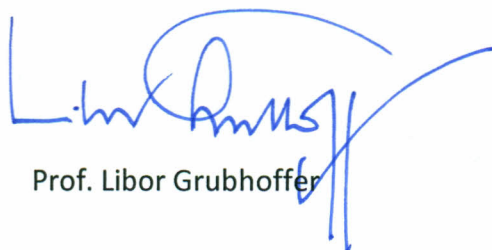


## Supervisor's assessment of doctoral dissertation of Mgr. Václav Höning.

Mgr. Václav Höning submitted for defense a doctoral thesis entitled '**Special Distribution of Tick-Borne Pathogens as a Consequence of Vector-Host-Pathogen Interactions with Environment**'. In beginning of my assessment report I am so pleased to state that Václav has done such great piece of work which based on it he wrote a dissertation of such high quality regarding both a formal point of view as well as a content of his scientific treatise. Vaclav joined my laboratory as a bachelor student of the USB Faculty of Biological Sciences in 2002 working on Lyme borreliosis spirochetes and their variability studied by molecular biology methods. Since that time I have known Václav as an exceptional person in terms of his strong character and an integrity of his personality. To give a true Václav's picture briefly and faithfully I may consider him a boy scout or an Indian chief☺ being respected by the peers due to his knowledge, skills, polite behavior, willingness to help others, etc. Having completed bachelor studies Vaclav decided to go for follow up master studies to Brno. I became so pleased and delighted when Václav showed up again after graduated in Microbiology from Masaryk University in Brno, and took advantage of an opening for a Ph.D. student in my laboratory. Regarding scientific competence Václav's singularity lies in his quite unique abilities to work hard in the field, collecting ticks, trapping feral host animals (reservoirs), carrying out ecological experiments in the field as well as using sophisticated techniques of biochemistry, and cell and molecular biology in the laboratory. In his doctoral project Václav took over a project within the cross-border "Ziel-3" program with Lower Bavaria (Ludwig-Maxmillian University in Munich) focused on mapping of ticks and tick-borne pathogens (TBEV, LB spirochetes) in South Bohemia and Lower Bavaria. Vaclav took the project as a great opportunity to collect unique data on distribution of ticks and to make a model of risk assessment at infectious diseases of humans. Working hard on the subject of dissertation Václav gained such great experience not only in epidemiology and ecology of ticks and pathogens transmitted by ticks but also in designing of experimental work in the field, collecting data and processing them by means of spatial statistics, getting valuable competence in GIS methodology, as well as risk assessment prediction.

Doctoral dissertation submitted by Mr. Václav Höning consists of four research articles published in journals with impact factors, as well as having submitted two more manuscripts for publication. An introduction to the doctoral dissertations can be considered as a research review of high quality which could be published as another manuscript.

In conclusion, Mgr. Václav Höning submitted an excellent doctoral dissertation to be defended. As all further requirements are fulfilled I am pleased to recommend the doctoral thesis for its defense, and based on successfully defended thesis to give him a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.



Prof. Libor Grubhoffer

In České Budějovice, September 24, 2015