

Supervisor's assessment of Michaela Másilková's Ph.D. thesis
"Personality in non-human primates: methods of assessment, cross-species comparisons and reproductive performance"

This PhD thesis represents a culmination of almost 11 years of a fruitful collaboration. Michaela was the first student to finish her bachelor thesis under my supervision and decided to stay during her master and PhD studies. During this long time I had the opportunity to watch her grow from an enthusiastic and highly motivated student to an independent young expert in the field. Michaela gradually developed all the important skills of a young researcher. She is well versed in the literature on animal personality as well as callitrichids. She has become an expert on various methods of data collection and mastered the use of many statistical methods, some beyond my own level of expertise.

She is also a perfectionist who wants to explore every possibility in data analysis and any new published study. So the first paper was difficult to write for both of us. Me deleting the texts constantly and receiving multiple versions of the data analysis using different approaches and testing endless possibilities (with the same results) when I already expected the discussion to be written. However, my role dwindled to a few comments when writing the other two joint papers included in this thesis.

Michaela is also very good at networking. She initiated several new collaborations with national and international experts from zoos and universities. Some of these projects led to changes in her original PhD plan but at the same time brought valuable data and insights. She is a great team member, able to contribute with comments and ideas, but importantly also an amicable person anyone likes to work with. She also proved to be a good leader when helping with student supervision.

In sum, Michaela is an exceptional student any supervisor may wish for. In the last years I felt we became real colleagues and friends. We came up with several crazy study ideas that we might carry out one day. During the last couple of years she also became very independent. I am grateful for all her help, enthusiasm and sometimes little nudge that helped me get over difficult times. After 11 years it feels like one's child is moving out and it leaves me with mixed feelings of pride and sadness.

On a more formal and scientific note, the thesis represents a balanced set of three related studies that deal with different aspects of the main topic: animal personality. The first and already published chapter focuses on methods of personality assessment and in particular the use of behavioural coding, second chapter (currently resubmitted) deals with cross-species comparisons and their implications for the evolution of personality. The third manuscript investigates an idea on the role of parent personalities in reproductive success that we got a long time ago, but originally dismissed it as we thought there will never be enough data to test it. But again, Michaela's social skills opened access to data that could be used for this purpose. One can always dream about better (bigger, more detailed) data but I am really happy that we could test the idea and provide some novel results on the link between parent personality traits and reproductive output in callitrichids.

In my opinion, this thesis shows that Michaela successfully learned all important aspects of scientific work and became an independent researcher. I wish her a lot of luck and happiness in future work and personal life. I hope she will stay in the field and motivate new

generation of students to study animal behaviour. The thesis fulfils all the criteria required to complete the PhD program at the Faculty of Science and I cordially recommend its approval.

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