



### Supervisor' review of dissertation thesis by Piya Changmai

It was quite surprising when I realized recently that Piya is member of our lab for incredible 6 years. Called Piják, he arrived to our lab after doing his bachelor thesis in Poland, looked up our faculty and lab on the web and stayed with us until now. I hope he does not regret it. When he joined, we were a small lab with limited resources poking in different directions. Consequently, in frame of his master thesis, Piya participated in several projects in the lab, and learned all basic molecular biology methods.

In our extensive analysis of the Fe-S cluster pathway in trypanosomes, in a relay Piya took the stick from Shaojun Long (now at the University of <sup>Washington</sup> St. Louis), and to some extent followed up where Shao finished. This had two aspects: i/ he had easier start than Shao, since several approaches have been worked out, ii/ taking the projects after the workaholic Shao meant that the easy parts have been done and whatever remained will be difficult. That proved pretty much to be the case, yet Piya was not scared and also was building on a very fruitful collaboration with Zdenek Paris (now at the Ohio State University). These studies were fruitful and resulted in two papers in Molecular Microbiology and Journal of Biological Chemistry.

The other paper in Molecular Microbiology was already truly Piya's work, as it was him who did most experiments, put them together and with Evca Horakova wrote initial draft. It is my feeling that this is an important contribution, as on trypanosomes we show that both human ferredoxins can still be actually functional in the Fe-S cluster assembly. In the other studies Piya again played a critical role and performed himself most experiments.

After all those years, Piya became an almost indispensable member of our lab. From a somewhat withdrawn position Piya was slowly yet steadily moving into the forefront, and his performance matured with him like an old wine. Lately, most of his experiments yielded (and I hope will keep yielding) publishable results and it must be a joy to work so efficiently at the bench as he does. Moreover, as a senior PhD student in our lab, Piya was helping other students in planning and execution of their experiments.

Piya came with <sup>for him</sup> all the highly civilized manners of a Thai person, which must made it difficult to survive in the Czech Republic in general, and in our lab in particular. These manners were major asset, because they served as a mirror for poorly behaving Czechs like myself, yet at the same time they also

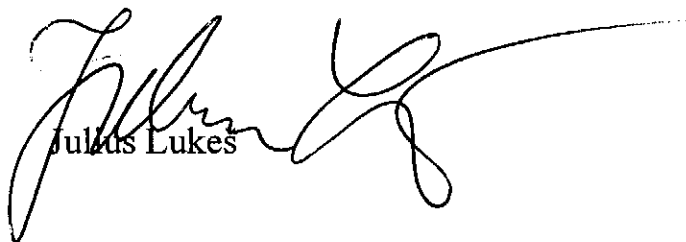


represented sort of a burden, because science is a competitive business, where you have to defend your position. For Piya it is virtually culturally forbidden to criticize at lab meetings his fellows, but lately he managed to overcome this internal barrier and became also a valued contributor in our discussions. With his inert humbleness, he still has certain limits in presentations and selling his results, but I guess that he will soon overcome them, although he will most likely never achieve the self-confidence of f.e. a typical American student. It is now when I want to add that Piya is also an excellent cook, a private expert on languages for which he is apparently gifted, a person central for the mixed expad community of Budweis and all in all, a nice guy to have around due to his invariably pleasant mood. He has the potential to be a very good teacher and/or researcher.

I would like to state that the presented dissertation thesis fulfils, according to my opinion, all postulations and I recommend it to be accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Faculty of Biology of the University of South Bohemia.

Thanks Piyo for your friendship and great work.

October 8, 2013 in České Budějovice

  
Julius Lukes