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Oxidatively Stable, Aqueous Europium(II) Complexes through Steric and Electronic Manipulation of Cryptand Coordination Chemistry**

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Materials and Methods

Commercially available chemicals were of reagent-grade purity or better and were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Human hemoglobin was obtained from RayBiotech Inc. (catalog number: MD-22009P). Water was purified using a PURELAB Ultra Mk2 water purification system (ELGA). Dichloromethane was purified using a solvent purification system (Vacuum Atmospheres Company). Triethylamine was distilled from CaH₂. 2,2'-(2,3-Dimethylbutane-2,3-diyl)bis(oxy)bis(ethane-2,1-diyl)bis(4-methylbenzenesulfonate), **7**, was synthesized using a previously published procedure.^[1]

Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel 60, 230–400 mesh (EMD Chemicals).^[2] Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on ASTM TLC plates precoated with silica gel 60 F_{254} (250 µm layer thickness). TLC visualization was accomplished using a UV lamp followed by charring with potassium permanganate stain (3 g KMnO₄, 20 g K₂CO₃, 5 mL 5% w/v aqueous NaOH, 300 mL H₂O).

¹H NMR spectra were obtained using a Varian Unity 300 (300 MHz) spectrometer and a Mercury 400 (400 MHz) spectrometer, ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained using a Varian Unity 300 (75 MHz) spectrometer and a Mercury 400 (101 MHz) spectrometer. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were obtained using Varian Unity 300 (282 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported relative to residual solvent signals unless otherwise noted (CDCl₃: ¹H: δ 7.27, ¹³C: δ 77.23; CD₃OD: ¹H: δ 3.31, ¹³C: δ 49.00; CFCl₃ (internal standard): ¹⁹F δ 0.00). NMR data are assumed to be first order, and the apparent multiplicity is reported as "s" = singlet, "d" = doublet, "dd" = doublet of doublets, "t" = triplet, "td" = triplet of doublets, "q" = quartet, "m" = multiplet, or "brs" = broad singlet. Italicized elements are those that are responsible for the shifts. High-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectra (HRESIMS) were obtained on an electrospray time-of-flight

high-resolution Waters Micromass LCT Premier XE mass spectrometer. Cyclic voltammetric analyses were performed using a WaveNow USB potentiostat (Pine Research Instrumentation). A standard three-electrode cell was used with a glassy-carbon working electrode, a Pt-wire auxiliary electrode, and a Ag/AgCl reference electrode (1.0 M KCl). All electrochemical experiments were performed under an Ar atmosphere at ambient temperature with Et₄NClO₄ (0.05 M) as the supporting electrolyte, an aqueous solution of 3-(*N*-morpholino) propanesulfonic acid (MOPS, 0.01 M, pH 7.5) as the solvent, and the ferrocene/ferrocinium (Fc/Fc⁺) redox couple as an internal standard (*3*). From the initial potential of the analysis (–1.5 V), the voltage was ramped to 0.75 V and back to –1.5 V at a scan rate of 150 mV/s. Data points were collected every 3.35 ms, and the measurements were repeated 3–6 times each with independently prepared samples. After each measurement, ferrocene (6.7 mM in acetonitrile) was added to the sample (0.13 mM ferrocene after addition) and the measurement was repeated to enable referencing to Fc/Fc^+ .^[3]

Synthetic Procedures and Characterization



5,5,6,6,14,14,15,15-Octamethyl-4,7,13,16,21,24-hexaoxa-1,10-diazabicyclo[8.8.8]hexacosane (2): To a mixture of Cs_2CO_3 (0.866 g, 2.66 mmol, 6 equiv) in acetonitrile (60 mL) at reflux was added a solution of ditosylate 7 (0.467 g, 0.907 mmol, 2.05 equiv) and 2,2'-(ethylenedioxy) bis(ethylamine) (649 μ L, 0.443 mmol, 1 equiv) in acetonitrile (120 mL) dropwise over 48 h.

