

Schiff-base Complexes of the Lanthanoids and Actinoids. Part 1. Lanthanoid(III) Halide Complexes with the Un-ionised Form of *NN'*-Ethylenebis(salicylideneimine) and Related Bases

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The Schiff base *NN'*-ethylenebis(salicylideneimine) and related bases, H_2L , react with hydrated lanthanoid(III) halides to give the complexes $Ln(H_2L)Cl_3 \cdot nH_2O$ ($Ln = La$ or Ce ; $n = 0-2$), $Ln_2(H_2L)_3Cl_6 \cdot nH_2O$ ($Ln = La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Ho,$ or Yb ; $n = 0-2$), $Ln(H_2L)_2X_3 \cdot nH_2O$ ($Ln = La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Ho,$ or Yb ; $X = Cl$ or Br ; $n = 0-2$), and $Ln(H_2L)_3X_3 \cdot nH_2O$ ($Ln = La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm,$ or Gd ; $X = Cl$ or Br ; $n = 0$ or 1). Spectroscopic and other evidence has indicated that: (i) halide is co-ordinated to the metal ion except in the case of $Ln(H_2L)_3X_3 \cdot nH_2O$ where the results were ambiguous; and (ii) the potentially quadridentate ligands are bidentate in these complexes with the un-ionised phenolic groups being unco-ordinated.

THERE have been a number of reports¹⁻¹⁴ of metal-ion complexes with Schiff bases containing phenolic groups which are either un-ionised or partly ionised. The ligand *NN'*-dihydroxy-*NN'*-diphenylpyridine-2,6-diamine (H_2L) was¹ half-ionised in the complexes $Ln(HL)(NO_3)_2 \cdot nH_2O$ ($Ln^{III} = La, Ce, Pr, Gd, Er, Dy, Yb, Sc,$ or Y ; $n = 1$ or 2). During the course of the present work, complexes of *NN'*-propane-1,3-diylbis(salicylideneimine) and *NN'*-2-hydroxypropane-1,3-diylbis(salicylideneimine) (H_2L) of the types $Ln(H_2L)_2X_3 \cdot nH_2O$ and $Ln_2(H_2L)_3X_6$ [$Ln^{III} = La-Lu$ (except Pm); $X = Cl$ or NO_3 ; $n = 0$ or 1] were reported.² The ligand *NN'*-ethylenebis(*o*-hydroxyacetophenoneimine) (H_2L) yields³ the complexes $Ln(H_2L)_2(NO_3)_3$ ($Ln^{III} = La, Pr, Nd,$ or Sm), whilst *N*-salicylideneanthranilic acid (H_2L) gave⁴ $Ln(HL)(OH)_2Cl$ [$Ln^{III} = La-Lu$ (except Pm)] in which only the carboxylic acid group was ionised. In addition, *NN'*-ethylenebis(salicylideneimine) (H_2salen) gave the complexes $Ti(H_2salen)Cl_4$,⁵ $Nb(H_2salen)Cl_4$,⁶ $Th(H_2salen)Cl_4 \cdot thf$ ($thf =$ tetrahydrofuran),⁷ and $U(H_2salen)Cl_4 \cdot thf$.^{7,8} Potentially bidentate bases⁹⁻¹¹ such as *N*-salicylideneaniline (HL) gave the complexes $M(HL)_2Cl_4$ ($M = Ti, Sn, Zr, Hf,$ or Th). There are also reports of similar complexes with Co^{II} ,¹² Fe^{III} ,¹³ and the uranyl ion.¹⁴

No crystallographic evidence as to the mode of co-ordination of the Schiff bases is available but it is likely⁹⁻¹¹ that the un-ionised phenolic groups are not co-ordinated. However, one sixth of the un-ionised phenolic groups in aquatris(salicylato)samarium(III) are co-ordinated¹⁵ through the oxygen atom, but a dimeric *NN*-diethylsalicylaldimine complex of Ni^{II}

containing half-ionised catechol¹⁶ and the 4-nitrophenol adduct¹⁷ of $[Cu(salen)]$ both show non-co-ordination of the un-ionised phenolic groups of catechol and 4-nitrophenol, respectively.

