

Luminescent Au(I)/Cu(I) Alkynyl Clusters with an Ethynyl Steroid and Related Aliphatic Ligands: An Octanuclear Au₄Cu₄ Cluster and Luminescence Polymorphism in Au₃Cu₂ Clusters

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Abstract: Gold(I) bis(acetylide) complexes [PPN][AuR₂] (**1–3**) where PPN = bis(triphenylphosphine)iminium and R = ethisterone (**1**); 1-ethynylcyclopentanol (**2**); 1-ethynylcyclohexanol (**3**) have been prepared. The reaction of **1** with [Cu(MeCN)₄][PF₆] in a 1:1 or 3:2 ratio provides the octanuclear complex [Au₄Cu₄(ethisterone)₈] (**4**) or pentanuclear complex [PPN][Au₃Cu₂(ethisterone)₆] (**5**). Complexes **2** and **3** react with [Cu(MeCN)₄][PF₆] to form only pentanuclear Au(I)/Cu(I) complexes [PPN][Au₃Cu₂(1-ethynylcyclopentanol)₆] (**6**) and [PPN][Au₃Cu₂(1-ethynylcyclohexanol)₆] (**7**). X-ray crystallographic studies of **1–3** reveal nontraditional hydrogen bonding between hydroxyl groups and the acetylide units of adjacent molecules. Complexes **6** and **7** each form polymorphs in which the structures (**6 a,b** and **7 a,b,c**) differ by Au···Au, Au···Cu, and Cu–C distances. The polymorphs exhibit different emission energies with colors ranging from blue to yellow in the solid state. In solution, pentanuclear clusters **5–7** emit with λ_{max} = 570–580 nm and Φ = 0.05–0.19. Complex **4** emits at 496 nm in CH₂Cl₂ with a quantum yield of 0.65. Complex **5** exists in equilibrium with **1** and **4** in the presence of methanol, ethanol, ethyl acetate, or water. This equilibrium has been probed by X-ray crystallography, NMR spectroscopy, and luminescence experiments. DFT calculations have been performed to analyze the orbitals involved in the electronic transitions of **4**, **6**, and **7**.

Introduction

Among polynuclear d¹⁰ complexes,^{1–6} examples incorporating Au(I) acetylide units bound to Cu(I) or Ag(I) ions in an η² fashion have emerged as an interesting set of systems that often exhibit intense photoluminescence.^{7–15} In these compounds, emission may be modified not only by aurophilic Au···Au

interactions^{16–18} but also by the potential for Au···Cu or Au···Ag interactions between these closed-shell d¹⁰ ions. One strategy for the preparation of such compounds is the simple addition of Cu(I) or Ag(I) ions to dinuclear phosphine-bridged Au(I) acetylide complexes. In this context, Yam and co-workers have shown that (1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene)Au(I) acetylides react with [Cu(MeCN)₄][PF₆] or AgOTf in a 1:1 ratio to form what was postulated as a trinuclear Au₂M (M = Ag or Cu) complex (**1**).¹⁵ Weakened C≡C stretching frequencies and red-shifted emission relative to the Au(I) precursors were consistent with η²-coordination of the acetylide ligand to Ag(I) or Cu(I). Structural characterization was absent for these complexes, and therefore, the exact arrangement of Au(I) and Cu(I) ions was not known.

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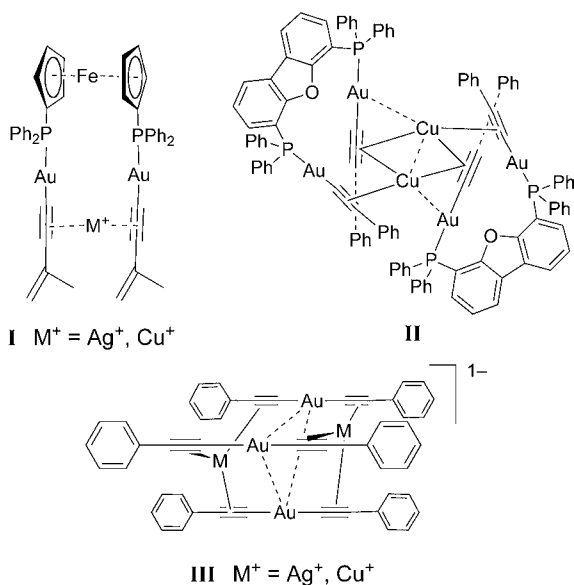
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To obtain valuable structural information regarding complexes of this type, de la Riva, et al., prepared a dinuclear Au(I) phenylacetylide complex of 4,6-bis(diphenylphosphino)dibenzofuran (dbfphos).¹³ The rigidity of the phosphine ligand was expected to allow for crystallographic characterization of the complexes. Addition of $\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4\text{PF}_6$ to $[\text{Au}_2(\text{phenylacetylide})_2(\mu\text{-dbfphos})]$ provided a dimeric Au_4Cu_2 complex (**II**) with two $\text{Cu}\cdots\text{Au}$ close contacts but no $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ contacts. Solid-state emission of the complex (530 nm) was red-shifted from that of the Au(I) precursor (508 nm), consistent with the observations of Yam and co-workers.¹⁵

Another set of Au(I)/Cu(I) complexes that exhibit $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Cu}$ contacts less than the sum of van der Waal radii is composed of pentanuclear clusters of the formula $[\text{n-Bu}_4\text{N}][\text{Au}(\text{arylacetylide})_2]_3\text{M}_2$ ($\text{M} = \text{Ag}, \text{Cu}$) (**III**) (see Chart 1 for structures of I, II, and III). Prepared from a mixture of $[\text{n-Bu}_4\text{N}][\text{Au}(\text{arylacetylide})_2]$, polymeric gold(I) acetylide and copper(I) or silver(I) acetylides in modest yields,^{19,20} these complexes consist of three gold bis(acetylide) anions bridged by two Cu(I) ions through π -coordination to the acetylide triple bonds. Only recently have the photophysical properties of these complexes been examined by absorption and emission spectroscopy and electronic structure calculations.²¹ The authors concluded that the emission results from a mixture of cluster-centered and acetylide-to-cluster charge transfer excited states. Recently, related high nuclearity mixed Au(I)/Cu(I) complexes that contain $\text{Au}(\text{phenylacetylide})_2^-$ units and η^2 -acetylide bound Cu(I) ions have been prepared by self-assembly without prior isolation of the anionic gold(I) complexes.^{9,11,12}

Chart 1



The present study focuses on new, highly luminescent Au(I)/Cu(I) clusters in the context of potential biological interest and application. Ethisterone (17 α -ethynyltestosterone) is an ethynyl steroid derivative shown below. The literature is rich in examples of organic and organometallic derivatives of estradiol^{22–46} and

ethisterone^{47–50} that were prepared with the goal of developing therapeutic or imaging agents having significant affinity for the estrogen receptor. While the ethynyl group of ethisterone is often modified for the attachment of a transition metal, a few examples exist in which the steroid is directly coordinated to the metal as an acetylide after deprotonation^{35,44,49} or through the acetylene π system.^{31,48} Among them, $\text{Au}(\text{PR}_3)(\text{ethynylsteroid})$ complexes exemplify the same basic architecture as the gold(I) acetylide complexes mentioned above from which luminescent mixed-metal complexes are generated upon addition of Cu(I) ions. Analogues incorporating ethynylestradiol derivatives display significant binding affinities toward the estrogen receptor ligand binding domains.⁴⁹ Compounds of this type could be important considering the extensive work directed toward gold(I)

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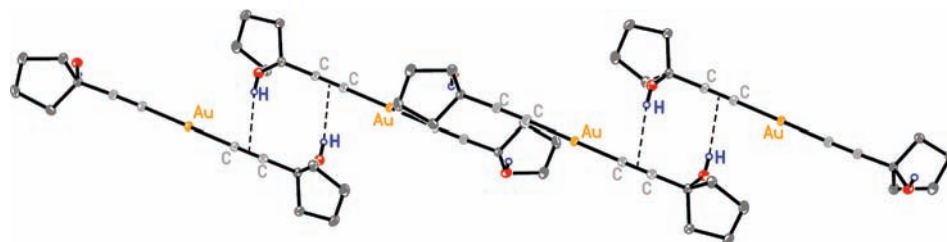
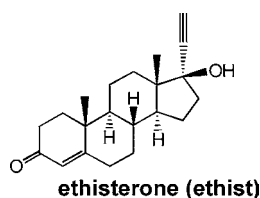


Figure 1. Packing diagram for PPN Au(1-ethynylcyclopentanol)₂ (**2**). PPN cations and CH₂ atoms have been omitted for clarity.

complexes as anticancer and arthritis therapy agents.^{51–55} Moreover, luminescent Au(I) complexes with steroid ligands may be useful not only as hormone therapy drugs, but also for fluorescence imaging.



