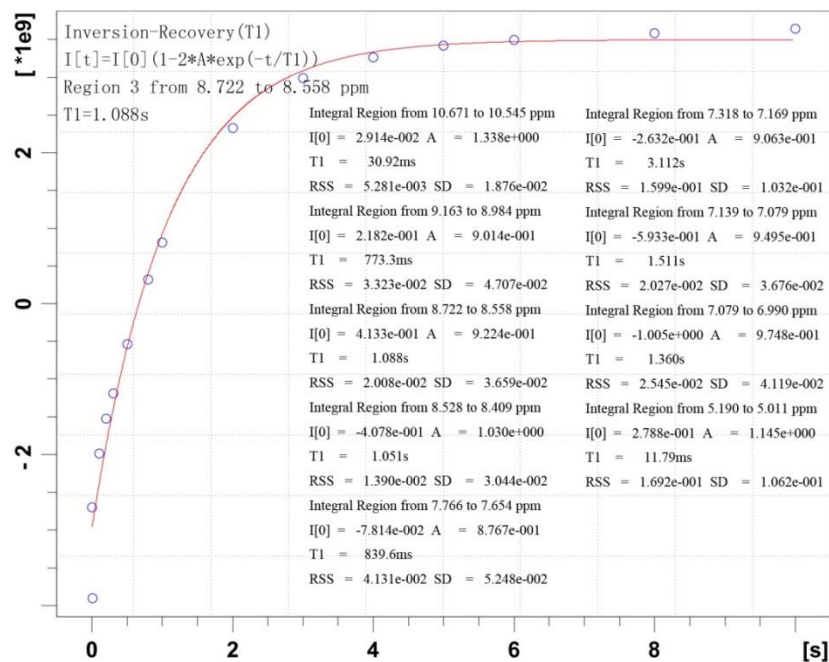
Supplementary Figure 118. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Ce^{III}/Nd^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



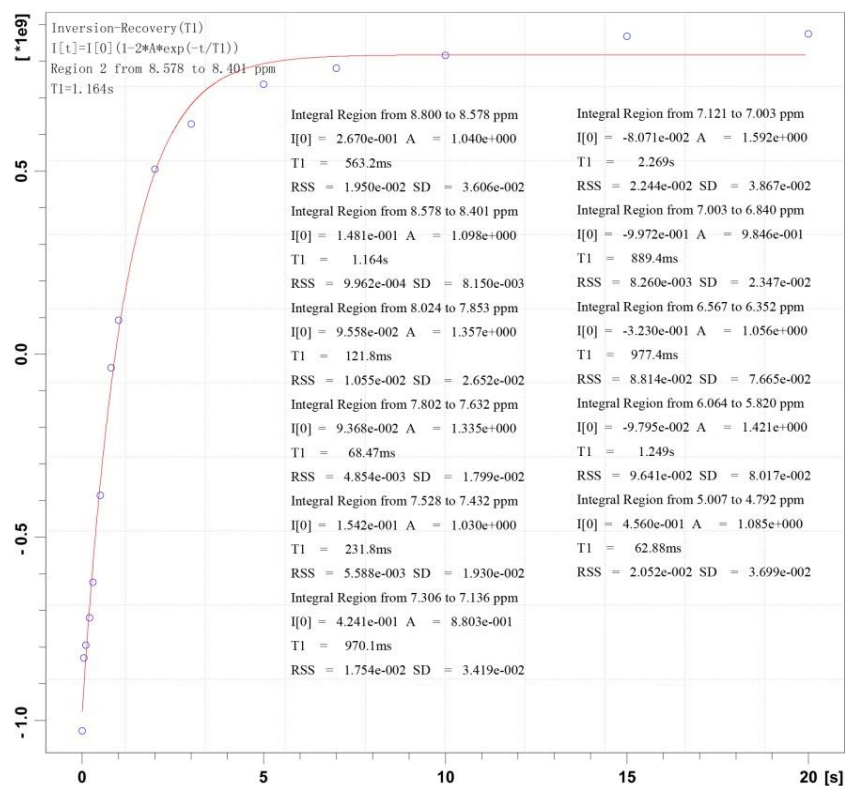
Supplementary Figure 119. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Ce^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



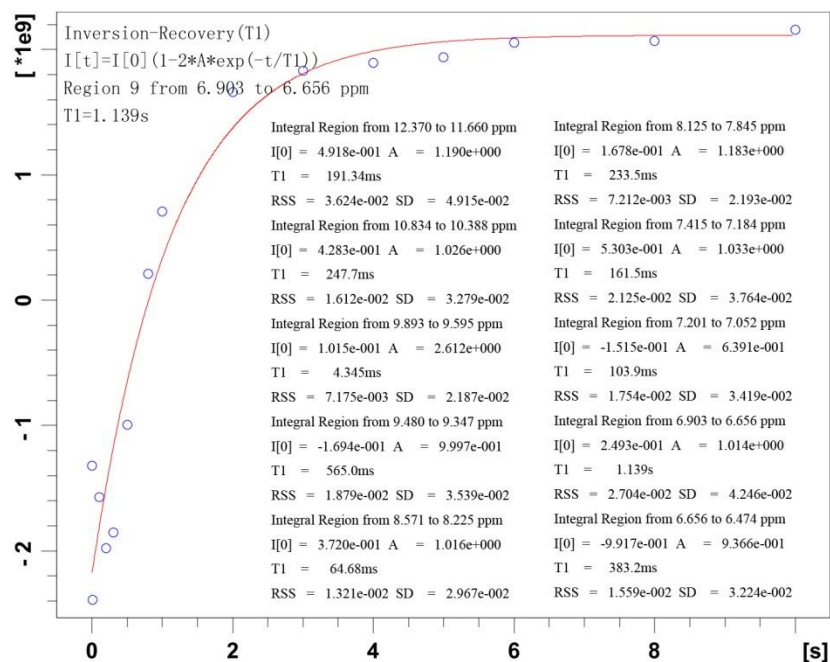
Supplementary Figure 120. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Ce^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



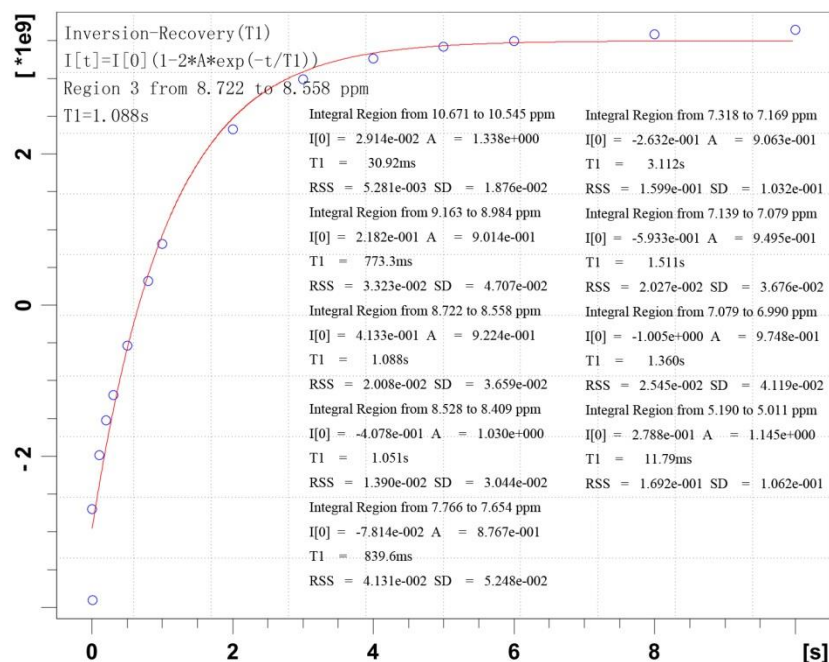
Supplementary Figure 121. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Pr^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



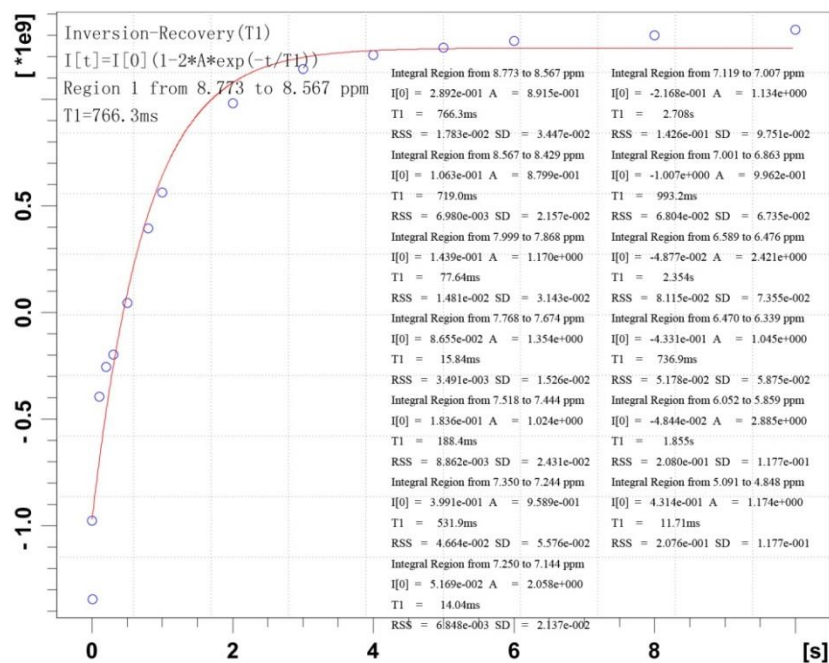
Supplementary Figure 122. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Pr^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



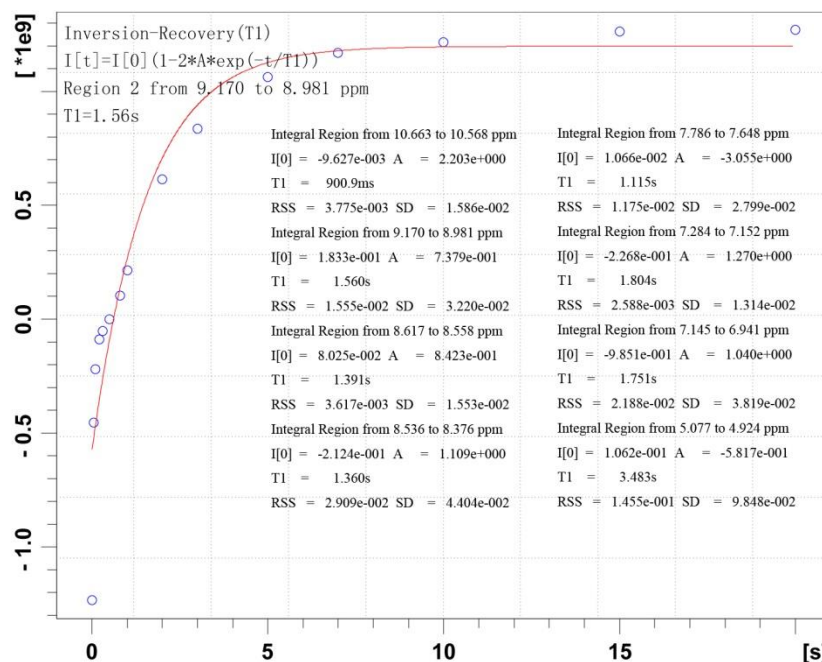
Supplementary Figure 123. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Pr^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



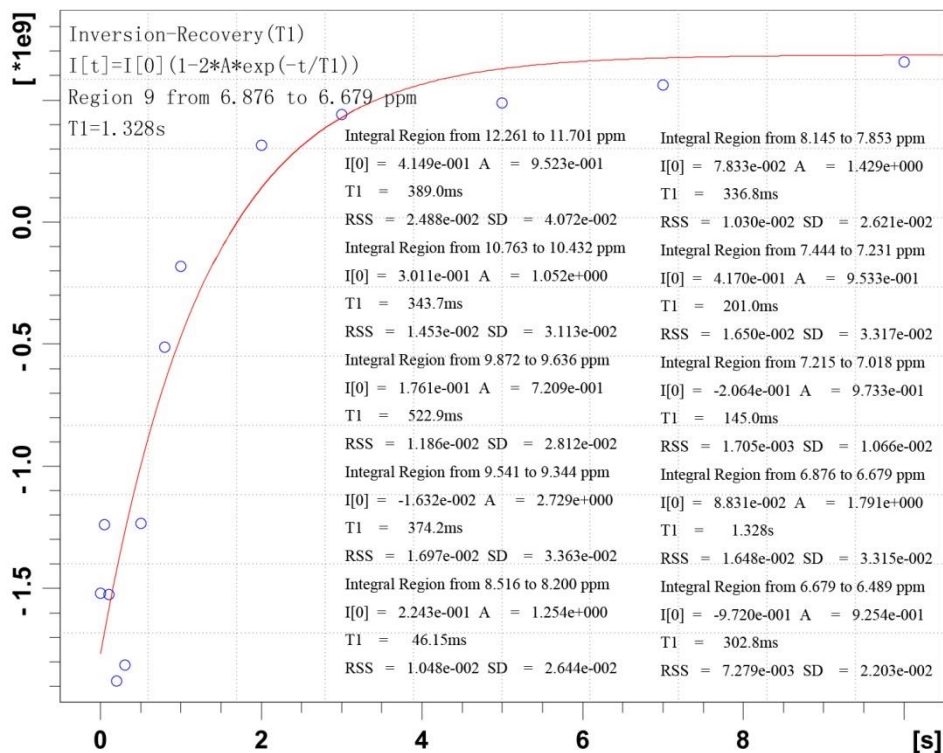
Supplementary Figure 124. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Nd^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



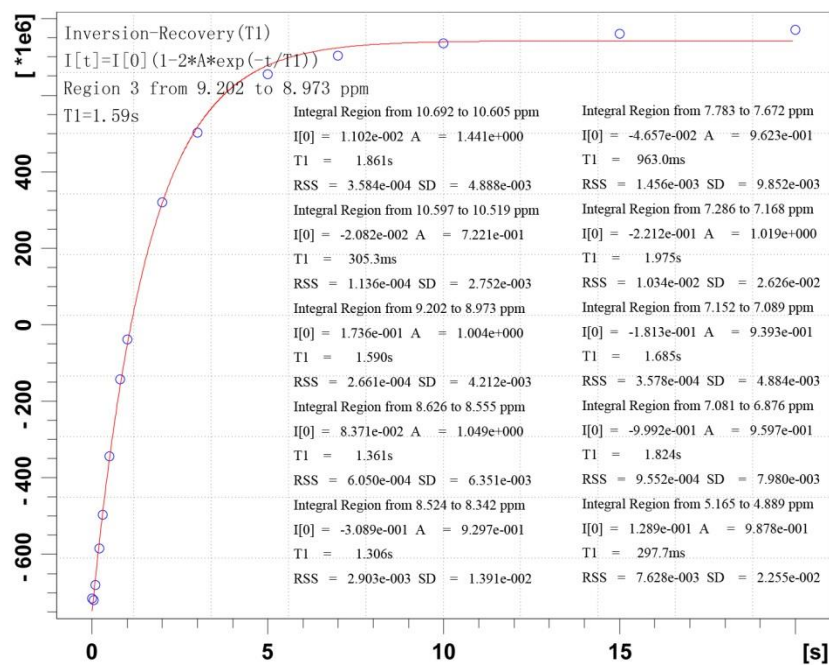
Supplementary Figure 125. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Nd^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



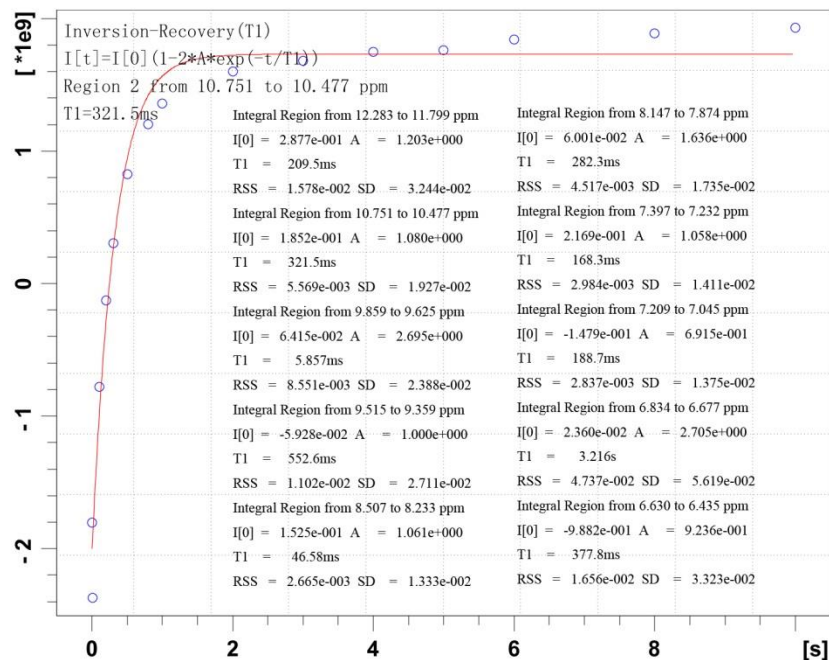
Supplementary Figure 126. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Nd^{III}/Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



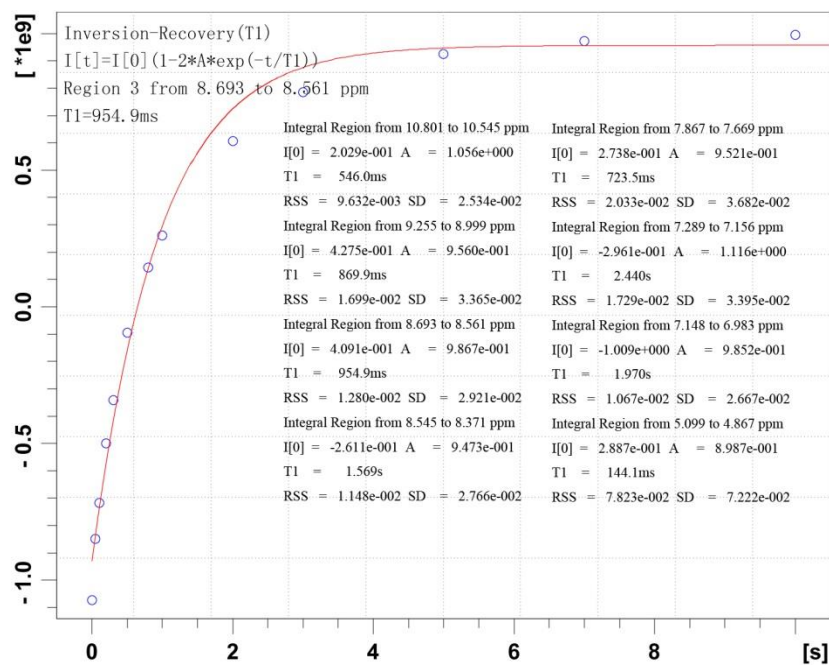
Supplementary Figure 127. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Nd^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



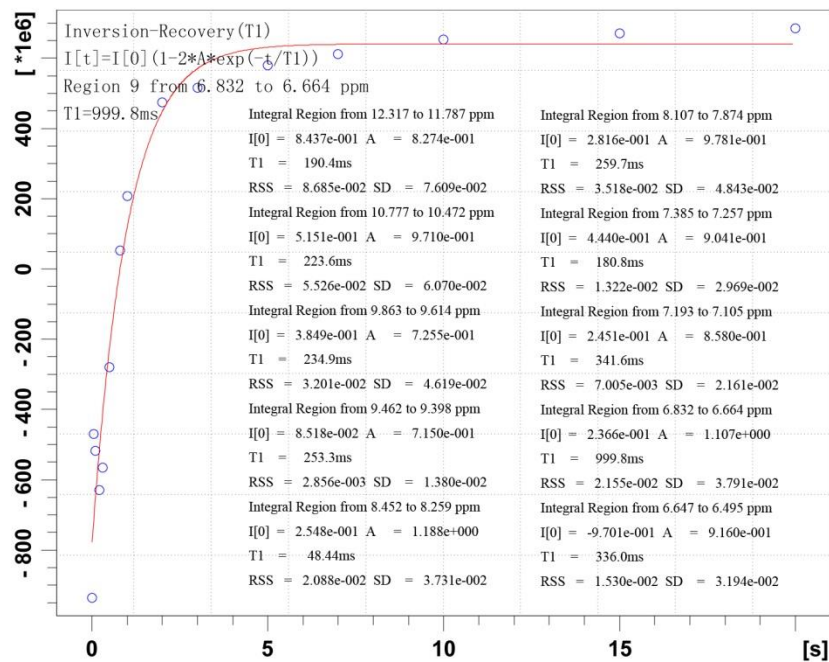
Supplementary Figure 128. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Sm^{III}/Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



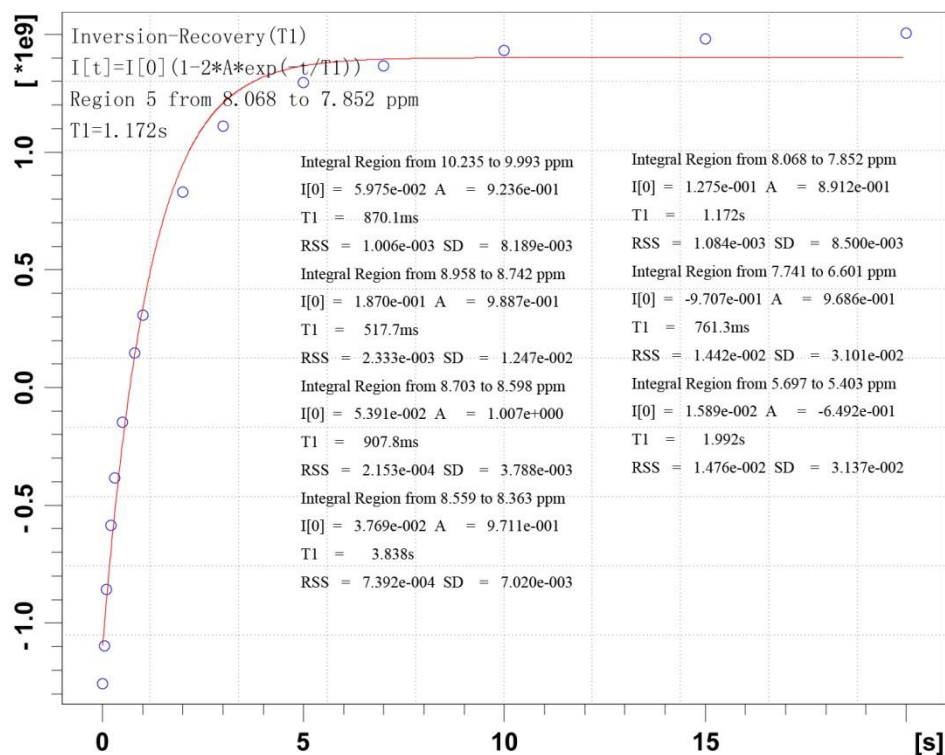
Supplementary Figure 129. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Sm^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



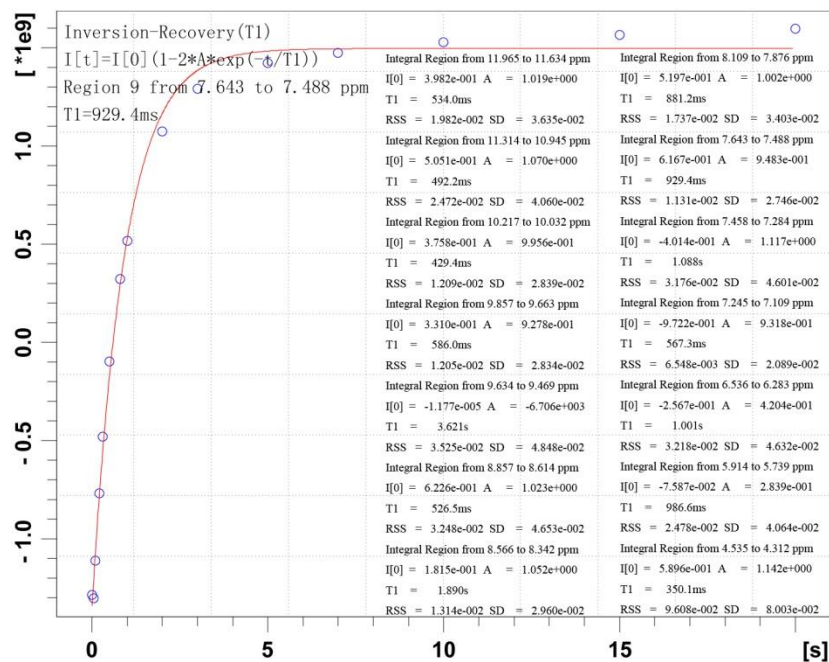
Supplementary Figure 130. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Y}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



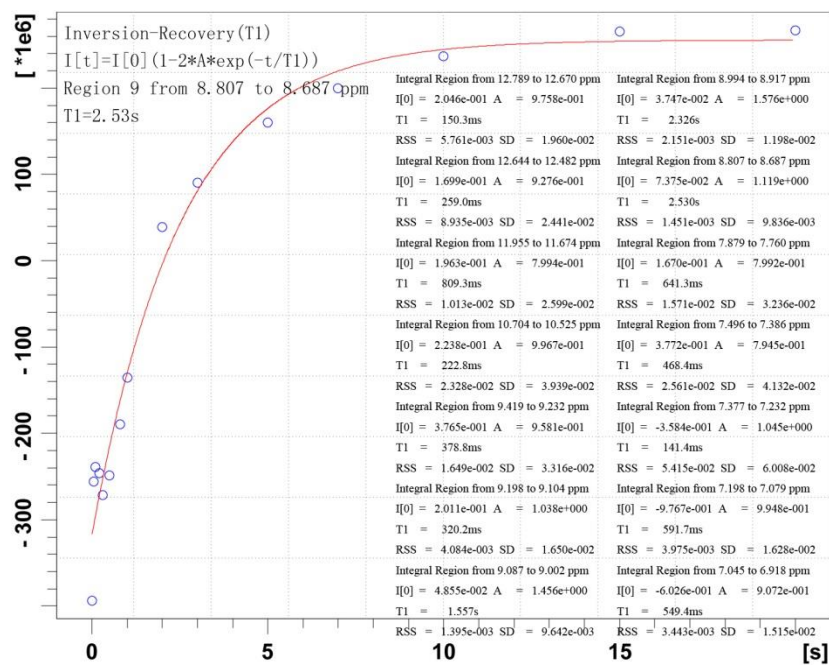
Supplementary Figure 131. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



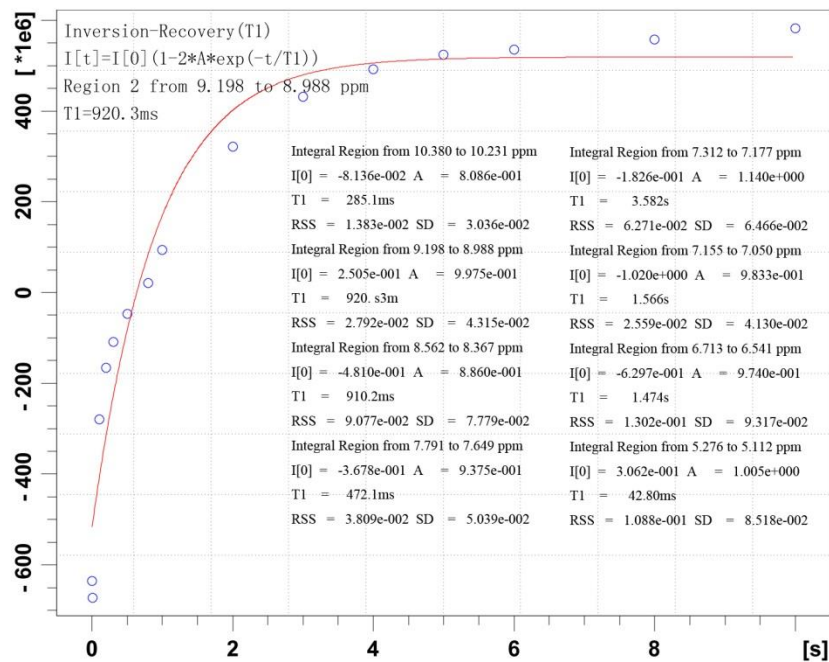
Supplementary Figure 132. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of La^{III}/Ce^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



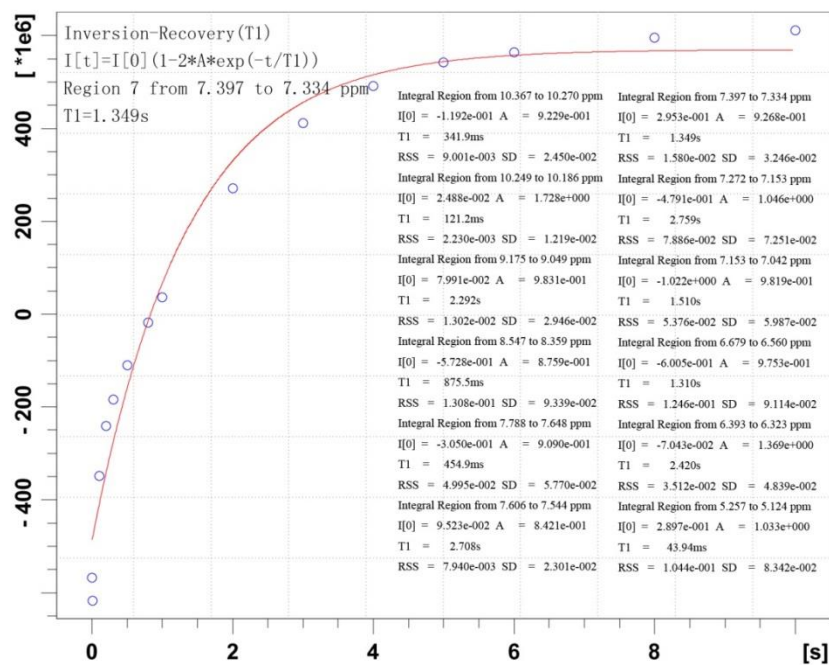
Supplementary Figure 133. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of La^{III}/Pr^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



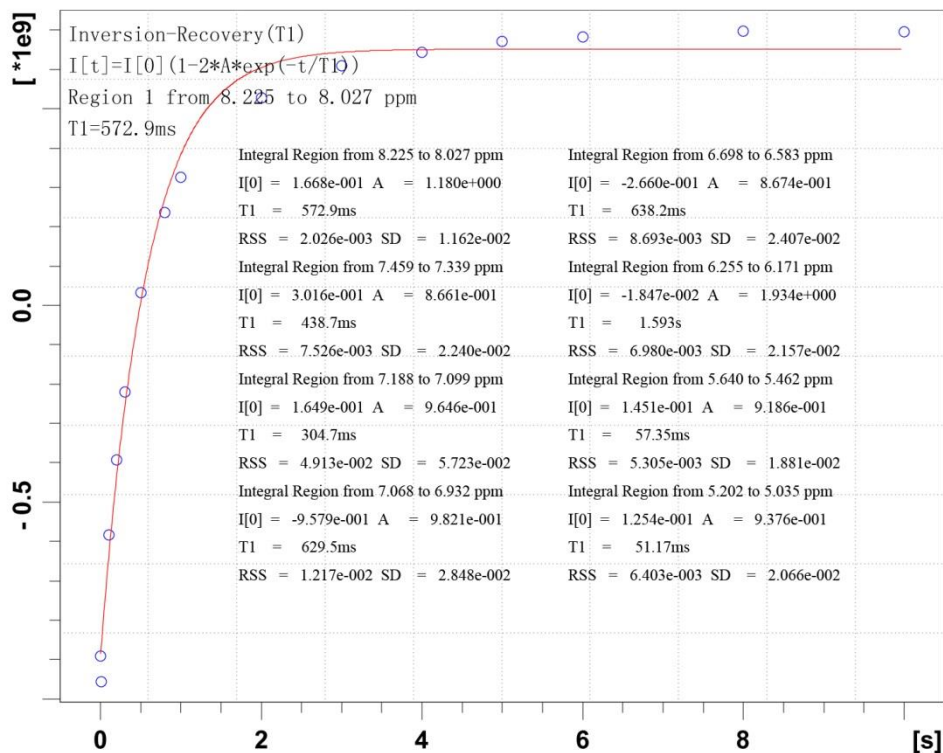
Supplementary Figure 134. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Ce^{III}/Nd^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



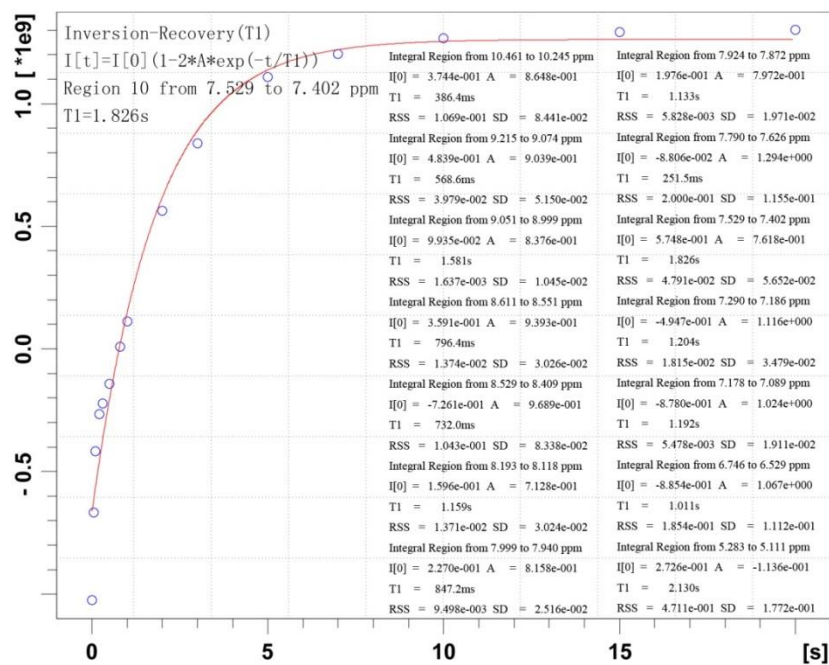
Supplementary Figure 135. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Ce^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



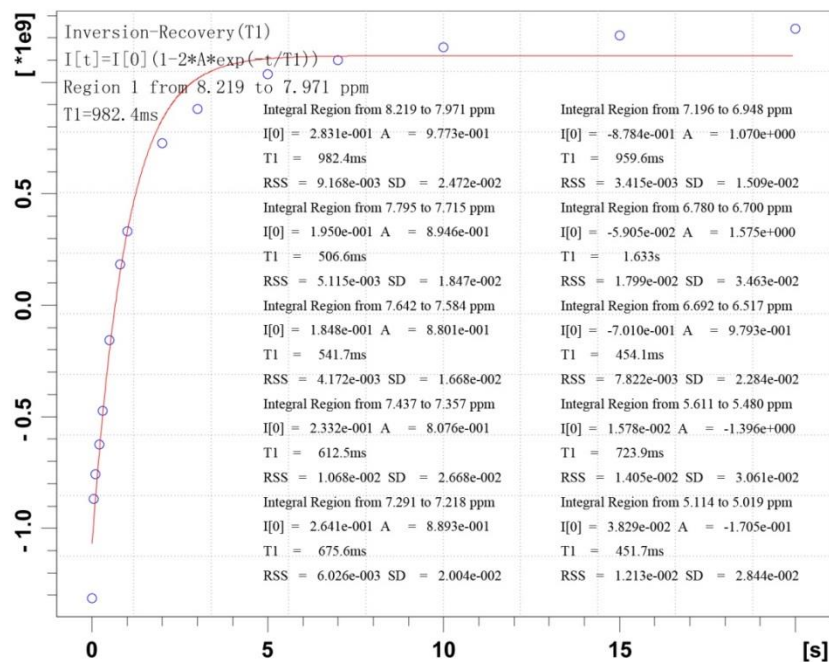
Supplementary Figure 136. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Pr^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



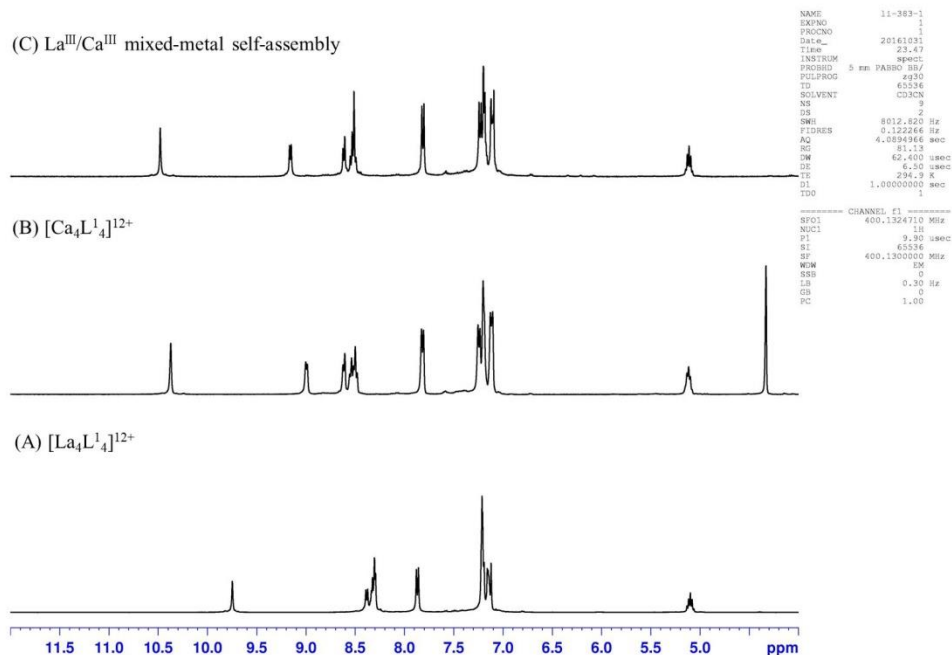
Supplementary Figure 137. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Pr^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



Supplementary Figure 138. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Nd^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.

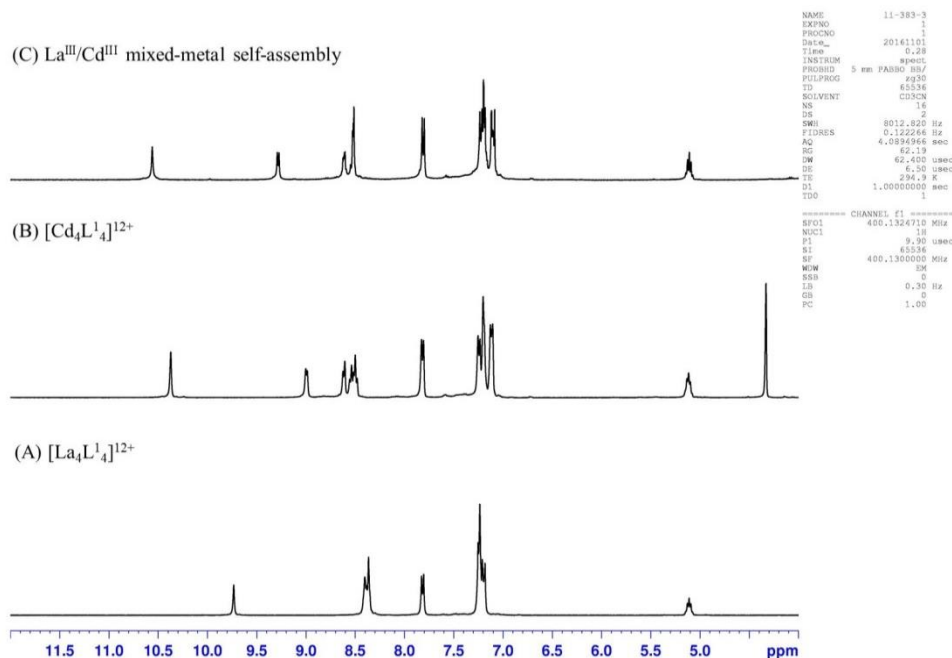


Supplementary Figure 139. Fitting curve of T1 relaxation time of Nd^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ with insets showing the T1 values corresponding to different peaks.



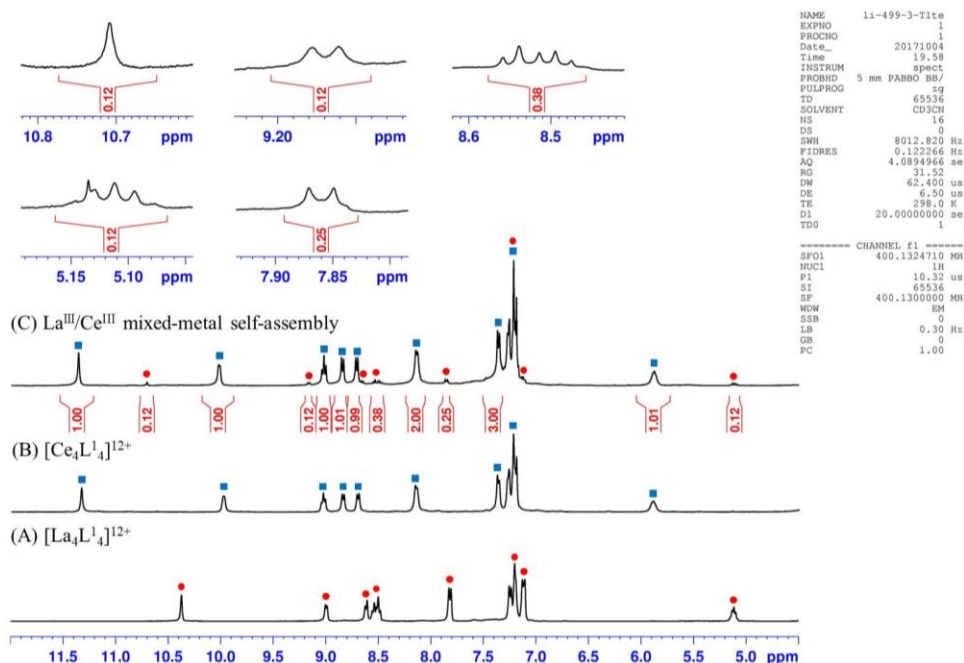
Supplementary Figure 140. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Ca₄L¹₄]⁸⁺ (A), [La₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Ca^{II} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with La^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



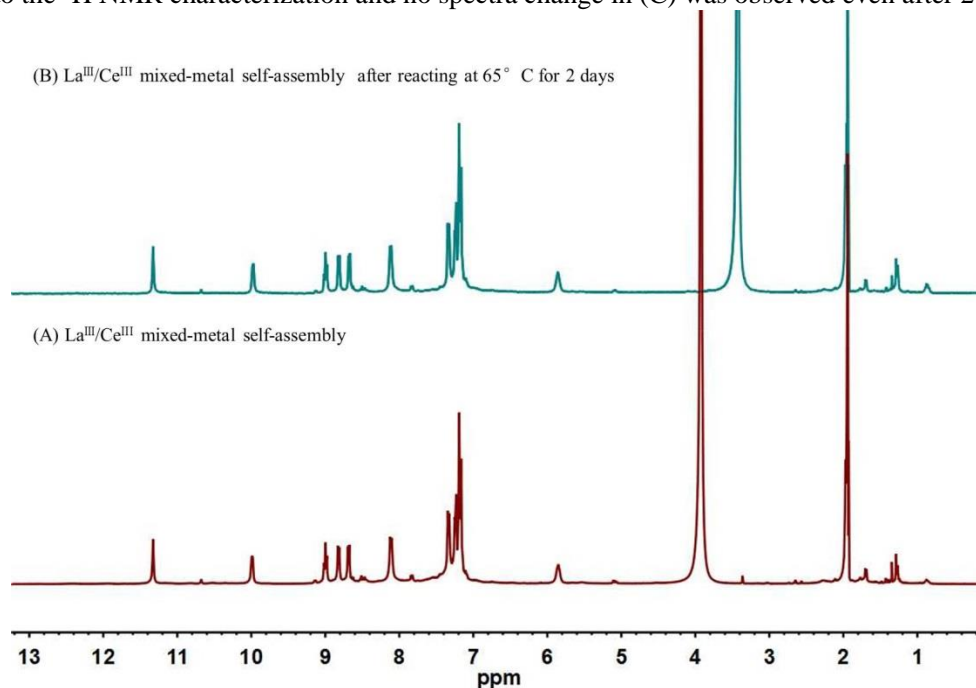
Supplementary Figure 141. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Cd₄L¹₄]⁸⁺ (A), [La₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Cd^{II} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with La^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.

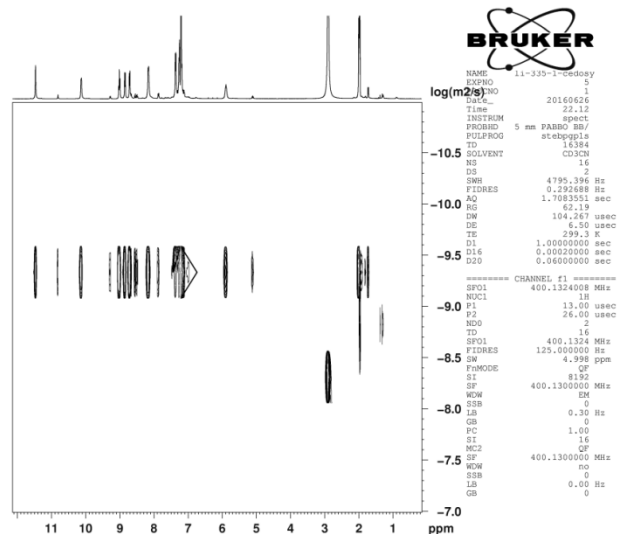


Supplementary Figure 142. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{8+}$ (A), $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 89.3 percent Ce^{III} and 10.7 percent La^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.

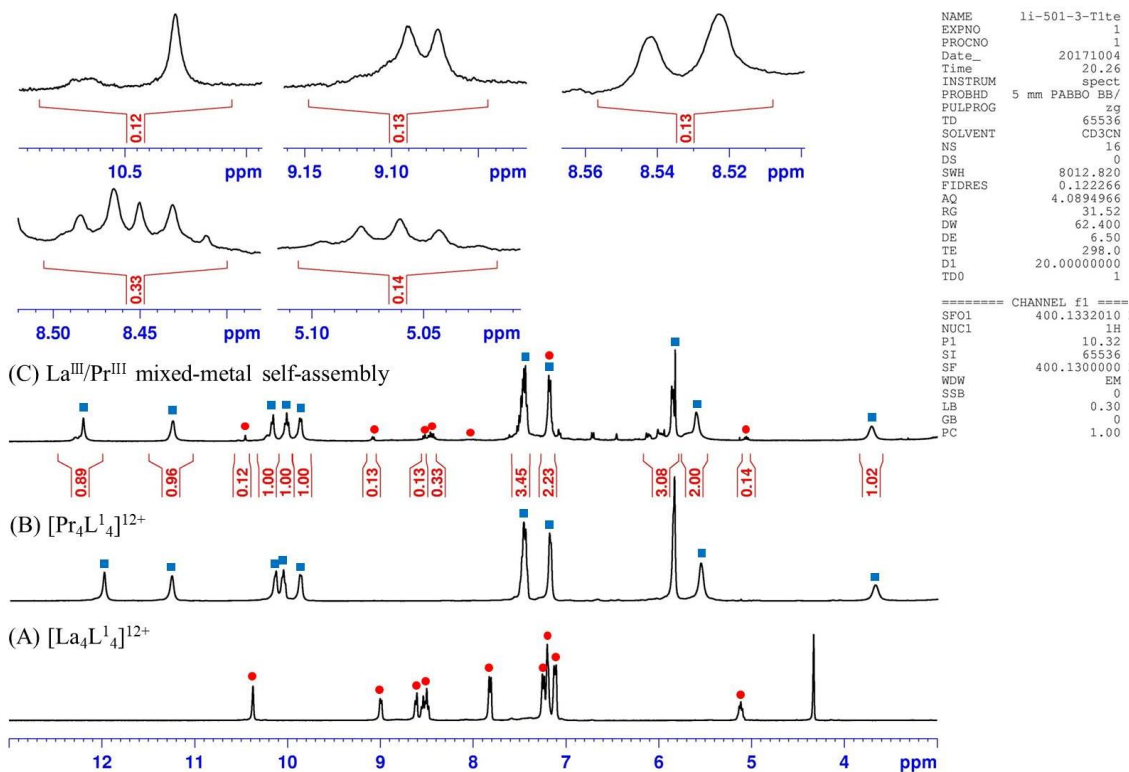


Supplementary Figure 143. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt)



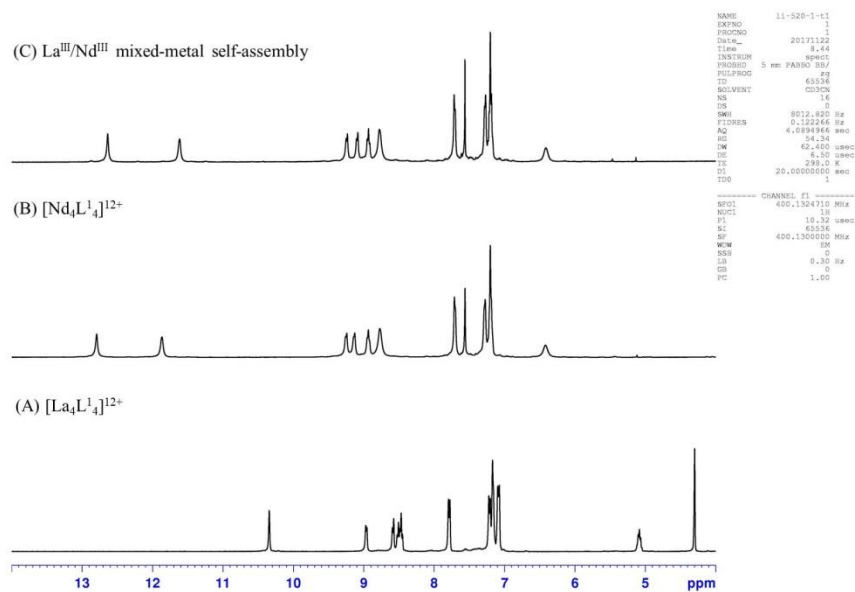
Diffusion Constant = $4.121\text{E-}10\text{m}^2/\text{S}$ $d = 3.0\text{ nm}$

Supplementary Figure 144. ^1H DOSY spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt).

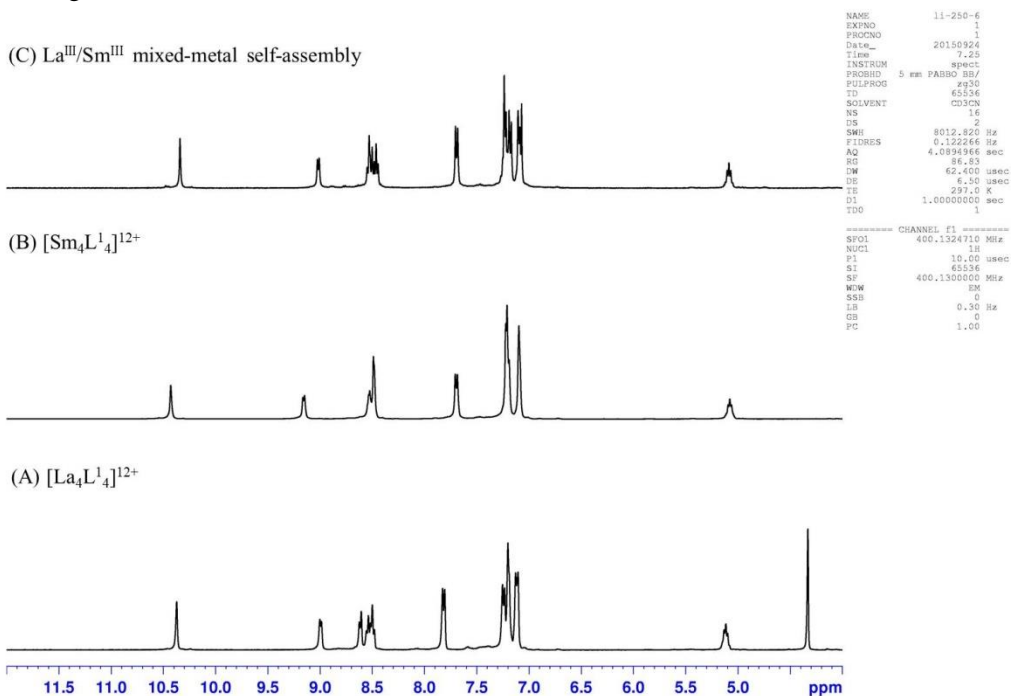


Supplementary Figure 145. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Pr}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

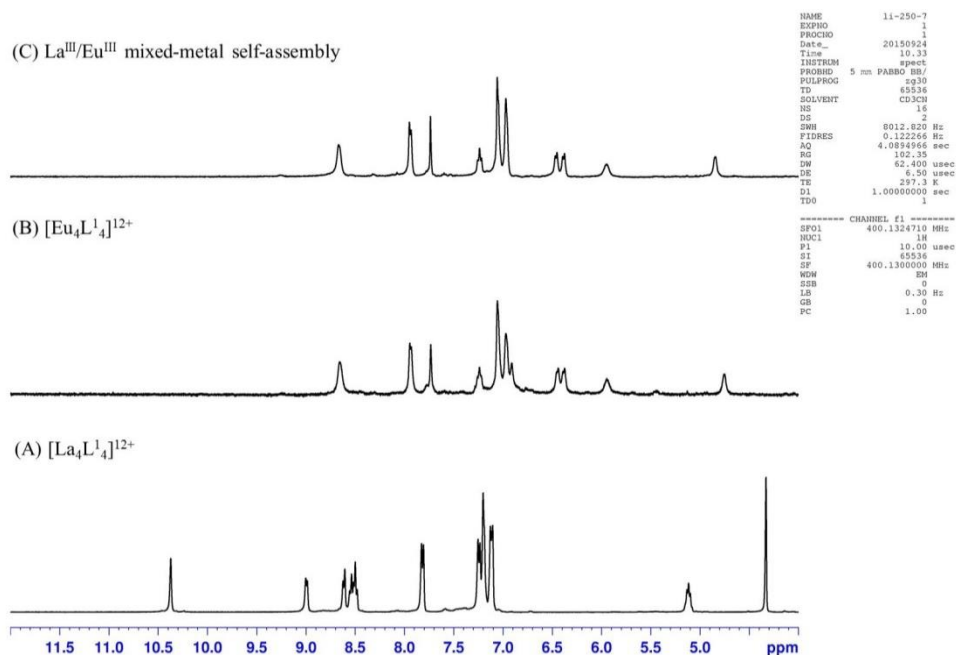
Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 88.50 percent Pr^{III} and 11.50 percent La^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



Supplementary Figure 146. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₄L₄]⁸⁺ (A), [Nd₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Nd^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C). No spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.

