Synthesis and Photoluminescence of Eu(III) and Tb(III) Complex Compounds Containing Anions of 4-CF₃C₆F₄COOH and 4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COOH Acids

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Abstract—Hydrates of Eu(III) and Tb(III) salts with anions (L) 4-CF₃C₆F₄COO⁻ and 4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO⁻, and also mixed-ligand complexes Ln(phen)(L)₃ were obtained. The compounds show red and green photoluminescence characteristic of Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺ ions, respectively, in the visible region of spectrum. The intensity of the photoluminescence of the complexes containing 1,10-phenanthroline is much higher than that of compounds containing water. It is connected with sensitizing properties of phen in relation to Eu³⁺ and Tb³⁺ ions.

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Complexes of lanthanides (Ln) with organic ligands possessing photo- and electroluminescent properties are among intensively studied types of coordination compounds [1–5]. It is caused by the prospects of their use in molecular photonics and electronics engineering. Complex salts with anions of aliphatic perfluoroacids are among luminescent compounds [6–10]. There is only limited information on Ln luminescent complexes with fluorinated aromatic monocarboxylic acids, including pentafluorobenzoic acid C₆F₅COOH (L¹H), and mixed-ligand complexes on their basis. The compounds Eu(L¹)₃· H_2O , $Eu(4-CF_3C_6F_4COO)_3\cdot 2H_2O$ [10] possessing photoluminescence, and also $Gd(L^1)_3 \cdot 2H_2O$, $Tb(L^1)_3 \cdot$ $2H_2O$, and $Dy(L^1)_3 \cdot 2H_2O$ were synthesized [11]. A salt of Tb(III) with the anion 2-FC₆H₄COO⁻, and also its complexes with 1,10-phenanthroline (phen) and 2,2'bipyridyl, exhibiting luminescence [12] were obtained. Compounds $Ln(phen)(L^1)_3$ were synthesized (Ln = Tb, Eu) and the photoluminescence of these mixed-ligand complexes and of hydrates of the salts Eu(L¹)₃·2H₂O and Tb(L¹)₃·2H₂O obtained earlier was investigated [13]. It has turned out that complexes $Ln(phen)(L^1)_3$ possess a bright photoluminescence, and the replacement of phen by water reduces its intensity.

These data show the promise in the synthesis of Ln compounds with pentafluorobenzoic acid derivatives and of studying their luminescent properties.

We have synthesized Eu(III) and Tb(III) salts with anions of perfluoro-4-methylbenzoic 4-CF₃C₆F₄COOH (L²H) and perfluoro-4-isopropylbenzoic 4-(CF₃)₂CF C₆F₄COOH (L³H) acids and mixed-ligand complexes of these metals containing the above-stated anions and molecules of phen and also have studied their photoluminescence. For comparison we have investigated in addition the photolumi-nescence of analogous complexes of these elements with L¹H and phen synthesized earlier.

Freshly-prepared Ln hydroxides and nonaqueous media were used for obtaining the compounds. Elemental analysis of the synthesized products covered not only C, H, N, but also F (see the table). Salts of Eu(III) and Tb(III) with anions of L²H and L³H acids **VII–X** were isolated in the form of crystal hydrates containing one or two (complex **VIII**) water molecules. The compound of Eu(III) with L²H was obtained earlier in the form of dihydrate [10], however we dried salt **VII** in a vacuum. Salts of Eu(III) and