In light of the relative ease of synthesizing Au(I) bis(acetylide) complexes,⁵⁶ the rich photophysical properties that have been obtained by the reaction of these Au(I) acetylide anions with Cu(I) ions, and the importance of transition metal complexes incorporating steroid units, we chose to prepare a mononuclear anionic Au(I) bis-ethisterone complex and examine its reaction with [Cu(MeCN)₄][PF₆] to form new highly luminescent complexes. In addition, we have prepared model Au(I) bis-acetylide complexes incorporating 1-ethynylcyclopentanol and 1-ethynylcyclohexanol in place of ethisterone. These simpler ethynyl alcohols were chosen for their resemblance to the steroid D-ring and the opportunity to elucidate the effect of H-bonding and steroid structure on the structural and photophysical properties of the mixed-metal Au(I)/Cu(I) ethisterone complexes. The resultant systems include an unprecedented octanuclear Au₄Cu₄ cluster and a case of luminescence polymorphism in Au₃Cu₂ clusters in which subtle differences in intramolecular Au···Au distances appear to strongly influence solid-state emission energy.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis and Crystallography. Mononuclear gold(I) bis(acetylide) salts [PPN][Au(R)₂] (PPN = bis(triphenylphosphine)-iminium) **1–3** (**1**, R = ethisterone; **2**, R = 1-ethynylcyclopentanol; **3**, R = 1-ethynylcyclohexanol) were prepared *via* the “*acac* method”⁵⁷ from [PPN][Au(*acac*)₂] and a slight excess of alkyne. The complexes were crystallized by vapor diffusion of ether into CH₂Cl₂ solutions and were character-

ized by NMR spectroscopy, microanalyses, and X-ray crystallography.

In the X-ray structures of **1–3**, nontraditional hydrogen bonding is observed in which hydroxylic protons are directed at the acetylide π systems of neighboring anions forming infinite chains of the Au(I) bis(acetylide) anions (Figure 1). While the geometry at gold is nearly linear in each structure, Au1–C1–C2 and Au2–C3–C4 bond angles are somewhat less than the 180° expected for sp-hybridized carbons. The effect is a curvature that is particularly noticeable in **3** where the Au1–C1–C2 and Au2–C3–C4 angles are 173.7(3)° and 167.1(4)°, respectively. The unconventional OH··· π type of hydrogen bonding seen for **1–3** has been reported in the organometallic complex [Ni(Cp)PPh₃(2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol)] in which spiral columns were formed in the extended π -bonded structure.⁵⁸

Addition of [Cu(MeCN)₄](PF₆) to **1** in an equimolar ratio provides an octanuclear complex, [{Au(ethisterone)₂]₄Cu₄] (**4**), which possesses a novel Au₄Cu₄ core as described below. In contrast, when the ratio of Au:Cu in the reaction solution is changed to 3:2, a pentanuclear complex is obtained as the PPN⁺ salt, [PPN][{Au(ethisterone)₂]₃Cu₂] (**5**). While complex **5** was the major product of this reaction, small amounts of compound **4** were always present. Thus, the identity of **5** was confirmed by NMR spectroscopy and by comparison of its photophysical properties to those of analogous pentanuclear complexes with 1-ethynylcyclopentanol and 1-ethynylcyclohexanol ligands, [PPN][{Au(R)₂]₃Cu₂] **6** and **7** (**6**, R = 1-ethynylcyclopentanol; **7**, R = 1-ethynylcyclohexanol). These were prepared by the reaction of Au(I) complexes **2** and **3** with [Cu(MeCN)₄][PF₆] in a 3:1 ratio. Octanuclear Au₄Cu₄ complexes with the 1-ethynylcyclohexanol and 1-ethynylcyclopentanol ligands were unobtainable. Room temperature ¹H NMR spectra of **4–7** were complicated by the presence of aliphatic resonances, and therefore, ¹³C NMR spectroscopy proved essential for characterization of the clusters. No resonances were observed for the alkyne carbons coordinated to Cu(I) ions in **4**, **6**, or **7**, but weak signals were seen in **5**. The pentanuclear complexes **5–7** (Chart 2) exhibited a single set of ligand resonances in the ¹³C NMR spectrum, suggesting C₃ symmetry in solution. On the other hand, two distinct sets of ligand resonances were clearly visible for diagnostic protons (vinyl CH, OH, CH₃) in the ¹H NMR spectrum and for several resonances in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of the Au₄Cu₄ complex **4** (see Supporting Information).

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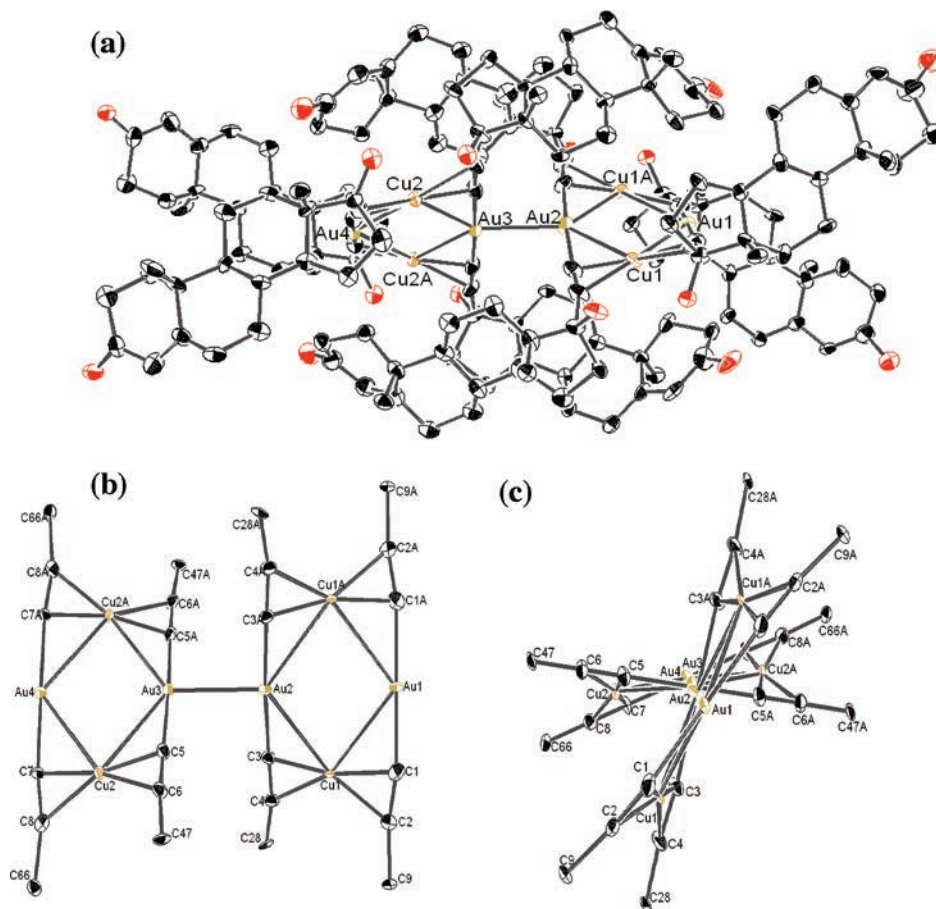
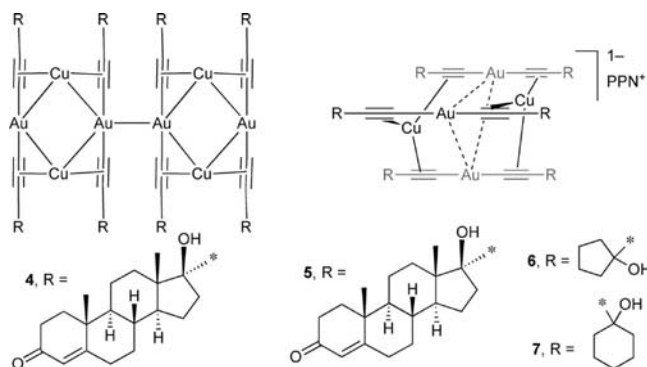


Figure 2. Perspective views of complex **4** displaying the (a) full structure, and the $[\text{Au}(\text{acetylide})_2]_4 \text{Cu}_4$ core from (b) a side view, (c) end-on.

Chart 2



Complex **4**, $[\{\text{Au}(\text{ethisterone})_2\}_4\text{Cu}_4]$, crystallizes in the chiral space group $P4_12_12$ as a dimer of $[\{\text{Au}(\text{ethisterone})_2\}_2\text{Cu}_2]$ units connected by an unsupported $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ interaction having an exceptionally close contact of 2.927(1) Å which approaches the 2.889(1) Å $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ distance found in metallic gold. Within each Au_2Cu_2 unit, the Cu(I) ions bridge adjacent Au(I) bis(acetylide) anions by coordination to the acetylenic π bonds (Figure 2). The Cu–C distances in **4** range from 1.97(2) to 2.19(2) Å and $\text{Cu}\cdots\text{Au}$ separations range from 2.948(2) to 2.955(2) Å. Longer metal–metal separations of 3.919 and 3.870 Å are found between $\text{Au1}\cdots\text{Au2}$ and $\text{Au3}\cdots\text{Au4}$, indicative of the absence of any attractive interactions between these pairs of Au(I) ions. The linear orientation of the four Au(I) atoms and the relative positions of the acetylides are shown in Figure 2b. Dihedral angles between adjacent acetylides within each $[\{\text{Au}(\text{ethisterone})_2\}_2\text{Cu}_2]$ unit (i.e., C1–Au1–Au2–C3) are

approximately 26° while the C3–Au2–Au3–C5 dihedral angle between the $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ linked $[\{\text{Au}(\text{ethisterone})_2\}_2\text{Cu}_2]$ units is nearly 81° . The packing of complex **4** contains large channels parallel to the a - and b -axes (see cif in Supporting Information). Recently, somewhat similar coordination has been reported for vapochromic $[\text{Au}_2\text{Ag}_2(4\text{-C}_6\text{F}_4\text{I})_4]$ which can exist as a monomer or a polymer.⁵⁹ In the absence of acetylide donors, the Ag ions are coordinated only to the Au(I) ions.

