

*Supporting information*

# A novel near-infrared ytterbium complex $[\text{Yb}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$ with $\varphi = 0.46\%$ and $\tau_{\text{obs}} = 105 \mu\text{s}$

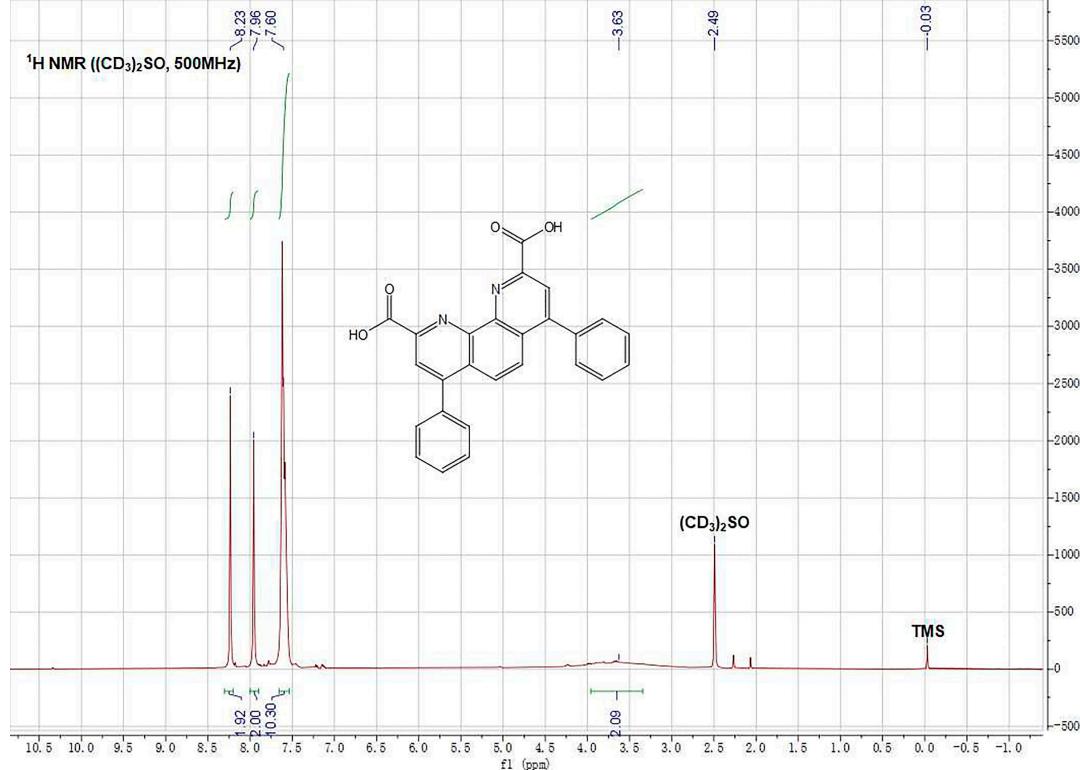
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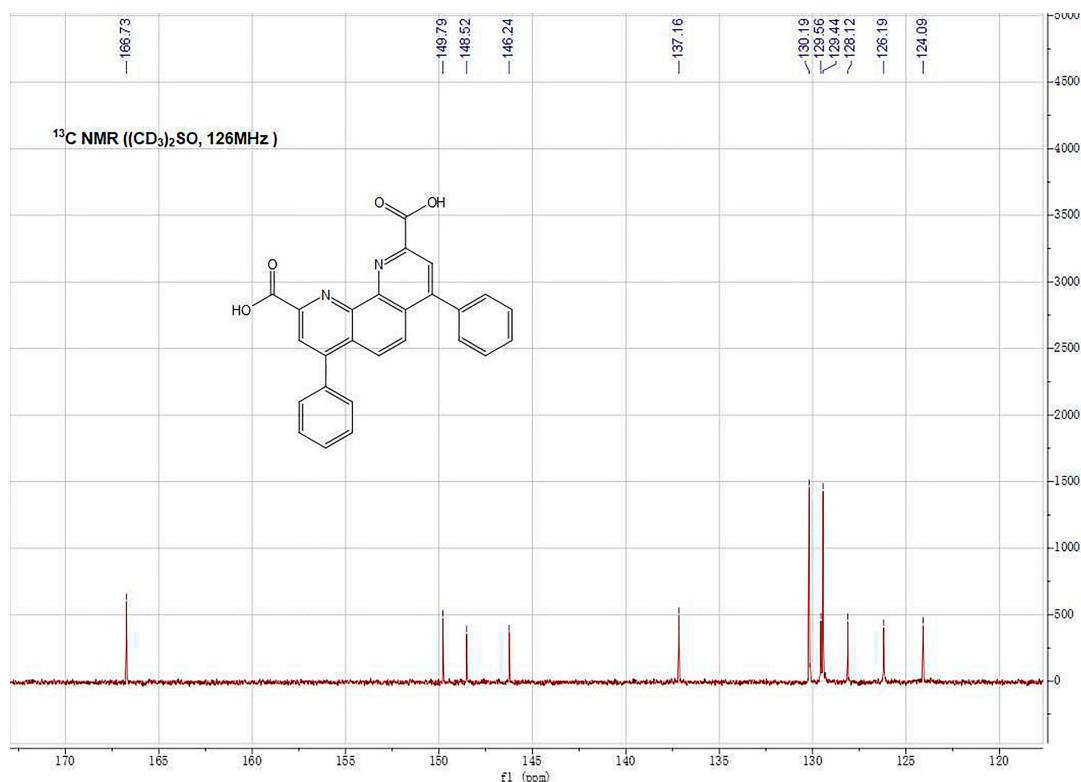
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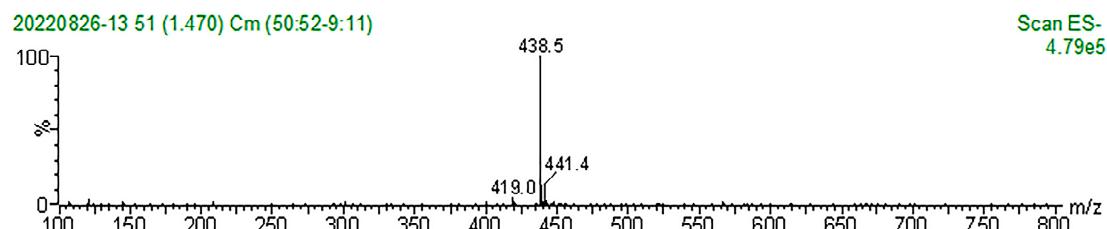
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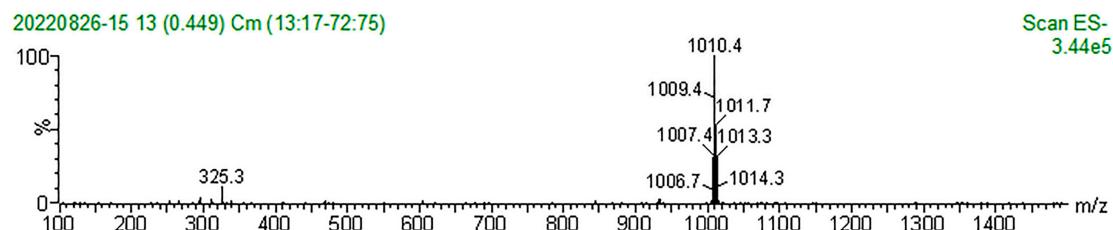
**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline-2,9-dicarboxylic acid (DPPDA).



