

# Identification of slow magnetic relaxation and magnetocoolant capabilities of heterobimetallic lanthanide-manganese metallacrown-like compounds



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## ABSTRACT

Two types of 3d-4f compounds are presented,  $[\text{Dy}_4^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_4^{\text{III}}(\text{OH})_2(\text{O}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_3)_3(\text{shi})_4(\text{H}_2\text{shi})_4(\text{Hsal})_3(\text{DMF})_4]3\text{DMF}$  (**Dy-1**) and  $[\text{Ln}_6^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_2^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_2^{\text{IV}}(\text{shi})_6(\text{Hshi})_4(\text{H}_2\text{shi})_2(\text{Hsal})_4(\text{DMF})_8]4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**Ln-2**) ( $\text{Ln} = \text{Dy}$  or  $\text{Gd}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{shi}$  = salicylhydroxamic acid,  $\text{H}_2\text{sal}$  = salicylic acid). While neither **Dy-1** and **Dy-2** demonstrated a significant barrier to magnetization relaxation, out-of-phase ac magnetic susceptibility was observed in both cases. **Gd-2** showed potential as a magnetocalorite with gravimetric entropy changes reaching a maximum of  $18.89 \text{ J kg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$  at 3 K and  $\Delta\text{H} = 7 \text{ T}$ . This value represents approximately 53% of the theoretical maximum.

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## 1. Introduction

Molecular magnetism has been a significant research focus for the past three decades with the advent of single-molecule magnets (SMM), coordination compounds with a well-isolated magnetic ground state leading to a thermodynamic barrier to magnetic relaxation. This barrier originates from unpaired spin in the complex and the magnetoanisotropy of the compound. The first reported compound to behave as a SMM was a mixed-valent  $\text{Mn}_3^{\text{III}}\text{-Mn}_4^{\text{IV}}$  compound, also known as  $\text{Mn}_{12}\text{OAc}$ , which was first synthesized by Lis in 1980 and later identified by Gatteschi, Christou, Hendrickson, and co-workers in 1993 as a SMM [1–3]. Since this initial finding, a wide array of molecules have been reported as SMMs including 3d, 3d-4f, 4f compounds [4–9], and coordination polymers [10,11]. These compounds have been suggested for use in quantum computing, high density data storage, and spintronic applications [12,13].

In addition to SMMs, molecular magnets have demonstrated promise as magnetocalorants via the magnetocaloric effect [14,15]. What is interesting to note is that the attractive qualities

for a magnetocalorant may be considered the inverse of attractive qualities for a good SMM. Compounds with degenerate magnetic ground states or easily accessible excited states and isotropic metal ions perform rather well as magnetocalorants [14]. These properties lead to the opportunity for large magnetic entropy changes ( $\Delta\text{SM}$ ) with and without an applied magnetic field, which powers a Carnot-type cycle. While metal oxides such as gadolinium-gallium-garnet have current industrial capabilities [16], compounds containing iron, manganese, cobalt, and/or gadolinium have been quickly gaining attention [17–23].

Coordination compounds have seen use in both fields of molecular magnetism and in particular metallacrowns (MC), a type of metallamacrocyclic, have showcased the capability for predictable molecular design offered by self-assembled supramolecular chemistry [8,9,24]. Metallacrowns are typically comprised of cyclic arrangements of transition metal ions and hydroxamic acid ligands that form a metal–N–O repeating unit analogous to the C–C–O repeat unit of crown ethers. MCs are known to encapsulate lanthanide ions, and in some cases also use ancillary ligands such as carboxylate anions to help capture the central  $\text{Ln}^{\text{III}}$  ions [25]. MCs featuring manganese, zinc, and iron have demonstrated that one may design a molecule with SMM behaviour [26–28], magnetocalorite potential [29], or tailored coordination environments to take advantage of lanthanide ion anisotropy [30,31]. In this work,

