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Advisors Report

It gives me great pleasure to submit my report on the Masters Thesis entitled "**Endocrine regulation of oxidative stress in the red firebug *Pyrhocoris apterus***" by Josef Vecera, Faculty of Biological Sciences, The University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.

Josef has conducted investigations into the hormonal regulation of oxidative stress and has come up with some very interesting results especially on the antioxidant action of 20-hydroxyecdysone and the adipokinetic hormone. This is a little investigated area and the results presented in the thesis open up new vista's of research in the endocrine regulation of oxidative stress. The work is both timely and appropriate.

The thesis has been organized and written in a very lucid style with a good literature survey, appropriate methodology, and clear presentation of results with a comprehensive discussion. This is testified by the two publications which emanated from the thesis work of Josef.

I have observed Josef to be a very diligent scholar, always ready to tackle research problems with enthusiasm and energy. He is intelligent and quick to learn. Within a short time, Josef grasped all techniques required to accomplish his thesis work, and was able to perform all experiments single handedly. It was a pleasure for me to supervise his thesis since we always discussed the results which he obtained and he had many inputs from his literature survey in the interpretation of the results as well as modifications to some of the techniques used. I would rate him as a very responsible student who makes every effort to understand the "scientific processes and mechanisms" underlying the results of his investigations. Also, of note, is that he has written his entire thesis in English, which is not his native language and has done a very commendable job. Josef's thesis work is complete in itself and I strongly recommend it for award of his Master's degree in consonance with completion of other appropriate course-work.

N. Krishnan
05/16/2007

Dr. Natraj Krishnan