Synthesis and Characterization of Ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl Organolanthanide Complexes: CpTh₂LnCl (Ln=Gd, Dy), Cp₂LnCpTh (Ln=Yb, Sm, Dy, Y) and CpThErCl₂•2THF[†]

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Six new ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl-containing organolanthanide complexes $Cp_2^{Th}LnCl [Ln=Gd (1), Dy (2)]$ and $Cp_2LnCp^{Th} [Cp=C_5H_5, Ln=Yb (3), Sm (4), Dy (5), Y (6)]$ were synthesized by the reaction of ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl (Cp^{Th}) sodium salt with LnCl₃ or Cp_2LnCl in THF. Complexes 1—6 were characterized by elemental analyses, infrared and mass spectroscopies. The molecular structures of complexes 1—3 were also determined by the X-ray single crystal diffraction. The results show that the side-chain sulfur atom on the ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl ring can form intramolecular chelating coordination to the central lanthanide ion, improving the stability of organolanthanide complexes and reducing the number of coordinated THF molecules.

Keywords organolanthanide, substituted cyclopentadienyl, crystal structure, synthesis

Introduction

Functional substituted cyclopentadienyl organolanthanide complexes continue to attract considerable attention because these donor-functionalized side chains can increase the stability of highly reactive organolanthanide complexes by forming the additional intramolecular chelating coordination with the central metal, and for early lanthanide complexes, the enhanced stability offers the opportunity to explore the reactivity of the remaining ligands.¹⁻⁴ In addition, the intramolecular coordination may pose these complexes great difference in reactivities, structures and physical properties from the non-functionalized counterparts.^{5,6} Investigation are primarily focused on the synthesis of complexes with substituted cyclopentadienyl ligands containing strong donor atoms such as nitrogen⁷⁻¹⁵ and oxygen^{3,8,16-20} in their chains, whereas very few substituted cyclopentadienyl complexes with the sulfur-containing substituent have been reported to date.²¹ Considering that the strong intramolecular coordination should lead to the missing ability of the lanthanides to coordinate with other substrates, the weakly binding donor sulfur atom may favor ensuring the catalytic activity of the complexes, since sulfur is easily displaced by an incoming substrate compared to the strong donor

atoms of oxygen and nitrogen. Recently, Schumann and co-workers reported the properties of organolanthanide complexes with ethylthioethyl-substituted cyclopentadienyl ligand.²¹ To further understand the influence of the intramolecular coordination formed by the sulfur atom in the side chain on the structures and the properties of cyclopentadienyl organolanthanide complexes, we report here the synthesis and characterization of some new ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl lanthanide derivatives $Cp_2^{Th} LnCl [Ln=Gd (1), Dy (2)]$, and Cp_2 - $LnCp^{Th} [Ln=Yb (3), Sm (4), Dy (5), Y (6)]$.

Experimental

All manipulations were carried out under nitrogen with rigorous exclusion of air and moisture using standard Schlenk techniques. All solvents were refluxed and distilled over sodium benzophenone ketyl prior to use. Anhydrous $LnCl_3^{22}$ and Cp_2LnCl^{23} were prepared by the literature procedures. $ClCH_2CH_2SCH_2CH_3$ was purchased and used without further purification. $Cp^{Th}H$ was prepared by the reaction of CpNa with $ClCH_2CH_2$ - SCH_2CH_3 in THF at -30 °C. $Cp^{Th}Na$ was prepared by the reaction of CpThH with Na in THF at ambient temperature.

Elemental analyses for carbon and hydrogen were

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performed on a Rapid CHN-O analyzer. Metal analyses for lanthanides were accomplished using the literature method.²⁴ Melting points were determined in sealed nitrogen-filled capillaries and uncorrected. Infrared spectra were obtained on a NICOLET FT-IR 360 spectrometer with samples prepared as Nujol mulls. Mass spectra were recorded on a Philips HP5989A instrument operating in the EI mode at 70 eV.