Crystallization of clusters **6**, $[\text{PPN}][\{\text{Au}(\text{ethynylcyclopentanol})_2\}_3\text{Cu}_2]$, and **7**, $[\text{PPN}][\{\text{Au}(\text{ethynylcyclohexanol})_2\}_3\text{Cu}_2]$, from mixtures of CH_2Cl_2 and ether at -15°C provided two different types of crystals of complex **6** and three different crystalline forms for complex **7**. Both forms of **6** were morphologically similar but were distinguishable by their blue (**6a**) or yellow-green (**6b**) solid-state emission (Figure 3). The three forms of cluster **7** were morphologically distinct with stacked blocks (blue emission, **7a**), needles (yellow-green emission, **7b**), and large blocks (yellow emission, **7c**). Form **7b** was the major product when the crystals were grown from $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{ether}$ in the freezer, while **7a** was present to the extent of $\sim 20\%$ of the crystals, and **7c** existed as a small minority. Polymorph **7b** was obtained exclusively by slow evaporation of dichloromethane or by storing a solution of the complex in CH_2Cl_2 and hexanes (1:1 $v:v$) at -15°C . Vapor diffusion of pentane into concentrated THF solutions yielded only crystals of **7c**. Recrystallization of isolated forms of **6** or **7** provided mixtures of each crystalline form. The complexes do not exhibit any luminescence mechanochromism or vapochromism.

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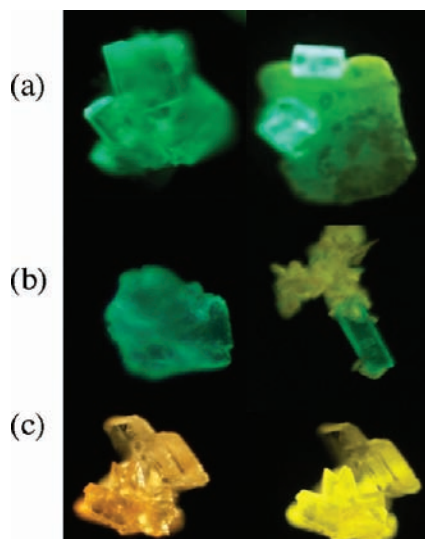


Figure 3. Photographs of crystals of (a) isolated **6a** (left), **6b** with two crystals of **6a** grown together (right), (b) **7a** on the left, and a mixture of **7b** (green) and **7c** (yellow) on the right, (c) isolated **7c** under ambient light (left) and UV irradiation (right). Slight differences in color between identical polymorphs are an artifact of brightness and focus.

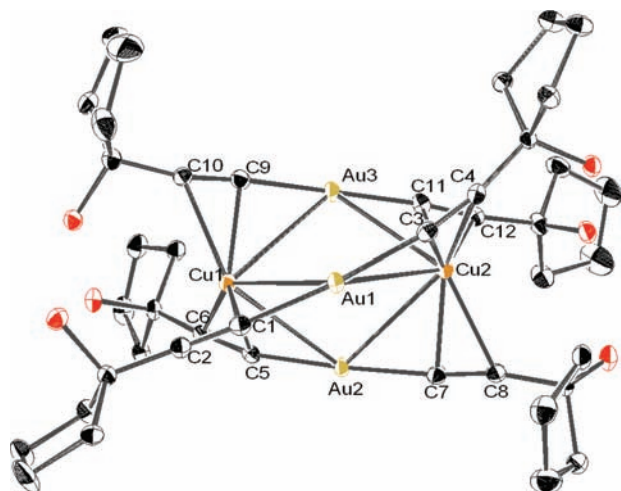


Figure 4. ORTEP diagram for **6a** with 40% thermal ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted.

The structures of **6a**, **6b**, **7a**, **7b**, and **7c** were determined crystallographically and each was found to adopt a geometry similar to those of aryl acetylide analogues reported in the literature.^{19,21} Three Au(I) ions form a nearly equilateral triangle that is capped on both faces by Cu(I) ions to give a trigonal

bipyramid of metal ions (Figure 4). Intramolecular Au \cdots Au distances range from 3.2913(3) to 3.5917(3) Å, while Cu \cdots Au distances span a minimum of 2.7876(7) Å to a maximum of 3.0502(7) Å with the smaller distances being somewhat shorter than the sum of van der Waals radii (3.06 Å) for Cu and Au. The extended structure exhibits intermolecular hydrogen bonding among –OH groups of the acetylide ligands. These complexes should be considered pseudopolymorphs as a variety of cocrystallized solvent molecules were found. Complex **6a** is solvent-free, but **6b** cocrystallized with four molecules of CH₂Cl₂, one of which is disordered with a PPN phenyl ring. For complex **7a** and **7b** each contains disordered CH₂Cl₂ and diethyl ether molecules, and **7c** contains two solvents per asymmetric unit. Detailed discussion regarding the treatment of disordered solvent molecules is described in the Experimental Section.

Significant differences between the polymorphic forms of **6** and **7** that appear to have spectroscopic consequences are found upon close examination of the Au \cdots Au, Au \cdots Cu, and Cu–C(acetylide) distances (Table 1). In **6a** the Au1 \cdots Au2 distance is 3.2913(1) Å, while the Au1 \cdots Au3 and Au2 \cdots Au3 distances are significantly longer (~3.55–3.59 Å). Conversely, in **6b** a narrow distribution of Au \cdots Au distances was found (3.4145(3)–3.4822(4) Å). For **7a** there are two Au \cdots Au distances near 3.43 Å and one near 3.55 Å, while **7b** and **7c** exhibit one short and two long or two short and one long metal–metal distances, respectively. Smaller deviations among Au \cdots Cu distances are found. The average Au \cdots Cu distance in **6a** is slightly greater than that of **6b**, while **7c** exhibits the shortest and **7b** exhibits the longest average Au \cdots Cu distances among the polymorphs of **7**. There are no significant differences in the sets of Au–C and alkynyl C–C distances between polymorphs of the same complex. In each complex, the distances between copper atoms and gold-bound carbon atoms (C $_{\alpha}$) are somewhat shorter than the Cu–C $_{\beta}$ distances, reflecting asymmetric coordination of the Cu(I) ions to the acetylide π system. This asymmetric coordination might be related to attractive forces between Cu and Au ions.

The structural results represent a rare example of luminescence polymorphism in which the same compound exhibits different color emissions based solely on differences in *intramolecular* bond lengths. The only *intermolecular* interactions are hydrogen bonds between –OH groups of the acetylide ligands, but the influence of intermolecular hydrogen bonding on intramolecular metal–metal distances can not be quantified easily. Importantly, the aliphatic portions of the acetylide ligands are not expected to be involved in the excited state. There is no interaction with the PPN cation or cocrystallized solvent in any of the pseudopolymorphs suggested here. Thus, different bond

Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) in Structures of **6** and **7**

	6a	6b	7a	7b	7c
Au1–Au2	3.2913 (3)	3.4273 (3)	3.4206 (5)	3.3728 (3)	3.3541 (3)
Au1–Au3	3.5462 (3)	3.4145 (3)	3.5496 (5)	3.5177 (3)	3.3330 (3)
Au2–Au3	3.5917 (3)	3.4822 (4)	3.4383 (5)	3.5123 (3)	3.5683 (3)
Cu1–Au1	2.8873 (5)	3.0495 (7)	3.0127 (8)	3.0502 (7)	2.7873 (6)
Cu1–Au2	2.9951 (5)	2.9140 (7)	2.9118 (7)	2.9280 (6)	3.0058 (6)
Cu1–Au3	3.0080 (5)	2.9635 (7)	2.9511 (7)	2.8969 (6)	2.9894 (6)
Cu2–Au1	2.9981 (5)	3.0205 (7)	3.0127 (8)	2.9459 (6)	2.9017 (6)
Cu2–Au2	2.9694 (5)	2.9545 (7)	2.9119 (7)	2.9528 (6)	3.0157 (7)
Cu2–Au3	2.9312 (5)	2.8137 (7)	2.9511 (7)	3.0493 (6)	2.8508 (7)
average Cu \cdots Au	2.9648	2.9526	2.9585	2.9705	2.9251
average Cu–C $_{\alpha}$	2.142	2.129	2.147	2.135	2.130
average Cu–C $_{\beta}$	2.333	2.414	2.359	2.403	2.443

Table 2. Summary of Photoluminescence Data

complex	absorptions/nm ($\epsilon/M^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$)	medium (TK)	emission λ_{em} /nm ($\tau/\mu\text{s}$)	Φ
4	230 (29,790), 305 (5,410) 390 (5,703)	CH ₂ Cl ₂ (298)	496 (1.5)	0.65
		solid (298)	490 (1.1)	
		solid (77)	495 (1.9)	
5	250, 274, 297, 320 ^a	CH ₂ Cl ₂	570 (3.0)	0.06 ^b
		solid (298)	499 (14)	
		solid (77)	516 (27)	
6	235 (45,580), 269 (16,540) 276 (14,440), 295 (12,440) 320 (9,810)	CH ₂ Cl ₂ (298)	580 (8.9)	0.05
		6a solid (298)	504 (7.0)	
		6a solid (77)	515 (11)	
		6b solid (298)	530 (29)	
		6b solid (77)	540 (84)	
7	235 (76,420), 269 (21,890) 276 (20,320), 295 (16,840) 320 (12,210)	CH ₂ Cl ₂ (298)	580 (21)	0.19
		7a solid (298)	505 (14)	
		7a solid (77)	526 (36)	
		7b solid (298)	548 (39)	
		7b solid (77)	562 (58)	
		7c solid (298)	555 (14)	
		7c solid (77)	578 (57)	

^a Extinction coefficients are unknown as **5** was never completely void of small amounts of **4** and **1** (see below). ^b Approximate value.

lengths in the pseudopolymorphs of **6** and **7**, particularly Au \cdots Au distances, are presumed responsible for the markedly different emissions from identical molecules.

