

# Lanthanide ( $Gd^{3+}$ and $Dy^{3+}$ ) Complexes with Tetraazadioxa Macrocyclic Ligand : Template Synthesis and Characterization Studies

Chung Hun Han, Sung Bin Han, Chang Hee Kang, Sun Joo Lee,  
Nam Ho Lee and Jong Chul Byun

*Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences, Cheju National University*

## Abstract

The lanthanide ions were found to act as templates for the cyclic [2+2] condensation of 2,6-diformyl-*p*-cresol with 2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediamine to yield 22-membered hexadentate Schiff base macrocyclic complexes,  $[Ln(H_2[22]-HMTADO)O_2NO](NO_3)_2 \cdot xH_2O$  ( $Ln = Gd^{3+}$  and  $Dy^{3+}$ ;  $H_2[22]-HMTADO$ :5,5,11,17,17,23-hexamethyl-3,7,15,19-tetraazatricyclo[19,3,1,<sup>9,13</sup>]hexacos-1(25),2,7,9,11, 13(26),14,19,21,23-decane-25,26-diol)), with an  $N_4O_2$  set of donor atoms. The complexes were characterized by elemental analysis, molar conductance, and spectral data (UV/Vis, FT-IR, FAB-MS). The macrocyclic entity changed slowly up to 360°C, and then those complexes have been changed to  $Ln_2O_3$ .

**Key words** : lanthanide complex, compartmental macrocyclic ligand

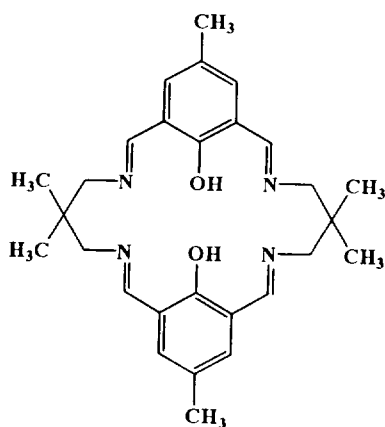
## I. Introduction

The macrocyclic and macroacyclic lanthanide complexes are currently attracting considerable attention because of their possibility of using as supramolecular devices, suitable bioinorganic probes for the active sites in metallo-biomolecules, as contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging, potential

radioimmuno-pharmaceutical for monoclonal antibody technology and sensitizers for photodynamic therapy, as synthetic nucleases for *in vivo* application [1-17]. The Schiff base macrocyclic complexes of rare earth elements obtained by us [18-20] have found to be very effective catalysts for hydrolytic cleavage or transesterification of RNA phosphate diester backbone [21,22]. Many of the synthetic routes to Schiff

base macrocycles involve the use of the metal ion template to orient the reacting groups of the substrates in the desired conformation for optimum ring closure [23-26]. The  $4f$  cations have found to be very effective as template agents because they have little or no stereochemical requirements and can be accommodated by the particular stereochemical constraints enforced by the template process.

We now report the template synthesis and characterization of the lanthanide( $Gd^{3+}$  and  $Dy^{3+}$ ) complexes containing 22-membered tetraazadioxa macrocyclic Schiff base ligand  $H_2[22]$ -HMTADO, where  $H_2[22]$ -HMTADO is 5,5, 11,17,17,23-hexamethyl-3,7,15,19-tetraazatricyclo[19,3,1,1<sup>9,13</sup>]-hexacos-1(25),2,7,9,11,13(26),14,19,21,23-decane-25,26-diol, formed in the metal-promoted cyclocondensation reaction of 2,6-diformyl-*p*-cresol with 2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediamine.



$H_2[22]$ -HMTADO

## II. Experimental

### 1. Chemicals and Physical Measurements

All chemicals were commercial analytical reagents and were used without further purification. For the spectroscopic and physical measurements, organic solvents were dried and purified according to the literature methods. Nanopure quality water was used throughout this work. Microanalyses of C, H, and N was carried out using LECO CHN-900 analyzer. Conductance measurement of the complex was performed at  $25 \pm 1^\circ C$  using an ORION 162 conductivity temperature meter. IR spectrum was recorded with a Bruker FSS66 FT-IR spectrometer in the range  $4000-370\text{ cm}^{-1}$  using KBr pellets. Electronic absorption spectrum was measured at  $25^\circ C$  on a UV-3150 UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer (SHIMADZU). FAB-mass spectrum was obtained on a JEOL JMS-700 Mass Spectrometer using argon (6 kV, 10 mA) as the FAB gas. The accelerating voltage was 10 kV and glycerol was used as the matrix. The mass spectrometer was operated in positive ion mode and mass spectrum was calibrated by Alkali-CsI positive. TGA was carried out on a TGA 2050 thermal analyzer. The thermogravimetric curves of complexes were recorded in  $30-1000^\circ C$  range under nitrogen atmosphere. The heating rate was  $10^\circ C/\text{min}$ .