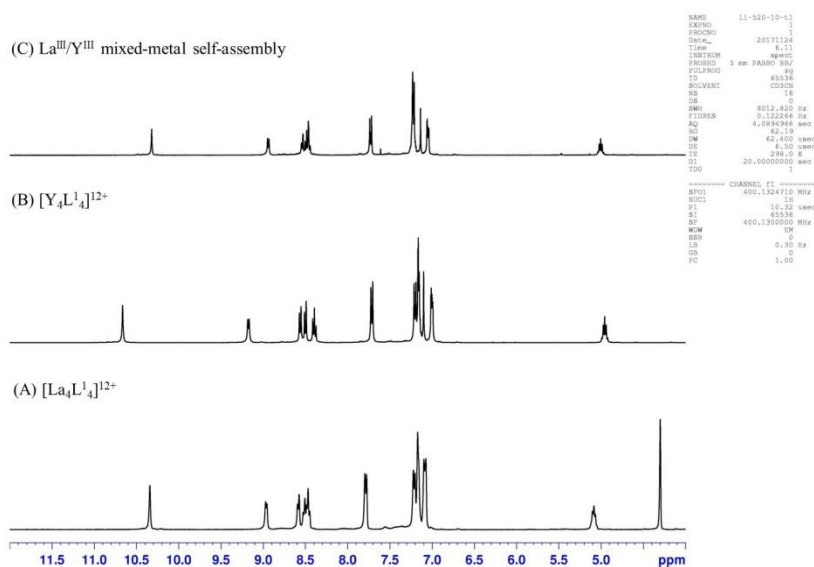


Supplementary Figure 147. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Sm₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C). Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Sm^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



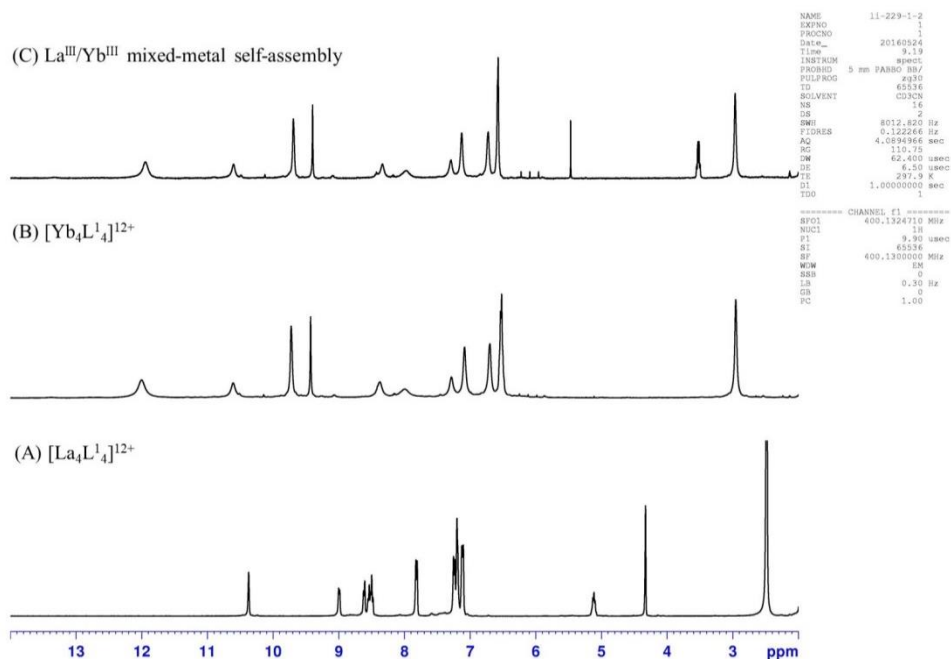
Supplementary Figure 148. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Eu₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Eu^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



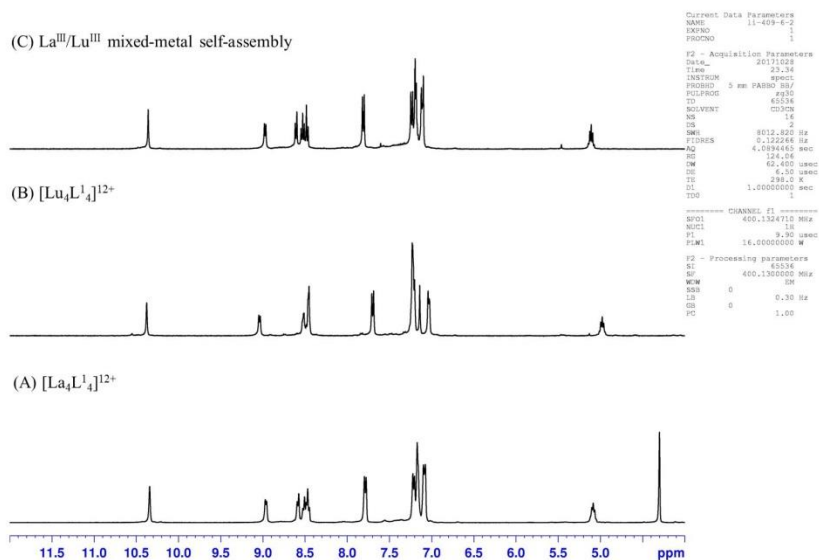
Supplementary Figure 149. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Y₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Y^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



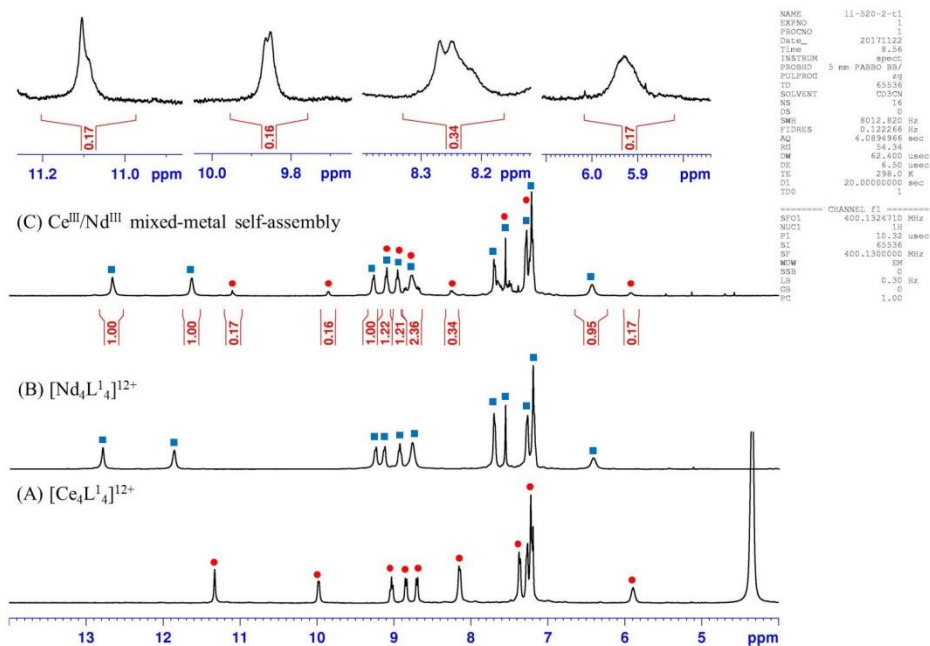
Supplementary Figure 150. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Yb₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Yb^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



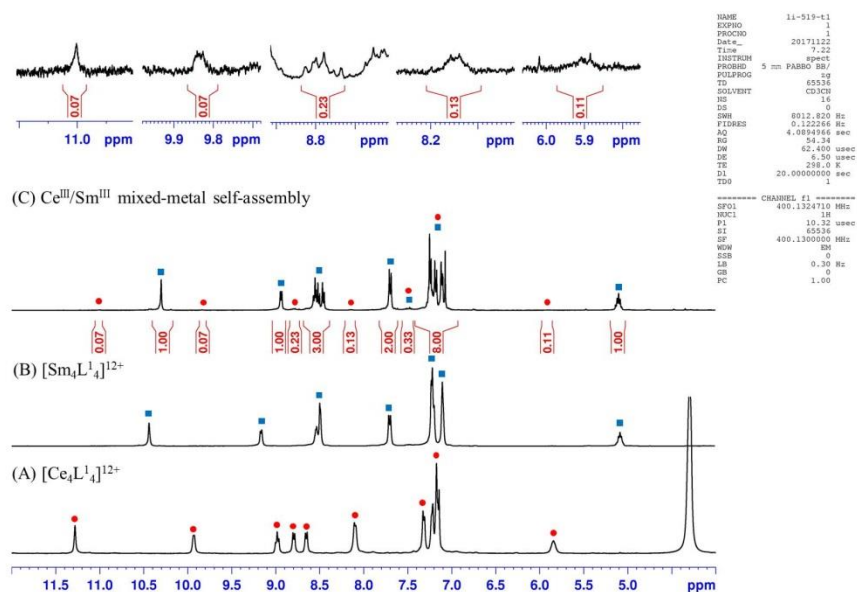
Supplementary Figure 151. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Lu₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Lu^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



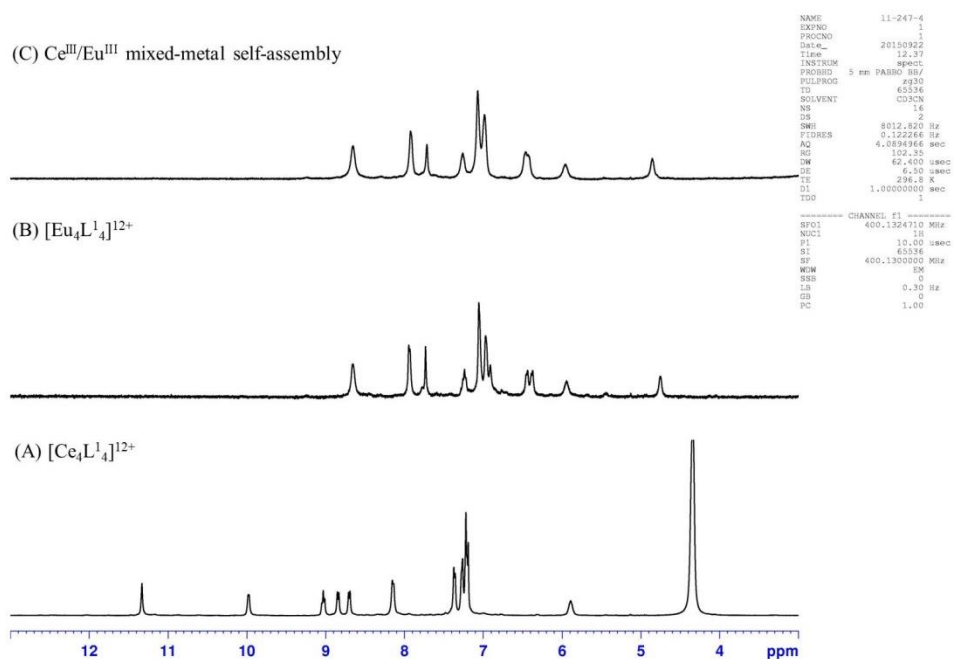
Supplementary Figure 152. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Nd}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 85.47 percent Nd^{III} and 14.53 percent Ce^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



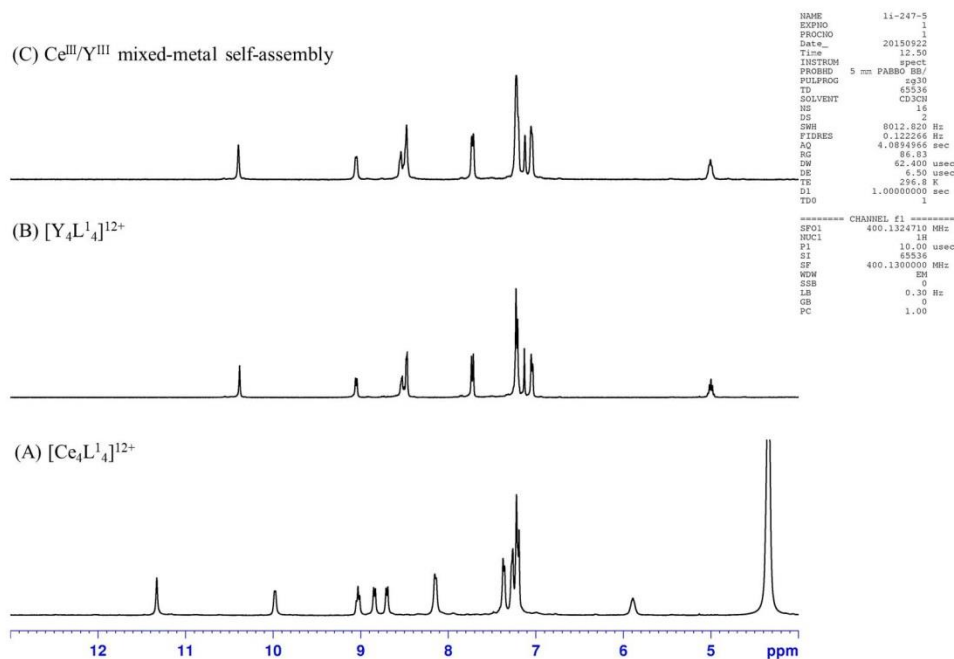
Supplementary Figure 153. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Sm}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 93.46 percent Sm^{III} and 6.54 percent Ce^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



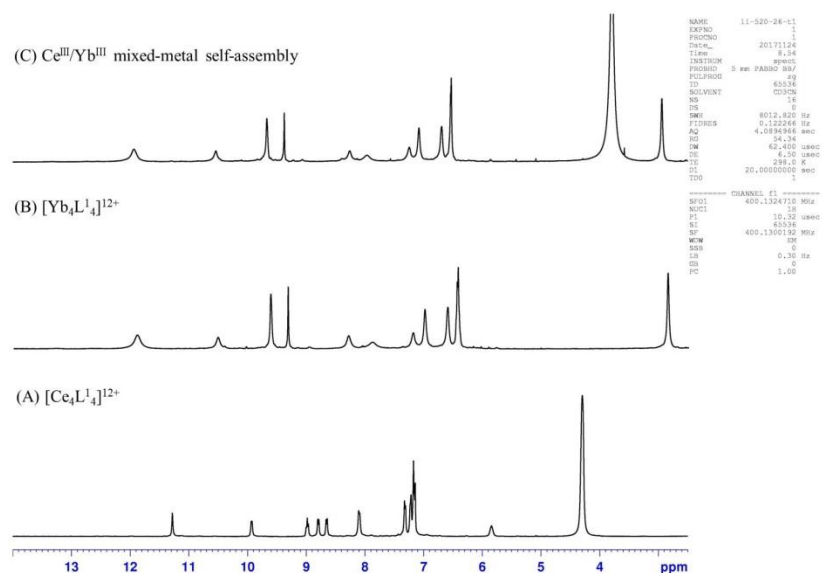
Supplementary Figure 154. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Ce₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Eu₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Ce^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Eu^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



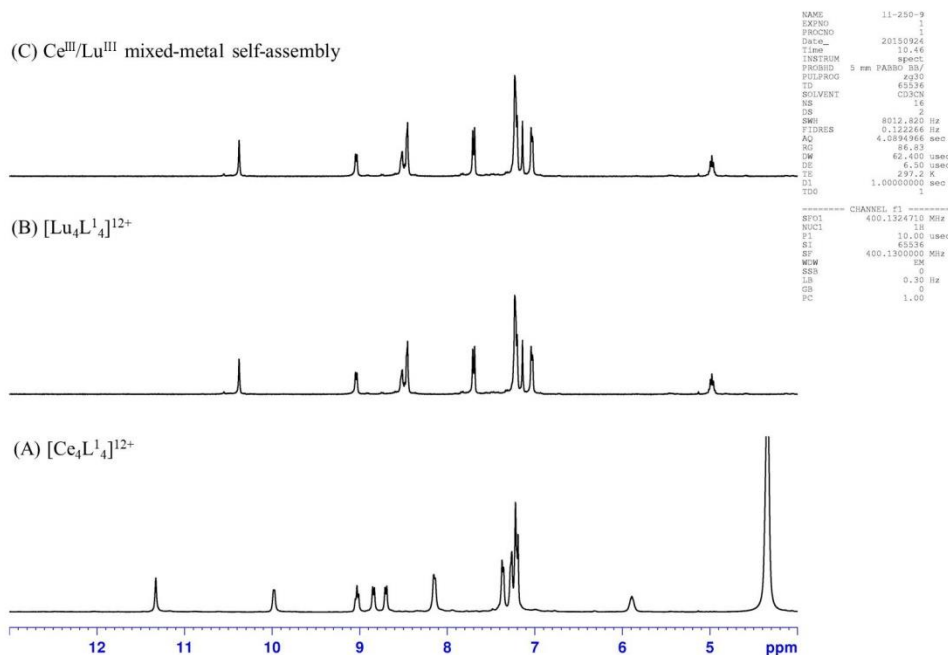
Supplementary Figure 155. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Ce₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Y₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Ce^{III}/Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Y^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



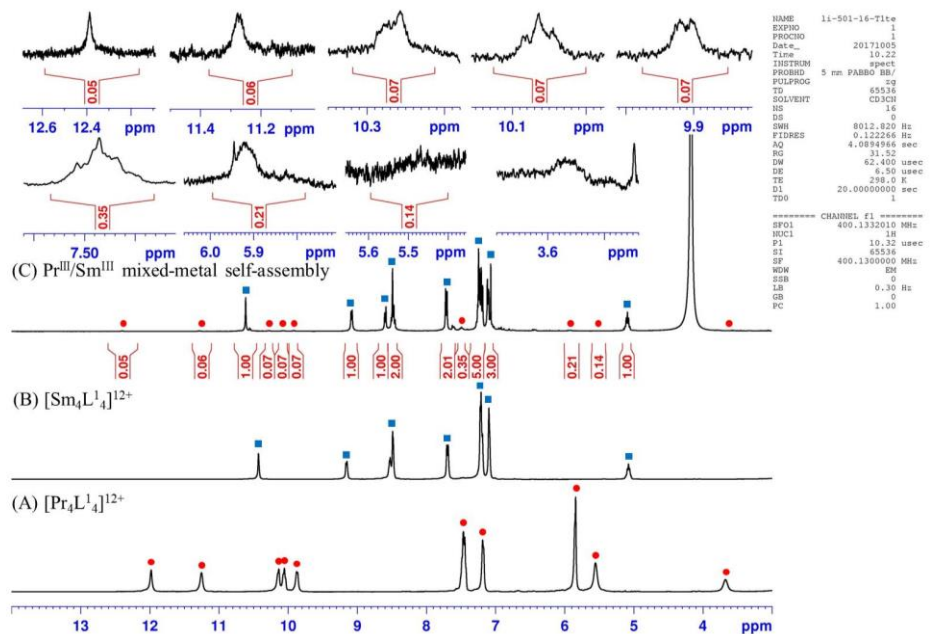
Supplementary Figure 156. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Yb}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C).

ESI-TOF-MS measurement indicates non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly of L^1 with $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures. However, the severe line-broadening of the ^1H NMR spectrum caused by paramagnetism of Yb^{III} hinders precise quantitation of different lanthanide ions in the assembled complexes through integration of the NMR spectra.



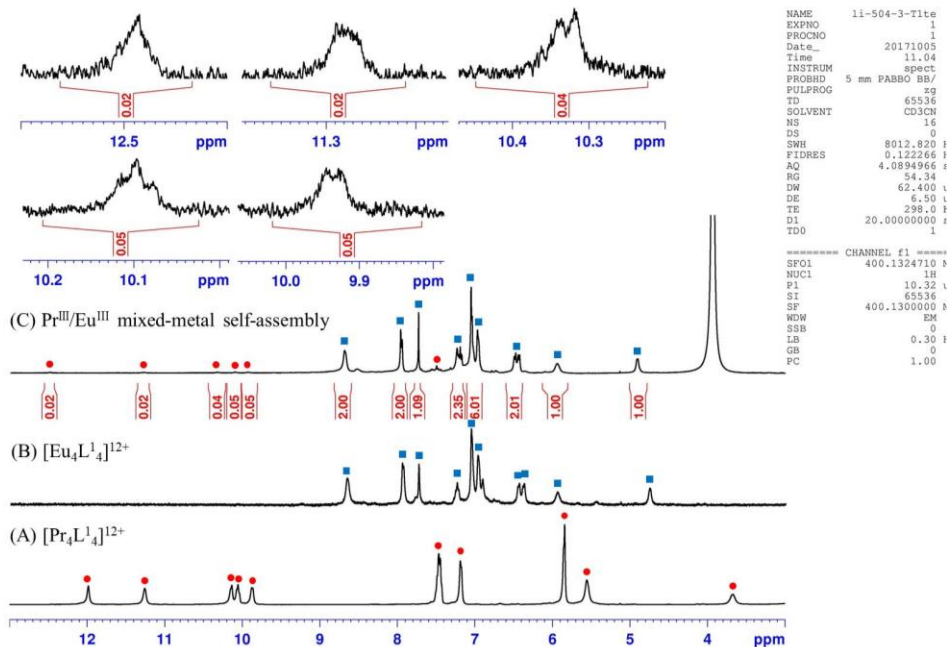
Supplementary Figure 157. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Lu}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with Lu^{III} was obtained according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



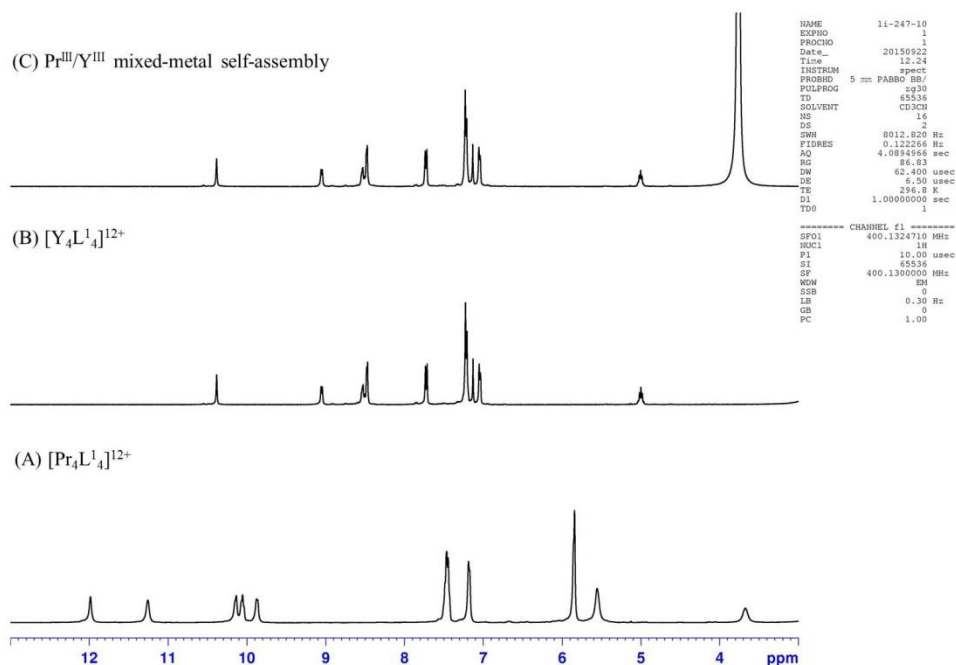
Supplementary Figure 158. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Pr₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Sm₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Pr^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Pr^{III}/Sm^{III} mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 93.46 percent Sm^{III} and 6.54 percent Pr^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



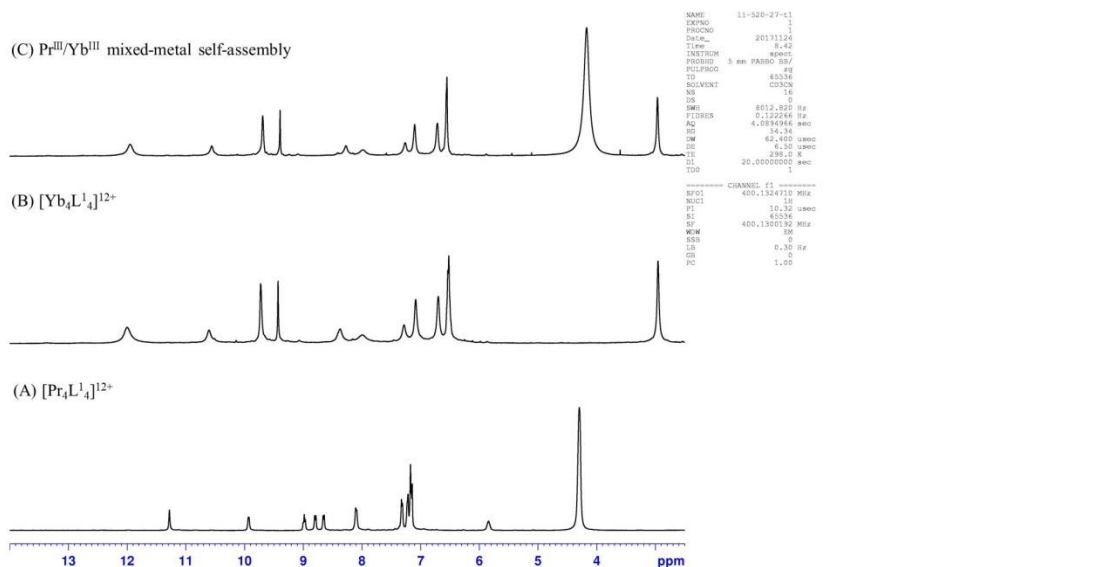
Supplementary Figure 159. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Pr₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Eu₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Pr^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Pr^{III}/Eu^{III} mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 95.24 percent Eu^{III} and 4.76 percent Pr^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



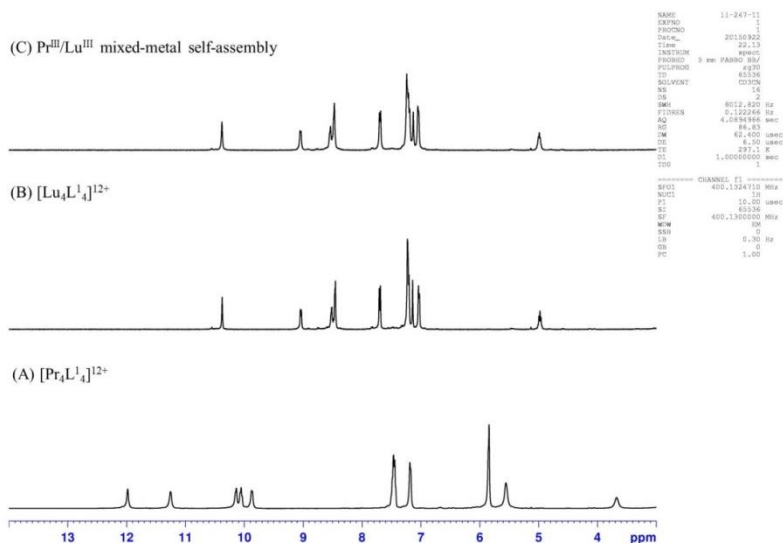
Supplementary Figure 160. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Pr₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Y₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Pr^{III}/Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Y^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



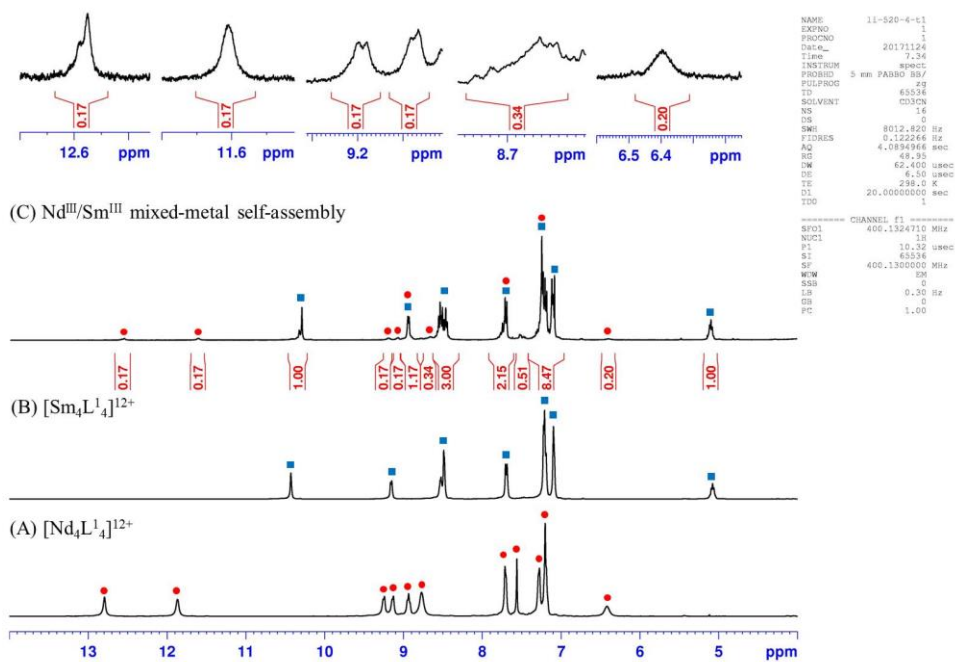
Supplementary Figure 161. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Pr₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Yb₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Pr^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C).

ESI-TOF-MS measurement indicates non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly of L¹ with Ce^{III}/Yb^{III} mixtures. However, the severe line-broadening of the ¹H NMR spectrum caused by paramagnetism of Yb^{III} hinders precise quantitation of different lanthanide ions in the assembled complexes through integration of the NMR spectra.



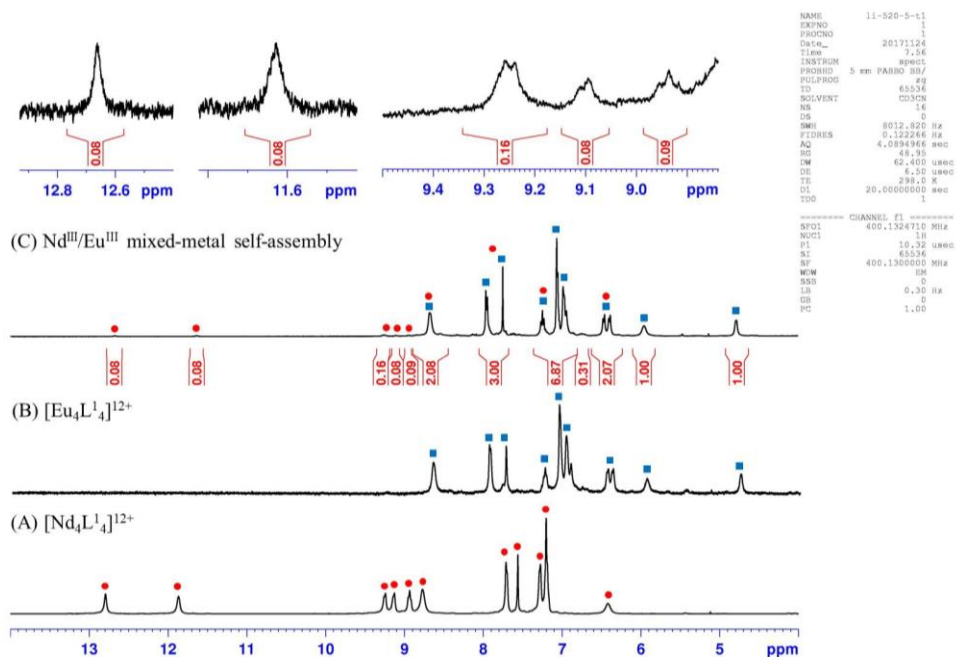
Supplementary Figure 162. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Pr}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Lu}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with Lu^{III} was obtained according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



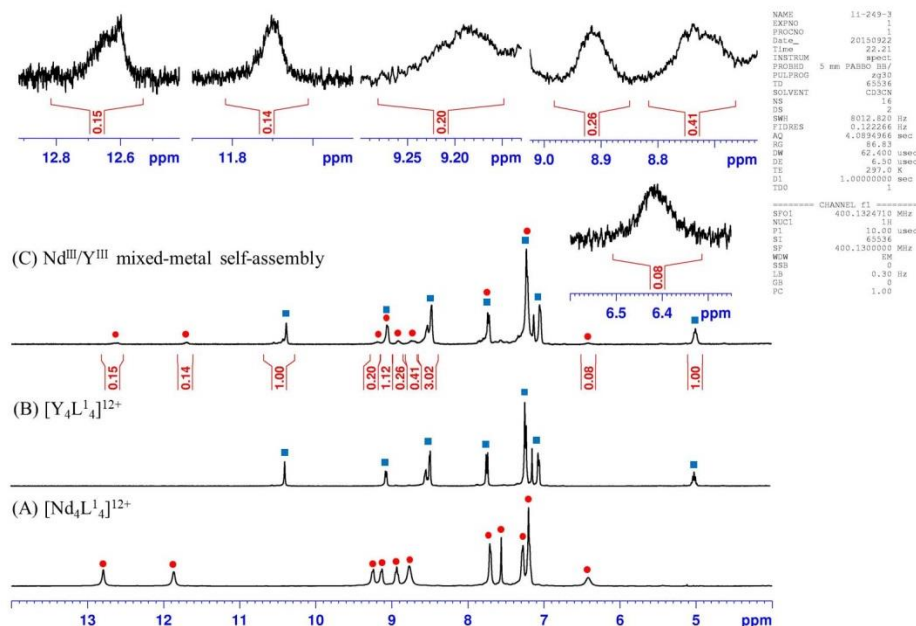
Supplementary Figure 163. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Nd}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Sm}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with $\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 85.47 percent Sm^{III} and 14.35 percent Nd^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



Supplementary Figure 164. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Nd₄L₁₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Eu₄L₁₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Nd^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

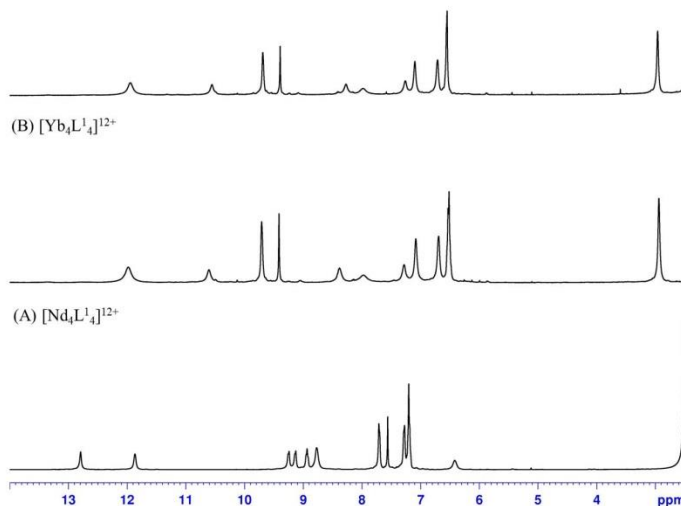
Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Nd^{III}/Eu^{III} mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 92.59 percent Eu^{III} and 7.40 percent Nd^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



Supplementary Figure 165. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) [Nd₄L₁₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Y₄L₁₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Nd^{III}/Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Nd^{III}/Y^{III} mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 83.33 percent Y^{III} and 16.67 percent Nd^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.

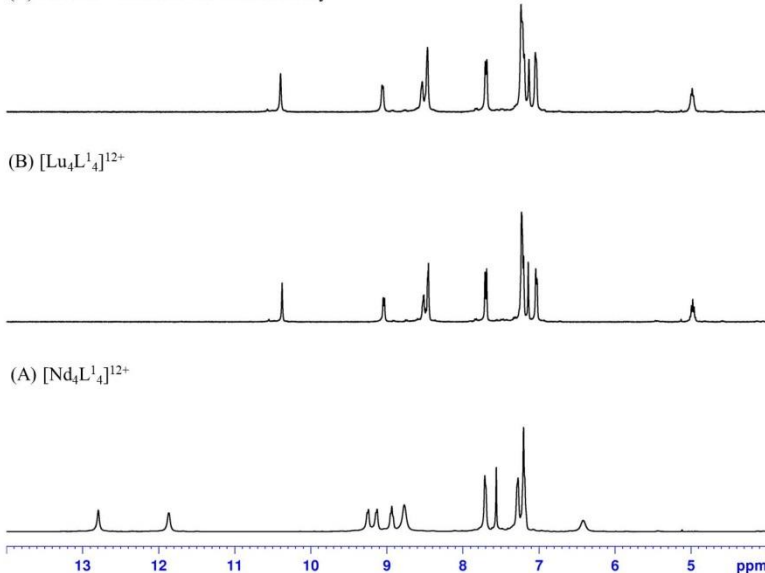
(C) Nd^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly



Supplementary Figure 166. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Nd₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Yb₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Nd^{III}/Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C).

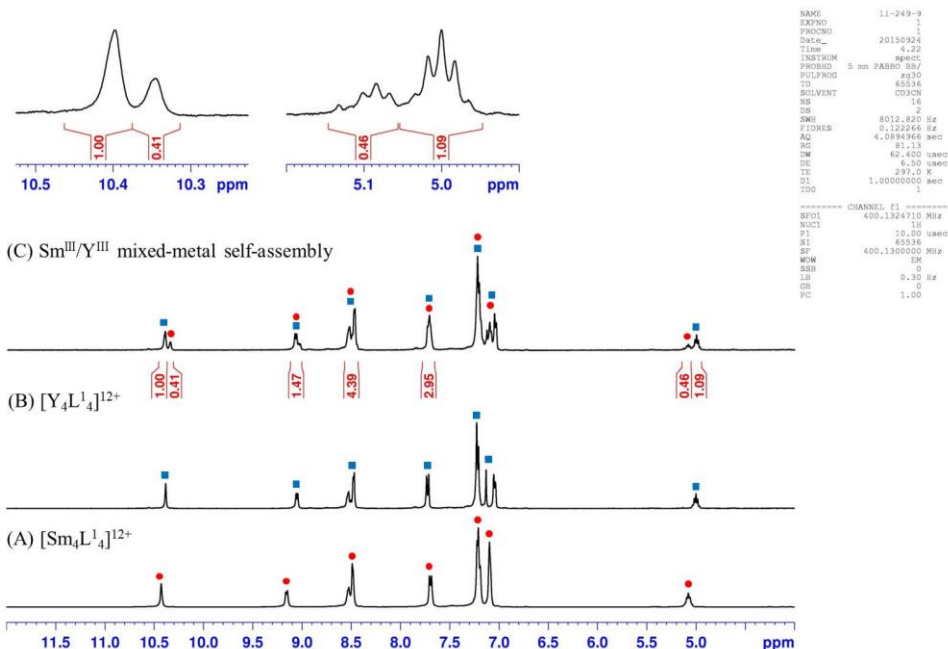
ESI-TOF-MS measurement indicates non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly of L¹ with Ce^{III}/Yb^{III} mixtures. However, the severe line-broadening of the ¹H NMR spectrum caused by paramagnetism of Yb^{III} hinders precise quantitation of different lanthanide ions in the assembled complexes through integration of the NMR spectra.

(C) Nd^{III}/Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly



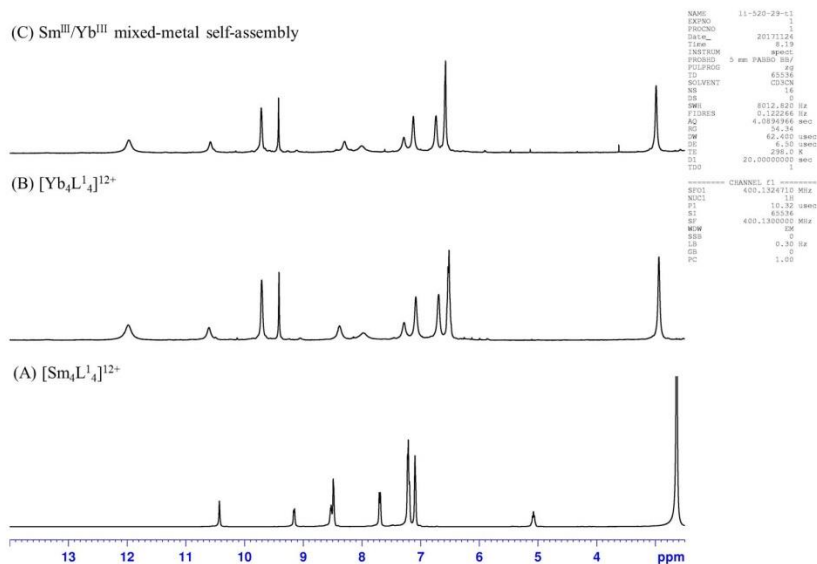
Supplementary Figure 167. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [Nd₄L₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Lu₄L₄]¹²⁺ (B) and Nd^{III}/Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L¹ (0.01 M) with Lu^{III} was obtained according to the ¹H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



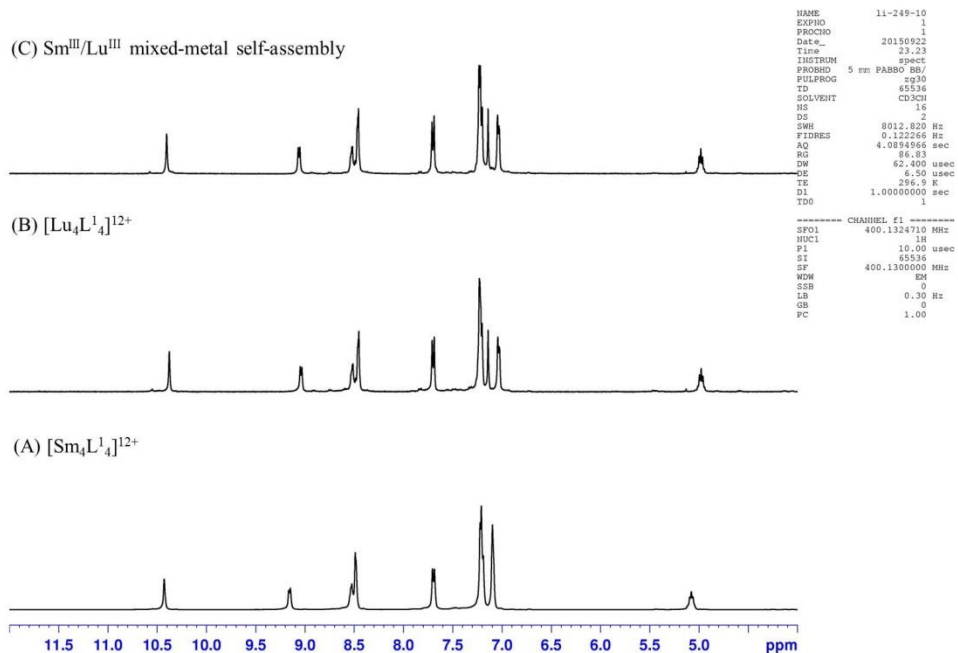
Supplementary Figure 168. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Sm}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Y}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}/\text{Y}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with $\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}/\text{Y}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 68.49 percent Y^{III} and 31.51 percent Sm^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



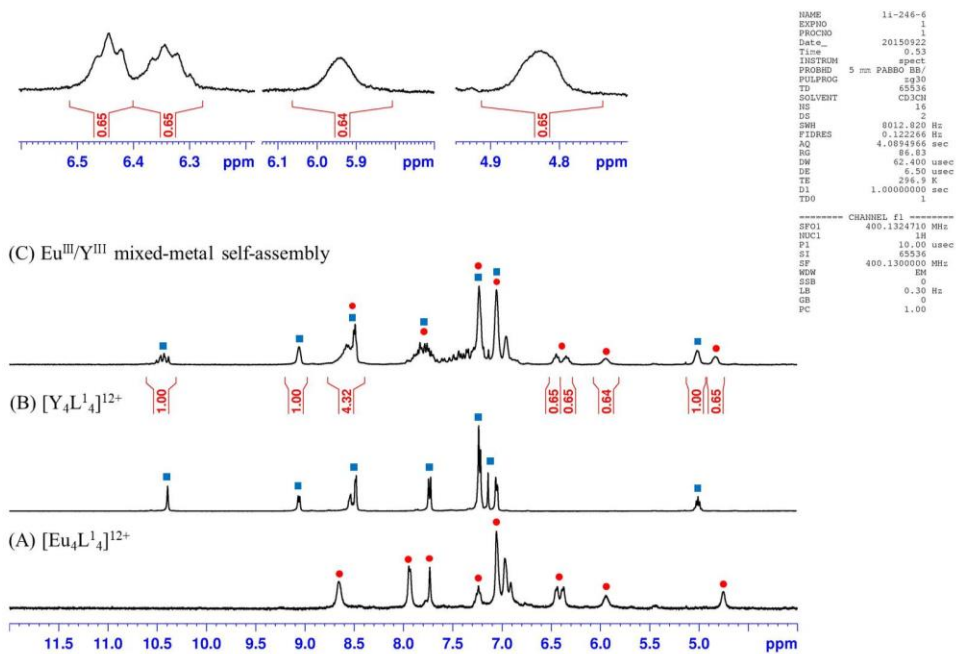
Supplementary Figure 169. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Sm}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Yb}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}/\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self- assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C).

ESI-TOF-MS measurement indicates non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly of L^1 with $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures. However, the severe line-broadening of the ^1H NMR spectrum caused by paramagnetism of Yb^{III} hinders precise quantitation of different lanthanide ions in the assembled complexes through integration of the NMR spectra.



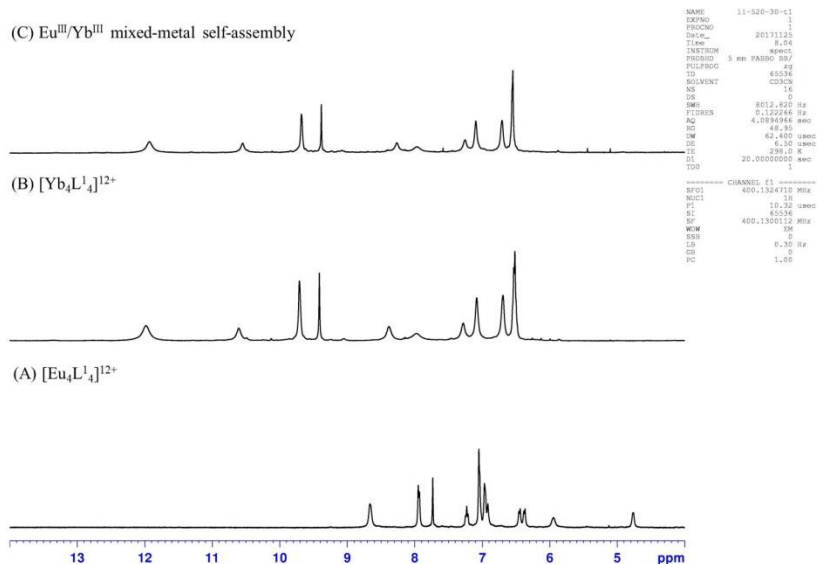
Supplementary Figure 170. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Sm}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Lu}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self- assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (C).

Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with Lu^{III} was obtained according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



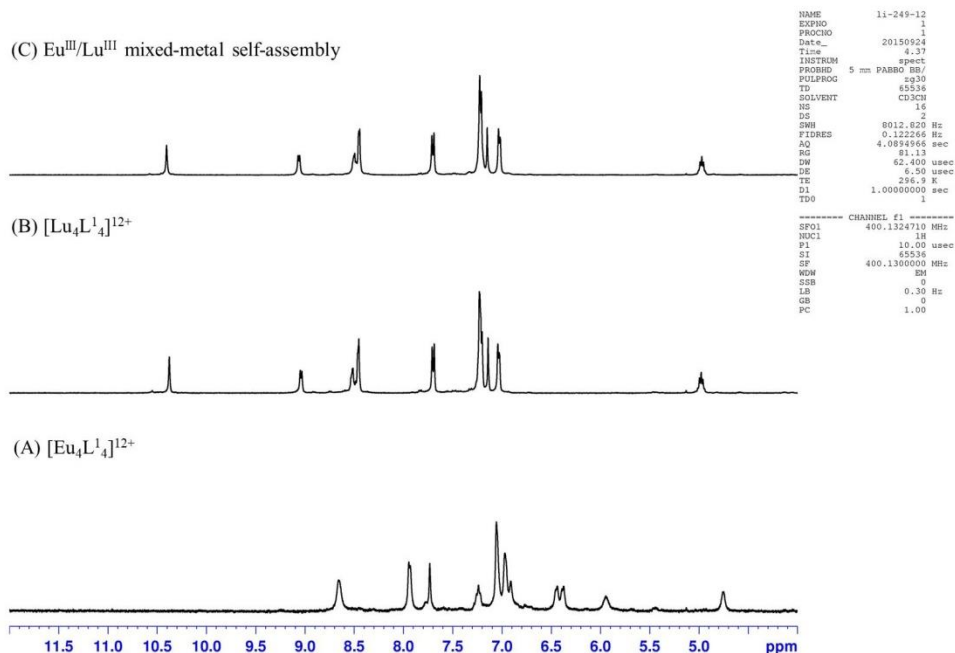
Supplementary Figure 171. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Eu}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Y}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Y}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Y}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.01 M of each), with 60.61 percent Y^{III} and 39.39 percent Eu^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



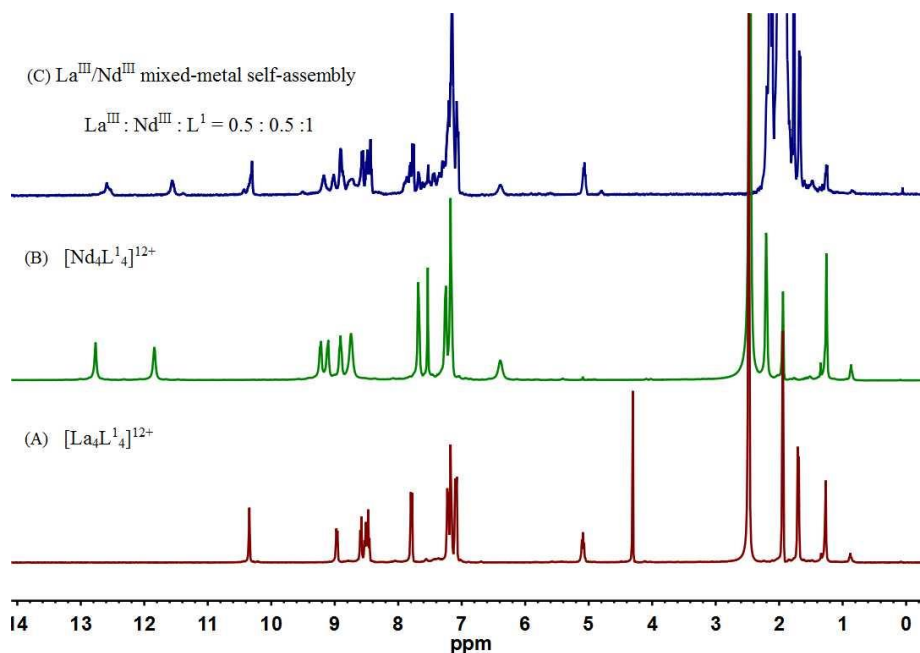
Supplementary Figure 172. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Eu}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Yb}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C).

ESI-TOF-MS measurement indicates non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly of L^1 with $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Yb}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures. However, the severe line-broadening of the ^1H NMR spectrum caused by paramagnetism of Yb^{III} hinders precise quantitation of different lanthanide ions in the assembled complexes through integration of the NMR spectra.

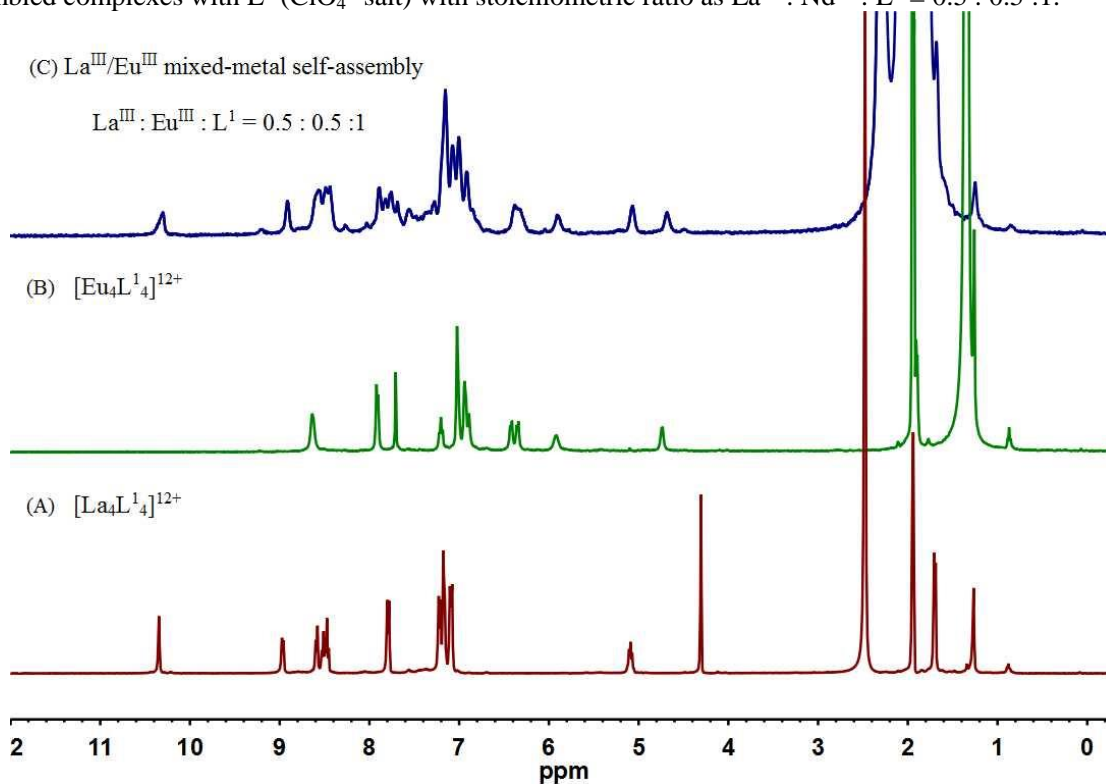


Supplementary Figure 173. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Eu}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Lu}_4\text{L}_4]^{12+}$ (B) and $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (C).

