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Supervisor's Report on Roman KUČHTA

Roman Kuchta came to my lab in the first year of his university studies, i.e. in the autumn 1998. Since then, he became one of the key persons of the laboratory and I realised with him a number of research stays to Peru (three times), Switzerland, Russia (twice), Japan, USA and Scotland (once). After his successful undergraduate studies focused on the taxonomy and biology of fish tapeworms, he started his PhD programme aimed at shedding light into the unsatisfactorily resolved systematics of cestodes of the order Pseudophyllidea, one of the most numerous, but also most complicated group of cestodes.

When we chose this topic, we were aware of potential difficulties and problems a study on the group confined largely to marine teleosts and mammals may generate. However, I trusted to Roman's ability to carry out a good-quality research because of his enthusiasm, dedication to his work and also good contacts with best researchers in the field I and he had established during previous years.

Now, I have to say we chose extremely difficult topic of a PhD study and I would not do it again, knowing how much effort and hard work (and good luck) were necessary to reach this objective. However, Roman succeeded and finished successfully his PhD programme even on this difficult topic.

I, myself, am very satisfied – the thesis contains a large number of new data, based largely on Roman's own observations of newly collected or museum specimens. It represents a good basis for preparation of a large revisional article, in which a new classification of the previous order Pseudophyllidea will be proposed.

I am fully convinced Roman has great potential to become a top-quality scientist – he is now one of two best experts in the systematics of this large group of cestodes. Of course, he has still much to learn, especially to improve his knowledge of written English and to be more patient. However, he has done, is doing and will do a really excellent job. By the way, he has co-authored as many as 20 scientific papers in impacted journals (in five being the first author), which is something what does not happen too frequently in PhD programmes.

Tomáš Scholz

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