

Supplementary Material



White-Light Emitting Di-Ureasil Hybrids

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Materials and Methods

Materials

The diamine α,ω -diaminepoly(oxyethylene-co-oxypropylene) (ED-600, Huntsman, Barcelona, Spain), 3-isocyanateproplytriethoxysilane (ICPTES, 95%, Aldrich, Algés, Portugal), Oba (98%, ABCR), Phen (99%, Alfa Aesar, Karlsruhe, Germany) and coumarin 1 (C1, 98%, Alfa Aesar, Karlsruhe, Germany) are all commercially available. Eu(NO₃)₃ and Tb(NO₃)₃ were obtained by dissolving of Eu₂O₃ and Tb₄O₇ (Shanghai Yuelong New Material Co., Ltd., China) in HNO₃, respectively. Tetrahydrofuran (THF 99%, Sigma–Aldrich, Algés, Portugal), absolute ethanol (EtOH, Sigma–Aldrich, Algés, Portugal) and dimethylformamide (DMF, 99.99%, Fisher Chemical, Oeiras Portugal) were used as solvents and hydrochloride (HCl, Sigma–Aldrich, Algés, Portugal) was used as catalyst in sol–gel synthesis. All chemicals were used as received without purifications.

Synthesis

The non-hydrolyzed di-ureasil d-UPTES(600) was synthesized at room temperature according to the literature [S1] using THF as solvent, followed by evaporation of THF under vacuum. The undoped di-ureasil, d-U(600), was prepared by hydrolysis and polycondensation of d-UPTES(600) using EtOH as the cosolvent and HCl as the catalyst for sol–gel process at room temperature. The resulting gel was dried at 50 °C.

Generally, the incorporation of the optically active centers was performed as follows. One gram of d-UPTES(600) precursor was mixed with 0.96 mL of EtOH and stirred at room temperature. Then a mixture containing Ln(NO₃)₃ (Ln = Eu or Tb) in EtOH, Oba in DMF (ultrasonic treatment) and Phen or 3.5×10^{-3} mmol of C1 in EtOH was added. The molar ratio of d-UPTES(600):Ln is 1:0.06 and Ln:Oba:Phen is 1:1:1. Finally, 98.7 µL of HCl-acidified water (pH = 2) was added to catalyze the sol–gel reaction. The molar ratio of d-UPTES(600):H₂O is 1:6. The resulting d-U(600) singly doped with Eu³⁺, Tb³⁺ or C1 were dried at 50 °C, and denoted as Eu-I, Tb-I, and C1-I, respectively.

Synthesis of di-ureasil d-U(600) co-doped with Ln³⁺ (Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺) complex is similar to that of Eu-I, Tb-I, and C1-I except that Eu³⁺-and Tb³⁺-based complexes were incorporated into d-UPTES(600) simultaneously. The molar ratio of Eu:Tb is 3:7. The resultant di-ureasil was designated as EuTb-I.

Synthesis of di-ureasil d-U(600)s triply doped with Ln^{3+} (Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺) complex and C1. In a typical way, 1.0 g of d-UPTES(600) (0.914 mmol) was mixed with 0.96 mL of EtOH. Ln(NO₃)₃ (Ln³⁺ = Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺), Oba and Phen in different solvents were added with the same molar ratio of di-ureasil d-U(600) doubly doped with Ln³⁺ (Eu and Tb) complex. Then three different amounts of C1 (8.7×10⁻⁵, 8.7×10⁻⁴ and 3.5×10⁻³ mmol) in EtOH were added to the above mixture. A diluted HCl (pH = 2) was added to speed up the sol–gel reaction. The resulting di-ureasils d-U(600)s containing

Ln³⁺ (Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺) and different C1 contents are named as EuTbC1-I, EuTbC1-II and EuTbC1-III, respectively. After hydrolysis and polycondensation reactions of the precursor in the presence of Ln(NO₃)₃ (Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺), Oba, Phen and C1 using HCl as the catalyst, the di-ureasil monoliths containing in-situ Ln complex and dye were obtained, as shown in Scheme S2. At the doping concentration (6.0 mol% relative to the di-ureasil) in this work, the resulting di-ureasils display excellent transparency and mechanical flexibility for ease of processing. Furthermore, these hybrid materials show high and nearly no absorption in the UV and visible regions, respectively, which will be discussed in the following part, making them promising materials for optoelectronic applications.

