

**Electronic supplementary information**

**Design of high-relaxivity polyelectrolyte nanocapsules  
based on citrate complexes of gadolinium(III) of  
unusual composition**

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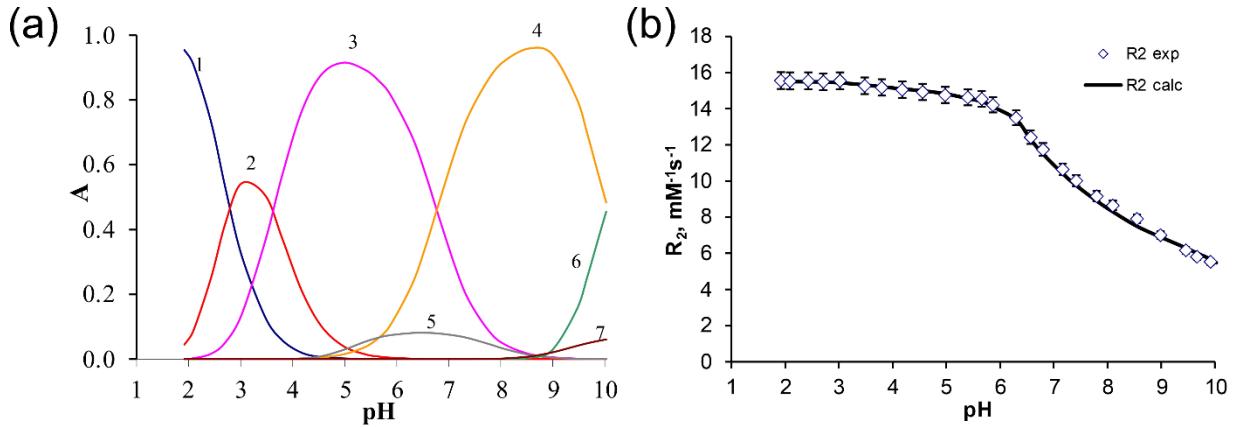


Figure S1: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand ratio 1 : 1 (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>)

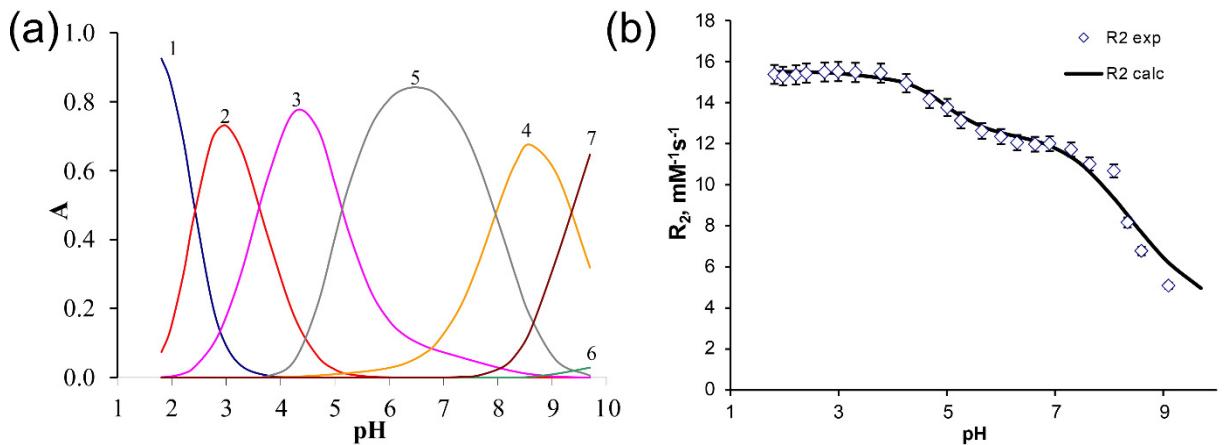


Figure S2: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand ratio 1 : 3; (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>)

