

Supervisor's assessment of the PhD thesis:

Jiří Košnar: Taxonomic study of the Eurasian taxa of *Tortula muralis* (Pottiaceae, Musci) complex

The thesis contains three papers published in IF journals, all of them being high-quality studies, and with Jiří being the first author in all cases. This alone presents in my opinion a telling argument of the quality of defendant's research, if we consider that the major topic of the thesis was taxonomy, and the objects of study were the unapparent tiny mosses – a group of organisms, which to a majority of common people is virtually unknown and economically uninteresting.

It was obvious since my very first encounter with Jirka that he was unusually talented and dedicated student. At the time of his study beginnings at our department, he was already able to tell most common bryophytes, a stage, which most of graduating botany students never reach. Jiří started a taxonomic project dealing with *Carr. [unclear] n. sp.* for his master thesis but a major boost in his career occurred probably around 2007. Following the opening of our botanical molecular lab, we started with the application of molecular tools to disentangling the microspeciation problems, which had no ways of solution in earlier times. Jirka quickly learned the basic molecular protocols but soon he moved to advanced molecular techniques and within a few years became the most competent tutor, protocol developer and lab manager, who is sought for advice in specialized problems even by molecular biologists.

At this point, I also have to highly appreciate Jirka's pedagogical skills. He has been teaching not only the special molecular lab techniques for botanists, but also the specialized courses of microsatellite development and 454 pyrosequencing. Perhaps still much more time Jirka devotes to aiding all botany students and sometimes many others, with their molecular projects. Nevertheless, and this is also fascinating, he has still not forgotten the real mosses in the field, which the students might appreciate in course of field excursions.

Jirka has also successfully been engaged in our common grant projects and in projects of many other scientific groups at the university and was able to receive grant support from our university for one of his own projects. In conclusion, all named facts witness about Jiří's ability to organise and perform scientific research, which unambiguously proves that he should be granted the PhD degree, a recommendation that I wholeheartedly second.

České Budějovice, 06 April 2014

Jan Kučera

