

# Structural Variations in the Complete Series of Lanthanoid Complexes of a Calix[4]arene Trisamide\*

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Lanthanoid picrate (pic) complexes of 5,11,17,23-tetra-*tert*-butyl-25-hydroxy-26,27,28-tris(diethylcarbamoylmethoxy) calix[4]arene (**LH**) have been synthesised and structurally characterised, to complete this series for all lanthanoids (other than promethium). From cerium to lutetium, three structural types are observed: Type I,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(\text{O},\text{O}'\text{-pic})](\text{pic})$ ,  $\text{Ln} = \text{Ce}–\text{Dy}$ ; Type II,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(\text{O-pic})](\text{pic})$ ,  $\text{Ln} = \text{Tb}, \text{Ho}$ ; Type III,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(\text{HOEt})](\text{pic})_2$ ,  $\text{Ln} = \text{Er}–\text{Lu}$ . With lanthanum, three different ten-coordinate complexes were characterised;  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(\text{O},\text{O}'\text{-pic})(\text{HOEt})](\text{pic})$ ,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(\text{O},\text{O}'\text{-pic})(\text{OH}_2)](\text{pic})$ , and  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(\text{O},\text{O}'\text{-pic})(\text{HOME})](\text{pic})$ . The crystallisation of Type I and II observed for terbium shows that the stability of the different structures are sensitively poised at the transition points. Nevertheless, the structures show that the vacant space in the coordination sphere left by the trisamide **L** tends to reduce across the series as expected. It is occupied by a bidentate picrate anion and unidentate solvent molecule with lanthanum, a bidentate picrate anion for cerium to dysprosium (Type I), a unidentate picrate anion for terbium and holmium (Type II), and finally a unidentate solvent molecule from erbium to lutetium (Type III). The coordination number thus reduces from 10 to 8 across the series.

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## Introduction

The lanthanoids are of interest for applications that exploit their catalytic, magnetic, and photophysical properties.<sup>[1–5]</sup> They are also a fascinating challenge for coordination chemists, with large and variable coordination numbers, and no strong preference towards specific coordination geometries.<sup>[6,7]</sup> These two drivers of activity in lanthanoid chemistry are closely linked, since the coordination environment of the cation can impact on the properties of interest.<sup>[3,8]</sup>

Coordination numbers in lanthanoid complexes can vary from three to twelve, with eight and nine the most common, depending on the size of the cation and the steric demand of the ligands.<sup>[9]</sup> The lanthanoid cations decrease in size across the series (the so-called lanthanoid contraction), which often (but not always<sup>[10–12]</sup>) results in a change in structure at some point for a specific ligand set, most often associated with a reduction in the coordination number. Changes in the complex structure can be small, such as a change from bidentate to unidentate binding, or loss of a unidentate ligand,<sup>[13–15]</sup> or more substantial changes in the primary coordination sphere ligands can also occur.<sup>[8,16]</sup> It is often assumed that a representative structure

from the light and heavy lanthanoid elements is sufficient to characterise a series, but more detailed studies have revealed that this assumption can be flawed (Chart 1).<sup>[17]</sup>

We have incorporated the trisamide calix[4]arene **L** as a binding site for lanthanoids in polymeric materials.<sup>[18,19]</sup> The calixarene also serves as an antenna ligand for the metal ions, producing light-emitting hybrid materials. The aim of using the trisamide, rather than the more well studied tetraamide,<sup>[20–27]</sup> was to explore the potential of the vacant site in the coordination sphere for sensing purposes, whereby the number of co-ligand (s) and their denticity may impact on the luminescence of the lanthanoid complexes.<sup>[18]</sup> Our previous studies have shown that the structures of the lanthanoid complexes of **L** vary with changes in the lanthanoid ion.<sup>[28,29]</sup> The vacant coordination site in the readily crystallised picrate salts was found to be occupied by a bidentate picrate anion (pic) with the larger lanthanoid cations. As the size of the metal ion decreased, the picrate anion was found to bind in a unidentate mode, and then with the heavier lanthanoids, the anion was displaced to the second coordination sphere. To better understand how these complexes change in structure as a consequence of the size of

\*Vale Allan. We miss the man, his kindness, and the scholarly energy he poured into structural chemistry.

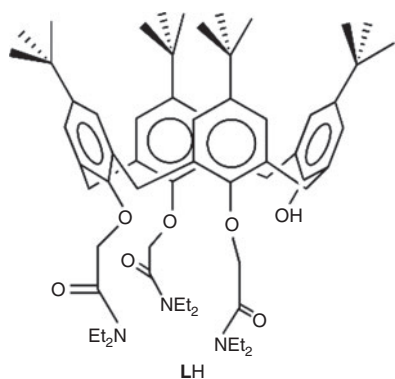


Chart 1.

the lanthanoid cation, we have now investigated the structures of the picrate salts across the entire lanthanoid series, in the +3 oxidation state.