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we report two metallacrown-like compounds comprised of manganese, salicylhydroxamic acid ( $H_3shi$ ), salicylic acid ( $H_2sal$ ) and either dysprosium or gadolinium,  $Dy^{III}Mn^{III}(OH)_2(O_2C_2H_3)_3(shi)_4(-H_2shi)_4(Hsal)_3(DMF)_4$ ·3DMF (**Dy-1**) and  $[Ln^{III}Mn^{III}Mn^{IV}(shi)_6(-Hshi)_4(H_2shi)_2(Hsal)_4(DMF)_8]4H_2O$  (**Ln-2**) ( $Ln = Dy$  or  $Gd$ ). These molecules demonstrate how one may take advantage of predictable formation of MCs to tailor a molecule for either SMM or magneto-coolant properties

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Physical methods

Elemental analyses were performed on either a Carlo Erba 1108 or a PerkinElmer 2400 elemental analyzer by Atlantic Microlabs, Inc.

### 2.2. Magnetic analysis

Solid samples of **Dy-1**, **Dy-2**, and **Gd-2** were ground to a homogeneous powder and suspended in eicosane within a gel capsule. The capsule was loaded into a drinking straw as a sample holder. Diamagnetic corrections were applied for the eicosane, capsule, and straw and molar diamagnetic susceptibilities were calculated from Pascal's constants.

Magnetic property analyses of **Dy-1** were collected at the University of Michigan, Department of Chemistry on a DC QD MPMS SQUID magnetometer and at the Michigan State University, Department of Physics and Astronomy on a QP MPMS AC SQUID magnetometer. Variable temperature (VT) and variable field (VF) experiments were conducted at 2000 Oe applied field between 5 and 300 K and 5 K with a varying field from 0 to 55,000 Oe, respectively. AC SQUID experiments were measured with an AC drive field of 3.5 Oe, no applied DC field, temperatures ranging from 10 to 2 K, and at frequencies ranging from 0 to 1000 Hz.

DC Magnetic property analysis of **Dy-2** were collected on a QD MPMS SQUID magnetometer at the University of Michigan, Department of Chemistry while AC magnetic property analysis was performed on a QD MPMS XL SQUID magnetometer at Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 in Lyon, France. VT data were collected from 5 to 300 K with an applied field of 2000 Oe. VF data were collected from 0 to 55,000 Oe at a temperature of 5 K. AC susceptibility was measured from 2 to 8 K with an AC drive field of 3.5 Oe, no applied DC field, and at frequencies ranging from 10 to 1500 Hz.

Magnetic property analysis of **Gd-2** were collected on a DC QD MPMS SQUID magnetometer at the University of Michigan, Department of Chemistry. VT-VF data were collected between 2 and 20 K and 0–70,000 Oe applied field strength.

### 2.3. X-ray crystallography

A needle crystal of **Dy-1** (0.32x0.04x0.03 mm) was mounted on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD-based X-ray diffractometer equipped with a low temperature device and fine-focus Mo-target X-ray tube ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) operated at 1500 W power (50 kV, 30 mA). X-ray diffraction intensities were collected at 85(1) K with the detector placed 5.055 cm from the crystal. A total of 4095 frames were collected with a scan width of 0.5° increments of  $\omega$  and 0.45° increments in  $\phi$  with an exposure time of 60 s per frame. Integration of the data yielded a total of 93,898 reflections to a maximum  $2\theta$  value of 51.66°, of which 12,807 were unique and 8774 were greater than  $2\sigma(I)$ . The final cell constants were based on xyz centroids of 9983 reflections above  $10\sigma(I)$ . Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection; the data were processed with SADBS and corrected for absorption. The structure was

solved and refined using Bruker SHELXTL (v 6.12) software package [32].

A red plate crystal of **Gd-2** (0.08x0.05x0.01 mm) was diffracted at 150 K on a D8 goniostat equipped with a Bruker APEXII CCD detector at Beamline 11.3.1 at the Advanced Light Source (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) using synchrotron radiation tuned to  $\lambda = 0.7749 \text{ \AA}$ . A series of 2-s frames measured at 0.2° increments of  $\omega$  were collected to calculate a unit cell. For data collection frames were measured for a duration of 2 s for low angle data and 4 s for high angle data at 0.3° intervals of  $\omega$  with a maximum  $2\theta$  value of ~60°. The data frames were collected using the program APEX2 and processed using the program SAINT routine within APEX2. The data were corrected for absorption and beam corrections based on the multi-scan technique as implemented in SADABS. The structure was solved and refined using Bruker SHELXTL (v 2018/3) software [32].

