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Evaluation of Lenka Šípková

Master Thesis: Spermatological characters in Bothriocephalidea (Cestoda)

Lenka integrated the Laboratory of Helminthology in January 2007. She defended successfully her bachelor thesis on ultrastructure of spermiogenesis and the spermatozoon of a bothriocephalidean cestode in 2008. She achieved an important goal by having the results of her bachelor thesis published last year in *Acta Parasitologica*.

In January 2009, Lenka started her master thesis. Her subject of research, in continuity with her bachelor study, was to revise the spermatological characters across the whole order Bothriocephalidea. As model species, she studied two different taxa, *Oncodiscus sauridae*, a parasite of a marine fish, and *Senga* sp. from a freshwater fish. She prepared herself all the samples for transmission electron microscopy (except the ultra-thin sections) and analyzed the results obtained. To gain a deeper knowledge of tapeworms, she was also trained by R. Kuchta in the use of morphological assessments. For this, she applied this approach to study *Senga* (preparation of slides, observations and drawings). This activity has not been included in her thesis.

Lenka has been an active and dynamic student in our lab. Nonetheless, her presence in the lab was sometimes irregular.

Her thesis is presented in the form of a publication, completed by a deeper introduction, material, methods and discussion on the topic. Her publication is currently in press in *Parasitology Research*, which clearly demonstrates the importance of Lenka's contribution to the field. She wrote the manuscript independently (all the text has been written by Lenka), including preparation of plates with TEM micrographs and drawings using adobe illustrator. The other contributors only corrected the manuscript and made few improvements.

In my opinion, the thesis of Lenka is a very good piece of work which resulted in publishing results in an international parasitological journal with reasonably high impact factor.

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Céline Levron