



Supervisor's evaluation on PhD student Jana Kopečná

Jana Kopečná has got a lot of talent to do science. She knows intuitively what the point of experiment is and how to design experiment to get to the point. This is certainly a kind of art that you can do easily and very well only having gods on your side. However, talent itself is not enough to become a good scientist but, fortunately, Jana has more than talent. She has a great passion for research, she has discipline and an excellent ability to plan and organize her work in the laboratory. All together this makes Jana's experiments clever, precise and efficient. I would like to emphasize her effectiveness, achieved not only by running more tasks in parallel but also by avoiding experiments that are not useful. This is perhaps the moment where Jana's talent for science is the most obvious – her ability to plan experiments yielding clear results with minimum of time and effort spent. In other words, to recognize what data are important for the explored question and what data are less informative. With this knowledge, this allows her to work fast as virtually any successful experiment can be used directly as a figure to a future manuscript. Indeed, thanks to high productivity Jana was not under stress and spending all time of her PhD study bound to the lab bench. She actually cannot do that since there is a long list of hobbies she loves and, it is my guess, they rank either the same or even higher importance for her than the science does. I could have tried to keep Jana more in lab and pressure her for more results or even another paper but I feel the price would be too high. In my view, to spoil the enthusiasm of a student for research is the biggest mistake a supervisor can make.

Performing experiments is however only one part of the PhD project, there are also writing duties. At the beginning of her PhD study Jana struggled with writing, with plenty of effort needed to write a single page, which contrasted quite sharply with her skills in lab. I saw however a big progress during the work on her papers and mainly on her PhD thesis. I don't think Jana started to like writing but who does? She has improved a lot and now is much more capable of expressing her ideas, being able to describe and discuss results along with all the other required prerequisites of professional scientific writing. Actually, Jana has perfect English and I have no doubts that with a little practise Jana will be able to produce scientific texts of a high quality.

The list of Jana's achievements is surely long enough to meet the criteria for the PhD degree. She is the first author of two papers and the co-author of another two, all published in respected journals with the total impact factor of above 20. It should be noted that essentially all results of both first authors' publications were done by Jana alone and the list of co-authors is very short. Jana was awarded with the DAAD scholarship for a five months stay at the University in Giessen and two of her projects were selected for funding by the

Grant Agency of South Bohemia University. Results obtained during her PhD project are an important contribution to understanding the metabolism of chlorophyll, a process that is even more fundamental for living on our planet than even the scientific community is conscious.

Finally, I would like to highlight that Jana has very cheerful, nice character and she was always willing to help other people in the laboratory. It was pleasure to work with her.



Třeboň, November 2nd, 2012

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