

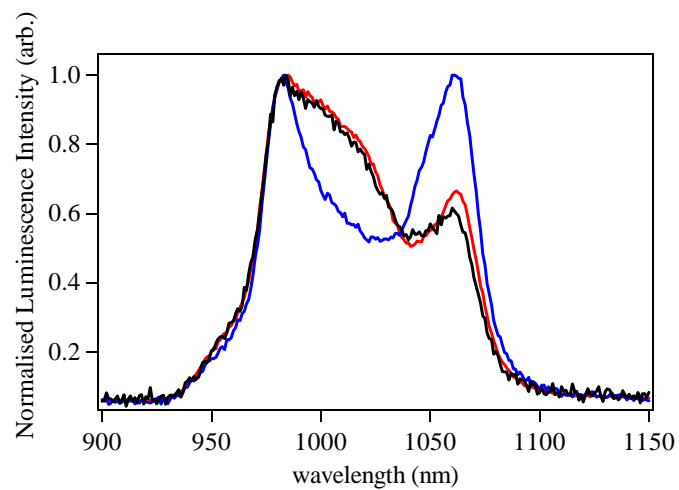
**Me-3,2-HOPO Complexes of Near Infra-Red (NIR) Emitting Lanthanides:  
Efficient**

**Sensitization of Yb(III) and Nd(III) in Aqueous Solution**

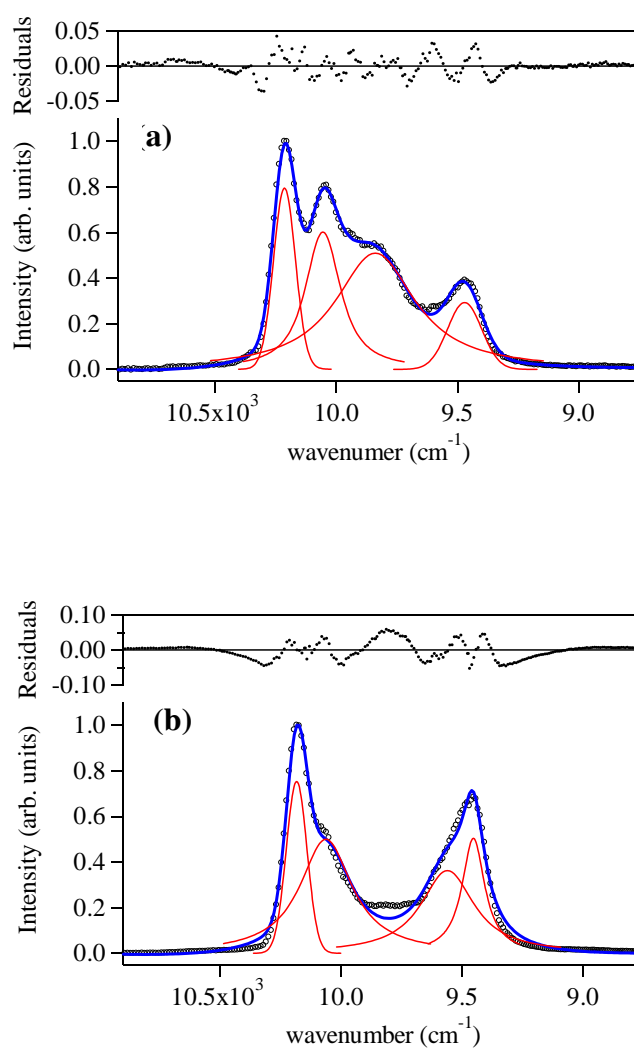
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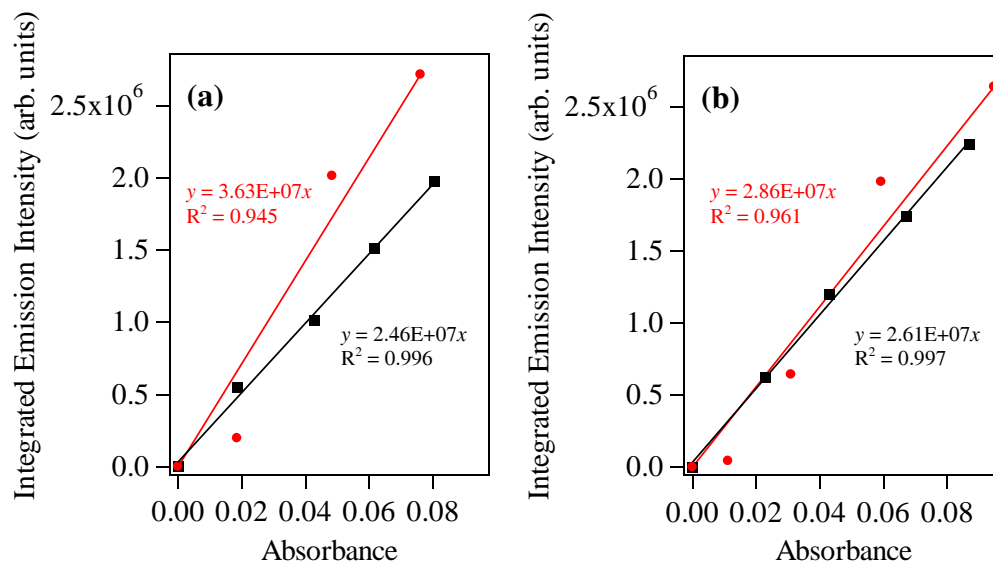
**Supporting Information**



**Figure S1.** Observed changes in NIR luminescence from [Yb(H(2,2)-Me-3,2-HOPO)] complex in aqueous solution at pH ~ 5, (black), pH ~ 7.4 (red) and pH ~ 10 (blue).



