

Supervisor's assessment of the PhD thesis

Pavel Fibich

The effects of neighbours in plant communities: mathematical and experimental approaches

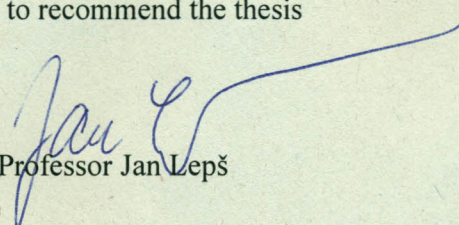
The thesis of Pavel Fibich is based on six papers, three of them already published in respected international journals, one paper is awaiting the (hopefully) final decision returned after minor revision to JVS, one paper is submitted, and one is a manuscript. In all of them but one Pavel is the first author.

Pavel joined my working group as completely new person four years ago, and so, he started his work in my group completely from scratch. The fact that he was then able to produce six papers within four years (i.e. he is submitting his thesis without any additional time requested, within the regular four years of his PhD study), and get some of them published, demonstrate his successful PhD study. From the very beginning, Pavel has been very initiative, able both, to work independently and also to cooperate with other members of the working group.

Owing to his expertise in informatics, mathematical modelling and analytical skills, he was engaged in various field projects. However, he has also carried out his own experimental research, which is not so common among mathematical modelers. Nevertheless, thanks to this, his thesis covers rather wide range of topics, where he has considerably contributed to various ongoing projects, which benefited from his modelling and analytical skills, but also results of his experimental work. He is also engaged in (at least) three other papers that are now in various intermediate stages, and which also benefit from his expertise, but are not included in the thesis.

In conclusion, I believe that the submitted thesis demonstrates clearly Pavel's ability to produce scientific work of high quality. Consequently, I am happy to recommend the thesis for the defence.

In České Budějovice, August 10, 2012


Professor Jan Lepš