Schemes



Scheme S1. Schematic representation of synthesis process of doped di-ureasil.

Tables

	1	5			, ,		5
Samples	Eu-I	Tb-I	EuTb-I	EuTbC1-I	EuTbC1-II	EuTbC1-III	C1-I
0.1 M	548.4		164.5	164.5	164.5	164.5	
Eu(NO ₃) ₃	(0.0548)		(0.0165)	(0.0165)	(0.0165)	(0.0165)	
μL (mmol)							
0.1 M		548.4	383.9	383.9	383.9	383.9	
Tb(NO3)3		(0.0548)	(0.0384)	(0.0384)	(0.0384)	(0.0384)	
μL (mmol)							
Oba	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	
mg (mmol)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	
Phen	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	
mg (mmol)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	(0.0550)	
0.00432 M C1				20	200	800	800
μL (mmol)				(8.7×10-5)	(8.7×10-4)	(3.5×10-3)	(3.5×10-3)
DMF	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	
mL							

Table S1. Compo	ments for synthesis o	of di-ureasils d-U	(600)s doped	with Ln(NO3)3	. Oba. Phen and dv	e C1.

Note: For syntheses of d-U(600) and other di-ureasils codoped with Ln, Oba, Phen and dye C1, 1.0 g of d-UPTES(600) precursor, 0.96 mL of EtOH and 98.7 μ L of HCl (pH=2) were added.

System		Emission colour		
	Materials	coordinates	QY	Reference
		(x,y)		
MOFs	ZJU-1:(1.5%)Tb ³⁺ ,(2.0%)Eu ³⁺	(0.31,0.33)	0.068	S2
	(10%)Eu-SMOF-1	(0.37,0.30)	0.043	S3
	(0.183)Eu ³⁺ /(0.408)Tb ³⁺ @Zn(II)-MOF	(0.34,0.33)	0.08	S4
	(1:2)Eu ³⁺ /Tb ³⁺ @porous MOF	(0.36,0.32)	0.113	S5
	[(3.5 wt%)Ir(ppy)₂(bpy)]⁺@ porous MOF	(0.31,0.33)	0.204	S5
	NENU-524-⊃[(3.86wt%) Ir(ppy)₂(bpy)]⁺	(0.30,0.34)	0.152	S6
	(Yb0.73Tb0.25Eu0.02)2(1,3-BDC)2(phen)2(0x)(H2O)	(0.35,0.36)	0.20	S7
	[Sm99.83Eu0.17(4-SBA)-(IP)OH]·1.5H2O	(0.34,0.32)	0.034	S8
	$(5\%)Eu^{3+}{[TbOH(H_2O)_6][Zn_2Tb_4(4-Htbca)_2-(4-t)_6]}$	(0.33,0.33)	0.114	S9
	bca)8(H2O)12]}N·6nH2O			
	[NaGd0.90Eu0.10(C8N2O8(H2O)3)] [.] H2O or	(0.39.0.38)	0.076	S1 0
	[NaLn(pztc)(H2O)3]·H2O	(0.05,0.00)	0.070	510
	[Dy(TETP)(NO ₃) ₃]·4H ₂ O	(0.33,0.35)	0.07	S11
MOFs/Dye	Eu0.05Tb0.95BPT⊃C460	(0.32,0.34)	0.4332	S12
	ZJU 28⊃(0.02wt%)DSM/(0.06%)AF	(0.34,0.32)	0.174	S13
	HSB-W1⊃DCM/C6a/CBS-127	(0.31,0.32)	0.26	S14
Polymers	(PEI/TPE/Tb ³⁺)15/(PEI/Ln ³⁺ -L ₂ EO ₄) ₅	(0.34,0.35)	0.1174	S15
	W(Eu,Gd,Tb)-PMMA	(0.33,0.35)	0.176	S16
Gels	LMWG:Tb ^{III} :Eu ^{III}	(0.28,0.34)	0.05	S17
	Tb/Eu/Zn-DHN@cholate gel	(0.33,0.34)	0.07	S18
Complexes	[Gd99.66Eu0.34(3-SBA)(IP)OH(H2O)]·H2O	(0.34,0.33)	0.0992	S19
	[H2NMe2]3[Gd0.9365Eu0.370Tb0.0265(L)3]	(0.33,0.34)	0.62	S20

Table S2. Absolute quantum yields for some Ln^{3+} based white-light emission materials.