## 2. Preparations of lanthanide(III) complexes

The synthesis of 2,6-diformyl-*p*-cresol was prepared according to the literature methods previously reported [27, 28].

### 1) [Gd(H<sub>2</sub>[22]-HMTADO)O<sub>2</sub>NO] (NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> · 2H<sub>2</sub>O.

A solution of 2,6-diformyl-*p*-cresol (0.328 g) in the boiling acetonitrile (30 mL) was dropwise added to the yellow solution formed by mixing 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propandiamine (0.206 g) with a solution of Gd(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> · 6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.451 g) in acetonitrile (50 mL). The resulting yellow mixture was stirred at the reflux temperature for 3 h to give an yellow microcrystalline powder. It was collected by suction filtration, thoroughly washed with acetonitrile and dried *in vacuo*. Yield 88%. Anal. Calc. (Found) % for Gd(C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> : C, 40.14 (39.65) ; H, 4.57 (4.02); N, 11.70 (11.81). Solubility : hot methanol, DMSO, DMF. UV-Vis (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) [ $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ , M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) : 398 (17,910).  $\Lambda_M$  (methanol) : 256 ohm<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>.

### 2) [Dy(H<sub>2</sub>[22]-HMTADO)O<sub>2</sub>NO] (NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> · H<sub>2</sub>O.

A solution of 2,6-diformyl-*p*-cresol (0.328 g) in the boiling acetonitrile (30 mL) was dropwise added to the yellow solution formed by mixing 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propandiamine (0.206 g) with a solution of Dy(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> · 5H<sub>2</sub>O (0.439 g) in acetonitrile (50

mL). The resulting yellow mixture was stirred at the reflux temperature for 3 h to give an yellow microcrystalline powder. It was collected by suction filtration, thoroughly washed with acetonitrile and dried *in vacuo*. Yield 75%. Anal. Calc. (Found) % for Dy(C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O) : C, 40.66 (41.82); H, 4.63 (4.08); N, 11.85 (11.99). Solubility : hot methanol, DMSO, DMF. UV-Vis (DMF) [ $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ , M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>) : 398 (16,820).  $\Lambda_M$  (methanol) : 326 ohm<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>mol<sup>-1</sup>.

## III. Results

### 1. IR spectra of the lanthanide(III) complexes

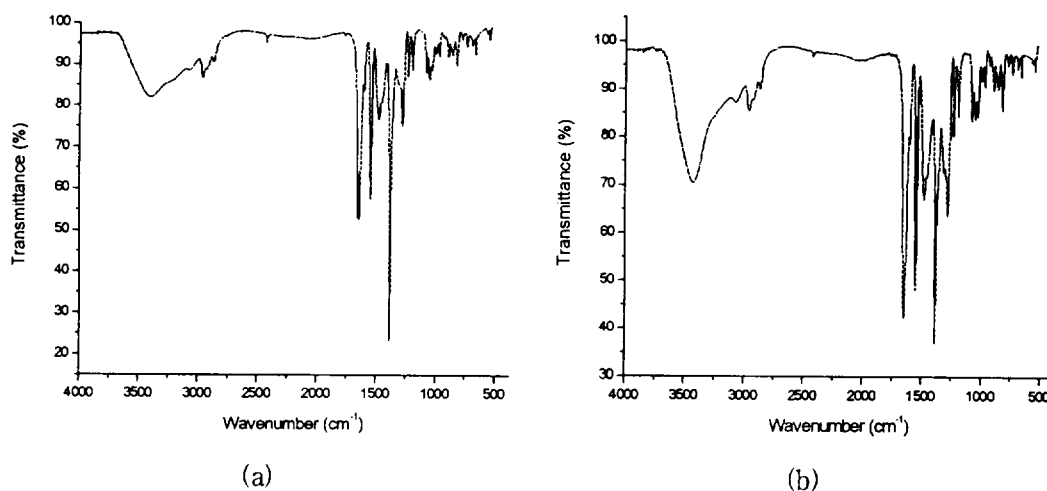
IR spectra of the lanthanide(III) complexes were presented Figure 1. The strong and sharp absorption bands occurring at 1645 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the IR spectra of the complexes are attributed to  $\nu$ (C=N) of the coordinated [22]-HMTADO ligand [29,30], and the absence of any carbonyl bands associated with the diformyl-phenol starting materials or nonmacrocylic intermediates. The IR spectra displayed C-H stretching vibrations from 3000 to 2800 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The present complexes exhibited three C-H deformation bands at 1478, 1390, and 1317 cm<sup>-1</sup> regions and two out-of-plan vibration bands at 825 and 781 cm<sup>-1</sup> regions. The absorption bands occurring in

