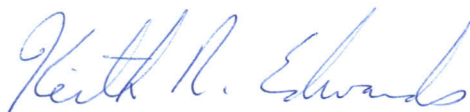


Review of Lenka Schmidtmayerová's Bachelors Thesis

Lenka Schmidtmayerová conducted a literature review on decomposition in wet grasslands (Vliv hnojení na dekompozici rostlinného opadu na dvou mokřadních loukách). The thesis consists of a rather thorough review of the relevant literature concerning decomposition in general and wetland decomposition in particular. There are many published articles concerning decomposition so, of course, Lenka could not read or review all of them. The ones she did include represent some of the important papers on the subject covering the main topics within decomposition research. In addition, she provides a short description of wetlands in general and wet grasslands in particular. These overviews are short but concise and give the important information concerning these systems. The last part of the thesis deals with the methodology and initial results of a decomposition study in two wet grasslands, one with peat soil and the other with a mineral substrate, in which Lenka took part. She provides a good and understandable explanation of the litter bag method. Although there are only the first results from the study, Lenka gives a short but I think pretty accurate explanation for what has occurred to date in the experiment. Lenka came to these conclusions on her own after discussions with me.

I have enjoyed having Lenka as my student. She is a bright and energetic student who obtained most of the literature sources on her own after initial guidance from me. She showed good understanding of the important concepts within each article. She also assisted in the setting up of the decomposition experiment and collecting and processing of the decomposition samples. Lenka seems to be quite comfortable in the field. I would certainly be happy and willing to continue having Lenka as my student if she so desires.

Therefore, based on the results of the defense, I recommend that Lenka be awarded a one for writing such an excellent thesis.



Keith R. Edwards

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