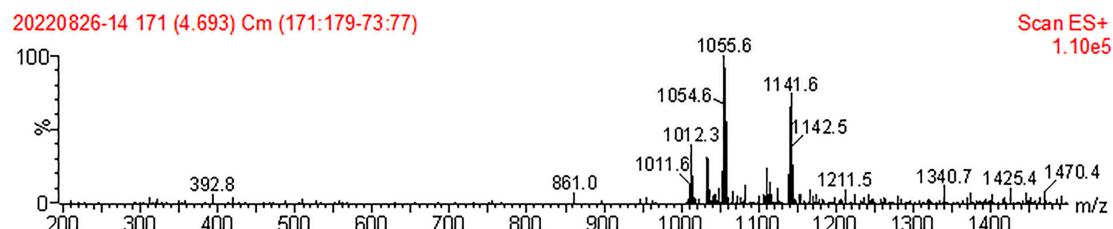
**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of DPPDA.

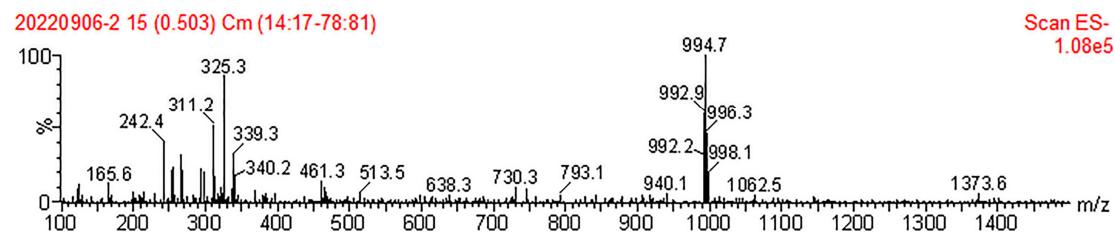
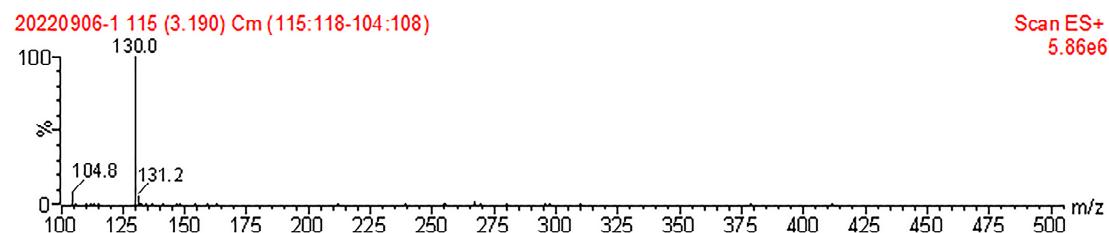
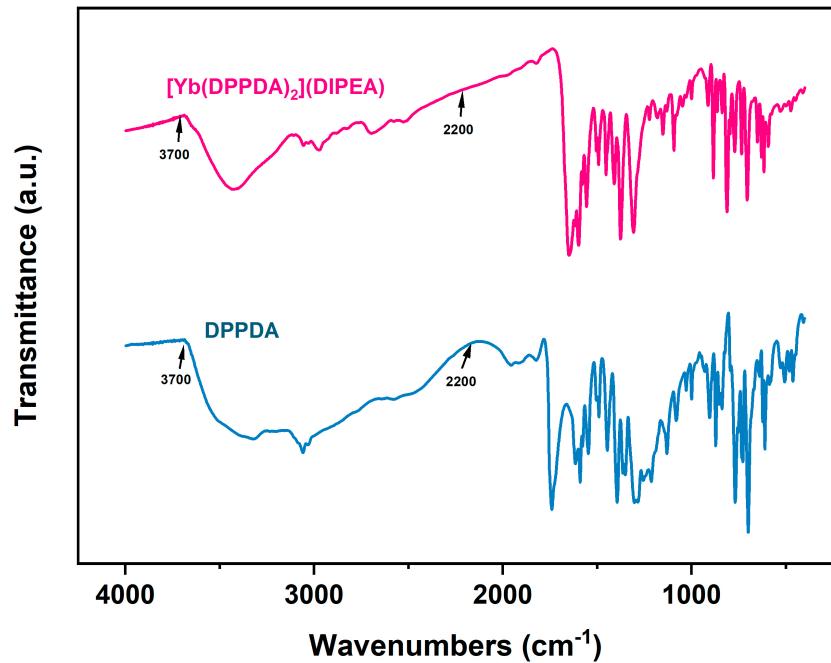