## Results and Discussion

The lanthanoid picrate complexes of **LH** crystallise readily from dichloromethane/ethanol solvent mixtures, albeit with variable solvation which rendered confirmation of their purity by microanalysis difficult. The discussion therefore focuses on the results of the single crystal X-ray structure determinations, which while variable in quality, are sufficient to accurately describe the nature of the complexes formed. The structures reported previously define three structural types: Type I,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(O,O'\text{-pic})](\text{pic})$ ,  $\text{Ln} = \text{Sm}, \text{Gd}$ ; Type II,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(O\text{-pic})](\text{pic})$ ,  $\text{Ln} = \text{Ho}$ ; Type III,  $[\text{Ln}(\text{L})(\text{HOEt})](\text{pic})_2$ ,  $\text{Ln} = \text{Yb}$ . Considering first Type I, an isomorphous series of structures was obtained for lanthanoids ranging from Ce to Dy. The crystal data for the new structures are given in Tables 1–3, and the Ln–O bond lengths for the full series are listed in Table 4. The lanthanoid cations in these complexes are nine-coordinate, bound to the seven O atoms of the calixarene, and a bidentate picrate anion. The unsubstituted calixarene phenolate O(11) atom makes the closest approach to the Ln cation in all cases. The amide O atoms and picrate phenol O atom are at comparable distances, with longer distances to the phenol ether O atoms. Consistent with the decrease in the metal ion radius, these Ln–O bond lengths generally decrease monotonically across the series. The exception is the nitro-O atom of the bidentate picrate anion, for which the Ln–O distance increases across the series, as has been observed previously in the lanthanoid picrate hydrates.<sup>[17]</sup> The solvation in this series was variable, and it is interesting to note that even the solvent found in the calixarene cavity varied between an ethanol molecule ( $\text{Ln} = \text{Ce}, \text{Nd}, \text{Eu}, \text{Gd}$ ), or a disordered mixture of ethanol and dichloromethane ( $\text{Ln} = \text{Pr}, \text{Sm}, \text{Tb}, \text{Dy}$ ).

In the initial series of crystal growth experiments, no new members of the Type II structure were isolated, to add to the previously reported Ho complex. Instead, new Type III complexes were characterised for Er, Tm, and Lu, isomorphous with the previously reported Yb complex. These complexes are

eight-coordinate, with the picrate anion, now positioned in the second coordination sphere, replaced by an ethanol solvent ligand (Fig. 1c). While the Ln–O lengths again decrease from Er to Lu, it is interesting to note that the Tm and Yb oxygen bond lengths are very similar. In each of these complexes, the calixarene cavity is occupied by an ethanol solvent molecule.

At this point, the changes in structure across the lanthanoid series for these complexes appeared well defined. Type I was observed for Ce to Dy, a single example of Type II had been found for Ho, and Type III completed the series for Er to Lu. Upon repeating the synthesis of the Tb complex on a 10× larger scale, however, two different crystals could be discerned in the precipitate. The orange crystals were confirmed to be the Type I complex,  $\text{TbL}^{\text{I}}$ , already characterised. The less numerous yellow crystals were found to be a new Type II phase,<sup>†</sup> isomorphous with the previously reported Ho complex. The two different complex cations are shown in Fig. 1a, b, with the views provided intended to emphasise the similarity between the two complexes. Compared with the HoL Type II complex, the distinction between bidentate or unidentate binding of the coordinated picrate anion in  $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$  is less clear (see bond lengths in Table 4). Nevertheless, the picrate phenol O atom distance decreases by 1.6% in  $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$  compared with  $\text{TbL}^{\text{I}}$ , and the nitro O atom distance increases by 5%, consistent with unidentate and bidentate binding respectively. Comparing the Ho and Tb Type II complexes, the Ln–O bond lengths consistently decrease from Tb to Ho as expected. The calixarene conformation in the two Tb complexes are slightly different, with the dihedral angles of the aromatic rings 1–4 relative to the methylene C4 plane being,  $\text{TbL}^{\text{I}}/\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$ : 67.37(8)°/69.03(7)°, 61.0(1)°/63.75(7)°, 68.4(1)°/71.49(8)°, 37.97(9)°/43.34(7)°. The orientation of the included dichloromethane differs as well, with a chlorine atom more deeply positioned in the cavity in the Type II complex, whereas the carbon atom is oriented into the cavity in the Type I complex. It should also be noted that the Type I included solvent molecule is disordered and is partly occupied by an ethanol solvent molecule. It is possible, therefore, that the crystallisation of the different compounds is associated with the changing solvent composition as dichloromethane evaporates from the mixture.

Finally, we turn to complexes of lanthanum to complete this series. The lanthanum system did not crystallise as readily as the other complexes, and the quality of the crystals was variable. As a result, a methanol/dichloromethane solvent mixture was tested along with the ethanol/dichloromethane mixture used with the other systems. The methanol solvent system deposited dark brown crystals that were stable over time ( $\text{LaL}^{\text{MeOH}}$ ), but diffracted poorly. The ethanol solvent system initially deposited dark brown plate-like crystals ( $\text{LaL}^*$ ), which underwent a solvent-mediated transformation to orange rods ( $\text{LaL}$ ) when left to stand for several days.

Considering  $\text{LaL}$  first, the results of the structure determination are consistent with the formulation  $[\text{La}(\text{L})(\text{pic})(\text{HOEt})](\text{picrate}) \cdot 3(\text{EtOH})$ . There is one molecule of ethanol coordinated to the metal centre plus one picrate anion bonded both through the phenolic oxygen atom and the oxygen atom of a nitro group. Another ethanol molecule is situated in the calixarene cavity (Fig. 2a).

<sup>†</sup>It is interesting to note that it was found that  $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$  maintained crystallinity upon drying such that a structure determination could be performed ( $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}(\text{desolvated})$ ). The modelling found no residual electron density where solvent of crystallisation was located in the solvated crystal, aside from residual dichloromethane in the calixarene cavity, with a population that refined to 0.125(3). This is unusual for calixarene complexes which more commonly lose crystallinity on removal from the mother liquor. The discussion here focuses on the solvated version of the structure, on the assumption this is a better comparison to draw with the fully solvated Type I  $\text{TbL}^{\text{I}}$  structure.

