



## Institute of Parasitology

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## Supervisor's Report on Anna Faltýnková

Anna Faltýnková came to my lab in 1996 with the interest to work on larval stages of trematodes. Since I had been working on this helminth group during my first postdoctoral stay in Laos in 1989, and then in Mexico from 1993, I accepted her as undergraduate student. She started to study larval stages in fish ponds in the vicinity of České Budějovice. The results were summarised in her diploma work defended in 2000 and then published in *Acta Parasitologica* in 2005 (Faltýnková 2005). In her MSc. thesis, defended in June 2002, she presented results of a study on the occurrence of trematode larvae in aquatic snails of the Czech Republic (published in 2002: Faltýnková A., Literák I. 2002: Cercariae of trematodes from *Bythinia austriaca* (Frauenfeld, 1857) agg. (Gastropoda: Prosobranchia). *Acta Parasitologica* 47: 196–204.).

Anna started her PhD study under my supervision in October 2002, and it represented a continuation of her investigations into trematode life-cycles, but with a much wider scope to cover the fauna of larval stages of trematodes in Central Europe. Such a study required much field work in different countries, and Anna was able to help me considerably in finding funds to realize field expeditions or research stays to Germany (four-month-stay in Erlangen), Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

The present PhD thesis summarizes results of a strong effort to successfully sample molluscs and examine them for the presence of trematode larvae, to morphologically and biometrically characterize these life-cycle stages as a pre-requisite for correct species identification and sound knowledge of relevant literature. It is up to the referees to judge how Anna was able to achieve the goals of her PhD study.

I am really happy Anna has revitalized the field of helminthology, which was almost abandoned in the Institute of Parasitology (and into some extent in former Czechoslovakia and Europa, too). Without exaggeration, Anna has become one of a

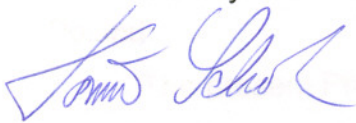
very few experts in the field of trematode larval stages in Europe and her expertise has been appreciated, among others, by invitation to participate at ecological experiments with diplostomatid cercariae in Finland, within a joint Finnish-Portuguese project in 2005 and 2006.

As her supervisor, I have not had any problems with Anna during her PhD studies, although I had to suggest her to limit her fields trips to sample and then examine the snails instead of evaluating a huge amount of data she collected. Anna is a very responsible and accurate person, with much patience and dedication to her job. This may be best demonstrated by the fact that I did not care for finances at all during the Vth International Workshop on Cestode Systematics & Phylogeny in July 2005, because Anna was treasurer of the organizing committee of this meeting attended by 70 specialists from 21 countries.

Since the very beginning of her studies, Anna has worked independently and also helped me considerably with supervising diploma works and MSc. theses of two undergraduate students, Eva Horáčková, who studies the biology of the giant liver fluke, *Fascioloides magna*, and Lenka Kablásková, who deals with trematode larval stages in prosobranchiate snails. Anna is bilingual (Czech & German) and has a good ability to learn foreign language, including a fairly good knowledge of written English.

Finally, I would also like to emphasize I am happy Anna joined us in our lab. I also believe she may and believe she will continue with her successful research on trematode larval stages in the future. I also believe she may form her own research group devoted to this field of helminthology.

Thank you Anna, and good luck!



Tomáš Scholz

České Budějovice, 28 August 2006