## 3. Syntheses of compounds

### 3.1. Materials

Salicylhydroxamic acid ( $H_3shi$ , 99%) and dysprosium(III) nitrate pentahydrate (99.9%) were purchased from Alfa Aesar. Manganese (II) acetate tetrahydrate (99+%) was purchased from Acros Organics. Sodium salicylate (99.9%) was purchased from Fisher Scientific. *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF, Certified ACS grade) was purchased from BDH Chemicals. Dysprosium(III) chloride hexahydrate and gadolinium(III) chloride hexahydrate were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. All reagents were used as received and without further purification.

**[ $Dy^{III}Mn^{III}(OH)_2(O_2C_2H_3)_3(shi)_4(H_2shi)_4(Hsal)_3(DMF)_4$ ·3DMF (Dy-1):** Manganese(II) acetate tetrahydrate (4 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (12.5 mL) resulting in a dark orange solution.  $Dy(NO_3)_3 \cdot 5H_2O$  (0.5 mmol) and salicylhydroxamic acid ( $H_3shi$ ; 4 mmol) were dissolved in DMF (12.5 mL) resulting in a slightly pink solution. The manganese solution was added to the  $Dy/H_3shi$  solution resulting in a dark brown solution that was subsequently stirred overnight. The solution was then gravity filtered. A dark brown precipitate was recovered and discarded, and the dark brown filtrate was slowly evaporated for 3 months. Small, brown, needle-like crystals were collected for X-ray analysis while the remaining were filtered and washed with cold DMF. The percent yield was 11% based on dysprosium(III) nitrate pentahydrate. Elemental Analysis:  $Dy_4Mn_4C_{103}H_{103}N_{13}O_{47}$  [FW = 3144.76 g/mol]. found % (calculated): C = 39.65 (39.34); H = 3.58 (3.30); N = 5.35 (5.79). Unit Cell:  $a = 13.8909 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 17.0470 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 17.338 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = 61.0230^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 71.249^\circ$ ,  $\gamma = 89.926^\circ$ ,  $V = 3341.39 \text{ \AA}^3$ .

**[ $Dy_6^{III}Mn_2^{III}Mn^{IV}(shi)_6(Hshi)_2(Hsal)_4(DMF)_8$ ·4H<sub>2</sub>O (Dy-2):** In a beaker, manganese(II) acetate tetrahydrate (2 mmol) was dissolved in 12.5 mL DMF. In another beaker,  $DyCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$  (1 mmol),  $H_2sal$  (1 mmol), and  $H_3shi$  (2 mmol) were dissolved in 13 mL DMF. When the Mn solution was red, it was added to the  $DyCl_3$ ,  $H_2sal$ , and  $H_3shi$  solution and stirred overnight. The next day the solution was filtered, and the filtrate was allowed to evaporate slowly. Small red plates were isolated in approximately 3 weeks. The percent yield was 7.3% based on dysprosium(III) chloride hexahydrate. Elemental Analysis for  $Dy_6Mn_2C_{136}H_{140}N_{20}O_{60}$  [FW = 4209.46 g/mol] found % (calculated): C = 38.81 (38.81), H = 3.30 (3.35), N = 6.65 (6.66). Unit Cell:  $a = 16.889 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 17.552 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 17.991 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = 63.97^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 78.18^\circ$ ,  $\gamma = 70.51^\circ$ ,  $V = 4506.85 \text{ \AA}^3$ .

**[ $Gd_6^{III}Mn_2^{III}Mn^{IV}(shi)_6(Hshi)_2(Hsal)_4(DMF)_8$ ·(DMF)·2·3H<sub>2</sub>O (Gd-2):** Gd-2 was synthesized using the same procedure as **Dy-2**, except  $GdCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$  was used in place of  $DyCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ . The percent yield was 2.1% based on gadolinium(III) chloride hexahydrate. Elemental Analysis for  $Gd_6Mn_2C_{142}H_{152}N_{22}O_{61}$  [FW = 4306.12 g/mol]

found % (calculated): C = 39.63 (39.61), H = 3.46 (3.56), N = 7.12 (7.15). Unit Cell:  $a = 16.8643 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 17.3718 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 17.6074 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = 63.622^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 69.783^\circ$ ,  $\gamma = 73.783^\circ$ ,  $V = 4287.76 \text{ \AA}^3$ .