Synthesis of CpTh₂GdCl (1)

To a suspension of GdCl₃ (0.580 g, 2.20 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was added ethylthioethylcyclopentadienylsodium (0.240 mol/L, in THF, 9.2 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then centrifuged. The solution was decanted from undissolved NaCl and concentrated by reduced pressure to ca. 4 mL. Crystallization by diffusion of hexane into the THF solution afforded colorless crystals of 1 (0.687 g, 62.6 %). m.p. 87 °C. IR (KBr) v: 3176 (m), 3047 (m), 2955 (s), 2918 (s), 2851 (s), 2725 (m), 1465 (s), 1440 (m), 1381 (s), 1373 (s), 1268 (m), 1258 (m), 1153 (m), 1046 (m), 1027 (m), 768 (m), 717 (m) cm^{-1} ; MS (EI) m/z (%): 499 (M⁺, 5), 464 (M⁺-Cl, 3), 435 (M⁺-Cl-Et, 1), 425 (M⁺-CHSEt, 1), 390 (M⁺ -Cl-CHSEt, 2), 154 (CpThH, 34). Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₆ClGdS₂: C 43.32, H 5.25, Gd 31.51; found C 43.03, H 5.36, Gd 30.96.

Synthesis of CpTh₂ DyCl (2)

A solution of CpthNa (0.240 mol/L, 11.0 mL) in THF was added to a stirred suspension of DyCl₃ (0.874 g, 3.25 mmol) in THF (25 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then centrifuged. The solution was decanted from undissolved NaCl, concentrated to *ca*. 5 mL and cooled to -18 °C to provide 1.16 g of **2** (yield 71%) as yellow crystals. m.p. 86 °C. IR (KBr) *v*: 3166 (m), 3051 (s), 2958 (s), 2855 (s), 2727 (m), 1588 (m), 1465 (s), 1377 (s), 1301 (m), 1268 (m), 1051 (m), 1028 (m), 773 (m), 721 (s) cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (%): 505 (M⁺, 8), 470 (M⁺-Cl, 2), 441 (M⁺-Cl -Et, 1), 431 (M⁺-CHSEt, 2), 352 (M⁺-CpTh, 21), 154 (CpThH, 30). Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₆ClDyS₂: C 42.86, H 5.20, Dy 33.16; found C 42.54, H 5.15, Dy 32.68.

Synthesis of Cp₂YbCpTh (3)

A solution of CpThNa (0.250 mol/L, 7.2 mL) in THF was added to a solution of Cp₂YbCl (0.610 g, 1.8 mmol) in THF (25 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then centrifuged. The dark-green solution was decanted from undissolved NaCl, concentrated to *ca.* 4 mL and cooled to -18 °C to provide 0.493 g (yield 60%) of green crystalline **3**. IR (KBr) *v*: 3076 (s), 2951 (s), 2926 (s), 2717 (m), 1618 (m), 1459 (s), 1416 (m), 1376 (s), 1262 (m), 1127 (m), 1061 (m), 1020 (m), 767 (s), 722 (s), 663 (m) cm⁻¹. Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₂₃SYb: C 50.00, H 5.08, Yb 37.91; found C 49.83, H 5.01, Yb 37.53.

Synthesis of Cp₂SmCpTh (4)

Using the procedure described for **3**, the reaction of CpThNa (1.24 mmol) and Cp₂SmCl (THF) (0.481 g, 1.24 mmol) in THF afforded 0.333 g of yellow crystals of **4** (yield 62%). IR (KBr) *v*: 3078 (s), 2950 (s), 2720 (m), 1618 (m), 1460 (s), 1376 (s), 1260 (m), 1125 (m), 1060 (m), 1020 (m), 1012 (m), 970 (m), 890 (m), 800 (m), 770 (s), 721 (s), 663 (m) cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (%): 433 (M⁺, 2), 372 (M⁺-SEt, 77), 368 (M⁺-Cp, 38), 303 (M⁺-2Cp, 18), 280 (M⁺-CpTh, 3), 215 (M⁺-CpTh-Cp, 13), 154 (CpThH, 22), 65 (CpH, 82). Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₂₃SSm: C 52.61, H 5.34, Sm 34.66; found C 52.42, H 5.20, Sm 34.50.