Table 1. Crystal data for the Type I LnL structures

Parameter	CeL	PrL	NdL	EuL	TbL <sup>1</sup>	DyL
Empirical formula	C <sub>79.39</sub> H <sub>108.18</sub> CeN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>23.70</sub>	C <sub>77.50</sub> H <sub>102</sub> ClN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>22.50</sub> Pr	C <sub>80</sub> H <sub>110</sub> N <sub>9</sub> NdO <sub>24</sub>	C <sub>79.06</sub> H <sub>107.14</sub> EuN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>23.53</sub>	C <sub>78.80</sub> H <sub>105.20</sub> Cl <sub>2.41</sub> N <sub>9</sub> O <sub>22.80</sub> Tb	C <sub>79.16</sub> H <sub>107.30</sub> Cl <sub>0.35</sub> DyN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>23.49</sub>
Formula weight	1707.92	1696.03	1726.00	1712.03	1787.67	1735.70
Crystal system	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 1
<i>T</i> [K]	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	180(2)	100(2)	100(2)
<i>a</i> [Å]	12.7600(4)	12.7196(3)	12.7267(7)	12.7710(2)	12.6098(7)	12.6761(4)
<i>b</i> [Å]	14.4359(7)	14.4834(3)	14.4057(10)	14.4890(3)	14.4065(6)	14.4150(3)
<i>c</i> [Å]	24.2033(6)	24.6250(4)	24.1320(15)	24.3381(5)	24.7077(8)	24.3837(10)
$\alpha$ [°]	100.908(2)	102.427(2)	101.023(5)	101.521(2)	102.804(3)	101.814(3)
$\beta$ [°]	94.604(2)	94.373(2)	94.837(5)	94.9850(10)	95.008(4)	95.273(3)
$\gamma$ [°]	105.458(2)	105.792(2)	105.421(5)	105.5340(10)	105.887(4)	105.423(2)
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	4179.0(2)	4218.89(15)	4143.4(4)	4204.30(14)	4157.0(3)	4153.2(2)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2
$\rho$ [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.357	1.335	1.383	1.352	1.428	1.388
$\mu$ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	4.87	0.685	0.707	0.824	1.007	0.990
Max/min absorption	0.835, 0.603	0.934, 0.837	0.911, 0.774	0.89/0.82	0.947/0.906	0.87/0.79
Crystal size [mm]	0.21 × 0.06 × 0.04	0.37 × 0.27 × 0.10	0.45 × 0.32 × 0.15	0.31 × 0.27 × 0.14	0.18 × 0.10 × 0.08	0.41 × 0.24 × 0.20
$\theta_{\max}$ [°]	67.08	33.53	38.00	32.70	31.89	32.00
Reflections collected	40277	51425	103 222	56228	49127	62753
Independent reflections	14592	29670	44748	27819	26615	28827
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.054	0.050	0.065	0.044	0.0647	0.0342
Reflections ( <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> ))	12331	21532	28396	22098	17032	22668
Data/restraints/parameters	14592/22/1081	29670/79/1100	44748/24/1100	27819/36/1062	26615/104/1114	28827/50/1090
GOF ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	1.024	1.034	0.913	1.160	0.870	0.972
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	0.0530, 0.1231	0.0612, 0.1533	0.0493, 0.0959	0.0720, 0.1701	0.0544, 0.1035	0.0427, 0.0953
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [all data]	0.0667, 0.1299	0.0894, 0.1625	0.0934, 0.1037	0.0928, 0.1761	0.0875, 0.1091	0.0581, 0.0983
Δρ(max, min) [e Å <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.60, −1.15	3.03, −1.63	2.16, −1.28	2.07, −3.31	1.78, −1.44	2.04, −1.14
CCDC No.	1548372	1548373	1548374	1548375	1548376	1548377