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Elemental analysi	s of com	pounds	III–X
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Comp.	Found, %			F 1.	Calculated, %				
	С	Н	N	F	Formula	С	Н	N	F
Ш	39.0	0.9	2.7	35.8	C ₃₆ H ₈ N ₂ F ₂₁ O ₆ Eu	38.8	0.7	2.5	35.8
IV	38.3	0.75	2.45	35.1	$C_{36}H_{8}N_{2}F_{21}O_{6}Tb$	38.5	0.7	2.4	35.5
\mathbf{V}	35.9	0.5	2.2	43.8	$C_{42}H_8N_2F_{33}O_6Eu$	35.6	0.6	2.0	44.3
VI	36.6	1.0	2.5	43.8	$C_{42}H_8N_2F_{33}O_6Tb$	35.5	0.6	2.0	44.1
VII	31.1	0.15		41.3	$C_{24}H_2F_{21}O_7Eu$	30.2	0.2		41.8
VIII	30.4	0.6		40.9	$C_{24}H_4F_{21}O_8Tb$	29.5	0.4		40.8
IX	30.2	0.4		49.5	$C_{30}H_2F_{33}O_7Eu$	28.8	0.15		50.0
X	28.9	0.5		50.0	$C_{30}H_2F_{33}O_7Tb$	28.6	0.15		49.8

Tb(III) with the C₆F₅COO⁻ anions synthesized earlier also contained one and two water molecules, respectively [10, 11]. Mixed-ligand complexes III-VI, as well as complexes Ln(phen)(L¹)₃ [13], contain one phen molecule. We were not able to grow single crystals of compounds III-X suitable for X-ray structural analysis. Published data show that structures of Ln compounds with fluorobenzoic acids are diverse. For example, Pr(2,6-F₂C₆H₃COO)₃·H₂O is a coordination polymer compound [14]. According to Xray structural analysis, the $[Tb_2(H_2O)_8(L^1)_6]$ [13] and [Nd₂(H₂O)₈(L¹)₆]·2H₂O compounds [15] have binuclear structures, Ln³⁺ coordinating C₆F₆COO⁻ anions and water molecules. According to X-ray data, the [Tb(2- $FC_6H_4COO)_3(2-FC_6H_4COOH)(H_2O)]_2$ compound is a dimer, where 2-FC₆H₄COO⁻ ions and 2-FC₆H₄COOH and water molecules are coordinated [12]. Coordination of these ligands in the binuclear Tb(III) compound containing 2-FC₆H₄COO⁻ ions and phen molecules was determined by X-ray structural analysis [12].

The IR spectra of L²H and L³H acids contain wide intensive bands with maxima at 2957 and 2925 cm⁻¹, respectively, which can be assigned to the stretching vibration of OH groups participating in the H-bond between molecules of the acids. Intensive bands at 1734 and 1750 cm⁻¹ correspond to v(C=O) of carboxy groups. In the IR spectra of compounds VII–X containing water molecules, there is a group of bands in the region of 3675–3340 cm⁻¹ belonging to v(OH). In the region of 1618–1575 cm⁻¹ intensive bands corresponding to v_{as} of coordinated COO⁻ groups are observed. They are split in the case of compounds VII, VIII, X.

Absorption bands in the region of 3700–3150 cm⁻¹ are absent from the IR spectra of complexes **III–VI**. It

points to the absence of water molecules from the composition of the complexes, which agrees with the elemental analysis data. The v_{as} bands of coordinated COO⁻ are observed in the region of 1710–1716 cm⁻¹ of the spectra, these bands being displaced in the high-frequency region with respect to similar bands in the spectra of hydrates **VII**–**X**. In the region of 1620–1640 cm⁻¹ there is an intensive v(C=N) band of the phen molecule. This band is displaced in the low-frequency range with respect to the v(C=N) band in the spectrum of phen·H₂O (v 1643 cm⁻¹), which points to the coordination of the phen molecule.

The position of v_s bands of COO⁻ groups in the spectra of compounds **III**–**X** is difficult to determine, as in the region of 1410–1490 cm⁻¹ there are intensive v(C=C) bands, which only slightly differ in frequencies from the v(C=C) bands in the spectra of the acids L^2H (1487, 1423 cm⁻¹) and L^3H (1491, 1411 cm⁻¹), and also of phen· H_2O (1500 and 1419 cm⁻¹). In the case of mixed-ligand complexes **III**–**VI** the situation becomes complicated owing to the presence of the v(C=N) band. By analogy with the data [12, 13–15] we can assume that compounds **III**–**X** are binuclear or polynuclear. For example, the compound $Eu(L^2)_3$ · $2H_2O$ in acetone solution is a binuclear complex [10].