#### 4. Results and discussion

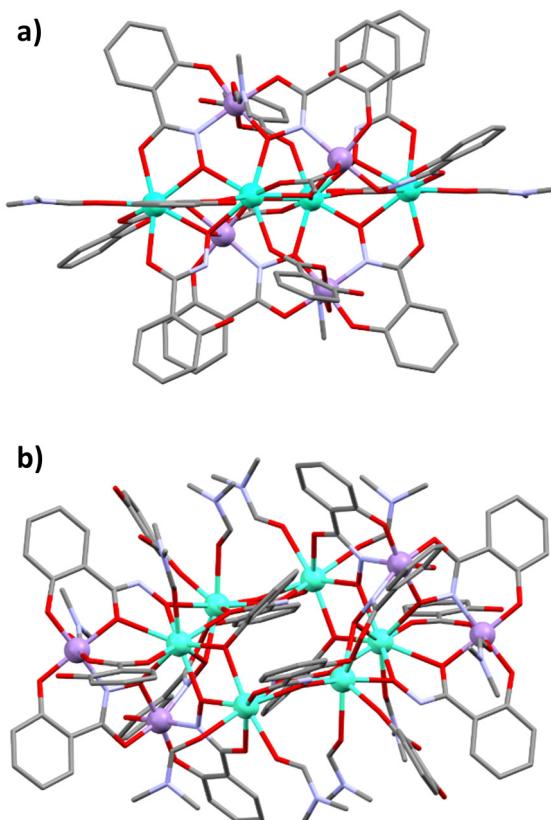
By careful choice of starting reagents and the stoichiometric ratios between them, two different but related compounds can be synthesized that possess metallacrown features (Fig. 1 and Table S1). The use of just  $\text{Dy}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ ,  $\text{Mn}(\text{O}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_3)_2$ , and  $\text{H}_3\text{shi}$ , leads to **Dy-1**, where some of the  $\text{H}_3\text{shi}$  is hydrolyzed to salicylate. The compound is comprised of four  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$  ions and four  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$  ions (total 24 + charge) that are counterbalanced by four  $\text{shi}^{3-}$ , four  $\text{H}_2\text{shi}^-$ , three  $\text{Hsal}^-$ , two hydroxide, and three acetate ligands (total 24-charge) (**Dy-1**, Fig. 1a). The use of  $\text{LnCl}_3$ ,  $\text{Mn}(\text{O}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_3)_2$ ,  $\text{H}_3\text{shi}$ , and salicylic acid (Scheme 1) yields **Dy-2** and **Gd-2** which contains six  $\text{Ln}^{\text{III}}$  ions, two  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$  ions, and two  $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}$  ions (total 32 + charge) that are countered by six  $\text{shi}^{3-}$ , four  $\text{Hsal}^{2-}$ , two  $\text{H}_2\text{shi}^-$ , and four  $\text{Hsal}^-$  ligands (total 32- charge) (**Ln-2**, Fig. 1b). Beyond overall molecular charge considerations, the oxidation assignments of the metal ions are supported by average bond length values, the presence of an elongated Jahn-Teller axis on the  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$  ions, typical of a high-spin  $3d^4$  electron configuration, a lack of a Jahn-Teller axes on the  $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}$  ions, and bond valence sum (BVS) values (Tables S2 and S3).