**Figure S2.** (a) Fitting of observed NIR luminescence from the [Yb(H(2,2)-Me-3,2-HOPO)] complex in 1:1 (v/v) MeOH:EtOH glassing solvent and (b) corresponding fitting in presence of 1 % piperazine (as a strong base) to four overlapping Voigt functions.



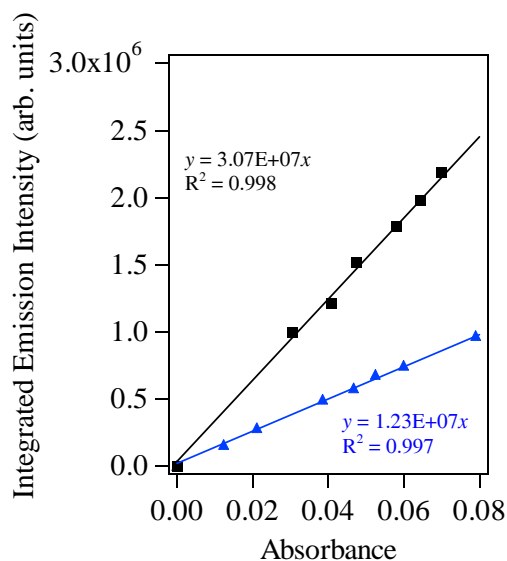
**Figure S3** Relative quantum yield determination (shown in duplicate, (a) and (b)) for [Yb(5LIO-Me-3,2-HOPO)<sub>2</sub>] (black squares) in 0.1 M TRIS buffered aqueous solution at pH 7.4 versus [Yb(TTA)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] (red circles) (where TTA = thenoltrifluoromethylacetylacetonate) in toluene solution as the reference ( $\Phi_{ref} = 0.35\%$ . see Tsvirko, M. P., *et al*, *Opt. Spectrosc.*, **1999**, 87, 866 and Meshkova, S. B., *et al*, *Acta Physica Polonica, A.*, **1999**, 6, 983). Red and black lines are linear fits of the absorption versus emission data, with fit parameters as summarised in each figure. The quantum yield can be calculated using the equation;

$$\frac{\Phi_x}{\Phi_r} = \left[ \frac{A_r(\lambda_r)}{A_x(\lambda_x)} \right] \times \left[ \frac{I(\lambda_r)}{I(\lambda_x)} \right] \times \left[ \frac{\eta_x^2}{\eta_r^2} \right] \times \left[ \frac{D_x}{D_r} \right]$$

where  $A$  is the absorbance at the excitation wavelength ( $\lambda$ ),  $I$  is the intensity of the excitation light at the same wavelength,  $\eta$  is the refractive index and  $D$  is the integrated emission intensity. The subscripts 'x' and 'r' refer to the sample and reference respectively. This equation which simplifies to;

$$\Phi_x = \Phi_r \times \left[ \frac{\text{slope of } x}{\text{slope of } r} \right] \times \left[ \frac{\eta_x^2}{\eta_r^2} \right]$$

when used graphically as above and a common excitation wavelength is used. Refractive indices of  $\eta_x = 1.33$  and  $\eta_r = 1.49$  were taken for aqueous and toluene solutions respectively, resulting in an overall quantum yield of  $\Phi_{tot} = 0.22\% \pm 0.05$  for [Yb(5LIO-Me-3,2-HOPO)<sub>2</sub>].



**Figure S4.** Relative quantum yield determination for [Yb(H(2,2)-Me-3,2-HOPO)] (blue triangles) in 0.1 M TRIS buffered aqueous solution at pH 7.4 versus [Yb(5LIO-Me-3,2-HOPO)<sub>2</sub>] (black squares) in 0.1 M TRIS buffered aqueous solution at pH 7.4, used as a secondary reference ( $\Phi_r = 0.22\%$ ). Blue and black lines are linear fits of the absorption versus emission data, with fit parameters as summarised in the figure. Again, the quantum yield was calculated using the equation;

$$\Phi_x = \Phi_r \times \left[ \frac{\text{slope of } x}{\text{slope of } r} \right] \times \left[ \frac{\eta_x^2}{\eta_r^2} \right]$$

where the subscripts 'x' and 'r' refer to the sample and reference respectively, and taking the refractive index as 1.33 for both  $\eta_x$  and  $\eta_r$ , which results in an overall quantum yield of  $\Phi_{tot} = 0.09\% \pm 0.02$  for [Yb(H(2,2)-Me-3,2-HOPO)].