



48^a
Reunião Anual da
Sociedade
Brasileira de
Química

Emergências Climáticas?
A Química Age e Reage!

ANAIS

08 a 11 de junho de 2025, Campinas, Expo Dom Pedro

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**Dados Internacionais de Catalogação na Publicação (CIP)
(Câmara Brasileira do Livro, SP, Brasil)**

Reunião Anual da SBQ (48. : 2025 : Campinas, SP)
Anais da 48ª Reunião Anual da SBQ [livro
eletrônico] / Sociedade Brasileira de Química. --
1. ed. -- Campinas, SP : Aptor Software, 2025.
PDF

Vários autores.
Vários colaboradores.
Bibliografia.
ISBN 978-85-63273-70-3

1. Química I. Sociedade Brasileira de Química.
II. Título.

25-282696

CDD-540

Índices para catálogo sistemático:

1. Química 540

Eliete Marques da Silva - Bibliotecária - CRB-8/9380

Synthesis, characterization and photoluminescent properties of mono-, bis- and tris-diketonate lanthanide complexes

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Palavras Chave: Lantanídeos, Luminescência, Terpiridina, Transferência de carga

Highlights

- This work investigates the photoluminescent properties of mono-, bis- and tris-diketonate complexes of Ln³⁺ ions, using β-diketonate and 2,2':6',2''-terpyridine ligands.

Resumo/Abstract

Compounds based on trivalent lanthanide ions (Ln³⁺) have applications in several areas, such as lighting (LEDs, OLEDs, fluorescent lamps), lasers, biological markers, safety signage, among others. Among the Ln³⁺ complexes, tris-diketonates with formula [Ln(β-dic)₃L] are undoubtedly the most widely studied class, where L represents an auxiliary ligand. However, other classes of lanthanide ion diketonate compounds have attracted the interest of researchers due to their spectroscopic properties that are significantly different from those observed in tris-diketonates with the same β-diketonate ligand. These compounds are characterized by the general formulas [Ln(β-dic)₂X(L)₂] and [Ln(β-dic)₂X₂(L)₂], and are referred to in this work as bis- and mono-diketonates, where X is a small ionic ligand, such as nitrate (NO₃⁻). The intramolecular energy transfer rates from the triplet excited state (T) of the ligands to the excited states of the Ln³⁺ ion vary according to the class of the compound, be it tris-, bis- or mono-diketonate. Furthermore, ligand-to-metal charge transfer (LMCT) processes may become more pronounced in the quenching of luminescence, as observed experimentally in mono- and bis-diketonate compounds. Although there are advances in the investigation of the nature of the LMCT states, the main structural factors that influence these quenching processes are still not fully understood in the literature. Therefore, the aim of this work is to investigate the intramolecular (ligand-metal) energy transfer rates, the position of the LMCT states and their variations as a function of structural factors. In this context, this study reports the synthesis, characterization and analysis of the photoluminescent properties of mono-, bis- and tris-diketonate complexes of trivalent lanthanide ions (Ln³⁺: Eu³⁺ and Gd³⁺). The β-diketonate ligands used are acetylacetonate (acac), dipivaloylmethanate (dpm) and benzoylacetonate (bzac), resulting in the following general formulas: [Ln(β-dic)(NO₃)₂(terpy)], [Ln(β-dic)₂(NO₃)(terpy)] and [Ln(β-dic)₃(terpy)], with 2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (terpy) acting as an auxiliary ligand. It is worth mentioning that this study focuses particularly on a class of compounds that exhibit low-energy ligand-metal charge transfer (LMCT) states. The structural characterization of the new mono-diketonate compounds was performed by single crystal X-ray diffraction, while the other compounds were characterized by powder X-ray diffraction and infrared absorption spectroscopy. The photoluminescence study was conducted using diffuse reflectance and static and time-resolved luminescence spectroscopy techniques. The results evidenced the presence of low-energy LMCT states in the mono- and bis-diketonate compounds. In the europium compounds, the emission spectra showed narrow bands resulting from the intraconfigurational-4f transitions. In addition, the Judd-Ofelt intensity parameters were calculated for these compounds. Finally, the ligand- Ln³⁺ energy transfer mechanisms of the compounds were elucidated using the JOYSpectra platform.

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Agradecimentos/Acknowledgments

This work was supported by CNPq, CAPES, FAPESP, FINEP, USP and UFPB.