While neither molecule is an archetypal metallacrown, with N–O bridges between all ring metal sites, both molecules can be considered MC-like with heterobimetallic Ln–Mn MC rings. **Dy-1** is positioned about an inversion center and can be considered a

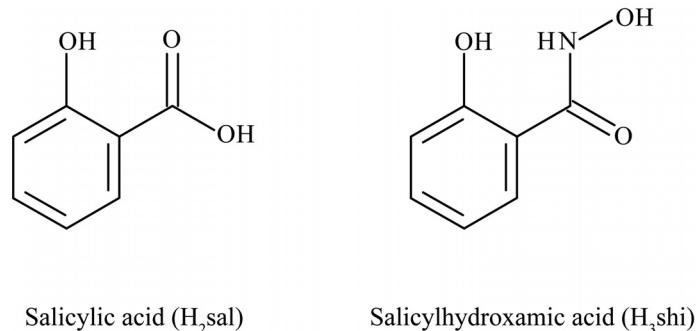
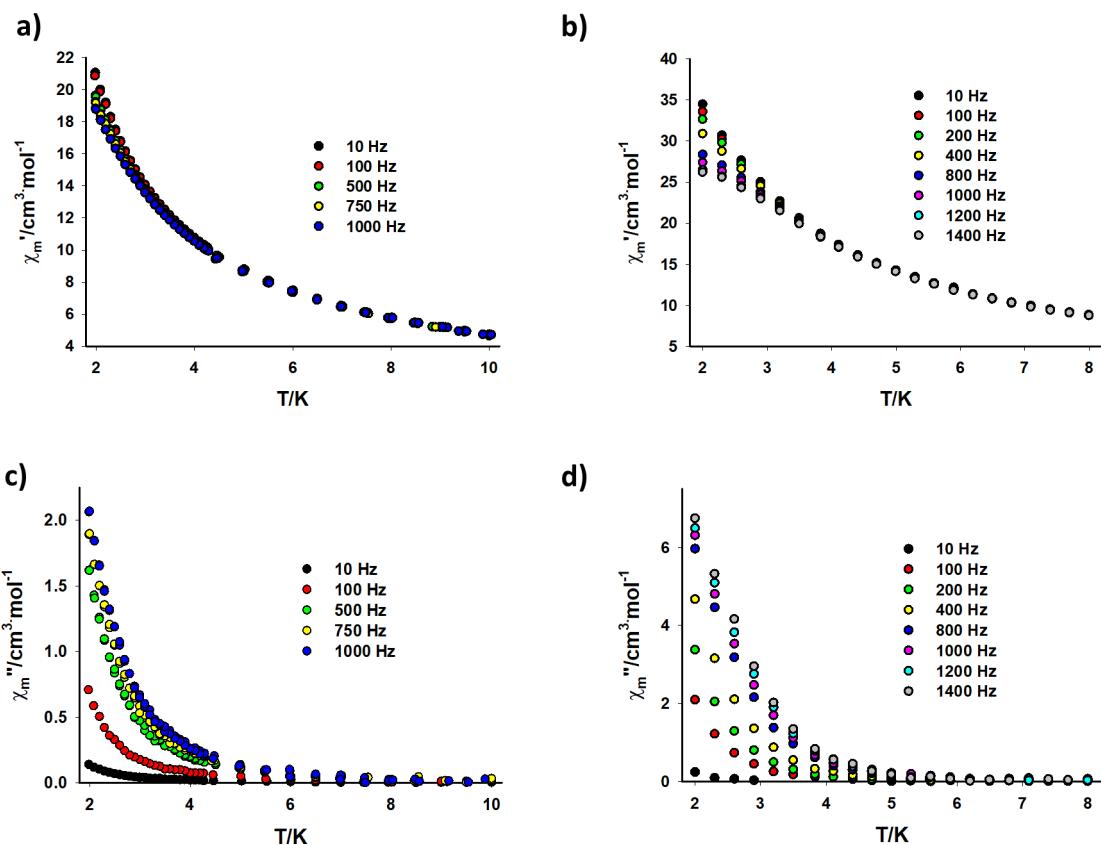
16-MC-6 with N–O bridges between all ring metal ions except the  $\text{Mn}2$ – $\text{Dy}2$  connectivity which is only through an oxygen atom. For **Dy-1** a  $[\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}\text{O–Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{–N–O–Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{–N–O}]$  repeat unit recurs twice to generate a 16-MC-6 structure that captures a  $\text{Dy}_2(\mu_3\text{OH})_2$  core (Fig. S1). Both  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$  ions ( $\text{Dy}1$  and  $\text{Dy}2$ ) of **Dy-1** are eight-coordinate and a SHAPE analysis (SHAPE 2.1) [33] yields the lowest Continuous Shape Measure (CShM) values for a biaugmented trigonal prism geometry (Table S4). In addition, the  $\text{Dy}2$  ions participate in the MC ring, while the  $\text{Dy}1$  ions comprise the  $\text{Dy}_2(\mu_3\text{OH})_2$  core. The MC ring ions  $\text{Mn}1$  and  $\text{Mn}2$  are both six-coordinate with a tetragonally distorted octahedral geometry (Table S6). **Gd-2** is also centrosymmetric with a hexagonal  $\text{Gd}^{\text{III}}$  ring in the center of the molecule that is flanked on either side by one  $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}$  ion ( $\text{Mn}1$ ) and one  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$  ion ( $\text{Mn}2$ ). The structure can be considered a 26-MC-10 with a  $[\text{Gd}^{\text{III}}\text{O–Gd}^{\text{III}}\text{–O–N–C–O–Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{–N–O–Mn}^{\text{IV}}\text{–N–O}]$  repeat unit that recurs twice to generate the MC-like ring that captures two  $\text{Gd}^{\text{III}}$  ions (Fig. S2).  $\text{Gd}1$ , the captured  $\text{Gd}^{\text{III}}$  ion, is nine-coordinate with a spherical capped square antiprism geometry based on the CShM analysis, while the MC ring ions  $\text{Gd}2$  and  $\text{Gd}3$  are eight-coordinate with triangular dodecahedron and biaugmented trigonal prism geometry, respectively (Tables S4 and S5). Both MC rings ions  $\text{Mn}1$  and  $\text{Mn}2$  are six-coordinate with octahedral geometry (Table S6); however,  $\text{Mn}2$  possesses a tetragonal distortion as it is a  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$  ion with a high spin  $3d^4$  electron configuration and  $\text{Mn}1$  does not possess a distortion as it is a  $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}$  ion. Both **Dy-1** and **Gd-2** are similar to two other MC-like molecules we have previously reported:  $\text{Ho}^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_6^{\text{III}}$  and  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_4^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_2^{\text{IV}}$  [34,35]. The  $\text{Ho}^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_6^{\text{III}}$  structure can be considered a 22-MC-8 with a heterobimetallic  $\text{Ho}^{\text{III}}/\text{Mn}_6^{\text{III}}$  MC ring that captures a  $\text{Ho}_2(\mu_3\text{OH})_2$  core, similar to **Dy-1**. The  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_4^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}_2^{\text{IV}}$  structure consists of a hexagonal ring of  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$  ions that is flanked on either side by a  $\text{Mn}_2^{\text{III}}\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}$  trimer, similar to **Gd-2**, and can be considered a 28-MC-10 with four  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$  and six  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III/IV}}$  ions in the MC ring and two captured  $\text{Dy}^{\text{III}}$  ions.