Table 2. Crystal data for the Type II and III LnL structures

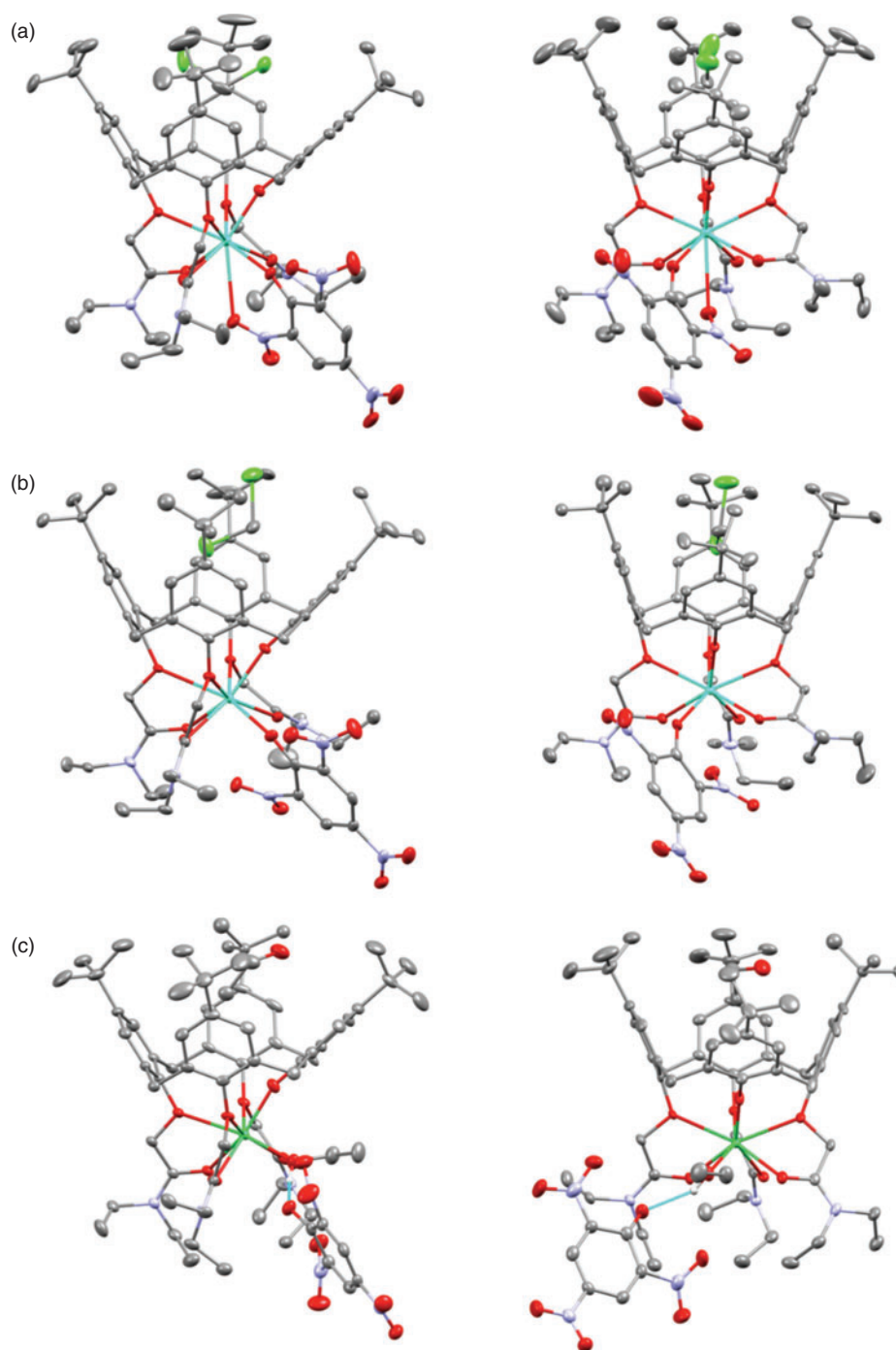
Parameter	TbL <sup>II</sup>	TbL <sup>II</sup> (desolvated)	ErL	TmL	LuL
Empirical formula	C <sub>76.75</sub> H <sub>99</sub> Cl <sub>2.50</sub> N <sub>9</sub> O <sub>21.75</sub> Tb	C <sub>74.13</sub> H <sub>92.25</sub> Cl <sub>0.25</sub> N <sub>9</sub> O <sub>21</sub> Tb	C <sub>78</sub> H <sub>104</sub> ErN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>23</sub>	C <sub>78</sub> H <sub>104</sub> N <sub>9</sub> O <sub>23</sub> Tm	C <sub>78</sub> H <sub>104</sub> LuN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>23</sub>
Formula weight	1743.19	1613.16	1702.96	1704.63	1710.67
Crystal system	Triclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>
<i>T</i> [K]	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)
<i>a</i> [Å]	12.702(5)	12.413(2)	13.2330(2)	13.2118(4)	13.18680(10)
<i>b</i> [Å]	14.463(5)	14.4667(3)	27.8974(5)	27.7798(8)	27.8196(2)
<i>c</i> [Å]	23.536(5)	23.2527(4)	22.3266(4)	22.3355(8)	22.2772(2)
$\alpha$ [°]	72.161(5)	72.919(2)	90	90	90
$\beta$ [°]	80.213(5)	78.180(2)	91.520(2)	91.424(4)	91.7640(10)
$\gamma$ [°]	89.702(5)	87.857(1)	90	90	90
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	4051(2)	3905.7(1)	8239.3(2)	8195.1(5)	8168.55(11)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	4	4	4
$\rho$ [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.429	1.372	1.373	1.382	1.391
$\mu$ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	1.033	0.990	1.096	1.161	1.287
Max/min absorption	0.963, 0.744	0.975, 0.785	0.881, 0.684	0.944, 0.910	0.746, 0.573
Crystal size [mm <sup>3</sup> ]	0.36 × 0.30 × 0.04	0.30 × 0.27 × 0.03	0.46 × 0.21 × 0.15	0.22 × 0.11 × 0.05	0.54 × 0.35 × 0.28
$\theta_{\max}$ [°]	30.00	34.44	27.00	28.00	27.50
Reflections collected	40802	113 516	78119	38143	105 824
Independent reflections	23585	31405	17986	19774	18698
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.049	0.047	0.043	0.0425	0.0292
Reflections ( <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> ))	16468	27029	16966	12572	17815
Data/restraints/parameters	23585/57/1085	31405/2/987	17986/36/1022	19774/37/1022	18698/49/1022
GOF ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	0.889	1.043	1.343	0.888	1.459
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	0.0448, 0.0753	0.0375, 0.0754	0.0851, 0.1963	0.0464, 0.0926	0.0825, 0.1827
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [all data]	0.0715, 0.0786	0.0489, 0.0795	0.0896, 0.1986	0.0845, 0.0987	0.0856, 0.1837
$\Delta\rho(\max, \min)$ [e Å <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.48, -1.19	1.14, -0.86	6.35, -2.32	3.79, -1.39	4.23, -2.85
CCDC No.	1548378	1548379	1548380	1548381	1548382

