

**Spermiogeneze a ultrastruktura spermií tasemnice *Parabothriocephalus gracilis* (Eucestoda), cizopasníka bathypelagické ryby *Psenopsis anomala***

In January 2007, Lenka Šípková incorporated in the Laboratory of Parasitic Flatworms. She was very enthusiastic to work on the ultrastructure of the Cestoda. She studied the ultrastructure of spermiogenesis and the spermatozoon of *Parabothriocephalus gracilis*, using material provided by Dr. Mark Freeman from the University of Stirling (U.K.).

Lenka speaks English very well and also French!! Therefore, there were no problems with our communication. During editing her thesis, she was confronted with some problems to translate specific technical terms from English to Czech and, unfortunately, I could not help.

She started with a search of the literature related to her research topic. The order Bothriocephalidea has been proposed just recently as a consequence of the suppression of the order Pseudophyllidea. Spermiogenesis process and sperm characters appear to have phylogenetic importance and can differentiate different cestode orders. No data exist on the process of spermiogenesis in the family Echinophallidae.

Lenka started to observe material using transmission electron microscopy in February 2007 and finished in January 2008. She was independent and carried out 12 sessions of transmission electron microscopical observations.

She learnt to work with Adobe Photoshop to prepare plates of photomicrographs to document the process of spermiogenesis and spermatozoon. She also used Adobe Illustrator to edit schematic drawing of the process of spermiogenesis and the structural organization of the spermatozoon of *Parabothriocephalus gracilis*.

She participated at the conferences "Helminthological days" in May 2007 and May 2008. This year, she had an oral presentation and won a price in the category undergraduate students. She also presented her results in a lab meeting in March 2008.

In my opinion, the thesis of Lenka is a very good piece of work and will lead to a publication in impacted journal. She will start to write the manuscript in September 2008 and I hope she will continue in studies on the ultrastructure of cestodes in her MSc. degree.

České Budějovice, 19.5.2008

Dr. Céline Levron