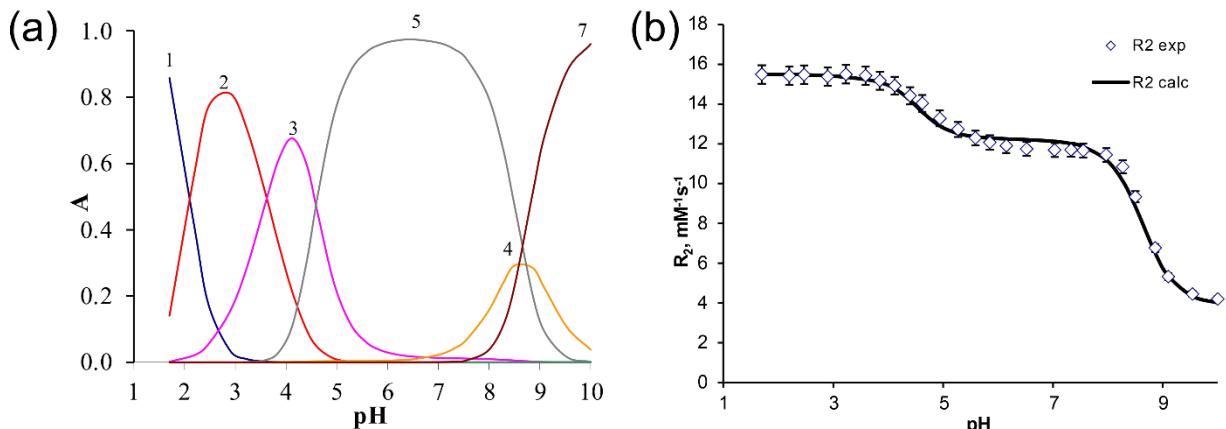


Figure S3: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand ratio 1 : 10; (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>)

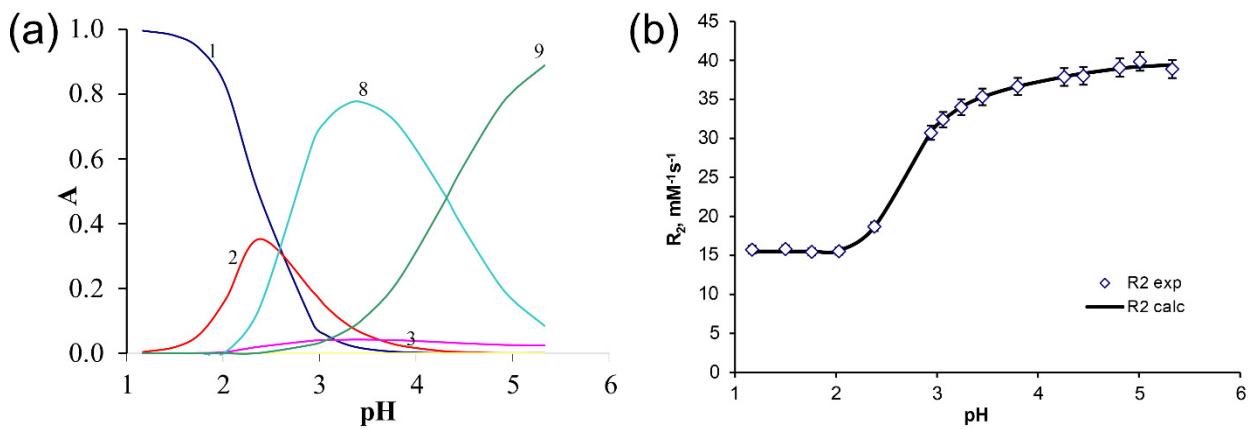


Figure S4: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PEI0 system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI0 ratio 1 : 3 : 10. (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