The excitation of luminescence of the acid L^1H with λ_{max} 280 nm is observed in the region of 235–315 nm (Fig. 1). Bands in the photoluminescence excitation of the acids L^2H and L^3H are slightly displaced in the longwave range (235–345 nm). For this reason we have chosen exciting light with λ 290, 310, and 313 nm for recording photoluminescence spectra of the acids L^1H , L^3H , and L^2H , respectively. These acids possess a sufficiently bright photoluminescence in the UV spectral range at 300 K. Bands in

the spectrum of L¹H acid with λ_{max} 336 nm are observed in the region of 300–420 nm (half-width of the bands 55 nm). Bands in the spectra of the L²H and L³H acids are in the region of 310–420 nm and are slightly displaced in the long-wave range with respect to the L¹H spectrum (λ_{max} 342 and 343 nm, respectively, the half-width of the bands ≈40 nm) (Fig. 1). Photoluminescence intensity (*I*) decreases in the series L¹H > L³H > L²H. The red shift of bands in the spectra of the L²H and L³H acids with respect to L¹H, and also a decrease in the photoluminescence intensity seem to be connected with the presence of perfluoroalkyl groups in molecules of these acids.

Luminescence excitations of mixed-ligand complexes **I–VI** are equal for the compounds containing a molecule of phen and anions of acids, they appear in a wider (compared to the acids) ranges of 230–360 nm (Figs. 2 and 3). For the bands in the excitation spectra of Eu(III) complexes λ_{max} is 290–300 nm (Fig. 2). Maxima of bands in the excitation spectra of Tb(III) complexes are at 305 nm (**II, IV**) and 285 nm (**VI**) (Fig. 3). A red shift and broadening of bands as compared to the acids are observed in the

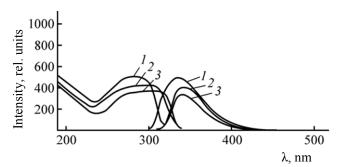


Fig. 1. Luminescence and photoluminescence excitation spectra of: (*I*) C_6F_5COOH , (*2*) 4-(CF_3) $_2CFC_6F_4COOH$, (*3*) 4- CF_3 C $_6F_4COOH$. V = 500 V, slit 5 nm, $\lambda_{exc} = 290$ (L 1 H), 310 (L 3 H), 313 nm (L 2 H).

region of excitation of mixed-ligand complexes **I–VI**, therefore we have chosen the wavelength of excitation light of 330 nm for recording photoluminescence spectra of these complexes.

Mixed-ligand complexes of Eu³⁺ (**I, III, V**) at 300 K possess a bright photoluminescence characteristic of this ion [16]. The bands with λ_{max} 592, 614, and 700 nm corresponding to the transitions ${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_1$, $\rightarrow {}^7F_2$, $\rightarrow {}^7F_4$ in the Eu³⁺ ion are highly intensive. Spectral bands

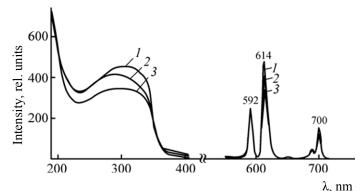


Fig. 2. Luminescence and photoluminescence excitation spectra of: (1) Eu(phen)(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃, (2) Eu(phen)(C₆F₅COO)₃, (3) Eu(phen)[4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO]₃. V = 600 V, slit 5 nm, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 330 \text{ nm}$.

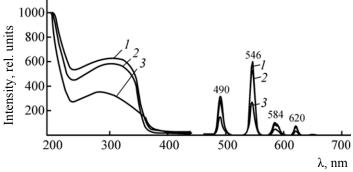


Fig. 3. Luminescence and photoluminescence excitation spectra of: (1) Tb(phen)C₆F₅COO)₃, (2) Tb(phen)(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃, (3) Tb(phen)[4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO]₃. V = 550 V, slit 5 nm, $\lambda_{exc} = 330$ nm.