Synthesis of Cp₂DyCpTh (5)

Using the procedure described for **3**, the reaction of CpThNa (2.69 mmol) and Cp₂DyCl (0.437 g, 2.69 mmol) in THF afforded 0.756 g of yellow crystals of **5** (yield 63%). IR (KBr) v: 2984 (s), 2926 (s), 2725 (m), 1621 (m), 1459 (s), 1377 (s), 1264 (m), 1132 (m), 1014 (m), 967 (m), 916 (m), 888 (m), 838 (m), 798 (m), 763 (m), 721 (s), 663 (m) cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (%): 445 (M⁺, 4), 384 (M⁺-SEt, 5), 380 (M⁺-Cp, 76), 315 (M⁺-2Cp, 13), 292 (M⁺-CpTh, 8), 227 (M⁺-CpTh-Cp, 11), 154 (CpThH, 13), 65 (CpH, 21). Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₂₃DyS: C 51.18, H 5.20, Dy 36.44; found C 50.94, H 5.12, Dy 36.10.

Synthesis of Cp₂YCpTh (6)

Using the procedure described for **3**, the reaction of $Cp^{Th}Na$ (1.40 mmol) and Cp_2YCl (0.356 g, 1.40 mmol) in THF afforded 0.365 g of white crystals of **6** (yield 70%). IR (KBr) *v*: 3072 (m), 2976 (s), 2925 (s), 2852 (s), 2716 (m), 1593 (m), 1457 (s), 1419 (m), 1376 (s), 1261 (m), 1132 (m), 1094 (m), 1010 (m), 970 (m), 916 (m), 862 (m), 838 (m), 801 (m), 759 (m), 722 (s), 663 (m) cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (%): 372 (M⁺, 2), 311 (M⁺-SEt, 1), 307 (M⁺-Cp, 100), 242 (M⁺-2Cp, 3), 219 (M⁺-CpTh, 20), 154 (CpThH, 15), 65 (CpH, 19). Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₂₃SY: C 61.30, H 6.23, Y 23.88; found C 60.65, H 6.08, Y 23.52.

X-ray crystal structure determination of complexes 1-3

Suitable single crystals of complexes 1–3 were sealed under argon in Lindemann glass capillaries for X-ray structural analysis. Diffraction data were collected on a Bruker SMART CCD diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo K α (λ =0.071073 nm) radiation.²⁵ The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97²⁶ and were refined on F^2 using all observed reflections with SHELXL-97.²⁷ All nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All hydrogen atoms were included in idealized positions with isotropic thermal parameters related to those of the supporting carbon atoms, but were not included in refinement. SADABS was used to perform area detector scaling and absorption corrections for the data.²⁸ All calculations were performed using the Bruker Smart Organolanthanide

program. Crystal data and details of collection and refinement are summarized in Table 1.

Results and discussion

Synthesis of $Cp_2^{Th}LnCl [Ln=Gd (1), Dy (2)]$

Treatment of LnCl₃ with two equivalents of CpThNa in THF results in the formation of solvent-free bis(ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl)lanthanide chlorides Cp₂ThLn-Cl [Ln=Gd (1), Dy (2)] [Eq. (1)]. Complexes 1 and 2 are soluble in THF, toluene, and less soluble in hydrocarbons. They are relatively stable towards air and moisture as compared with their unsubstituted counterparts.

$$LnCl_3 + 2Cp^{Th}Na \longrightarrow Cp_2^{Th}LnCl + 2NaCl$$
 (1)

Ln = Gd(1), Dy(2)

Complexes 1 and 2 are characterized by elemental analysis, IR, mass spectroscopies and X-ray diffraction. The IR spectra of 1 and 2 show the characteristic absorptions of the η^5 -CpTh group at about 3050, 1460, 1010, 770 cm⁻¹ and the C-S-C stretch near 1260 cm⁻¹. The EI-MS spectra of 1 and 2 show the molecular ions as the peaks of the highest mass.

