

Present thesis of Lenka Caisová is based on results of her taxonomic studies of filamentous green microalgae, preferably the traditional genera *Stigeoclonium* and *Chaetophora* (Chaetophorales, Chlorophyceae). These microscopic plants frequently occur in mesotrophic and eutrophic freshwater habitats and – since 19th century - their diversity has been described by means of purely morphological methods. However, extended morphological plasticity of these organisms resulted in description of numerous morphological species, whose boundaries and taxonomic delimitations were apparently unclear and – in many cases – artificial. At the same time, generic concepts have also been insufficiently drawn on the basis of traditional morphological data.

In this situation, Lenka started her studies aimed at phylogenetic revision of chaetophoralean diversity. With unprecedented concentration and taxonomic devotion she revised numerous strains and natural populations, and decided to assemble a broad molecular phylogenetic data set that – together with morphological data – may be used for revision of generic concepts within this group. She has been working independently – as a Ph.D. student in České Budějovice, as a scientific collaborator in Třeboň branch of Institute of Botany, during her Erasmus stay in Göttingen (Thomas Friedl group), and mainly during her prolonged scientific stay in Köln (Michael Melkonian group). Apparently, this later stay in one of the best phycological laboratories has been of much use to her scientific development. In close collaboration with Prof. Michael Melkonian, Lenka finalized her taxonomic research. Their papers, now appearing in prestigious journals, illustrate quality and scientific value of this work.

My supervision of Lenka's Ph.D. study has been entirely formal; Lenka has been able to independently plan and conduct her studies. However, during our personal and e-mail discussions on taxonomy of chaetophoralean algae I noticed her growing competence in microalgal taxonomy, as well as her extreme devotion to science and to algae. Lenka is a pure taxonomist, unfortunately quite a rare case among contemporary students of biology.

Therefore, I am very glad that she fulfilled the necessary requirements for a doctoral degree and will now be able to continue her promising scientific career in phycology at a Post-Doc level.

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