Table 3. Crystal data for the LaL structures

Parameter	LaL*	LaL	LaL <sup>MeOH</sup>
Empirical formula	C <sub>78</sub> H <sub>106</sub> LaN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>24</sub>	C <sub>82</sub> H <sub>108</sub> LaN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>25</sub>	C <sub>78</sub> H <sub>108</sub> LaN <sub>9</sub> O <sub>25</sub>
Formula weight	1692.63	1758.68	1710.64
Crystal system	monoclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space group	<i>Cc</i>	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$
<i>T</i> [K]	100(2)	100(2)	200(2)
<i>a</i> [Å]	23.2245(9)	13.0803(5)	13.2848(6)
<i>b</i> [Å]	13.2645(4)	15.0850(8)	14.8019(6)
<i>c</i> [Å]	53.572(3)	24.0507(11)	23.8221(10)
$\alpha$ [°]	90	95.673(4)	86.619(4)
$\beta$ [°]	92.110(4)	94.935(4)	81.842(4)
$\gamma$ [°]	90	108.406(4)	65.943(4)
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	16492.3(12)	4446.1(4)	4234.2(3)
<i>Z</i>	8	2	2
$\rho$ [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.363	1.314	1.342
$\mu$ [mm <sup>-1</sup> ]	4.668	4.359	4.560
Max/min absorption	0.815, 0.547	0.773, 0.579	0.759, 0.292
Crystal size [mm <sup>3</sup> ]	0.18 × 0.13 × 0.05	0.24 × 0.09 × 0.07	0.42 × 0.16 × 0.06
$\theta_{\max}$ [°]	66.08	67.18	67.06
Reflections collected	41352	41472	35508
Independent reflections	19601	15568	14707
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0830	0.0435	0.043
Reflections ( <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> ))	16246	13471	13759
Data/restraints/parameters	19601/15/944	15568/111/1130	14707/106/1138
GOF ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	1.057	1.030	1.126
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	0.1138, 0.2707	0.0514, 0.1350	0.0742, 0.1866
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [all data]	0.1330, 0.2880	0.0621, 0.1449	0.0781, 0.1898
$\Delta\rho(\max, \min)$ [e Å <sup>-3</sup> ]	4.82, -1.87	1.23, -0.95	2.31, -1.26
CCDC No.	1548383	1548384	1548385

Table 4. Lanthanoid oxygen bond distances for the LaL and Type I, II, and III LnL complexes

Complex	Calixarene phenol O				Calixarene amide O			Pic phenol O	Pic nitro O	Solvent O
	Ln–O(11)	Ln–O(21)	Ln–O(31)	Ln–O(41)	Ln–O(212)	Ln–O(312)	Ln–O(412)	Ln–O(51)	Ln–O(521)	Ln–O(X)
LaL	2.217(2)	2.748(3)	3.003(3)	2.774(3)	2.523(2)	2.545(3)	2.504(3)	2.556(3)	2.726(3)	2.661(3)
LaL* mol1	2.262(13)	2.859(15)	2.943(16)	2.654(14)	2.508(16)	2.439(15)	2.522(16)	2.500(15)	2.694(16)	2.633(15)
LaL* mol2	2.271(14)	2.850(15)	2.962(15)	2.684(13)	2.539(14)	2.514(14)	2.512(15)	2.543(15)	2.736(15)	2.645(17)
LaL <sup>MeOH</sup>	2.255(4)	2.752(4)	3.058(4)	2.902(4)	2.519(4)	2.537(4)	2.506(4)	2.491(4)	2.790(19)	2.610(4)
Type I										
LaL	2.217(2)	2.748(3)	3.003(3)	2.774(3)	2.523(2)	2.545(3)	2.504(3)	2.556(3)	2.726(3)	
CeL	2.187(3)	2.627(3)	2.698(3)	2.575(3)	2.502(3)	2.444(3)	2.480(3)	2.474(3)	2.739(3)	
PrL	2.176(2)	2.623(2)	2.681(2)	2.560(2)	2.481(2)	2.437(2)	2.482(2)	2.458(2)	2.753(2)	
NdL	2.1685(12)	2.5897(12)	2.6582(11)	2.5401(11)	2.4615(12)	2.4169(12)	2.4539(12)	2.4385(12)	2.7355(14)	
SmL	2.148(3)	2.589(2)	2.647(3)	2.516(2)	2.428(3)	2.384(3)	2.428(3)	2.417(3)	2.773(3)	
EuL	2.138(3)	2.579(3)	2.638(3)	2.519(3)	2.412(3)	2.377(3)	2.418(3)	2.399(3)	2.803(4)	
GdL*	2.132(3)	2.576(2)	2.618(2)	2.510(3)	2.398(2)	2.369(2)	2.414(3)	2.371(2)	2.799(4)	
TbL <sup>I</sup>	2.119(2)	2.565(2)	2.606(2)	2.490(2)	2.383(2)	2.347(2)	2.379(2)	2.361(2)	2.844(2)	
DyL	2.1045(14)	2.5532(15)	2.6004(15)	2.4804(15)	2.3789(16)	2.3381(15)	2.3788(15)	2.3584(15)	2.8713(18)	
Type II										
TbL <sup>II</sup>	2.1176(17)	2.5627(17)	2.6249(18)	2.5180(19)	2.3814(18)	2.3592(18)	2.3869(17)	2.3241(17)	2.996(2)	
HoL	2.093(2)	2.535(2)	2.593(2)	2.488(2)	2.342(2)	2.329(2)	2.366(2)	2.291(2)	3.107(2)	
Type III										
ErL	2.079(5)	2.489(4)	2.501(4)	2.462(4)	2.309(5)	2.349(4)	2.331(5)	—	—	2.346(3)
TmL	2.061(3)	2.479(2)	2.493(2)	2.458(2)	2.279(2)	2.332(2)	2.318(3)	—	—	2.342(3)
YbL	2.059(3)	2.490(3)	2.488(3)	2.469(3)	2.289(2)	2.322(3)	2.316(3)	—	—	2.332(3)
LuL	2.053(4)	2.467(4)	2.487(4)	2.438(4)	2.275(5)	2.328(4)	2.303(5)	—	—	2.306(5)