In a reported example, [Au{cyclohexyl isocyanide}₂][PF₆]₄ forms two different types of linear chains which are true polymorphs and differ by their Au \cdots Au distances and emission color.^{60,61} More typically, luminescence polymorphism arises from varying packing arrangements which may be accompanied by differing degrees of intermolecular interactions (i.e., metal–metal interactions or π stacking) which perturb the excited state.^{62–70} In some cases, Au(I) cationic complexes which differ only by the anion or incorporation of different solvate molecules exhibit different emission properties related to the solid-state packing.^{71,72} Balch and co-workers have shown that hexagold(I) complexes exhibit a phase change to a different polymorph that results in appreciable changes in aurophilic interactions and consequently drastically different emission at 298 K vs 77 K.⁷³

Absorption and Emission Spectroscopy. Absorption and emission spectra of the Au₄Cu₄ cluster **4** are presented in Figure 5 and summarized in Table 2. The absorption spectrum is characterized by an intense band at 230 nm and two strong bands at 305 and 390 nm. The electronic spectra of the Au₃Cu₂

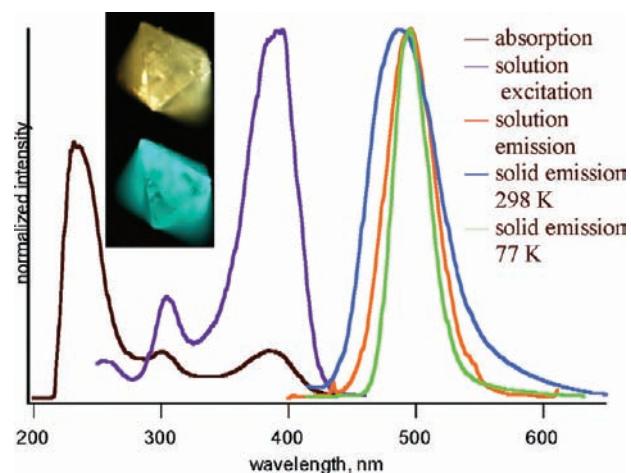


Figure 5. Absorption, excitation, and normalized emission spectra for complex **4**, [Au(ethisterone)₂]₄Cu₄, in CH₂Cl₂ (1×10^{-5} M) and in the solid state. Inset: Photographs of crystalline **4** under ambient light and UV irradiation at room temperature.

pentanuclear clusters **5–7** are characterized by strong absorptions at 230 nm and less intense shoulders ranging from 270 to 320 nm that decrease in intensity up to 350 nm (see Supporting Information). Spacings between the shoulders from 275 to 320 nm are on the order of 2300–2800 cm^{-1} , which may indicate vibronic structure in the optical transitions. Notably, the low-energy transitions in **5–7** are higher in energy than those reported for similar Au₃Cu₂ clusters.²¹ High energy absorptions in other Au(I) acetylide complexes have been assigned as $^1(\pi-\pi^*)$ transitions of the acetylide ligand.^{6,21,74,75} In consideration of the vibronic structure in the absorptions of **5–7**, a $^1(\pi-\pi^*)$ acetylide transition is plausible for these complexes as well. The weak absorptions at ~ 350 nm extending toward the visible region may arise from cluster-centered (CC) or ligand-to-metal charge transfer (LMCT) contributions as their extinction coefficients drop substantially compared to the absorption bands at $\lambda < 320$ nm and no particular maxima are apparent.

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Table 3. Calculated Energies, Oscillator Strengths (f), and Participating Orbitals for Complexes **4-C₅**, **4-Me**, and the Polymorphs of **6**, and **7**

complex	states	$\lambda_{\text{calculated}}$	energy (cm ⁻¹)	f	major orbitals
4-C₅	T ₁	402.4	24849	0	HOMO→LUMO (100%)
	S ₁	361.0	27702	0.5599	HOMO→LUMO (87%)
	S ₂	338.3	29556	0.1016	HOMO-1→LUMO (85%)
4-Me	T ₁	391.1	25184	0	HOMO→LUMO (102%)
	S ₁	350.9	28501	0.6903	HOMO→LUMO (84%)
	S ₂	332.1	30115	0.0041	HOMO-2→LUMO (33%) HOMO-1→LUMO (59%)
6a	T ₁	391.8	25521	0	HOMO→LUMO (98%)
	S ₁	373.8	26750	0.0013	HOMO→LUMO (96%)
6b	T ₁	390.9	25580	0	HOMO→LUMO (96%)
	S ₁	370.4	26995	0.0014	HOMO→LUMO (93%)
7a	T ₁	393.1	25436	0	HOMO→LUMO (98%)
	S ₁	372.9	26816	0.0002	HOMO→LUMO (96%)
7b	T ₁	408.9	24453	0	HOMO→LUMO (96%)
	S ₁	387.0	25841	0.0008	HOMO→LUMO (96%)
7c	T ₁	379.0	26383	0	HOMO→LUMO (78%), HOMO-1→LUMO (19%)
	S ₁	359.8	27796	0.0015	HOMO→LUMO (83%) HOMO-1→LUMO (13%)

Upon excitation into either absorption band of complex **4** in fluid CH₂Cl₂, emission at 496 nm ($\Phi = 0.65$, $\tau = 1.5 \mu\text{s}$) is observed. While the lifetime of 1.5 μs is suggestive of a triplet excited state, the emission of **4** is not quenched by oxygen. In dichloromethane, the pentanuclear clusters emit at 570 nm (**5**) and 580 nm (**6** and **7**) with quantum yields in the range of (0.05–0.19) and lifetimes of several microseconds (see Supporting Information for emission spectra). The similarity of solution emission energies for complexes **6** and **7** suggests that the saturated cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl rings are not involved in the excited state. Unlike complex **4**, the emission intensities of **5–7** are strongly attenuated in the presence of O₂.

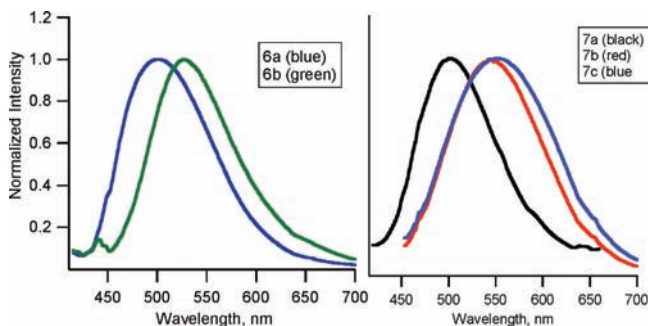
All complexes exhibit bright solid-state emission at room temperature and at 77 K. For complex **4** a slight red shift from 490 to 495 nm is observed upon cooling from 298 to 77 K, while larger red shifts of 10–20 nm occur for the pentanuclear clusters **5–7**. Lifetimes at 77 K are somewhat longer than at room temperature. As shown in Figure 6, emission maxima for polymorphs **6a** and **6b** at 298 K differ by 26 nm (973 cm⁻¹), and polymorphs **7a** and **7b** exhibit emission maxima differing by 43 nm (1554 cm⁻¹). The energy difference is more subtle between **7b** and **7c** (7 nm, 230 cm⁻¹).

Electronic Structure Calculations. Time-dependent density functional (TD-DFT) calculations at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level were performed on a simplified octanuclear complex [(Au(1-ethynylcyclopentanol)₂)₄Cu₄] (**4-C₅**) using the crystallographically determined geometry for complex **4**. This simplified model was used to reduce computational expense. The calculated parameters including the energy gap in wavenumbers and nm

and the oscillator strength for the two lowest energy singlet states (S₁, S₂) and the lowest-energy triplet state (T₁) are listed in Table 3. All calculated transitions as well as the predicted absorption spectrum are provided as Supporting Information. From Figure 7 it can be seen that the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) is composed mainly of Au and Cu d-orbitals with greater contributions from the Au₂ and Au₃ atoms that are connected by an unsupported aurophilic interaction along with some contribution from the acetylide π^b orbitals as well. The Au₂...Au₃ interaction in the HOMO is antibonding. The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO), on the other hand, is composed principally of acetylide π^* functions and Au and Cu s and p orbitals. HOMO-1 consists of Au and Cu d-orbitals but is localized on only one of the two Au₂Cu₂ moieties. Inspection of HOMO-2 to HOMO-6 (Supporting Information) reveals nearly identical compositions for HOMO-1 and HOMO-2 with similar pairings of HOMO-3/-4 and HOMO-5/-6.

We viewed the asymmetry in the HOMO-1/-2 pair of orbitals with some suspicion and were puzzled as to whether this might have been an artifact of the calculation. To probe this further, the structure was simplified to a methyl group set in place of the 1-cyclopentanol moiety to give [(Au(methyl acetylide)₂)₄Cu₄] (**4-Me**). While the orbital compositions and calculated transition energies remained similar to **4-C₅** (Figure 8), HOMO-1 and HOMO-2 are properly matched and are nearly degenerate (-6.19 and -6.20 eV). By matched, we mean that HOMO-1 is primarily located on the left half of the dimer, while HOMO-2 is nearly its mirror image. Likewise, HOMO-3/-4 and HOMO-5/-6 are paired spatially although energies are slightly different.