Upon completion of the addition, the resulting reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 48 h. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and purification was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of $50:1\rightarrow10:1\rightarrow8:1$ dichloromethane/methanol) to yield 61 mg (28%) of **2** as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): 1.23 and 1.25 (overlapping s, CH₃, 24H), 2.51–2.72 (m, CH₂, 12H), 3.42–3.82 (m, CH₂, 16H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 20.8 (CH₃), 53.3 (CH₂), 56.9 (CH₂), 59.3 (CH₂), 67.8 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 81.1; TLC: $R_f = 0.46$ (8:1 dichloromethane/methanol); HRESIMS (*m*/*z*): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₅₃N₂O₆, 489.3904; found, 489.3914.



2,2'-(4-Fluoro-1,2-phenylene)bisoxydiethanol (8): To a degassed solution of water (1 mL), 1butanol (2.5 mL), and NaOH (0.545 g, 13.6 mmol, 3 equiv) under an atmosphere of Ar was added 4-fluorobenzene-1,2-diol (0.580 g, 4.54 mmol, 1 equiv), and the resulting mixture was heated at reflux. After 5 min at reflux, a solution of 2-chloroethanol (912 μ L, 13.6 mmol, 3 equiv) in degassed 1-butanol (15 mL) was added dropwise over 1 h while maintaining reflux. The resulting solution was heated at reflux for 18 h at which point the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of 1:0 \rightarrow 40:1 \rightarrow 20:1 \rightarrow 5:1 dichloromethane/methanol) to yield 643 mg (66%) of **8** as a pale brown solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): 3.82–3.93 (m, CH₂, 4H), 4.04 (q, J = 4.8 Hz, CH₂, 4H), 6.60 (td, J = 9.0, 3.3 Hz, CH, 1H), 6.79 (dd, J = 3.0, 10.5 Hz, CH, 1H), 6.91–6.99 (m, CH, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): 61.5 (CH₂), 61.7 (CH₂), 72.0 (CH₂), 72.9 (CH₂), 103.1 (d, ² $J_{C-F} = 27.2$ Hz, CH), 107.4 (d, ² $J_{C-F} = 22.1$ Hz, CH), 116.68 (d, ³ $J_{C-F} = 10.0$ Hz, CH), 146.4 (d, ⁴ $J_{C-F} = 2.3$ Hz), 151.4 (d, ³ $J_{C-F} = 10.1$ Hz) 159.1 (d, ¹ $J_{C-F} = 237.7$ Hz, CF); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): –121.5 to –121.4 (m, CF); TLC: $R_f = 0.22$ (40:1 dichloromethane/methanol); HRESIMS (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₄O₄F, 217.0876; found, 217.0874.

2,2'-(4-Fluoro-1,2-phenylene)bisoxybis(ethane-2,1-diyl)bis(4-methylbenzenesulfonate) (9): To a mixture of diol **8** (0.501 g, 2.30 mmol, 1 equiv) and triethylamine (3 mL) at 0 °C under an atmosphere of Ar was added a solution of 4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonyl chloride (1.32 g, 6.90 mmol, 3 equiv) in dichloromethane (9 mL) dropwise over 30 min. Upon completion of the addition, the mixture was warmed to ambient temperature and stirred for 24 h. The resulting solution was washed sequentially with water (3 × 25 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (3 × 25 mL), and saturated aqueous citric acid (3 × 25 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of 1:0→3:1→1:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) to yield 0.930 g (77%) of **8** as a pale yellow solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 2.44 (s, CH₃, 6H), 4.08–4.18 (m, CH₂, 4H), 4.25–4.37 (m, CH₂, 4H), 6.47–6.62 (m, CH, 2H), 6.72–6.81 (m, CH, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, CH, 4H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, CH, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, δ):

108.1 (d, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 22.2$ Hz, CH), 118.2 (d, ${}^{3}J_{C-F} = 9.0$ Hz, CH), 128.1 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 132.9,

21.8 (CH₃), 67.4 (CH₂), 68.1 (CH₂), 68.5 (CH₂), 68.6 (CH₂), 103.7 (d, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 26.2$ Hz, CH),

144.6, 145.2, 149.7 (d, ${}^{3}J_{C-F} = 10.0 \text{ Hz}$), 158.3 (d, ${}^{1}J_{C-F} = 241.7 \text{ Hz}$, *CF*); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): -118.5 to -118.4 (m, *CF*); TLC: $R_f = 0.27$ (3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate); HRESIMS (*m/z*): [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₂₅O₈FS₂Na, 547.0873; found, 547.0872.