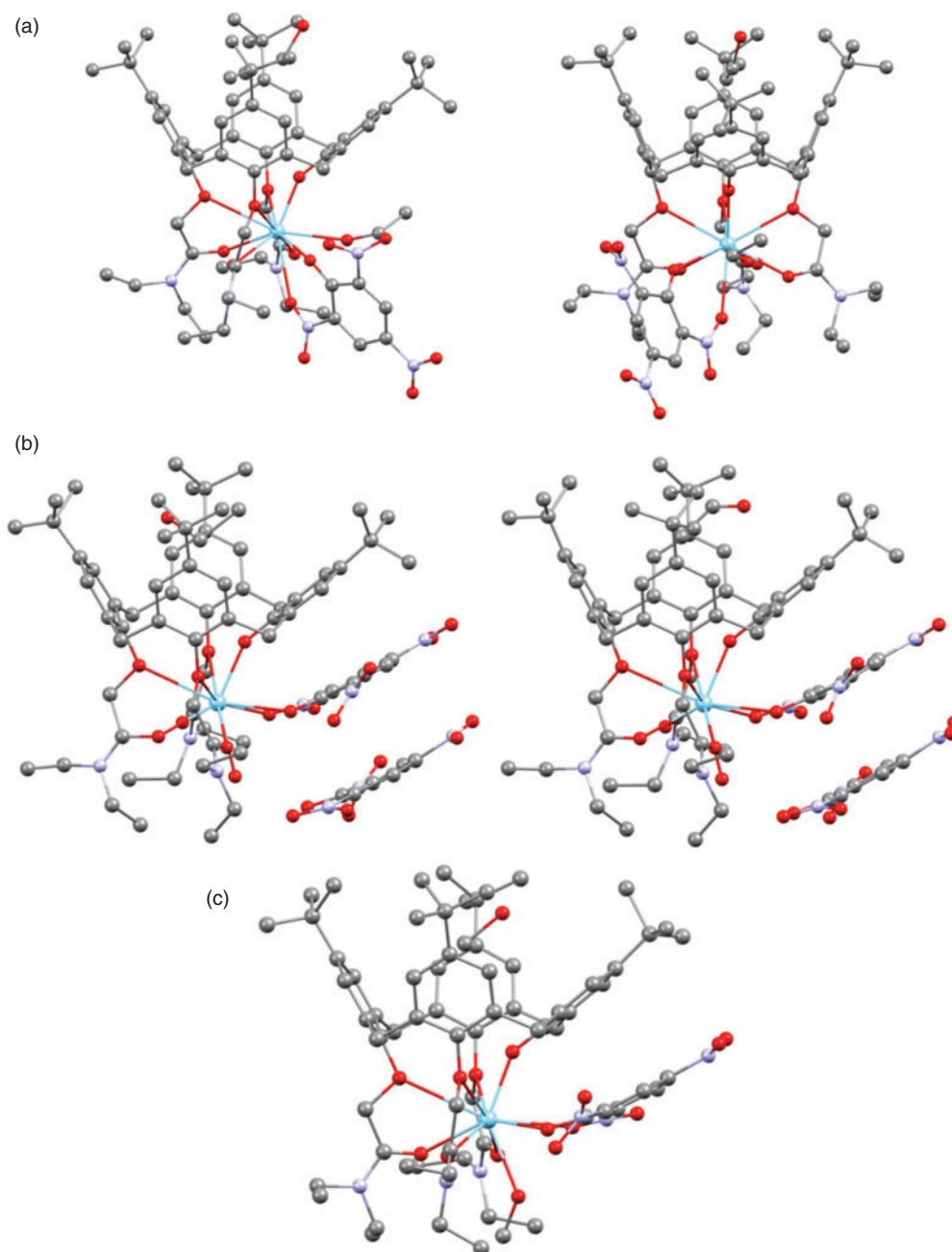
**Fig. 1.** Two views of the complex cation with included solvent for examples of the three main structural types characterised in the lanthanoid picrate complexes of **L**: (a) Type I,  $\text{TbL}^{\text{I}}$ ; (b) Type II,  $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$ ; and (c) Type III,  $\text{TmL}$  (inclusive of the picrate anion in the second coordination sphere). Hydrogen atoms and minor components of disorder are omitted for clarity. Ellipsoids have been drawn at the 50% probability level.

The La atom is bonded to each of the four phenolic oxygen atoms of the calixarene, the distances to O11 2.217(3) Å, being much shorter than to the other three which lie in the range 2.556(3)–3.003(3) Å (Table 4). The La is also bound to the three amide O atoms with La–O distances in the range 2.504(3)–2.545(3) Å. The remainder of the coordination sphere consists of the bidentate picrate anion, and an ethanol molecule, so that the La atom is ten-coordinate. As shown in Fig. 2a, the overall structure of the complex is quite similar to other members of the series

(Fig. 1), with the exception that the larger La atom can accommodate the ethanol solvent molecule in the first coordination sphere.

The structure determination of the initially deposited  $\text{LaL}^*$  gave lower quality but clearly defined results. The formulation of this complex is  $[\text{La}(\text{L})(\text{pic})(\text{OH}_2)](\text{picrate}) \cdot 2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH})$ . There are two independent cations in the unit cell which are virtually identical. The structure consists of a La atom bonded to each of the four phenolic O atoms of the calixarene, the distances





**Fig. 2.** Ball-and-stick representations of the lanthanum picrate complex cations of **L**, with included solvent. (a) Two views of the complex cation of LaL. (b) The two independent complex cations and associated picrate anion in LaL\*. (c) The complex cation of LaL<sup>MeOH</sup>. Hydrogen atom and disordered components omitted for clarity.