The present work describes a systematic investigation of the complexes formed by the hydrated lanthanoid(III) chlorides and bromides with the potentially quadridentate ligands, *NN'*-ethylenebis(salicylideneimine) (H_2salen), *NN'*-propylenebis(salicylideneimine) (H_2salpn), *NN'*-propane-1,3-diylbis(salicylideneimine) (H_2salpd), and *NN'*-hexane-1,6-diylbis(salicylideneimine) ($H_2salthxn$) in their un-ionised forms. This was prompted partly by a report¹⁸ that the rapid addition of a Schiff-base solution to a solution of a lanthanoid(III) nitrate in ethanol gave a yellow precipitate which dissolved only with difficulty and could prevent the formation of products containing an ionised Schiff base.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Stoichiometry of the Complexes.—Since 43 complexes were prepared by a single method, namely by mixing of the components in ethanol, it was necessary to demonstrate that the four analytical stoichiometries (Table 1), $Ln(H_2L)Cl_3 \cdot nH_2O$, $Ln_2(H_2L)_3Cl_6 \cdot nH_2O$, $Ln(H_2L)_2X_3 \cdot nH_2O$, and $Ln(H_2L)_3X_3 \cdot nH_2O$, each represented a single complex and not merely mixtures of a smaller number of stoichiometric types or simple mixtures of the lanthanoid(III) halide and ligand. This was done by *X*-ray powder-diffraction measurements. Typical results † demonstrated that a well ground mixture of a ligand and a salt gave an *X*-ray powder photograph which is a composite of the component parts, whereas the three

† *X*-Ray, i.r., and magnetic (90—295 K) data are listed in Supplementary Publication No. SUP 22145 (6 pp.). For details see Notices to Authors No.7, *J.C.S. Dalton*, 1977, Index issue.

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¹⁵ J. H. Burns and W. H. Baldwin, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1977, **16**, 289.

¹⁶ L. Sacconi, P. L. Orioli, and M. Di Vaira, *Chem. Comm.*, 1967, 849.

¹⁷ E. N. Baker, D. Hall, and T. N. Waters, *J. Chem. Soc. (A)*, 1970, 400.

¹⁸ N. K. Dutt and K. Nag, *J. Inorg. Nuclear Chem.*, 1968, **30**, 2493.

lanthanum(III) complexes with H₂salhxn gave photographs quite unlike those of the components or their mixture. Similarly, the photograph of La(H₂salpd)-Cl₃·H₂O contained none of the lines found for H₂salpd.

ethanol but no details as to its use were given. There was probably more water present in our solutions.

Infrared Spectra.—(a) 2 500—4 000 cm⁻¹. The ligand spectra showed evidence of strong intramolecular

TABLE 1
Analytical data (%)