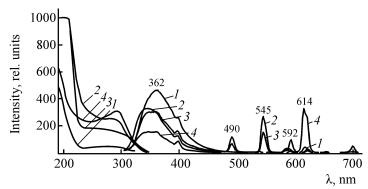


Fig. 4. Luminescence and photoluminescence excitation spectra of: (1) Eu[4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO]₃·H₂O, (2) Tb(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃· 2H₂O, (3) Tb[4-(CF₃)CFC₆F₄COO]₃·H₂O, (4) Eu(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃· 2H₂O. V = 600 V, slit 5 nm, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 290 \text{ nm}$.

with λ_{max} 580 (${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_0$ transition) and 650 nm (${}^5D_0 \rightarrow {}^7F_3$) are weak (Fig. 2). The "red" band, λ_{max} 614 nm, has the highest I value. The intensity of this band for complex **III** is approximately 2 and 3.3 times higher than I of the bands with λ_{max} at 592 nm and 700 nm, respectively. The intensity of photoluminescence of mixed-ligand complexes decreases in the series: **III** > **I** > **V**. The complex containing an anion of the L³H acid with the greatest number of F atoms has the least intensity.

Mixed-ligand Tb³⁺ complexes II, IV, VI at 300 K possess a bright photoluminescence characteristic of this ion [16]. Bands with λ_{max} 490, 546, 584, and 620 nm corresponding to the transitions ${}^5D_4 \rightarrow {}^7F_6$, $\rightarrow {}^7F_5$, \rightarrow ⁷ F_4 , \rightarrow ⁷ F_3 in the Tb³⁺ ion have the greatest intensity (Fig. 3). Band positions differ only slightly from that in the spectrum of the Tb(III) complex containing 2-FC₆H₄COO⁻ ions and phen molecules [12]. The "green" band with λ_{max} 546 nm is the most intensive. The intensities of bands with λ_{max} 490, 584, and 620 nm for complex II are 53, 16 and 13% of the "green" band intensity, respectively. Bands with λ_{max} 650 and 670 nm corresponding to the ${}^5D_4 \rightarrow {}^7F_2$, $\rightarrow {}^7F_1$ transitions are of low-intensity. The intensity of photoluminescence of Tb(III) complexes decreases in the series: II > IV >VI. Similarly to Eu(III) complexes, the photoluminescence intensity of complex VI containing the L³H acid anion is essentially less (Fig. 3).

The excitation of photoluminescence of hydrates **VII–X** is observed in the range of 230–340 nm, which is close to the range of excitation of the L^2H and L^3H acids (Fig. 4). Spectra of complexes **VII** and **IX** with the acid L^2H anion contain clearly expressed bands with λ_{max} 280 and 290 nm, respectively. To record the spectra, we have chosen the wave length of exciting light equal to 290 nm. The measurements have shown

that hydrates VII-X possess a photoluminescence, however its intensity is essentially lower than that of mixed-ligand complexes III-VI containing a phen molecule. It agrees with the data for complexes containing C₆F₅COO⁻ anions [13]. For example, the intensity of the "red" band in the photoluminescence spectrum of hydrate VII is 1.6 times lower than that of the analogous band of mixed-ligand complex III, and the intensity of the "green" band in the hydrate VIII spectrum is 5.5 times lower than the I value of the analogous band of mixed-ligand complex IV (Figs. 2, 3, and 4). In the UV regions of the spectra of the hydrates there are wide bands caused by the photoluminescence of organic ligands. Intensities of the bands of terbium compounds VIII, X being close to each. In the case of europium compounds the intensity of the band of ligands containing (CF₃)₂CF group in complex IX is much higher than the intensity of the analogous band in complex VII with ligands containing the CF₃ group. The following regularity is observed for these complexes: the higher is the intensity of photoluminescence of anion ligand, the weaker is the intensity of Eu³⁺ ion bands (Fig. 4). It suggests that the effectiveness of exciting light conversion in the Eu³⁺ ion in complexes VII, IX depends on the substituent nature. It is obvious that the effectiveness of the conversion increases on the substitution of CF₃ group for (CF₃)₂CF. It agrees with a higher intensity of the bands of the Eu³⁺ ion in complex VII as compared with the intensity of bands in the compound IX spectrum.