to O11 (molecule 1) and O61 (molecule 2) (2.262(13) and 2.271(14) Å) being much shorter than to the other three which lie in the range 2.654(14)–2.962(15) Å, similar to those of LaL. The La atoms are also bound to the three amide O atoms with La–O distances in the range 2.439(15)–2.539(14) Å. The structure differs from the others in the series in that a molecule of water is included in the coordination sphere, the bond distances being La1–O(1) 2.633(15) and La2–O(2) 2.655(17) Å. Thus the La atom is again ten-coordinate, but the position of the solvent O atom and picrate nitro O atom has swapped (Fig. 2b). This has resulted in the picrate group being able to form  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interactions with the Ph ring (1n for molecule 1 and 6n for molecule 2). The centroid to centroid distances are 3.51 and 3.62 Å for molecule 1

and 2 respectively with the angles between the Ph planes being 11.6(8)° and 11.9(7)°. There are also  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interactions between the coordinated and the uncoordinated picrate anions, the centroid to centroid distances being 3.47 and 3.48 Å with the interplanar angles being 0.2(4)° and 1.6(7)°. While the  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interactions have not been observed in other members of this series, similar interactions have been observed in the lanthanoid picrate complexes of the analogous 1,3-bisamide substituted calix[4]arene.<sup>[30,31]</sup> In spite of these differences, the dispositions of the calixarene Ph rings relative to the pseudo-4-fold axis do not differ greatly from those of the other structures in the series with the inter-planar angles between the Cn1 plane and each of the planes of the four Ph rings being 33.6(6)°, 67.0(6)°, 63.8(6)°, and 2 respectively.

and 72.6(6)° (molecule 1) and 34.2(6)°, 65.3(6)°, 66.3(7)°, and 70.2(6)° (molecule 2).

The structure determination of  $\text{LaL}^{\text{MeOH}}$  gave results consistent with a formulation  $[\text{La}(\text{L})(\text{pic})(\text{HOMe})](\text{pic}) \cdot 3(\text{MeOH})$ , with one of the methanol molecules positioned in the calixarene cavity. The structure of the complex cation is similar to that observed for  $\text{LaL}^*$ , with the aqua ligand replaced with a methanol molecule (Fig. 2c). The interplanar angles between the Cn1 plane and each of the planes of the four Ph rings of the calixarene are 35.9(2)°, 71.5(2)°, 64.6(2)°, and 66.5(2)°. The coordinated picrate ligand is again in a position to form  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interactions with phenyl ring 1, although this is complicated by disorder of the picrate ring. The interplanar angles are 19.5(7)° and 21.1(8)° between the picrate ring components and phenyl ring 1. The dihedral angle between the two components of the coordinated picrate ligand is 9.6(13)°. The centroid to centroid distances are 3.87 and 3.96 Å. The free picrate anion (not shown) in this case does not have any interaction with other aromatic rings.

## Conclusion

Lanthanoid picrate complexes of trisamide LH have now been structurally characterised for all the lanthanoids (except promethium). As expected, the coordination number decreases across the series. The coordination number is 10 for three different lanthanum complexes, with the calixarene, a bidentate picrate anion, and a unidentate solvent molecule in the coordination sphere. The two species binding in the gap in the coordination sphere left by the trisamide L were found to vary by orientation and composition, with the metal–calixarene interaction relatively consistent. From cerium to dysprosium, the coordinated solvent molecule is eliminated and the coordination number reduces to nine. An eight-coordinate species with unidentate picrate was characterised for terbium and holmium, however, suggesting that these nine- and eight-coordinate structures are of similar stability, at least for terbium and probably dysprosium. From erbium to lutetium, eight-coordination persists, but with the bulky picrate anion replaced in the first coordination sphere by an ethanol solvent molecule. The results show that the size of the lanthanoid cation in tris-substituted calixarene complexes influences the binding of species in the vacant coordination site of the  $\text{LnL}^{2+}$  cation.

## Experimental

**Warning:** While no issues were encountered in this work, caution should be exercised when handling picrates.

### Synthetic Procedures

5,11,17,23-Tetra-*tert*-butyl-25-hydroxy-26,27,28-tris(diethylcarbamoylmethoxy)calix[4]arene<sup>[32]</sup> (LH) and lanthanoid picrate hydrates<sup>[17]</sup> were prepared as described previously. The metal complexes were crystallised following the literature procedure.<sup>[28]</sup> Typically, three molar equivalents of the lanthanoid picrate hydrate were added to a solution of LH (5 µmol) in dichloromethane/ethanol (50 : 50, v/v, 2 mL), and the solution was allowed to evaporate until crystals deposited. Carrying out the reaction on a 10× scale with terbium picrate hydrate resulted in the deposition of a mixture of predominantly orange crystals of  $\text{TbL}^{\text{I}}$  along with some yellow crystals of  $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$ . The yellow crystals were found to maintain crystallinity after isolation from the mother liquor, and structure determinations were carried out on the solvated ( $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$ ) and desolvated crystals

( $\text{TbL}^{\text{II}}$ (desolvated)). The reaction with lanthanum picrate hydrate initially deposited brown crystals of  $\text{LaL}^*$ , which transformed on standing to orange crystals of  $\text{LaL}$ . Both phases were structurally characterised. Substituting methanol for ethanol with lanthanum picrate hydrate gave crystals of  $\text{LaL}^{\text{MeOH}}$ .

### Crystallography

The crystal data are summarised in Tables 1–3. Crystallographic data for the structures were collected on an Oxford Diffraction Gemini diffractometer using Mo K $\alpha$  radiation (or Cu K $\alpha$  radiation for  $\text{CeL}$ ,  $\text{LaL}^*$ ,  $\text{LaL}^{\text{MeOH}}$ ). Following absorption corrections and solution by direct methods, the structures were refined against  $F^2$  with full-matrix least-squares using the program SHELXL-2014.<sup>[33]</sup> Unless otherwise stated, H-atoms were added at calculated positions and refined by use of a riding model with isotropic displacement parameters based on the isotropic displacement parameter of the parent atom. Anisotropic displacement parameters were employed throughout for the non-hydrogen atoms except for those of disordered components, which were refined with isotropic displacement parameters.