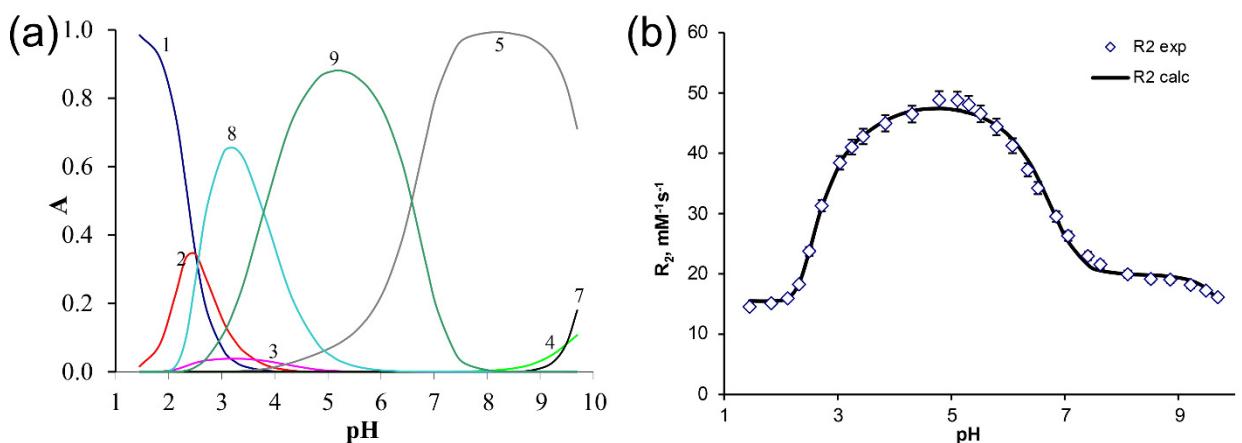


Figure S5: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PEI0 system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI0 ratio 1 : 3 : 20 (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

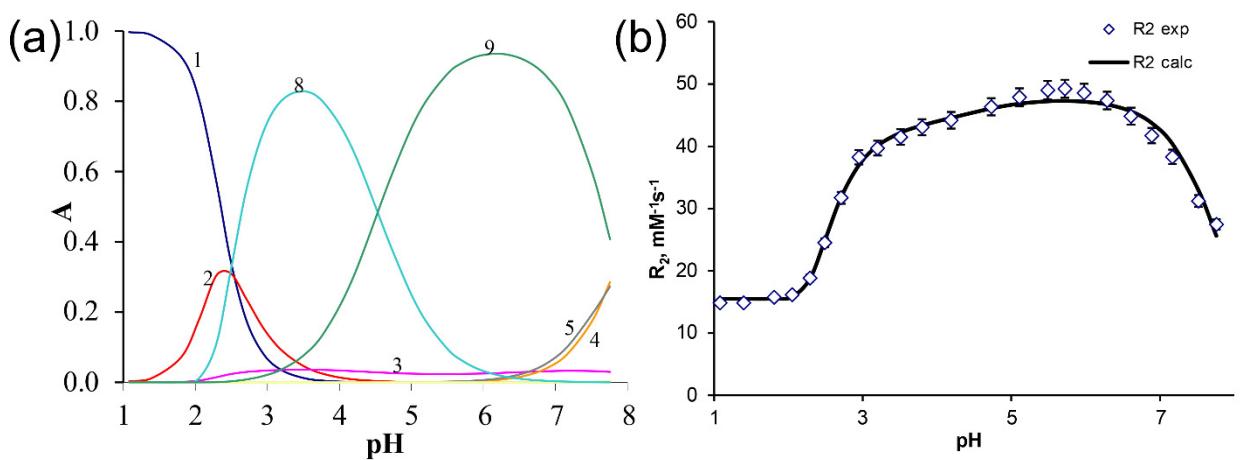


Figure S6: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PEI0 system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI0 ratio 1 : 3 : 50 (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