The calculated absorption spectrum of **4-Me** (Figure S24, Supporting Information) qualitatively matches the experimental absorption spectrum with the two lowest energy singlet absorptions attributed to the (1) HOMO→LUMO and (2) (HOMO-1→LUMO) + (HOMO-2→LUMO) transitions. Contributions from both HOMO-2 and HOMO-1 in the second excited state can be understood in terms of configuration mixing for these nearly degenerate orbitals. The similarity between experimental and calculated spectra supports the use of **4-Me** as a model for **4**, and implies orbitals of the steroid ligand are not involved in the lowest excited states. The orbital identities suggest an assignment of the excited state in **4** as cluster-centered ³(CC)

**Figure 6.** Solid-state emission spectra of the polymorphic forms of complexes **6** and **7** at room temperature.

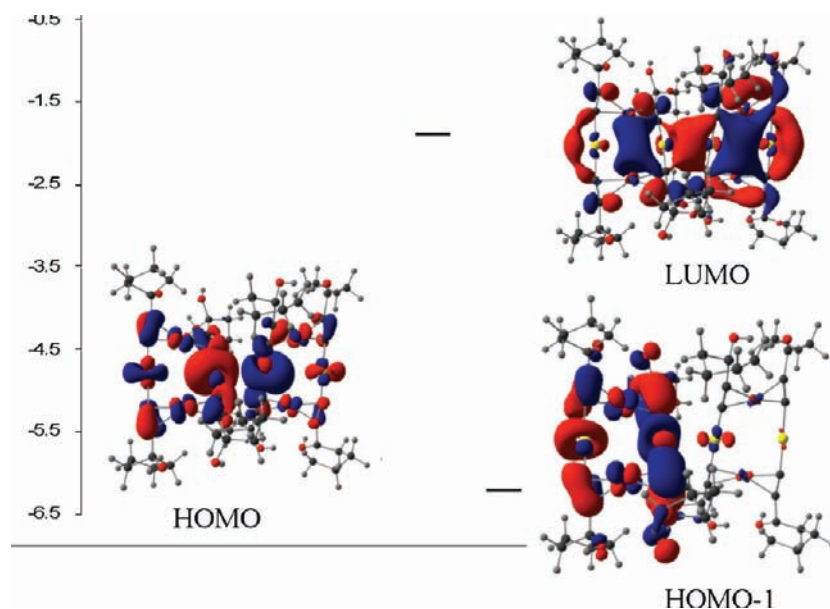


Figure 7. Calculated frontier orbitals and energies for complex 4-C₅.

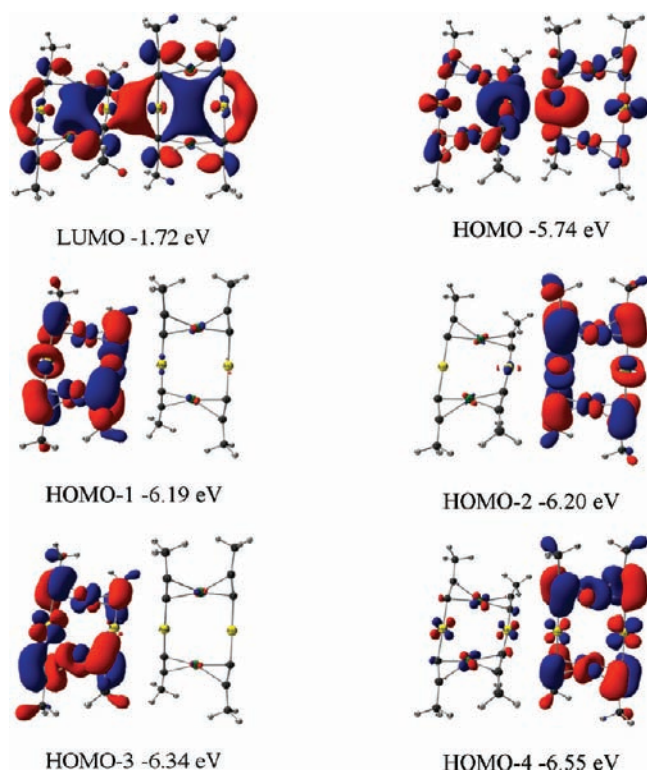


Figure 8. Frontier orbitals for complex 4-Me. Isovalue = 0.025.

possibly mixed with some intraligand ${}^3(\pi-\pi^*)$ states. This assignment, in conjunction with a space-filling model of the complex (Figure S5, Supporting Information), offers a possible explanation for the absence of emission quenching by molecular oxygen in solution. Since the emissive core of the molecule is highly shielded by the eight steroid ligands, interaction of the luminophore with a quenching O₂ molecule is precluded.

A single point energy calculation of the lowest energy triplet state (T₁) was performed to model the electronic structure upon promotion of an electron from the highest occupied orbital to the LUMO. The ground state geometry was used for the calculation with the assumption that negligible geometry changes

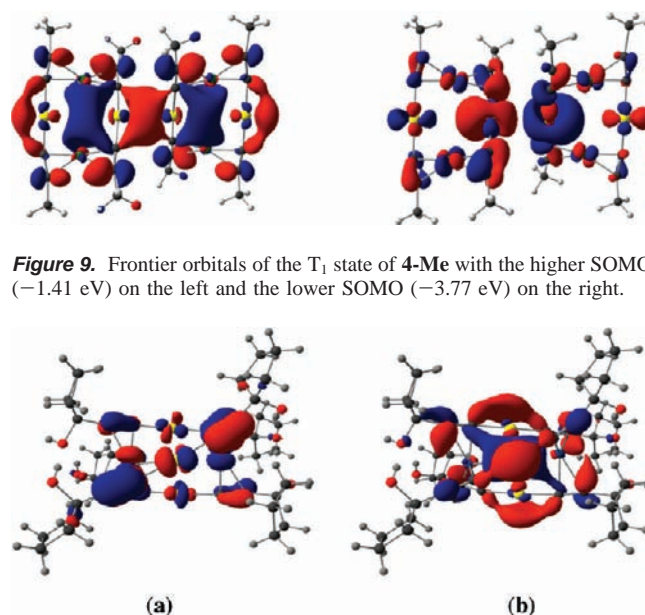


Figure 9. Frontier orbitals of the T₁ state of 4-Me with the higher SOMO (−1.41 eV) on the left and the lower SOMO (−3.77 eV) on the right.

Figure 10. Calculated (a) HOMO (−2.7 eV) and (b) LUMO (1.41 eV) of polymorph 6a [PPN][(Au(ethynylcyclopentanol)₂)₃Cu₂].

would occur in the solid state. As shown in Figure 9, the singly occupied orbitals (SOMOs) of T₁ are nearly identical in composition to the HOMO and LUMO of the singlet ground state, further supporting the excited-state assignment.

Time-dependent DFT calculations for the pentanuclear clusters 6 and 7 indicate that the lowest-energy S₀→S₁ and S₀→T₁ transitions in these Au₃Cu₂ complexes are largely HOMO→LUMO in nature although slight mixing of HOMO−1→LUMO occurs to a modest extent in several of the compounds. Similar frontier orbitals were calculated for each polymorph of 6 and 7. The HOMO is composed of gold and copper d orbitals and π^* -orbitals of the acetylide ligands, while the LUMO consists of gold sp-hybridized orbitals mixed with π^* orbitals of the acetylides (Figure 10). This description agrees with the reported electronic structure of [Au(4-tolylacetylide)₂]₃M₂ (M = Cu, Ag) in which analysis of the frontier orbitals was used to explain the difference in emission energy

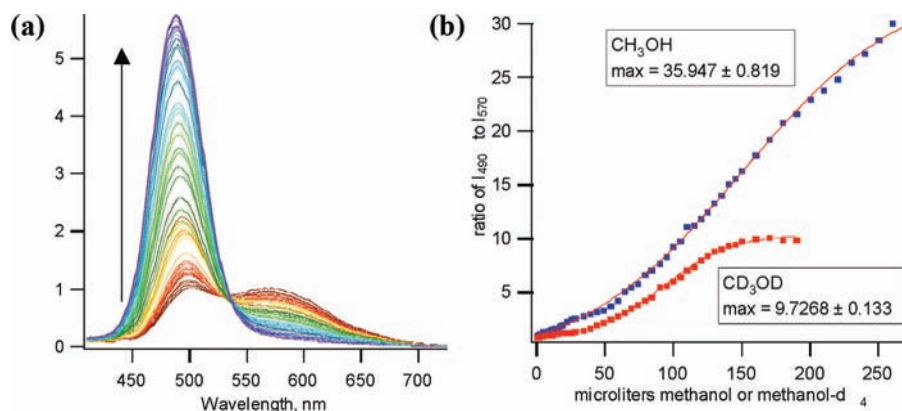


Figure 11. (a) Titration of **5** with methanol. Complex **5** emits at 570 nm, while complex **4** emits at 490 nm. $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 390$ nm. (b) Ratio of the emission intensity at 490 to 570 during the titration of complex **5** with CH_3OH or CD_3OD .

between Ag(I) and Cu(I) congeners.²¹ However, in the present work, analysis of the calculated HOMO/LUMO gaps does not clearly model the experimentally observed trends regarding solid-state emission energies between the polymorphs of **6** and **7** (**6a** > **6b** and **7a** > **7b** > **7c**). For complex **6**, only a difference of 161 cm^{-1} was calculated between the HOMO/LUMO gaps of the two polymorphs with a larger gap for **6b**. The HOMO/LUMO gap of **7c**, which exhibits yellow emission, is calculated to be 1,855 cm^{-1} higher in energy than that of the green emitting form, **7b**. Similar results were obtained using a simplified form of each complex $[\text{PPN}][\text{Au}_3\text{Cu}_2(\text{C}\equiv\text{CCH}_3)_6]$ with the core geometry of the parent compound. Analysis of the time-dependent calculations does not resolve the issue. As seen in Table 3, calculated T_1 and S_1 energies suggest very similar energy transitions for **6b** and **6a**. For complex **7** polymorphs, the calculations predict emission energies in the order: **7c** > **7a** > **7b**. The lowest-energy triplet states were calculated for the propyne models, $\text{Au}_3\text{Cu}_2(\text{C}\equiv\text{CCH}_3)_6$ to examine the singly occupied molecular orbitals. For complex **6a**, the triplet calculation did not converge; however in all other examples, the higher SOMO is identical to the ground state LUMO while the lower SOMO of T_1 is similar in composition to the ground state HOMO (Figures S33–S36, Supporting Information).