DC and AC magnetic susceptibility measurements were determined for both dysprosium compounds **Dy-1** and **Dy-2** as the high intrinsic spin values and strong magnetoanisotropy associated with  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$  ions could lead to slow relaxation of the magnetization. Variable temperature DC magnetic susceptibility was measured from 5 to 300 K for both **Dy-1** and **Dy-2** (Fig. S3). The  $\chi_{\text{MT}}$  value at 300 K for **Dy-1** ( $50.00 \text{ cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}$ ) is less than that expected for the isolated ions ( $68.68 \text{ cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}$ ) [35] and the  $\chi_{\text{MT}}$  value reaches a minimum at 5 K ( $36.94 \text{ cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}$ ). For **Dy-2** the  $\chi_{\text{MT}}$  value at 300 K ( $81.13 \text{ cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}$ ) is less than that expected for the isolated ions ( $94.77 \text{ cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}$ ) [36] and the  $\chi_{\text{MT}}$  value reaches a minimum at 5 K ( $68.78 \text{ cm}^3\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}$ ). The suppression of magnetic susceptibility at 300 K and the decrease in  $\chi_{\text{MT}}$  at lower temperatures are likely due to antiferromagnetic coupling of metal ions in the compounds and long-range intermolecular exchange interactions. Variable field DC magnetization were also measured for **Dy-1** and **Dy-2** (Fig. S4) and neither compound shows saturation up to 7 Tesla.