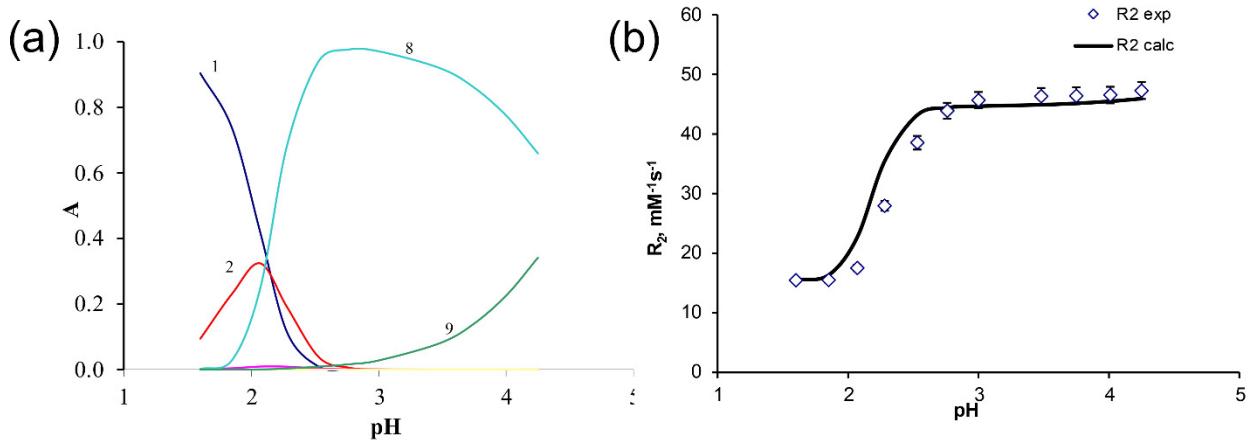


Figure S7: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PEI0 system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI0 ratio 1 : 10 : 20; (1-Gd, 2-H<sub>4</sub>L, 3-H<sub>3</sub>L, 4-H<sub>2</sub>L, 5-HL, 6-L, 7-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 8-GdHL, 9-GdL, 10-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 11-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 12-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 13-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 14-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

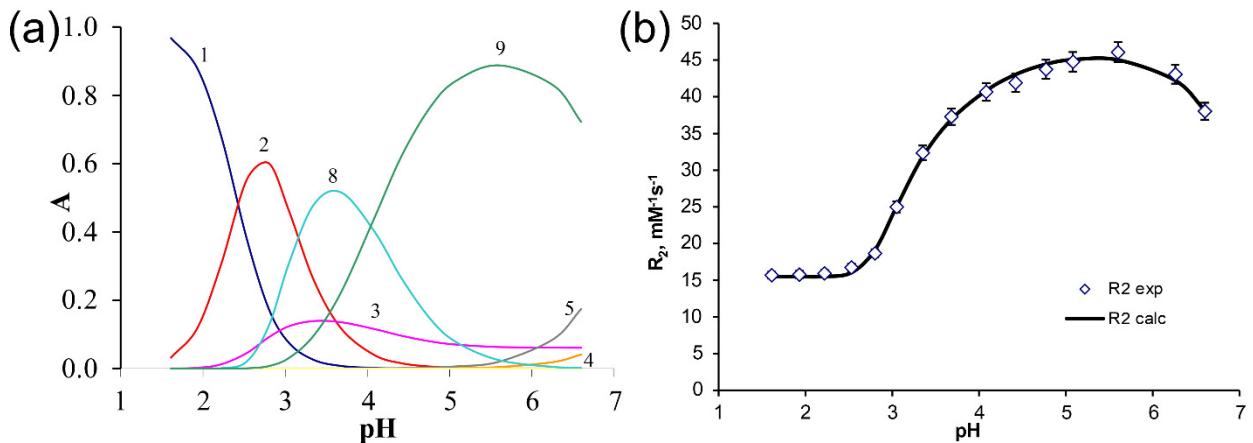


Figure S8: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PEI0 – NaCl system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI0-NaCl ratio 1 : 3 : 20:300; (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