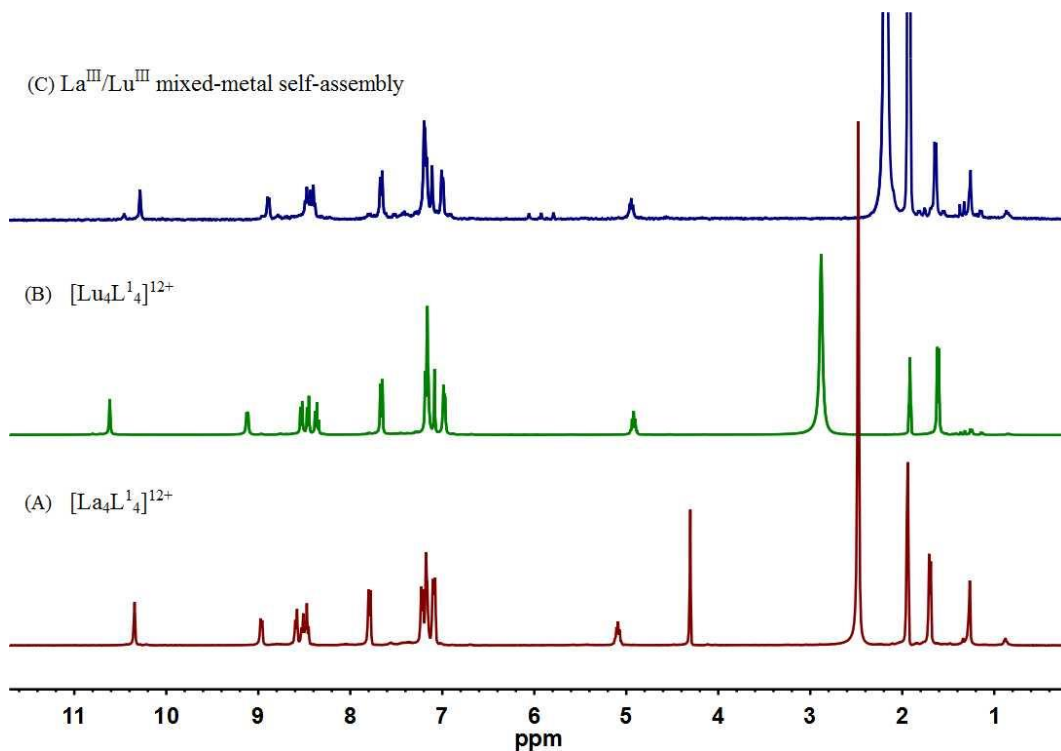
Complete metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^1 (0.01 M) with Lu^{III} was obtained according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



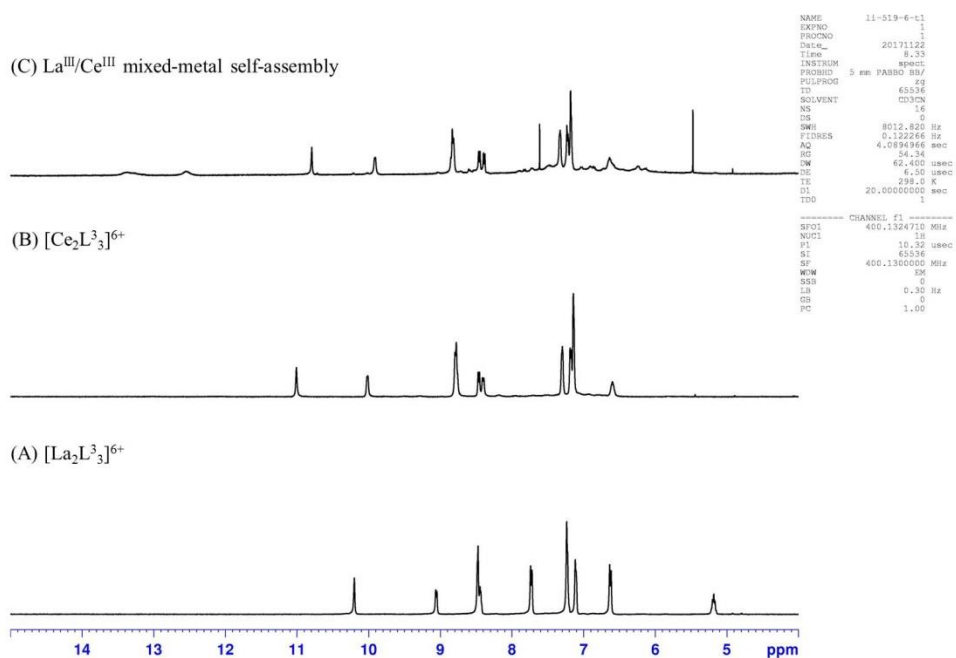
Supplementary Figure 174. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) with stoichiometric ratio as $\text{La}^{\text{III}} : \text{Nd}^{\text{III}} : \text{L}^1 = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1$.



Supplementary Figure 175. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) with the metal and ligand ratio as $\text{La}^{\text{III}} : \text{Eu}^{\text{III}} : \text{L}^1 = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1$.

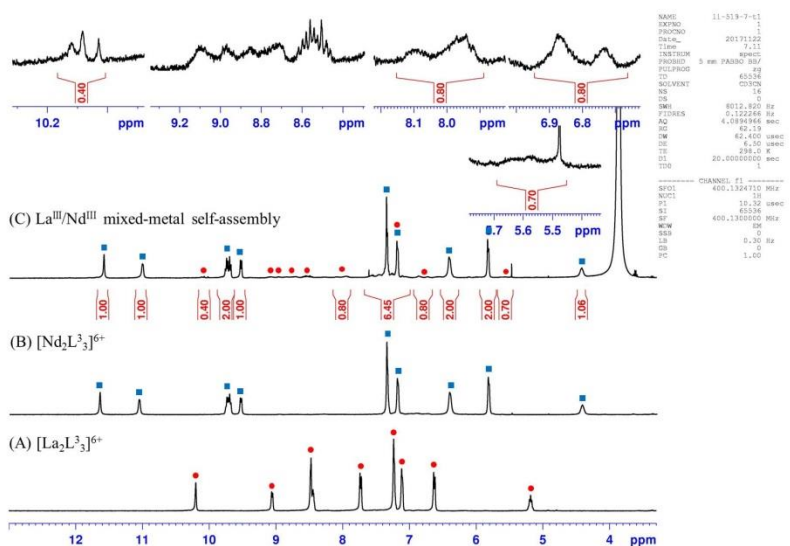


Supplementary Figure 176. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) with the metal and ligand ratio as $\text{La}^{\text{III}} : \text{Lu}^{\text{III}} : \text{L}^1 = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1$.



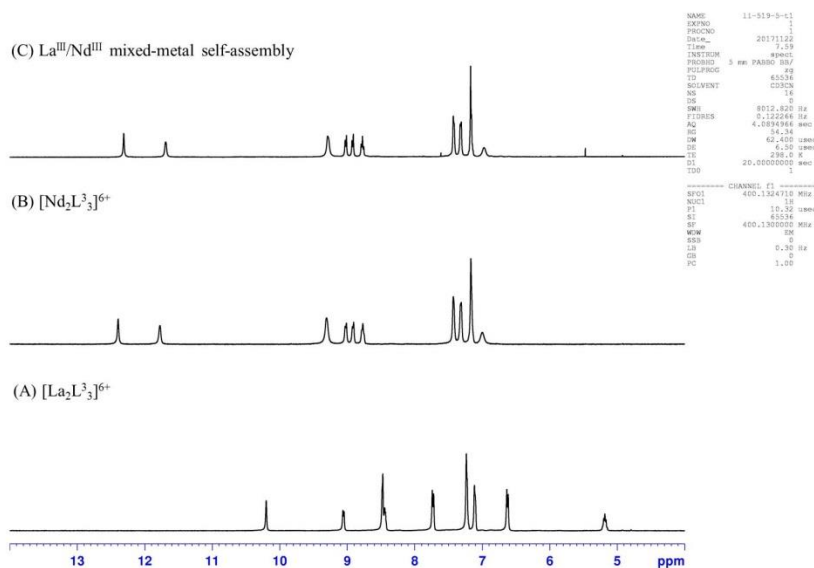
Supplementary Figure 177. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{La}_2\text{L}^3_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Ce}_2\text{L}^3_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (ClO_4^- salt) (C).

The unattributable peaks in the range of 12-13.5ppm in the above spectrum (C) make it difficult to determine the proportion of two kinds of metal ions through integration of the ^1H NMR spectrum.



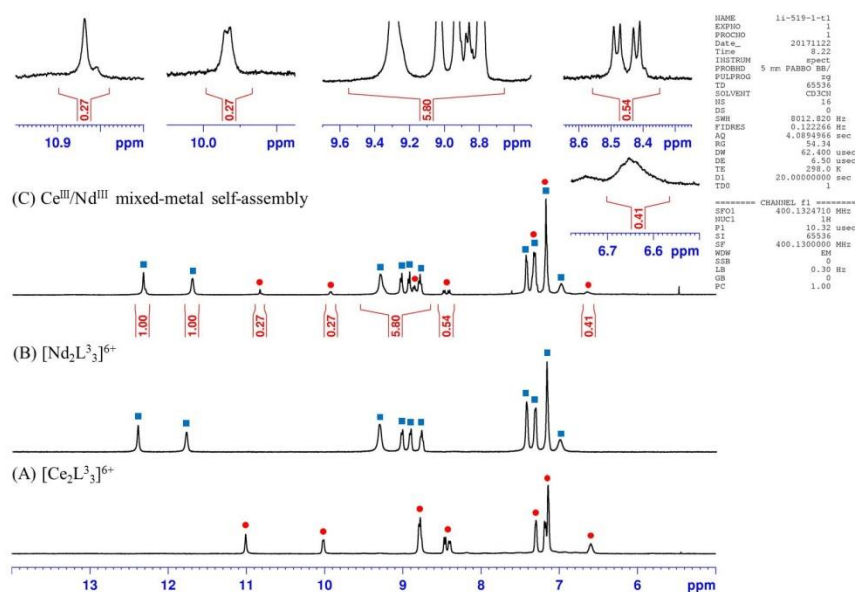
Supplementary Figure 178. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{La}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Pr}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^3 (0.0075 M) with $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.005 M of each), with 71.43 percent Pr^{III} and 28.57 percent La^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



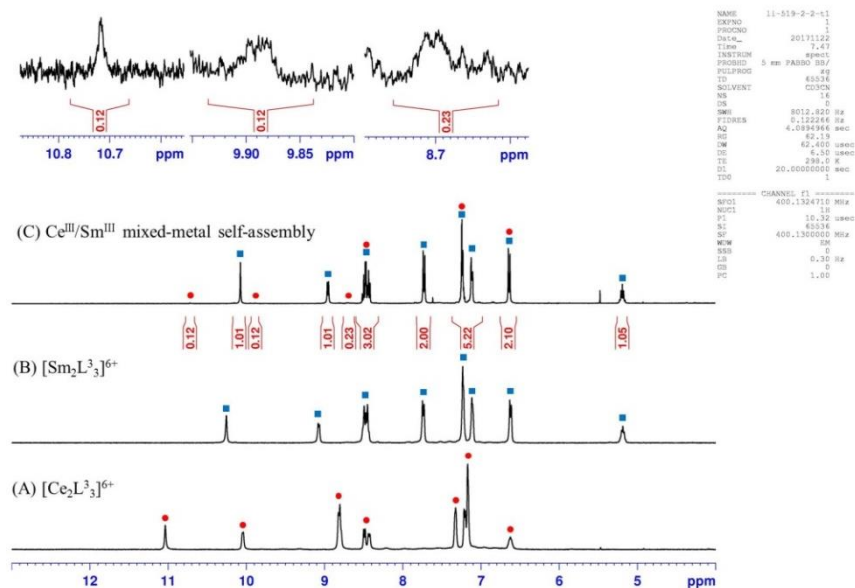
Supplementary Figure 179. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{La}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Nd}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

No spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



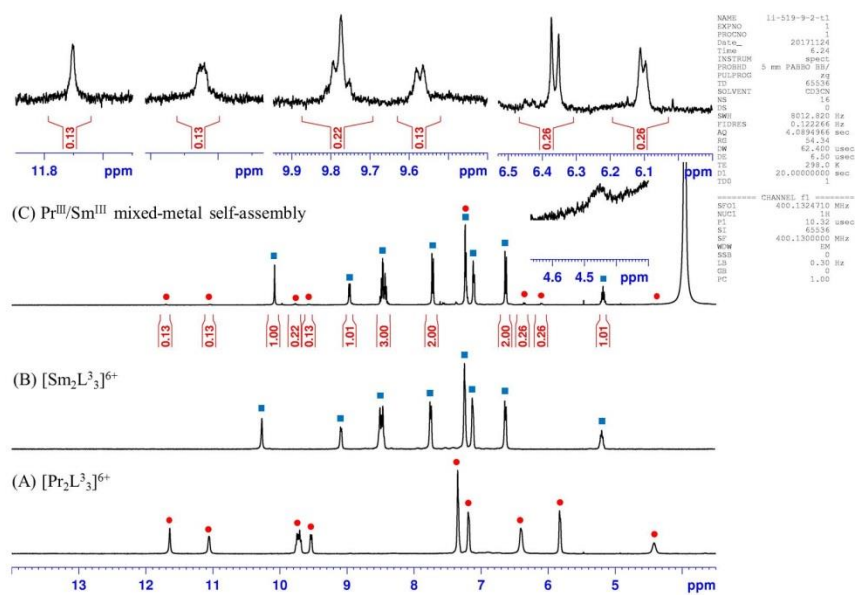
Supplementary Figure 180. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Ce}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Nd}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^3 (0.0075 M) with $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.005 M of each), with 78.74 percent Nd^{III} and 21.26 percent Ce^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



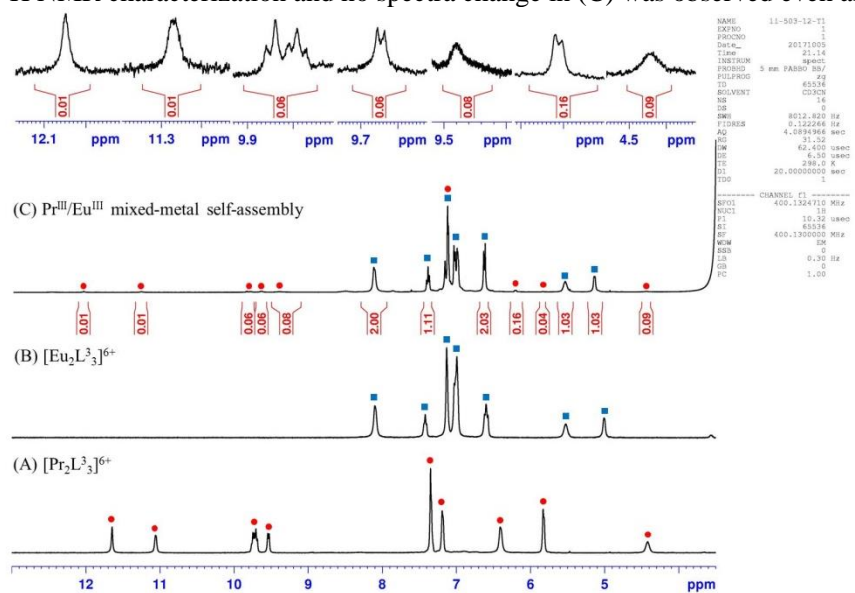
Supplementary Figure 181. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Ce}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Sm}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^3 (0.0075 M) with $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.005 M of each), with 89.29 percent Sm^{III} and 10.71 percent Ce^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



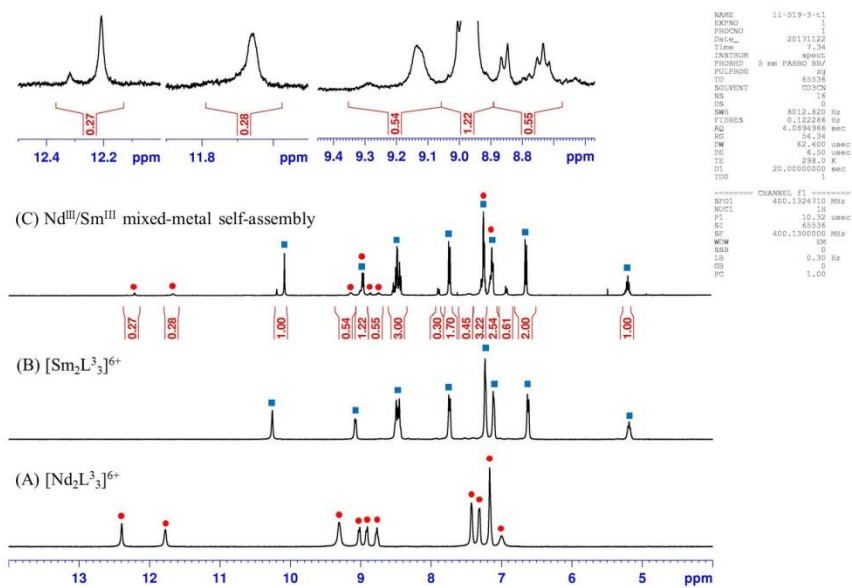
Supplementary Figure 182. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Pr}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Sm}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^3 (0.0075 M) with $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.005 M of each), with 88.50 percent Sm^{III} and 11.50 percent Pr^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



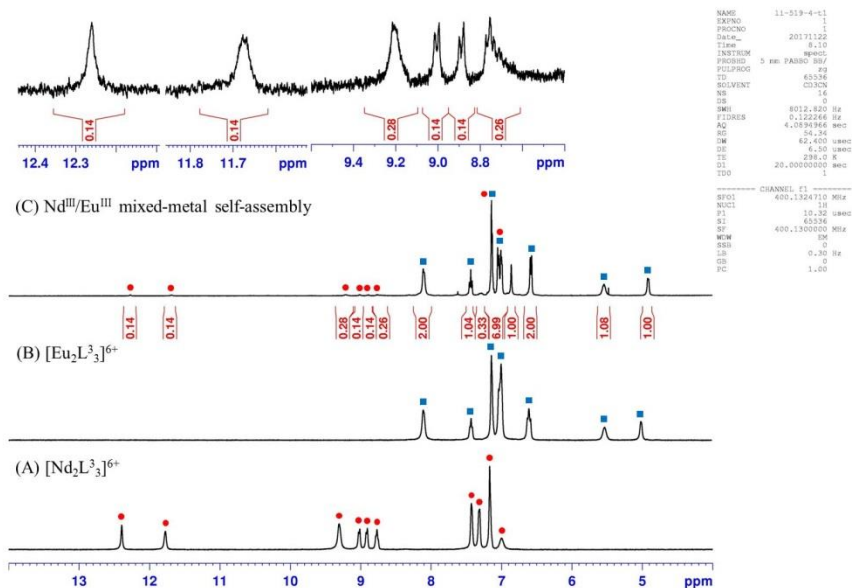
Supplementary Figure 183. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Pr}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^3 (0.0075 M) with $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.005 M of each), with 92.59 percent Eu^{III} and 7.41 percent Pr^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



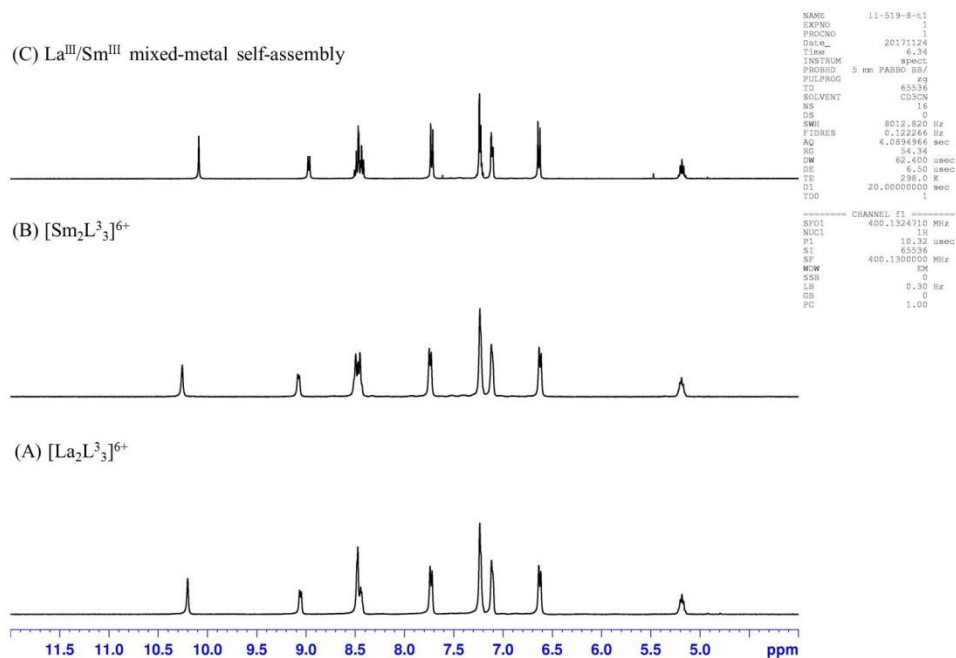
Supplementary Figure 184. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Nd}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Sm}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^3 (0.0075 M) with $\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}/\text{Sm}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.005 M of each), with 78.74 percent Sm^{III} and 21.26 percent Nd^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.

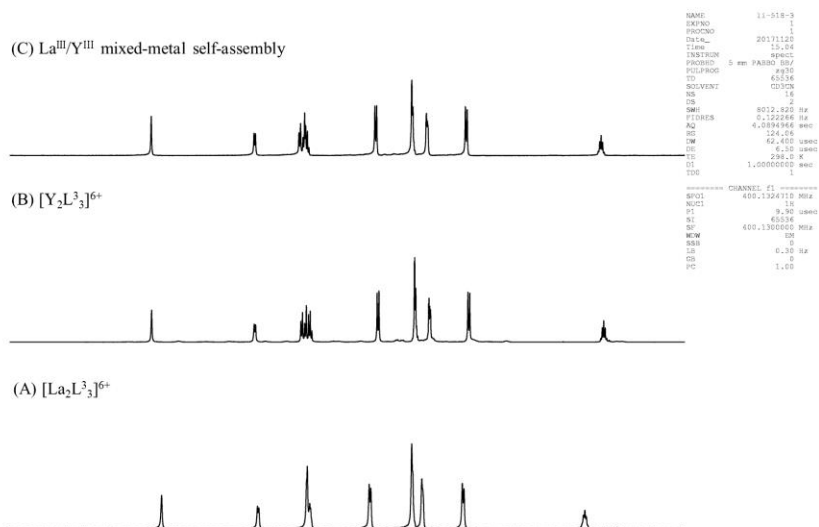


Supplementary Figure 185. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Nd}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (ClO_4^- salt) (C) with spectra zoomed in over some of the peak ranges selected for the integrals.

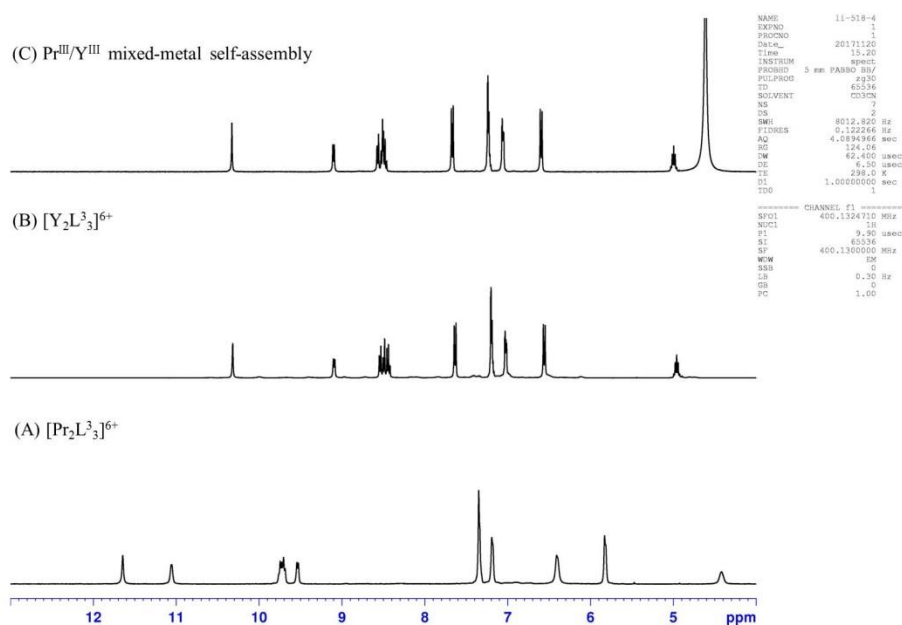
Non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly (at 40 °C for 1h) of L^3 (0.0075 M) with $\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixtures (0.005 M of each), with 87.72 percent Eu^{III} and 12.28 percent Nd^{III} in the assembled complexes, was observed according to the ^1H NMR characterization and no spectra change in (C) was observed even after 2 weeks.



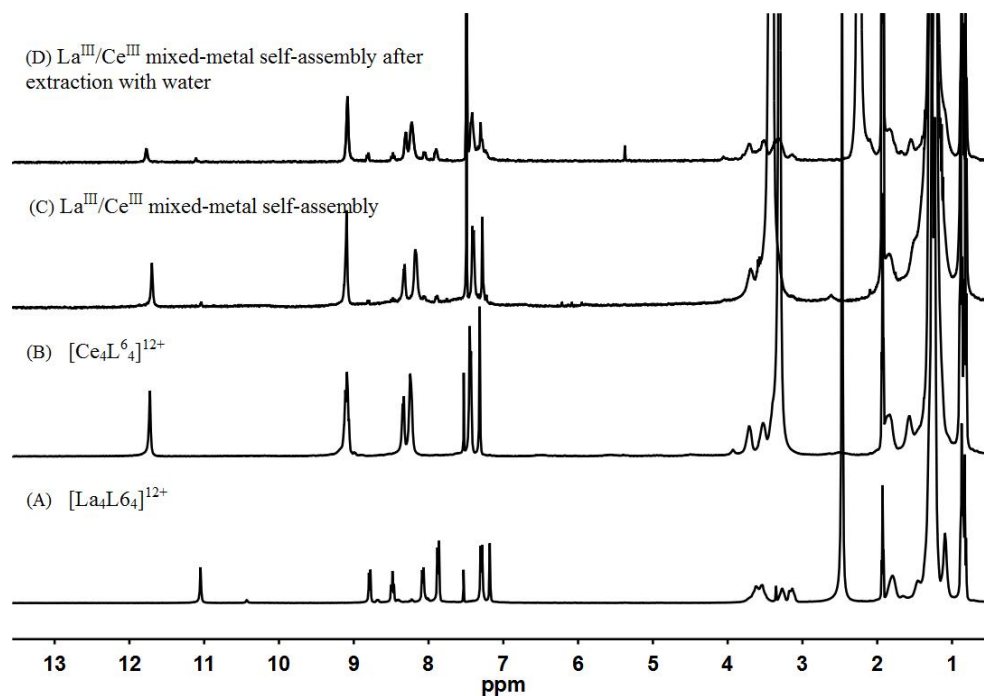
Supplementary Figure 186. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₂L₃]⁶⁺ (A), [Sm₂L₃]⁶⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C).



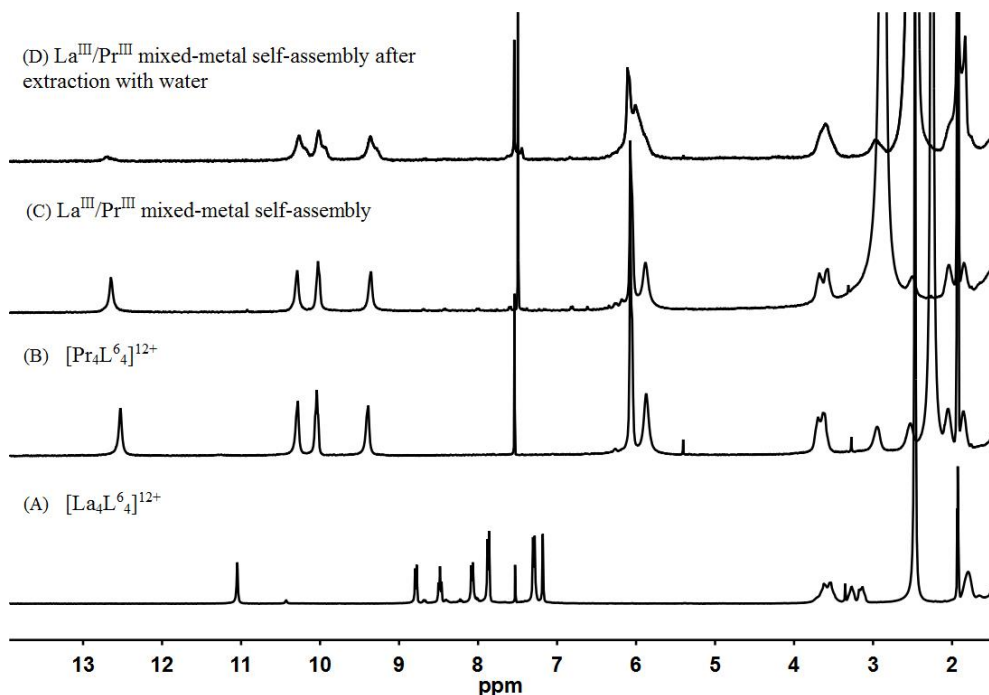
Supplementary Figure 187. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₂L₃]⁶⁺ (A), [Y₂L₃]⁶⁺ (B) and La^{III}/Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L³ (CF₃SO₃⁻ salt) (C).



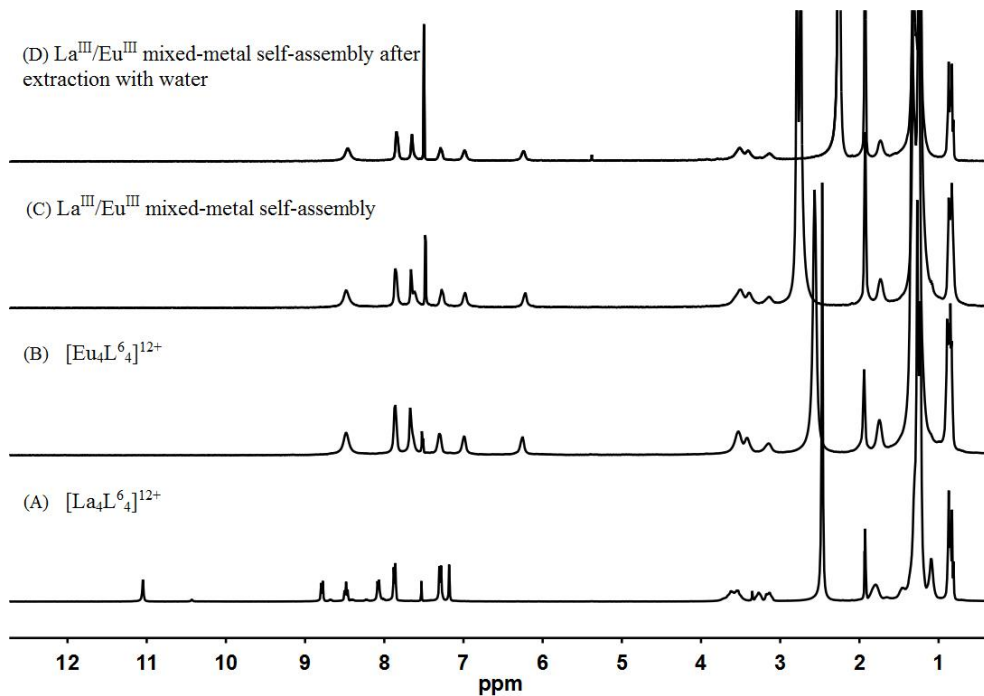
Supplementary Figure 188. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Pr}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (A), $[\text{Y}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (B) and $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Y}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^3 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) (C).



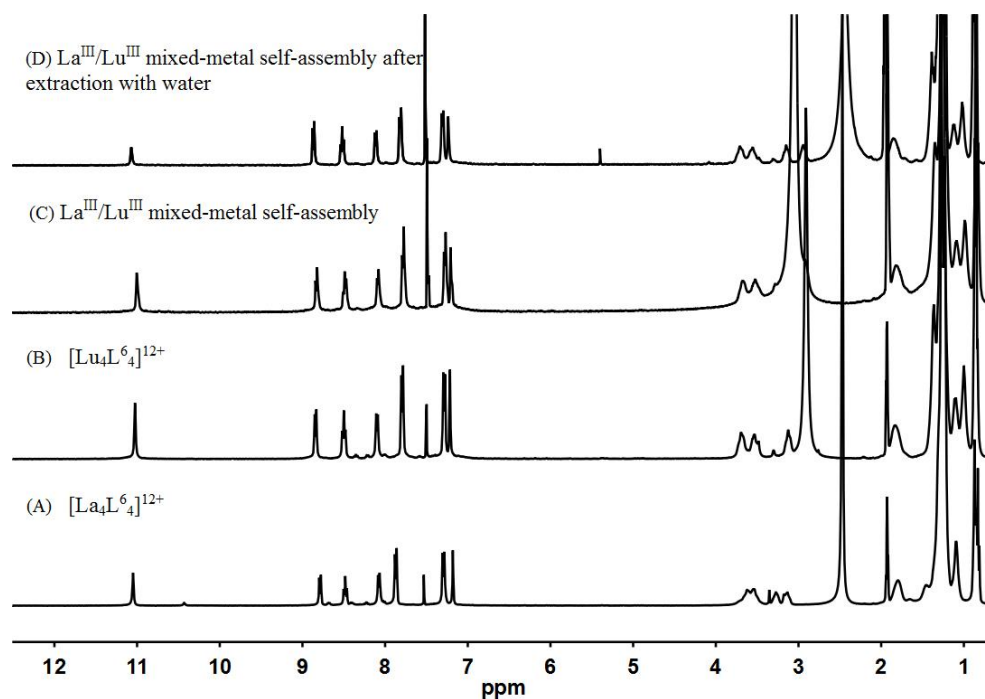
Supplementary Figure 189. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 298K) for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}_6]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}_6]^{12+}$ (B), $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled (C) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes after extraction with water (D) (CF_3SO_3^- salt).



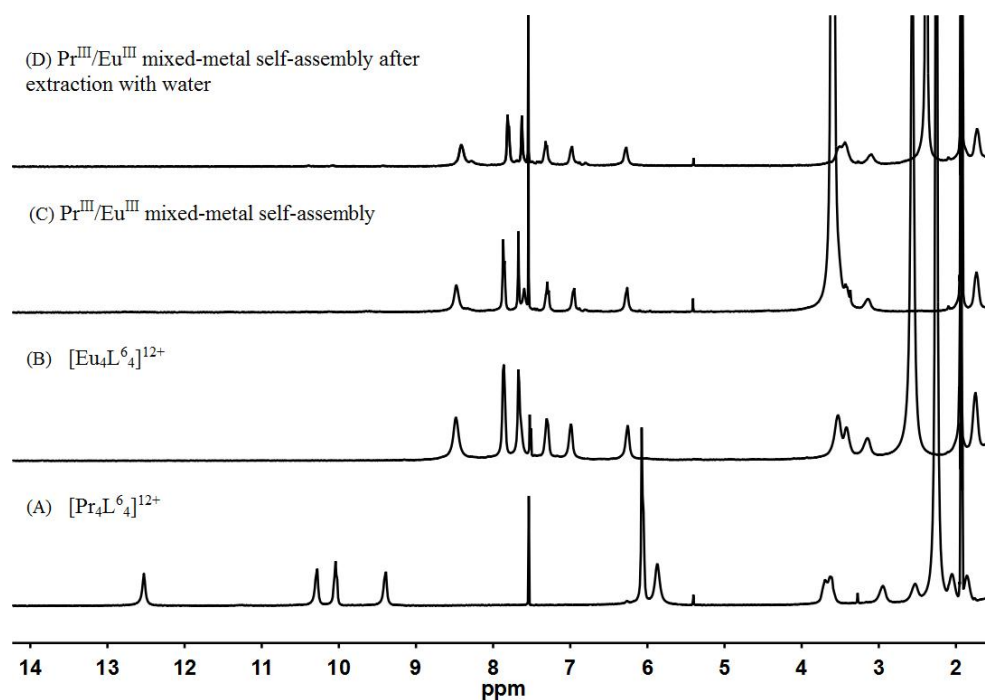
Supplementary Figure 190. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 298K) for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}_6]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Pr}_4\text{L}_6]^{12+}$ (B), $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled (C) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes after extraction with water (D)(CF_3SO_3^- salt).



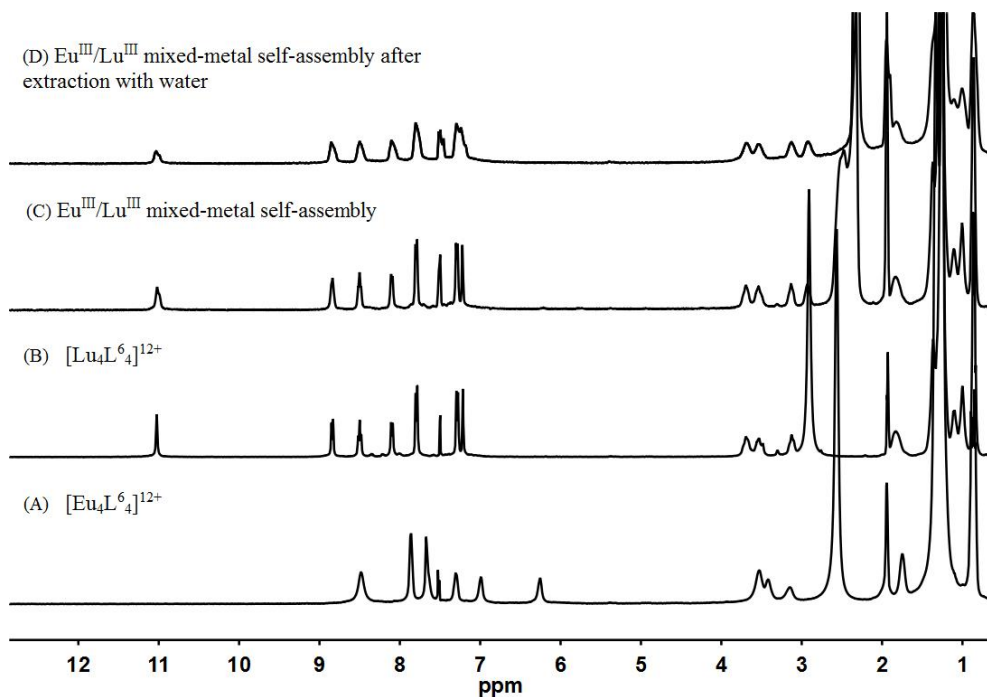
Supplementary Figure 191. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 298K) for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}_6]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Eu}_4\text{L}_6]^{12+}$ (B), $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled (C) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes after extraction with water (D)(CF_3SO_3^- salt).



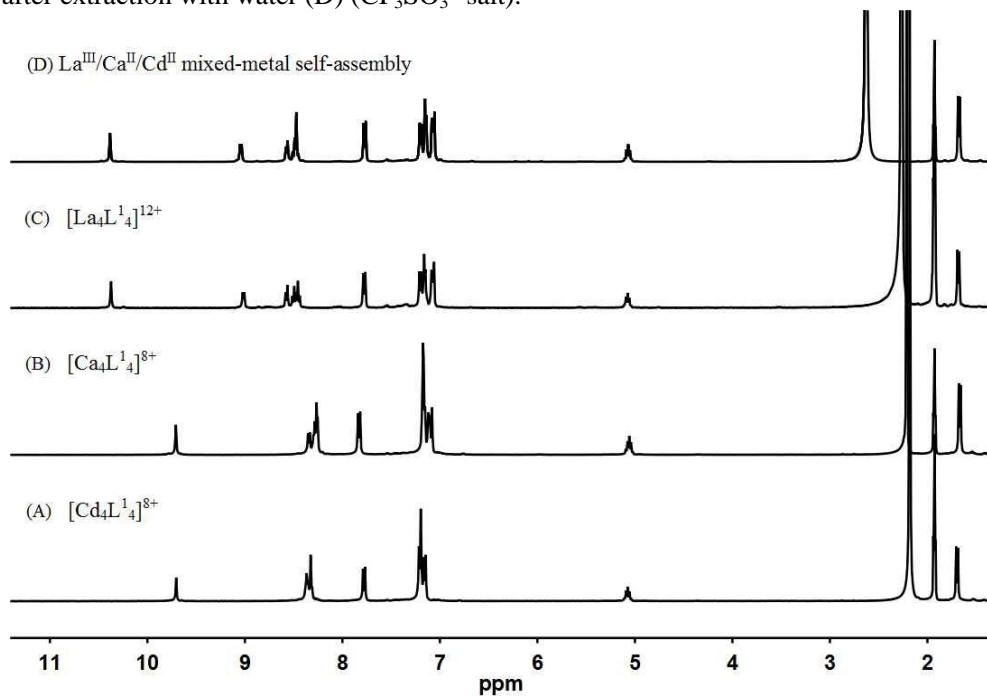
Supplementary Figure 192. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 298K) for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}_6_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Lu}_4\text{L}_6_4]^{12+}$ (B), $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled (C) and $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes after extraction with water (D) (CF_3SO_3^- salt).



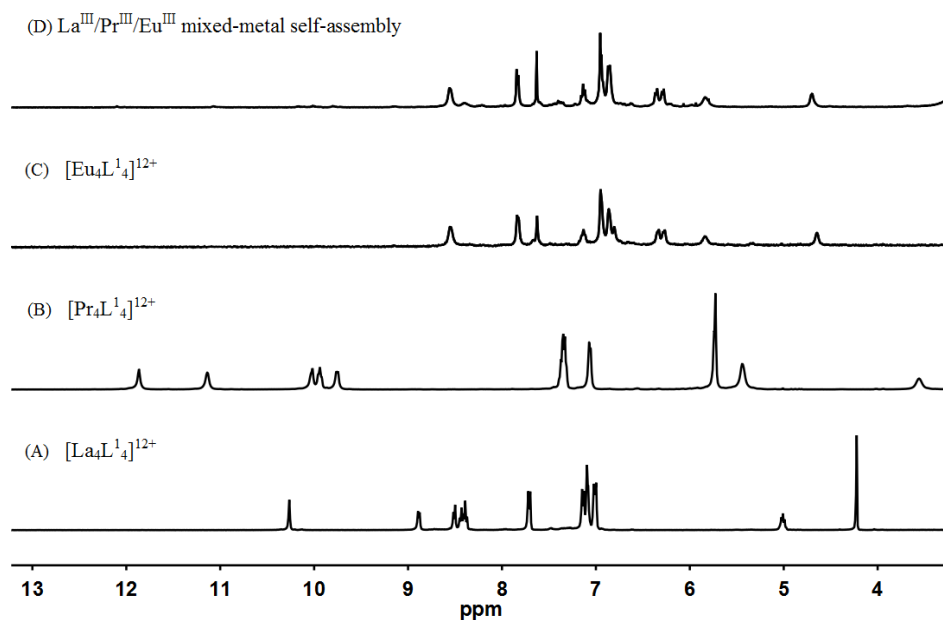
Supplementary Figure 193. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 298K) for $[\text{Pr}_4\text{L}_6_4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Eu}_4\text{L}_6_4]^{12+}$ (B), $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled (C) and $\text{Pr}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes after extraction with water (D) (CF_3SO_3^- salt).



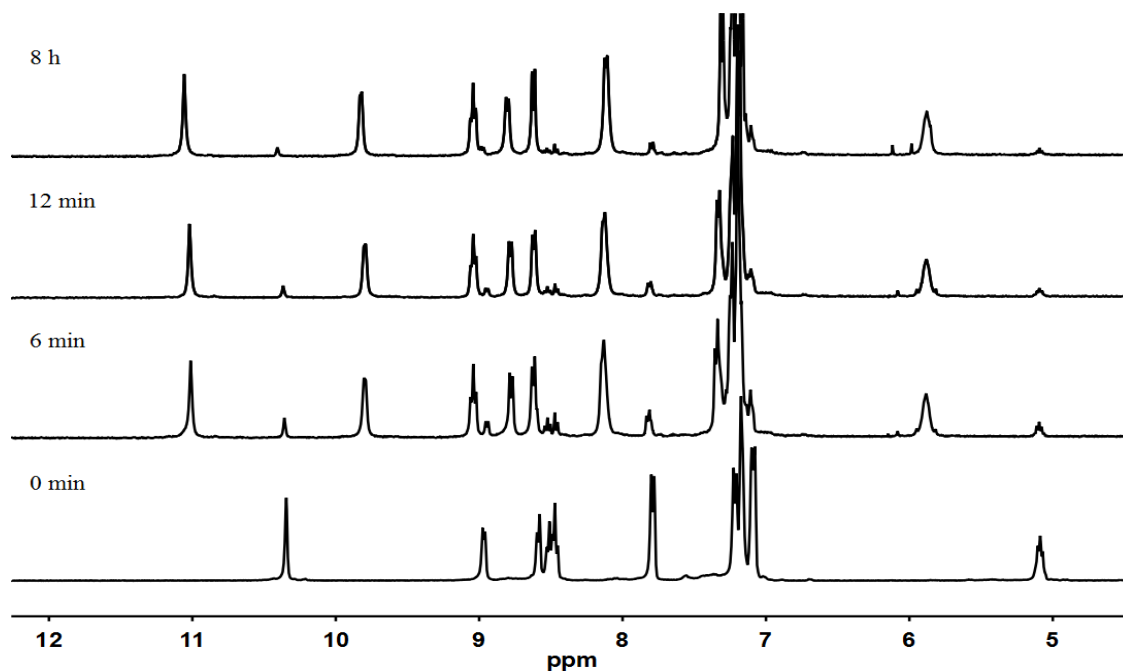
Supplementary Figure 194. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}/\text{CDCl}_3$, 298K) for $[\text{Eu}_4\text{L}_6^4]^{12+}$ (A), $[\text{Lu}_4\text{L}_6^4]^{12+}$ (B), $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled (C) and $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes after extraction with water (D) (CF_3SO_3^- salt).



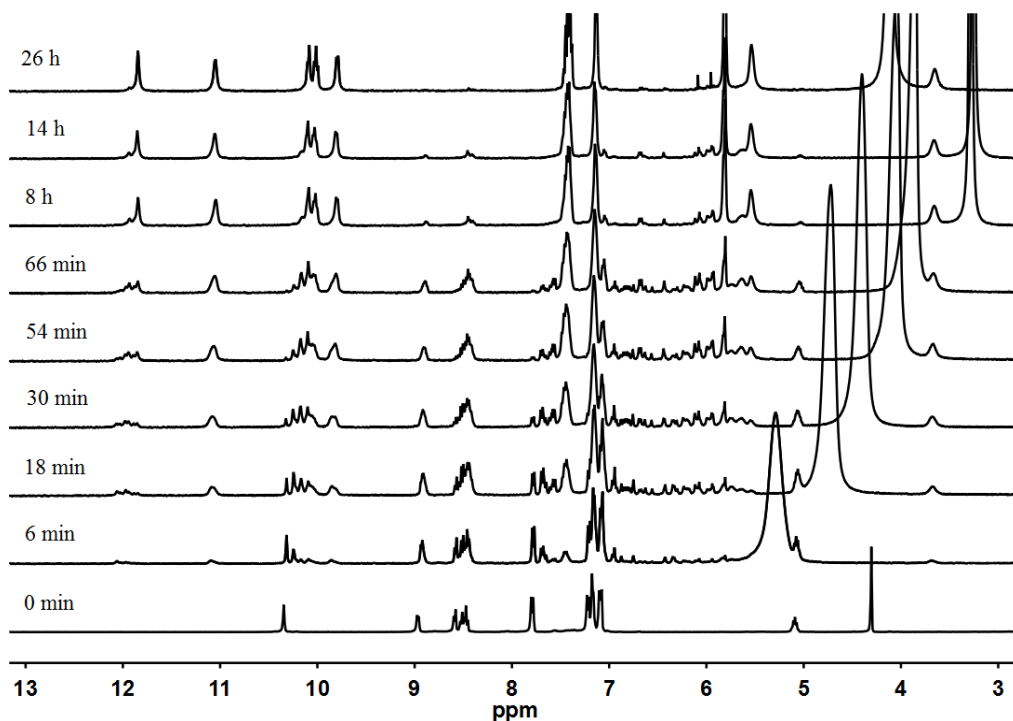
Supplementary Figure 195. ^1H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K) for $[\text{Cd}_4\text{L}_1^4]^{8+}$ (A), $[\text{Ca}_4\text{L}_1^4]^{8+}$ (B), $[\text{La}_4\text{L}_1^4]^{12+}$ (C) and $\text{Cd}^{\text{II}}/\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}/\text{La}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (ClO_4^- salt) (D).



Supplementary Figure 196. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K) for [La₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (A), [Pr₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (B), [Eu₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (C) and La^{III}/Pr^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) (D).

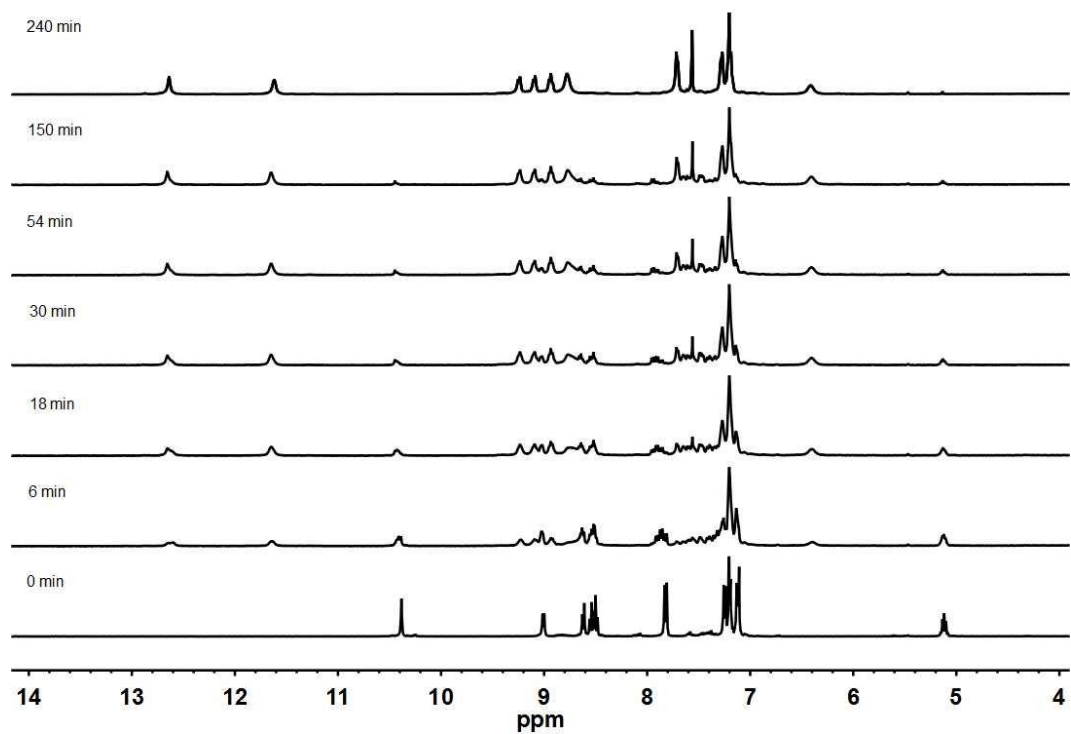


Supplementary Figure 197. ¹H NMR spectra (CD₃CN, 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Ce^{III} toward [La₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (ClO₄⁻ salt). The post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Ce^{III} toward [La₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ was performed in the similar method as above and the reaction system reached equilibrium in just 12 min.

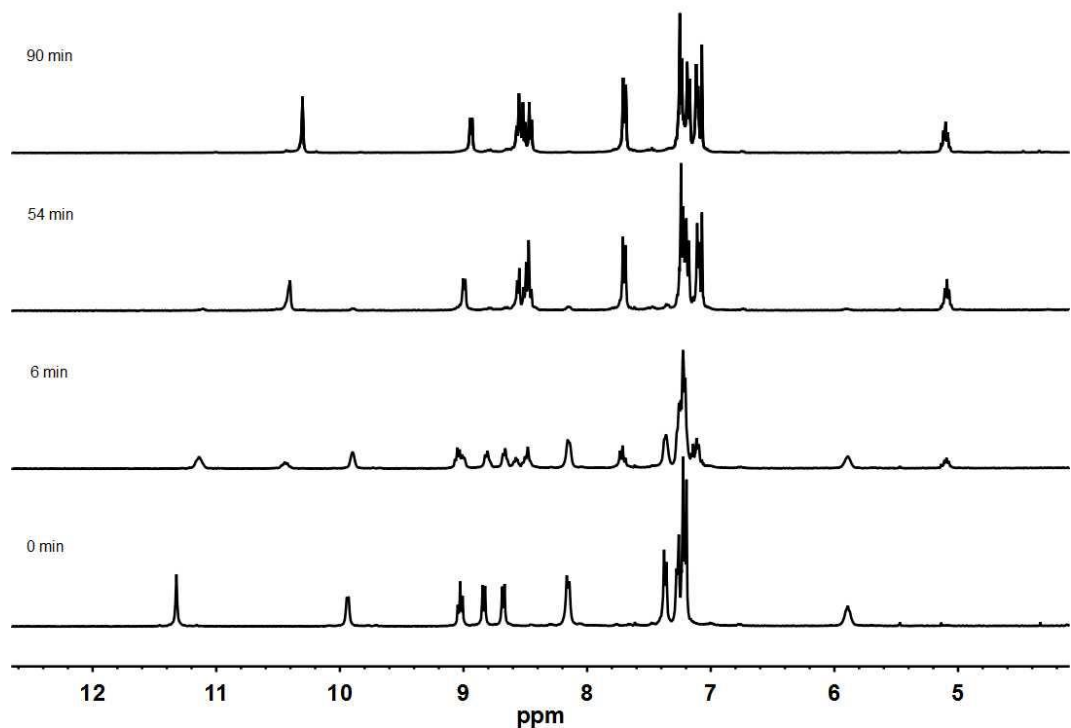


Supplementary Figure 198. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Pr^{III} toward $[\text{La}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (ClO_4^- salt).

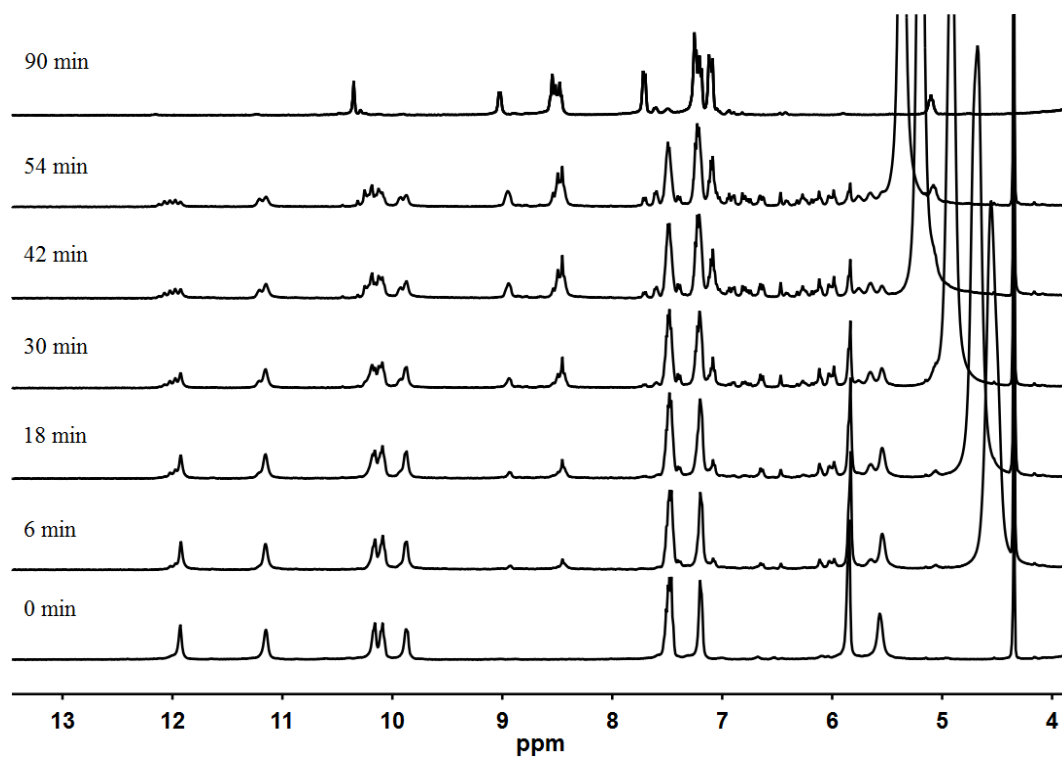
After addition of $\text{Pr}(\text{ClO}_4)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (6.0 μmol) to a solution of preformed La_4L^1_4 (1.5 μmol) in CD_3CN , with the total volume of CD_3CN as 0.6 mL, the substitution process was monitored by ^1H NMR spectroscopy at room temperature, and progressively substitution of La(III) by Pr(III) was clearly observed, as new ^1H NMR signals corresponding to Pr(III) coordination environment appeared. During the time of 6 min to 14 h, the highly complicated ^1H NMR spectra suggested a mixture of $[(\text{La}_n\text{Pr}_{4-n})\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ ($n = 1$ to 4) and at the equilibrium state, exactly the same ^1H NMR spectrum was observed as that seen in the one-pot self-assembly process. It is worth mentioning that the substitution rate for each metal combination depends on the difference in the ionic radii, and a larger difference results in faster substitution and vice versa. For example, it takes only 30 minutes for Y(III) to fully substitute all four La(III) vertices in the La_4L^1_4 cage, whereas it takes more than 20 hours for substitution with Pr(III).