### Refinement Details

**CeL.** The solvent was modelled as three molecules of ethanol with the site occupancy of one refined to 0.70(1). Some geometries were restrained to ideal values. One *tert*-butyl group was modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites with occupancies refined to 0.812(13) and its complement. OH hydrogen atoms were not located, nor could reasonable positions be found, for two of the solvent molecules. All remaining hydrogen atoms were added at calculated positions and refined by use of riding models with isotropic displacement parameters based on those of the parent atoms. The solvent in the cavity was modelled as being EtOH. The overall formula is therefore  $[\text{C}_{68}\text{H}_{90}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{14}\text{Ce}]^+$ , picrate<sup>−</sup>, 2.70( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ ).

**PrL.** Solvent ethanol molecule 1 was modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites (labelled 10n and 40n) with site occupancy factors of the disordered components being constrained to 0.5 after trial refinement. The solvent in the cavity of the calixarene was modelled as being part  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and part EtOH, the site occupancy factor for the two components being set to 0.5 after trial refinement. Meaningful positions for the hydroxy H atoms of ethanol molecules could not be found and were therefore omitted from the model. The C atoms of two methyl groups (C24n) are disordered over two sets of sites with site occupancy factors refined to 0.841(6) and its complement. The overall formula is therefore  $[\text{C}_{68}\text{H}_{90}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{14}\text{Pr}]^+$ , picrate<sup>−</sup>, 1/2( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ), 3/2( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ ).

**NdL.** One *tert*-butyl group and one ethanol solvent molecule were modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites with occupancies refined to 0.818(4) and its complement for both groups after trial refinement found no significant difference in the two values. Geometries and displacement parameters of the disordered *tert*-butyl group were restrained to reasonable values. Sensible positions for the hydroxy H atoms of the disordered ethanol molecule were not located. The overall formula is therefore  $[\text{C}_{68}\text{H}_{90}\text{N}_6\text{O}_{14}\text{Nd}]^+$ , picrate<sup>−</sup>, 3( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ ).

**EuL.** One *tert*-butyl group was modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites with occupancies constrained to 0.5 after trial refinement. The site occupancies of two of the solvent ethanol molecules refined to 0.68(2) and 0.85(2). Geometries



and displacement parameters of the disordered ethanol molecules were restrained to reasonable values. Sensible positions for the hydroxy H atoms of the ethanol molecule were not located. The overall formula is therefore  $[\text{C}_{68}\text{H}_{90}\text{EuN}_6\text{O}_{14}]^+$ , picrate<sup>−</sup>, 2.53( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ ).

**TbL<sup>I</sup>.** The methyl groups of one of the *tert*-butyl groups were modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites with occupancies refined to 0.829(7) and its complement. The solvent molecule in the calix was modelled as a mixture of a  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and EtOH molecules, with occupancies refined to 0.704(4) ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) and 1–0.704(4) (EtOH). One of the other solvent molecules was also modelled as being a mixture except with occupancy factors for both components set at 0.5 after trial refinement.

**DyL.** The methyl groups of one of the *tert*-butyl groups were modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites with occupancies refined to 0.754(8) and its complement. Residual electron density near the solvent ethanol molecule in the calix was modelled as a  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  molecule, with occupancies refined to 0.825(1) (EtOH) and 1–0.825(1) ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). The site occupancy of another ethanol molecule was refined to 0.664(7).

**TbL<sup>II</sup>.** The solvent molecule in the calix was modelled as  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with occupancies set at unity after trial refinement. The solvents at the other site were modelled as being part  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and part ethanol on the basis of refinement and possible hydrogen bonding with occupancies refined to 0.751(3) and 1–0.751(3) respectively. Geometries of the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  component were restrained to ideal values. One *tert*-butyl group and one pendant ethyl group were also modelled as being disordered with site occupancies fixed at 0.5 after trial refinement. The ethanol hydroxyl H atom was not located.

**TbL<sup>II</sup>(desolvated).** The site occupancy of the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solvent in the calix was refined to 0.125(3) with the molecular geometries restrained to ideal values.

**ErL, TmL, and LuL.** The hydroxy H atom on the solvent ethanol molecule in the calix was not included in the model. The corresponding atom on the coordinated ethanol was located in the difference map and refined with restrained geometries. One *tert*-butyl group (14n) was modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites with occupancies set at 0.5 after trial refinement.

**LaL.** Two *tert*-butyl groups and the solvent ethanol molecules were modelled as being disordered over two sets of sites with geometries and displacement parameters restrained to reasonable values. The atoms of the solvent ethanol molecules were refined with isotropic parameters. The hydroxy H atom on the coordinated ethanol was included according to hydrogen bonding considerations. Meaningful positions for the hydroxy H atoms on the disordered solvent ethanol molecules could not be found and were therefore omitted from the model.

**LaL\*.** Anisotropic displacement parameters were employed for the La atoms only. Meaningful positions for the hydroxy H atoms for ethanol and water molecules could not be found and were therefore omitted from the model. Although the final residuals were rather high, recollection of the dataset on another crystal was not possible due to deterioration of the original sample. The overall formula is  $[\text{C}_{68}\text{H}_{92}\text{LaN}_6\text{O}_{15}]^+$ , picrate<sup>−</sup>, 2( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ ).

**LaL<sup>MeOH</sup>.** The methyl groups of one *tert*-butyl group are disordered over two sites with refined site occupancy factors of 0.671(5) and its complement for the two components. The coordinated picrate ligand was modelled as being disordered over two sites (groups with atom labels 5n and 7n) with equal occupancies and common phenolic oxygen atoms. Their

geometries were restrained to ideal values. The hydroxy groups of the methanol molecules were refined with restrained geometries.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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