Variable temperature AC susceptibility was also measured for both **Dy-1** and **Dy-2** from 2 to 10 K and 2–8 K, respectively (Fig. 2). **Dy-1** did display out-of-phase magnetic susceptibility with frequency dependence in this temperature range; however, the signal did not appear to reach a maximum above 2 K. **Dy-2** did not show peak maxima within the observed temperature range either. However, based on the larger deviation in curvature of the in-phase susceptibility of **Dy-2** as a function of frequency, the frequency dependence is more obvious between 2 and 5 K when compared to **Dy-1**. The presence of out-of-phase susceptibility for both compounds suggests there is a barrier to magnetic relaxation albeit the barrier is likely small. Cole-Cole plots (Fig. S5) of both **Dy-1** and **Dy-2** are neither semi-circular nor symmetrical, which is likely due to complex and numerous interactions between the metal centers



**Fig. 1.** Crystallographic representations of (a) **Dy-1** and (b) **Gd-2**, where hydrogen atoms, lattice solvent molecule, and disorder are removed for clarity. Teal = Dy or Gd, purple = Mn, blue = N, red = O, and grey = C. ((Colour online.))

Scheme 1. Parent Ligands of **Ln-1** and **Ln-2**.Fig. 2. AC susceptibility for **Dy-1** both (a) in-phase and (c) out-of-phase, and **Dy-2** for both (b) in-phase and (d) out-of-phase measurements.

of the molecules and the lack of a well-isolated magnetic ground state.

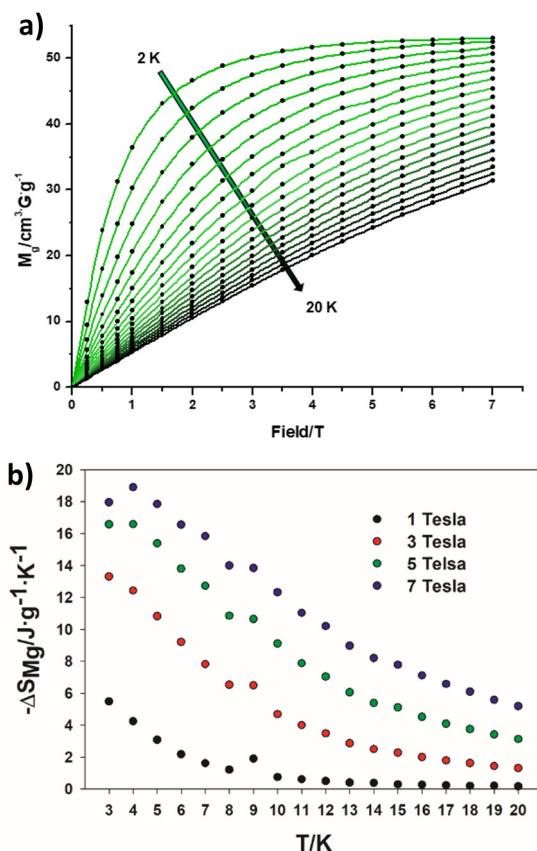
The lack of a well-isolated ground state may not be ideal for SMM behavior; however, for magnetocoolants such a quality is considered attractive. Since isotropic ions are often featured in magnetocoolants, we chose to examine **Gd-2** as  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  is more isotropic than  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and a greater amount of  $\text{Gd}^{3+}$  ions is possible in this structural motif compared to a potential **Gd-1**. Isothermal DC magnetization experiments ranging from 2 to 20 K were performed (Fig. 3a) and the gravimetric magnetic entropy change ( $-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}}$ ) was calculated according to the Maxwell relation: [14]

$$-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}} = \int_{H_0}^{H_f} \left( \frac{\delta M_g}{\delta T} \right) dH \quad (1)$$

where  $H$  is field strength,  $M_g$  is the gravimetric magnetization, and  $T$  is temperature. (Fig. 3b). **Gd-2** demonstrated a maximum  $-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}}$  of  $18.89 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  at 4 K with a  $\Delta H$  of 7 Tesla. This value is about 53% of the theoretical maximum value of  $35.66 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  obtained from:

$$-\Delta S_M = R \sum n_i \ln(2S_i + 1) \quad (2)$$

where  $R$  is the ideal gas constant, and  $n_i$  and  $S_i$  are the number and spin of each unique metal center, assuming non-interacting spin between the metal centers. In addition, the generally slow increase in magnetization as a function of applied field implies that **Gd-2** does have low-lying excited states near the ground state, which are indicative of a good MCE candidate. These observations are consistent with the small barrier to relaxation observed in **Dy-2**.



