



**BIOLOGY CENTRE, ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
INSTITUTE OF PARASITOLOGY**

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Supervisor's report

Jana Zikmundová

Jana started her BSc project in October 2010. The project represents a pilot study to test a recent hypothesis by a team of established scientists and she embraced the idea enthusiastically. Although her reading list was short, she had to grasp the ideas of another leading school in research on trematodes (a book by Galaktionov & Dobrovolskij, 2003), a very heavy for reading indeed. To my satisfaction, she tackled this task appreciably and gained substantial knowledge on the morphology, development and population ecology of intramolluscan larval stages of trematodes.

Although Jana had no option to think about project design (she had to follow exactly the design of the study resulting in the hypotheses she tested), she showed initiative and worked very hard to obtain results. Due to the availability of infected snails, time limitations and the laborious manner of obtaining the data it was not possible to examine the samples initially planned. Nevertheless, all findings are novel and promising. Jana is a fast learner; I am very satisfied by the way she mastered statistical programs and approaches and see this as a promising quality for her future work. She was able to perform all statistical analyses in her thesis herself.

In addition to her project, Jana has helped us with obtaining a large number of digital images and samples for molecular study, another laborious task which she completed with precision. Poor planning of the thesis writing, a problem of many, was the only weakness Jana encountered during her project development. She was "punished" for this since because of my poor Czech she had to write her thesis in English. Jana worked extremely hard, including during the Easter holidays, and succeeded to finish in time. Her command of English is very good and this was an advantage in writing.

In summary, I am very satisfied with the results of Jana's study and the good standard of her thesis writing. Although her results are not publishable due to the need of expanding substantially sample sizes, her thesis presents a piece of original work on a controversial topic. I am confident she will get soon the data required and participate actively in the publication of the results. I also hope she will decide to expand the species range during the development of a MSc thesis. I believe the present thesis fulfils the requirements and recommend it to be accepted as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor at the Faculty of Biology of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice.

České Budějovice, 28th April 2011


Aneta Kostadinova