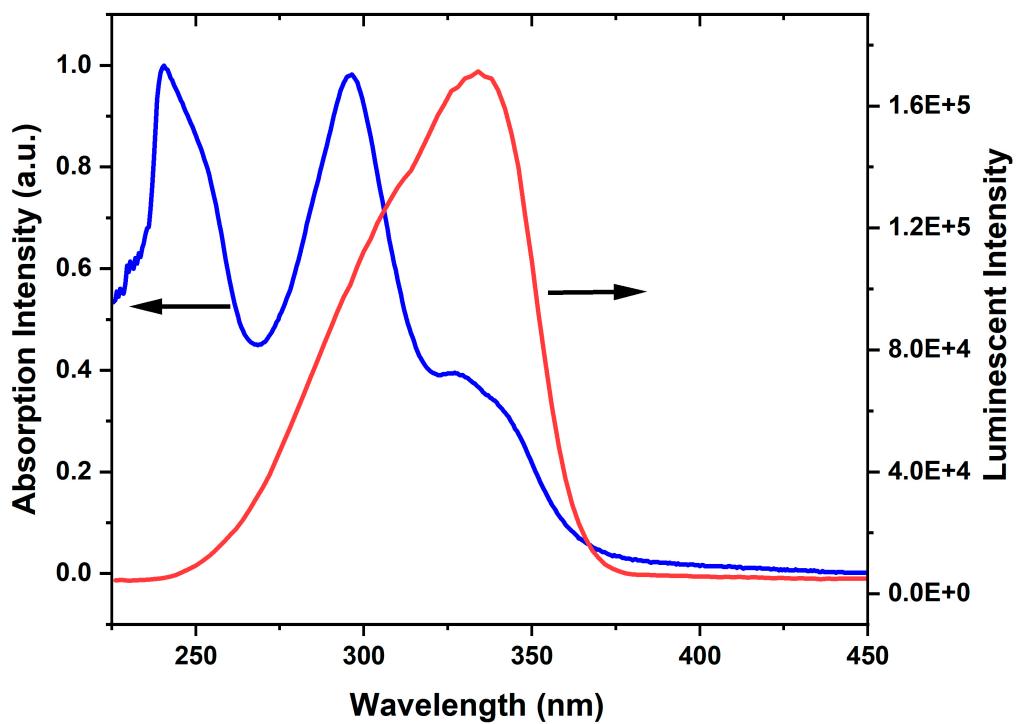
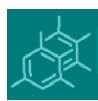
**Figure S3.** ESI-MS spectrum of DPPDA (CH<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH negative mode).