the IR spectra of the complexes in the  $3430\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region may probably be due to the  $\nu(\text{OH})$  vibration of the lattice water.

The absorption bands occurring in the IR spectra of the complexes in the  $1460$ ,  $1284$  and  $1035\text{ cm}^{-1}$  regions are assignable to the  $\nu(\text{N}=\text{O})$  ( $\nu_1$ ),  $\nu_a(\text{NO}_2)$  ( $\nu_5$ ) and  $\nu_s(\text{NO}_2)$  ( $\nu_2$ ) vibrations, respectively, of the chelating bidentate nitrate ion [30–32]. The absorption band observed at  $815\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the complexes is also characteristic of chelating bidentate nitrate [31]. The larger separation of  $176\text{--}177\text{ cm}^{-1}$  between the two higher frequency bands ( $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_5$ ) indicates strong interaction of the oxygen atoms of the nitrate with the lanthanide ions and is typical of bidentate coordination [32,33]. The absorption band at  $1385\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is characteristic of ionic nitrate present in the outer-coordination sphere [31].

## 2. FAB mass spectra

The FAB mass spectra of the lanthanide(III) complexes were shown in Figure 2 and 3. The FAB mass spectra of two complexes contain peaks corresponding to the molecular ion  $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})(\text{NO}_3)]^+$  for  $\text{Ln} = \text{Gd}^{3+}$  ( $m/z$  677.7) and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  ( $m/z$  683.8). The molecular ion loses the exocyclic nitrate ligand resulting in the formation of the fragment  $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})]^+$  for  $\text{Ln} = \text{Gd}^{3+}$  ( $m/z$  615.7) and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  ( $m/z$  621.8). These species are well observed in the FAB mass spectra. Removal of nitrate ion from the molecular ion is observed with a mass loss of 63 as  $\text{HNO}_3$ . For each metal containing species there is a set of peaks due to the different isotopes of the metal. In the FAB mass spectra of all the complexes there is a peak at  $m/z$  460.8 corresponding to the



**Figure 1.** FT-IR spectra of  $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})\text{O}_2\text{NO}](\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{Ln} =$  (a) Gd and (b) Dy).