Supplementary Figure 199. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Nd^{III} toward $[\text{La}_4\text{L}'_4]^{12+}$ (ClO_4^- salt).

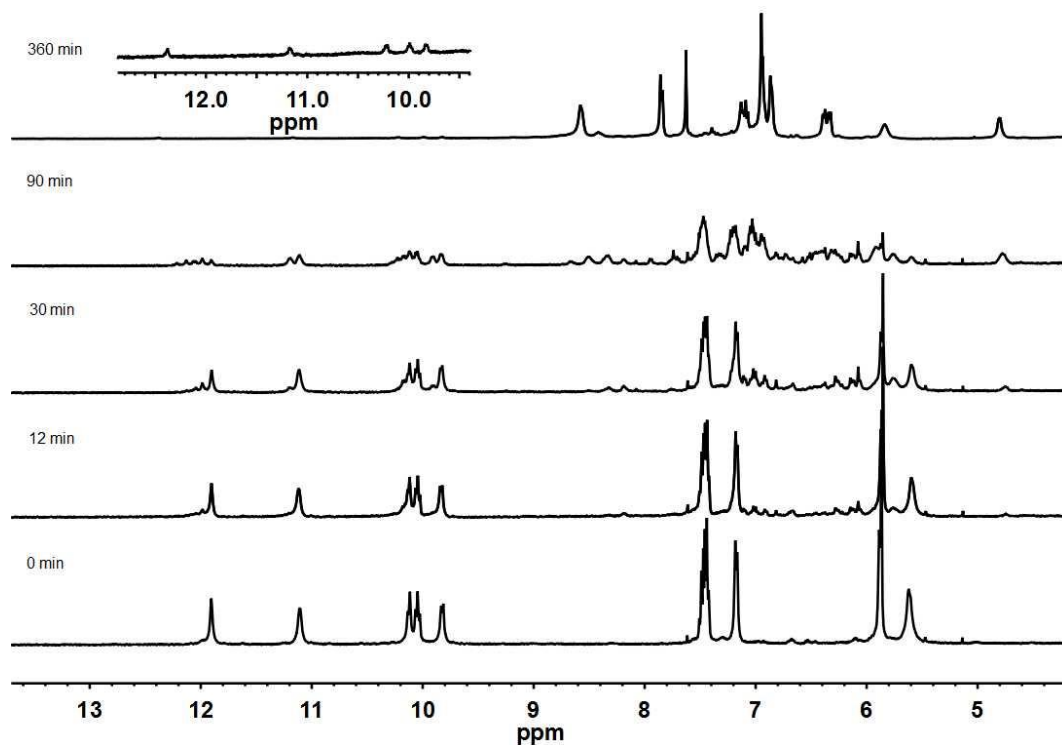


Supplementary Figure 200. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Sm^{III} toward $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}'_4]^{12+}$ (ClO_4^- salt).

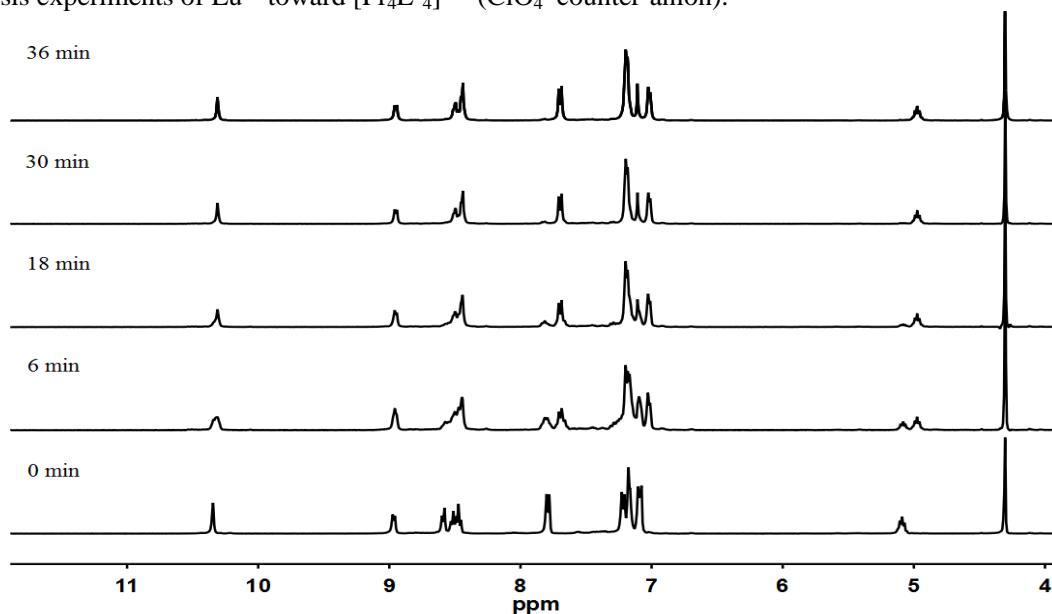


Supplementary Figure 201. ¹H NMR spectra (CD₃CN, 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Sm^{III} toward [Pr₄L¹₄]¹²⁺ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion).

After addition of Sm(ClO₄)₃•6H₂O (6.0 μmol) to a solution of preformed Pr₄L¹₄ (1.5 μmol) in CD₃CN at room temperature, progressively substitution of Pr(III) by Sm(III) was clearly observed according to the ¹H NMR spectroscopy. During the substitution process, a mixture of [(Pr_nSm_{4-n})L¹₄]¹²⁺ (*n* = 1 to 4) was speculated to come into formation and at the final equilibrium state (in 90 min), exactly the same ¹H NMR spectrum was observed as that seen in the one-pot self-assembly process.

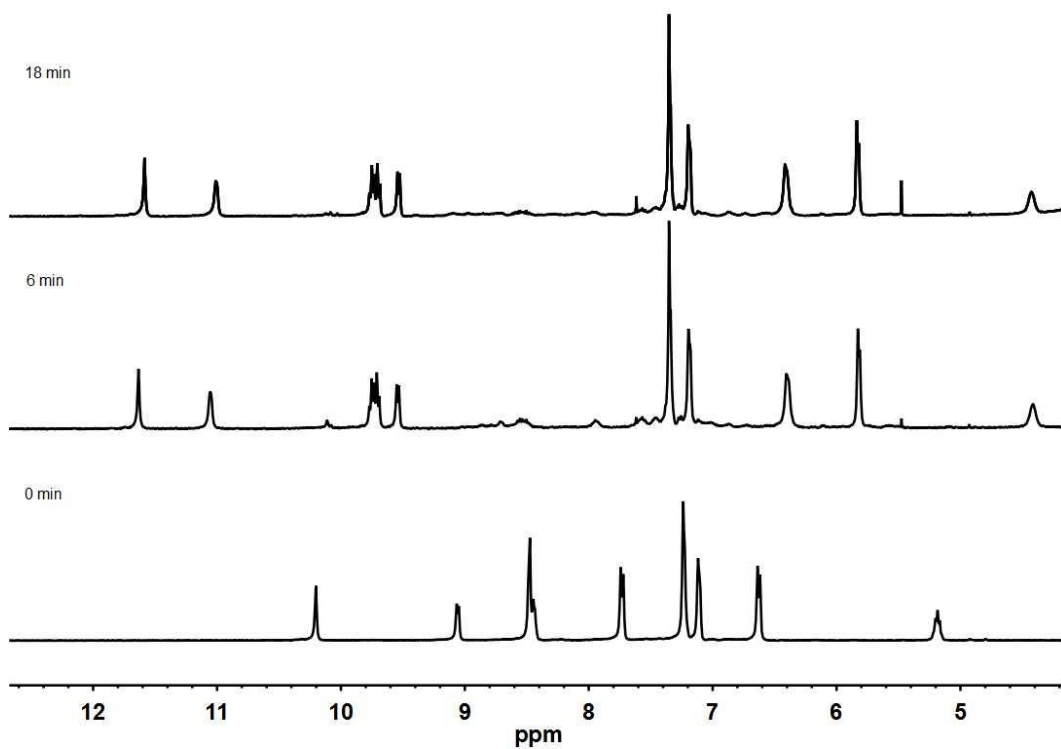


Supplementary Figure 202. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Eu^{III} toward $[\text{Pr}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (ClO_4^- counter-anion).

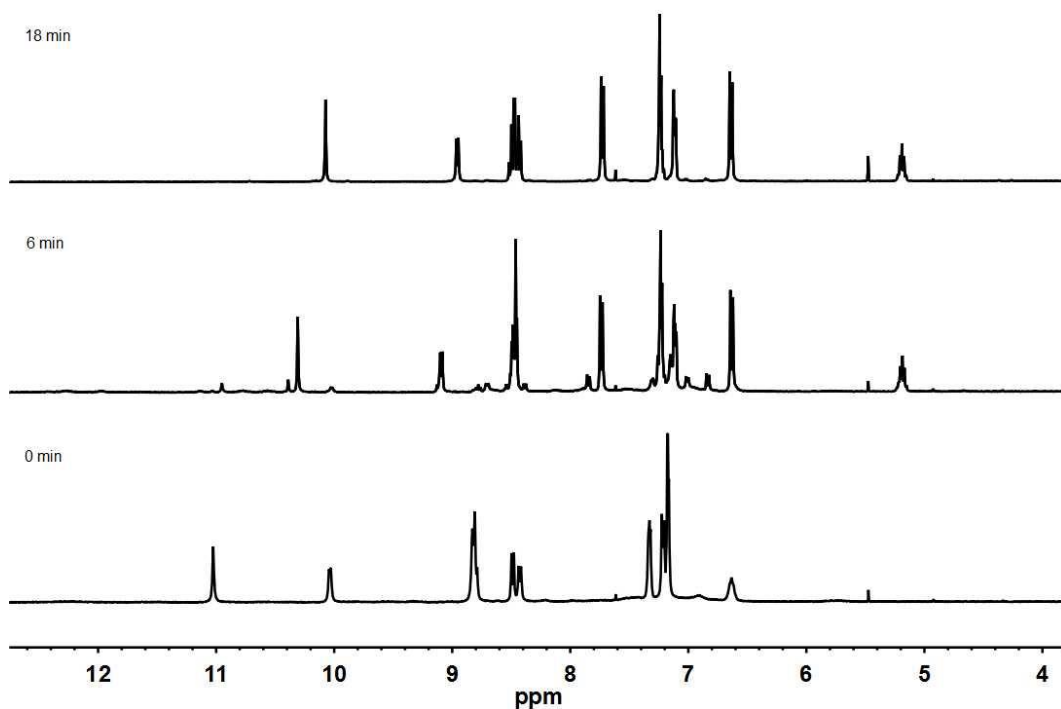


Supplementary Figure 203. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Y^{III} toward $[\text{La}_4\text{L}^1_4]^{12+}$ (ClO_4^- salt).

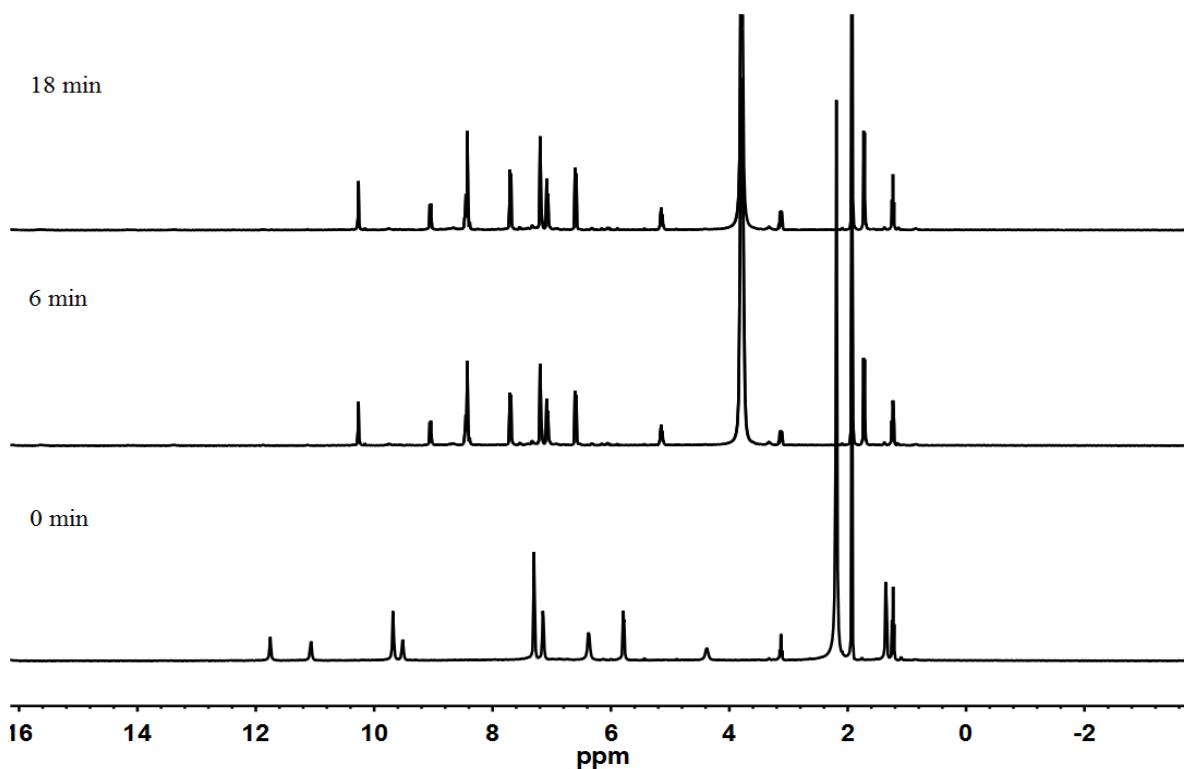
After addition of $\text{Y}(\text{ClO}_4)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($6.0 \mu\text{mol}$) to a solution of preformed La_4L^1_4 ($1.5 \mu\text{mol}$) in CD_3CN at room temperature, substitution of $\text{Pr}(\text{III})$ by $\text{Sm}(\text{III})$ was observed according to the ^1H NMR spectroscopy. The substitution process reached equilibrium in 30 min, resulting in exactly the same ^1H NMR spectrum was observed as that seen in the one-pot mix-metal self-assembly process.



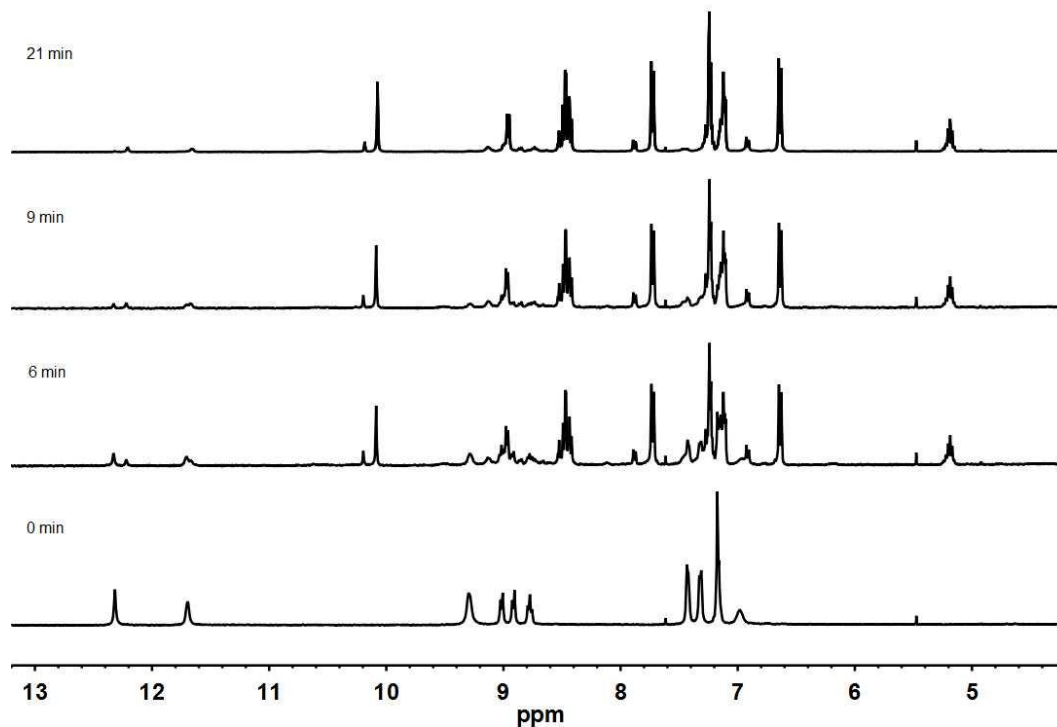
Supplementary Figure 204. ¹H NMR spectra (CD₃CN, 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Pr^{III} toward [La₂L₃]⁶⁺ (ClO₄⁻ salt).



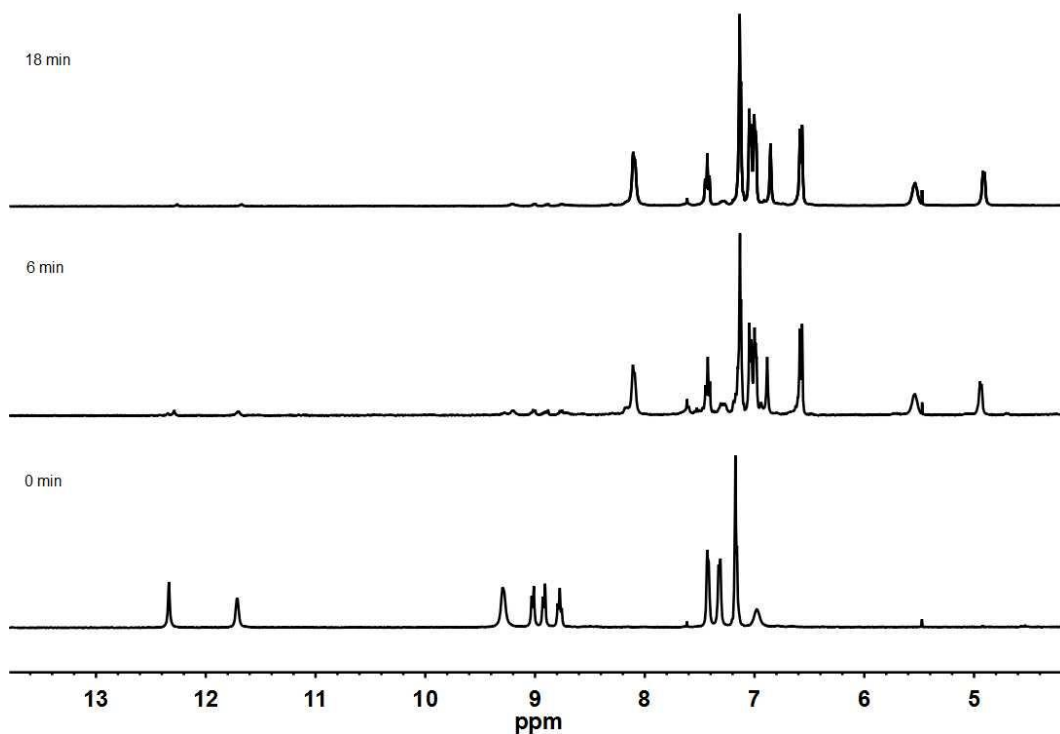
Supplementary Figure 205. ¹H NMR spectra (CD₃CN, 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Sm^{III} toward [Ce₂L₃]⁶⁺ (ClO₄⁻ salt).



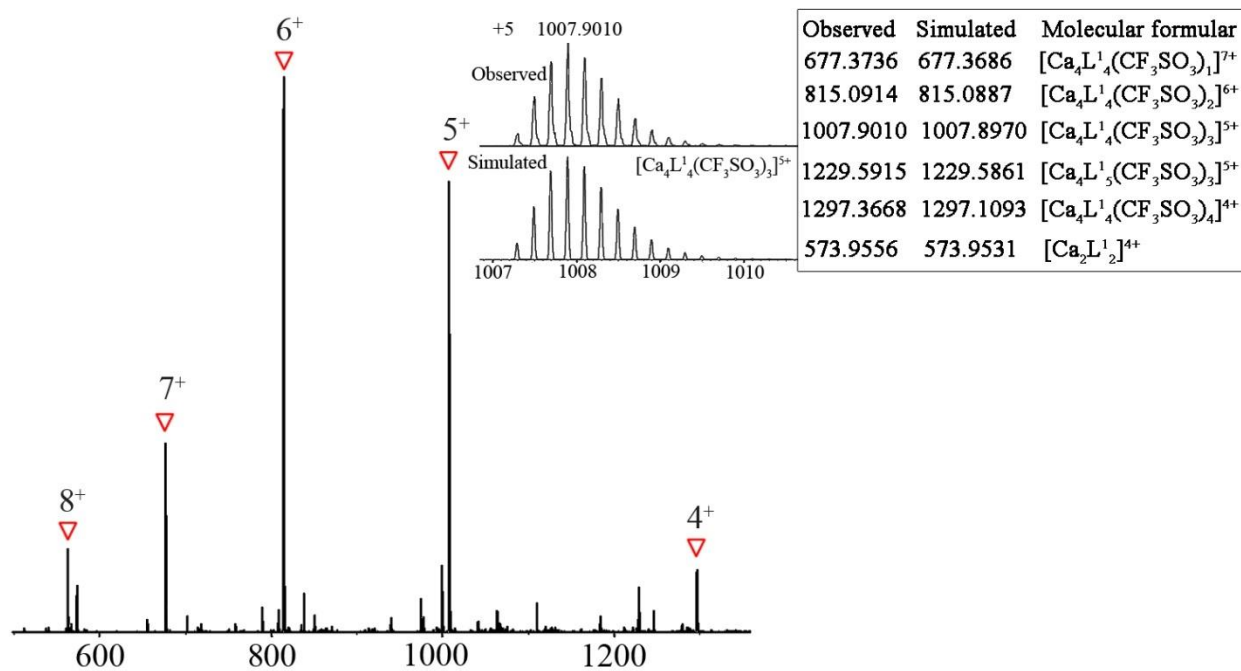
Supplementary Figure 206. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Sm^{III} toward $[\text{Pr}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (ClO_4^- salt). The post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Sm^{III} toward $[\text{Pr}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ was performed in the similar method as above and the reaction system reached equilibrium in just 6 min.



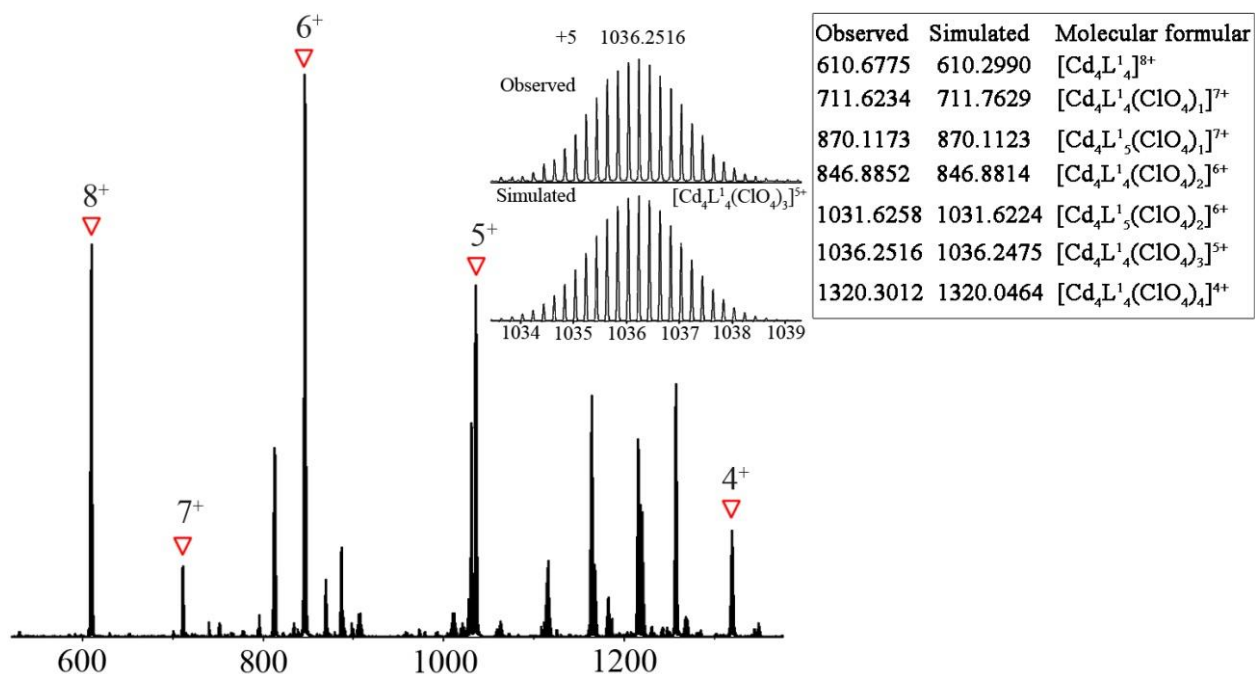
Supplementary Figure 207. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Sm^{III} toward $[\text{Nd}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (ClO_4^- salt).



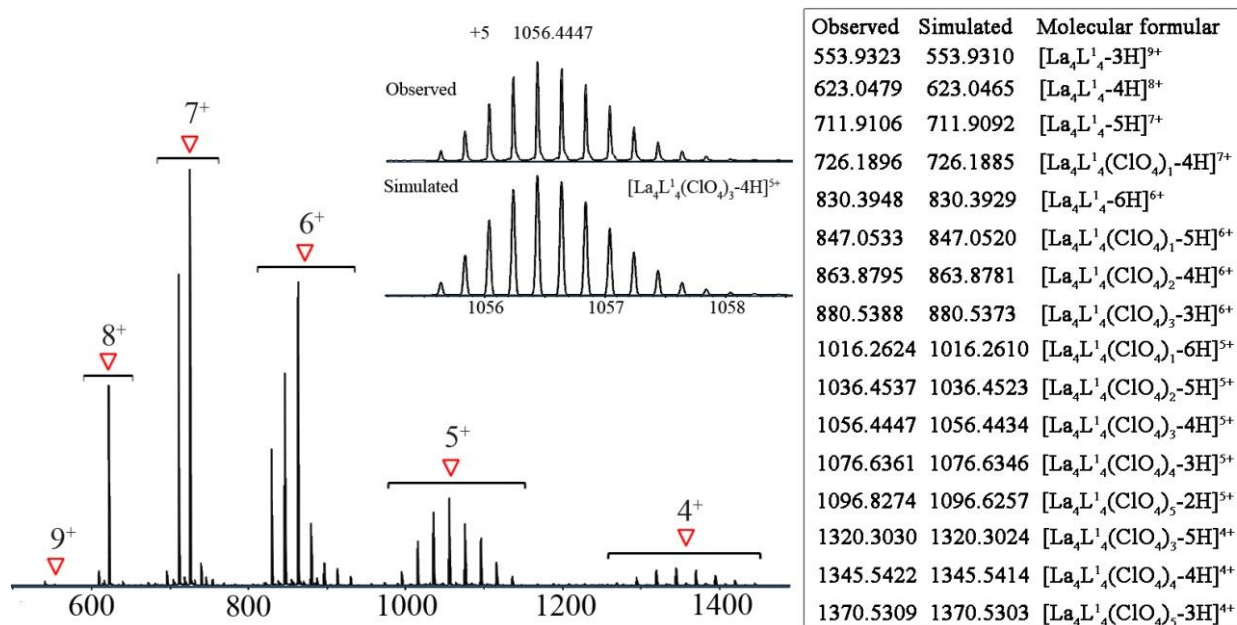
Supplementary Figure 208. ^1H NMR spectra (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) for the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Eu^{III} toward $[\text{Nd}_2\text{L}_3]^{6+}$ (ClO_4^- salt).



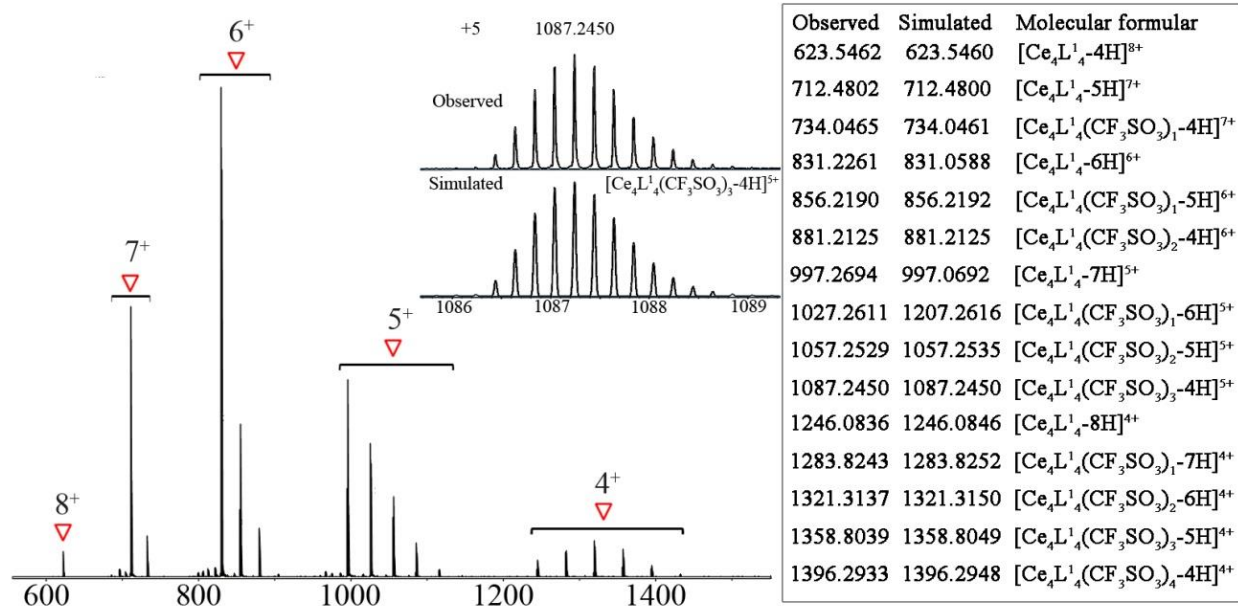
Supplementary Figure 209. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Ca}_4\text{L}^{1\text{S}}_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_8$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



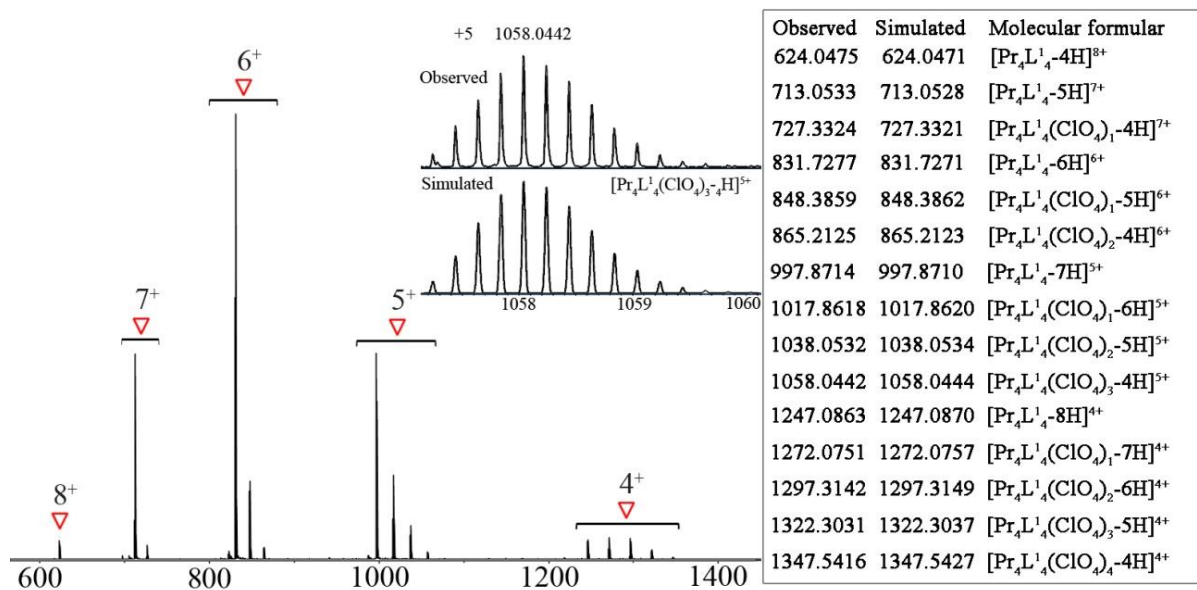
Supplementary Figure 210. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Cd}_4\text{L}^{18}_4](\text{ClO}_4)_8$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



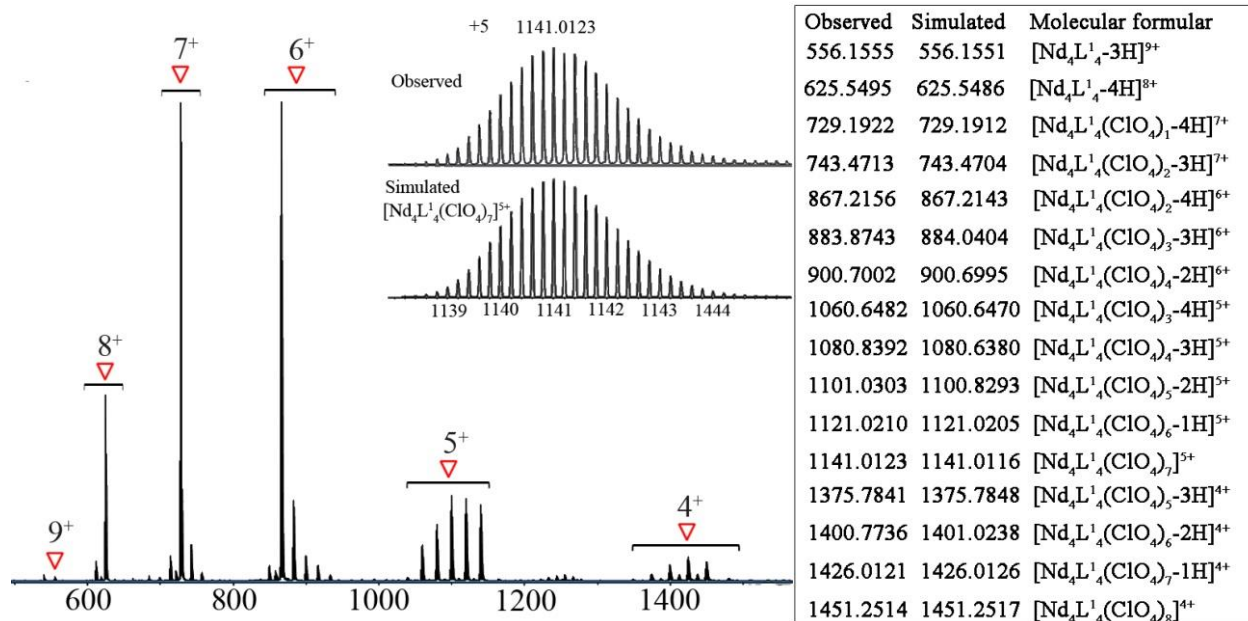
Supplementary Figure 211. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}^{18}_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



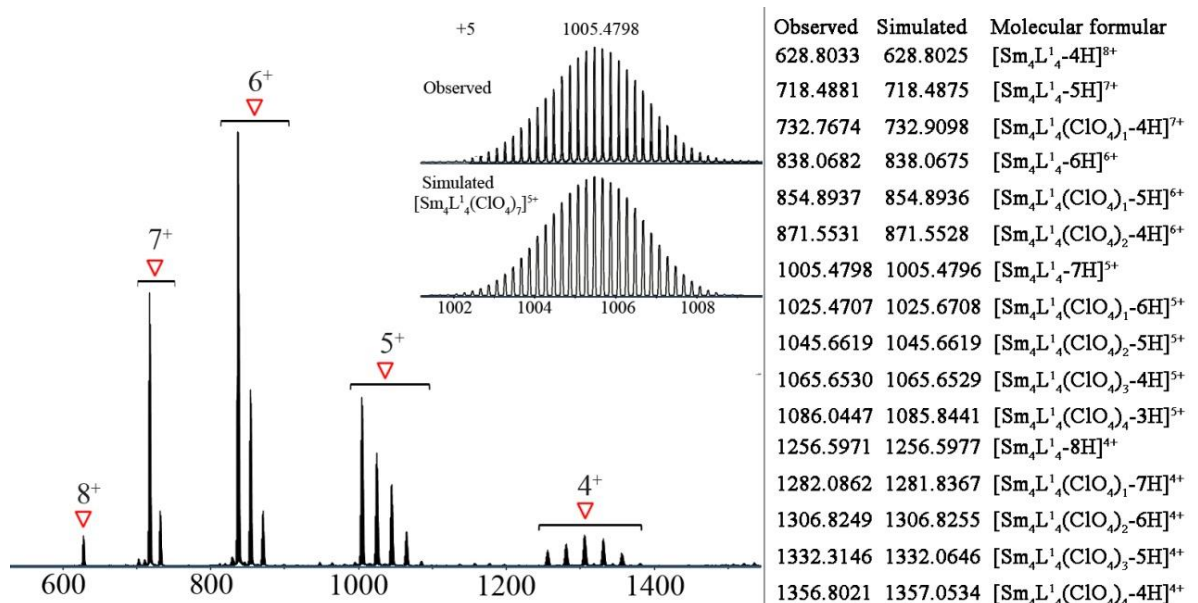
Supplementary Figure 212. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Ce₄L^{1S}₄](CF₃SO₃)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



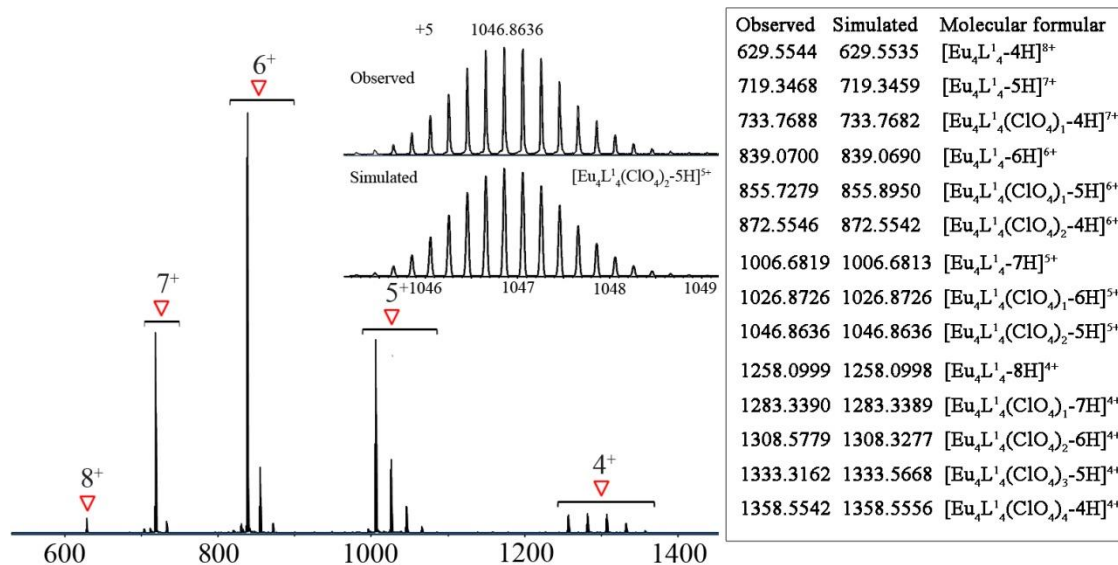
Supplementary Figure 213. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Pr₄L^{1S}₄](ClO₄)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



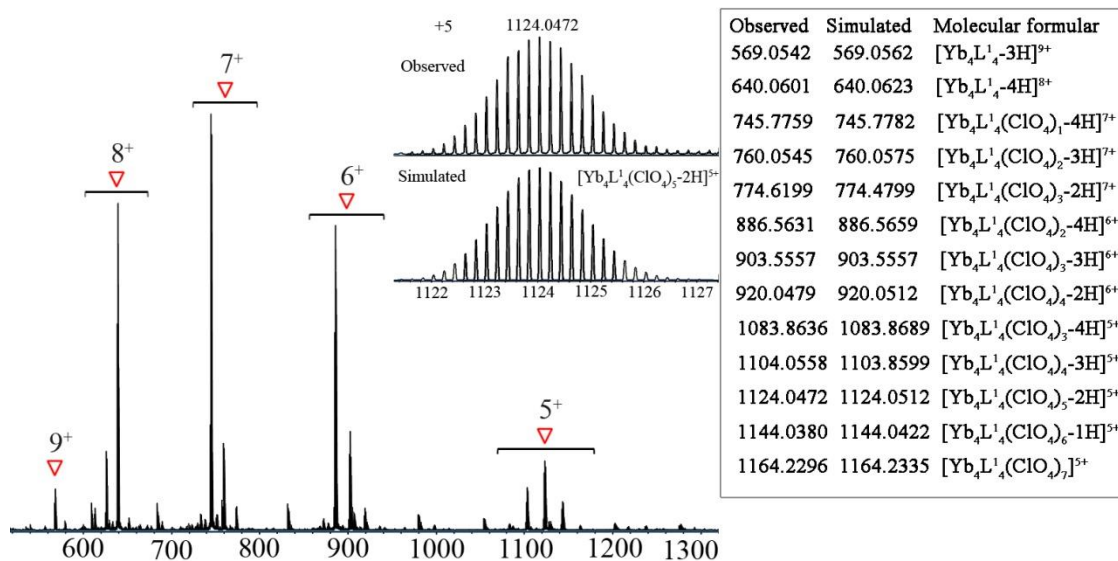
Supplementary Figure 214. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Nd₄L^{1S}₄](ClO₄)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



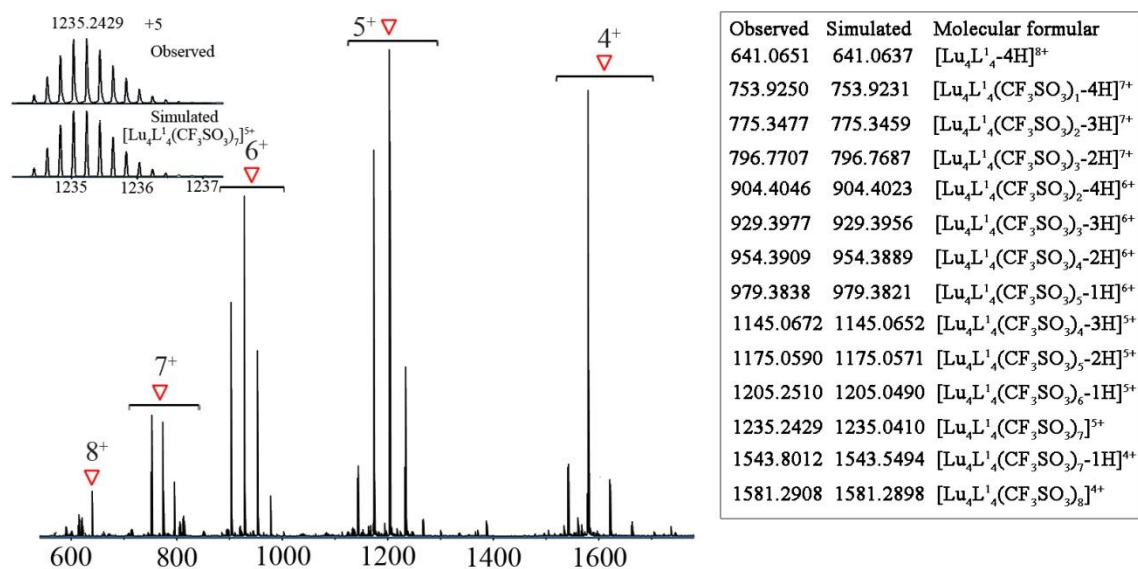
Supplementary Figure 215. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Sm₄L^{1S}₄](ClO₄)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



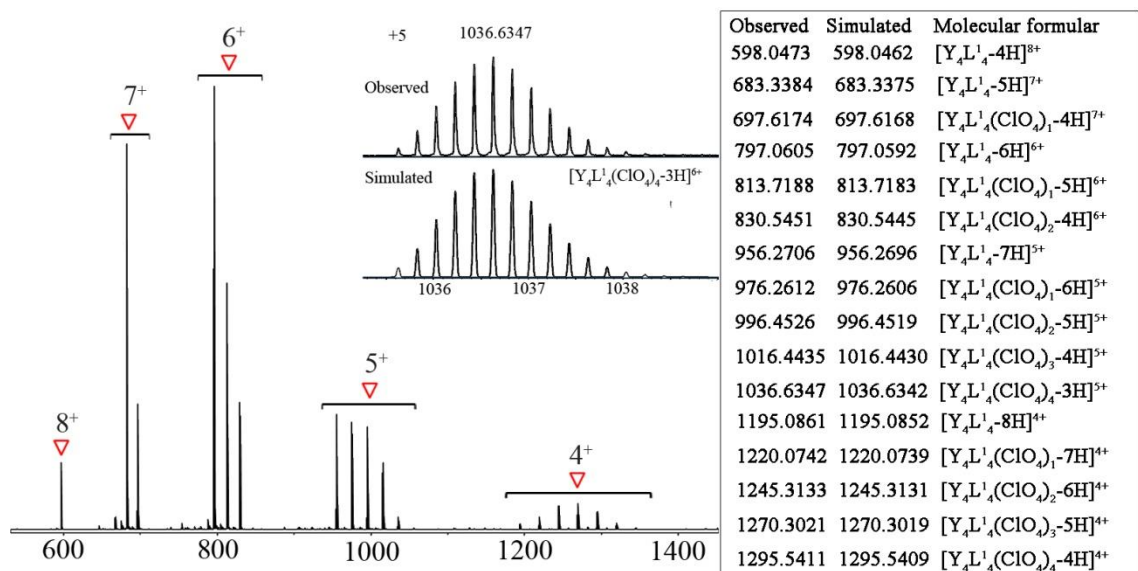
Supplementary Figure 216. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Eu₄L¹⁵₄](ClO₄)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



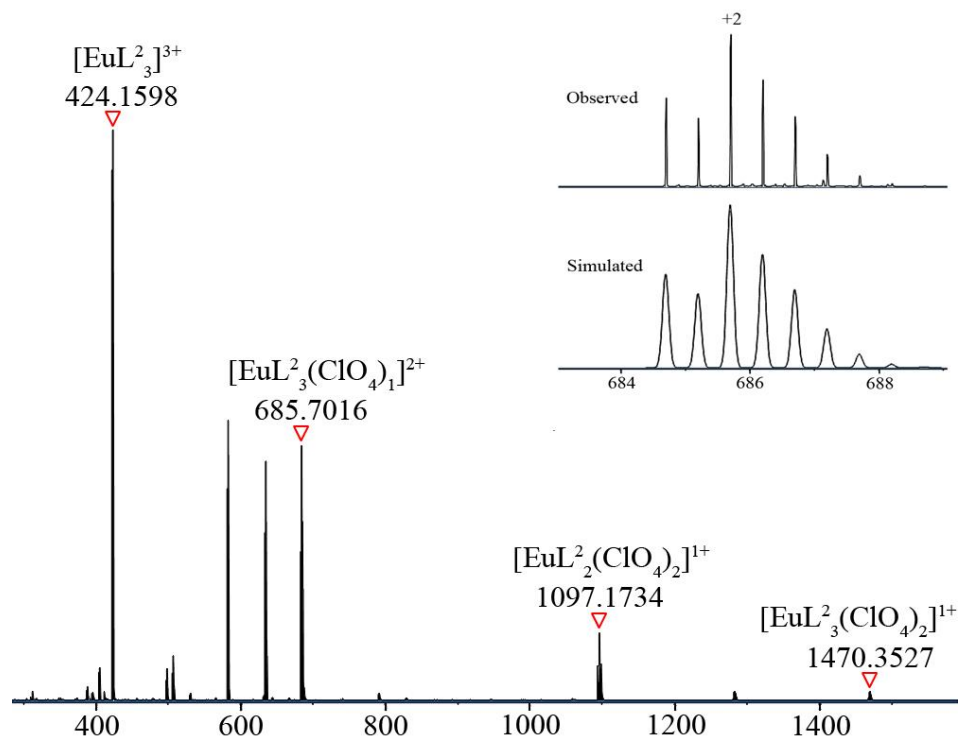
Supplementary Figure 217. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Yb₄L¹⁵₄](ClO₄)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



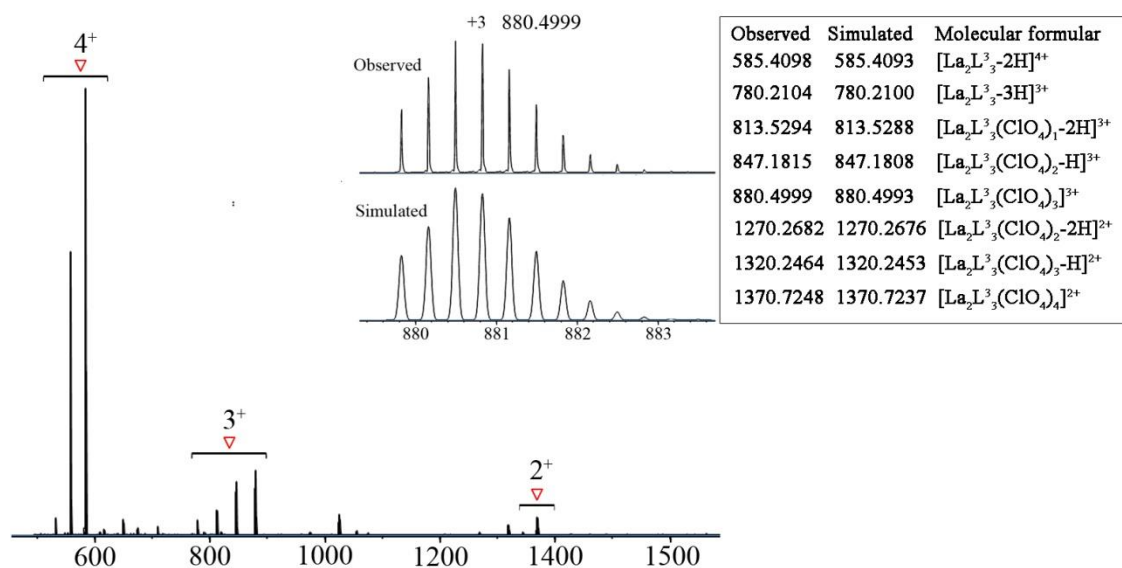
Supplementary Figure 218. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Lu}_4\text{L}^{1\text{S}}_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



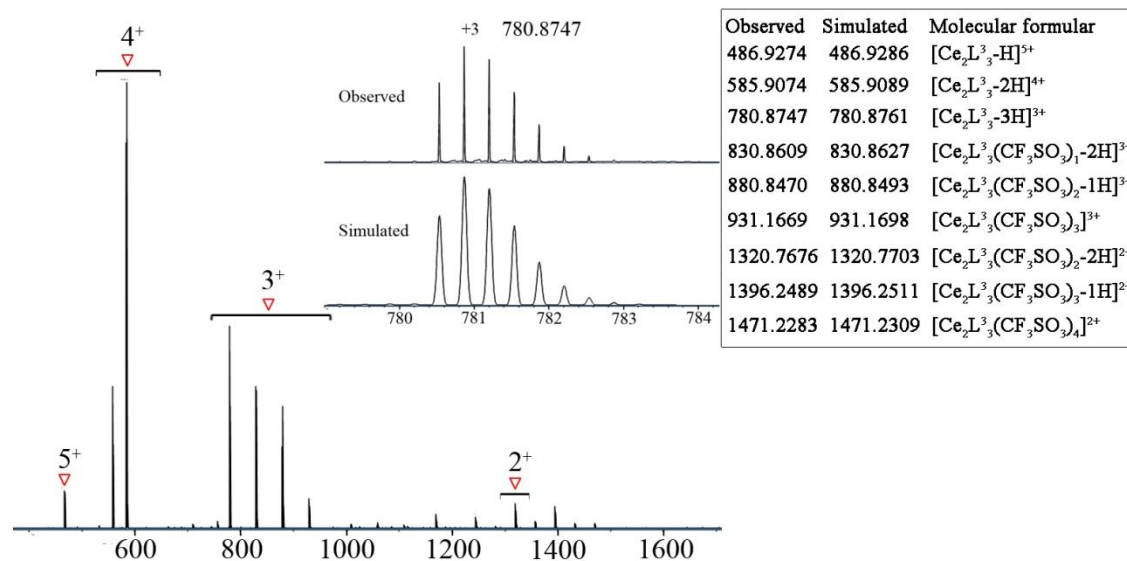
Supplementary Figure 219. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Y}_4\text{L}^{1\text{S}}_4](\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



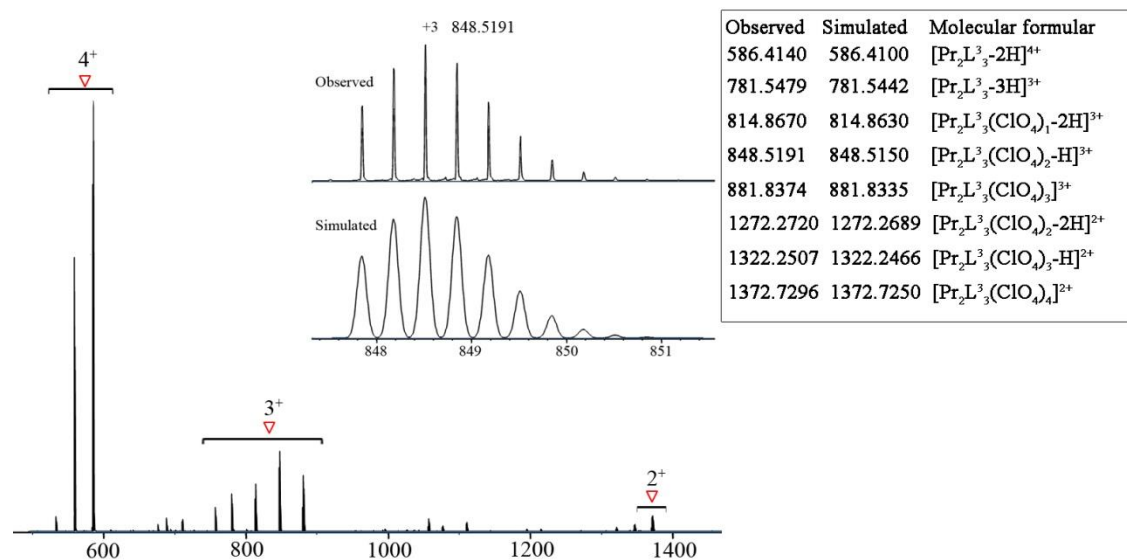
Supplementary Figure 220. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Eu}_1\text{L}^{2\text{S}}_3](\text{ClO}_4)_3$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +2 peaks.