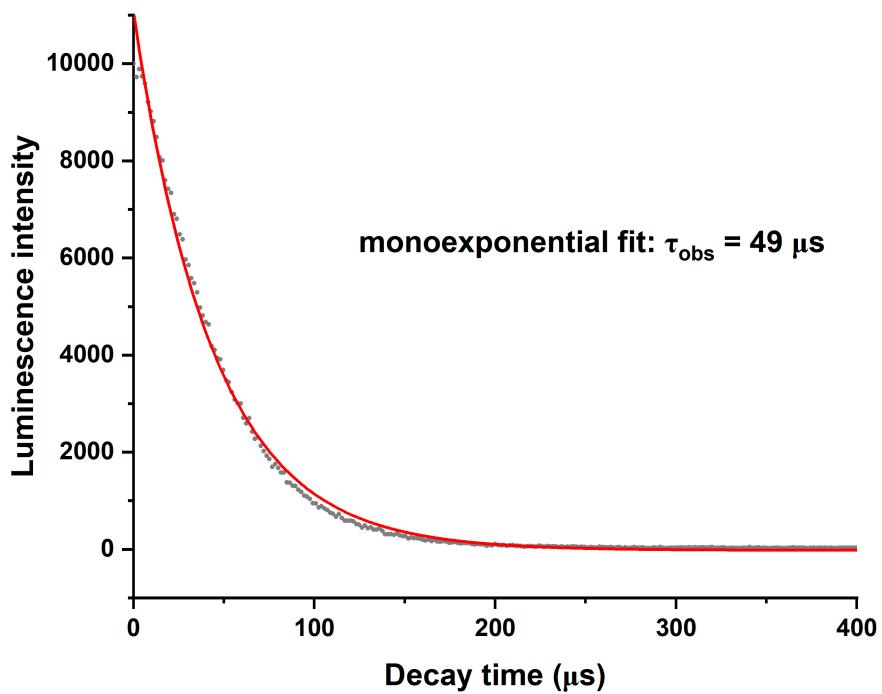
**Figure S4.** ESI-MS spectrum of [Yb(DPPDA)<sub>2</sub>](DIPEA) (CHCl<sub>3</sub> negative mode).

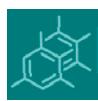


**Figure S5.** ESI-MS spectrum of  $[Yb(DPPDA)_2](DIPEA)$  ( $CHCl_3$  positive mode).**Figure S6.** ESI-MS spectrum of  $[Gd(DPPDA)_2](DIPEA)$  ( $CHCl_3$  negative mode).**Figure S7.** ESI-MS spectrum of  $[Gd(DPPDA)_2](DIPEA)$  ( $CHCl_3$  positive mode).**Figure S8.** FT-IR spectra of DPPDA and  $[Yb(DPPDA)_2](DIPEA)$  in the range of  $4000\sim400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

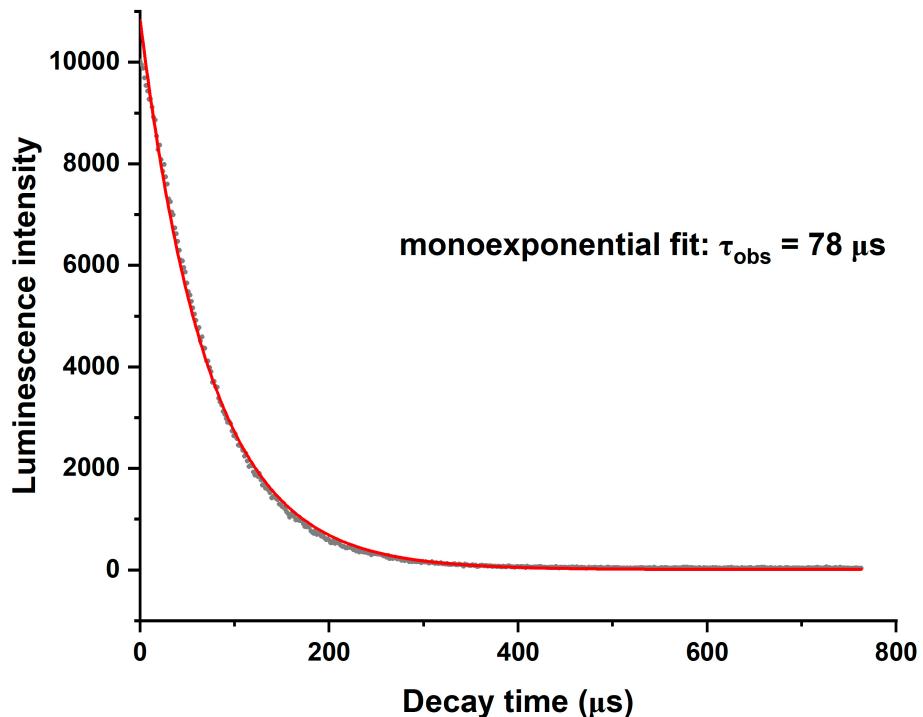


**Figure S9.** UV-Vis absorption spectrum and excitation spectrum ( $\lambda_{\text{monitor}} = 1011 \text{ nm}$ ) of  $[\text{Yb}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$  at room temperature.