**Fig. 3.** (a) Isothermal DC magnetization curves for **Gd-2** from 2 to 20 K and (b) isothermal entropic change ( $-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}}$ ) calculated from Eq. (1) at various  $\Delta H$ .

**2. Comparison of Gd-2 to other reported Gd-Mn cluster complexes** is shown in Table 1 [37–40]. In terms of  $-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}}$  values, **Gd-2** is comparable to calixarene complexes and calculated values for small cluster compounds, but phosphonate cage complexes reported by Winpenny and coworkers had higher values, likely due to the fact that these complexes contain isotropic high-spin  $d^5 \text{Mn}^{2+}$  ions rather than  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{4+}$  ions. However, in terms of the percentage of ideal magnetic entropy, **Gd-2** is only outperformed by two of the compounds listed in Table 1.

## 5. Conclusions

Two heterobimetallic 3d-4f lanthanide-manganese compounds (**Dy-1** and **Dy-2**) were investigated for slow magnetic relaxation and did indeed display observable out-of-phase susceptibility consistent with the presence of a barrier to magnetic relaxation. How-

ever, no peak maxima were observed for either compound, suggesting that these barriers are small and it is likely these molecules do not possess well-isolated ground states. Thus, **Gd-2** was studied for potential as a magnetocalorant material and subsequently the gravimetric magnetic entropy change ( $-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}}$ ) was determined to be  $18.89 \text{ Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$  at 7 T applied field. While **Dy-1** and **Dy-2** were not ideal as SMMs, **Gd-2** demonstrated surprising potential as a magnetocalorant despite the relatively large amount of diamagnetic atoms in the compound compared to other Gd-Mn compounds. These results demonstrate that self-assembled MCs and related molecules can be tailored to a particular application by careful selection of starting components. In addition, the investigation of both SMM and MCE properties can give valuable information for potential applications of magnetic materials.

## Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Crystallographic information in CIF format are available free of charge from the CCDC website ([www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk)) using deposition numbers CSD 2056275 and 2056276. Crystallographic data for **Gd-2** were collected through the SALS (Service Crystallography at Advanced Light Source) program at the Small-Crystal Crystallography Beamline 11.3.1 at the Advanced Light Source (ALS), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The ALS is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Sciences Materials Sciences Division, under contract DE-AC02-05CH11231.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.poly.2021.115190>.

**Table 1**  
Comparison of MCE behaviour of Gd and Mn containing complexes.

Compound Description	$-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}} (\text{Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1})$	Theoretical Maximum $-\Delta S_{\text{Mg}}$ Value ( $\text{Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ )	Percentage (%) of Ideal Magnetic Entropy	Conditions	Ref
Gd <sup>III</sup> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>4</sub> calix[4]arene	19.0	37.1	51	4 K, 7 T	38, 40
Gd <sup>III</sup> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>6</sub> phosphonate cage	28.0	57.0	49	3 K, 7 T	39
Gd <sup>III</sup> <sub>6</sub> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>4</sub> phosphonate cage	33.7	41.8	81	3 K, 7 T	39
Gd <sup>III</sup> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>4</sub> <sup>a</sup>	13.5	45.79	29	3 K, 9 T	37
Gd <sup>III</sup> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	20.39	37.91	54	3 K, 9 T	37
Gd <sup>III</sup> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	19.73	36.64	54	3 K, 9 T	37
Gd <sup>III</sup> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	31.75	38.14	83	3 K, 9 T	37
Gd <sup>III</sup> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	19.0	44.48	43	3 K, 9 T	37
Gd <sup>III</sup> <sub>6</sub> Mn <sup>III</sup> <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup> Mn <sup>IV</sup>	18.89	35.66	53	4 K, 7 T	This Work

<sup>a</sup> Based on computational magnetic coupling values.

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