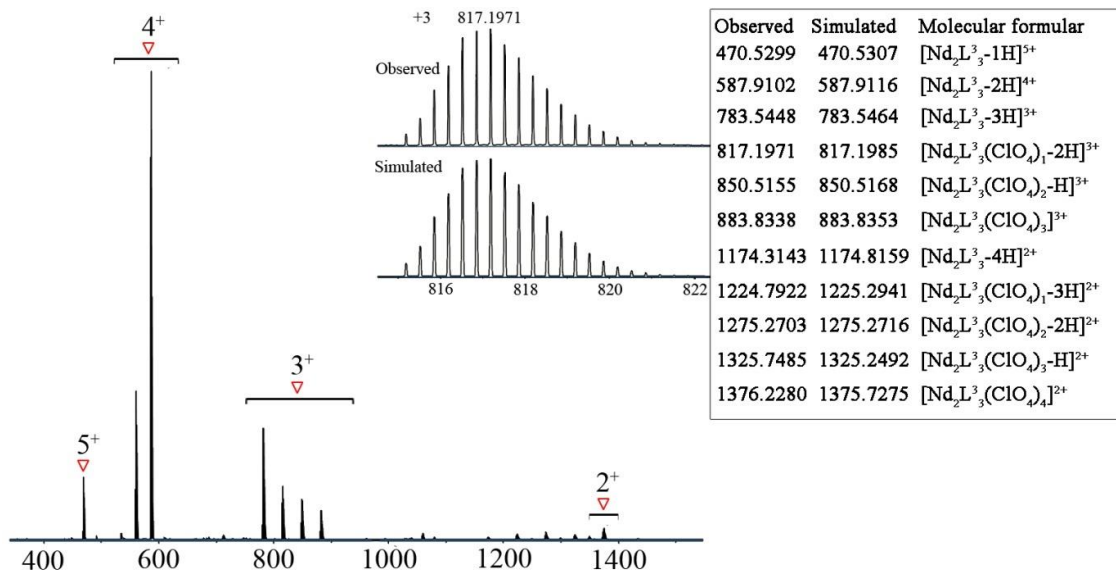
Supplementary Figure 221. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{La}_2\text{L}^{3\text{S}}_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



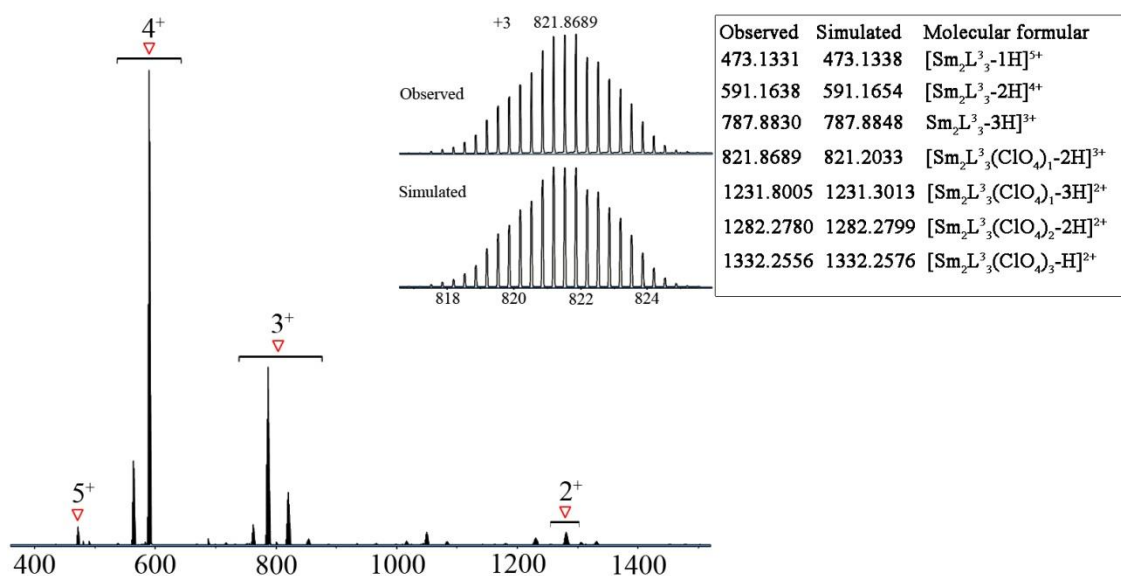
Supplementary Figure 222. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Ce₂L^{3S}]₃(CF₃SO₃)₆ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



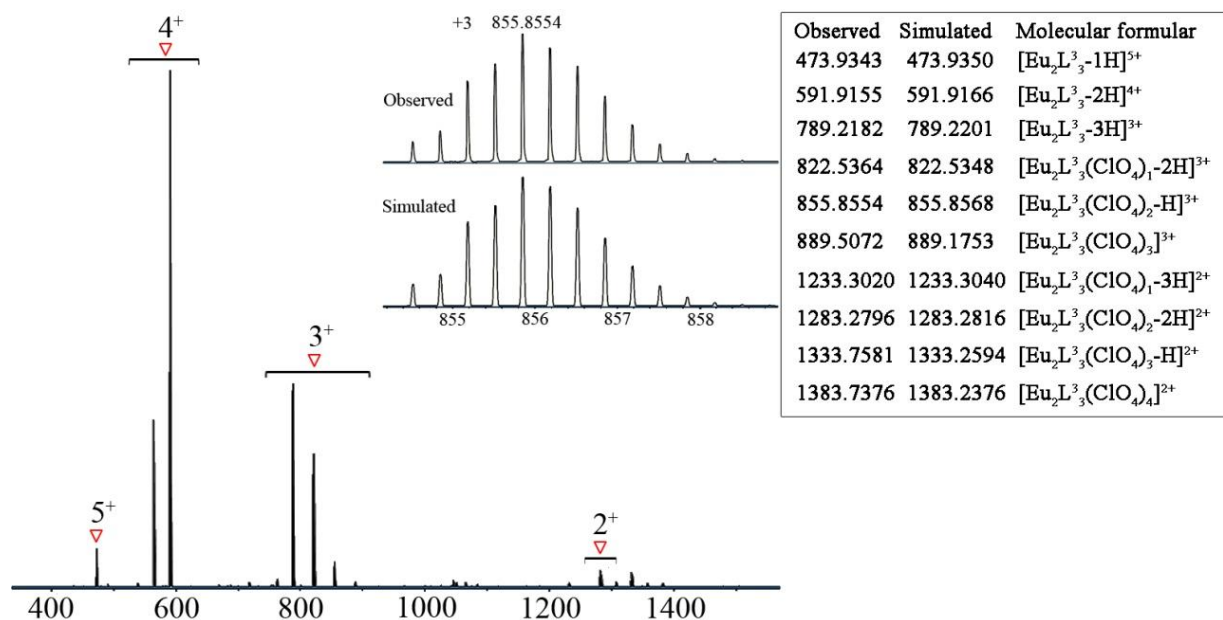
Supplementary Figure 223. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Pr₂L^{3S}]₃(ClO₄)₆ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



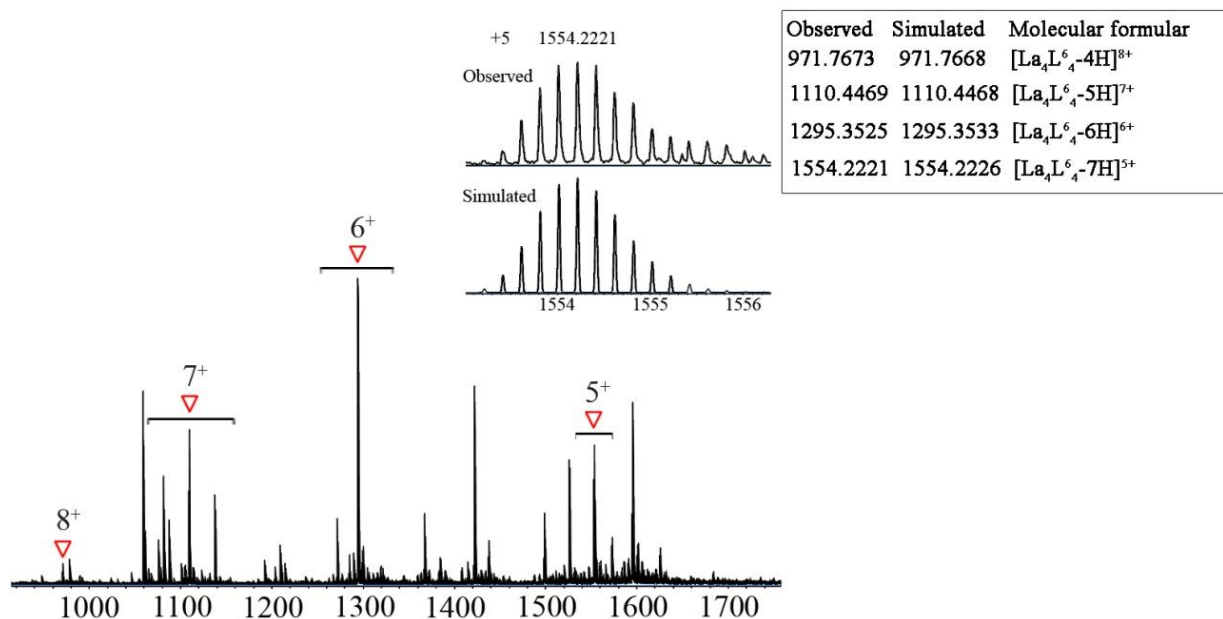
Supplementary Figure 224. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Nd}_2\text{L}_3]^{3+}(\text{ClO}_4)_6$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



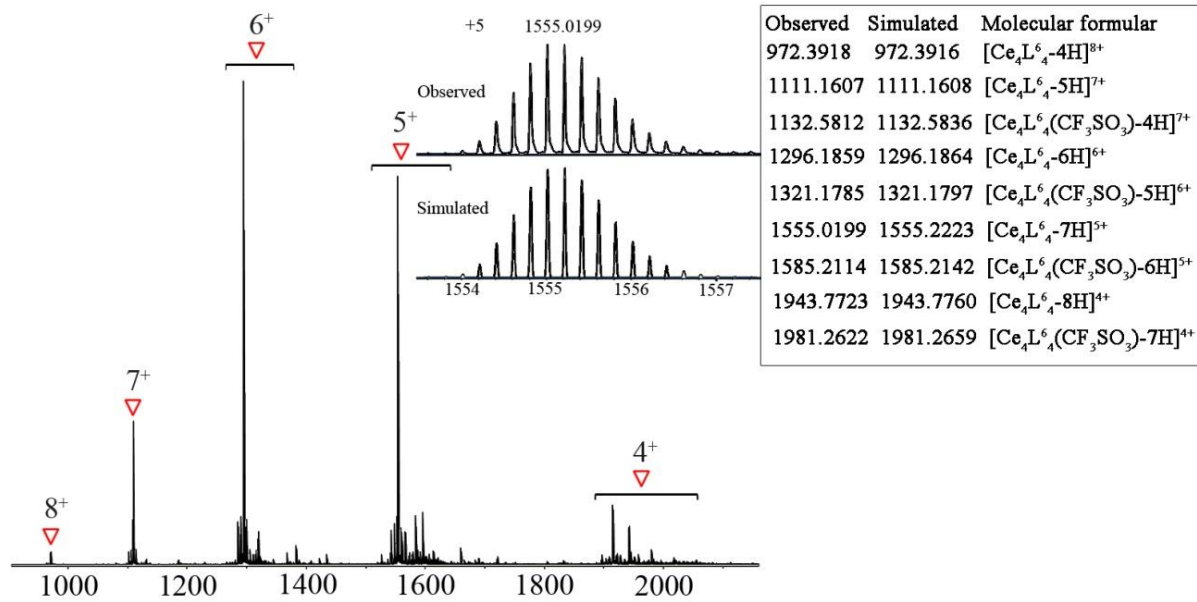
Supplementary Figure 225. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Sm}_2\text{L}_3]^{3+}(\text{ClO}_4)_6$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



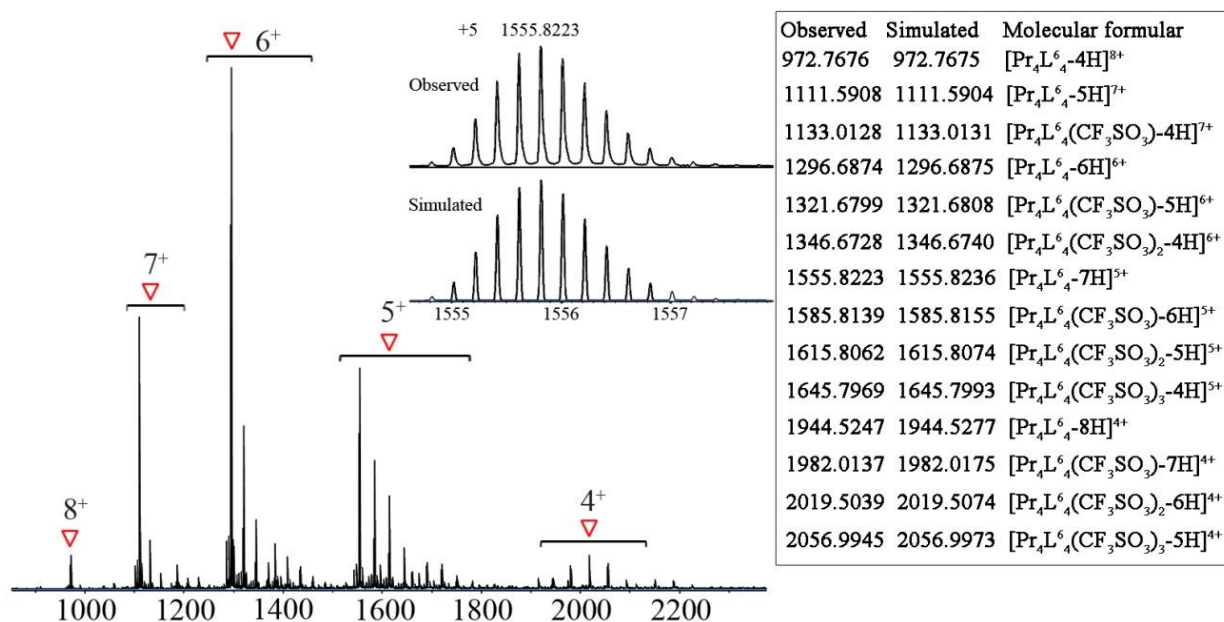
Supplementary Figure 226. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Eu}_2\text{L}^{3\text{S}}_3](\text{ClO}_4)_6$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



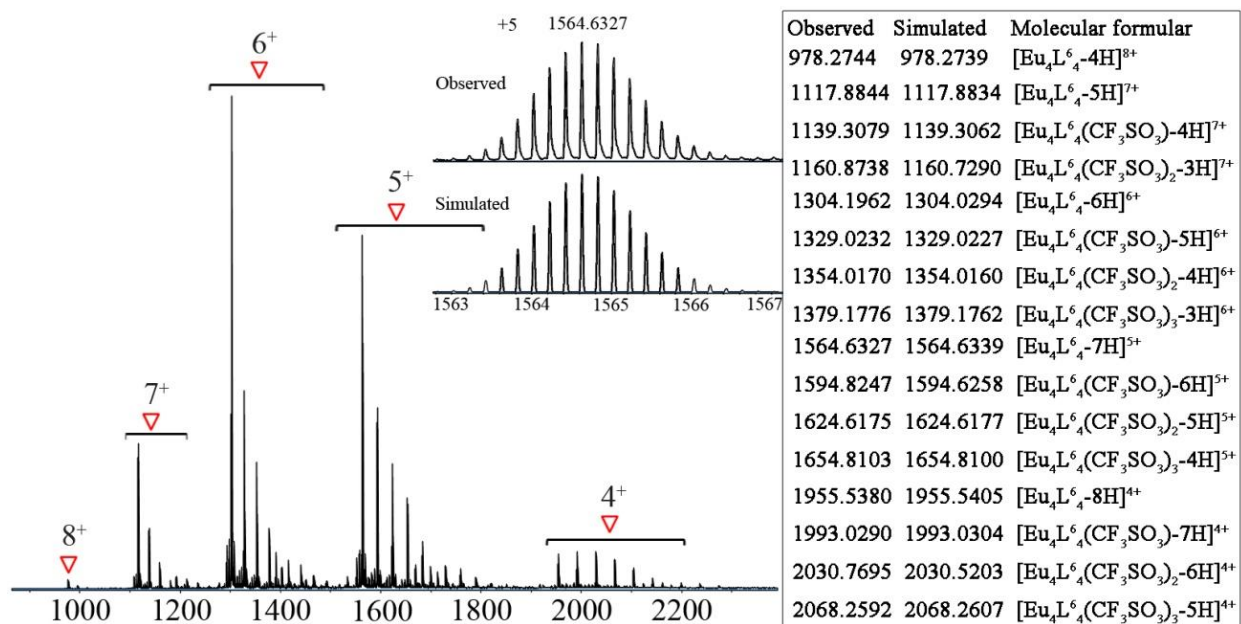
Supplementary Figure 227. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{La}_4\text{L}^6_4](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



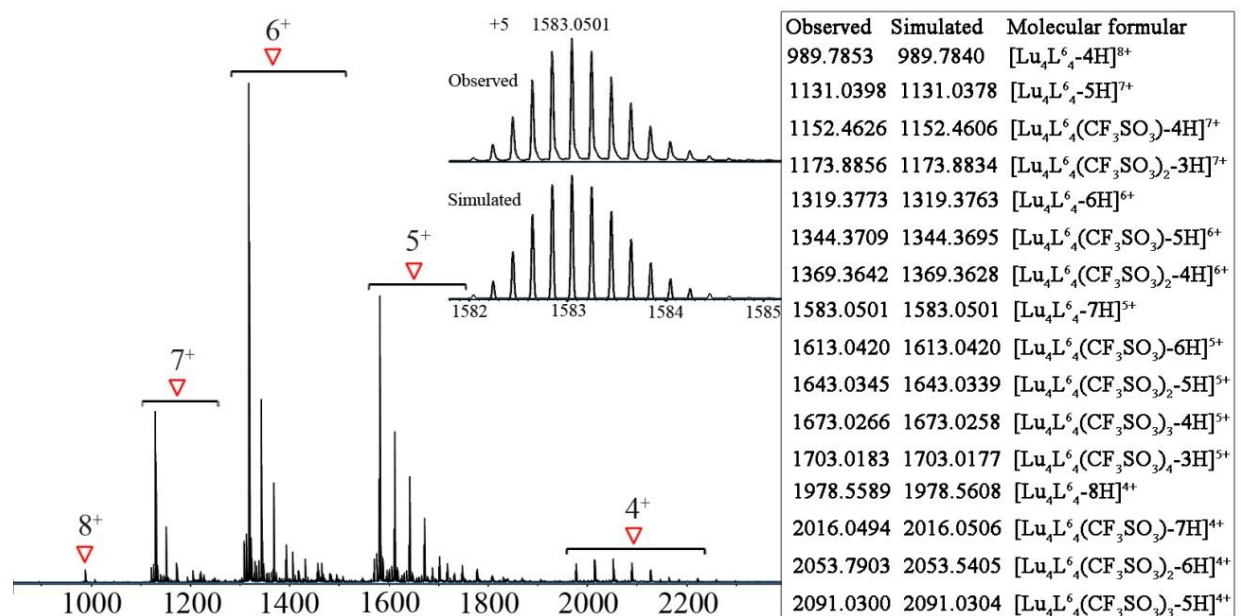
Supplementary Figure 228. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Ce}_4\text{L}_4^6](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



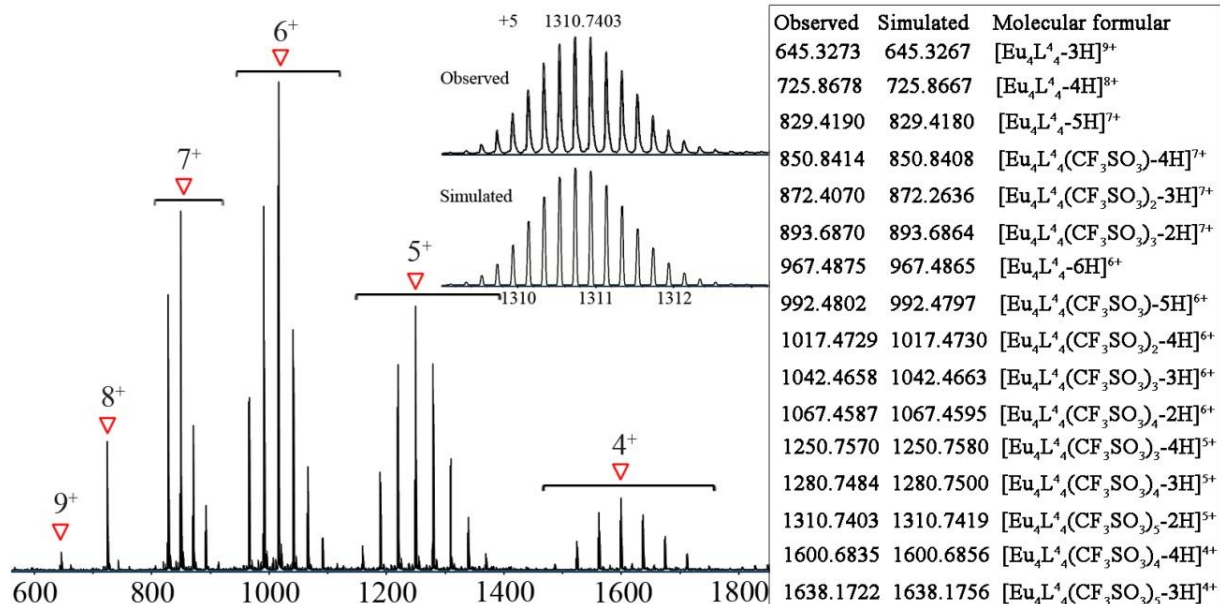
Supplementary Figure 229. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $[\text{Pr}_4\text{L}_4^6](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_{12}$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



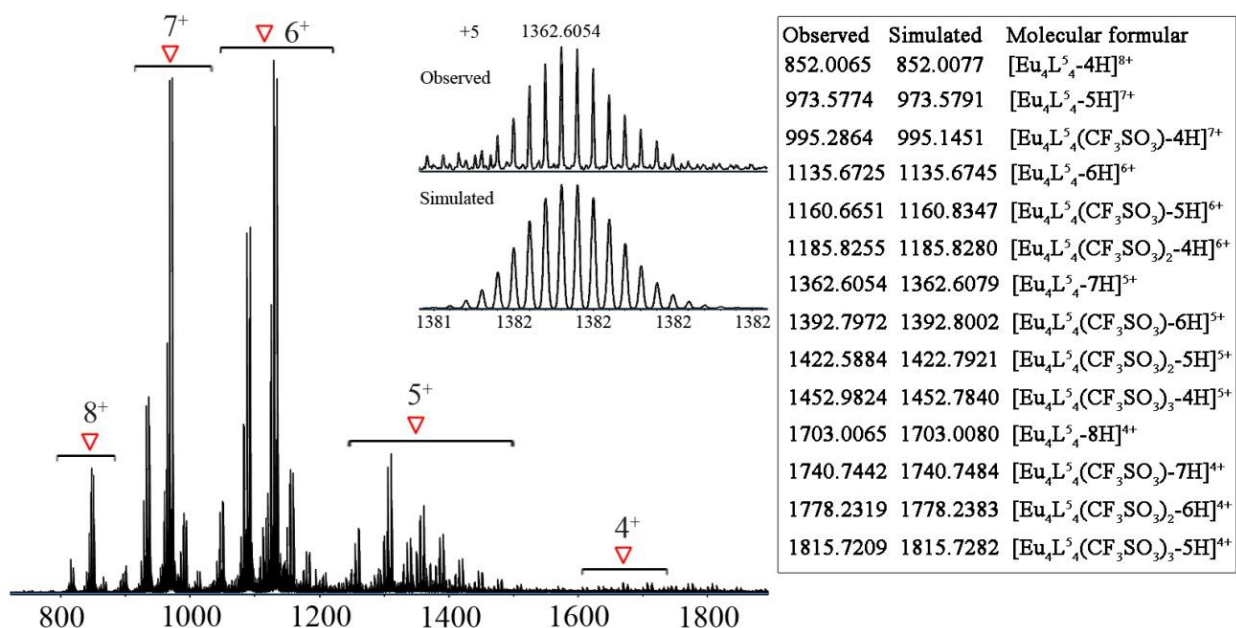
Supplementary Figure 230. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Eu₄L₄⁶](CF₃SO₃)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



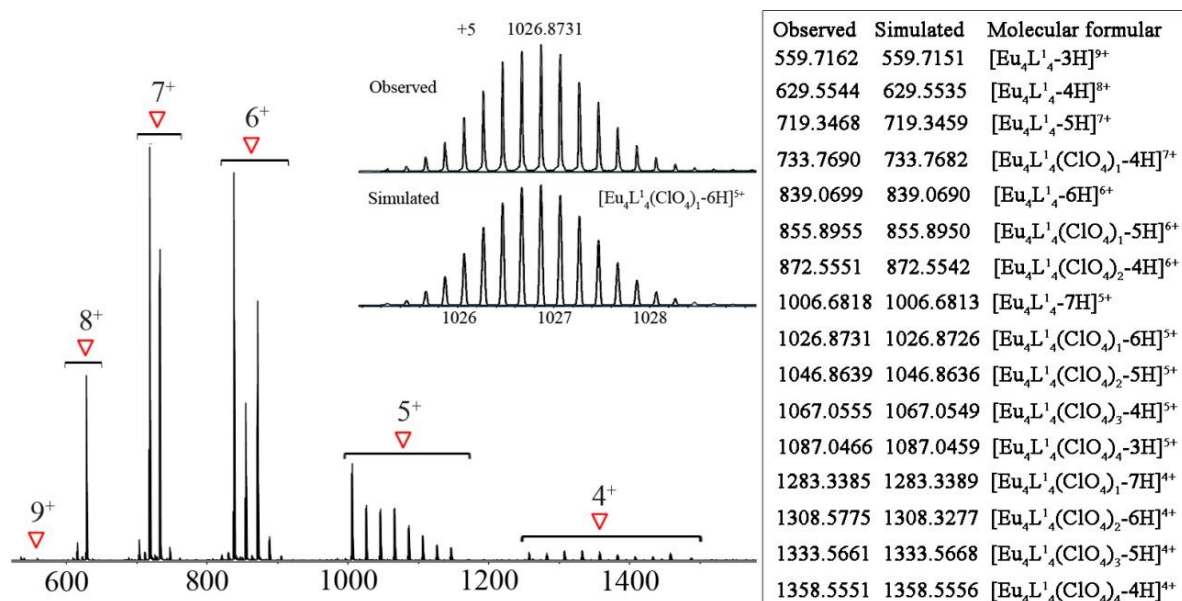
Supplementary Figure 231. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Lu₄L₄⁶](CF₃SO₃)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



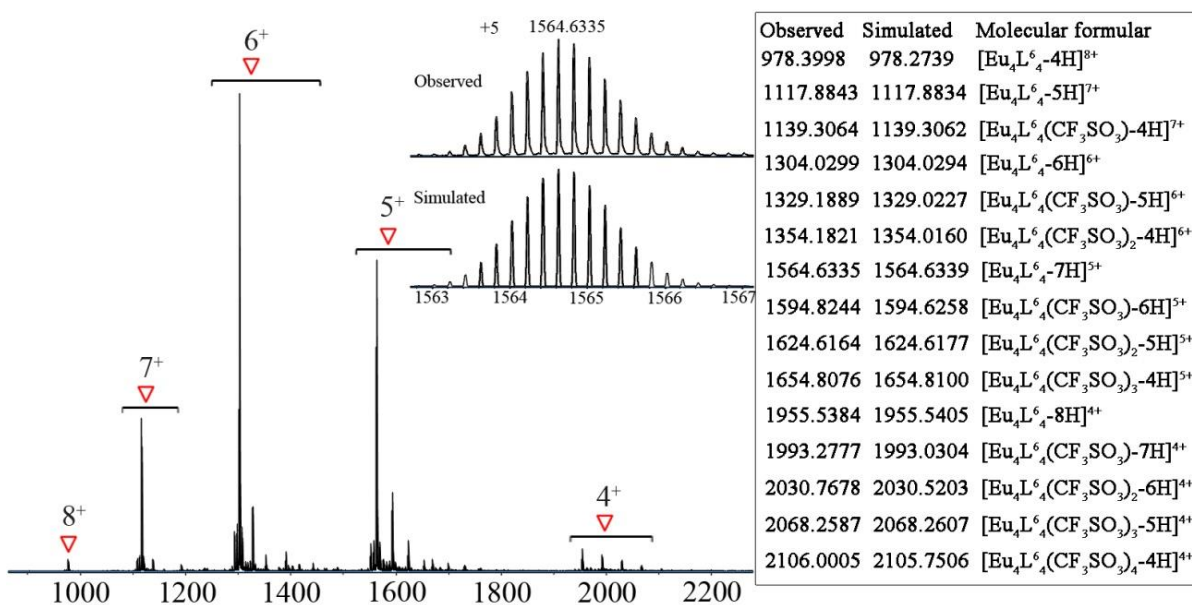
Supplementary Figure 232. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Eu₄L₄](CF₃SO₃)₁₂ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



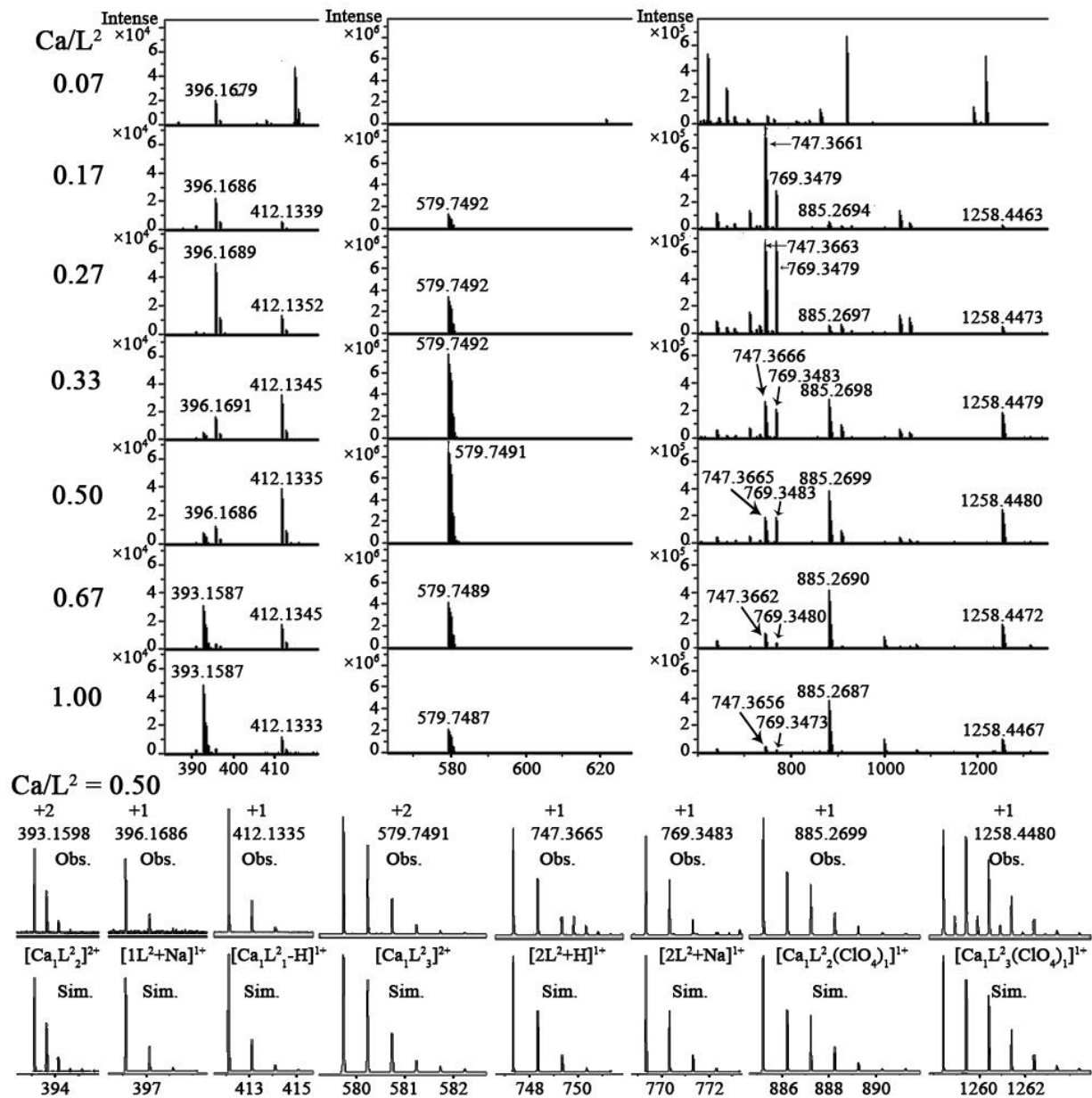
Supplementary Figure 233. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for [Eu₄L₅](CF₃SO₃)₁₂ along with signals created by rupture of alkyl groups, with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



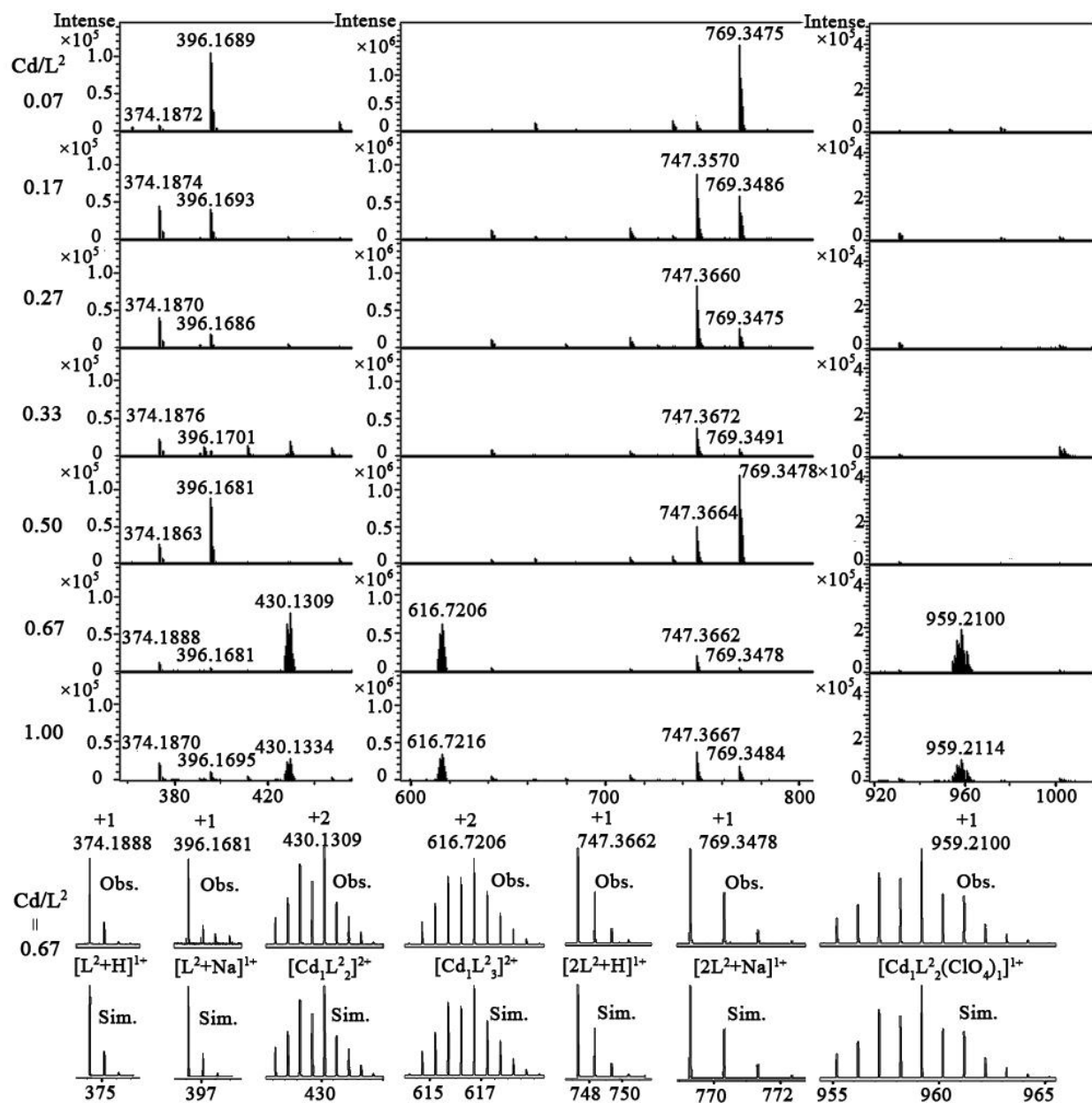
Supplementary Figure 234. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for titration of **L**¹ (0.002M) with Eu(ClO₄)₃ H₂O when R_{EuIII/L1}=5 with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



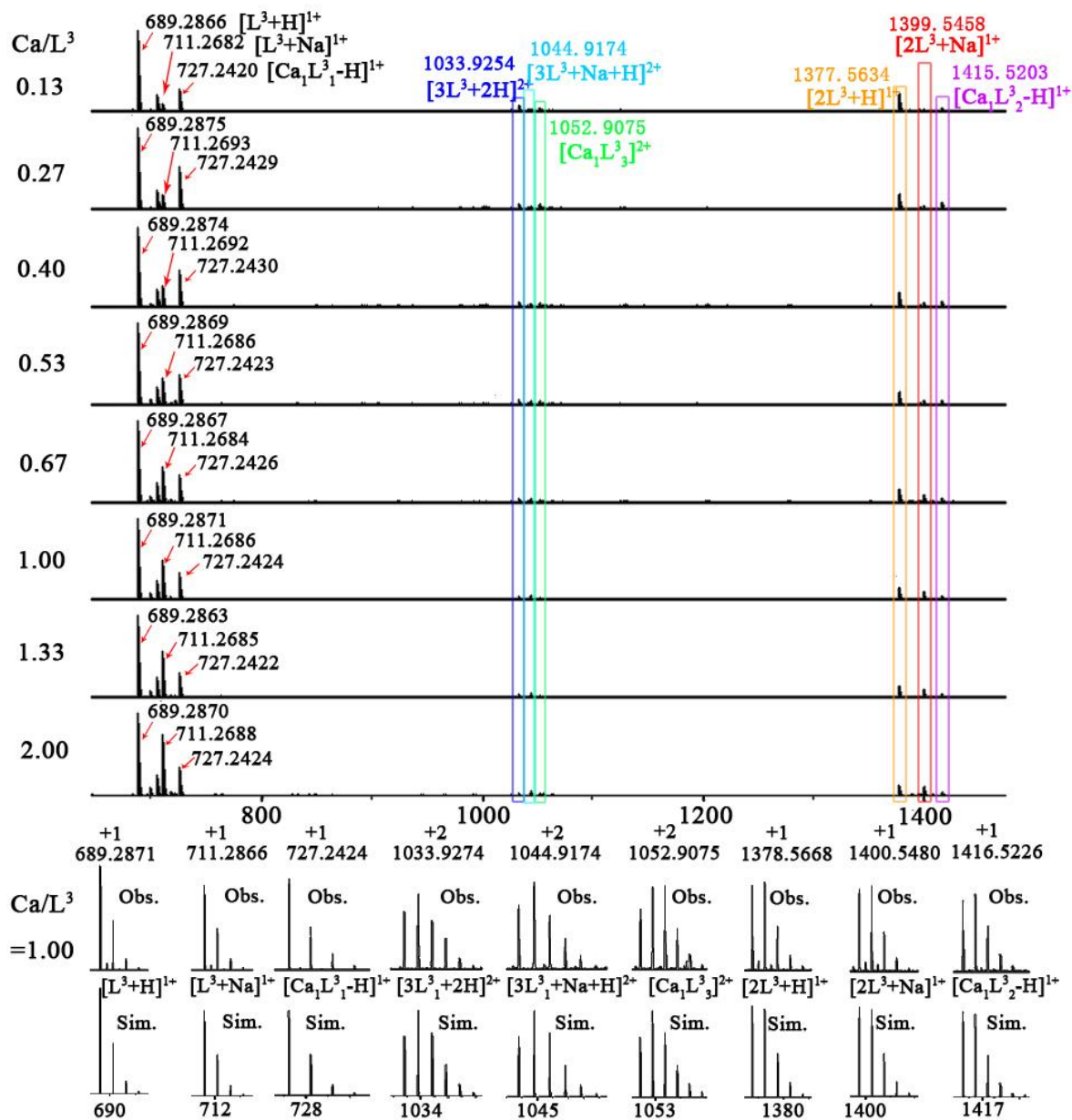
Supplementary Figure 235. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for titration of **L**⁶ with Eu(ClO₄)₃ H₂O when R_{EuIII/L6}=5 with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



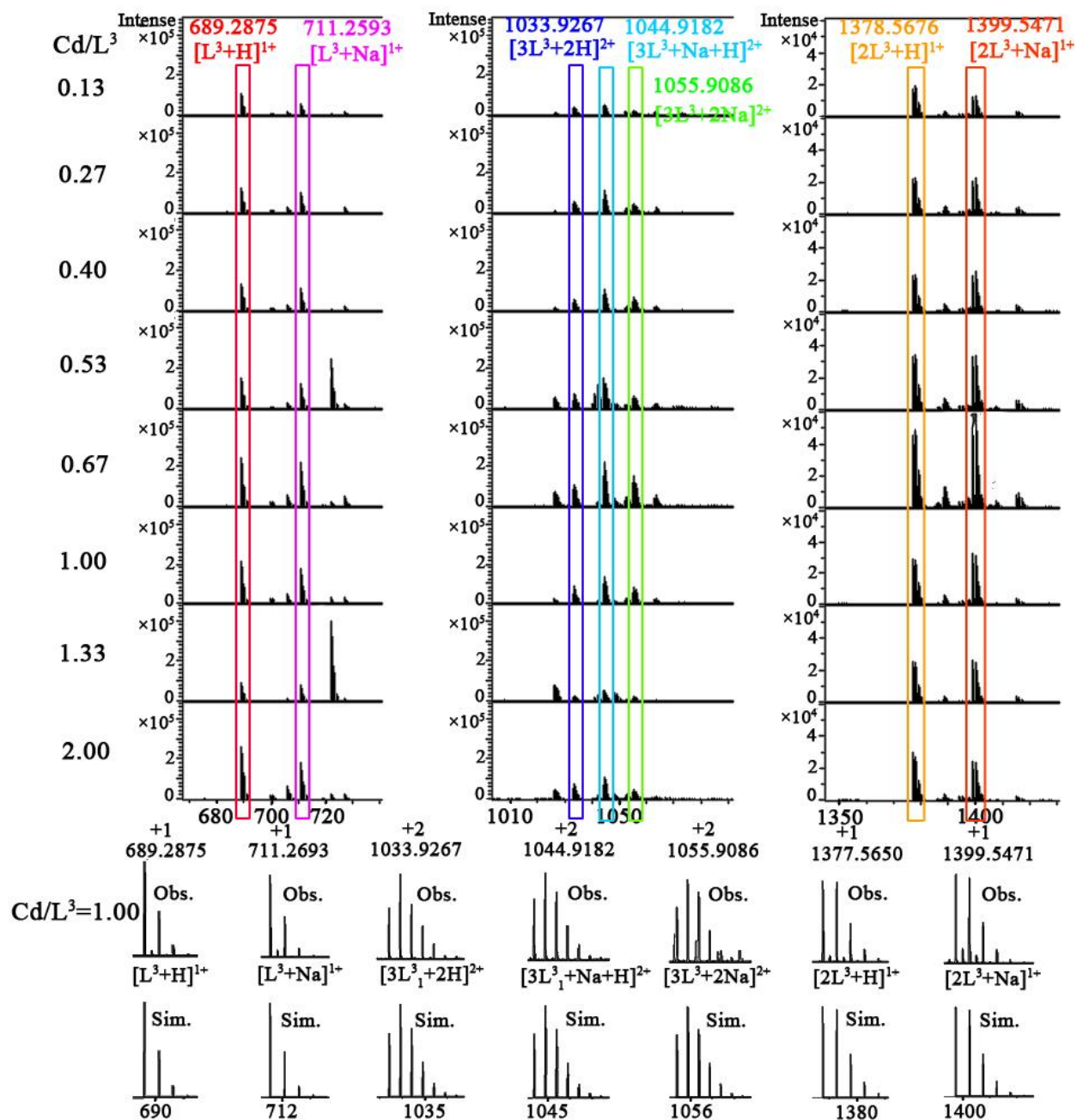
Supplementary Figure 236. ESI-TOF-MS spectra for titration of L^2 with $Ca(ClO_4)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$ when $R_{Ca/L^2} = 0.07$ -1.00 with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the observed peaks.



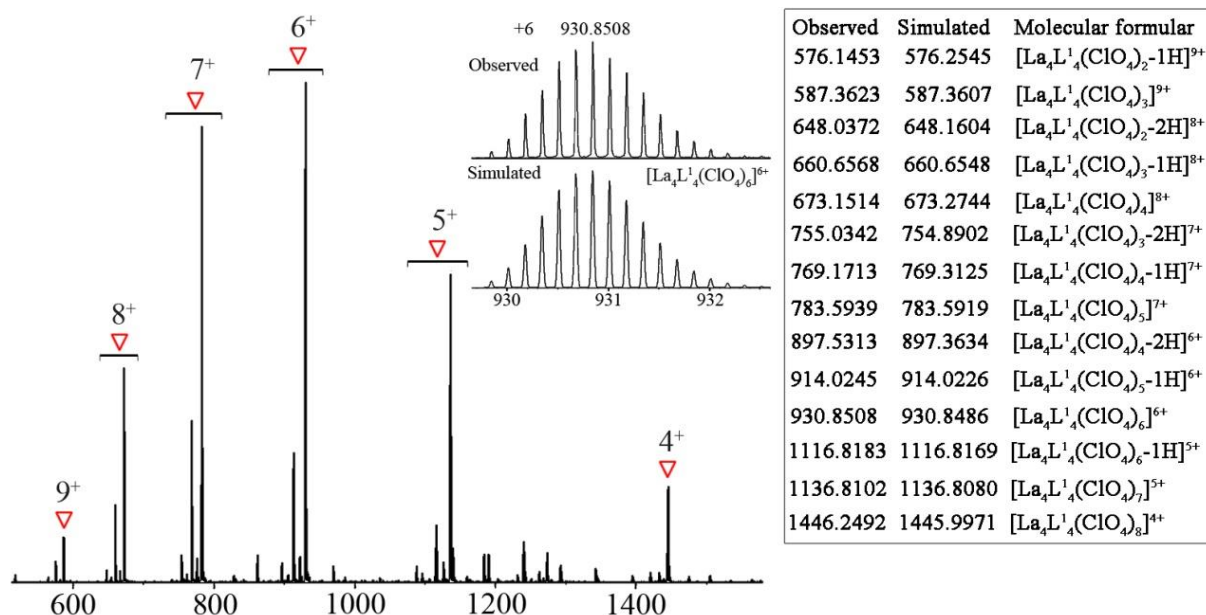
Supplementary Figure 237. ESI-TOF-MS spectra for titration of L^2 with $Cd(ClO_4)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ when $R_{Cd/L^2} = 0.07-1.00$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the observed peaks.



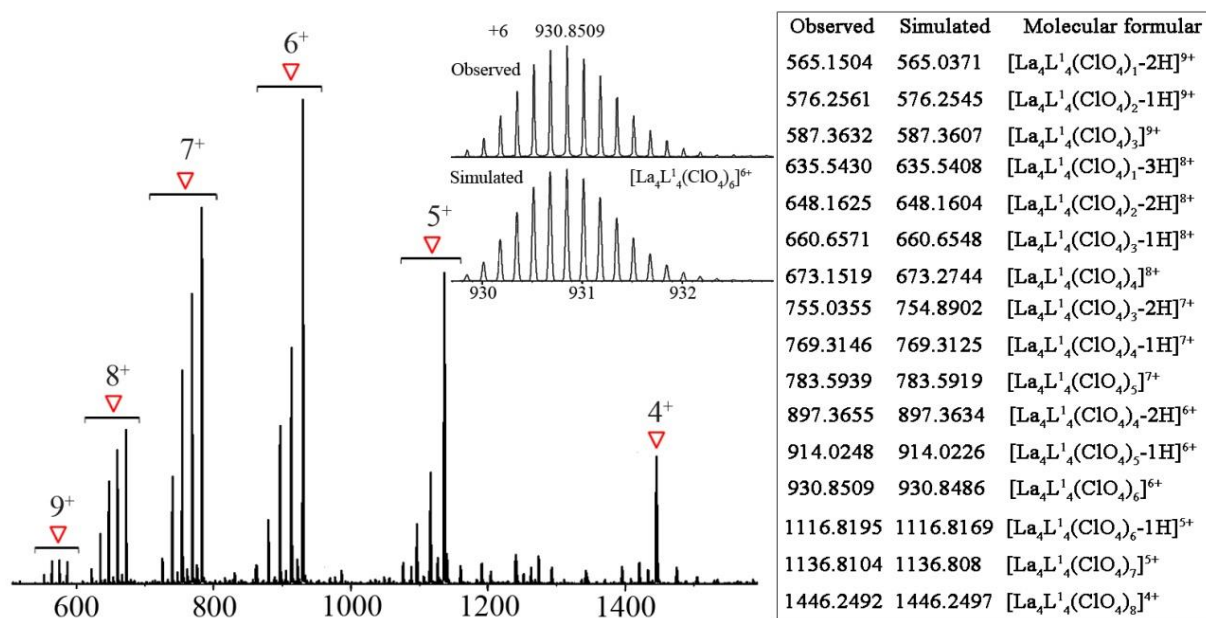
Supplementary Figure 238. ESI-TOF-MS spectra for titration of L³ with Ca(ClO₄)₂ 4H₂O when R_{Ca/L³} = 0.13-2.00 with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the observed peaks.



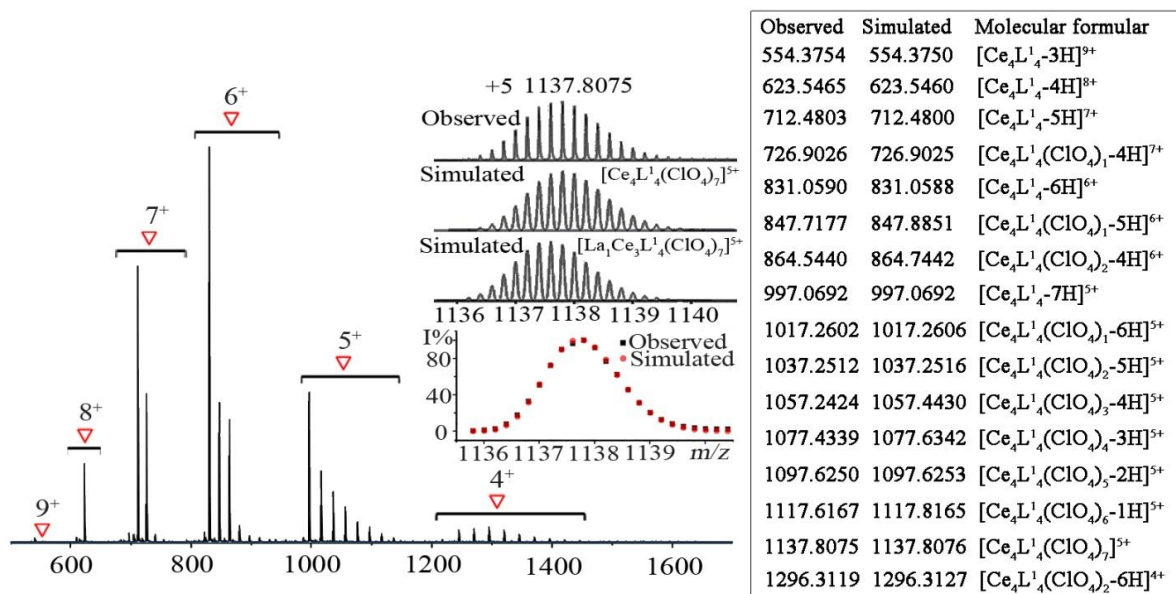
Supplementary Figure 239. ESI-TOF-MS spectra for titration of L^3 with $Cd(ClO_4)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ when $R_{Cd/L^3} = 0.13-2.00$ with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the observed peaks.



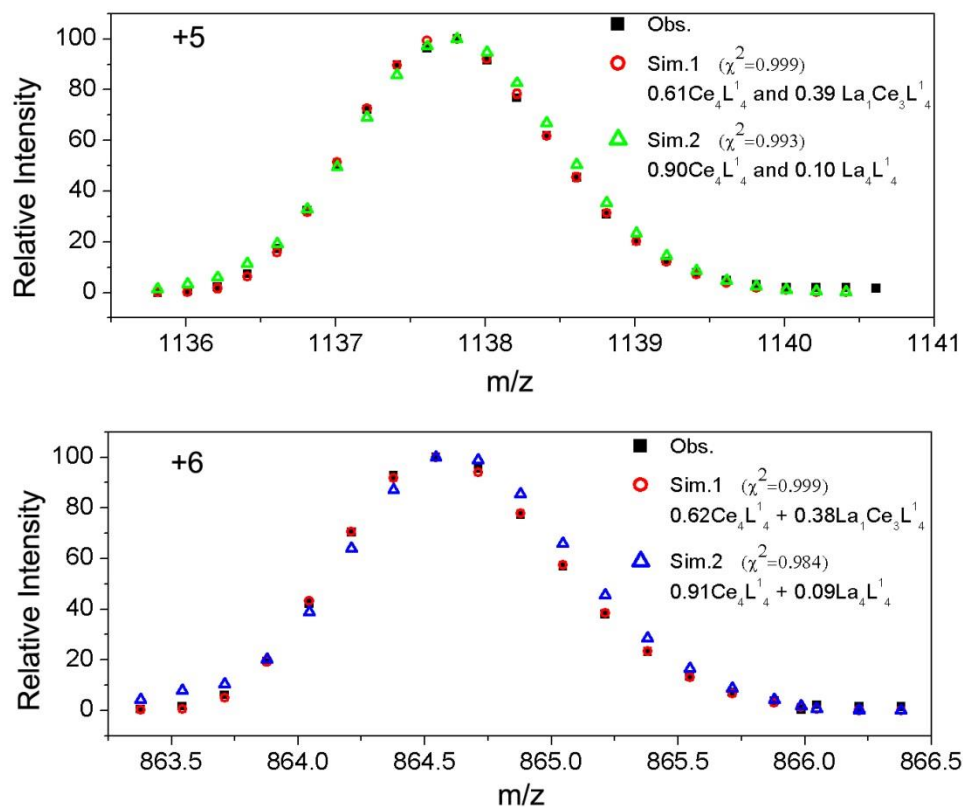
Supplementary Figure 240. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Ca^{II} mixed-metal self-assembly of L^I(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +6 peaks.