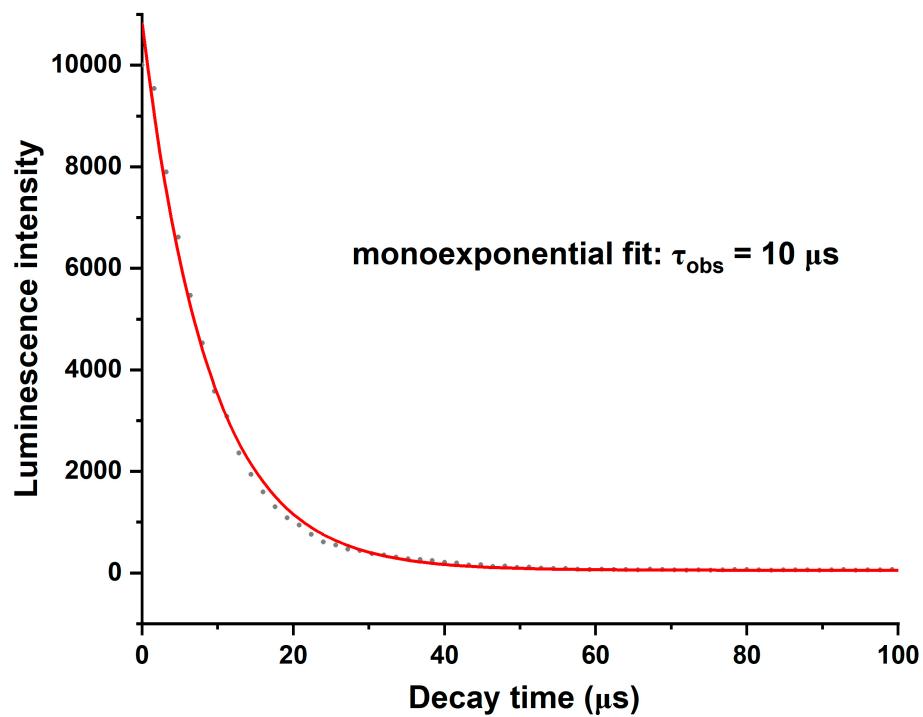
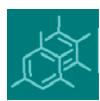




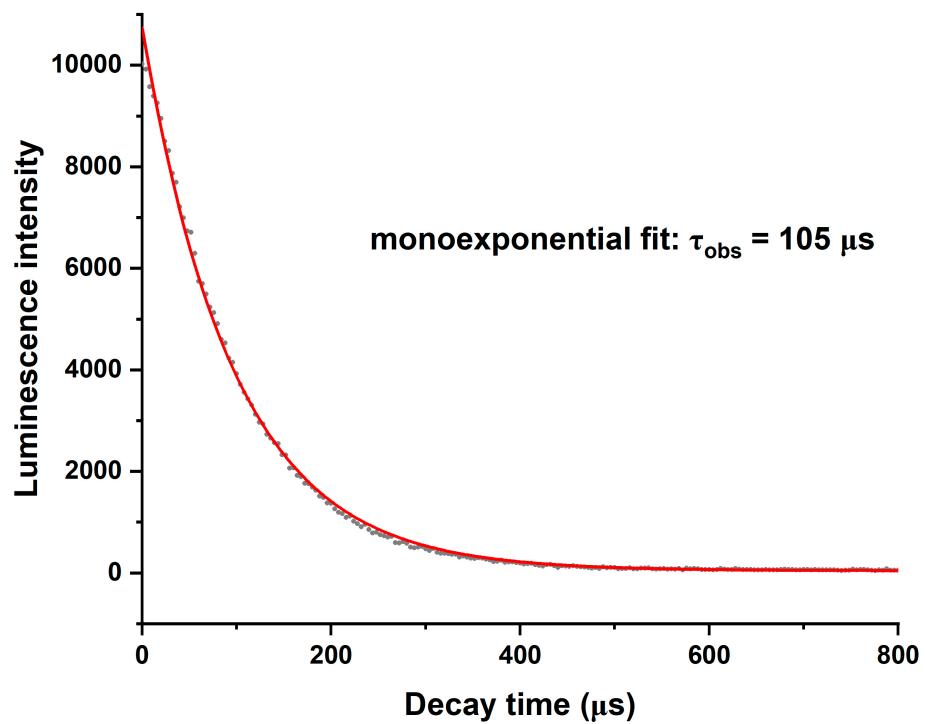
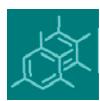
**Figure S10.** Luminescence decay profile of the transition  $^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow ^2\text{F}_{7/2}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 1011$  nm) in  $[\text{Yb}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$  ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335$  nm, monoexponential fit in red) at room temperature.



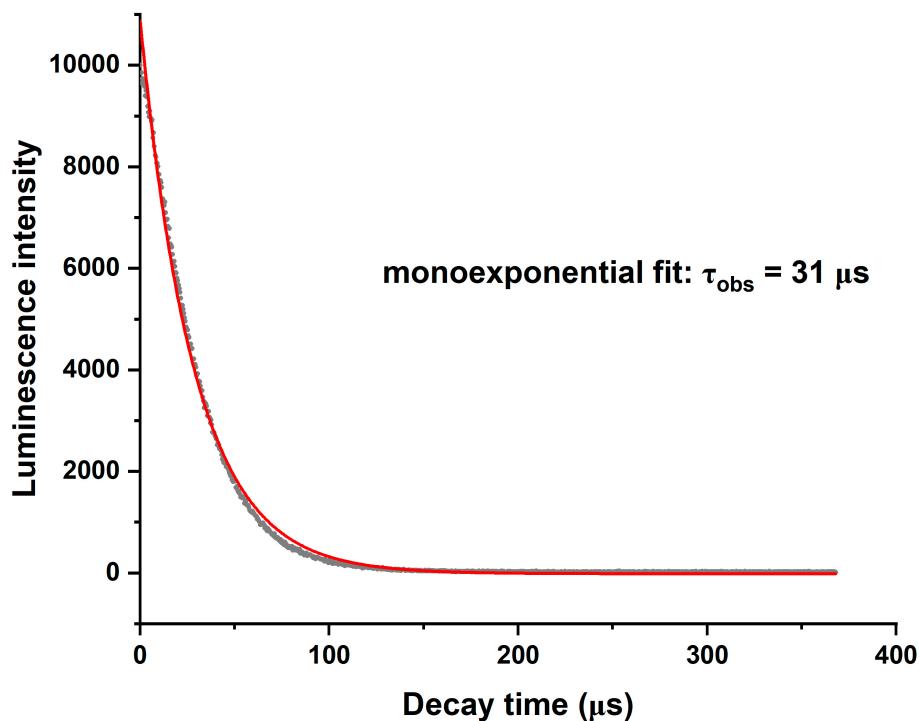
**Figure S11.** Luminescence decay profile of the transition  $^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow ^2\text{F}_{7/2}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 1011$  nm) in  $[\text{Yb}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335$  nm, monoexponential fit in red) at room temperature.