Although the HOMO/LUMO gaps or calculated absorption energies do not correlate with observed emission energies among polymorphs of clusters **6** and **7**, the DFT calculations provide insight in assigning the nature of the excited state as primarily $^3(\text{CC})$ in **4** and as ligand-to-cluster charge transfer $^3(\text{LCCT})$ in **5**–**7**. The contribution of the acetylides to the excited state is evident in the experimental absorption spectra of **5**–**7** which show some vibronic structure whereas the absorption in **4** exhibits broad bands.

In complexes **6** and **7**, $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ distances range from 3.2913(3) Å to 3.5917(3) Å with the latter generally believed to be outside the range of significant interactions. The variety in $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ distances is most likely responsible for the distinct differences in emission energy although subtle differences in $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Cu}$ distances may play a role. In light of the calculated nature of the HOMO and LUMO (i.e., metal–metal antibonding in the HOMO and metal–metal bonding character of the LUMO), closer $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ distances would be predicted to raise the HOMO and lower the LUMO although the extent of each effect is difficult to judge. This influence on the LUMO energy was found computationally with the exception of **7c**. The variety of $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ distances within each Au_3 triangle of a single complex compromises the ability to predict emission energy from crystallographic data.

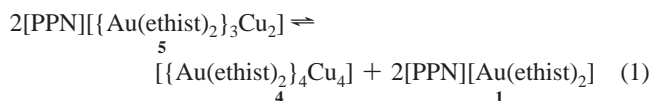
While the luminescence polymorphism in these complexes arises from ligand-to-cluster charge transfer $^3(\text{LCCT})$ states in triangular Au_3 cores, the assignment differs from that in other polymorphic Au(I) complexes in which linear AuR_2^+ cations are linked into chains by aurophilic interactions.⁶⁰ Complexes differing by the counteranion or cocrystallized solvent form extended structures in similar ways.^{71,72} The aurophilic bonding in these types of aggregates arises from overlap of gold $5d_z^2$ orbitals to produce filled σ^b and σ^* MOs stabilized by configuration interaction with collinear empty p_z orbitals. The p_z orbitals form a similar but empty set of MOs. Excitation promotes an electron from the $5d_z^2 \sigma^*$ band to the $6p_z \sigma^b$ band and therefore it would be anticipated that different $\text{Au}\cdots\text{Au}$ separations would affect the energy of this transition. In the present work on triangular Au_3 complexes, acetylide π -functions contribute strongly to the HOMO, while metal–metal antibonding contributions are small. Most similar to the Au(I) chains found in the literature is complex **4** with a linear arrangement of four Au(I) ions, two of which are quite close. In this case, the calculated highest occupied molecular orbital is indeed Au – Au anti-bonding with respect to the closely interacting Au(I) ions and the σ^b MO containing overlapping $\text{Au}2$ – $\text{Au}3$ $5d_z^2$ orbitals, which was found to be MO number 114, (–9.37 eV, Figure S37, Supporting Information) is much lower in energy than the HOMO.

Equilibrium Between Complexes 4 and 5. During the preparation of crystallization solutions of $[\text{PPN}][\{\text{Au}(\text{ethisterone})_2\}_3\text{Cu}_2]$ (**5**), it was noticed that the addition of some solvents (MeOH, EtOH, EtOAc, H_2O) to CH_2Cl_2 solutions of this pentanuclear complex resulted in a change in emission from yellow to the blue color characteristic of $[\{\text{Au}(\text{ethisterone})_2\}_4\text{Cu}_4]$ (**4**). The yellow emission persisted in the presence of THF, pentane, hexanes, or ether. The process is reversible: if a few drops of MeOH are added, followed by dilution with CH_2Cl_2 , the emission returns to yellow. Addition of more methanol results in blue emission again.

The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **5** in CD_2Cl_2 displays major and minor components for some resonances in an approximate 10:1 ratio. Addition of CD_3OD (1:1 v/v with CD_2Cl_2) results in an increase of the minor component (Supporting Information). Upon standing overnight, the NMR solution provided crystals of **4**. Crystals of mononuclear **1** grew during slow evaporation of the remaining mother liquor.

A solution of **5** in dichloromethane was titrated with methanol and the emission spectra were recorded (Figure 11). With an increase in MeOH, the emission at 570 nm from complex **5**

decreases while the emission at 495 nm from complex **4** increases. A nearly isoemissive point occurs at 535 nm during the titration. The titration and ^{13}C NMR results may be explained by an equilibrium between complexes **5** and **4** + **1** (eq 1 where ethist = ethisterone). Formation of **4** thus appears to be favored in the presence of polar solvents capable of hydrogen-bonding either as H-bond donors or acceptors. To test this theory, methanol was added to yellow-emitting solution of **5** in CH_2Cl_2 to provide blue-emitting **4**. Complex **1** was then added to perturb the equilibrium and the yellow emission of **5** returned. The process was repeated by further addition of methanol then complex **1** to the same result. Addition of **1** to a pure solution of **4** resulted in formation of **5** as well.



The single set of impurity resonances in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **5** is likely an averaged signal resulting from rapid exchange between **4** and **1**. Otherwise, the impurity should be characterized by two resonances from pure **4** and one signal from free $\text{Au}(\text{ethist})_2^-$.

Considering the nature of solvents that promote the formation of **4** and **1** from **5**, the response could result from a dielectric effect, a hydrogen-bonding driven process, or a combination of both. To probe the influence of hydrogen bonding, the titration of **5** in CH_2Cl_2 was performed with CH_3OH and CD_3OD in order to examine the extent to which complex **4** is formed from **5** in the presence of either solvent. The titration was carried out at 5×10^{-6} M, and the emission of the mixture was monitored using 390 nm as the excitation wavelength. To elucidate the effects of CH_3OH vs CD_3OD , the ratio of emission intensity at 490 nm (complex **4**) to the intensity at 570 nm (**5**) was plotted vs titrant volume.

The data from both titrations have been fit to sigmoidal curves (Figure 10b). For the MeOH titration, the maximum ratio of intensities at 490–570 nm is 35.9 ± 0.8 with half equivalence occurring at 150 μL of added methanol. When titrated with methanol- d_4 , half equivalence is reached after 93 μL and the maximum ratio of intensities is calculated as 9.7 ± 0.1 . Evidently, equilibrium (**1**) lies further to the right in the presence of protonated methanol relative to that in methanol- d_4 . This observation is consistent with an equilibrium isotope effect in which H-bonding of **4** + **1** with solvent is more favorable for O–H than O–D relative to the zero-point energies of O–H and O–D in **5**.

Conclusions

Pentanuclear Au_3Cu_2 complexes with hydroxyl-aliphatic acetylide ligands can be prepared as PPN salts directly from Au(I) bis(acetylide) precursors and a Cu(I) source. When the acetylide is ethisterone, Au_3Cu_2 and Au_4Cu_4 clusters are obtained. The latter is a brightly emissive dimer exhibiting an unsupported aurophilic interaction between the central Au(I) atoms. $[\text{PPN}][\{\text{Au}(\text{ethisterone})_2\}_3\text{Cu}_2]$ (**5**) is not particularly stable in solution and converts to the octanuclear complex (**4**) and the Au(I) bis(ethisterone) precursor (**1**) in a hydrogen-bonding assisted equilibrium which was probed by luminescence titration experiments. The octanuclear excited state is assigned as cluster-centered with particularly strong contribution from an anti-bonding $\text{Au}_2 \cdots \text{Au}_3$ interaction to the HOMO.

In the solid state, Au_3Cu_2 complexes with 1-cyclopentanol or 1-cyclohexanol alkynyl units exhibit an interesting example of luminescence polymorphism in which the color of emission varies, depending on the intramolecular atomic distances in the core of the clusters. The variety in distances may be influenced by a combination of attractive forces among closed-shell d^{10} Au(I) and Cu(I) ions and by intermolecular hydrogen-bonding schemes which were found to link the $\text{Au}_3\text{Cu}_2\text{R}_6$ complex anions into infinite chains in the solid state. Absorption and emission spectroscopy and lifetime measurements in conjunction with DFT calculations have led to an assignment of the excited state as $^3(\text{acetylide } \pi\text{-to-Au}_3\text{Cu}_2 \text{ cluster})$ charge transfer. With this assignment, different emission among polymorphs of the same complex can be understood as arising from some perturbation of the frontier orbitals evidenced by the different intramolecular $d^{10}\text{--}d^{10}$ M \cdots M distances observed.