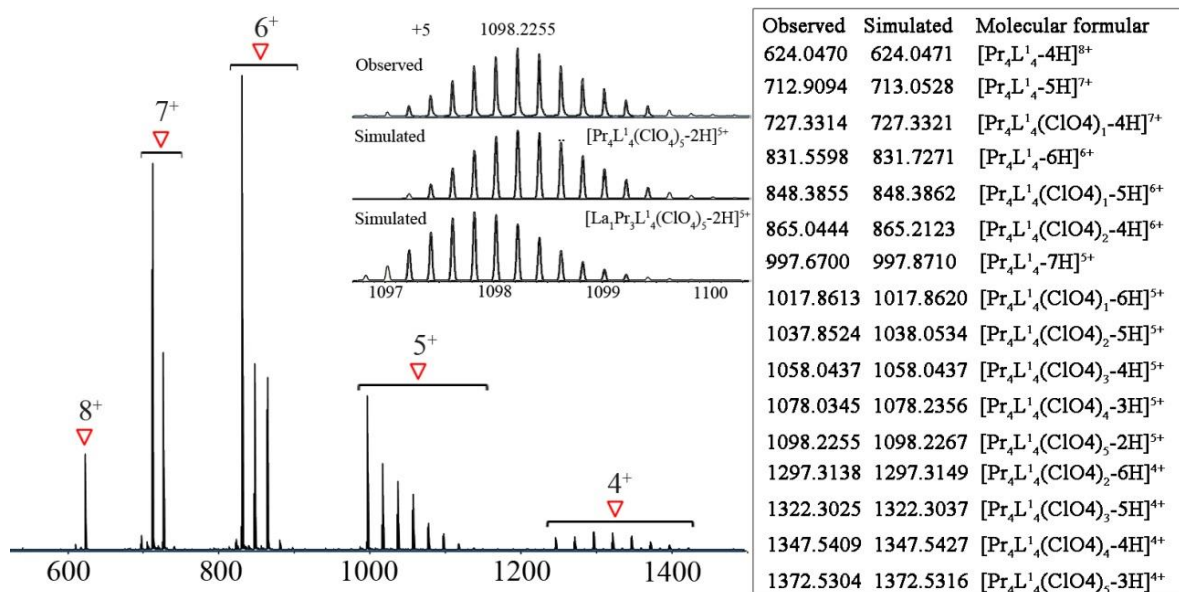
Supplementary Figure 241. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Cd^{II} mixed-metal self-assembly of L^I(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +6 peaks.



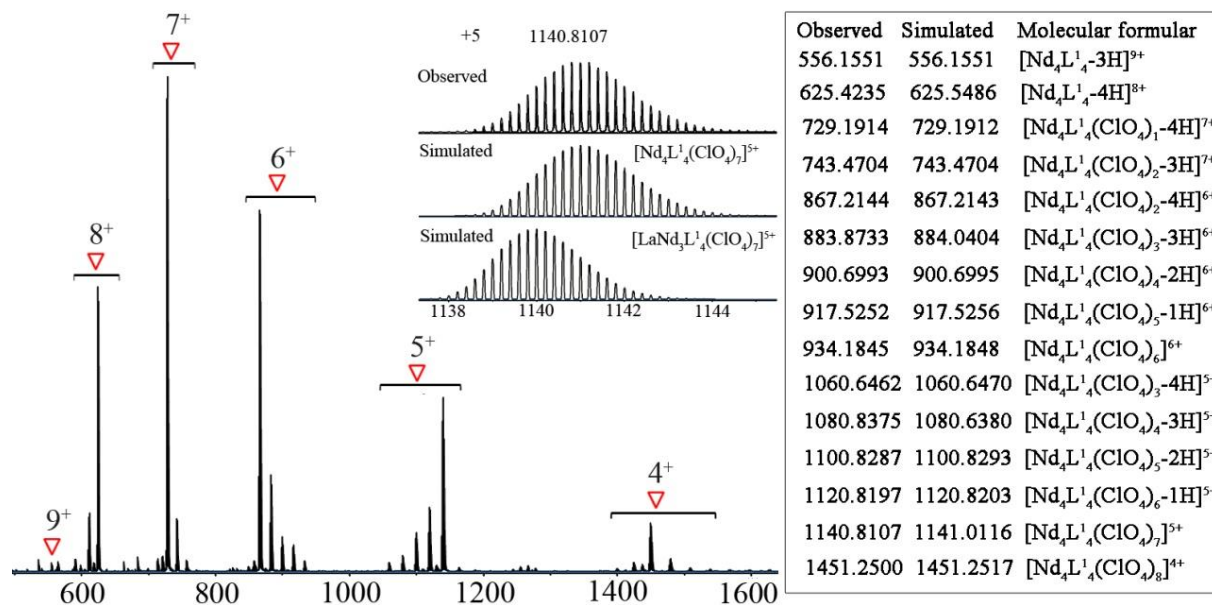
Supplementary Figure 242. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $\text{La}^{\text{III}}\text{-Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly of $\text{L}^1(\text{ClO}_4^-)$ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



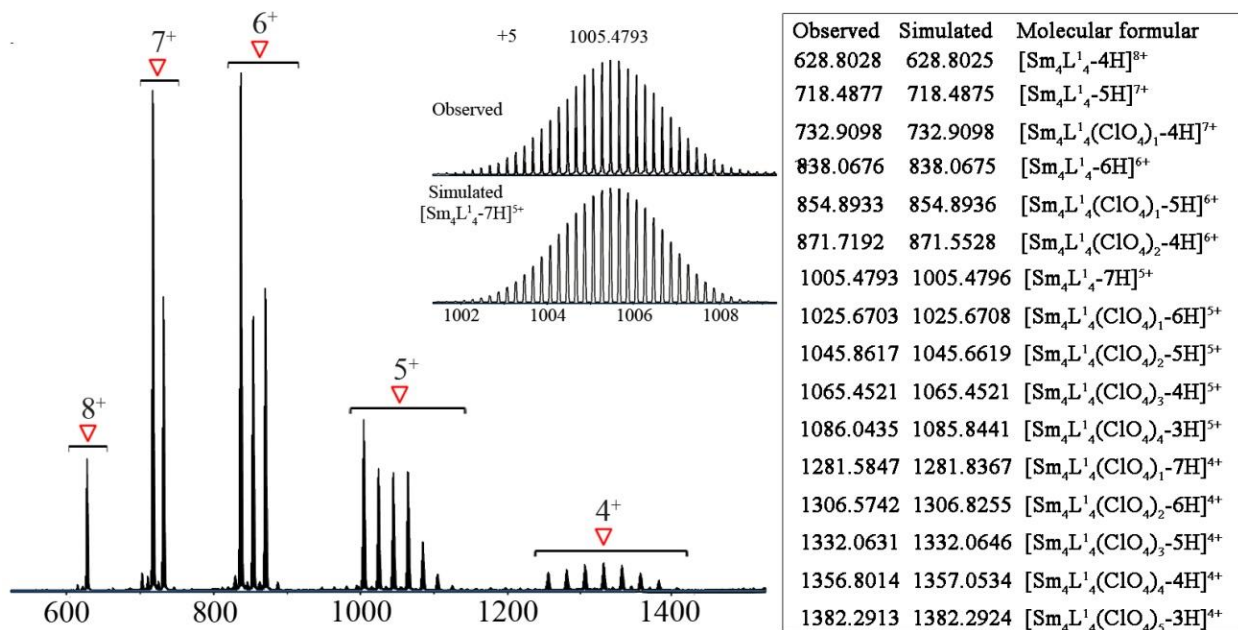
Supplementary Figure 243. Nonlinear curve fitting of simulated isotope patterns of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}\text{-Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly complexes (ClO_4^- counter-anion).



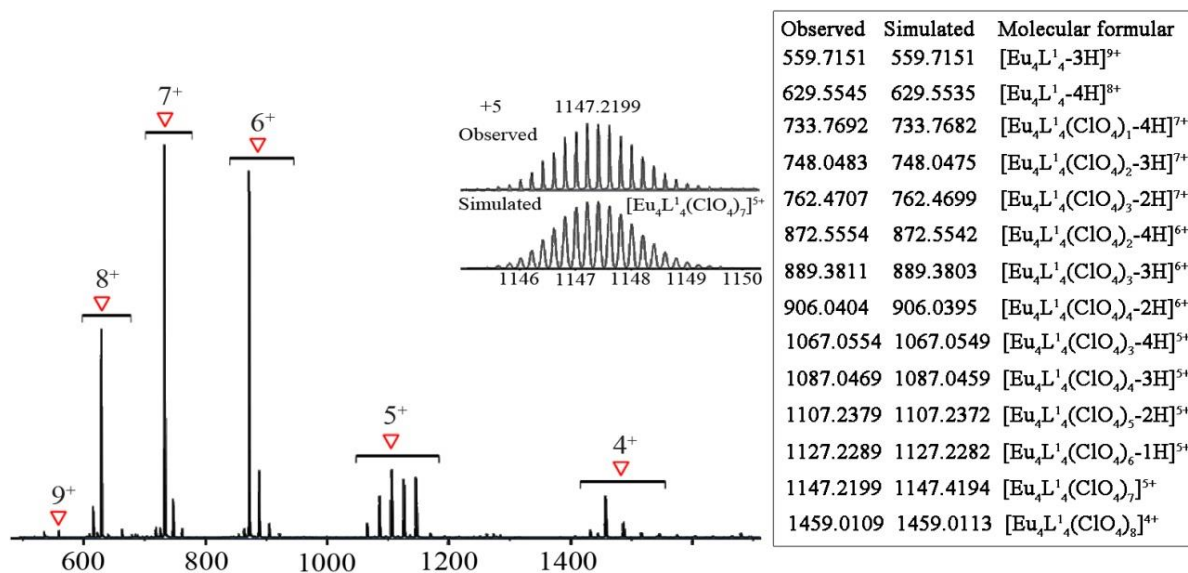
Supplementary Figure 244. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Pr^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L^I (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



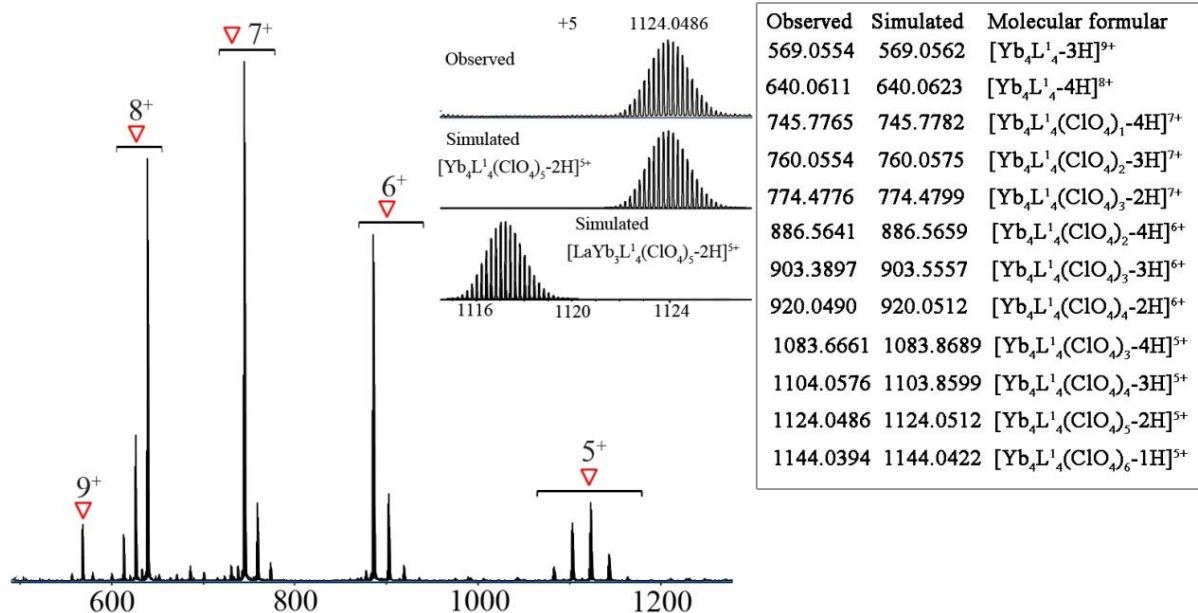
Supplementary Figure 245. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Nd^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L^I (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



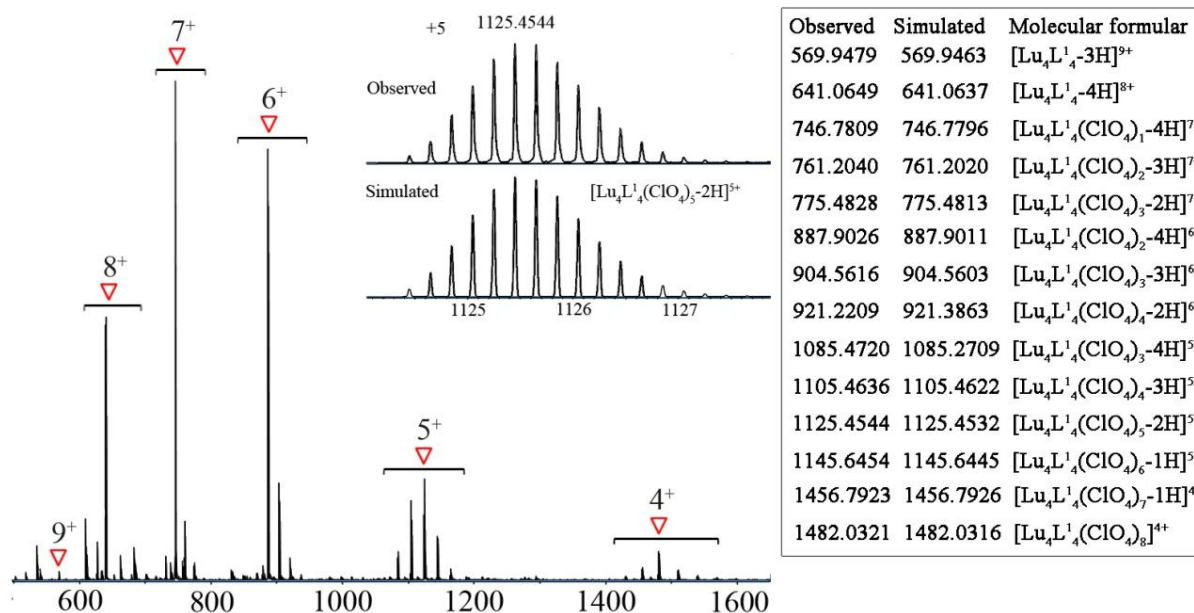
Supplementary Figure 246. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



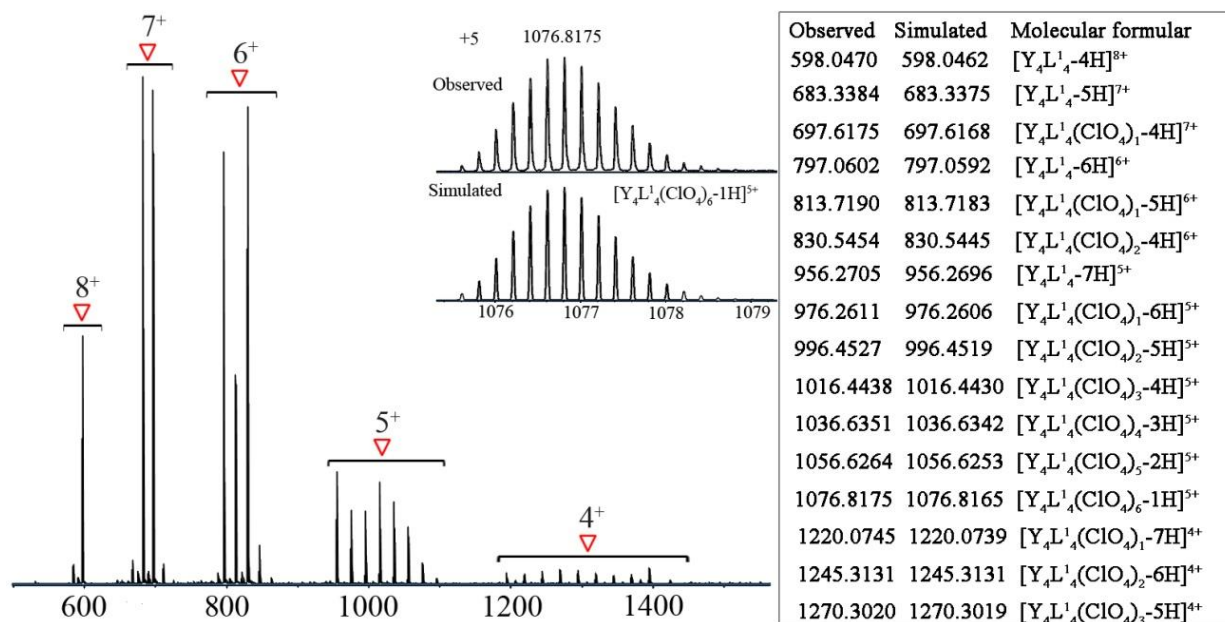
Supplementary Figure 247. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



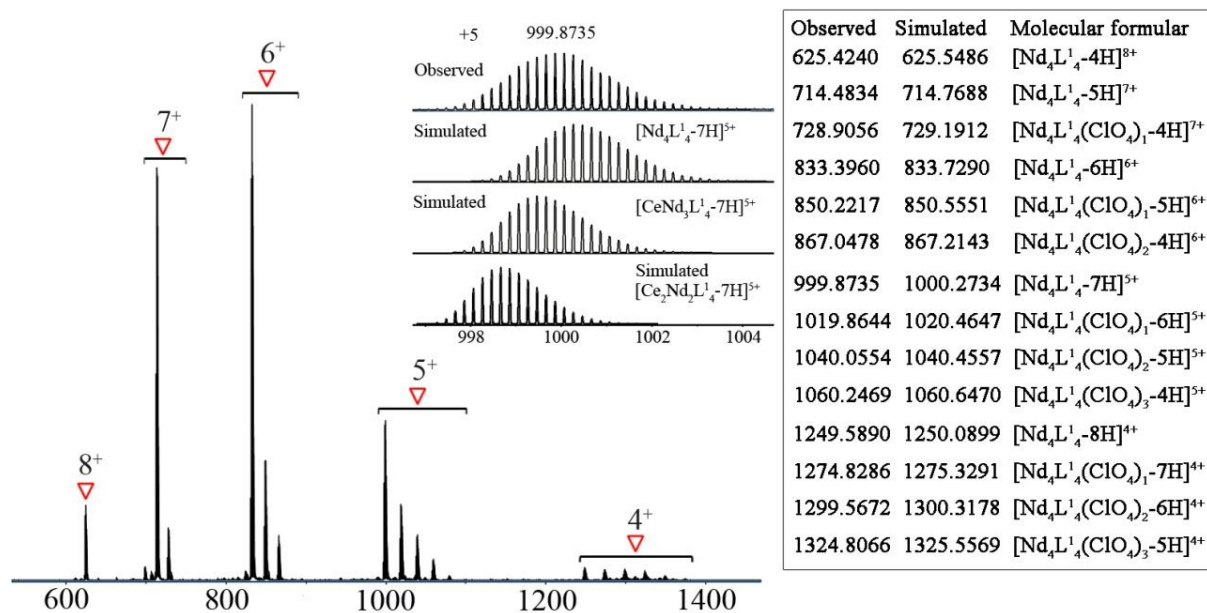
Supplementary Figure 248. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



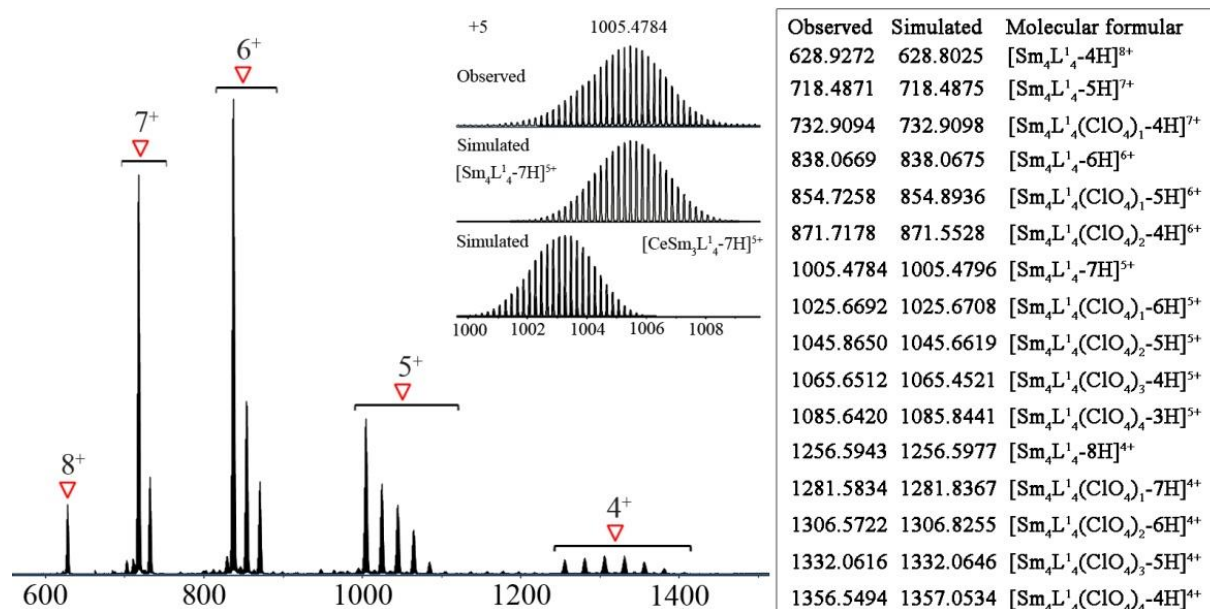
Supplementary Figure 249. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



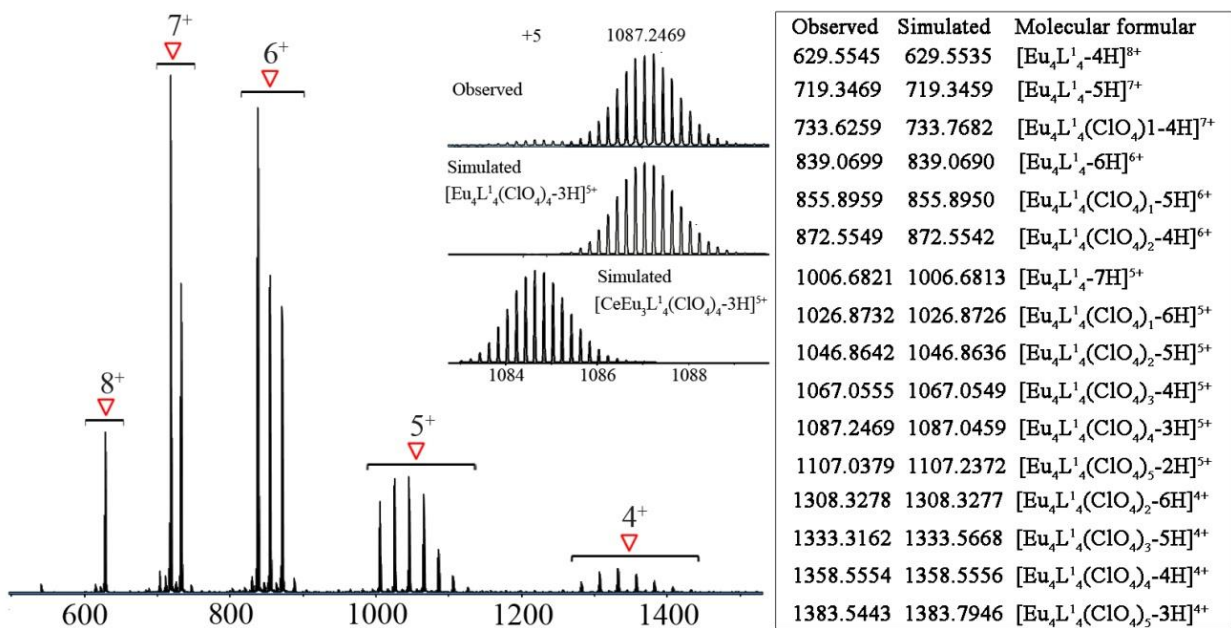
Supplementary Figure 250. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



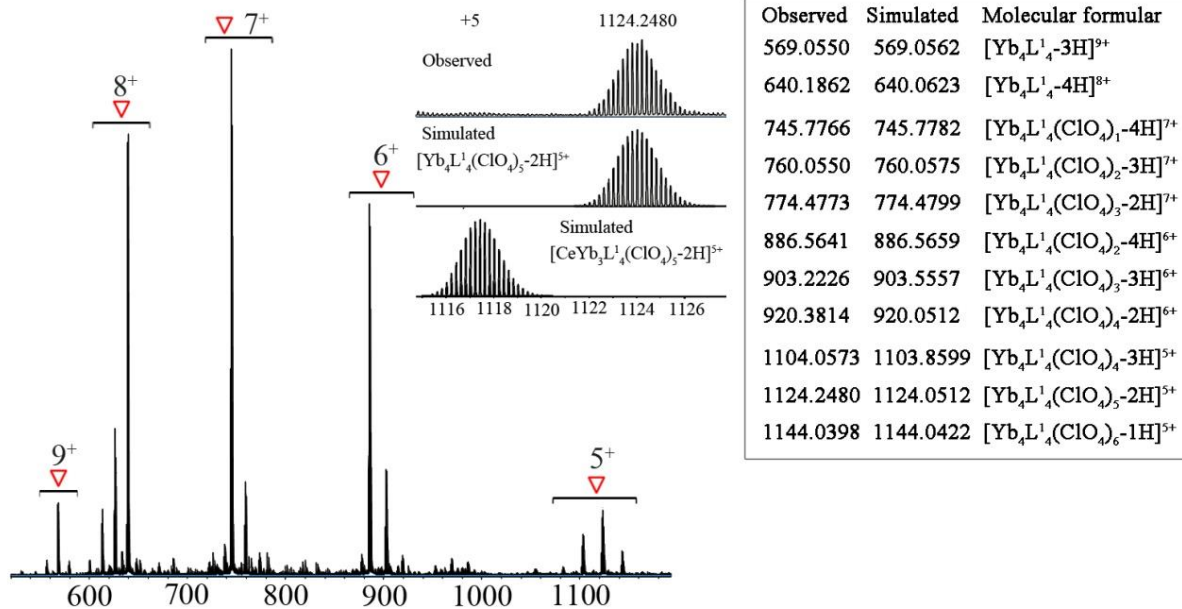
Supplementary Figure 251. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Ce^{III}-Nd^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



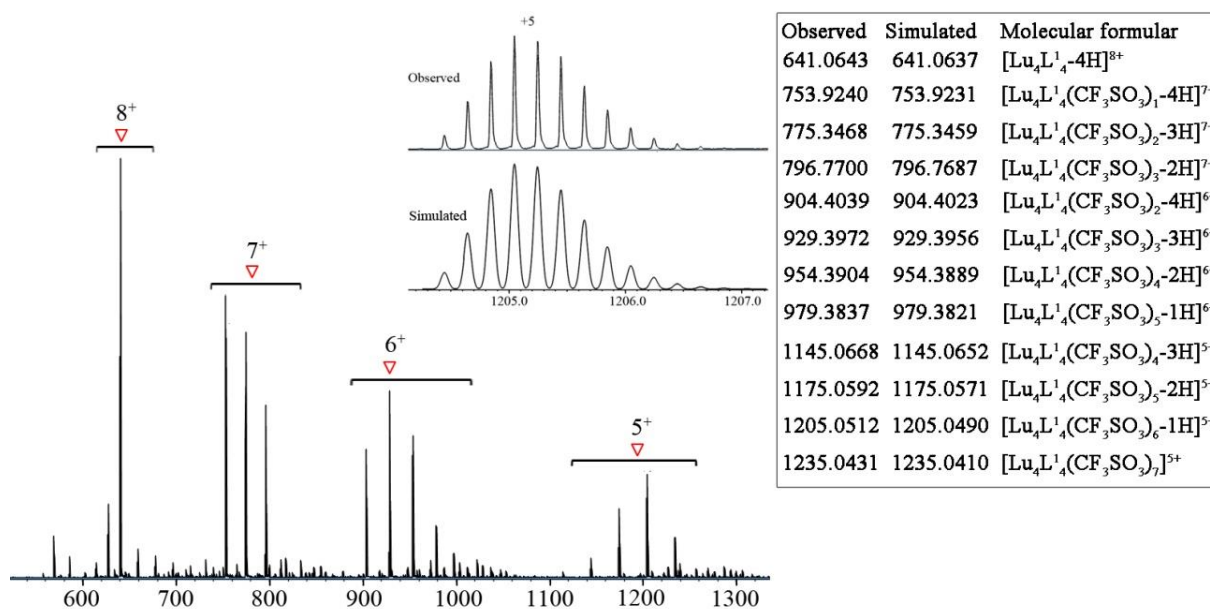
Supplementary Figure 252. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Ce^{III}-Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +6 peaks.



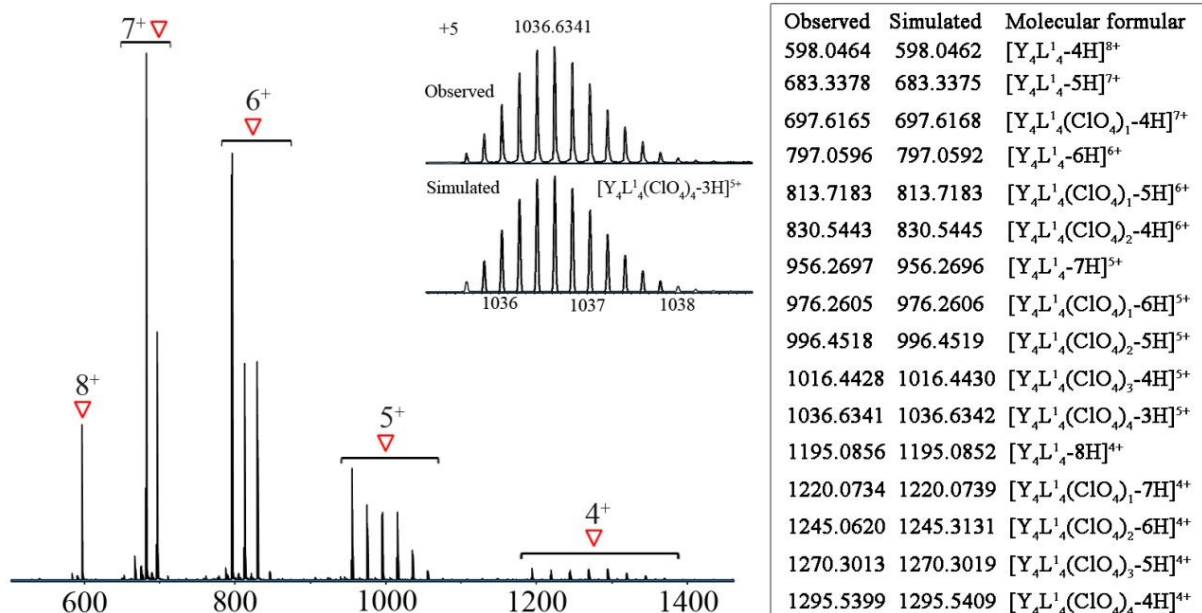
Supplementary Figure 253. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Ce^{III}-Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



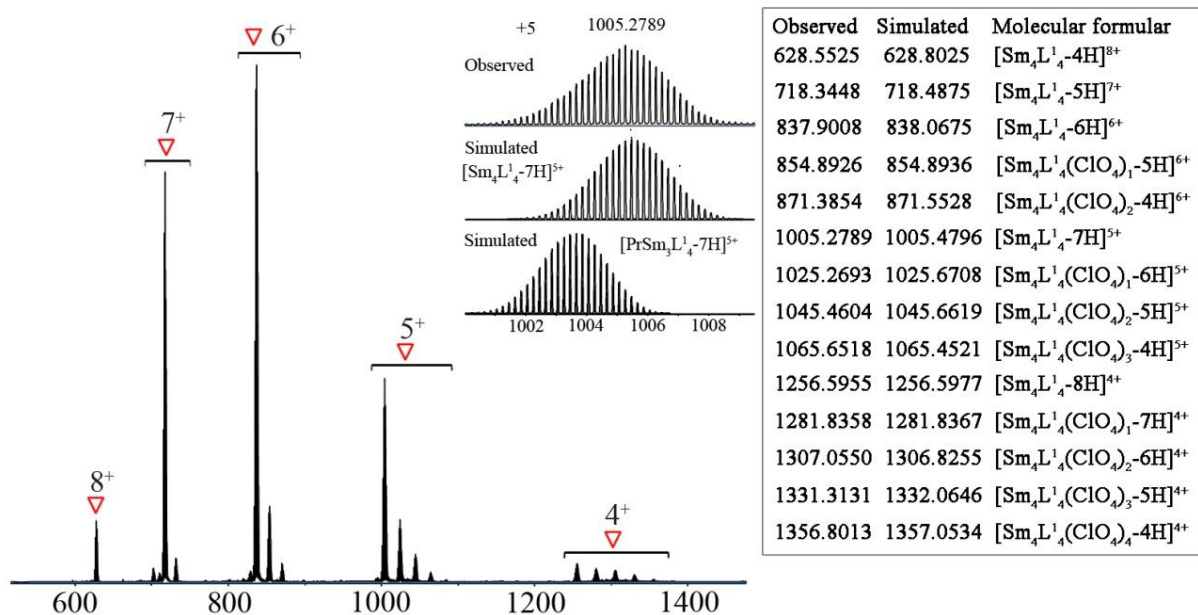
Supplementary Figure 254. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Ce^{III}-Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L^I (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



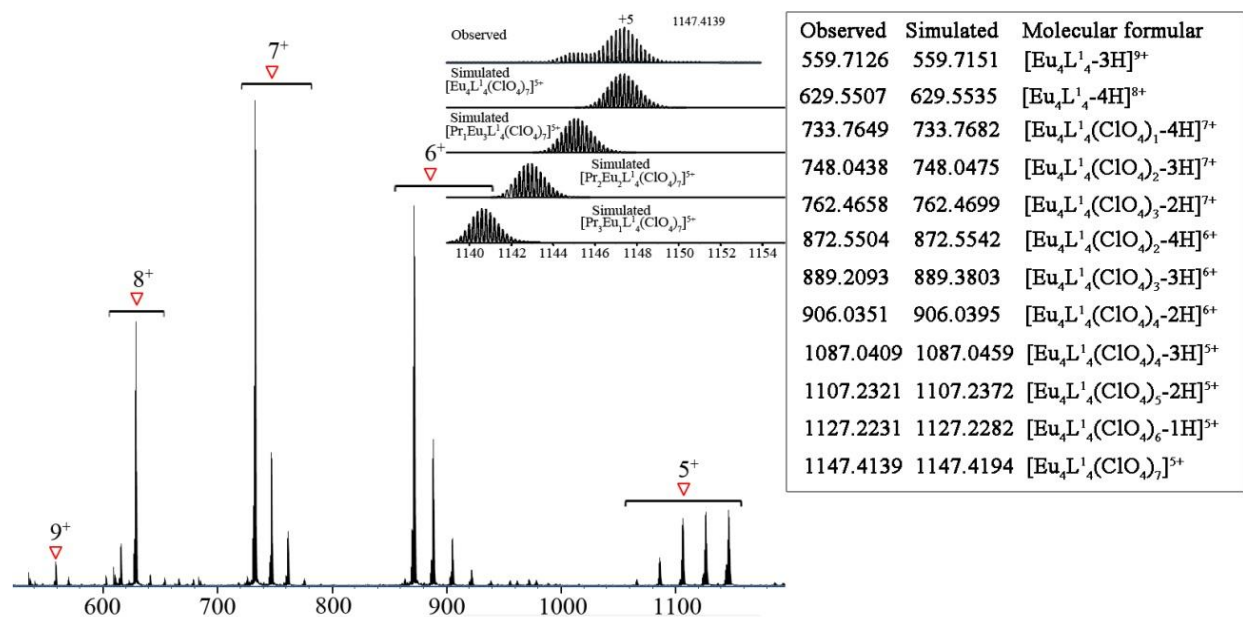
Supplementary Figure 255. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Ce^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L^I (CF₃SO₃⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



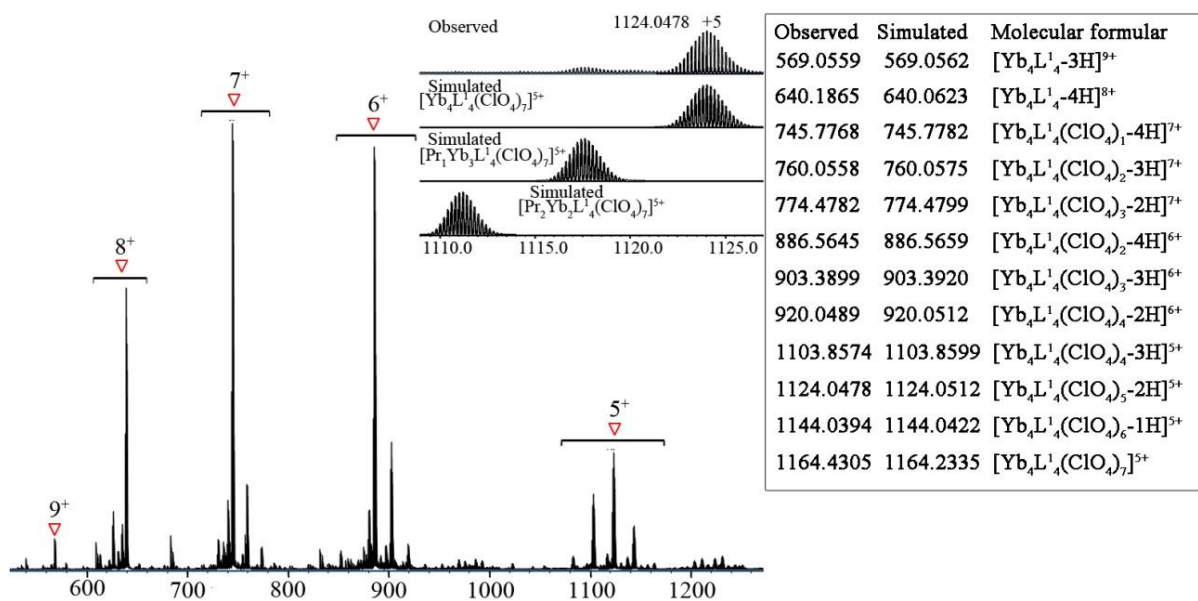
Supplementary Figure 256. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Ce^{III}-Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +6 peaks.



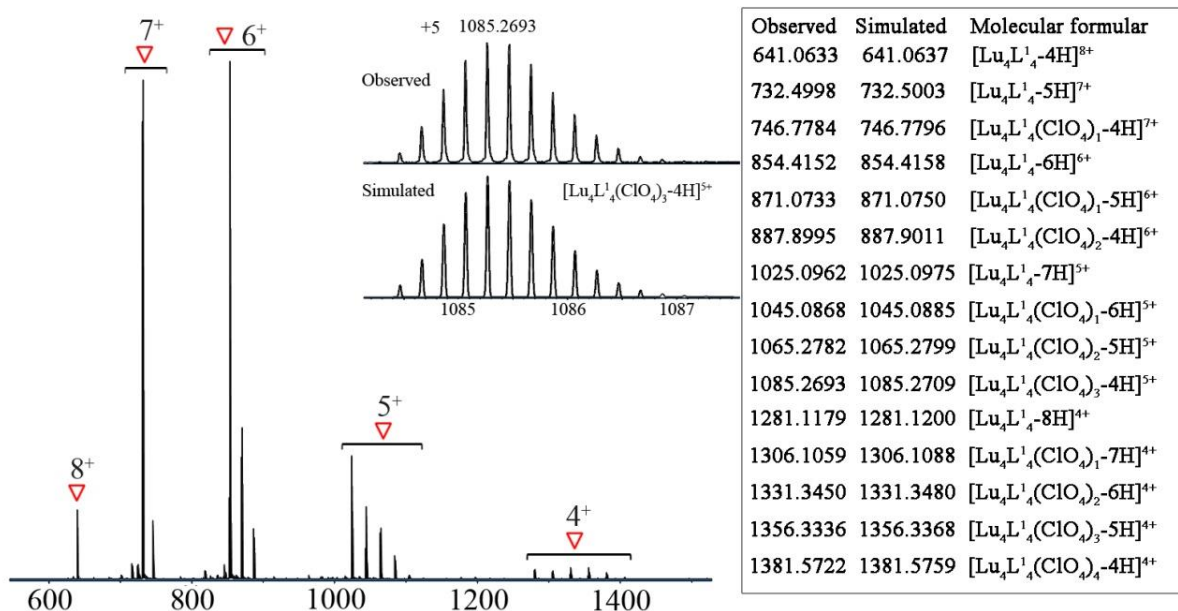
Supplementary Figure 257. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



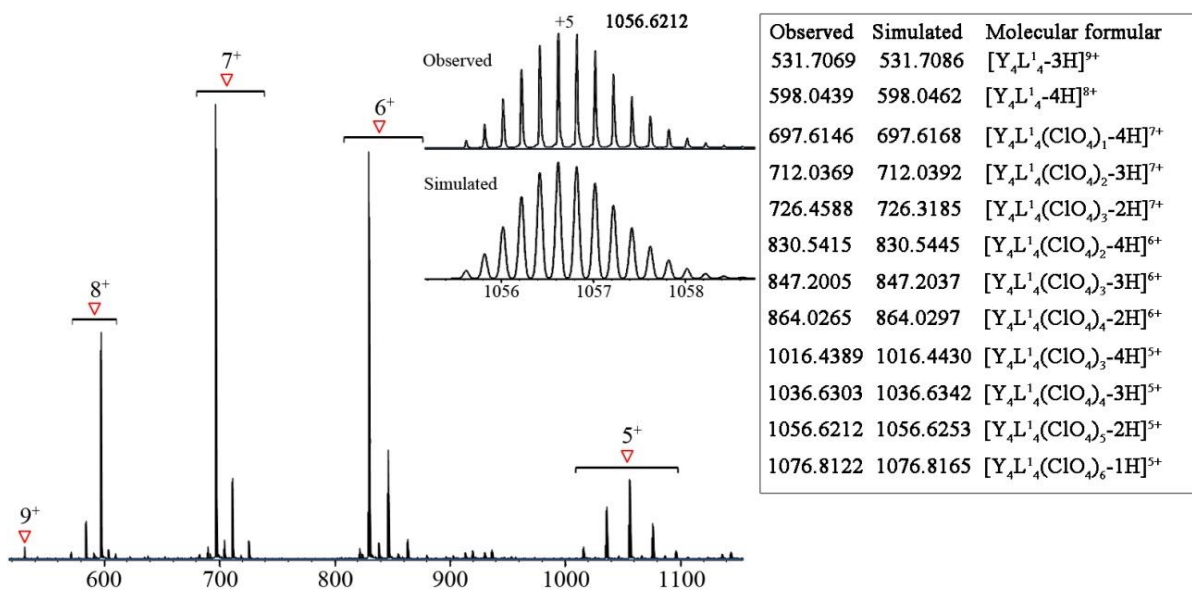
Supplementary Figure 258. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



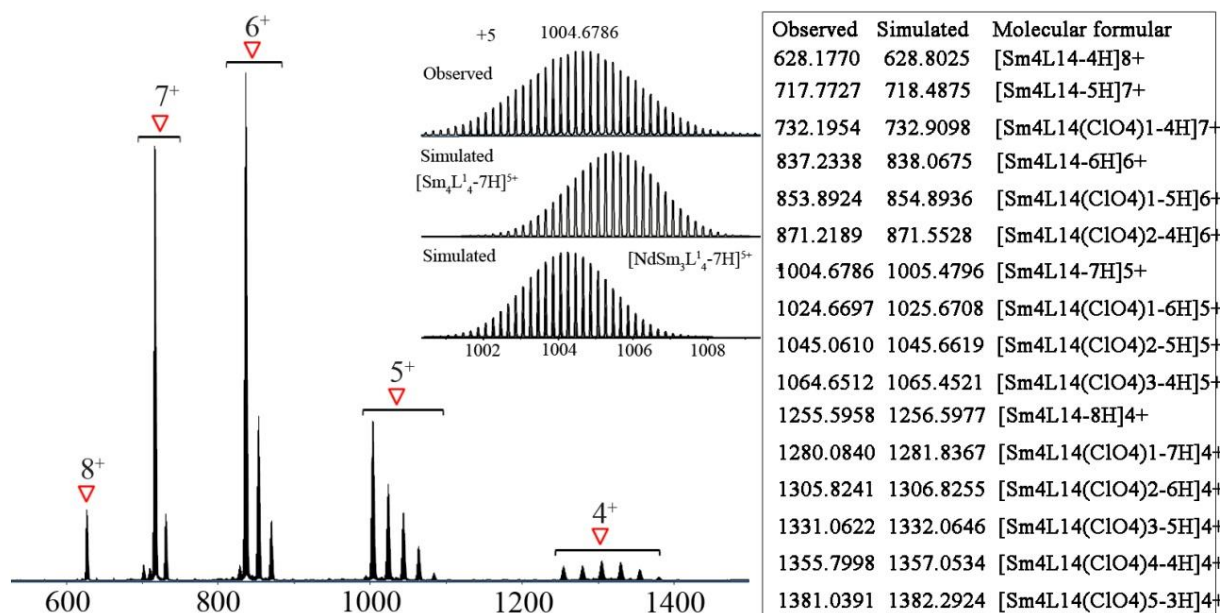
Supplementary Figure 259. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



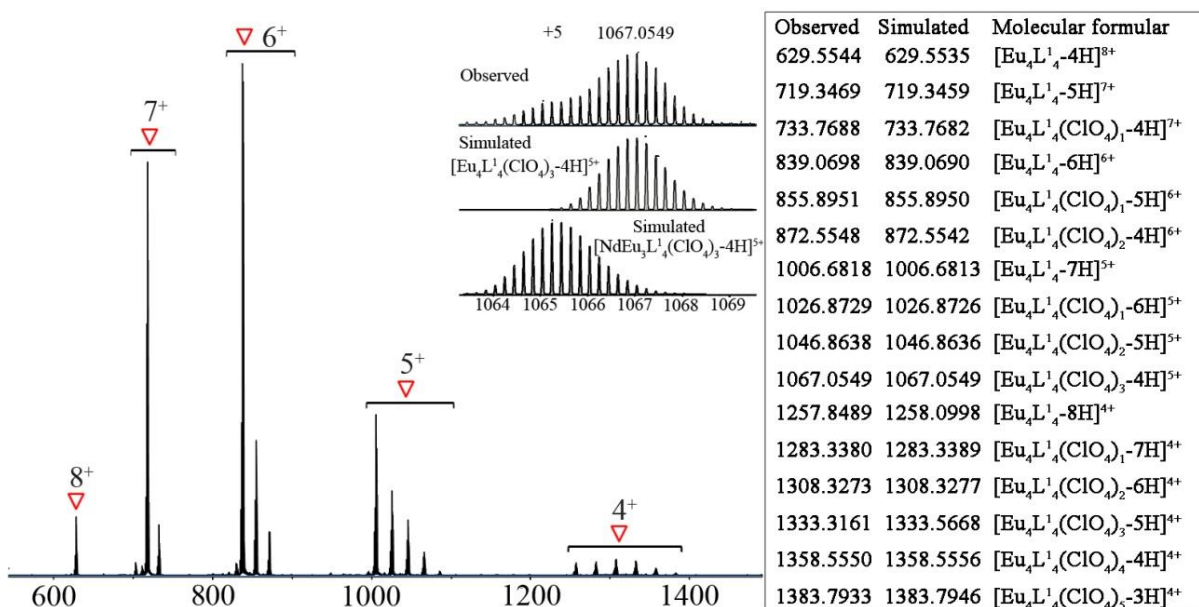
Supplementary Figure 260. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



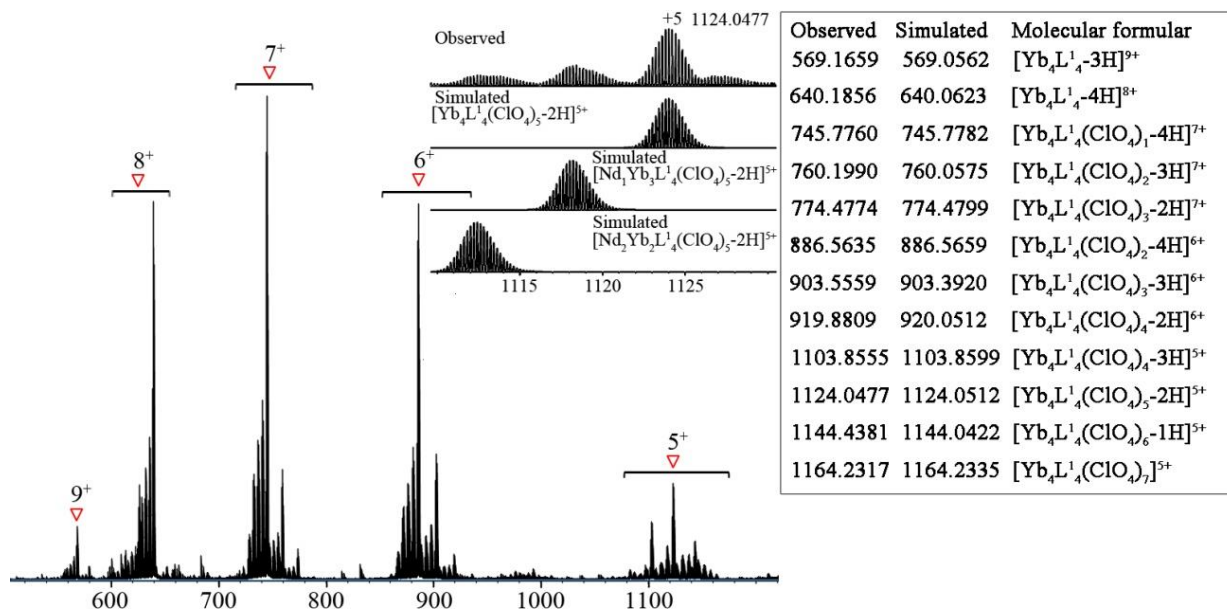
Supplementary Figure 261. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



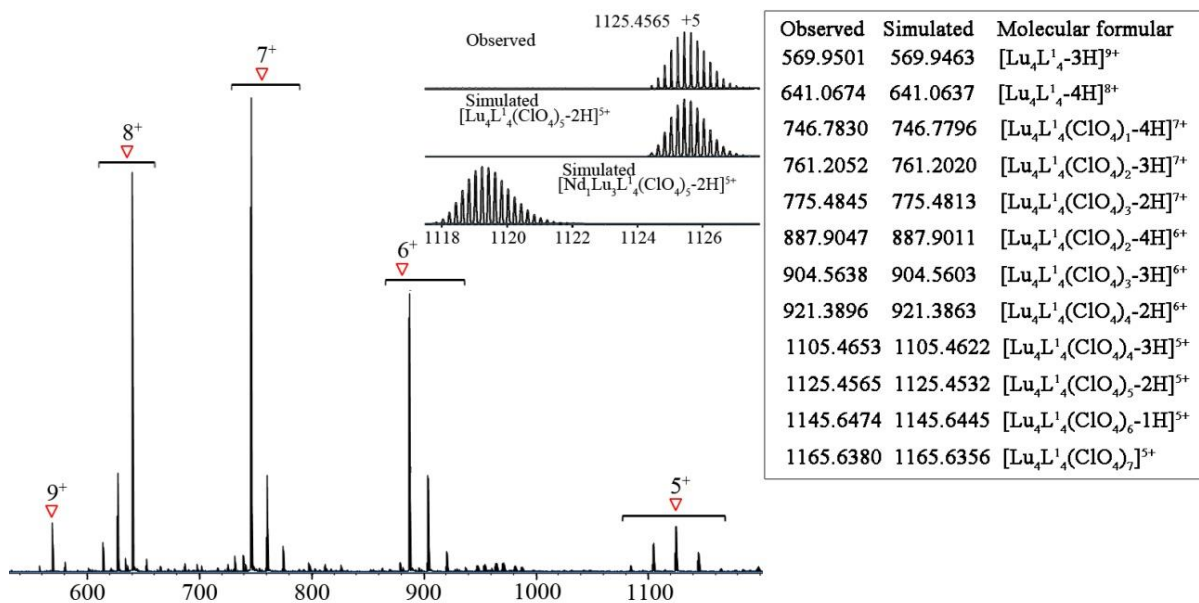
Supplementary Figure 262. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Nd^{III}-Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



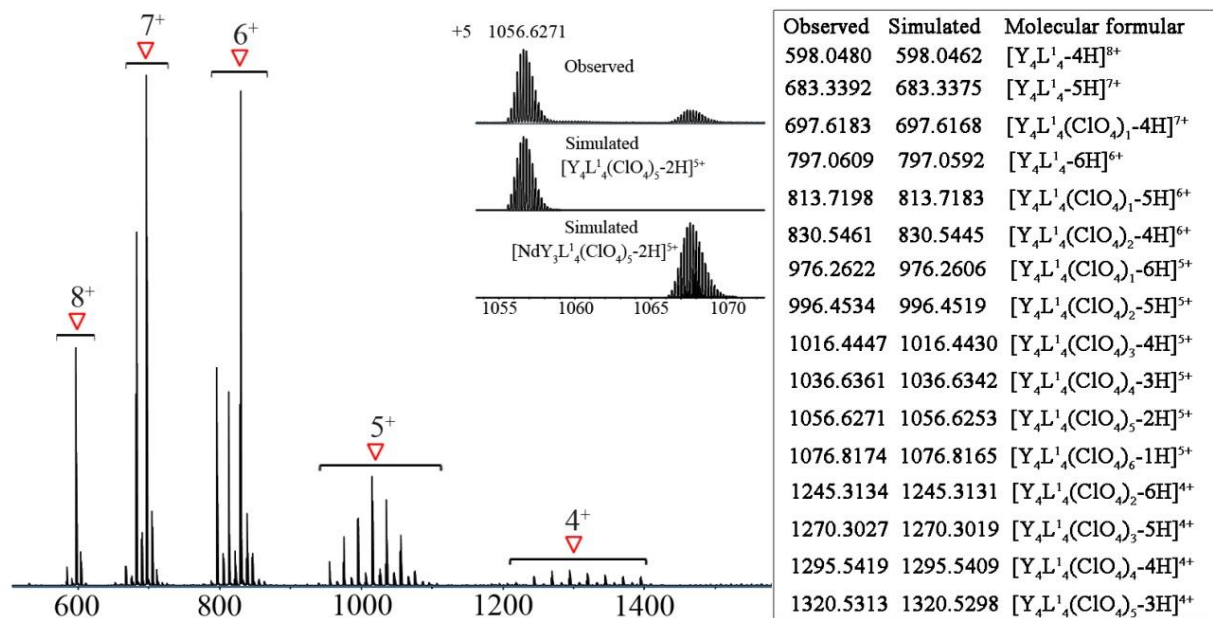
Supplementary Figure 263. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Nd^{III}-Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