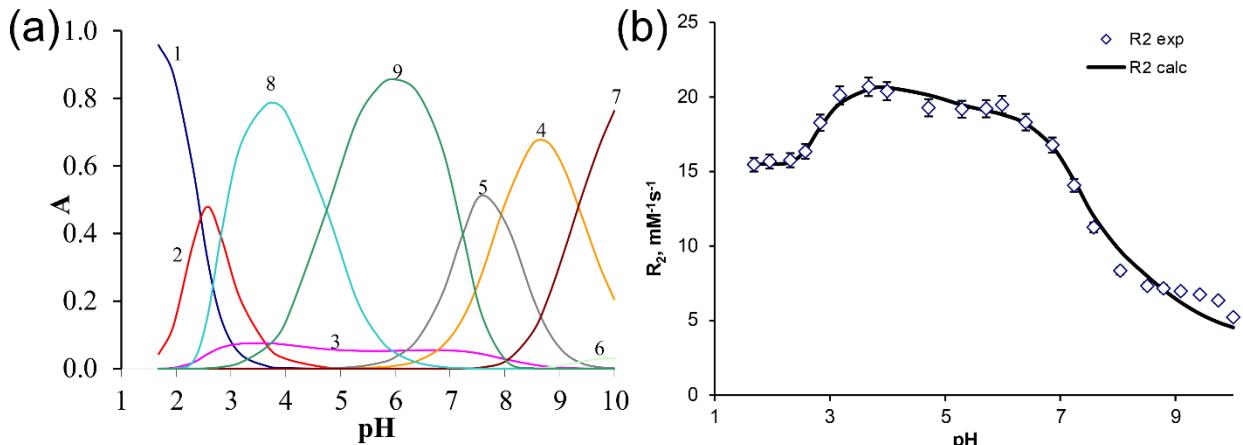


Figure S9: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid – PEI3 system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI3 ratio 1 : 3 : 20; (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

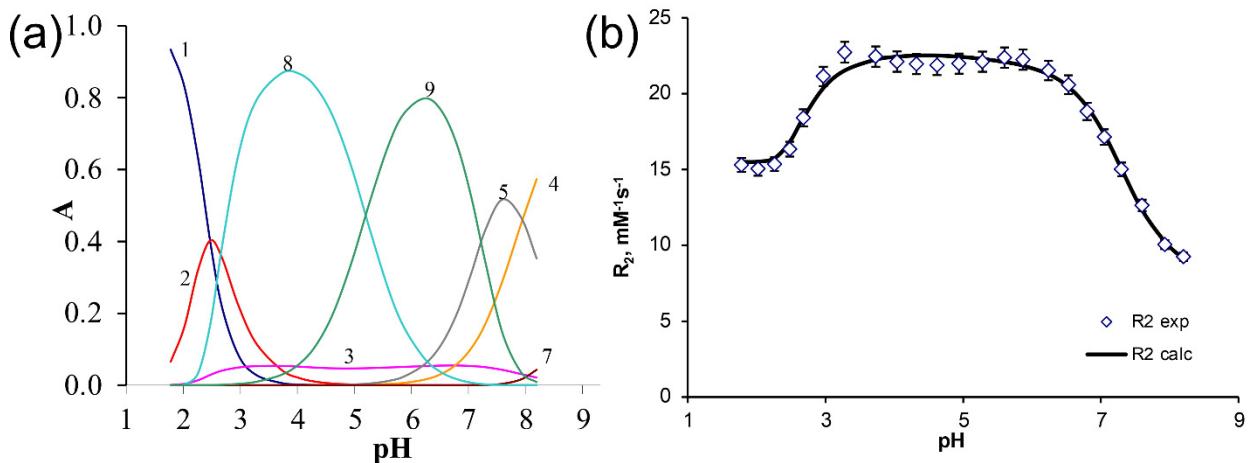


Figure S10: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PEI2 system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI2 ratio 1 : 3 : 20; (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