When a water molecule is replaced by a phen molecule (complexes III–VI), the bands caused by anions of acids are not observed, whereas the intensity of photoluminescence bands of lanthanide ions sharply increases (Figs. 2 and 3). It is known that phen is a

sensibilizer of europium(III) photoluminescence [4, 12, 17], which results in essential increase in the intensity of the Eu³⁺ ion photoluminescence. In fact, the intensity of the band with λ_{max} of 614 nm in the spectrum of mixed-ligand complex III is 1.6 times higher than I of the analogous band in the spectrum of hydrate VII. According to [4], phen also can be a sensitizer of photoluminescence of Tb3+ ions, as the triplet level of excited phen molecules is located a little higher than the resonance 5D_4 level of Tb³⁺ ions. It can result in an effective energy transfer from excited phen molecules to Tb³⁺ ions and to strengthening the photoluminescence of these latter. Our data on the photoluminescence of mixed-ligand terbium(III) complexes containing a phen molecule confirm the sensibilization possibility. Thus, the intensity of the band with λ_{max} 546 nm in the spectrum of mixed-ligand complex IV is 5.5 times higher than the intensity of the analogous band in the spectrum of hydrate VIII. The effect of phen on the photoluminescence intensity in mixedligand complex **IV** of the Tb³⁺ ion is 3.4 times stronger than the effect of phen in complex III of the Eu³⁺ ion.

EXPERIMENTAL

In the synthesis of complexes we used chemically pure grade TbCl₃·6H₂O, Eu(NO₃)₃·6H₂O, 2-propanol, 25% aqueous solution of NH₃, KOH, acetone, methanol, toluene, and hexane, and also analytical grade phen·H₂O. The acids C₆F₅COOH (L¹H) and 4-CF₃C₆F₄COOH (L²H) were synthesized by the procedure [18]. Analogously from 4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄CF₃ we obtained the acid 4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COOH (L³H), mp 115–116°C (sublimation in a vacuum at 110°C, 15 mm Hg); mp 110–111°C (petroleum ether) [19]. The compounds Eu(phen)(L¹)₃ (I) and Tb(phen)(L¹)₃ (II) were prepared by the procedures [13].

Elemental analysis for C, H, N, and F was carried out by procedures [10]. The IR spectra were recorded on a Scimitar FTS 2000 spectrometer in mineral and fluorinated oils. The excitation and photoluminescence spectra of solid-phase samples were taken on a Cary Eclipse Varian fluorescent spectrophotometer at 300 K under equal conditions for all samples.

Eu(phen)(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃ (III). A solution of 0.35 g (0.8 mmol) of Eu(NO₃)₃·6H₂O in 5 ml of water was added to a solution of 0.2 g (3.56 mmol) of KOH in 5 ml of water. Precipitated Eu(OH)₃ was filtered off on a glass filter, washed by hot water, then by water of room temperature to a neutral reaction of washings. The wet precipitate was introduced in a solution of

0.64 g (2.45 mmol) of L²H in 10 ml of 2-propanol. The mixture was stirred for 1 h and filtrated through a glass filter. A solution of 0.16 g (0.8 mmol) of 1,10-phenanthroline hydrate in 5 ml of 2-propanol was added to the filtrate with stirring. In a few minutes a colorless precipitate was formed. The mixture was stirred for 30 min, then the precipitate was filtered off on a glass filter, washed by 2-propanol, and dried first in air then in a vacuum. Yield 0.64 g (72%). IR spectrum, v, cm⁻¹: 2920, 1710, 1622, 1486, 1410, 1377, 1336, 1210, 1185, 1136, 993, 867, 841, 747, 726, 715, 459.