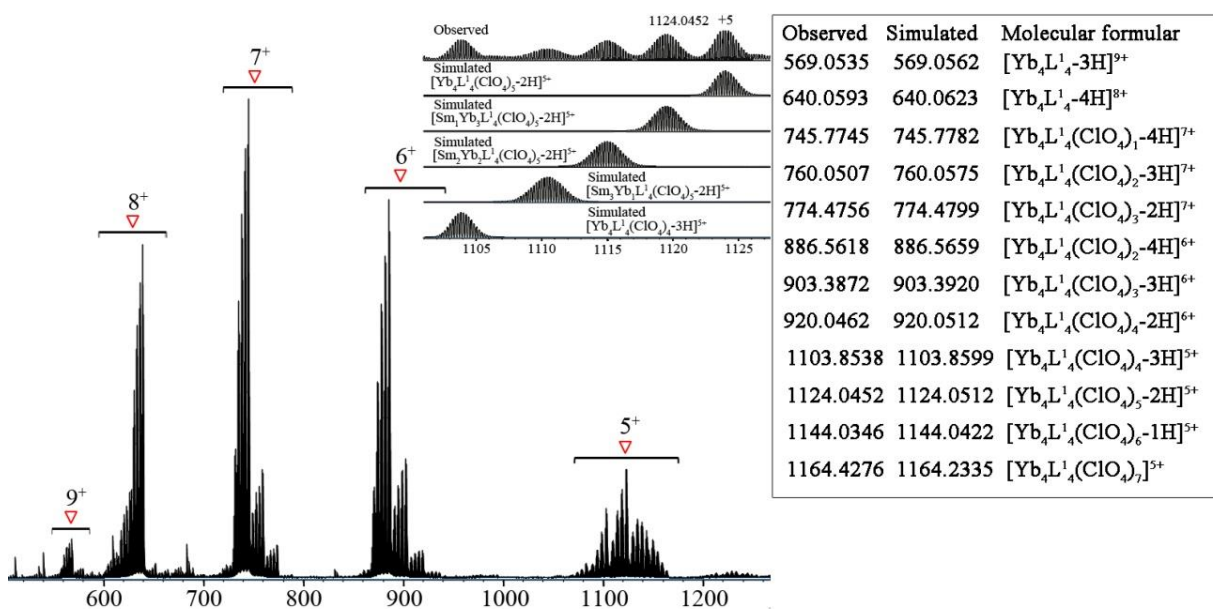
Supplementary Figure 264. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Nd^{III}-Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



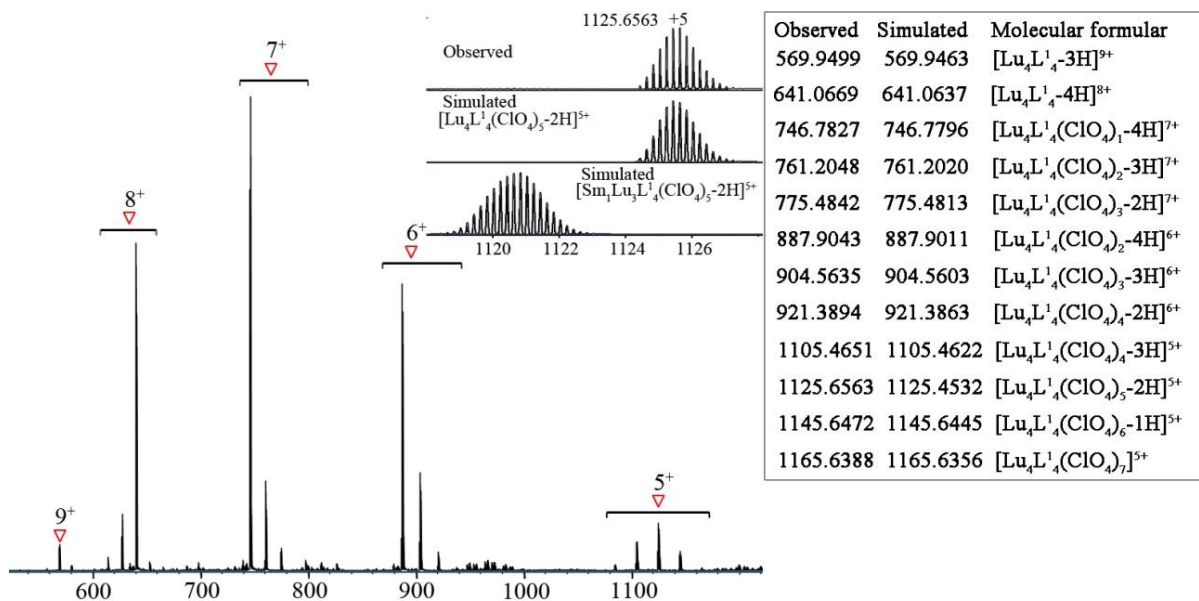
Supplementary Figure 265. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Nd^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



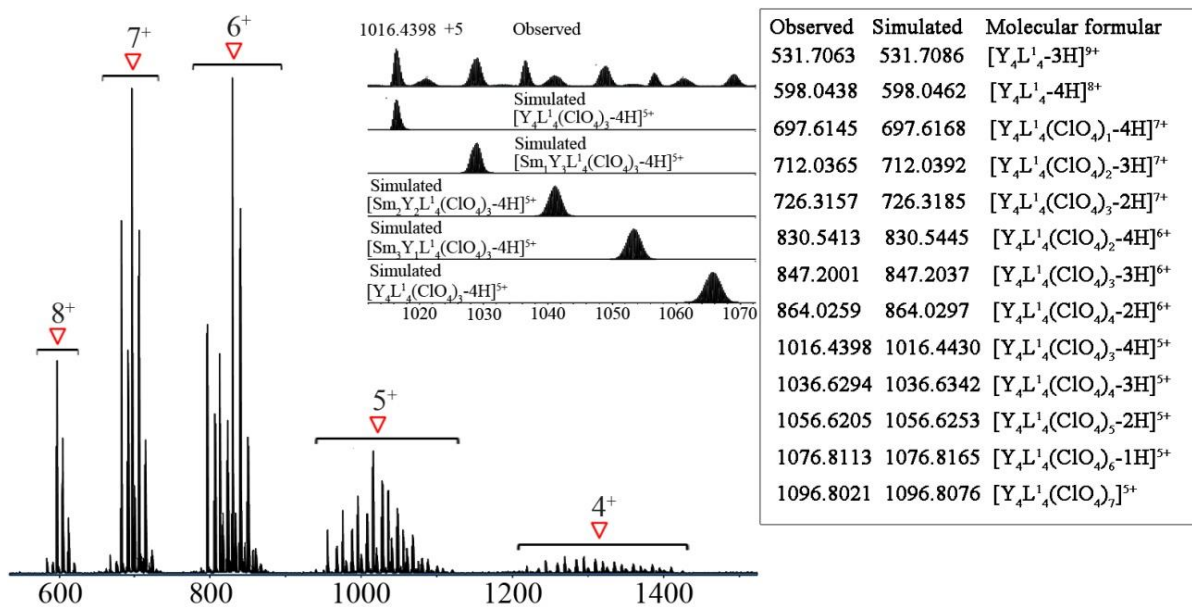
Supplementary Figure 266. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Nd^{III}-Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



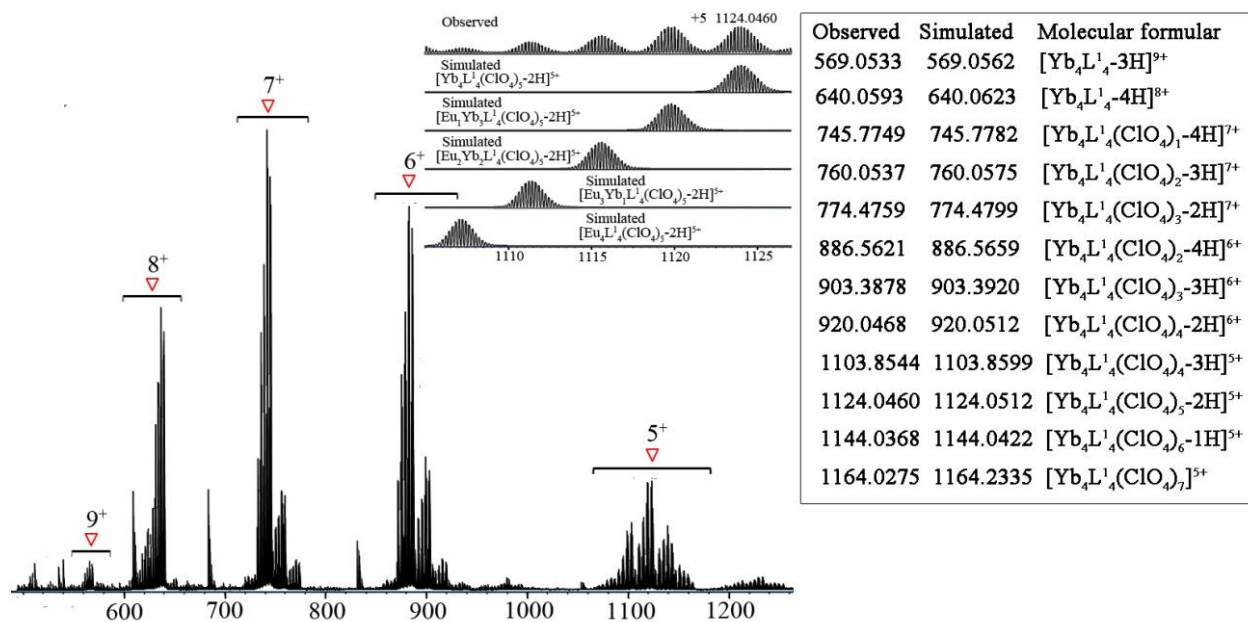
Supplementary Figure 267. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Sm^{III}-Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



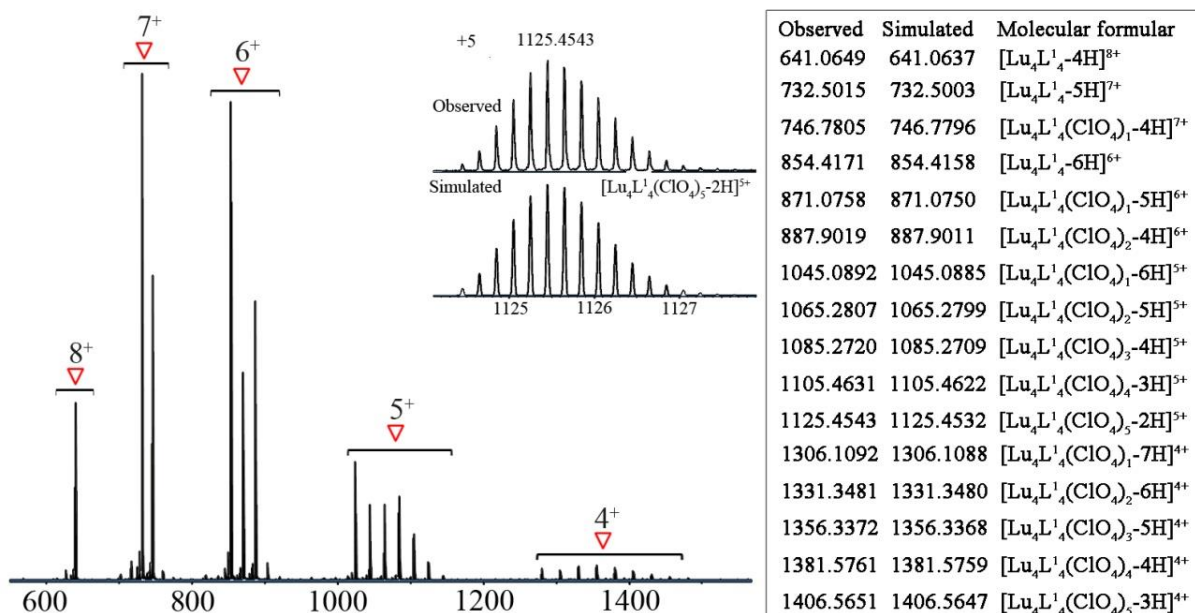
Supplementary Figure 268. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Sm^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



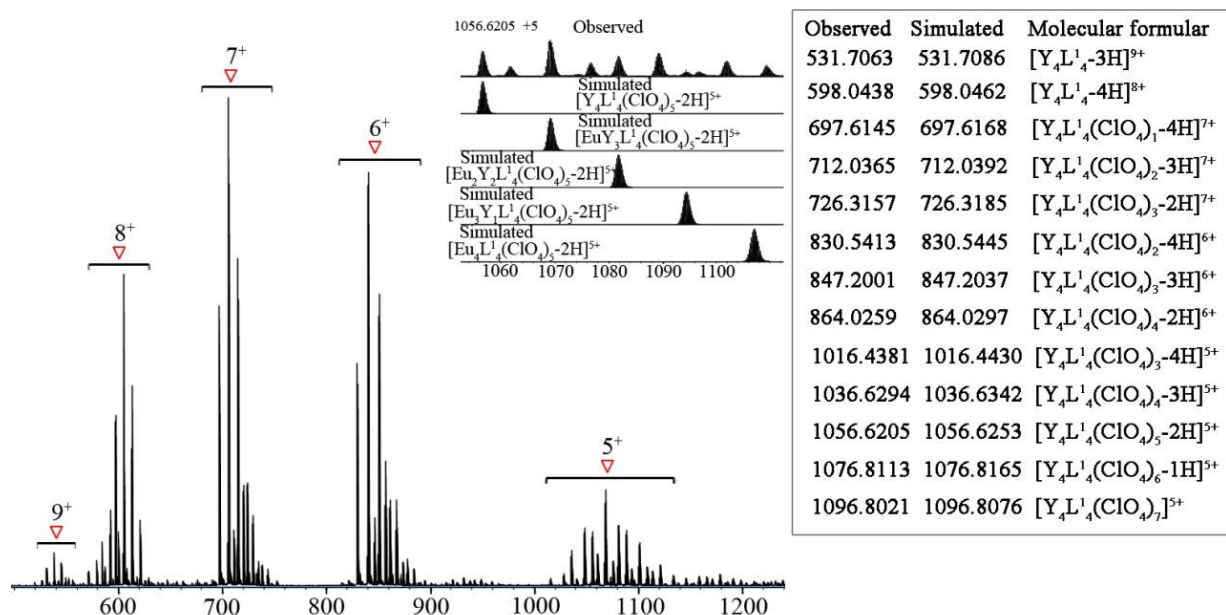
Supplementary Figure 269. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Sm^{III}-Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



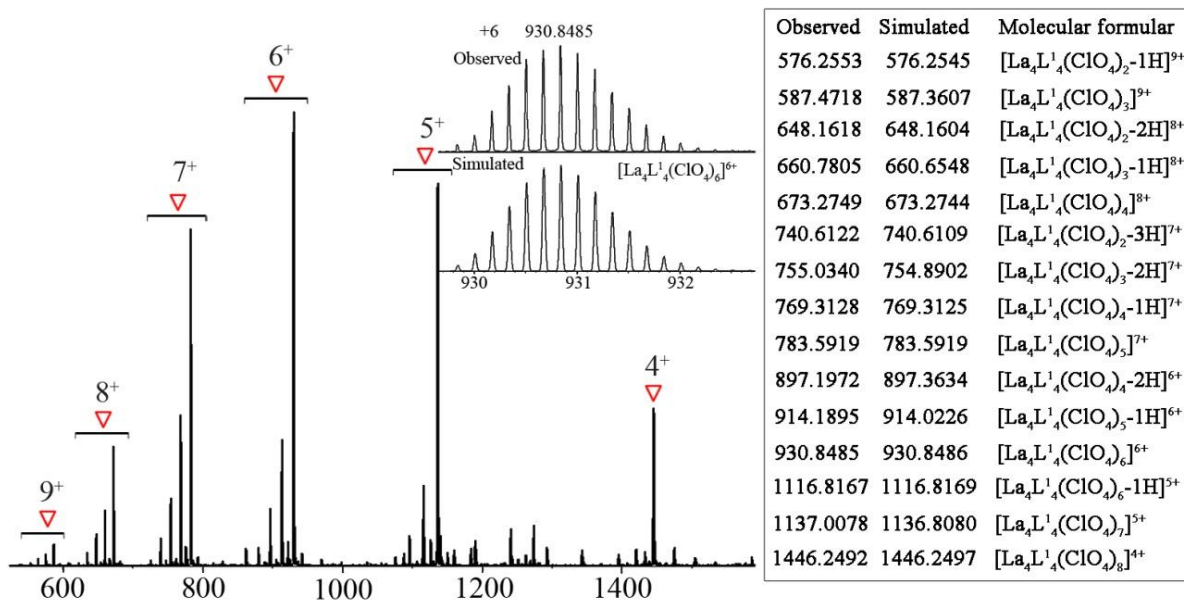
Supplementary Figure 270. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Eu^{III}-Yb^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of **L**¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



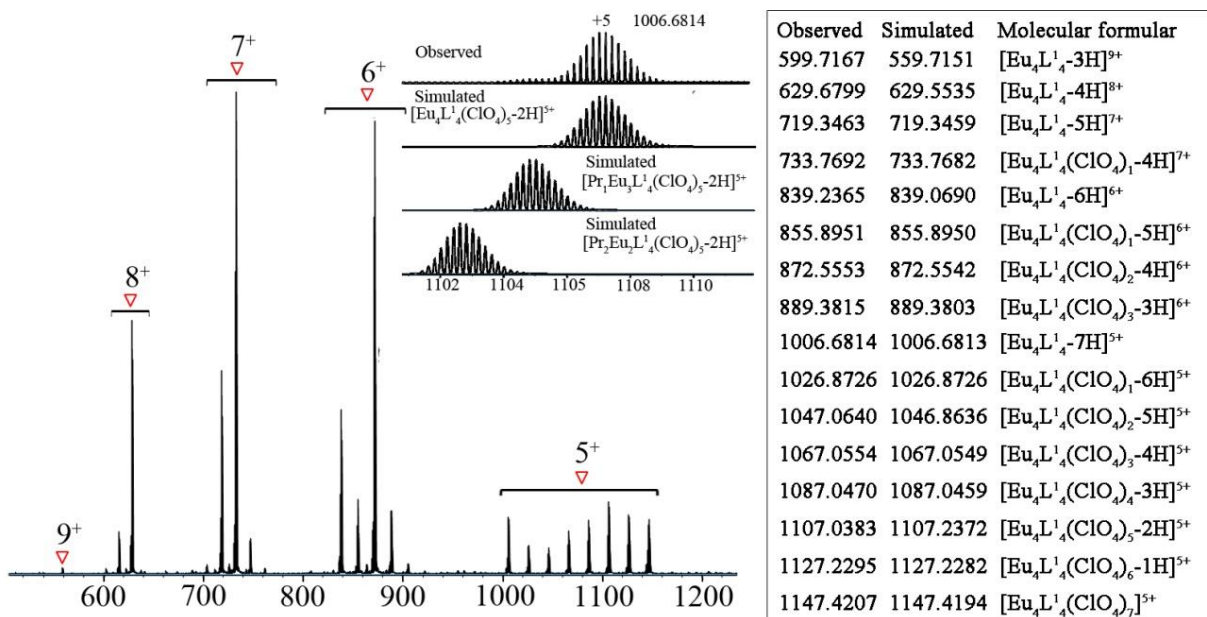
Supplementary Figure 271. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Eu^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of **L**¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



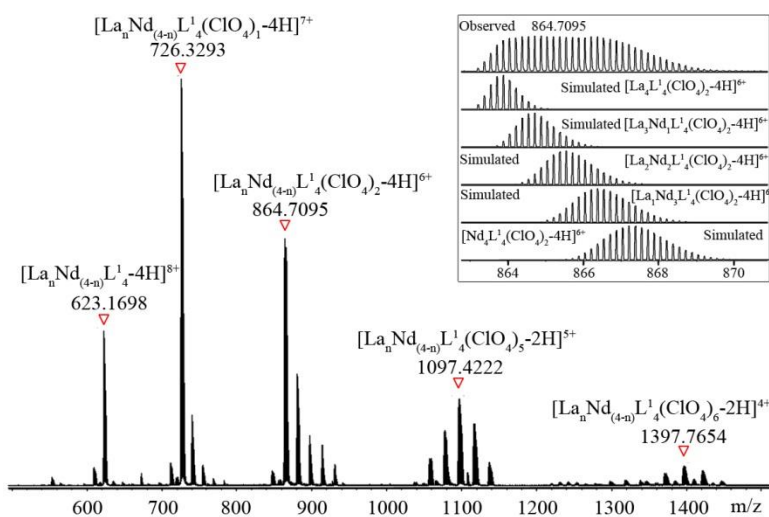
Supplementary Figure 272. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Eu^{III}-Y^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks



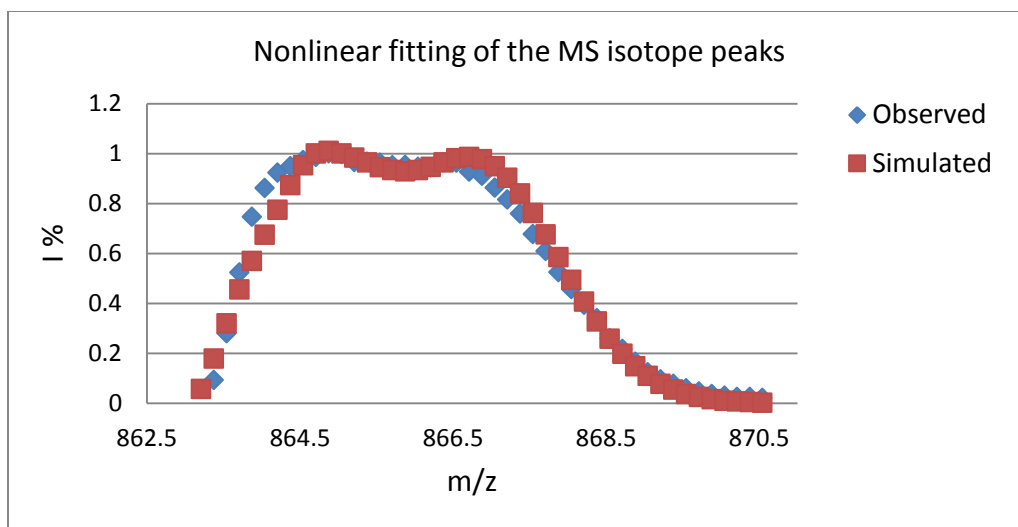
Supplementary Figure 273. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}/Ca^{II}/Cd^{II} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +6 peaks.



Supplementary Figure 274. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}/Pr^{III}/Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L¹ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.

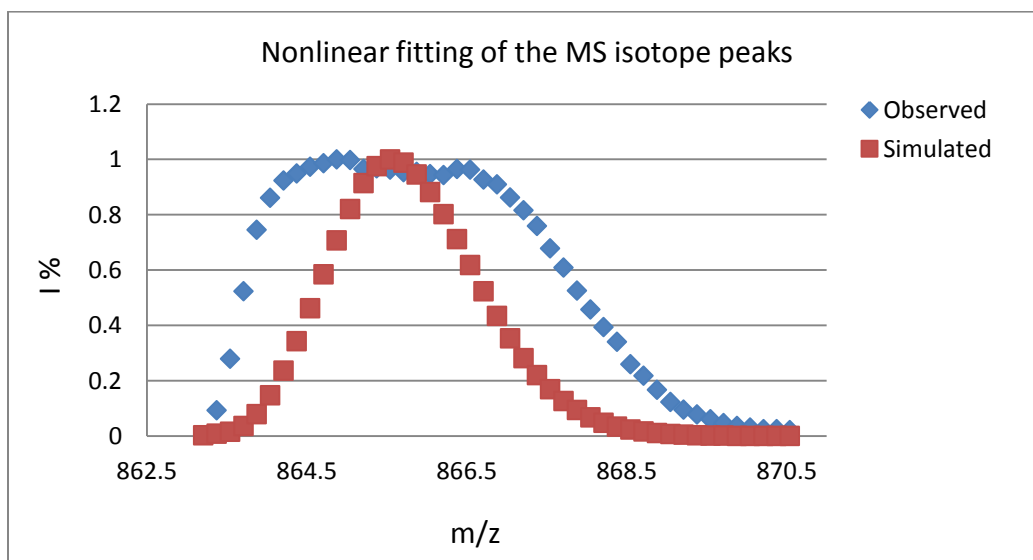


Supplementary Figure 275. ESI-Q-TOF mass spectrum of La^{III}/Nd^{III} mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L¹ (ClO₄⁻ salt) with the metal and ligand ratio as La^{III} : Nd^{III} : L¹ = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1.



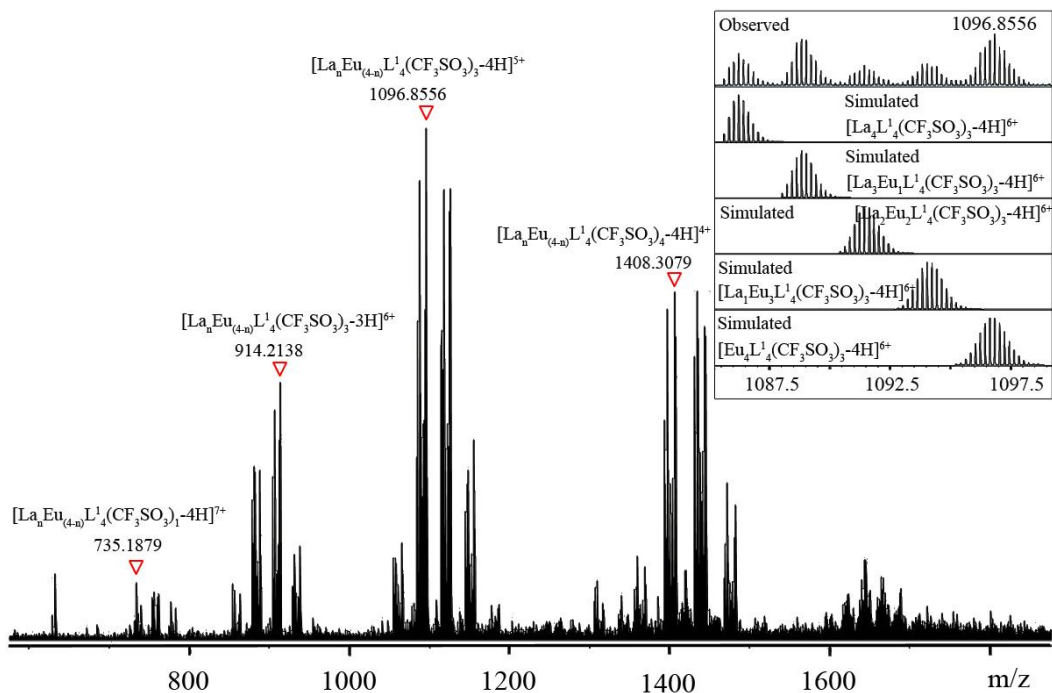
Supplementary Figure 276. Nonlinear curve fitting of simulated isotope patterns of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) with the metal and ligand ratio as $\text{La}^{\text{III}} : \text{Nd}^{\text{III}} : \text{L}^1 = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1$.

^1H NMR spectra and ESI-TOF-MS indicated the biased formation of two homometallic cages, along with some statistical mixture of heterometallic complexes. For lanthanide pair of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$, nonlinear curve fitting of the isotope patterns using the following models, a: $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$, b: $[\text{La}_3\text{Nd}_1(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$, c: $[\text{La}_2\text{Nd}_2(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$, d: $[\text{La}_1\text{Nd}_3(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$, e: $[\text{Nd}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$ ($4a+3b+2c+d=b+2c+3d+4e$) has been carried out. It turns out that the observed isotope patterns approximately agrees with a composition of $[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{La}_3\text{Nd}_1(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{La}_2\text{Nd}_2(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{La}_1\text{Nd}_3(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{Nd}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} = 1.08 : 1.94 : 1.28 : 1 : 1.55$

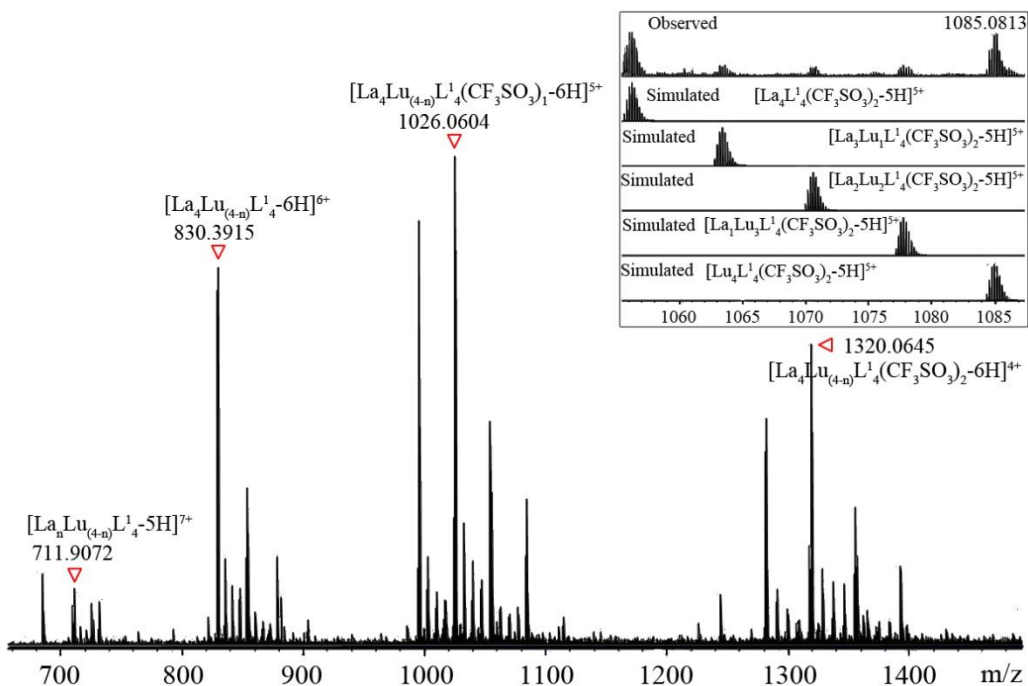


Supplementary Figure 277. Simulated isotope patterns of pure statistically-distributed mixtures of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembled complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) with the metal and ligand ratio as $\text{La}^{\text{III}} : \text{Nd}^{\text{III}} : \text{L}^1 = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1$.

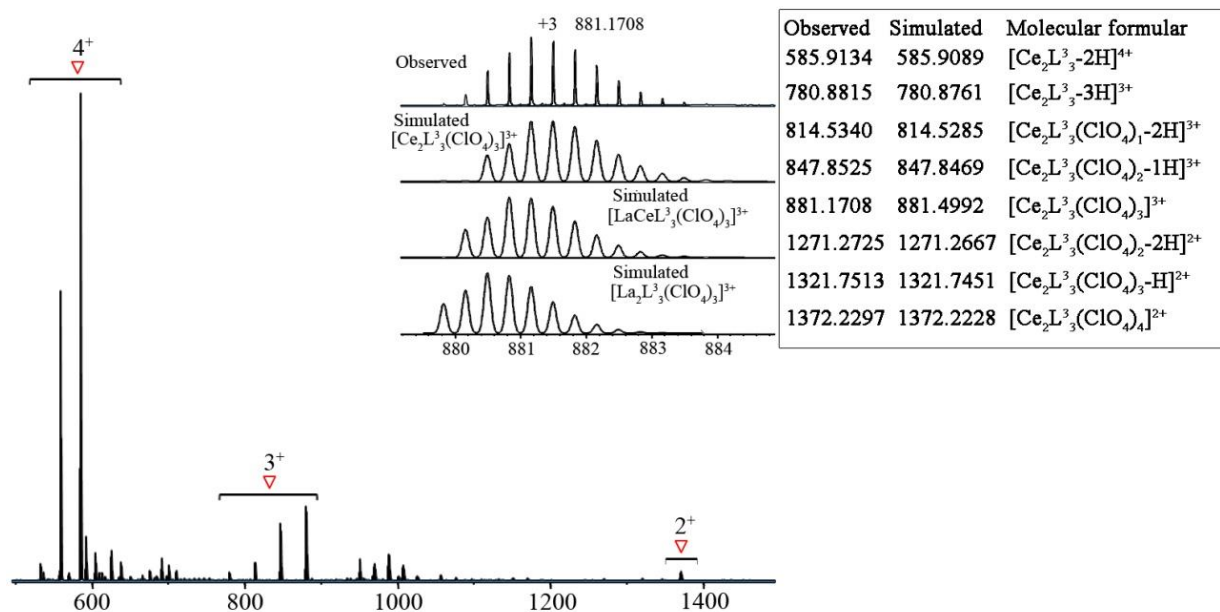
In theory, pure statistically-distributed mixtures of $[\text{Lna}_n\text{Lnb}_{4-n}(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$ ($n = 0-4$) species would favour the formation of the $[\text{Lna}_2\text{Lnb}_2(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$ complex (statistical distribution ratio: $[\text{Lna}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{Lna}_3\text{Lnb}_1(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{Lna}_2\text{Lnb}_2(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{Lna}_1\text{Lnb}_3(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} : [\text{Lnb}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+} = C_4^4 : C_4^1 C_4^3 : C_4^2 C_4^2 : C_4^3 C_4^1 : C_4^4 = 1 : 16 : 36 : 16 : 1$).



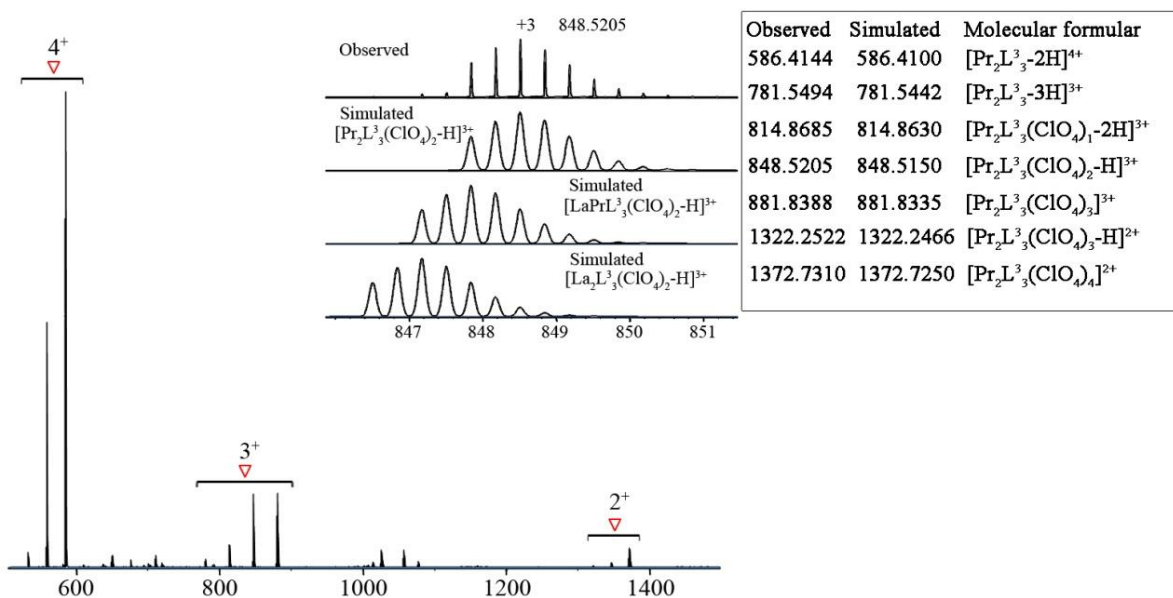
Supplementary Figure 278. Simulated isotope patterns of pure statistically-distributed mixtures of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) with the metal and ligand ratio as $\text{La}^{\text{III}} : \text{Eu}^{\text{III}} : \text{L}^1 = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1$.



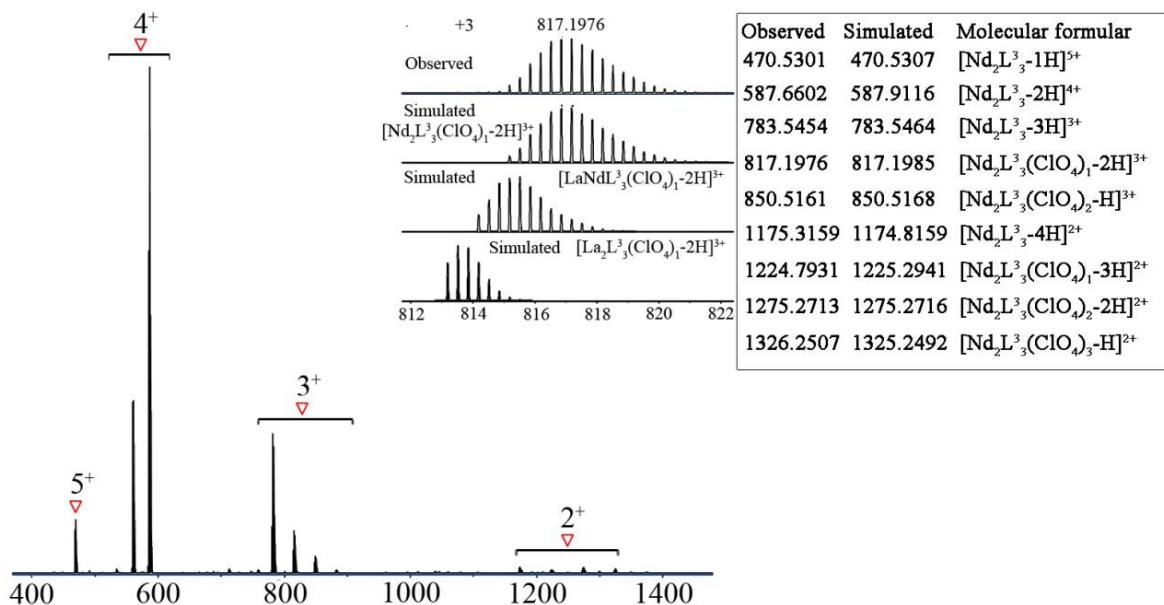
Supplementary Figure 279. Simulated isotope patterns of pure statistically-distributed mixtures of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly complexes with L^1 (CF_3SO_3^- salt) with the metal and ligand ratio as $\text{La}^{\text{III}} : \text{Lu}^{\text{III}} : \text{L}^1 = 0.5 : 0.5 : 1$.



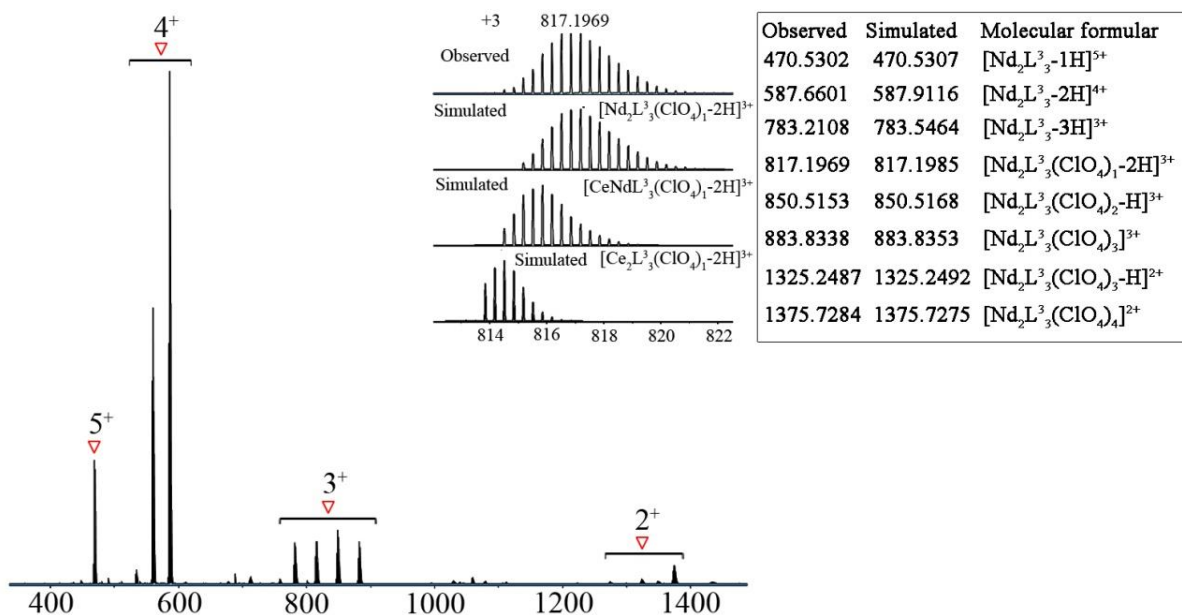
Supplementary Figure 280. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $\text{La}^{\text{III}}\text{-Ce}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly of $\text{L}^3(\text{ClO}_4^-)$ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



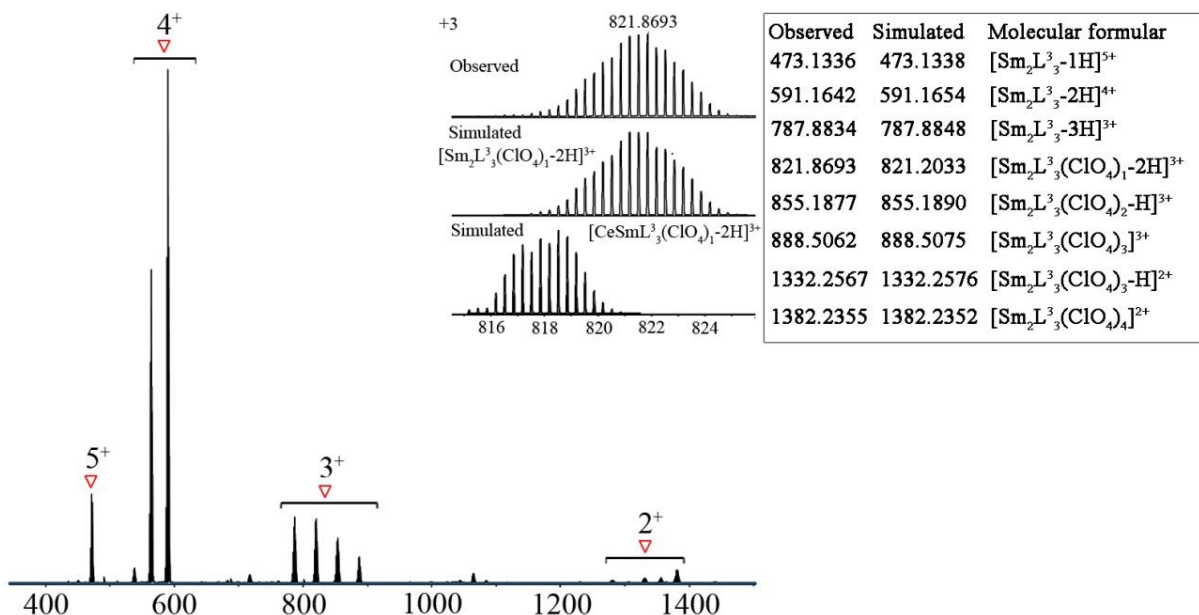
Supplementary Figure 281. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $\text{La}^{\text{III}}\text{-Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly of $\text{L}^3(\text{ClO}_4^-)$ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



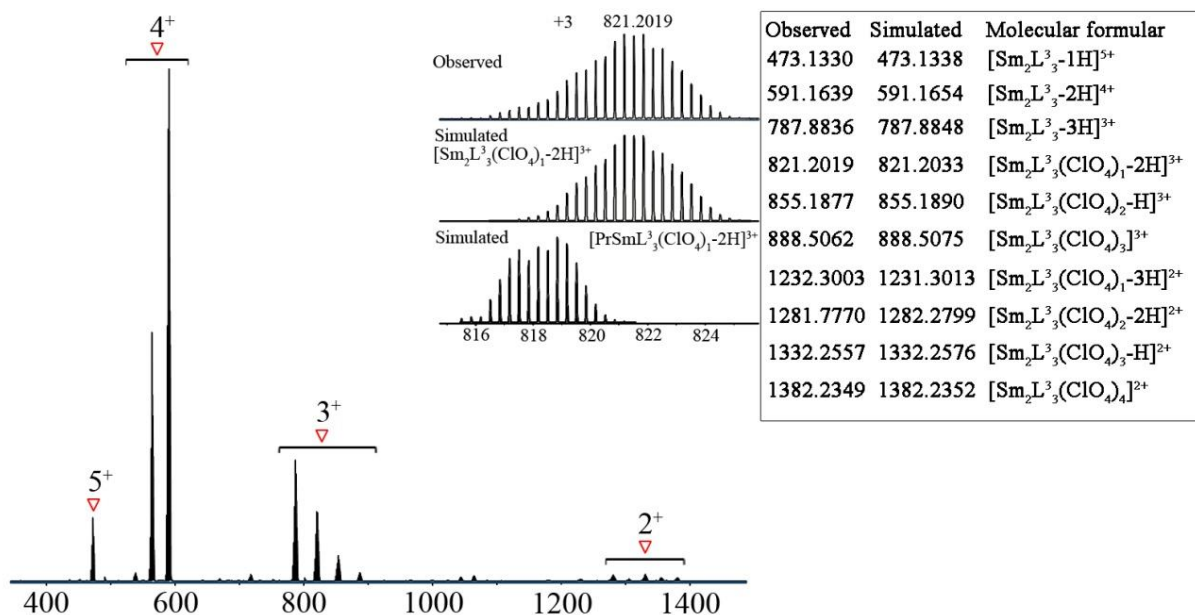
Supplementary Figure 282. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $\text{La}^{\text{III}}\text{-Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly of $\text{L}^3(\text{ClO}_4^-)$ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



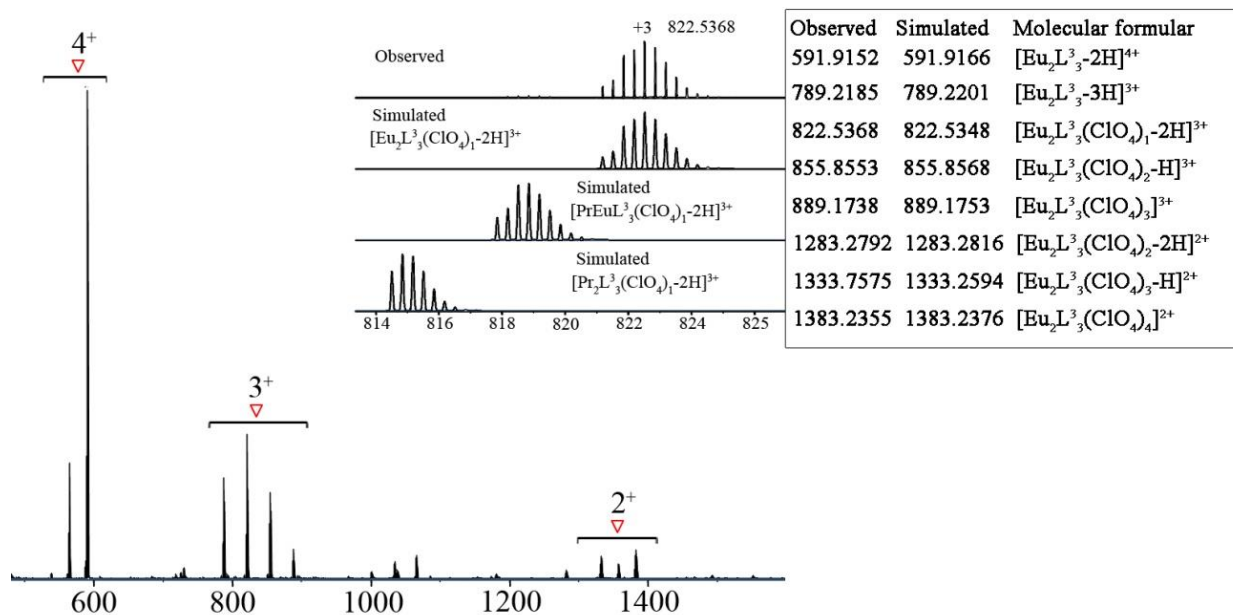
Supplementary Figure 283. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $\text{Ce}^{\text{III}}\text{-Nd}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly of $\text{L}^3(\text{ClO}_4^-)$ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



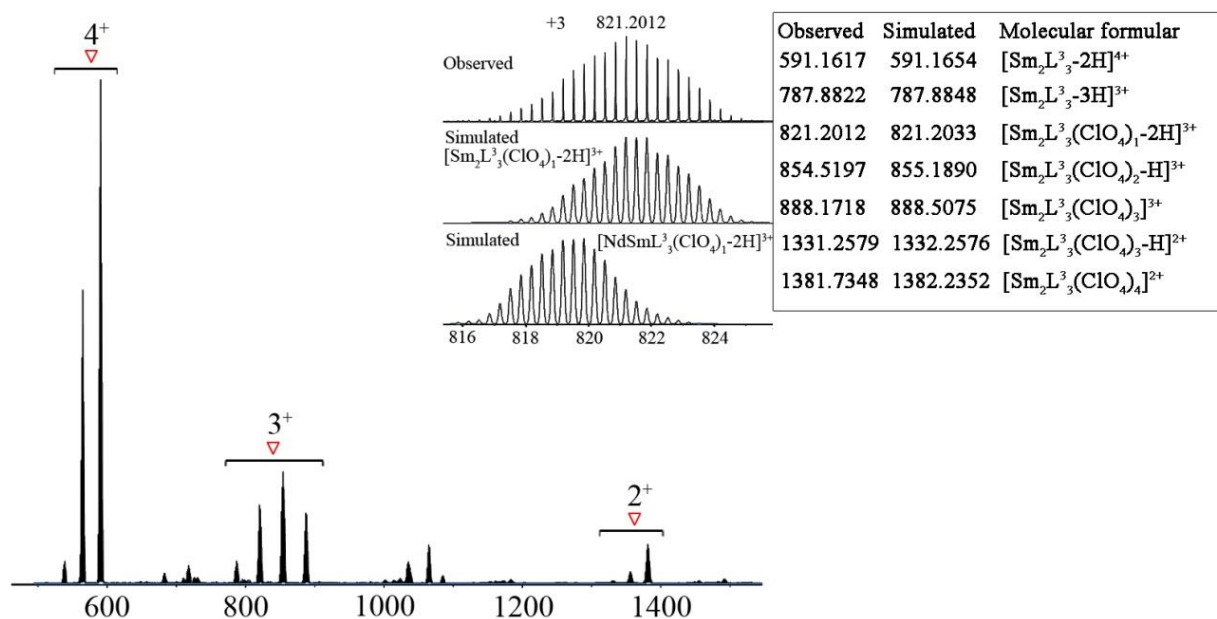
Supplementary Figure 284. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Ce^{III}-Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L³(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



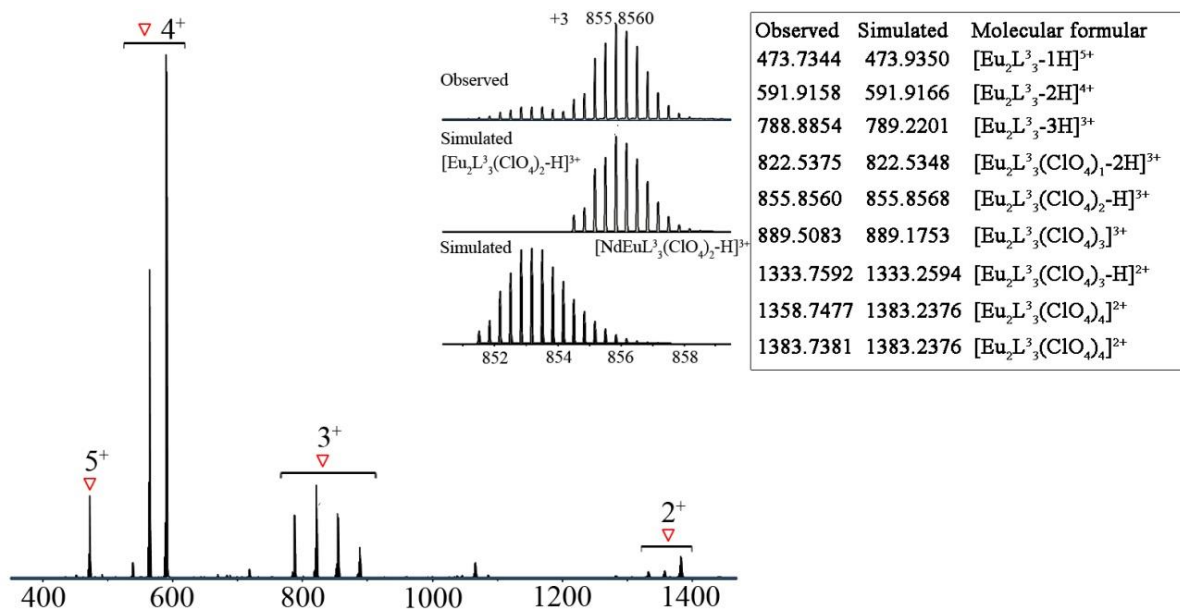
Supplementary Figure 285. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L³(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



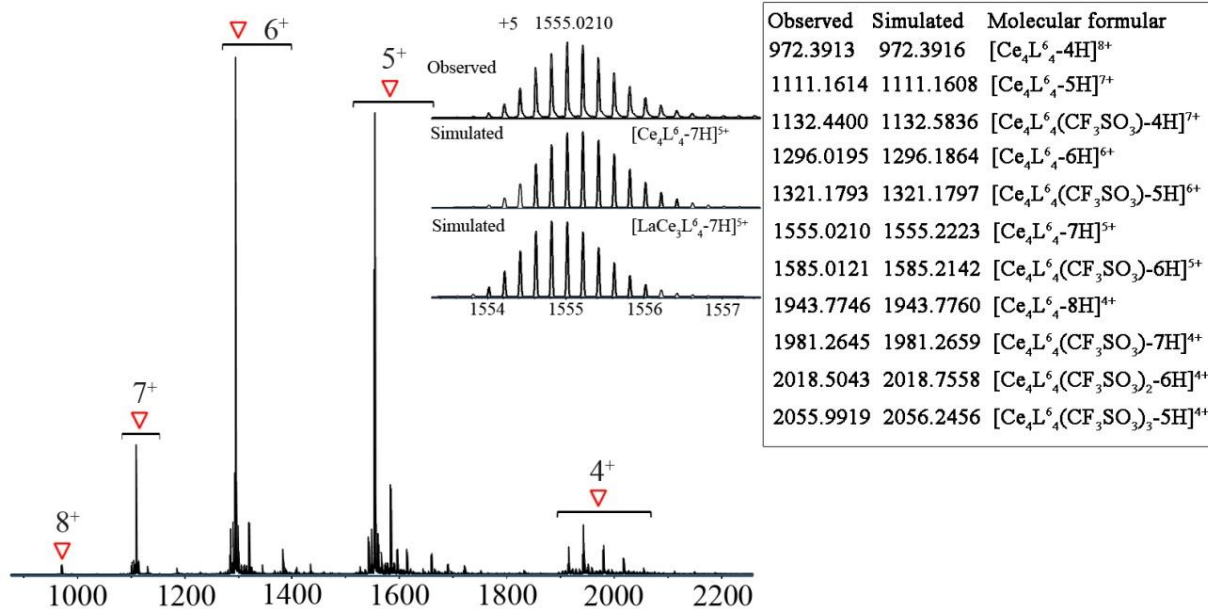
Supplementary Figure 286. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L³(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



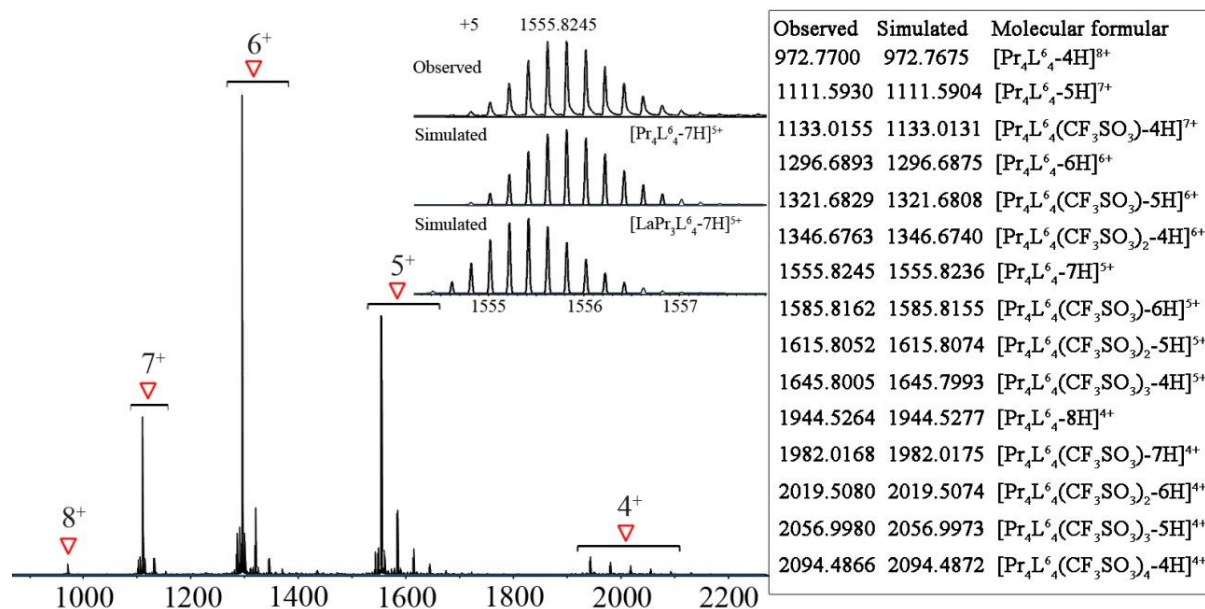
Supplementary Figure 287. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Nd^{III}-Sm^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L³(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



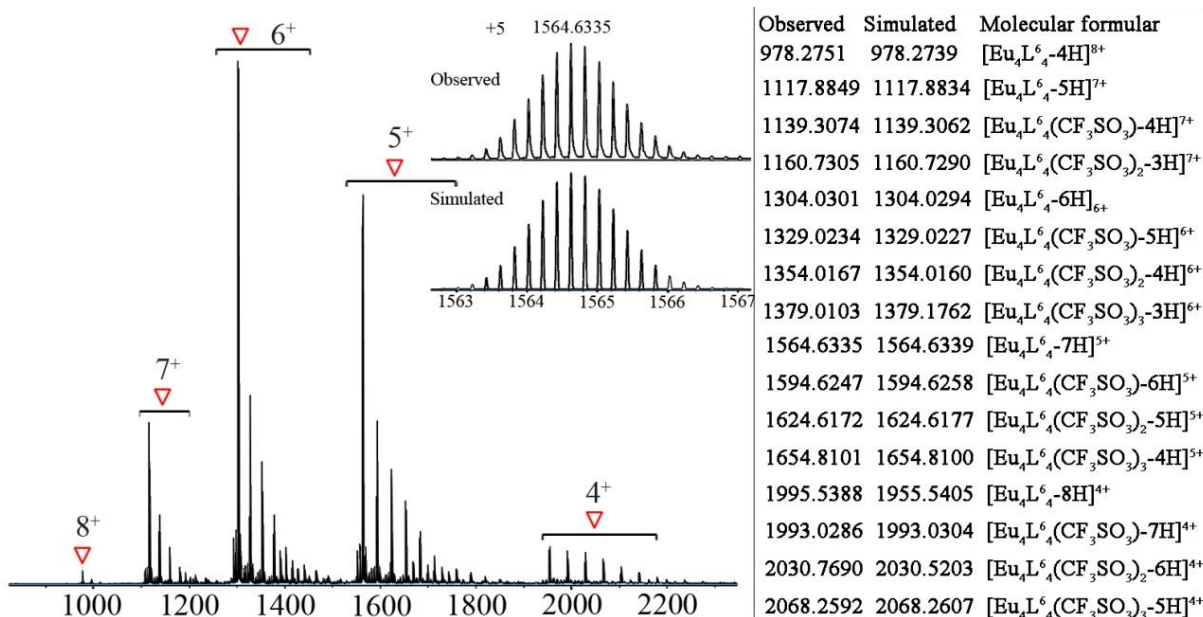
Supplementary Figure 288. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Nd^{III}-Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L³(ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +3 peaks.