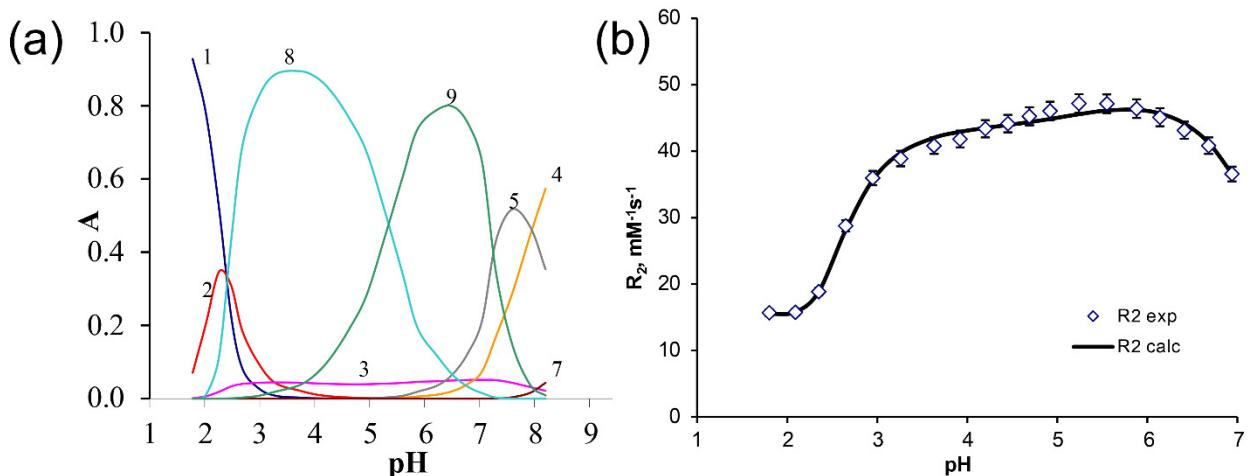


Figure S11: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PEI1 system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PEI1 ratio 1 : 3 : 20; (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)

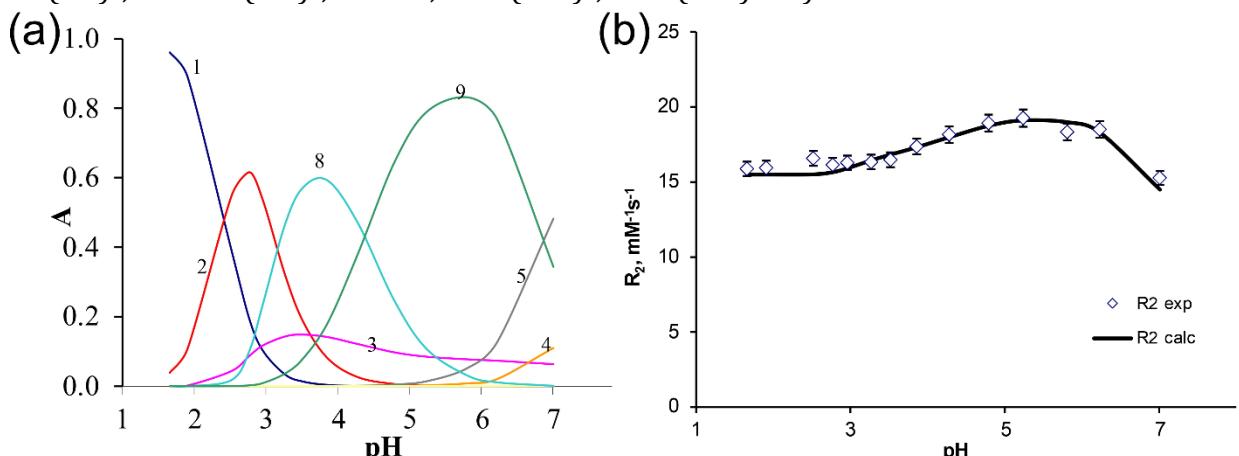


Figure S12: Diagrams of the proportional distribution of complex forms accumulating in the gadolinium(III) - citric acid - PDDC system (a) and Relaxivity vs pH experimental and fitted curves (b) at a metal-ligand-PDDC ratio 1 : 3 : 20. (1-Gd, 2-GdH<sub>2</sub>L, 3-GdHL, 4-GdL, 5-Gd(HL)<sub>2</sub>, 6-Gd<sub>3</sub>L<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>, 7-GdL<sub>2</sub>, 8-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>3</sub>, 9-Gd(H<sub>2</sub>L)<sub>2</sub>HL)