Experimental Section

General Considerations. NMR spectra were obtained using Bruker Avance 400 and 500 MHz spectrometers with ^1H and ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts referenced to residual solvent peaks in CDCl_3 , CD_2Cl_2 , or $\text{DMSO-}d_6$. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR data are referenced to external 85% H_3PO_4 . Mass spectra of bis(acetylide) gold(I) ions were measured on a Shimadzu 2010 series liquid chromatography mass spectrometer (LC/MS) under negative mode electrospray ionization (ESI). Absorption spectra were measured on a Hitachi U-2000 UV–vis spectrometer. Steady-state excitation and emission spectra were obtained using a Spex Fluoromax-P fluorometer. Solution emission measurements were performed in quartz cuvettes equipped with screw-cap lids and septa, and samples were deoxygenated by purging with N_2 for at least 15 min prior to obtaining spectra. For titration experiments, deoxygenated methanol was added via 10 μL syringe to a deoxygenated CH_2Cl_2 solution of complex **4** through the septum. Solid-state emission samples were prepared by packing a capillary tube with the emissive complex in a matrix of KBr (~1% by wt). For low temperature measurements, the capillary was held in a vacuum dewar filled with liquid nitrogen. Lifetime measurements were performed using a model LN203C nitrogen laser (Laser Photonics Inc.) with $\lambda = 337.1$ nm and a 0.1 nm spectral width pulsed at 1 pulse/second. Signals were detected by a silicon photodiode and photomultiplier tube (1P28 type) with a 2 ns rise time and viewed with a Hewlett-Packard 54510-B oscilloscope connected to a computer via a GPIB interface. No less than five decay curves were averaged data fitting.

Syntheses were carried out under an atmosphere of N_2 using standard Schlenk conditions. Dichloromethane for reactions and photophysical measurements was dried by passage through an alumina solvent system. 1-ethynyl-1-cyclopentanol, 1-ethynyl-1-cyclohexanol, and ethisterone were purchased from Aldrich chemical company and used as received. $[\text{PPN}][\text{Au}(\text{acac})_2]$ was prepared according to the literature.⁷⁶

Crystal Structure Determinations. Each crystal was placed onto the tip of a glass fiber using Paratone and mounted on a Bruker SMART Platform diffractometer equipped with an APEX II CCD area detector. All data were collected at 100.0(1) K using Mo $K\alpha$ radiation (graphite monochromator).⁷⁷ For each sample, a set of preliminary cell constants and an orientation matrix were determined from reflections harvested from three orthogonal wedges of reciprocal space. Full data collections were carried out with frame exposure times of 45 (**1**, **6a**, **6b**, **7b**, and **7c**), 60 (**2**, **3**, **7a**) or 90 (**4**) seconds at detector distances of 4 cm for **1–3**, **6a**, **6b**, and **7a–7c** or 6 cm for complex **4**. Randomly oriented regions of reciprocal space were surveyed for each sample: four major sections

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of frames were collected with 0.50° steps in ω at four different φ settings and a detector position of -38° in 2θ . The intensity data were corrected for absorption,⁷⁸ and final cell constants were calculated from the xyz centroids of approximately 4000 strong reflections from the actual data collection after integration.⁷⁷

Structures were solved using SIR97⁷⁹ and refined using SHELXL-97.⁸⁰ Space groups were determined on the basis of systematic absences and intensity statistics. For complex **1**, a Paterson method solution was calculated which provided the location of the gold atoms from the E-map. For all other complexes, direct-methods solutions were calculated which provided most non-hydrogen atoms from the difference Fourier map. Full-matrix least-squares (on F^2)/difference Fourier cycles were performed which located the remaining non-hydrogen atoms which were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Absolute configurations for structures in chiral (**1**, **4**, **6b**) and noncentrosymmetric (**7b**) space groups were determined by anomalous dispersion effects. For complexes **1**, **2**, **6a**, and **7b**, hydroxide hydrogen atoms were found from the difference map and then refined as riding atoms with relative isotropic displacement parameters. For **6b**, **7a**, and **7c**, hydroxide hydrogen atoms could not be found and were placed in reasonable hydrogen-bonding positions on the basis of precedent in **6a** and **7b**. For **3**, all hydrogen atoms, and all nonhydroxide hydrogen atoms of all other structures were placed in ideal positions and refined as riding atoms with relative isotropic thermal parameters. For complex **4**, hydroxide hydrogen atoms were placed on the basis of residual peaks in the difference Fourier map prior to application of SQUEEZE;⁸¹ one set is directed at the neighboring hydroxide oxygen atom, while the other is directed out into the solvent. Alkyne C–C bond lengths were restrained to be similar.

The cation and anion in **7a** are modeled as disordered over crystallographic mirror planes. One cocrystallized diethyl ether molecule is modeled as disordered over a mirror plane as well. Complex **7b** packs with a disordered combination of cocrystallized dichloromethane and diethyl ether molecules in channels parallel to the c -axis. One solvent site is modeled as a 45:55 disorder of one ether molecule and two dichloromethane molecules while the other site is modeled as 83:17 disorder of one diethyl ether molecule and one dichloromethane molecule. In **4** highly disordered cocrystallized solvent was found in channels parallel the a - and b -axes. In **7c** highly disordered solvent was found in four sites, each occupied by two solvent molecules. Reflection contributions from this solvent in **4** and **7c** were removed using the function SQUEEZE in the program PLATON which determined there to be 2097 electrons in 3975 \AA^3 removed per unit cell in **4** and 355 electrons in 3975 \AA^3 removed per unit cell in **7c**. Minor merohedral inversion twinning in **4** was refined to a mass ratio of 94:06.

Theoretical Calculations. DFT and time-dependent density functional (TD-DFT) calculations were carried out using the B3LYP^{82,83} method as implemented by Gaussian 03.⁸⁴ The LANL2DZ^{85–88} effective core potential was used for Au and Cu, while the 6-31G(d) basis set was applied for C, H, and O atoms. For the $[\text{Au}_3\text{Cu}_2]$ anionic polymorphs of complexes **6** and **7**, full geometries from the X-ray experiments were used. Additional single point calculations of the singlet (S_0) and triplet (T_1) states were

performed on structures for which 1-cyclopentanol and 1-cyclohexanol moieties were replaced with methyl groups (**6a**-Methyl, **6b**-Methyl, etc.) Triplet calculations were performed using the restricted open shell method (roB3LYP) which forces $\alpha = \beta$. For the octanuclear complex, **4**, ethisterone ligands were reduced to 1-ethynylcyclopentanol (**4-C₅**) then further simplified to methyl acetylide (**4-Me**) in each case using the X-ray geometry for the core. TD-DFT was used to calculate the six lowest singlet and triplet energy absorptions from the S_0 state.

[PPN][Au(ethisterone)₂] (1). A mixture of [PPN][Au(acac)₂] (0.232 g, 0.25 mmol) and ethisterone (0.194 g, 0.62 mmol) was stirred in CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL) for 3 h covered with foil. The solution was filtered through Celite, concentrated to 1–2 mL, and added dropwise to 100 mL of rapidly stirring ether. The white precipitate was collected and dried to yield 0.310 g of **1** in 92% yield. X-ray-quality crystals were obtained by diffusion of diethyl ether into a CH_2Cl_2 solution of the complex. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 7.70–7.68 (m, 6H, PPN), 7.58–7.54 (m, 24H, PPN), 5.60 (s, 2H, =CH–), 4.39 (s, 2H, –OH), 2.39–2.34 (m, 4H, –CH–, –CH₂–), 2.22–2.11 (m, 4H –CH–, –CH₂–), 1.95–1.07 (m, 26H, –CH–, –CH₂–), 1.12 (s, 6H, –CH₃), 0.92–0.76 (m, 4H, –CH–, –CH₂–), 0.68 (s, 6H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 25 °C): δ 199.5 (s, quat), 172.4 (s, quat), 134.3 (s, Ar–CH), 132.7 (m, Ar–CH), 130.0 (m, Ar–CH), 127.6 (d, $J = 108$), 127.6 (s, ≡C–), 124.0 (s, –CH–, vinyl), 105.1 (s, ≡C–), 80.7 (s, quat), 53.7 (s, –CH–), 50.0 (s, –CH–), 46.8 (s, quat), 40.2 (s, –CH₂–), 39.2 (s, quat), 37.0 (s, –CH–), 36.1 (s, –CH₂–), 34.5 (s, –CH₂–), 33.5 (s, –CH₂–), 33.2 (s, –CH₂–), 32.0 (s, –CH₂–), 23.6 (s, –CH₂–), 21.5 (s, –CH₂–), 17.9 (s, –CH₃), 13.2 (s, –CH₃). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 21.9 (s, PPN) MS (ESI negative) 819.15. Anal. Calc for C₇₈H₈₄AuNO₄P₂ · CH₂Cl₂: C, 67.30; H, 6.12; N, 1.00. Found: C, 67.61; H, 6.23.

[PPN][Au(1-ethynyl-cyclopentanol)₂] (2). To a CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) solution of [PPN][Au(acac)₂] (0.163 g, 0.175 mmol) was added a CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) solution of 1-ethynylcyclopentanol (0.059 g, 0.54 mmol). The reaction was covered with aluminum foil and stirred for 5 h. A white precipitate was collected and washed with CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) and diethyl ether (50 mL) to provide 0.140 g of the title compound in 84% yield. Analytically pure, X-ray-quality crystals were grown by diffusion of diethyl ether into a dilute dichloromethane solution of the complex. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 7.71–7.69 (m, 6H, PPN), 7.60–7.53 (m, 24H, PPN), 4.42 (s, 2H, –OH), 1.63–1.53 (m, 16H, –CH₂–). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 133.7 (s, PPN), 132.0 (m, PPN), 129.5 (m, PPN), 126.8 (d, $J = 106$, PPN), 125.1 (s, ≡C–), 106.0 (s, ≡C–), 73.1 (s, quat), 42.8 (s, –CH₂–), 23.1 (s, –CH₂–). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 21.9 (s, PPN). MS (ESI negative) 414.95. Anal. Calc for C₅₀H₄₈AuNO₂P₂: C, 62.96; H, 5.07; N, 1.47. Found: C, 62.67; H, 4.91; N, 1.53.