**Figure S12.** Luminescence decay profile of the transition  ${}^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^2\text{F}_{7/2}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 1011 \text{ nm}$ ) in  $[\text{Yb(DPPDA)}_2](\text{DIPEA})$  ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335 \text{ nm}$ , monoexponential fit in red) at room temperature.



**Figure S13.** Luminescence decay profile of the transition  ${}^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow {}^2\text{F}_{7/2}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 1011 \text{ nm}$ ) in  $[\text{Yb}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335 \text{ nm}$ , monoexponential fit in red) at room temperature.

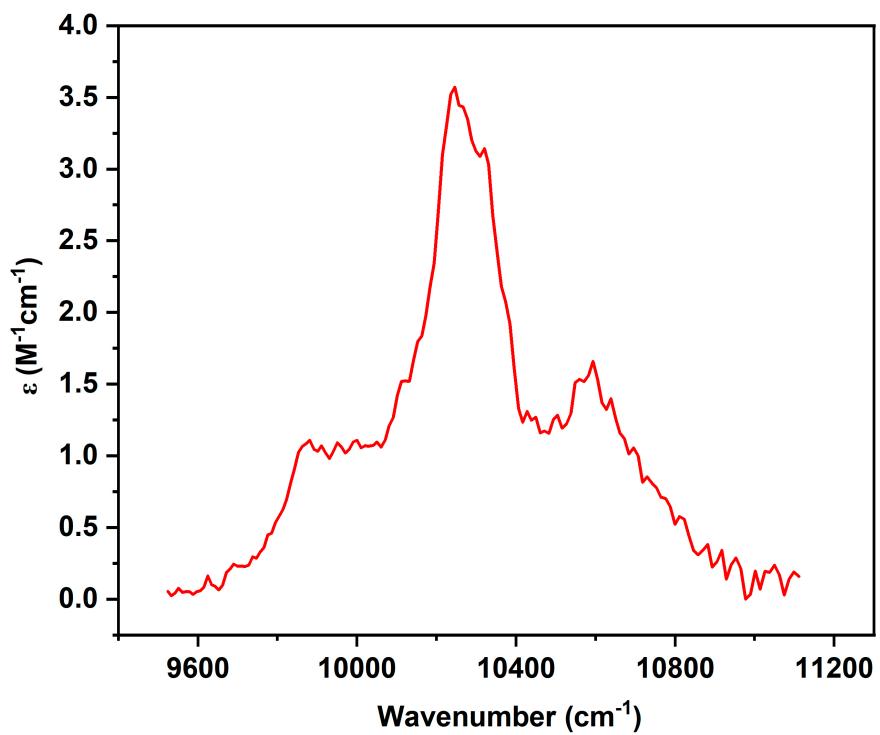
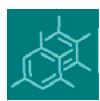


**Figure S14.** Luminescence decay profile of the transition  $^2\text{F}_{5/2} \rightarrow ^2\text{F}_{7/2}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 1011 \text{ nm}$ ) in  $[\text{Yb(DPPDA)}_2](\text{DIPEA})$  (solid,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335 \text{ nm}$ , monoexponential fit in red) at room temperature.

