Supervisor's evaluation of PhD thesis by Vít Latzel: Tolerace and resistance of plants to disturbance

Vít have begun to work on the PhD study in 2004. The aim of the project was to explore different aspects of bud bank functioning in herbs of temperate climate. Especially he focused on the level of community. In his obligatory review he analyzed plant functional traits used in studies of vegetation changes after cessation of management by mowing and grazing. On the base of his analysis we together prepared forum paper into Preslia. In field experiment with disturbance of urban plant community he applied successfully bud bank traits from CLO-PLA database.

In 2005 he spend 4 months in the department of Experimental Ecology of Radboud University in Nijmegen under supervising of Josef Stuefer. The stay allowed him to explore response of plants to disturbance from point of view of induced resistance. The work brought not only interesting and novel results on costs and benefits of induced resistance in clonal plant but also affected further development of the Vitek's thesis. He started to work with model plant species in controlled environment of complex experiment and evaluated different measures of plant fitness. This experimental approach seems to be much more satisfactory for Vitek and he has proceeded in the same direction after finishing his work on PhD project (see modest chapter Future prospects). The content of the thesis seems to be heterogeneous but I see it as a proof of searching of one's own point of view, and as an occasion to explore different related questions by different methodological tools.

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