

## **Review - Bachelor Thesis Jaroslava Kubešová -**

### **Plant rhizodeposition and rhizosphere microflora: Their relationship and its consequences in wetlands**

The thesis by Jaroslava Kubešová is a review of the relevant literature concerning the rhizosphere and the microflora which inhabit it. She provides information from published studies about the interactions between plant roots and microflora. These include the role of rhizodeposits and how these are important not only for providing food for microbiota but can also liberate nutrients, especially P, from organic material, thus, making them available for plants. Jaroslava also provides a short review about the different microflora, such as mycorrhizae and nodular bacteria for nitrogen fixation. As she states, there is a vast literature on these subjects so that it is impossible to mention all papers within a thesis. To her credit, Jaroslava focuses on the major papers and researchers in this area and gives lucid descriptions of the results of their studies. Her description of the experimental methods, and the associated problems with them, is quite good. Finally, she gives a short summary about wetlands. This may have been a bit too short but she did give the basic information. The last part of the thesis is a brief review of experiments done on flooded wetlands in Belize. Again, the summary is quite clear and informative. The last part, in which she mentions possible future studies within the framework of the Belize project, is also well thought out.

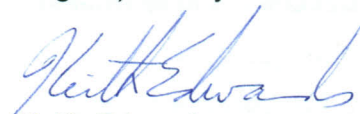
Jaroslava wrote the thesis in English, which is not her native language. For this she should be commended. However, when writing a thesis in a language other than ones primary one, the author needs to take care that the writing is well done. For this, the text should be proofread and any grammatical and/or spelling mistakes need to be corrected. I feel that Jaroslava did not do this and that subtracts from an otherwise excellent thesis. For example, it is obvious that Jaroslava does not understand the use of articles (a, an, the). This is a common problem with Czechs trying to write in English, but again this is something that should have been checked by a knowledgeable person prior to submission of the thesis. More frustrating were the numerous spelling mistakes throughout the text. For example, it is allocate (not allocate as occurs several times). There were also numerous typographical errors,

which shows that the text was not proofread prior to submission. Again, this really should have been done; it increases the frustration of the reader to keep seeing these easily correctable mistakes. Finally there were the occasional nonsensical phrases. Examples include: 1) page 9: "...STROM et al (2003) **brought an interesting evidence** (what does that mean?)...**which release lot of (?)**..."; 2) page 11: Vancura (1988a) **presented the comparison between** (wordy and nonsensical); and 3) page 13: "...shift in N:P **availability** (do stoichiometric ratios really show nutrient availability?) of very old soils (**reaching to almost** - what does this mean?)..." The above examples are again either written using the wrong words and phrases or are incomprehensible in their meaning.

Last, there were problems with the reference section. Several citations in the text were not listed in the reference section (Strom et al 2003 or Tinker et al 2004). Also, the article title for Bouwmeester is missing. Finally, the year for Rejmanková and Sirová is given as 2006 in the text but 2007 in the reference section.

The problems with the English and the references show that, while this is a very good thesis, not enough care was taken in terms of proofreading and correcting mistakes prior to submission. These errors make it a very frustrating read and lessen the impact of the thesis.

Still, the aforementioned problems, while irritating, do not subtract from the overall quality of the thesis. Even with the English problems, the thesis was understandable, which is the most important aspect. Therefore, I believe that the thesis as a whole is excellent and deserves a one, depending on the outcome of the defense. I would highly recommend, though, that Jaroslava take the time to proofread the text and have the English corrected by a competent person (if she will write any more in English) for any future theses.



Keith Edwards

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