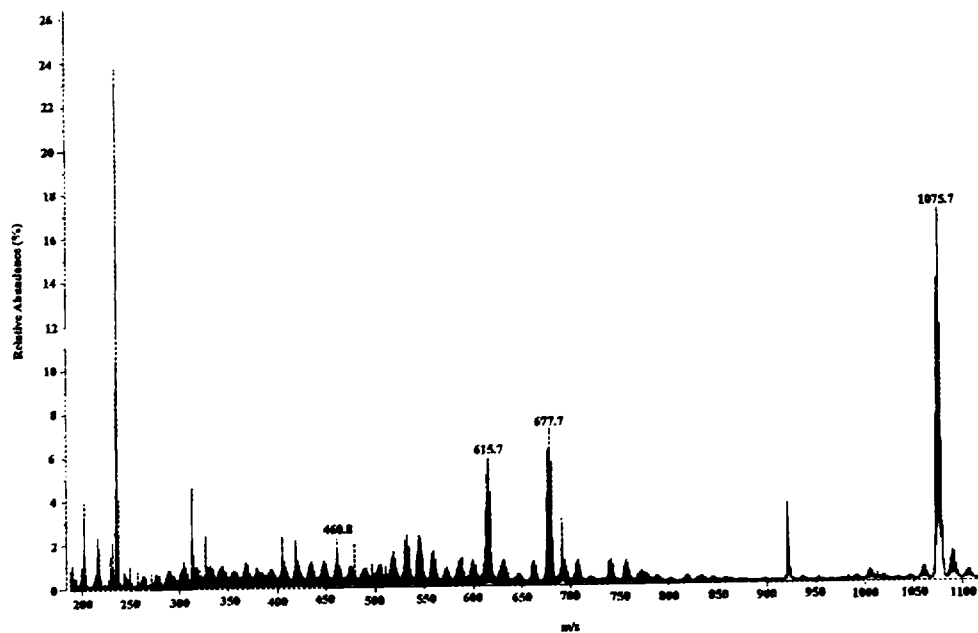


Figure 2. FAB-mass spectrum of  $[Gd(H_2[22]-HMTADO)O_2NO](NO_3)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ .

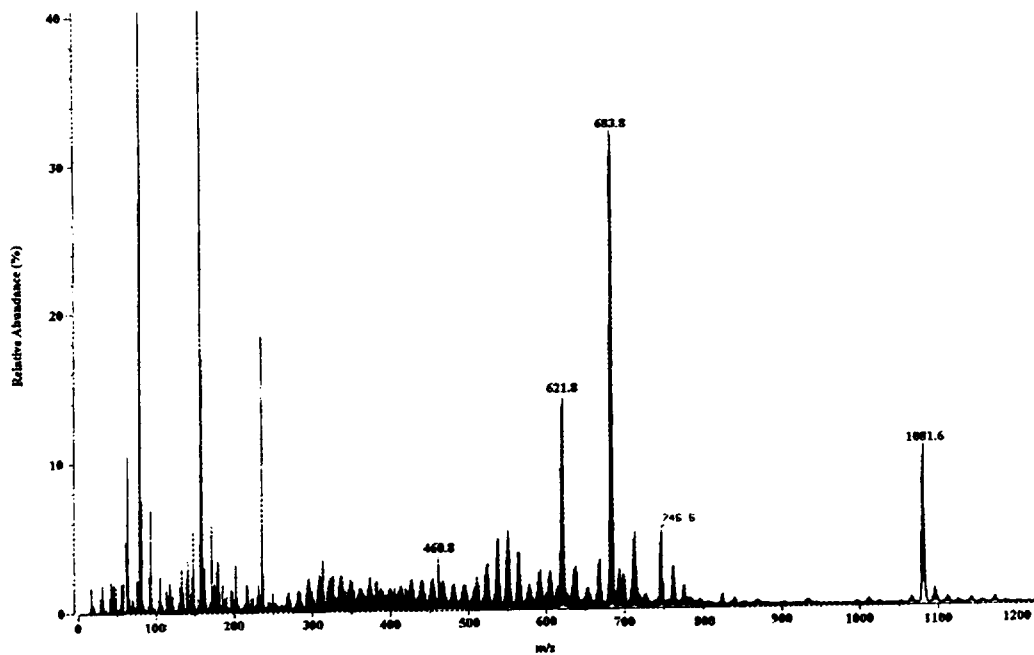


Figure 3. FAB-mass spectrum of  $[Dy(H_2[22]-HMTADO)O_2NO](NO_3)_2 \cdot H_2O$ .

species  $[\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO}]^+$ . This indicates that the species  $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})]^+$  undergoes demetallation to give the tetraazadioxa macrocycle  $\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO}$  under FAB conditions. Peaks corresponding to sandwich complexes of the type  $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})_2]^+$  for  $\text{Ln} = \text{Gd}^{3+}$  ( $m/z$  1075.7) and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  ( $m/z$  1081.6) are observed in FAB mass spectra. These sandwich complexes might have been formed during the FAB fragmentation process [30].