Complex	Found					Calc.				
	M	C	H	N	Halide	M	C	H	N	Halide
La(H ₂ salen) ₂ Cl ₃	17.8	49.2	4.2	7.2	13.4	17.8	49.2	4.1	7.2	13.6
La(H ₂ salen)Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	26.0	37.0	3.6	5.3	19.7	26.1	36.1	3.4	5.3	20.0
La(H ₂ salpn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	16.3	48.2	4.4	6.8	12.4	16.4	48.3	4.8	6.6	12.6
La(H ₂ salpd) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	16.5	48.2	4.6	6.5	12.6	16.4	48.3	4.8	6.6	12.6
La(H ₂ salpd)Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	24.6	36.1	3.6	4.8	18.8	24.8	36.1	3.9	4.9	18.8
La ₂ (H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₆	19.3	50.1	5.2	5.9	14.4	19.0	49.2	5.0	5.7	14.5
La(H ₂ salhxn) ₂ Cl ₃	15.4	53.8	5.6	6.1	11.8	15.5	53.7	5.4	6.3	11.9
La(H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	11.1	58.5	6.1	6.7	8.5	11.2	58.3	6.0	6.8	8.6
Ce(H ₂ salen) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	16.9	46.3	4.2	6.8	13.1	17.1	46.9	4.4	6.8	13.0
Ce(H ₂ salpd)Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	24.6	36.1	3.6	4.8	18.8	24.8	36.1	3.9	4.9	18.8
Ce(H ₂ salhxn) ₂ Cl ₃	15.8	53.8	5.5	6.2	11.8	15.7	53.7	5.4	6.3	11.9
Ce(H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₃	11.3	59.0	5.7	6.8	8.6	11.5	59.1	5.9	6.9	8.7
Pr(H ₂ salen) ₂ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	17.4	48.1	4.5	6.7	13.0	17.6	48.0	4.3	7.0	13.3
Pr(H ₂ salpn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	16.9	49.6	4.4	6.8	12.7	17.0	49.2	4.6	6.8	12.8
Pr(H ₂ salpd) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	16.5	48.1	4.7	6.4	12.4	16.6	48.2	4.8	6.6	12.5
Pr ₂ (H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₆	19.1	49.2	4.9	5.7	14.3	19.2	49.1	4.9	5.7	14.5
Pr(H ₂ salhxn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	14.8	51.3	5.2	6.0	11.2	15.1	51.5	5.6	6.0	11.4
Pr(H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₃	11.4	58.9	5.9	6.9	8.6	11.5	59.0	5.9	6.9	8.7
Nd(H ₂ salen) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	17.4	45.4	4.2	6.7	12.8	17.5	46.7	4.4	6.8	12.9
Nd(H ₂ salpn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	17.1	49.1	4.4	6.8	12.7	17.4	49.2	4.6	6.8	12.8
Nd(H ₂ salpd) ₂ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	17.2	48.4	4.4	6.6	12.6	17.4	49.2	4.6	6.8	12.8
Nd ₂ (H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₆ ·H ₂ O	19.2	47.6	5.2	5.4	13.9	19.1	47.7	5.1	5.6	14.1
Nd(H ₂ salen) ₂ Br ₃ ·2H ₂ O	14.9	40.7	3.6	5.5	24.8	15.1	40.2	3.8	5.9	25.1
Nd(H ₂ salpd) ₂ Br ₃ ·2H ₂ O	14.6	41.2	3.9	5.6	24.2	14.7	41.5	4.1	5.7	24.3
Nd(H ₂ salhxn) ₂ Br ₃ ·H ₂ O	13.6	45.3	4.7	5.3	22.5	13.7	45.7	4.8	5.3	22.8
Nd(H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Br ₃	10.7	53.1	5.3	5.9	17.5	10.6	53.1	5.3	6.2	17.7
Nd(H ₂ salhxn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	15.3	51.5	5.2	6.0	11.2	15.4	51.4	5.6	6.0	11.4
Nd(H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	11.9	57.7	5.8	6.6	8.4	12.0	57.7	6.0	6.7	8.5
Sm(H ₂ salen) ₂ Cl ₃	18.8	48.4	4.1	7.1	13.3	19.0	48.4	4.1	7.1	13.4
Sm ₂ (H ₂ salpn) ₃ Cl ₆	21.9	45.2	4.1	6.2	15.5	22.1	45.0	4.0	6.2	15.6
Sm(H ₂ salpn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	17.7	46.7	4.2	6.2	12.3	17.5	47.6	4.7	6.5	12.4
Sm(H ₂ salpd) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	17.4	47.0	4.4	6.4	12.3	17.5	47.6	4.7	6.5	12.4
Sm(H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	11.9	57.7	5.8	6.6	8.4	12.0	57.7	6.0	6.7	8.5
Gd ₂ (H ₂ salen) ₃ Cl ₆	23.2	43.9	3.7	6.5	15.9	23.6	43.3	3.6	6.3	16.0
Gd(H ₂ salpn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	17.9	46.7	4.2	6.1	12.2	18.2	47.2	4.7	6.5	12.3
Gd(H ₂ salpd) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	18.0	46.5	4.4	6.3	12.2	18.2	47.2	4.7	6.5	12.3
Gd(H ₂ salhxn) ₃ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	12.4	57.6	5.9	6.5	8.3	12.5	57.4	5.9	6.7	8.5
Ho ₂ (H ₂ salen) ₃ Cl ₆	24.0	43.0	3.4	6.0	15.6	24.5	42.8	3.6	6.2	15.8
Ho(H ₂ salpn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	19.1	48.2	4.4	6.4	12.2	19.3	47.8	4.5	6.6	12.5
Ho(H ₂ salpd) ₂ Cl ₃ ·H ₂ O	19.2	48.2	4.6	6.1	12.3	19.3	47.8	4.5	6.6	12.5
Yb ₂ (H ₂ salen) ₃ Cl ₆ ·H ₂ O	24.5	41.3	3.8	6.0	15.0	24.7	41.2	3.4	6.0	15.2
Yb(H ₂ salpn) ₂ Cl ₃ ·2H ₂ O	19.5	46.7	4.2	6.1	12.0	19.7	46.4	4.6	6.4	12.1
Yb(H ₂ salhxn) ₂ Cl ₃	18.7	51.9	5.2	5.9	11.4	18.6	51.8	5.2	6.0	11.5

Certain types of complex could not be prepared for some metal salts and ligands; the range is illustrated in Table 2. Contrary to an earlier report,² H₂salpd, gave

TABLE 2
Stoichiometries of the complexes

Ligand : metal ratio	Halide	Metal							
		La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Sm	Gd	Ho	Yb
1 : 1 ^a	Cl	S ^b	S						
3 : 2	Cl	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
2 : 1	Cl, Br	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
3 : 1 ^c	Cl, Br	S	S	S	S	S			

^a H₂L = H₂salen (La) or H₂salpd (La or Ce); these ligands did not give 3 : 2 complexes with La or Ce. ^b S = Synthesised.