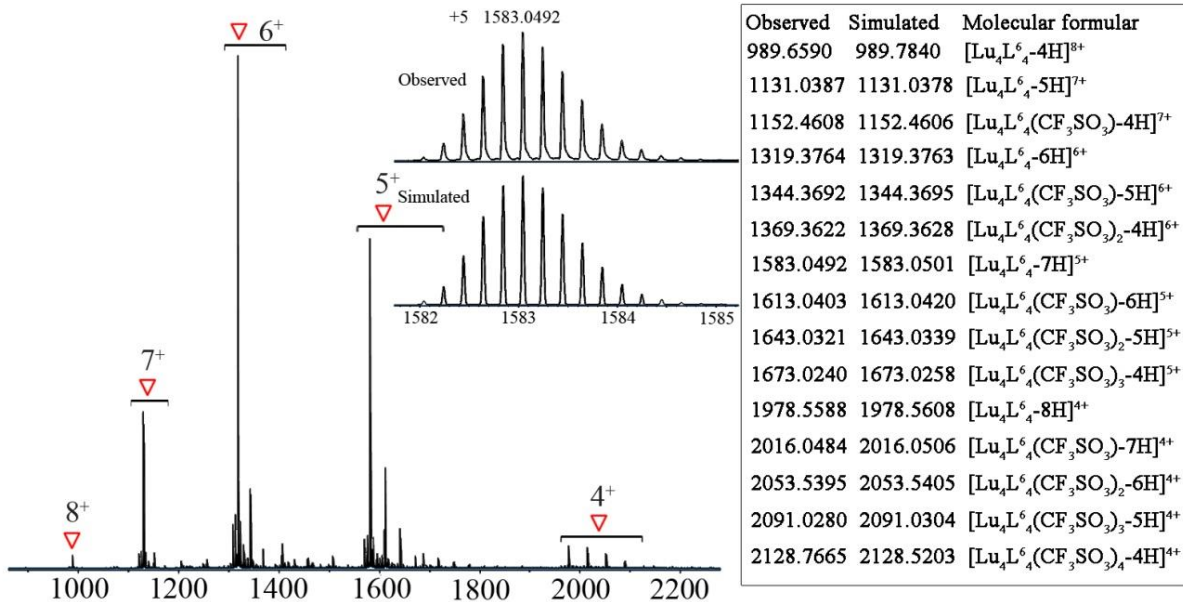
Supplementary Figure 289. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Ce^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L⁶(CF₃SO₃⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



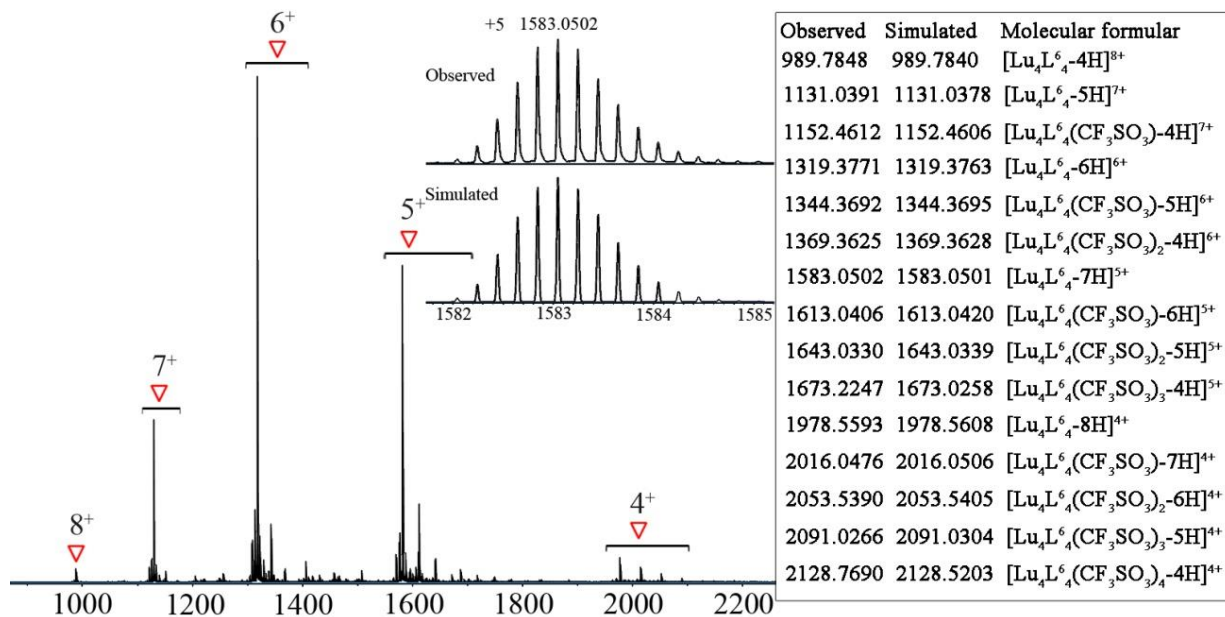
Supplementary Figure 290. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $\text{La}^{\text{III}}\text{-Pr}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly of L^6 (CF_3SO_3^- counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



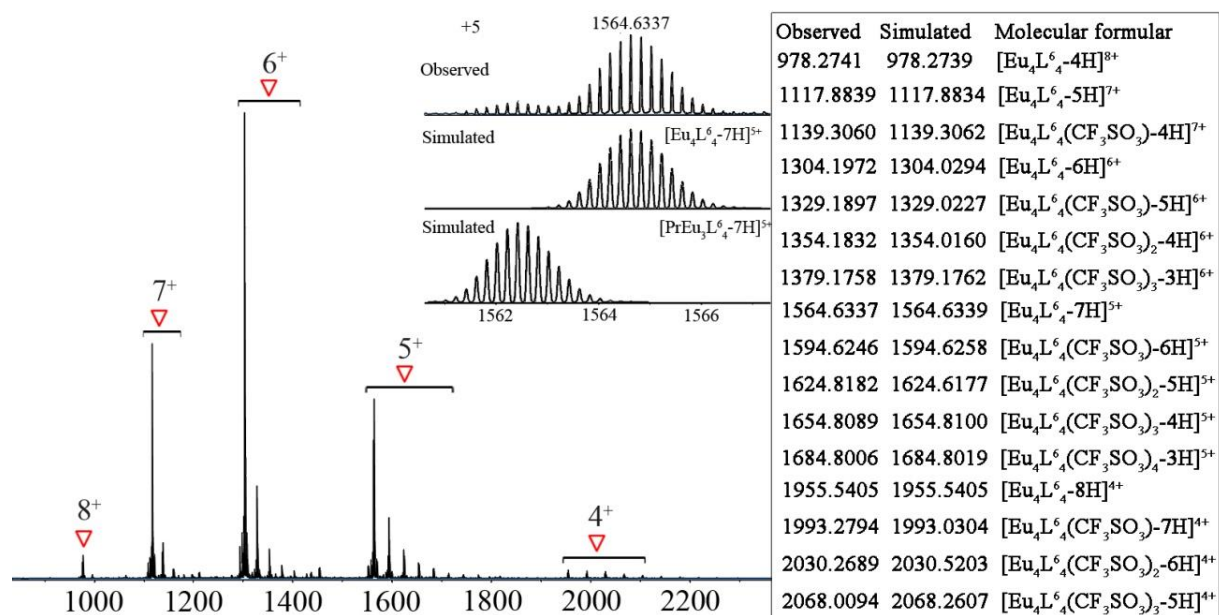
Supplementary Figure 291. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for $\text{La}^{\text{III}}\text{-Eu}^{\text{III}}$ mixed-metal self-assembly of L^6 (CF_3SO_3^- counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



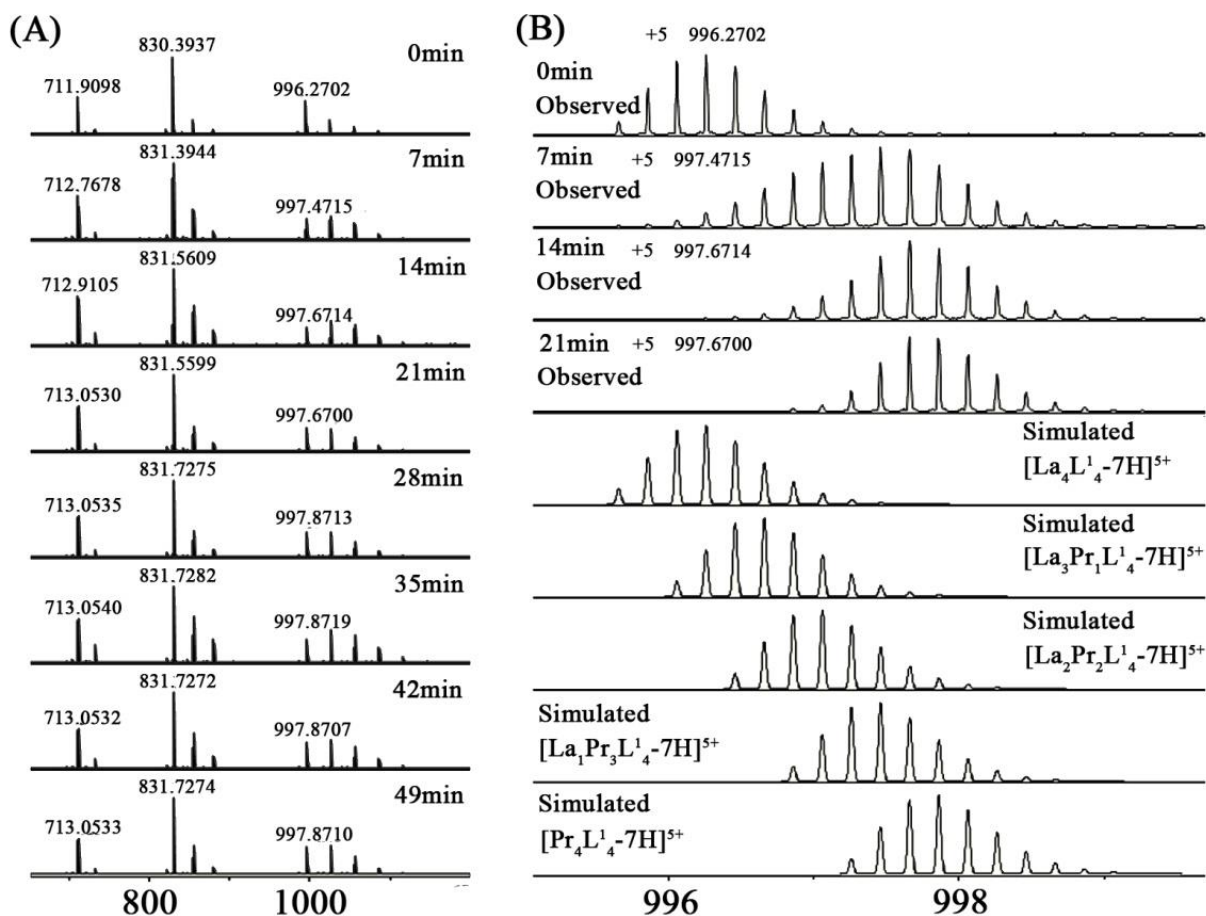
Supplementary Figure 292. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for La^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L⁶ (CF₃SO₃⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.



Supplementary Figure 293. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Eu^{III}-Lu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of L⁶ (CF₃SO₃⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.

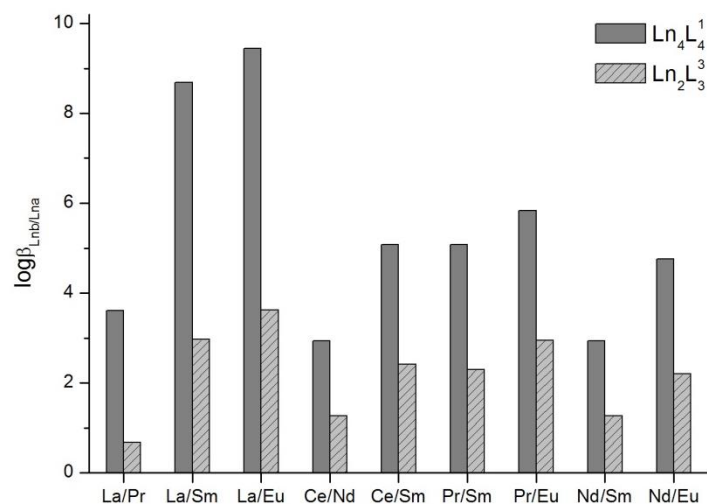


Supplementary Figure 294. ESI-TOF-MS spectrum for Pr^{III}-Eu^{III} mixed-metal self-assembly of **L**⁶ (CF₃SO₃⁻ counter-anion) with insets showing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of the +5 peaks.

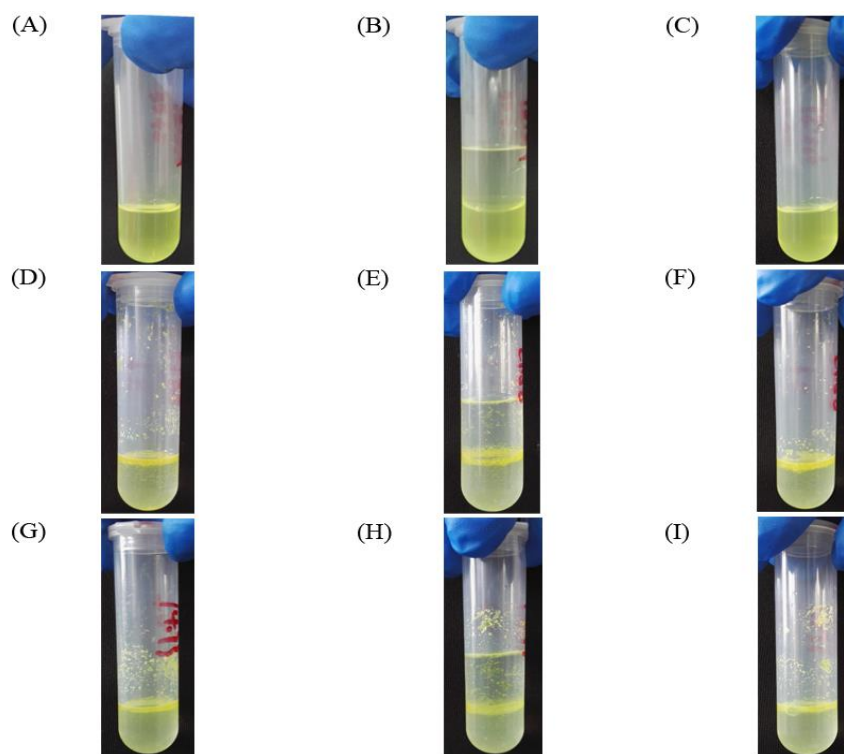


Supplementary Figure 295. ESI-TOF-MS spectra monitoring the post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments of Pr^{III} toward [La₄L₄]¹²⁺ (ClO₄⁻ counter-anion) at different time intervals (A) and the corresponding isotope patterns of the 5+ peaks (B).

By carefully comparing the observed and simulated isotope patterns of ESI-TOF-MS, it can be seen that a mixture of [Ln_nPr_(4-n)L₄]¹²⁺ (n=0-4) complexes were observed at 7min and La(III) was gradually substituted by Pr(III) over ca. 30min. The metathesis experiments reached equilibrium faster than that in the NMR experiment, which is possibly due to a low reaction concentration in this case.



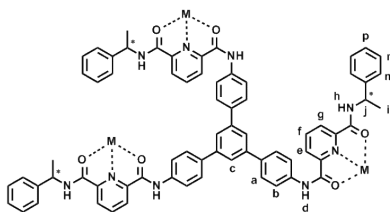
Supplementary Figure 296. Estimated relative stability constants $\beta_{L^{nb}/L^{na}}$ comparison of L^1 and L^3 based on post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments.



Supplementary Figure 297. Extraction performance of L^6 self-assembled complexes in $CHCl_3$ (A), in $CHCl_3/H_2O$ for 20 min with slight stirring (B), in $CHCl_3$ after removal of H_2O (C); L^4 self-assembled complexes in $CHCl_3$ (D), in $CHCl_3/H_2O$ for 20 min with slight stirring (E), in $CHCl_3$ after removal of H_2O (F) and L^5 self-assembled complexes in $CHCl_3$ (G), in $CHCl_3/H_2O$ for 20 min with slight stirring (H), in $CHCl_3$ after removal of H_2O (I).

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1. Comparison of the ^1H NMR chemical shifts (δ_i) for L^1 and tetrahedral complexes $\text{Ln}_4(\text{L}^1)_4$ (CD_3CN , 298 K).



	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>h</i>
L^1	7.93	7.84	7.87	8.42	8.12	8.34	7.24	7.48	7.35	1.70	5.36	10.08	8.67
$[\text{Ca}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.80	7.16	7.20	8.35	8.35	8.35	7.20	7.20	7.20	1.71	5.08	9.74	8.39
$[\text{Cd}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.78	7.15	7.20	8.35	8.35	8.35	7.20	7.20	7.20	1.71	5.09	9.71	8.35
$[\text{Y}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.72	7.21	7.10	8.57	8.40	8.51	7.16	7.16	7.01	1.64	4.96	10.67	9.18
$[\text{La}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.79	7.22	7.17	8.59	8.52	8.47	7.09	7.09	7.17	1.70	5.09	10.35	8.96
$[\text{Lu}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.73	7.20	7.10	8.56	8.39	8.50	7.17	7.17	7.00	1.64	4.94	10.67	9.18
$[\text{Sm}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.70	7.21	7.21	8.49	8.54	8.49	7.10	7.10	7.21	1.69	5.08	10.43	9.16
$[\text{Ce}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	8.12	7.35	7.16	8.84	8.99	8.72	7.16	7.16	7.23	1.94	5.83	11.38	10.07
$[\text{Pr}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	5.82	5.53	5.82	10.11	10.03	9.85	7.44	7.16	7.44	1.10	3.65	11.96	11.23
$[\text{Nd}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.69	8.75	7.53	9.23	8.91	9.10	7.18	7.25	7.18	2.21	6.39	12.77	11.84
$[\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	7.94	8.67	7.73	6.45	7.22	6.38	7.05	7.05	6.94	1.93	5.95	6.94	4.76
$[\text{Yb}_4(\text{L}^1)_4]^{12+}$	9.67	11.94	9.37	7.24	7.04	7.04	6.49	6.49	6.65	2.90	7.94	10.57	8.34

Supplementary Table 2. Comparison of metal ion selectivity with ligands of different coordination units.

	Ln_2L_3 in Hooley's work ^a	Ln_2L_3 in this work	Ln_4L_4 in this work
La/Sm	0.36/1	complete	complete
La/Y	0.03/1	complete	complete
Pr/Sm	0.33/1	0.13/1	0.07/1
Pr/Y	0.29/1	complete	complete

^aRelative percentage of complexes after displacement titrations as reported in literature^{S7}.

Supplementary Table 3. Selectivity (defined by [Ln^b(III)]/[Ln^a(III)] on the tetrahedral cage complex) observed in one-pot mixed-metal self-assembly using L¹.^a

	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Sm	Eu	Y	Yb ^d	Lu
r _{Ln(III)} /Å ^b	1.22	1.20	1.18	1.16	1.13	1.12	1.08	1.04	1.03
La		8.33	7.69	C	C	C	C	C	C ^c
Ce				5.88	14.29	C	C	-	C
Pr					14.29	20.00	C	-	C
Nd					5.88	12.5	5.00	-	C
Sm							2.17	-	C
Eu							1.54	-	C

^a[Ln^b(III)]/[Ln^a(III)] was calculated from the integrals in the ¹H NMR spectra of mixed-metal self-assembly complexes, with a systematic error of 5%. ■ represents complete metal selectivity, ■ represents highly efficient metal selectivity and ■ represents no obvious metal selectivity.

^br_{Ln(III)}/Å is ionic radii for coordination number as 9⁵⁸.

^cNo Ln^a(III) complexes were detected by NMR and ESI-MS.

^dThe ionic radii of Ln(III) ions shrinks gradually along the series as a result of lanthanide contraction. While our results on metal ion selectivity mainly follow the ionic radii sequence, other factors, such as electronegativity, could not be neglected. According to the Pauling's rule in electronegativity, lanthanide ions with smaller ionic radii tend to have bigger electronegativity. However, there are always exceptions. For example, Yb(III), which has an ionic radius just bigger than the smallest Lu(III), bears the minimum electronegativity among all the trivalent lanthanides. So there is a difference in metal ion selectivity between Yb(III) and Lu(III).

Moreover, ESI-TOF-MS measurements indicate non-absolute metal ion self-recognition assembly of L¹ with Ln^{III}/Yb^{III} (Ln = Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu) mixtures. However, the severe line-broadening of the ¹H NMR spectrum caused by paramagnetism of Yb^{III} hinders precise quantitation of different lanthanide ions in the assembled complexes through integration of the NMR spectra.

Supplementary Table 4. Estimated relative stability constants of $[\text{Ln}^{\text{b}}_4\text{L}^{\text{1}}_4]^{12+}$ over $[\text{Ln}^{\text{a}}_4\text{L}^{\text{1}}_4]^{12+}$ based on post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) (with $\pm 5\%$ exp. error).

Metal combination	$\log(\beta_{\text{Ln}^{\text{b}}/\text{Ln}^{\text{a}}})$	Metal combination	$\log(\beta_{\text{Ln}^{\text{b}}/\text{Ln}^{\text{a}}})$
Ce/La	3.81	Nd/Ce	2.94
Pr/La	3.61	Sm/Ce	5.08
Nd/La	6.75 ($\log\beta_{\text{Nd/Ce}} + \log\beta_{\text{Ce/La}}$)	Sm/Pr	5.08
Sm/La	8.89 ($\log\beta_{\text{Sm/Ce}} + \log\beta_{\text{Ce/La}}$)	Eu/Pr	5.83
	8.69 ($\log\beta_{\text{Sm/Pr}} + \log\beta_{\text{Pr/La}}$)	Sm/Nd	2.94
Eu/La	9.44 ($\log\beta_{\text{Eu/Pr}} + \log\beta_{\text{Pr/La}}$)	Eu/Nd	4.76

Supplementary Table 5. Estimated relative stability constants of $[\text{Ln}^{\text{b}}_2\text{L}^{\text{3}}_3]^{6+}$ over $[\text{Ln}^{\text{a}}_2\text{L}^{\text{3}}_3]^{6+}$ based on post-synthetic metal-ion metathesis experiments (CD_3CN , 400 MHz, 298 K) (with $\pm 5\%$ exp. error).

Metal combination	$\log(\beta_{\text{Ln}^{\text{b}}/\text{Ln}^{\text{a}}})$	Metal combination	$\log(\beta_{\text{Ln}^{\text{b}}/\text{Ln}^{\text{a}}})$
Ce/La	-	Nd/Ce	1.27
Pr/La	0.67	Sm/Ce	2.41
Sm/La	2.97 ($\log\beta_{\text{Sm/Pr}} + \log\beta_{\text{Pr/La}}$)	Sm/Pr	2.30
Eu/La	3.62 ($\log\beta_{\text{Eu/Pr}} + \log\beta_{\text{Pr/La}}$)	Eu/Pr	2.95
		Sm/Nd	1.27
		Eu/Nd	2.20

Supplementary Table 6. Extraction performance of L^{6} self-assembled complexes in $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{H}_2\text{O}$.^[a]

Metal combination	Starting material/mg	Extract in water/mg	$S_{\text{Ln}^{\text{a}}/\text{Ln}^{\text{b}}}$
La/Pr	1.18/1.21	0.37/0.219	2.1
	1.28/1.29	0.5972/0.3637	2.2
	1.32/1.24	0.5614/0.3367	1.9
La/Eu	1.00/1.07	0.49/0.11	8.4
	1.19/1.33	0.154/0.022	8.9
	1.25/1.34	0.1418/0.0207	8.1
La/Lu	1.17/1.40	0.57/0.015	87.7
	1.22/1.49	0.8543/0.039	86.7
	1.33/1.61	0.54/0.013	84.0
Pr/Eu	1.10/1.24	0.32/0.127	3.6
	1.29/1.37	0.0838/0.0264	3.6
	1.30/1.36	0.0715/0.0192	4.1
Eu/Lu	1.26/1.36	0.12/0.015	9.4
	1.34/1.54	0.5592/0.0976	10.6
	1.36/1.55	0.477/0.1018	7.7

^[a]For both metal combinations of $\text{La}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$ and $\text{Eu}^{\text{III}}/\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}$, the concentration of Lu^{III} was set as 1 ppb, the lower detection limit of the instrument, as its concentration after dilution preparation for ICP tests went beyond the lower detection limit (with $\pm 5\%$ exp. error).

Supplementary Table 7. Crystal data and refinement of complex Cd_4L^1_4 (ClO_4^- salt).

Identification code	p6322_final
Empirical formula	C828 H684 Cd12 Cl18 N108 O163
Formula weight	16741.69
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.750 Å
Crystal system	Hexagonal
Space group	P6 ₃ 22
Unit cell dimensions	a = 48.446(4) Å α = 90° b = 48.446(4) Å β = 90° c = 35.873(3) Å γ = 120°
Volume	72916(13) Å ³
Z	2
Density (calculated)	0.763 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.286 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	17188
Crystal size	0.20 x 0.20 x 0.30 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	1.024 to 18.225 °
Index ranges	-34 ≤ h ≤ 34, -34 ≤ k ≤ 34, -24 ≤ l ≤ 25
Reflections collected	260315
Independent reflections	11880 [R(int) = 0.0639]
Completeness to theta = 18.225 °	80.0 %
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	11880 / 3404 / 1373
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.270
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0991, wR2 = 0.2659
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1059, wR2 = 0.2770
Absolute structure parameter	0.029(17)
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.464 and -0.241 e.Å ⁻³

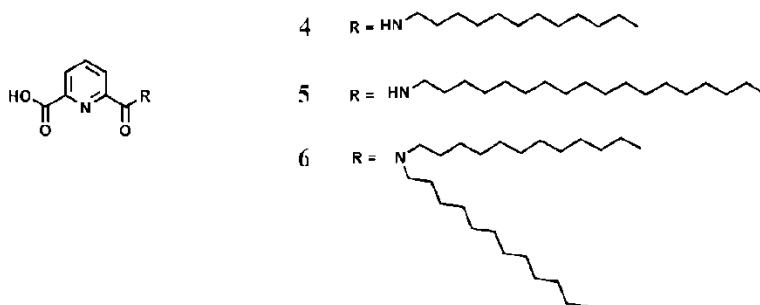
Supplementary Table 8. Crystal data and refinement of complex **La₄L¹₄** (ClO₄⁻ salt).

Identification code	p213
Empirical formula	C276 H228 Cl12 La4 N36 O80
Formula weight	6309.97
Temperature	293(2) K
Wavelength	0.750 Å
Crystal system	Cubic
Space group	P2 ₁ 3
Unit cell dimensions	a = 42.908(2) Å α = 90° b = 42.908(2) Å β = 90° c = 42.908(2) Å γ = 90°
Volume	78995(13) Å ³
Z	8
Density (calculated)	1.061 Mg/m ³
Absorption coefficient	0.651 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	25664
Crystal size	0.18 x 0.18 x 0.18 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	0.708 to 22.024 °
Index ranges	-42<=h<=42, -38<=k<=38, -42<=l<=42
Reflections collected	464086
Independent reflections	27430 [R(int) = 0.0838]
Completeness to theta = 22.024 °	99.7 %
Absorption correction	None
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	27430 / 3895 / 2392
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.090
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0940, wR2 = 0.2387
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1126, wR2 = 0.2553
Absolute structure parameter	0.042(4)
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.983 and -1.287 e.Å ⁻³

Supplementary Methods

Synthesis and physical properties of ligands **L**¹⁻⁶

Synthesis of **L¹⁻³**: Enantiomeric pure **L**¹⁻³ were synthesized according to reported procedures with spectroscopic data consistent with the literature.^{S1, S2, S3}



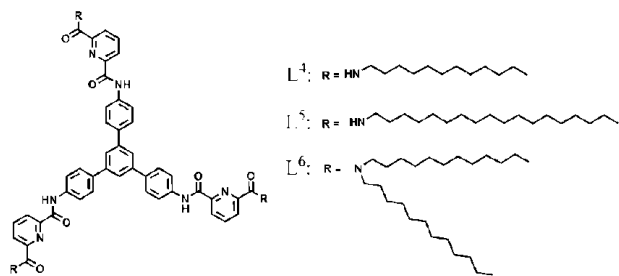
Supplementary Figure 298. Chemical structures of compounds **4-6**.

Synthesis of Compound 6: To a stirred solution of 2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid (5.00 g, 30.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) in anhydrous DMF/DCM (60 mL) at room temperature, HATU (4.56 g, 12.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added under nitrogen. After stirring for 30 min, di-*N*-dodecylamine (5.09 g, 14.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added, followed by the addition of DIPEA (5.50 mL, 31.6 mmol, 2.6 equiv.) over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 12 h and then diluted with water (100 mL). After extracted with DCM (5 × 30 mL), dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated in *vacuo*, the crude product was purified with flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 50:0 to 50:1) to give **6** as a light yellow powder: (5.10 g, 10.1 mmol, 70% yield) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.14–7.96 (m, 1H), 7.91–7.65 (m, 1H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 3.24 (s, 2H), 1.70 (s, 2H), 1.58 (s, 2H), 1.27 (s, 36H), 0.88 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.24, 164.00, 154.06, 145.52, 139.32, 126.98, 124.33, 48.96, 45.85, 31.93, 29.63, 29.43, 29.36, 29.17, 29.08, 27.48, 27.12, 26.65, 22.69, 14.12. HR-MS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₁H₅₅N₂O₃ ([M+H]¹⁺): 503.4207; found 503.4209.

Compounds **4** and **5** were synthesized in a similar procedure as **6**, by replacing di-*N*-dodecylamine with dodecanamine and octadecanamine, respectively.

4: light yellow powder, 69% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.11 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.67–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.39–1.19 (m, 18H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.68, 163.17, 149.79, 145.40, 139.58, 126.87, 126.57, 39.95, 31.91, 29.64, 29.62, 29.54, 29.34, 27.04, 22.68, 14.11. HR-MS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₃₁N₂O₃ ([M+H]¹⁺): 335.2329; found 335.2329.

5: light yellow powder, 70% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.67–1.59 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.22 (m, 30H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.01, 163.07, 149.87, 146.05, 139.49, 126.76, 126.43, 39.93, 31.93, 29.71, 29.66, 29.62, 29.56, 29.37, 29.34, 27.05, 22.69, 14.12. HR-MS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₄₃N₂O₃ ([M+H]¹⁺): 419.3268; found 419.3265.



Supplementary Figure 299. Chemical structures of **L**⁴⁻⁶.

Synthesis of **L⁴⁻⁶**: Compound **6** (1.86 g, 3.70 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in thionyl chloride (SOCl₂, 10 mL), followed by the addition of 2 drops of DMF at room temperature. After stirring the reaction mixture at

50 °C for 3h, excess SOCl₂ was removed in *vacuo* and the resulting residue was used without further purification. The acid chloride was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (50 mL) and treated with 1,3,5-tris(4-aminophenyl)benzene (325.1 mg, 0.92 mmol, 0.25 equiv.) and *N*-ethyldiisopropylamine (1 mL) at 0 °C. The resulting solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and the reaction was monitored by TLC until all starting materials were consumed. After removing the solvent under reduced pressure, the product was purified with column chromatography (DCM:MeOH = 100:1) to give L⁶ as pale yellow solid (1.30 g, 0.72 mmol) in 78% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.89 (s, 3H), 8.38(d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 8.03(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.90(d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 6H), 7.79 (s, 3H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H), 7.69(d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 3.56(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H), 3.24(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H), 1.73(m, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.62(m, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 12H), 1.40 (s, 12H), 1.27 (s, 42H), 1.12(s, 48H), 0.87(m, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 9H), 0.82(m, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.11, 161.44, 153.95, 148.65, 141.76, 138.84, 137.34, 137.07, 127.97, 125.59, 124.49, 122.85, 120.17, 48.88, 45.62, 31.93, 31.87, 29.68, 29.66, 29.57, 29.54, 29.48, 29.37, 29.29, 29.24, 29.13, 27.51, 27.16, 26.72, 22.69, 22.65, 14.12, 14.10. HR-MS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁₇H₁₇₈N₉O₆ ([M+H]¹⁺): 1806.3927; found 1806.3930.

L⁴ and L⁵ were synthesized in the same procedure as above, by replacing starting material 6 with 4 and 5, respectively.

L⁴: pale yellow solid, 75% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.63 (s, 3H), 8.46 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 7.7 Hz, 6H), 8.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 6H), 7.85–7.75 (m, 9H), 7.75 (s, 3H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 6H), 1.71 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 12H), 1.45 (s, 6H), 1.25 (s, 42H), 0.84 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.29, 161.34, 149.24, 148.72, 141.72, 139.42, 137.53, 136.83, 128.02, 125.59, 125.25, 124.58, 120.54, 39.84, 31.90, 29.79, 29.67, 29.63, 29.39, 29.34, 27.15, 22.67, 14.11. HR-MS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₈₁H₁₀₆N₉O₆ ([M+H]¹⁺): 1300.8261; found 1300.8254.

L⁵: pale yellow solid, 72% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.64(s, 3H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 8.09 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.87 (m, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 9H), 7.75(d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 9H), 3.56 (m, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 1.71 (m, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 1.43 (m, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6H), 1.22 (s, 84H), 0.87(t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.31, 161.35, 149.27, 148.74, 141.64, 139.38, 137.48, 136.83, 127.97, 125.61, 125.22, 124.58, 120.56, 100.00, 39.85, 31.91, 29.69, 29.65, 29.39, 29.35, 27.15, 22.68, 14.11, 10.78. HR-MS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉₉H₁₄₂N₉O₆ ([M+H]¹⁺): 1554.1110; found 1554.1137.

Synthesis and physical properties of [M₄L₄]⁸⁺ and [Ln₄L₄]¹²⁺

[Pr₄L₄](ClO₄)₁₂: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 11.96(s, 3H), 11.23(s, 3H), 10.11(s, 3H), 10.03(t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 9.85(d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 7.44(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 9H), 7.16(d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 6H), 5.82(s, 9H), 5.53(s, 6H), 3.65(s, 3H), 1.10(s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 167.27, 152.02, 151.45, 142.42, 142.01, 141.24, 139.14, 137.14, 134.49, 129.43, 128.49, 126.59, 126.30, 122.50, 121.45, 53.14, 29.92, 20.43. ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-8(ClO₄)-4(HClO₄)]⁸⁺ 624.0471, found 624.0475; calcd for [M-7(ClO₄)-5(HClO₄)]⁷⁺ 713.0528, found 713.0533; calcd for [M-6(ClO₄)-6(HClO₄)]⁶⁺ 831.7271, found 831.7277; calcd for [M-5(ClO₄)-7(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 997.8710, found 997.8714; calcd for [M-4(ClO₄)-7(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 1272.0757, found 1272.0751.

[Nd₄L₄](ClO₄)₁₂: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 12.77(s, 3H), 11.84(s, 3H), 9.23(d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 9.10(d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 8.91(d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 8.75(s, 6H), 7.69(s, 6H), 7.53(s, 3H), 7.25(s, 6H), 7.18(s, 9H), 6.39(s, 3H), 2.21(s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 168.22, 166.21, 149.04, 143.80, 143.52, 142.32, 140.79, 138.97, 138.82, 136.63, 129.19, 128.26, 128.19, 126.54, 124.14, 123.72, 54.60, 29.92, 21.56. ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-9(ClO₄)-3(HClO₄)]⁹⁺ 556.1551, found 556.1555; calcd for [M-8(ClO₄)-4(HClO₄)]⁸⁺ 625.5486, found 625.5495; calcd for [M-7(ClO₄)-4(HClO₄)]⁷⁺ 729.1912, found 729.1922; calcd for [M-6(ClO₄)-4(HClO₄)]⁶⁺ 867.2143, found 867.2156; calcd for [M-5(ClO₄)-2(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 1100.8293, found 1101.0303; calcd for [M-4(ClO₄)-2(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 1401.0238, found 1400.7736.

[Sm₄L₄](ClO₄)₁₂: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 10.43(s, 3H), 9.16 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 8.54(t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 3H), 8.49 (s, 6H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H), 7.21(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 15H), 7.10(s, 9H), 5.08 (m, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.69 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 170.17, 169.02, 150.06, 149.69, 144.29, 142.46, 140.20, 138.42, 135.51, 129.20, 128.18, 127.51, 126.28, 125.81, 123.72, 123.32, 52.85, 29.91, 21.33. ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-8(ClO₄)-4(HClO₄)]⁸⁺ 628.8025, found 628.8033; calcd for [M-7(ClO₄)-5(HClO₄)]⁷⁺ 718.4875, found 718.4881; calcd for [M-6(ClO₄)-6(HClO₄)]⁶⁺ 838.0675, found 838.0682; calcd for [M-5(ClO₄)-7(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 1005.4796, found 1005.4798; calcd for [M-4(ClO₄)-6(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 1306.8255, found 1306.8249.

[Y₄L¹₄](ClO₄)₁₂: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 10.67(s, 3H), 9.18 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 8.57(d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 8.51(d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 8.40(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 6H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 6H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 9H), 7.10(s, 3H), 7.01(t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 6H), 4.96(m, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.64(d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 167.27, 166.50, 148.04, 147.68, 143.72, 142.41, 140.19, 138.45, 135.58, 129.17, 128.06, 127.52, 126.90, 126.51, 126.20, 123.70, 123.26, 122.92, 119.74, 52.80, 21.35. ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-8(ClO₄⁻)-4(HClO₄)]⁸⁺ 598.0462, found 598.0473; calcd for [M-7(ClO₄⁻)-5(HClO₄)]⁷⁺ 683.3375, found 683.3384; calcd for [M-6(ClO₄⁻)-6(HClO₄)]⁶⁺ 797.0592, found 797.0605; calcd for [M-5(ClO₄⁻)-7(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 956.2696, found 956.2706; calcd for [M-4(ClO₄⁻)-5(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 1270.3019, found 1270.3021.

[Yb₄L¹₄](CF₃SO₃)₁₂: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 11.94 (s, 6H), 10.57 (s, 3H), 9.67 (s, 6H), 9.37 (s, 3H), 8.34 (s, 3H), 7.94 (s, 3H), 7.24 (s, 3H), 7.04 (s, 6H), 6.65 (s, 6H), 6.49 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 9H), 2.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 153.79, 144.01, 142.36, 142.32, 141.14, 138.16, 130.01, 128.38, 127.23, 126.57, 126.02, 125.44, 123.27, 120.15, 119.14, 53.89, 22.83. ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-9(ClO₄⁻)-3(HClO₄)]⁹⁺ 569.0562, found 569.0542; calcd for [M-8(ClO₄⁻)-4(HClO₄)]⁸⁺ 640.0623, found 640.0601; calcd for [M-7(ClO₄⁻)-4(HClO₄)]⁷⁺ 745.7782, found 745.7759; calcd for [M-6(ClO₄⁻)-4(HClO₄)]⁶⁺ 886.5659, found 886.5631; calcd for [M-5(ClO₄⁻)-3(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 1103.8599, found 1104.0558.

[Lu₄L¹₄](CF₃SO₃)₁₂: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 10.67(s, 3H), 9.18 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 8.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 8.39(t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.73(d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 6H), 7.20(s, 6H), 7.17(d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 9H), 7.10(s, 3H), 7.00(t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 6H), 4.94(m, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.64(d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 167.46, 166.68, 147.66, 147.29, 143.59, 142.43, 140.14, 138.39, 135.54, 129.20, 128.06, 127.47, 126.91, 126.47, 126.15, 123.63, 123.14, 122.89, 119.71, 52.80, 21.41. ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-8(CF₃SO₃⁻)-4(HCF₃SO₃)]⁸⁺ 641.0637, found 641.0651; calcd for [M-7(CF₃SO₃⁻)-4(HCF₃SO₃)]⁷⁺ 753.9231, found 753.9250; calcd for [M-6(CF₃SO₃⁻)-3(HCF₃SO₃)]⁶⁺ 929.3956, found 929.3977; calcd for [M-5(CF₃SO₃⁻)-1(HCF₃SO₃)]⁵⁺ 1205.0490, found 1205.2510; calcd for [M-4(CF₃SO₃⁻)]⁴⁺ 1581.2898, found 1581.2908.

Synthesis and physical properties of [Eu₁L²₃]³⁺

A solution of Eu(ClO₄)₃•6H₂O or Eu(CF₃SO₃)₃ (10.0 μmol, 1.0 equiv) in 1 mL CH₃CN was added to a solution of L² (30.0 μmol, 3.0 equiv) in 2 mL CH₃CN. The suspension turned into homogeneous yellow solution after stirring at 40 °C for 1 h. NMR and ESI-Q-TOF mass spectra confirmed the quantitative formation of [EuL²₃]³⁺ complexes, which is in accordance with the literature.^{S2}

[Eu₁L²₃](CF₃SO₃)₃: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 8.79–8.53 (m, 2H), 6.05 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 5.81 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 5.51 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 5.32 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H). ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-3(CF₃SO₃⁻)]³⁺ 424.1526, found 424.1526; calcd for [M-2(CF₃SO₃⁻)]²⁺ 710.7051, found 710.7060; calcd for [M-1(CF₃SO₃⁻)]¹⁺ 1719.1830, found 1719.1819; calcd for [M-1(L²)-1(CF₃SO₃⁻)]¹⁺ 1570.3626, found 1570.3622.

Synthesis and physical properties of [Ln₂L³₃]⁶⁺

To a yellow suspension of L³ (15.0 μmol, 1.5 equiv.) in 2 mL CH₃CN, a solution of Ln(ClO₄)₃•6H₂O or Ln(CF₃SO₃)₃ (10.0 μmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 1 mL CH₃CN was added. The suspension turned into homogeneous yellow solution after stirring at 40 °C for 2 h. NMR and ESI-Q-TOF mass spectra confirmed the quantitative formation of [Ln₂L³₃]³⁺ complexes. Spectroscopic data for [Eu₂L³₃](OTf)₆ are consistent with the literature.^{S3}

[La₂L³₃](ClO₄)₆: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 10.14(s, 2H), 8.81 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 8.60 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 8.51(d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.15(m, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 10H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 5.18(m, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-4(ClO₄⁻)-2(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 585.4093, found 585.4098; calcd for [M-3(ClO₄⁻)]⁴⁺ 880.4993, found 880.4999; calcd for [M-2(ClO₄⁻)]²⁺ 1370.7237, found 1370.7248.

[Ce₂L³₃](CF₃SO₃)₆: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 11.01(s, 2H), 10.01(s, 2H), 8.79 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.41(d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30(s, 4H), 7.19(d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.15(s, 6H), 6.60(s, 2H), 2.31 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H). ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-5(CF₃SO₃⁻)-1(HCF₃SO₃)]⁵⁺ 486.9286, found 486.9274; calcd for [M-4(CF₃SO₃⁻)-2(HCF₃SO₃)]⁴⁺ 585.9089, found 585.9074; calcd for [M-3(CF₃SO₃⁻)-3(HCF₃SO₃)]³⁺ 780.8761, found 780.8747; calcd for [M-2(CF₃SO₃⁻)]²⁺ 1471.2309, found 1471.2283.

[Pr₂L³₃](ClO₄)₆: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 11.99(s, 2H), 11.41(s, 2H), 9.72(s, 4H), 9.57(s, 2H), 7.32(s, 6H), 7.16(s, 4H), 6.32(s, 4H), 5.75(s, 4H), 4.33(s, 2H), 1.35(s, 6H). ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-4(ClO₄⁻)-2(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 585.4093, found 585.4098; calcd for [M-3(ClO₄⁻)]⁴⁺ 880.4993, found 880.4999; calcd for [M-2(ClO₄⁻)]²⁺ 1370.7237, found 1370.7248.

)-2(HClO₄)⁴⁺ 586.4100, found 586.4140; calcd for [M-3(ClO₄⁻)-1(HClO₄)]³⁺ 848.5150, found 848.5191; calcd for [M-2(ClO₄⁻)]²⁺ 1372.7250, found 1372.7296.

[Nd₂L₃](ClO₄)₆: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 12.40(s, 2H), 11.76(s, 2H), 9.23(s, 4H), 9.03(d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.92(d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.77 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38(s, 4H), 7.29(s, 4H), 7.15(s, 6H), 6.91(s, 2H). ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-5(ClO₄⁻)-1(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 470.5307, found 470.5299; calcd for [M-4(ClO₄⁻)-2(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 587.9116, found 587.9102; calcd for [M-3(ClO₄⁻)-3(HClO₄)]³⁺ 783.5464, found 783.5448; calcd for [M-2(ClO₄⁻)-1(HClO₄)]²⁺ 1325.2492, found 1325.7485.

[Sm₂L₃](ClO₄)₆: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 10.19(s, 2H), 9.07(d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 8.44(t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 6H), 7.71(d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.21(d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6H), 7.08(t, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 4H), 6.61(d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 5.15 (p, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H). ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-5(ClO₄⁻)-1(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 473.1338, found 473.1331; calcd for [M-4(ClO₄⁻)-2(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 591.1654, found 591.1638; calcd for [M-3(ClO₄⁻)-3(HClO₄)]³⁺ 787.8848, found 787.8830; calcd for [M-2(ClO₄⁻)-2(HClO₄)]²⁺ 1282.2799, found 1282.2780.

[Eu₂L₃](ClO₄)₆: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 8.09(d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 7.39(t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10(d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 6H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.96(m, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 6H), 6.57(t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 5.51(s, 2H), 5.03 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 164.89, 161.58, 156.12, 145.47, 144.45, 143.28, 138.74, 136.56, 129.16, 128.10, 127.85, 126.15, 123.02, 93.21, 92.69, 51.99, 47.64, 22.12, 8.82. ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-5(ClO₄⁻)-1(HClO₄)]⁵⁺ 473.9350, found 473.9343; calcd for [M-4(ClO₄⁻)-2(HClO₄)]⁴⁺ 591.9166, found 591.9155; calcd for [M-3(ClO₄⁻)-3(HClO₄)]³⁺ 789.2201, found 789.2182; calcd for [M-2(ClO₄⁻)-2(HClO₄)]²⁺ 1283.2816, found 1283.2796.

Synthesis and physical properties of [Ln₄L⁴⁻⁶]₄¹²⁺

[Pr₄L⁶](CF₃SO₃)₁₂: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 12.56 (s, 3H), 10.30 (s, 3H), 10.06 (s, 3H), 9.40 (s, 3H), 6.10 (s, 9H), 5.90 (s, 6H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 24.7 Hz, 6H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.24 (d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 96H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 6H), 0.90–0.83 (m, 18H), 0.70 (s, 6H), 0.54 (s, 6H). ESI-TOF-MS calcd for [M-8(CF₃SO₃⁻)-4(HCF₃SO₃)]⁸⁺ 972.7675, found 972.7676; calcd for [M-7(CF₃SO₃⁻)-5(HCF₃SO₃)]⁷⁺ 1111.5904, found 1111.5908; calcd for [M-6(CF₃SO₃⁻)-6(HCF₃SO₃)]⁶⁺ 1296.6875, found 1296.6874; calcd for [M-5(CF₃SO₃⁻)-7(HCF₃SO₃)]⁵⁺ 1555.8236, found 1555.8223; calcd for [M-4(CF₃SO₃⁻)-6(HCF₃SO₃)]⁴⁺ 2019.5074, found 2019.5039.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction studies.

X-ray data was collected at room temperature. The crystal was transferred and sealed inside a glass capillary with an atmosphere of the mother liquor without exposure to air. X-ray data collection at cryogenic conditions for these compounds resulted in the deterioration of crystallinity due to unknown reasons and gave worse quality of data. The reason for the deterioration of the crystals under cryogenic conditions possibly has something to do with the large cavities existing inside the big unit cells that are filled with amorphous organic solvents such as diethyl ether, THF and so on, which may still slowly diffuse/evaporate under liquid N₂ temperature. This is a quite different feature from biological samples which are always grown from water. So it is quite common to see X-ray data collected at room temperature for supramolecular systems. Our own experiences also suggest that to seal the crystals inside a glass capillary and collect the data quickly at room temperature may be a general protocol to follow for fragile crystals grown from volatile organic solvents.^{S1, S4, S5}

Crystal data for Cd₄L¹₄(ClO₄)₈: Space group P6₃22, a=b=48.446(4) Å, c=35.873(3) Å, V=72916(13) Å³, Z = 2, T = 293K. Anisotropic least-squares refinement for the framework atoms and isotropic refinement for the other atoms on 11880 independent merged reflections (R_{int} = 0.0639) converged at residual wR₂ = 0.2770 for all data; residual R₁ = 0.0991 for 10214 observed data [*I* > 2σ(*I*)], and goodness of fit (GOF) = 1.270.

Crystal data for La₄L¹₄(ClO₄)₁₂: Space group P2₁3, a = b = c = 42.908(2) Å, V = 78995(13) Å³, Z = 8, T = 293K. Anisotropic least-squares refinement for the framework atoms and isotropic refinement for the other atoms on 27430 independent merged reflections (R_{int} = 0.0838) converged at residual wR₂ = 0.2553 for all data; residual R₁ = 0.0940 for 21686 observed data [*I* > 2σ(*I*)], and goodness of fit (GOF) = 1.090.

Additional Comments: The crystals of these kinds of giant supramolecular assemblies diffract very weakly in nature. The diffractions for compound Cd₄L¹₄(ClO₄)₈ and La₄L¹₄(ClO₄)₁₂ are very limited even though we optimized the measurement based on synchrotron radiations. The final R factor was converged to very high

values, because the crystal was diffracting very weakly due to a large amount of amorphous solvents and anions, which occupy as much as 50.50% for $\text{Cd}_4\text{L}^1_4(\text{ClO}_4)_8$ and 32.47% for $\text{La}_4\text{L}^1_4(\text{ClO}_4)_{12}$ in their unit cells based on PLATON calculations^{S6}. Especially for the structure of $\text{Cd}_4\text{L}^1_4(\text{ClO}_4)_8$, where counter ions and solvent molecules were so highly disordered that they could not be reasonably located, the residual intensities were removed by PLATON/SQUEEZE routine^{S6}. Still one A-alert and some B-alerts are found by the (IUCr) checkCIF routine, all of which are due to the poor diffraction nature of the crystals. Details on crystal data collection and refinement were summarized below:

A large number of restrains and constraints have to be applied to ensure the convergence of the refinement due to the poor data/parameter ratio. For the crystal structure of $\text{Cd}_4(\text{L}^1)_4$, two ligands, two Cd(II) ions, three and a half perchlorates and several hydrogen-bonded water molecules (no hydrogen was modeled in this case) are located in the asymmetrical unit. Organic ligands (“RESI 1” and “RESI 2”) and perchlorates (“RESI 3”) are separately labeled under the same scheme and are forced to adopt similar configurations as restrained by the “SAME” commands. For the Ligand structure, “AFIX 66” constraints have been applied to the six-membered aromatic rings including pyridines. Moreover, many geometrical restrains including “FLAT”, “DFIX”, “DANG”, “SADI” are applied to the ligands and the perchlorate ions based on the X-ray coordinates of a similar $\text{Eu}_4(\text{L}^1)_4$ structure from our previous work, which was determined to a much better resolution^{S1}. More detailed information of these geometrical restrains can be found in the final .CIF files, where the full _shelx_res_files have now been incorporated.

Because of the restrains and constraints used, we have to emphasize that the main purpose of providing the X-ray structures is in general merely to confirm the connectivity of the target assemblies. For this reason, discussions based on the crystal structures are always kept to the minimum.

Supplementary References

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