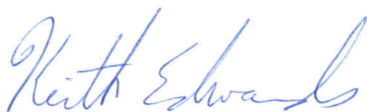


## Comments on Masters Work of Kateřina Střelcová

Katka Střelcová (nee Svobodová) began working on her thesis back in Fall 2004, when she and I first visited her research site in the Brdy military area. Due to access restrictions, I was only able to visit the site one other time. This means that Katka did a vast bulk of the data collecting, processing of samples and data analyses. In my opinion, she did these quite well. Katka has always been curious about methods and what we were doing, asking numerous questions until she felt that she understood the matter well. She is also very self-motivated in that I did not have to stand over her to make sure she was doing things correctly.

Field sampling occurred over the 2005 and 2006 growing seasons. After that, Katka took a few years off to work for a non-governmental environmental organization and begin raising a family. Two points about this thesis are noteworthy in regards to the above-mentioned point. First, Katka wrote the thesis in English. I believe that Katka has a good command of English, but still to write a technical manuscript in a language that is not your native tongue and do it reasonably well is to be commended. I did make editorial and grammar corrections, but these were not major and the thesis was quite understandable even before any editorial corrections that I made. Second, she wrote the thesis while raising a few-months-old baby. This, I would think, increases the difficulty level by several magnitudes. That she produced a well-written thesis underscores the intelligence and perseverance of Katka. Any areas in the thesis which may not have been thought through as well as possible can be explained by having to take care of a relatively new born baby.

It has mostly been a joy for me to work with Katka and to be her supervisor. She is an intelligent and hard-working student, which I think comes through clearly in the thesis. Therefore, I feel that the work performed by Katka on this study, and the writing of the thesis, warrant no worse than a 2 and, depending on her defense, could even be a 1.



Keith Edwards

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