

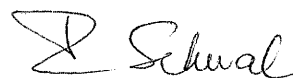
Tutor's statement on student performance

Moataz A. M. M. Mostafa was a recipient of Czech Government scholarship that he received in 2007. He stayed one year in Poděbrady attending a course of Czech language. In June 2008 he was accepted to the graduate school of the University of South Bohemia and the Biology Centre ASCR in České Budějovice. He was interested in the use of transgenic crops against insect pests, specifically in the mechanism of this crop protection. Since the resistance of transgenic crops to insects rests on the presence of one or more transgenes derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* and encoding insecticidal Cry proteins, we prepared a plan of research on the action of these proteins. This topic had been studied extensively in moths but not in Coleoptera. We chose to investigate Cry action in beetles but the subject proved unexpectedly difficult. The progress of work was initially very slow because neither the tutor nor the student had experience in this research area. Moataz was also insufficiently prepared for laboratory investigations. He gradually learned a range of research methods and acquired necessary working habits.

A turn to success was brought about by several factors in 2010-2011: (a) collaboration with a US group that isolated first Cry receptor from beetles; (b) availability of Cry3A derivatives prepared by Dr. J. Vlasák; (c) working stay of Moataz with Dr. Saad Moussa in the Insect Molecular Biology & Biotechnology Lab of the Plant Protection Research Institute in Cairo. It was then possible to produce original results that advanced current knowledge of the Cry protein action in beetles. One publication will appear in these days, another one was submitted and a third one is under preparation. Moataz also presented his results at seminars and conferences, passed the required examinations and participated in teaching. I must emphasize that he prepared all his reports and presentations alone and showed great ability to evaluate his results in the context of literature data.

Since Moataz A. M. M. Mostafa fulfilled all requirements, I recommend his PhD dissertation for the defense procedure.

In České Budějovice, April 2, 2013



Prof. Dr. František Sehnal, CSc.