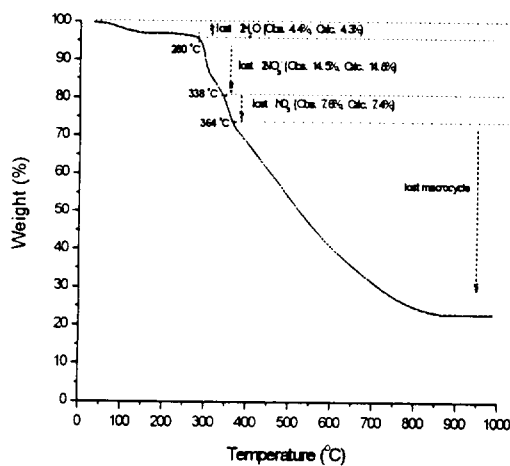
### 3. Thermal stability of lanthanide complexes

Thermogravimetry analysis (TGA) have been carried out simultaneously for the lanthanide complexes (Figure 4). Thermogravimetric details were given in Table 1. It was found out from the results that the

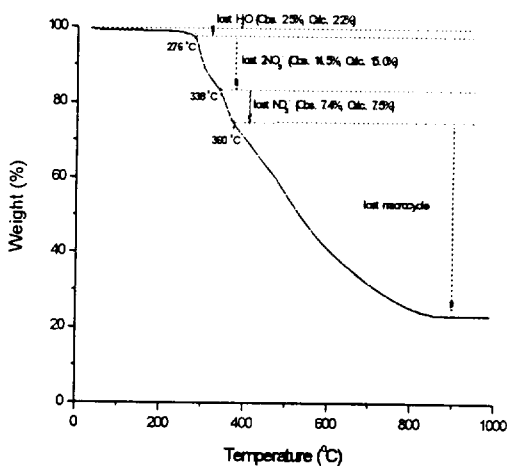
prepared macrocycle compounds have relatively high thermal stability. The lattice water molecules were lost at  $\sim 280$  °C ranges. The two nitrate ions were lost at 280~338 °C range. The coordinated nitrate ion was lost at 338~360 °C range. The macrocyclic entity changed slowly up to 360 °C, and then those complexes have been changed to  $\text{Ln}_2\text{O}_3$ .

**Table 1.** TGA data of  $\text{Pr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Sm}^{3+}$  complexes

Complexes	Temperature range (°C)	Moieties lost
$[\text{Gd}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})\text{O}_2\text{NO}] \cdot (\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\sim 280$	$2\text{H}_2\text{O}$
	280~338	$2\text{NO}_3^-$
	338~360	$\text{NO}_3^-$
	360~	macrocycle
$[\text{Dy}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})\text{O}_2\text{NO}] \cdot (\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\sim 276$	$2\text{H}_2\text{O}$
	276~338	$2\text{NO}_3^-$
	338~360	$\text{NO}_3^-$
	360~	macrocycle



(a)



(b)

**Figure 4.** TGA curves of  $[\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2[22]\text{-HMTADO})\text{O}_2\text{NO}] \cdot (\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{Ln} =$  (a) Gd and (b) Dy).

#### IV. Discussion

The formation of lanthanide(III) complexes of  $H_2[22]$ -HMTADO demonstrates the template potential of these metal ions in the assembly of oxaza macrocycles. As the size of the lanthanide(III) cations decreases along the lanthanide series the metal ions adopt different geometries in the complexes. Thus the template potential of the lanthanide(III) cations in the assembly of  $H_2[22]$ -HMTADO is due to the adaptability of the macrocycle to the geometrical requirements of the metal ions. The electronic and steric requirements of the central metal ions appear to be fully satisfied by coordination of the four nitrogen and two oxygen donors of the macrocycle and to the oxygen donors of a bidentate chelating nitrate ion. The coordination of the nitrate ion in each complex illustrates the influence of oxygen donor ligands to stabilize the lanthanide(III) cations in the macrocyclic framework. The remarkable ability of this macrocycle to coordinate with all the lanthanide(III) cations despite the large differences in their ionic radii is attributed to the flexibility of the macrocycle to fold according to the steric demands of the metal ions and the exocyclic ligands. The yield of the complexes of  $H_2[22]$ -HMTADO increases with decreasing ionic radii of the metal ions. In the present case the increase in the yield of the complexes along the

lanthanide series is attributed to the better match between the size of the heavier lanthanide(III) cations and the macrocyclic cavity.

The two OH protons of  $H_2[22]$ -HMTADO remain intact in the complexes. Thus the ligand acts as a neutral species even though it has two ionizable protons. Such a behavior is also observed in the case of the lanthanide (III) complexes of the [2+2] symmetric macrocycles obtained by the Schiff base condensation of 2,6-diformyl-4-chlorophenol with diethylenetriamine, 1,5-diamino-3-thiapentane [34,35] or N-dodecyldiethylenetriamine [36] by the metal template method or by the reaction of the respective preformed macrocycle with the hydrated lanthanide(III) nitrate.

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