Tb(phen)(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃ (IV) was synthesized by an analogous procedure using TbCl₃·6H₂O. Yield of the colorless complex 0.43 g (48%). IR spectrum, ν , cm⁻¹: 2920, 1715, 1630, 1486, 1464, 1411, 1377, 1338, 1211, 1183, 1134, 994, 867, 841, 746, 729, 714, 460.

Eu(phen)[4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO]₃ (V) was synthesized analogously using L³H. Yield of the colorless complex 0.67 g (60%). IR spectrum, v, cm⁻¹: 2940, 1714, 1623, 1483, 1417, 1294, 1240, 1152, 1090, 999, 971, 841, 729, 554, 446.

Tb(phen)[4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO]₃ (VI) was synthesized analogously using TbCl₃·6H₂O and L³H. Small amount of Tb(OH)₃, which has not entered in the reaction with L³H was filtered off on a dense paper filter. Yield 0.3 g (26%). IR spectrum, v, cm⁻¹: 3104, 2920, 1716, 1641, 1475, 1464, 1377, 1293, 1242, 1178, 1150, 1088, 997, 970, 844, 722, 620, 552, 468.

Eu(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃·H₂O (VII). Concentrated aqueous ammonia solution, 6 ml, was added to a solution of 0.7 g (1.6 mmol) of Eu(NO₃)₃·6H₂O in 40 ml of water. The mixture was stirred for 1 h and left in air for a day. We treated the Eu(OH)₃ precipitate in the same way as in the synthesis of complex III. The wet precipitate was transferred in a beaker, 1.28 g (4.9 mmol) of L²H was added, and the mixture was stirred. Then an acetone-methanol (3:1) mixture, 40 ml, was added and stirred for 1 h. Small amount of the hydroxide, which has not entered in the reaction, was filtered off on a dense paper filter, and then the filtrate was evaporated to a minimal volume. The formed colorless precipitate was filtered off on a glass filter, washed by hexane, and dried first in air and then in a vacuum. Yield 1.18 g (77%). IR spectrum, v, cm⁻¹: 3660, 3590, 3382, 1612, 1589, 1486, 1411, 1377, 1337, 1209, 1151, 996, 869, 830, 773, 715, 554, 464.

Tb(4-CF₃C₆F₄COO)₃·H₂O (VIII). A solution of 0.31 g (0.8 mmol) of TbCl₃·6H₂O in 5 ml of water was added to a solution of 0.2 g (3.56 mmol) of KOH in

5 ml of water. We treated the Tb(OH)₃ precipitate in the same way as in the synthesis of complex **VII**, then the precipitate was transferred to a beaker with a solution of 0.64 g (2.45 mmol) of L²H in 10 ml of 2-propanol. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Then we proceeded in the same way as in the synthesis of complex **VII**. Yield 0.7 g (72%). IR spectrum, v, cm⁻¹: 3671, 3344, 1610, 1589, 1489, 1420, 1377, 1340, 1155, 996, 871, 827, 780,751, 716, 560, 462.

Eu[4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO]₃·H₂O (IX) was synthesized according to the procedure of the complex **VIII** synthesis, using 0.35 g (0.8 mmol) of Eu(NO₃)₃·6H₂O and 0.89 g (2.45 mmol) of L³H. Yield of colorless complex 0.66 g (66%). IR spectrum, v, cm⁻¹: 3660, 3534, 1614, 1483, 1412, 1377, 1296, 1238, 1152, 1091, 999, 972, 828, 730, 447.

Tb[4-(CF₃)₂CFC₆F₄COO]₃·H₂O (X) was synthesized analogously to complex **VIII**, using 0.89 g (2.45 mmol) of L³H. A colorless precipitate was washed out by 2-propanol. Yield 0.49 g (49%). IR spectrum, v, cm⁻¹: 3650, 3574, 1648, 1607, 1575, 1486, 1377, 1296, 1239, 1182, 1153, 1091, 1002, 973, 833, 817, 769, 733, 552, 449.

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