^c H₂L = H₂salhxn only.

1 : 1 and 2 : 1 rather than 3 : 2 and 2 : 1 stoichiometries. Mol ratios (Ln : L) of 1 : 2.5 were used² in the previous study, together with a material described as anhydrous

hydrogen bonding¹⁹ with the O-H stretching vibration appearing as a broad absorption centred at *ca.* 2 700 cm⁻¹. In the cases of the 1 : 1 and 2 : 1 complexes with chloride, absorption due to water was not sufficiently strong to mask a sharp, non-hydrogen-bonded, O-H stretching frequency¹⁹ between 3 500 and 3 600 cm⁻¹, which indicates that the metal ion has opened the intramolecular hydrogen-bonded system and that the phenolic group is un-ionised in these cases. The broad ligand band centred at *ca.* 2 700 cm⁻¹ was not observed for the complexes. Absorption due to water was observed as a broad band at *ca.* 3 400 cm⁻¹ and in many cases this masked the phenolic O-H stretching frequency. The remaining bands were assigned to aromatic and aliphatic C-H stretching vibrations.

¹⁹ L. J. Bellamy, 'Advances in Infrared Group Frequencies,' Methuen, London, 1968.

(b) 650—2 500 cm^{-1} . The main features of this region relevant to the present discussion were (i) a sharp absorption at *ca.* 1 650 cm^{-1} assignable¹⁹ to a stretching vibration mainly involving the C=N group and (ii) a sharp absorption at *ca.* 1 280 cm^{-1} assignable¹⁹ to a 'C-O stretching' vibration. The C=N stretching vibration in the spectra of the complexes was invariably at a higher frequency than in the ligand spectra ($\Delta\nu$ 7—37 cm^{-1}), whilst the C-O absorption was unchanged or slightly increased in frequency in the spectra of the complexes ($\Delta\nu$ 0—10 cm^{-1}). Such results are said⁹⁻¹¹ to indicate co-ordination through the azomethine nitrogen atoms only. There is no confirmatory crystallographic evidence for the C-O vibrations. However, all the four nitrogen atoms of the organic ligand are co-ordinated²⁰ in ten-co-ordinate [NN'-ethylenebis(pyridine-2-aldimine)]trinitratogadolinium(III) and here the frequency of the C=N(azomethine) vibration increases on complex formation.

For complexes of the ionised form of H_2salen , the C=N vibration decreases⁷ in frequency compared to that of the free ligand {except²¹ for [Cu(salen)] and [Zn(salen)]} and the C-O vibration decreases considerably ($\Delta\nu$ -25 to -80 cm^{-1}) for the complexes. Here crystallographic evidence shows that co-ordination takes place through both phenolic oxygen and azomethine nitrogen atoms.

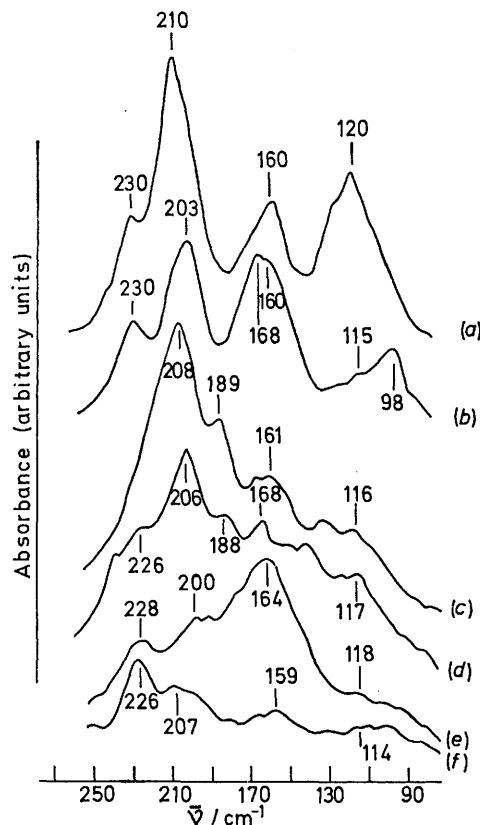
The reasons for the spectral changes are poorly understood in the case of the un-ionised bases and crystallographic studies are needed (but see Experimental section).