 Table 1
 Crystal data and structure refinements for complexes 1—3
 Compound 2 3 1 Empirical formula C18H26ClGdS2 $C_{18}H_{26}ClDyS_2$ C19H23SYb Formula weight 499.21 504.46 456.47 Temperature/K 293(2) 293(2)293(2) 0.071073 0.071073 0.071073 Wavelength/nm Crystal system Monoclinic Monoclinic Monoclinic Space group P2(1)/cP2(1)/cСс Lattice parameters a/nm 1.1615(5) 1.157(3) 1.3097(5) *b*/nm 0.8077(3)0.8118(19)1.0042(4)c/nm 2.1319(8) 2.125(5)1.3227(5) $\beta/(^{\circ})$ 95.739(5) 96.17(3) 105.483(5) V/nm³ 1.9902(13) 1.985(8) 1.6764(11) Ζ 4 4 4 $D_{\text{calc}}/(\text{g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3})$ 1.809 1.666 1.688 μ/mm^{-1} 36.71 4.104 5.694 *F*(000) 988 996 892 Crystal size/mm³ $0.60 \times 0.25 \times 0.15$ $0.1 \times 0.15 \times 0.2$ $0.40 \times 0.25 \times 0.30$ 1.76-25.01 1.77-25.01 2.59-25.00 θ range/(°) $-13 \le h \le 13$. $-13 \le h \le 10$ $-8 \leq h \leq 15$ $-9 \leq k \leq 9$, $-9 \leq k \leq 8$, $-11 \leq k \leq 11$, hkl range $-25 \le l \le 21$ $-25 \le l \le 25$ $-15 \le l \le 14$ Reflections collected 8041 8041 4112 $1990 (R_{int} = 0.0390)$ Unique reflections $3504 (R_{int} = 0.0209)$ $3497 (R_{int} = 0.0436)$ Full-matrix least-squares on F^2 Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F^2 Full-matrix least-squares on F^2 3497/0/201 Data/restraints/parameters 3504/0/200 1990/2/190 Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.409 1.085 1.036 $R_1 = 0.0402$, $R_1 = 0.0361$, $R_1 = 0.0349$, Final *R* indices $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$ $wR_2 = 0.0769$ $wR_2 = 0.0781$ $wR_2 = 0.0709$ $R_1 = 0.0415$, $R_1 = 0.0466$, $R_1 = 0.0411$, R indices (all data) $wR_2 = 0.0773$ $wR_2 = 0.0819$ $wR_2 = 0.0729$ 0.724, -1.203 Largest peak and hole/(e•Å⁻³) 0.912, -0.719 0.966, -0.767

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The molecular structures of **1** and **2** are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. Selected bond distances and angles are listed in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. Both complexes are solvent-free monomers in which each metal is coordinated by two ethylthioethyl-cyclopentadienyl rings, one chloride atom and two donor sulfur atoms of the ethylthioethyl substituents. Assuming the centroid of the η^5 -bonded C₅H₄CH₂CH₂-SCH₂CH₃ ring as the ligand center, the coordination geometry around the lanthanide ion is a distorted trigonal bipyramid with the C₅H₄CH₂CH₂SCH₂CH₃ ring in an eclipsed conformation with respect to the central metal. The coordination number of the central metal is nine.



Figure 1 Molecular structure of Cp_2^{Th} GdCl (1).



Figure 2 Molecular structure of Cp_2^{Th} DyCl (2).

