



Supervisor's report

Lucie Cibulková

Lucie Cibulková obtained a BSc degree at the Charles University in Prague and was selected for a MSc degree study at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. Lucie joined our group in the summer of 2015 and embraced the idea to work on a project on the trematode diversity in pulmonate snails from the St Lawrence Wetlands, Canada, for which we needed a devoted student. The project involved thorough morphological and molecular characterisation of the isolates sampled. In the course of the study, Lucie gained knowledge on both, morphological examination and characterisation of the larval stages in molluscs and the molecular methods for species discrimination. She performed sequencing for most of the isolates included in the thesis and gained knowledge on performing phylogenetic analyses. She also managed to obtain data for the morphological characterisation of isolates of the family Echinostomatidae. Lucie showed ambition from the very beginning and tried to obtain as much as possible results. The preliminary data of her project were presented on the XXII Czech and Slovak Parasitological Days in May 2016, where she was awarded with first price for best poster presentation. Although Lucie showed initiative to work hard, the aims for fulfilling the initial plan appeared quite ambitious and a substantial part had to be left out of the present thesis; this includes the morphological characterisation of the isolates. Another weakness of her work on the project which I should mention, was a poor planning of the thesis writing.

Along her project, Lucie was involved in proceeding larval and adult trematode samples from the first intermediate snail hosts and the definitive bird hosts, where she gained additional knowledge. Therefore, although she had no chance to do this with the samples for her thesis, she was involved in the sampling and processing of trematode material and has gained knowledge of all protocols applied in our team.

I believe, the thesis presents interesting novel data from an unexplored region and contributes significantly to the poorly known larval trematode diversity in North America. As a significant outcome of the work is the partial elucidation of the life-cycles of eight trematode species. The presented results are publishable and I believe they would be of broad interest to parasite ecology, taxonomy and evolutionary biology investigators and the wider scientific community.

In summary, I am satisfied with the results of Lucie's study and believe the present thesis fulfils the requirements and recommend it to be accepted as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master degree at the Faculty of Science of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice.

České Budějovice, 22nd May 2017

Simona Georgieva