5,6-(4-Fluorobenzo)-4,7,13,16,21,24-hexaoxa-1,10-diazabicyclo[8.8.8]hexacos-5-ene (4): To a mixture of 1,4,10,13-tetraoxa-7,16-diazacyclooctadecane (0.052 g, 0.20 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous Cs₂CO₃ (0.652 g, 2.00 mmol, 10 equiv) under an atmosphere of Ar was added anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) followed by ditosylate 9 (0.115 g, 0.220 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 168 h, cooled to ambient temperature, and filtered through Whatman number 1 filter paper. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and purification of the resulting residue was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of $50:1 \rightarrow 10:1 \rightarrow 5:1$ methanol/ammonium hydroxide (28–30% agueous solution)) to obtain a pale yellow oil that was further purified using silica gel chromatography (9:1 dichloromethane/methanol). The resulting product was dissolved in dichloromethane and filtered through Whatman number 1 filter paper. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to vield 10 mg (11%) of **4** as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): 2.60–2.89 (m, CH₂, 12H), 3.38-3.70 (m, CH_2 , 16H), 4.14-4.24 (m, CH_2 , 4H), 6.63-6.75 (m, CH, 1H), 6.92 (d, J =10.4 Hz, CH, 1H), 6.97–7.08 (m, CH, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): 53.8 (CH₂), 53.9 (CH₂), 54.3 (CH₂), 66.7 (CH₂), 66.8 (CH₂), 68.7 (CH₂), 68.8 (CH₂), 69.29 (CH₂), 69.34 (CH₂), 102.3 (d, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 27.7$ Hz, CH), 107.4 (d, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 23.1$ Hz, CH), 114.0 (d, ${}^{3}J_{C-F} = 10.5$ Hz, CH); ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): -120.3 to -120.1 (m, CF); TLC: $R_f = 0.26$ (5:1 methanol/ammonium hydroxide (20–30% aqueous solution)); HRESIMS (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₂₂H₃₆N₂O₆F, 443.2557; found, 443.2557.



2,2'-(1,2-Phenylenebisoxy)diethanol (10): To a degassed solution of water (1 mL), 1-butanol (2.5 mL), and NaOH (0.545 g, 13.6 mmol, 3 equiv) under an atmosphere of Ar was added catechol (0.500 g, 4.54 mmol, 1 equiv), and the resulting mixture was heated at reflux. After 5 min at reflux, a degassed solution of 2-chloroethanol (912 µL, 13.6 mmol, 3 equiv) in 1-butanol (12.5 mL) was added dropwise over 1 h while maintaining reflux. The resulting solution was heated at reflux for 18 h at which point the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of 1:1 \rightarrow 1:3 \rightarrow 0:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) to yield 546 mg (61%) of **10** as a white solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): 3.87 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, C*H*₂, 4H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, C*H*₂, 4H), 6.86–7.05 (m, C*H*, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ): 61.7 (CH₂), 72.0 (CH₂), 115.6 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 150.3; TLC: *R*_f = 0.14 (1:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate); HRESIMS (*m*/*z*): [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₄O₄Na, 221.0790; found, 221.0794.