In complex **1**, the Gd—C distances range from 0.2650(7) to 0.2743(6) nm and are in normal ranges observed for gadolinium metallocenes.^{29,30} The average Gd—C(η^5) distance of 0.2699(7) nm is compatible with those found in related compounds: $[(C_5H_5)_2Gd(\mu-\eta^2-ONCMe_2)]_2$ (0.268(2) nm)²⁹ and $[(C_5H_5)_2GdCl]_4$ (0.267(4) nm).³⁰ The Gd—Cl bond length of 0.2624(2) nm is in good consistency with the terminal Gd—Cl bond lengths in CpGdCl₂•3THF,³¹ but is shorter than the known Gd—Cl (bridging) distances in $[(C_5H_4SiMe_2-Bu'_2Gd(\mu-Cl)]_2$ (average 0.2708 nm)³² and $[(C_5H_5)_2Gd-Cl]_4$ (average 0.2745 nm).³⁰ This shortening of 0.0084—

0.0121 nm is quite normal going from bridging to nonbridging.³³ The average Gd—S distance of 0.2963(2) nm is close to the values observed in (EtSCH₂CH₂-C₅H₄)₂Ycl (0.2957(1) and 0.2938(1) nm), but is slightly longer than that found in (C₅Me₅)(EtSCH₂CH₂-C₅H₄)LuCl (0.2794(3) nm),²¹ considering the different ionic radii of the central metals.³⁴ The substituted cyclopentadienyl rings are planar within the estimated *S.D.*

 Table 2
 Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles (°) for complex

 1

Gd(1)—Cl(1)	0.2624(2)	Gd(1)—C(1)	0.2687(6)
Gd(1)—C(2)	0.2650(7)	Gd(1)—C(3)	0.2692(7)
Gd(1)—C(4)	0.2718(7)	Gd(1)—C(5)	0.2743(6)
Gd(1)—C(10)	0.2709(7)	Gd(1)—C(11)	0.2662(8)
Gd(1)—C(12)	0.2680(8)	Gd(1)—C(13)	0.2713(7)
Gd(1)—C(14)	0.2739(8)	Gd(1)—S(1)	0.2953(2)
Gd(1)—S(2)	0.2972(2)		
Cl(1)-Gd(1)-S(1)	74.2(6)	Cl(1)-Gd(1)-S(2)	82.6(5)
S(1)-Gd(1)-S(2)	156.6(5)	Gd(1)-S(1)-C(7)	99.5(2)
C(16)-S(2)-Gd(1)	103.8(3)	C(6)-C(7)-S(1)	112.3(5)
C(15)-C(16)-S(2)	109.1(6)	C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	113.8(6)
C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	113.9(7)		

Table 3Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles (°) for complex2

Dy(1)—Cl(1)	0.2601(5)	Dy(1)—C(1)	0.2627(8)
Dy(1)—C(2)	0.2665(8)	Dy(1)—C(3)	0.2687(7)
Dy(1)—C(4)	0.2707(8)	Dy(1)—C(5)	0.2642(7)
Dy(1)—C(6)	0.2720(8)	Dy(1)—C(7)	0.2687(8)
Dy(1)—C(8)	0.2653(9)	Dy(1)—C(9)	0.2665(9)
Dy(1)—C(10)	0.2677(8)	Dy(1)—S(1)	0.2959(6)
Dy(1)—S(2)	0.2944(5)		
Cl(1)-Dy(1)-S(1)	82.1(6)	Cl(1)-Dy(1)-S(2)	73.79(12)
S(1)-Dy(1)-S(2)	155.8(6)	Dy(1)-S(1)-C(12)	103.2(3)
C(16)-S(2)-Dy(1)	99.4(3)	C(11)-C(12)-S(1)	109.6(6)
C(15)-C(16)-S(2)	112.1(5)	C(6)-C(11)-C(12)	113.7(6)
C(4)-C(15)-C(16)	113.3(4)		

The structural parameters of complex **2** (Table 3) are very similar to those found in complex **1**, with no unusual distances or angles. The Dy—C(Cp) distances range from 0.2627(8) to 0.2720(8) nm, and the average value of 0.2673(9) nm is close to those found in other Cp₂Dy-containing complexes, such as [Cp₂Dy(OCMe= CHMe)]₂ (0.2668(6) nm)³⁵ and [MeCpDy(η^2 -PzMe₂)-(μ -OSiMe₂PzMe₂)]₂ (0.2684(16) nm).³⁶ The Dy—S and Dy—Cl distances are close to the corresponding disOrganolanthanide

tances in complex 1, respectively, when the difference in the metal ionic radii is considered.³⁴

Since the combination of the "hard" lanthanide ion and the "soft" donor sulfur atom is unstable and the bound thioether readily undergoes decomplexation in solution, thioether complexes of lanthanide elements are very rare. These results indicate that the cyclopentadienyl group linked to the thioether moiety can assist in stabilization of the $Ln \leftarrow$:S donor bond, inhibiting decomplexation of the more weakly bound thioether in the donor solvents such as THF.