(c) *Far-i.r.* Few reliable studies of the vibrational spectroscopy of lanthanoid halide compounds have been made at <400 cm^{-1} . Metal-halide stretching vibrations (cm^{-1}) have been assigned as follows: for anhydrous halides, La-Cl,^{22,23} 210 and 165; Nd-Cl,²³ 207; Sm-Cl,²³ 210; Eu-Cl,²³ 210; Er-Cl,²³ 220; Yb-Cl,²³ 225; Pr-Br,²⁴ 144, 120, and 96; Nd-Br,²⁴ 166, 148, 140, and 96; Tm-Br,²⁴ 157, 135, and 74 cm^{-1} ; for $\text{ErBr}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 132, 114, and 98; for complexes with organic ligands,²⁵ Dy-Cl, 240; Lu-Cl, 244.

Co-ordinated chloride and bromide might be distinguished by the absence of strong absorption at *ca.* 200 cm^{-1} in the spectra of the bromides. This result was found (Figure) on comparing $\text{Nd}_2(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_3\text{Cl}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_2\text{Cl}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_2\text{Br}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. It is not conclusive since weak ligand absorption could have been intensified on complex formation. However, a similar result was found for $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salpd})_2\text{Br}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ for which by far the strongest feature was at 172 cm^{-1} (with weaker absorption at 234 and 214 cm^{-1}), whilst the corresponding lanthanum(III) chloride absorbed very strongly at 226 and 159 cm^{-1} (H_2salpd : 220w, 190vw, 178w, and 160w cm^{-1}). We conclude that these com-

plexes contain co-ordinated chloride (3 : 2 and 2 : 1) and bromide (2 : 1).

The situation with the 3 : 1 complexes is even less clear (Figure). There is a general similarity between the spectra which might suggest unco-ordinated halide. However, the relative intensities of the bands at *ca.* 210 and 165 cm^{-1} change such that the chloride absorption at 210 cm^{-1} is by far the strongest feature, whereas



Far-i.r. spectra: (a) $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_3\text{Cl}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; (b) $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_3\text{Br}_3$; (c) $\text{Nd}_2(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_3\text{Cl}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; (d) $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_2\text{Cl}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$; (e) $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_2\text{Br}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; and (f) H_2salhxn

the absorption centred at 167 cm^{-1} is apparently stronger and broader in the bromide than that at 165 cm^{-1} in the chloride spectrum. There are more marked differences at low frequency. Clearly, ligand absorption could interfere with these assignments, but for H_2salhxn the strongest ligand band (226 cm^{-1}) had only medium intensity in the complexes except for $\text{Nd}_2(\text{H}_2\text{salhxn})_3\text{Cl}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ where it did not appear at all. On balance, perhaps, halide is co-ordinated in the 3 : 1 complexes also.

Durham and Hart²⁵ found no significant absorption assignable to $\text{Lu}^{\text{III}}\text{-N}$ vibrations; we found the same result.

²⁰ Mazhar-ul-Haque, F. A. Hart, and C. N. Caughlan, *Chem. Comm.*, 1970, 1240.

²¹ C. S. Marvel, S. A. Aspey, and E. A. Dudley, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1956, **78**, 4905.

²² J. Murphy, H. H. Caspers, and R. A. Buchanan, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1964, **40**, 743.

²³ M. D. Taylor, T. T. Cheung, and M. A. Hussein, *J. Inorg. Nuclear Chem.*, 1972, **34**, 3073.

²⁴ D. Brown, S. Fletcher, and D. G. Holah, *J. Chem. Soc. (A)*, 1968, 1889.

²⁵ D. A. Durham and F. A. Hart, *J. Inorg. Nuclear Chem.*, 1969, **31**, 145.

Electronic Spectra (5 000—50 000 cm^{-1}).—These were recorded by diffuse reflectance at room and near liquid-nitrogen temperatures. The charge-transfer and f - f transitions were in keeping with the previously well characterised energy-level diagrams²⁶ for the metal ions concerned. For Nd^{III} , however, hypersensitive transitions can be used in some circumstances as a guide to co-ordination number; Karraker²⁷⁻²⁹ has shown that four transitions are sensitive to environment but one, $^4I_{3/2} \rightarrow ^4G_{3/2}, ^2G_7$ (at *ca.* 17 000 cm^{-1}), is particularly so.