2,2'-(1,2-Phenylenebisoxy)bis(ethane-2,1-diyl)bis(4-methylbenzenesulfonate) (11): To a mixture of diol **10** (2.00 g, 10.1 mmol, 1 equiv) and triethylamine (8.5 mL) at 0 °C under an atmosphere of Ar was added a solution of 4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonyl chloride (5.771 g, 30.27

mmol, 3 equiv) in dichloromethane (27.5 mL) dropwise over 2 h. Upon completion of the addition, the reaction mixture was warmed to ambient temperature and stirred for 24 h. The resulting solution was washed sequentially with water (3 × 50 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (3 × 50 mL), and saturated aqueous citric acid (3 × 50 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of $1:0\rightarrow5:1\rightarrow3:1\rightarrow0:1$ hexanes/ethyl acetate) to yield 3.72 g (73%) of **11** as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 2.44 (s, *CH*₃, 6H), 4.17 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, *CH*₂, 4H), 4.33 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, *CH*₂, 4H), 6.79–6.85 (m, *CH*, 2H), 6.88–6.94 (m, *CH*, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *CH*, 4H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, *CH*, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 21.8 (*C*H₃), 67.5 (*C*H₂), 68.4 (*C*H₂), 116.5 (*C*H), 122.8 (*C*H), 128.1 (*C*H), 130.1 (*C*H), 133.1, 145.2, 148.6; TLC: *R*_f = 0.20 (3:1 hexanes/ethyl acetate); HRESIMS (*m*/z): [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₂₆O₈S₂Na, 529.0967; found, 529.0948.

5,6,14,15-Dibenzo-4,7,13,16,21,24-hexaoxa-1,10-diazabicyclo[8.8.8]hexacosane (5): To a mixture of Cs₂CO₃ (1.96 g, 6.01 mmol, 6 equiv) in acetonitrile (100 mL) at reflux was added a solution of ditosylate **11** (1.04 g, 2.05 mmol, 2.05 equiv) and 2,2'-(ethylenedioxy)bis(ethylamine) (146 μ L, 1.00 mmol, 1 equiv) in acetonitrile (100 mL) dropwise over 48 h. Upon complete addition, the resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 120 h. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and purification was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of 1:0 \rightarrow 50:1 \rightarrow 8:1 dichloromethane/methanol) to obtain a light yellow oil that was further purified using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of 20:1 \rightarrow 5:1 methanol/ammonium hydroxide (28–30% aqueous solution)). After removing solvent under reduced pressure, the resulting product was dissolved in dichloromethane and was filtered through glass wool. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield 61 mg (13%) of **5**

as a light yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 2.87 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, CH_2 , 4H), 3.02–3.20 (m, CH_2 , 8H), 3.49 (s, CH_2 , 4H), 3.56 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, CH_2 , 4H), 4.13 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, CH_2 , 8H), 6.88 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, CH, 8H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 55.2 (CH_2), 68.3 (CH_2), 70.6 (CH_2), 70.9 (CH_2), 77.4 (CH_2), 115.2 (CH), 121.6 (CH) 149.4; TLC: $R_f = 0.46$ (8:1 dichloromethane/methanol); HRESIMS (m/z): [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₃₆N₂O₆Na, 495.2471; found, 495.2473.

5,6-(Benzo)-4,7-dioxa-13,16,21,24-tetrathia-1,10-diazabicyclo[8.8.8]hexacos-5-ene (6): To a mixture of 1,4,10,13-tetrathia-7,16-diazacyclooctadecane (0.053 g, 0.16 mmol, 1 equiv) and anhydrous Cs₂CO₃ (0.525 g, 1.61 mmol, 10 equiv) under an atmosphere of Ar was added anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL) followed by ditosylate 11 (0.086 g, 0.17 mmol, 1.05 equiv). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 120 h, cooled to ambient temperature, and filtered through Whatman number 1 filter paper. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and purification of the resulting residue was performed using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of $1:0 \rightarrow 30:1 \rightarrow 20:1 \rightarrow 10:1 \rightarrow 5:1$ dichloromethane/methanol). The resulting product was further purified using silica gel chromatography (stepwise gradient of $1:0 \rightarrow 4:1 \rightarrow 1:1 \rightarrow 0:1$ hexane/ethyl acetate). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield 10 mg (13%) of **6** as a white solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 2.58–3.05 (m, CH₂, 24H), 4.20 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, CH_2 , 4H), 6.92 (brs, CH_1 , 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$, δ): 30.6 (CH_2), 32.8 (CH_2), 54.8 (CH_2) , 57.2 (CH_2) , 68.2 (CH_2) , 114.9 (CH), 121.7 (CH), 149.0; TLC: $R_f = 0.33$ (30:1) dichloromethane/methanol), 0.22 (4:1 hexane/ethyl acetate); HRESIMS (m/z): $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for C₂₂H₃₆N₂O₂S₄Na, 511.1557; found, 511.1552.