[PPN][Au(1-ethynyl-cyclohexanol)₂] (3). A mixture of [PPN][Au(acac)₂] (0.244 g, 0.262 mmol) and 1-ethynylcyclohexanol (0.097 g, 0.79 mmol) was stirred in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) for 4 h covered with foil. The solution was filtered through Celite, concentrated to 1–2 mL, and added to 75 mL of rapidly stirred ether to provide a fine white precipitate which was triturated for 1 h and collected by vacuum filtration to provide 0.200 g of product in 80% yield. X-ray-quality crystals were obtained by diffusion of diethyl ether into a CH_2Cl_2 solution of the complex. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 7.70–7.68 (m, 6H, PPN), 7.60–7.53 (m, 24H, PPN), 4.48 (s, 2H, –OH), 2.51–1.37 (m, 12H, –CH₂–), 1.36–1.28 (m, 6H, –CH₂–), 1.11–1.08 (m, 2H, –CH₂–). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 133.6 (s, PPN), 131.9 (m, PPN), 129.5 (m, PPN), 126.8 (d, $J = 107$, PPN), 125.9 (s, ≡C–), 105.7 (s, ≡C–), 66.9 (s, quat), 41.1 (s, –CH₂–), 25.3 (s, –CH₂–), 23.0 (s, –CH₂–). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 25 °C): δ 21.9 (s, PPN). MS (ESI negative) 443.00. Anal. Calc for C₅₂H₅₂AuNO₂P₂: C, 63.61; H, 5.34. Found: C, 63.05; H, 5.33.

{[Au(ethisterone)₂]₄Cu₄} (4). A mixture of **1** (0.100 g, 0.074 mmol) and [Cu(MeCN)₄][PF₆]₄ (0.024 g, 0.074 mmol) was stirred

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for 3 h in 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The entire solution was set up for crystallization by vapor diffusion of ether into the CH_2Cl_2 . After several days at room temperature, white flaky crystals were collected (0.055 g, 85%); however, NMR analysis revealed contamination by $[\text{PPN}][\text{PF}_6]$. Pure samples were obtained by vapor diffusion of ether into a solution of the complex in 1:1 *v/v* $\text{MeOH}/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$. ^1H NMR and microanalyses revealed the presence of ~4 water molecules per complex in the crystals. This agrees with the presence of unknown solvent in the X-ray structure. ^1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C, 400 MHz): δ 5.94 (s, 4H, =CH-), 5.69 (s, 4H, =CH-), 4.49 (s, 4H, -OH), 3.82 (s, 4H, -OH), 2.65–1.25 (m, 136 H, -CH-, -CH₂-), 1.10–0.85 (m, 16H, -CH-, -CH₂-), 1.20 (s, 12H, -CH₃), 1.13 (s, 12H, -CH₃), 0.89 (s, 12H, -CH₃), 0.86 (s, 12H, -CH₃). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C, 400 MHz): δ 202.8 (s, quat), 199.6 (s, quat), 172.2 (s, quat), 171.2 (s, quat), 125.4 (s, -CH-, vinyl), 124.1 (s, -CH-, vinyl), 81.5 (s, quat), 80.9 (s, quat), ~53.7 (s, -CH-, (overlapped with CD_2Cl_2)), 50.5 (s, -CH-), 49.1 (s, -CH-), 48.2 (s, quat), 46.6 (s, quat), 42.2, 41.8, 39.5, 39.0, 36.9, 36.5, 36.2, 34.5, 34.3, 33.1, 32.3 (s, -CH₂-), 23.9 (s, -CH₂-), 23.6 (s, -CH₂-), 21.3 (s, -CH₂-), 21.1 (s, -CH₂-), 17.7 (s, -CH₃), 13.3 (s, -CH₃). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 22.3 (s, PPN). *Anal. Calc* for $\text{C}_{168}\text{H}_{216}\text{Au}_4\text{Cu}_4\text{O}_{16}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$: C, 55.96; H, 6.26. Found: C, 55.90; H, 6.32.

[PPN][{Au(ethisterone)}₃Cu₂] (5). A mixture of **1** (0.185 g, 0.14 mmol) and $[\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4][\text{PF}_6]$ (0.030 g, 0.092 mmol) was stirred for 4 h in 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The volume was reduced to 2 mL, and diethyl ether was added to precipitate complex **5** and $[\text{PPN}][\text{PF}_6]$ for a total of 0.194 g (97% for **5** · 2 $[\text{PPN}][\text{PF}_6]$). ^1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 7.68–7.65 (m, 6H, PPN), 7.51–7.47 (m, 24H, PPN), 5.61 (s, 6H, =CH-), 4.47 (s, 6H, -OH), 2.60–2.25 (m, 30 H, -CH-, -CH₂-), 2.00–1.26 (m, 60 H, -CH-, -CH₂-), 1.19–1.02 (m, 12H, -CH-, -CH₂-), 1.15 (s, 18H, -CH₃), 0.82 (s, 18H, -CH₃). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 199.4 (s, quat), 172.1 (s, quat), 134.3 (s, Ar-CH), 132.7 (m, Ar-CH), 130.0 (m, Ar-CH), 127.6 (d, $J = 107$), 124.0 (s, -CH-, vinyl), 115.3 (s, =C-), 111.8 (s, =C-), 81.3 (s, quat), 53.7 (s, -CH-), 50.1 (s, -CH-), 47.6 (s, quat), 39.2 (s, -CH₂-), 39.0 (s, quat), 37.1 (s, -CH-), 36.1 (s, -CH₂-), 34.5 (s, -CH₂-), 33.5 (s, -CH₂-), 33.0 (s, -CH₂-), 32.0 (s, -CH₂-), 23.6 (s, -CH₂-), 21.4 (s, -CH₂-), 17.8 (s, -CH₃), 13.5 (s, -CH₃). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 22.3 (s, PPN).

[PPN][{Au(1-ethynyl-cyclopentanol)}₂]₃Cu₂] (6). Complex **2** (0.115 g, 0.121 mmol) and $[\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4][\text{PF}_6]$ (0.026 g, 0.080 mmol) were stirred for 4 h in 6 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . Ten milliliters of ether was added, and the mixture was filtered through a fine glass frit. The filtrate was left stored in the freezer whereupon crystals of **6a** (32 mg) and **6b** (32 mg) formed and were separated carefully by hand for a total of 64 mg (84% yield). ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 25 °C): δ 7.71–7.60 (m, 6H, PPN), 7.60–7.52 (m, 24H, PPN), 5.20

(s, 6H, -OH), 1.84–1.80 (m, 24H, -CH₂-), 1.66–1.59 (m, 24H, -CH₂-). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 133.8 (s, PPN), 132.2 (m, PPN), 129.5 (m, PPN), 127.0 (d, $J = 107$, PPN), 75.9 (s, quat), 43.4 (s, -CH₂-), 23.5 (s, -CH₂-). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 22.4 (s, PPN). *Anal. Calc* for $\text{C}_{78}\text{H}_{84}\text{Au}_3\text{Cu}_2\text{NO}_6\text{P}_2$: C, 49.01; H, 4.43. Found: C, 48.84; H, 4.43.

[PPN][{Au(1-ethynyl-cyclohexanol)}₂]₃Cu₂] (7). Complex **3** (0.045 g, 0.046 mmol) and $[\text{Cu}(\text{MeCN})_4][\text{PF}_6]$ (0.0099 g, 0.031 mmol) were stirred for 4 h in 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , diluted with 10 mL of ether and filtered through a glass frit. The filtrate was stored in the freezer to provide a mixture of **7a**, **7b**, and **7c** which were collected by centrifugation and washed with diethyl ether to yield 0.026 g (85% yield) of complex **7** as a mixture of polymorphs. Individual polymorphs were obtained as described in the synthesis section. ^1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 7.67–7.58 (m, 6H, PPN), 7.51–7.43 (m, 24H, PPN), 1.98–1.90 (m, 12H, -CH₂-), 1.57–1.16 (m, 42H, -CH₂-), 1.16–1.13 (m, 6H, -CH₂-). ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 25 °C): δ 7.70–7.57 (m, 6H, PPN), 7.57–7.54 (m, 24H, PPN), 5.41 (br, 6H, -OH), 1.78 (m, 10H, -CH₂-), 1.52–1.15 (m, 42H, -CH₂-), 1.14–1.07 (m, 8H, -CH₂-). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 133.7 (s, PPN), 132.1 (m, PPN), 129.5 (m, PPN), 127.0 (d, $J = 108$, PPN), 69.4 (s, quat), 40.4 (s, -CH₂-), 25.5 (s, -CH₂-), 23.5 (s, -CH₂-). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 25 °C): δ 22.4 (s, PPN). *Anal. Calc* for $\text{C}_{84}\text{H}_{96}\text{Au}_3\text{Cu}_2\text{NO}_6\text{P}_2$: C, 50.56; H, 4.85. Found: C, 50.35; H, 5.04.

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Supporting Information Available: Complete reference 84, ORTEP diagrams, refinement parameters, and packing diagrams for **1**, **2**, **4**, **6a**, **6b**, **7a**, **7b**, **7c**, space filling diagram for **4**, crystallographic data in cif format, absorption, excitation, emission for **4**, **5**, **6**, **7**, calculated absorption spectra and transition lists for **4-C₅** and **4-Me**, triplet orbitals for **4-Me**, frontier orbital diagrams and tables of all calculated transitions for **6a**, **6b**, **7a**, **7b**, **7c**, orbital diagrams for S_0 and T_1 of simplified **6a**, **6b**, **7a**, **7b**, **7c**, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR of complexes with ethisterone (**1**, **4**, **5**) This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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