The salt $\text{Nd}[\text{BrO}_3]_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is nine-co-ordinate to water molecules³⁰ and $\text{NdCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ contains³¹ the eight-co-ordinate cation $[\text{NdCl}_2(\text{OH}_2)_6]^+$. The spectra²⁹ of these two compounds are different in the region mentioned above and very much different from those of $\text{Nd}(\text{bipy})_2 \cdot (\text{NO}_3)_3$ (bipy = 2,2'-bipyridyl) and $\text{Nd}_2\text{Mg}_3(\text{NO}_3)_{12} \cdot 24\text{H}_2\text{O}$ which probably contain ten- and twelve-co-ordinate Nd^{III} , respectively, by analogy with the crystal structures of the corresponding compounds^{32,33} of La^{III} , Tb^{III} , and Ce^{III} . By comparing the spectra of these four compounds with those of our neodymium(III) complexes, we concluded that all the latter are either eight- or nine-co-ordinate. It would be unwise to be more specific than this because the chromophores of our complexes are different from those used as standards. This was illustrated in part by $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salpd})_2\text{Br}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, the spectrum of which resembled²⁸ that of $\text{Nd}(\text{O}_2\text{-CMe})_3 \cdot 1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ more closely than those of the compounds mentioned above. However, this was also eight- or nine-co-ordinate.

It is often the case [see,¹⁵ for example, aquatris(salicylato)samarium(III)] that lanthanoid(III) complexes containing a small number of water molecules (say one or two) have all this water co-ordinated. If this is the case then the results from the i.r. and electronic spectra show some consistency. For $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{L})_2\text{X}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($n = 1$ or 2), eight- or nine-co-ordination is possible in a monomeric species using four nitrogen, three halogen, and one or two oxygen (H_2O) atoms as donors, whilst the 3 : 1 complexes would be nine- (or, possibly, ten-) co-ordinate if halide is acting as a ligand. For the 3 : 2 stoichiometry sufficient donor atoms are available to form dimers or larger polymeric species to give eight- or nine-co-ordination with no need to use the phenolic oxygen atoms if we assume chloride to be co-ordinated.

Holmium(III) compounds also have a hypersensitive transition²⁹ but this occurs in a region where overtone or combination bands from the i.r. appeared for our complexes. This was deduced from the spectra of the complexes of La^{III} , Ce^{III} , and Gd^{III} and from those of the ligands alone.

Paramagnetic Susceptibilities.—These were in keeping with literature observations and with theoretical values. There was no evidence that the complexes could be classified by stoichiometry by this method.

EXPERIMENTAL

Of the lanthanoid(III) halide-Schiff-base complexes reported here only $\text{Nd}(\text{H}_2\text{salpd})_2\text{Cl}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ has been previously described.² Analytical results are in Table 1. Most of the complexes were prepared by the addition of the stoichiometric amount of the hydrated lanthanoid(III) halide in absolute ethanol (containing *ca.* 1% water) to a hot solution of the ligand in absolute ethanol. A yellow precipitate formed almost immediately. This was filtered off, washed with cold ethanol several times, and dried (CaCl_2). None of the compounds could be recrystallised. They dissolved in dimethylformamide and dimethyl sulphoxide to give conducting solutions which precipitated the ligands on standing. Halide could be determined gravimetrically in the filtrate. Both solvents are good ligands for lanthanoid(III) ions. The complexes are stable in moist air.

Ligand : metal ion ratios of 1 : 1 were used in the preparation of the complexes $\text{Ln}_2(\text{H}_2\text{L})_3\text{Cl}_6 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$; ligands forming this type of complex could not be used to prepare $\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2\text{L})\text{Cl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ which were synthesised with solvents at room temperature. Only H_2salhxn gave $\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2\text{L})_3\text{Cl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Many unsuccessful attempts were made to prepare the complexes $\text{Ln}(\text{H}_2\text{L})\text{Br}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Ln}_2(\text{H}_2\text{L})_3\text{Br}_6 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$; Ho and Yb would not give 3 : 1 complexes with bromide or chloride.

The ligands were prepared by routine methods and the hydrated lanthanoid(III) halides were prepared from the oxides (99.9%).

Standard analytical methods were used. Spectroscopic and magnetic properties and the X-ray powder photographs were observed routinely. For some complexes, water was determined using an automatic Stanton-Redcroft TG-750 thermorecording balance. Close agreement (*ca.* 5%) was found between calculated and experimental values.

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