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## Rare Earth Niobate Coordination Polymers

Collin N. Muniz,<sup>1,2</sup> Hiral Patel,<sup>2</sup> Dylan B. Fast,<sup>1</sup> Lauren E. S. Rohwer,<sup>3</sup> Eric W. Reinheimer,<sup>4</sup> Michelle Dolgos,<sup>1</sup> Matt W. Graham,<sup>2</sup> May Nyman<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry & <sup>2</sup>Department of Physics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA

<sup>3</sup>Microsystem Integration Department, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM 87185, USA

<sup>4</sup>Rigaku Oxford Diffraction, 9009 New Trails Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77381, USA \*corresponding author: may.nyman@oregonstate.edu; http://nyman.chem.oregonstate.edu/

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## ABSTRACT

Rare-earth (RE) coordination polymers are infinitely tailorable to yield luminescent materials for various applications. Here we described the synthesis of a heterometallic rare-earth coordination compound ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO)<sub>3</sub>(RE)NbO(C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) = dimethylsulfoxide, DMSO), (C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> = **oxalate**), (RE=La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb). The structure was obtained from single crystal X-ray diffraction of the La analogue. The Nb=O and DMSO terminal-bonding character guides assembly of an open framework structure with noncentrosymmetric RE-coordination geometry, and large spacing between the RE centers. A second structure was observed by PXRD for the smaller rare earths (Dy, Ho, Er, Yb); this structure has not yet been determined. The materials were further characterized using FTIR, and photoluminescence measurements. Characteristic excitation and emission transitions were observed for RE = Nd, Sm, Eu, and Tb. Quantum yield (QY) measurements were performed by exciting Eu and Tb analoges at 394 nm (QY 66%) and 464 nm (QY 71%) for Eu; and 370 nm (QY=40%) for Tb. We attribute the high QY and bright luminescence to two main structure-function properties of the system; namely the absence of water in the structure, and absence of concentration quenching.

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