Figures



Figure S1. XRD patterns of (1) d-U(600), 2) Eu-I, 3) Tb-I, 4) EuTb-I, 5) EuTbC1-I, 6) EuTbC1-II and 7) EuTbC1-III.



Figure S2. FT-IR spectra of 1) d-U(600), 2) Eu-I, 3) Tb-I, 4) EuTb-I, 5) EuTbC1-I, 6) EuTbC1-II and 7) EuTbC1-III.



Figure S3. TG curves of d-U(600), Eu-I, Tb-I, EuTb-I, EuTbC1-I, EuTbC1-II and EuTbC1-III.



Figure S4. Calculated UV–Vis absorption spectrum for C1 by TD-DFT method at B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory with polarized continuum model in EtOH using Gaussian 09 package [S21]. The vertical lines indicate the oscillator strength of each excited state. The calculated first excited state S₁ at 365 nm is in agreement well with the experimental maximum absorption wavelength (373 nm) in EtOH. Since S₀ \rightarrow S₁ transition is predominantly involved the electron promotion from HOMO to LUMO (98.9%), according to the contour plots of HOMO and LUMO (Figure S5), this transition can be ascribed to $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ transition with charge transfer characteristics.



Figure S5. Contour plots of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO, left) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO, right) of C1 by VMD program [S22]. The structure of the ground state of C1 was optimized at B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory in EtOH medium.





Figure S6. (a) Excitation spectra of 1) Eu-I and 2) Tb-I monitored at 615 and 545 nm, respectively; (b) emission spectra of Eu-I excited at 1) 275, 2) 295, 3) 310 and 4) 350 nm; (c) emission spectra of Tb-I excited at 1) 275, 2) 295 and 3) 350 nm.



Figure S7. (a) Emission spectra of EuTb-I excited at 295, 350, 365, 370 and 380 nm; Inset shows the magnification part of wavelength region of 400 to 475 nm, (b) excitation spectra of EuTb-I monitored at 1) 460, 2) 544 and 3) 615 nm; Inset shows the magnification part of wavelength region of 350 to 500 nm.



Figure S8. (a) Emission spectra of EuTbC1-I excited at different wavelength from 295 to 365 nm; Inset shows the magnification part of wavelength region of 400 to 480 nm. (b) excitation spectra of EuTbC1-I monitored at 1) 430, 2) 545 and 3) 615 nm.





650

700

а

500 550 600 Wavelength (nm)

400

450

Figure S9. (a) Emission spectra of EuTbC1-II excited at different wavelength from 275 to 365 nm; Inset shows the magnification part of wavelength region of 400 to 470 nm. (b) excitation spectra of EuTbC1-II monitored at 1) 430, 2) 545 and 3) 615 nm.



Figure S10. (a) Emission spectra of EuTbC1-III excited at different wavelength from 295 to 350 nm; Inset shows the magnification part of wavelength region of 400 to 470 nm. (b) excitation spectra of EuTbC1-III monitored at 1) 440, 2) 545 and 3) 615 nm.



Figure S11. CIE chromaticity color diagram showing the EuTbC1-I emission color coordinates (300 K) at different irradiation times.



Figure S12. Excitation spectra (270–400 nm) of EuTb-I, EuTbC1-I, EuTbC1-II and EuTbC1-III monitored at (a) 545 nm and (b) 615 nm.

Wavelength (nm)



Figure S13. UV–Vis absorption (left) and emission (right, λ_{ex} = 373 nm) spectra of C1 in EtOH (1.0×10⁻⁵ M).



Figure S14. Emission decay curves of (a) Tb-I and (b) EuTb-I, both excited at 295 nm and monitored at 545 nm. The solid lines correspond to the data best fir (r>0.9) using a single exponential function; the fit regular residual plots are shown as insets.

The energy transfer efficiency (η_{ET}) from Tb³⁺ ions to Eu³⁺ ions was calculated using $\eta_{\text{ET}} = 1 - (\tau/\tau_0)$ [S23,S24] to be 2.6%, here, τ and τ_0 stand for ⁵D₄ lifetimes of Tb³⁺ ions in the presence and absence of Eu³⁺ ions, respectively.

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