Eu^{II} Cryptate Formation

To an aqueous solution of 3-(*N*-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid (MOPS) (0.01 M, pH 7.5), Et₄NClO₄ (0.05 M), and Eu(NO₃)₃·5H₂O (1.1 mM, 1 equiv) was added a solution of the desired cryptand (12 mM, 1.2 equiv) in acetonitrile, and the resulting mixture was sparged with Ar for 5 min. The potential of the resulting solution was held at -0.8 V (30 min per 0.01 mmol of Eu(NO₃)₃·5H₂O) while stirring under constant sparging with Ar.^[4] Immediately after holding the potential at -0.8 V, cyclic voltammograms were obtained in the potential range of -1.5 to 0.75 V at a scan rate of 150 mV/s. After acquiring the voltammogram, ferrocene (6.7 mM in acetonitrile, 0.1 equiv) was added, and another cyclic voltammogram was obtained. These cyclic voltammetric experiments were repeated 3–7 times for each ligand. Cyclic voltammograms of ligands **1–6** were obtained using the same protocol without Eu.

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Supporting Information





















Representative Cyclic Voltammograms

9:1 (v/v) aqueous buffer (0.01 M MOPS, 0.05 M Et₄NClO₄, pH 7.5)-acetonitrile



-20.00

Sample

Eu(NO₃)₃



Potential (V vs Ag/AgCI)

Peaks (V vs Fc/Fc⁺)

 $E_{\text{pa}} = -0.7443 \text{ (Eu}^{\text{II/III}}\text{)},$ $E_{\text{pc}} = -0.7846 \text{ (Eu}^{\text{III/II}}\text{)}$ 0.75



1–Eu (\leq 1.0 mM) + ferrocene (0.1 mM)







Sample	Peaks (V vs Fc/Fc ⁺)
2–Eu	$E_{\rm pa} = -0.1690 \ (2 - \mathbf{E} \mathbf{u}^{\rm II/II}),$ $E_{\rm pc} = -1.1948 \ ({\rm Eu}^{\rm III/II})$

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S33

hemoglobin (1.0 mM)



hemoglobin (1.0 mM) + ferrocene (0.1 mM)



Sumple	reaks (v vs reire)
hemoglobin	$E_{\rm pa} = -0.0753 ({\rm Fe}^{\rm II/III}),$
	$E_{\rm pc} = -0.3991 ({\rm Fe}^{\rm III/II})$

Sample	Anodic peak potential (V vs Ag/AgCl (1 M KCl))	Anodic peak potential (V vs Fc/Fc ⁺)	Anodic peak potential (V vs NHE)
$Eu(NO_3)_3$	-0.485 ± 0.012	-0.701 ± 0.030	-0.288
1–Eu	-0.110 ± 0.011	-0.336 ± 0.016	0.087
5–Eu	-0.011 ± 0.008	-0.211 ± 0.004	0.186
3–Eu	0.001 ± 0.008	-0.208 ± 0.009	0.198
2–Eu	0.043 ± 0.012	-0.169 ± 0.006	0.240
4–Eu	0.169 ± 0.009	-0.079 ± 0.007	0.366
hemoglobin	0.167 ± 0.002	-0.070 ± 0.003	0.364
6-Eu	0.260 ± 0.018	-0.035 ± 0.010	0.457

Cyclic Voltammetric Data^{*}

* Potentials are listed as mean \pm standard error.