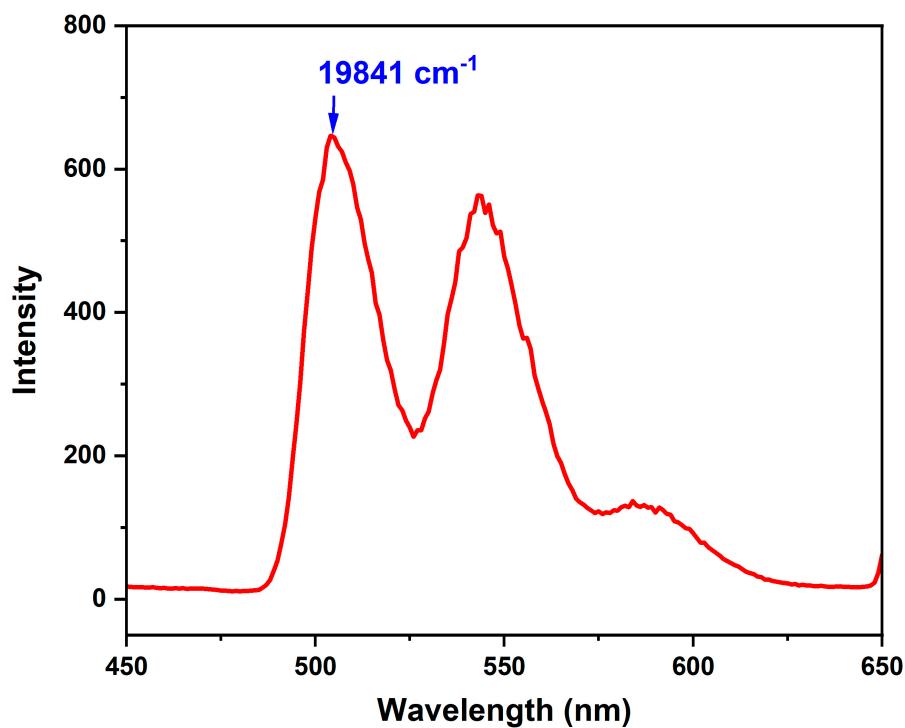
Solvent <sup>1</sup>	$\text{S}_R^2$	$\text{S}_s^3$	$\text{E}_s^4$	QYs <sup>5</sup> (%)
solid	9.26E+08	8.10E+07	1.31E+05	0.06
$\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$	1.04E+09	3.18E+07	3.98E+04	0.02
$\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$	4.95E+08	1.56E+07	5.58E+05	0.46
$\text{CHCl}_3$	4.89E+08	1.66E+07	2.69E+05	0.22
$\text{CDCl}_3$	4.31E+08	2.63E+07	3.87E+05	0.37

<sup>1</sup>Measuring condition:  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 1011 \text{ nm}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$ , 298 K. <sup>2</sup> $\text{S}_R$  = Integrated scattering intensity of reference cell. <sup>3</sup> $\text{S}_s$  = Integrated scattering intensity of sample. <sup>4</sup> $\text{E}_s$  = Integrated emission intensity of sample. <sup>5</sup>The calculation formula of QYs is:  $(\text{F} * \text{E}_s) / (\text{S}_R * \text{S}_s)$ , F is correction factor aimed to eliminate the influence of different sensitivity between UV-Vis detector (180 nm—900 nm) and NIR detector (600 nm—1700 nm). By measuring and contrasting detected light intensity of the spectral overlapping region (700 nm—800 nm) of two detectors, F is calculated to be 3.91.

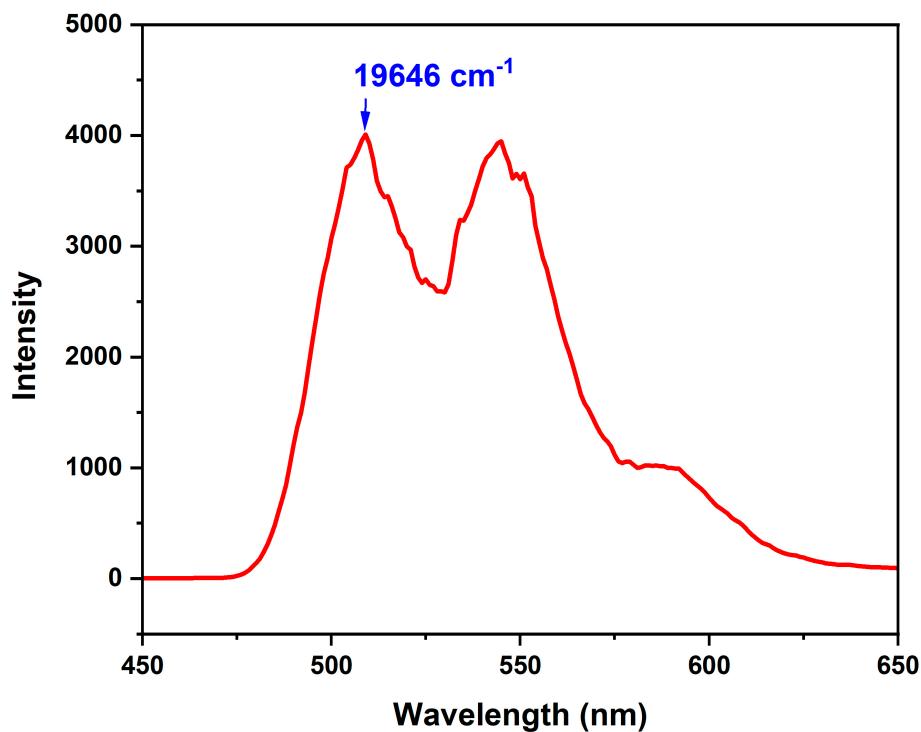
**Table S1.** The measuring data of absolute quantum yields of  $[\text{Yb(DPPDA)}_2](\text{DIPEA})$  in different solutions and solid state at room temperature.



