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Supervisor's report on Pavla Bartošová

Pavla came to our laboratory after finishing her master studies at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, in Bratislava. Her background in parasitology and molecular taxonomy was not strong. She was lucky that after unsuccessful admission procedure to the PhD program she got a chance to spend a half a year in our lab to learn basics of parasitology from both practical and theoretical sides. She passed admission procedure smoothly after this "course" and started her PhD on our Faculty.

This all happened in the time when I finished broad SSU rDNA phylogenetic reconstruction of Myxosporea and, meantime, Pavla had the second good luck that she joined me just at the start of the project focused on the phylogeny of Myxosporea based on the LSU rDNA supported by the Grant Agency of Academy of Sciences. Main aim of her PhD thesis was therefore focusing on the reconstruction of phylogenetic relationships of Myxosporea based on the LSU rDNA gene.

I mentioned that Pavla had a good luck twice, but I had also one good luck, because I found in Pavla very good collaborator who has been able to work hard as it is expected from a good PhD student. She learnt quickly all methods used in the molecular taxonomy as well as she got with no problem into the secrets of computational biology. So she was able to get and analyse large number of data quite fast. Furthermore, during her PhD she wrote a high-quality project which was supported by the Grant Agency of South Bohemia. But what I appreciate the most on Pavla's work in our lab is her independence in writing papers! Her PhD thesis includes five papers and Pavla is the first author on the three of them. In her case it means that she has not only obtained most of the data but she wrote also first drafts of these manuscripts quite quickly and of good quality. Her weakness is, however, in putting a lot of junk text in the introduction or discussion parts of the manuscripts. Nevertheless, she is aware of this and her PhD thesis was written, by my opinion, very concisely.

I am more than satisfied with the large number of data and resulted publications that arose from Pavla's PhD study. Especially in the final year of her study, Pavla has grown up in a top expert in the field of myxosporean phylogeny and taxonomy with ability to become a top-quality scientist. I wish that, after successful PhD defence, she would receive a PostDoc grant to be able to continue on her research in our laboratory.

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RNDr. Ivan Fiala, Ph.D.