Synthesis of Cp₂LnCpTh [Ln=Yb (3), Sm (4), Dy (5), Y (6)]

Nonbridged mixed cyclopentadienyl lanthanide complexes are rare due to the tendency of redistribution to homoleptic cyclopentadienyl complexes in crystallization. To obtain additional data on the other ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl-containing organolanthanide complexes, the synthesis of mixed-ring complexes Cp_2LnCp^{Th} [Ln=Yb (3), Sm (4), Dy (5), Y (6)] by the reactions of bis(cyclopentadienyl)lanthanide chloride with one equivalent of $Cp^{Th}Na$ in THF was also carried out [Eq. (2)].

$$Cp_{2}LnCl+Cp^{Th}Na \longrightarrow Cp_{2}LnCp^{Th}+NaCl \qquad (2)$$

Ln=Yb (3), Sm (4), Dy (5), Y (6)

Complexes **3**—**6** are sensitive to air and moisture. The elemental analyses, IR and mass spectra obtained are in agreement with their molecular formulae. The mass spectra of complexes **4**—**6** show the molecular ions and the typical fragments $[M^+-SEt]$, $[M^+-Cp]$, $[M^+-2Cp]$, $[M^+-Cp^{Th}]$, $[Cp^{Th}H]$ and [CpH].

Figure 3 shows the molecular structure of Cp_2Yb-Cp^{Th} (3). The Yb³⁺ ion is coordinated by two cyclopentadienyl groups, one ethylthioethylcyclopentadienyl group and one sulfur atom from the side-chain. The coordination number is ten. Selected bond distances and bond angles are listed in Table 4. The average Yb—C(Cp)

C(13)

(14)

C(9)

C(7) = C(1) + C(19) + C(19) + C(19) + C(19) + C(19) + C(19) + C(10) + C(10)

Figure 3 Molecular structure of Cp_2YbCp^{Th} (3).

Table 4Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles (°) for complex3

Yb(1)—C(1)	0.2678 (14)	Yb(1)—C(2)	0.2609(16)
Yb(1)—C(3)	0.2631(14)	Yb(1)—C(4)	0.2700(12)
Yb(1)—C(5)	0.2691(12)	Yb(1)—C(10)	0.2760(6)
Yb(1)—C(11)	0.2677(16)	Yb(1)—C(12)	0.2660(5)
Yb(1)—C(13)	0.2722(6)	Yb(1)—C(14)	0.2648(19)
Yb(1)—C(15)	0.2703(0)	Yb(1)—C(16)	0.2594(1)
Yb(1)—C(17)	0.2673(15)	Yb(1)—C(18)	0.2613(2)
Yb(1)—C(19)	0.2698(18)	Yb(1)—S(1)	0.2885(4)
S(1)—C(8)	0.1817(14)	S(1)—C(7)	0.1821(14)
Yb(1)-S(1)-C(7)	101.1(5)	Yb(1)-S(1)-C(8)	115.8(5)
C(8)-S(1)-C(7)	99.7(7)	C(9)-C(8)-S(1)	111.7(10)
C(6)-C(7)-S(1)	111.0(9)		

distance of 0.2659 nm is slightly shorter than the average Yb—C(CpTh) distance of 0.2693 nm due to the differences in ring substitution. These values are comparable to those found in Cp₃Yb-containing compounds, such as Cp₃Yb(NCEt) (0.2677 nm).³⁷ The Yb—S distance of 0.2885(4) nm is close to the values observed in complexes **1** and **2**, when the difference in the metal ionic radii is considered.³⁴

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