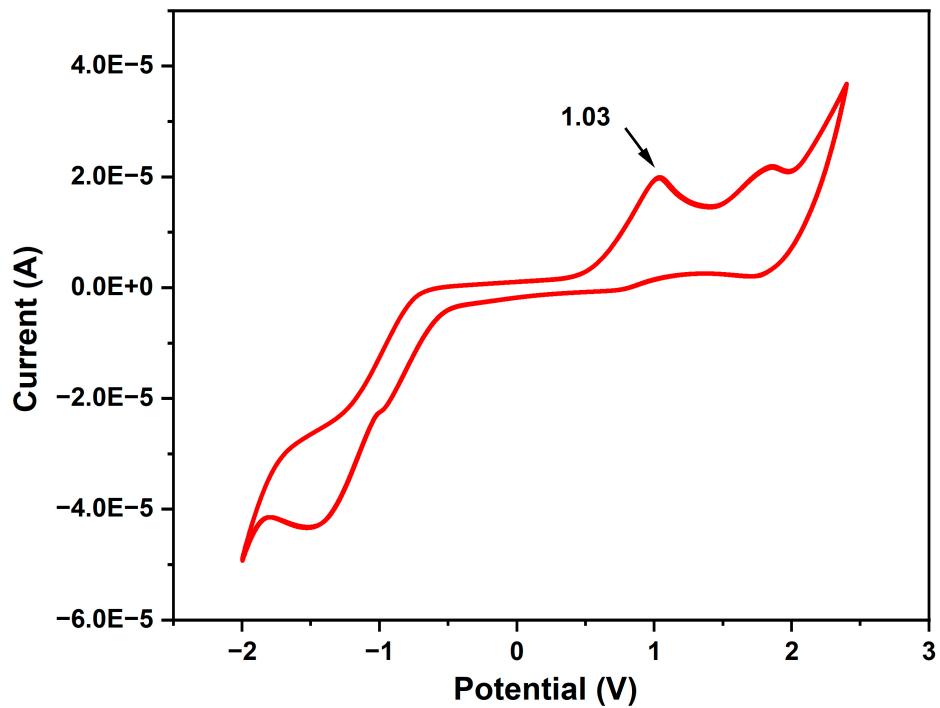
**Figure S15.** NIR absorption spectrum of the f-f transition  $^2\text{F}_{7/2} \rightarrow ^2\text{F}_{5/2}$  in  $[\text{Yb}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$  (in  $4 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  solution).



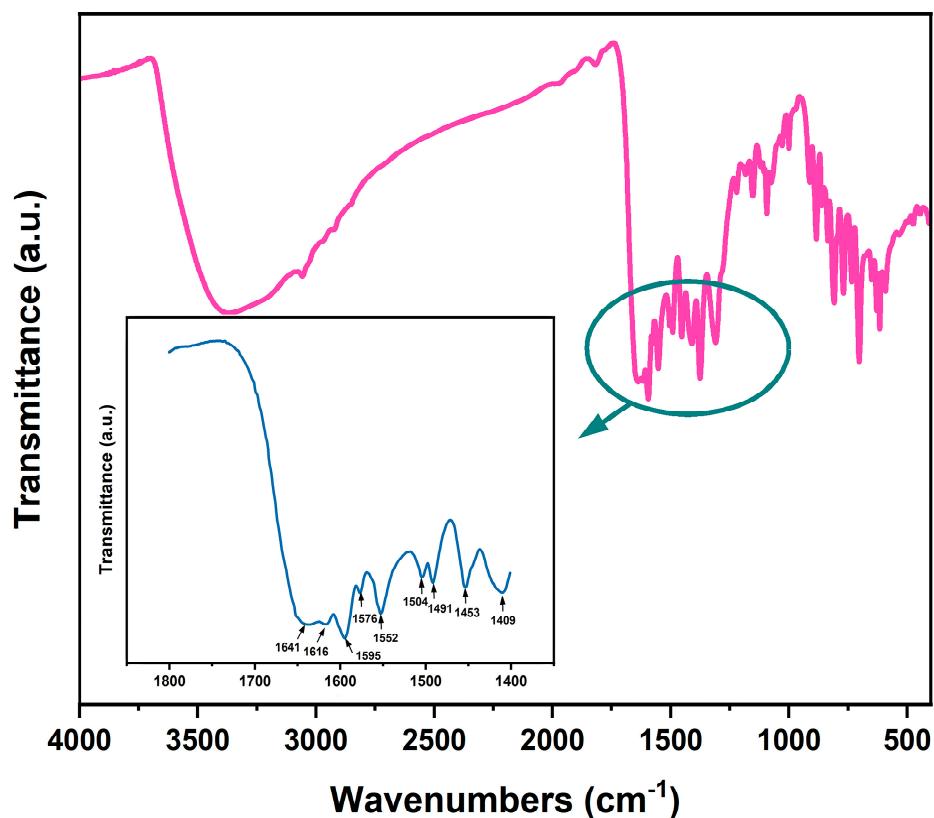
**Figure S16.** Low temperature fluorescence spectrum of  $[\text{Gd}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$  ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335 \text{ nm}$ , in  $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L CHCl}_3$  solution).



**Figure S17.** Low temperature phosphorescence spectrum of  $[\text{Gd}(\text{DPPDA})_2](\text{DIPEA})$  ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 335 \text{ nm}$ , in  $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L CHCl}_3$  solution).



**Figure S18.** Cyclic voltammogram of  $\text{DPPDA}(\text{DIPEA})_2$  (with  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl}$  reference electrode in  $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol/L CHCl}_3$  solution).



**Figure S19.** FT-IR spectrum of  $[Gd(DPPDA)_2](DIPEA)$  in the range of  $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (The illustration is enlarged FT-IR spectrum in the range of  $1800\text{--}1400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).