

**Supervisors notes on PhD Thesis of RNDr. Pavel Šebek „The effect of different management strategies on the dynamics of saproxylic insect habitats“**

It is great pleasure to have Pavels PhD thesis in hands. Our collaboration started long ago, in 2006, when a person to monitor an *Osmoderma* population in southern Moravia was needed. I asked a colleague from Masaryk University in Brno, if he knows some suitable student. He recommended someone. That someone I met in the sparse old pollard willow (and dense stinging nettle) stand inhabited by *Osmoderma* beetles near Vojkovice nad Svratkou.

A tall, thin „Pražák“ (from Prague) with haircut somewhere between a Cherokee indian and young coctatoo parrot. Rather surprisingly, he not only survived the first season among nettles taller than him. For two seasons he managed to mark *Osmoderma* beetles, collect, sort and partly identify other beetles from traps in tree hollows. To even greater surprise, Pavel without any difficulties tamed the software MARK for his Bachelor thesis and got some sensible results out of the recapture data on *Osmoderma*. And later he published a paper on beetles collected in pollards.

After a stay in France and accomplishing his Master degree in Brno in 2011, Pavel started PhD in Budejovice. His hairstyle changed black and white stipes which earned him the nickname „jezevec“ (badger). We were eventually able to finish the study on the effect of pollarding on tree hollow density – and hence explain why many beetles like the pollards. In 2011, we started extensive multitaxa study assesing the effect of clearings in the core zone of Podyjí National Park on diversity of numerous groups of invertebrates, vertebrates and plants. Organization of this research slowly moved to Pavels hands, and fully depended on him in the last years. It went smoothly and resulted in another paper that became part of the thesis. Pavel also made use of well matured data collected by Štěpán Vodka ten years ago, and published a paper on importance of solitary trees for beetles, ants, wasps and bees, and spiders. The paper makes the last part of the thesis.

Pavels contribution to all the papers in the thesis was essential. Except for the last one it started with data collecting and ended with their analysis and paper writing. Meanwhile, he used his skills for other research topics and has published several more papers on saproxylic beetles and postindustrial habitats. His papers are often cited and make important contribution to the body of our knowledge. They, however, also aim to impact real world. Pavel became pollard enthusiast and spreads the word when possible. He also supervises undergraduate students.

During the years of our collaboration, Pavel always was great companion and excellent colleague who quickly became indispensable part of our team. He became very promising young scientist despite the low intensity or rather hands off management approach from my side. And I am looking forward to follow his works in the future. The only thing he failed in was to explain the secrets of modern statistical methods to his supervisor. Would not blame him for that, though.

Thank you very much, Pavel. And good luck!

In České Budějovice, 21st September 2016



Lukáš Čížek