

Supervisor evaluation of the PhD thesis of Aleš Lisner

Mechanisms behind diversity and ecosystem functioning relationships - the insights from observational and manipulative studies in grassland communities

The thesis of Aleš Lisner is composed of five papers, four of them already published (Oikos, Journal of Ecology, Journal of Vegetation Science, Acta Oecologica), and one is a manuscript ready for submission (and I firmly believe that it will be published soon in a high profile journal). In all the papers, Aleš is the first author, and I fully confirm that he is the real leading author. The five papers, each forming one chapter of the thesis, are preceded by extensive Introduction, demonstrating well the scientific background of the thesis. In my view, this introduction is a good basis for a nice review paper on the recently highly debated and controversial topic of diversity – ecosystem functioning relationship. The research papers are followed by General conclusion, providing nice summary of the whole research.

By his ability to publish the papers in respected journals the candidate clearly demonstrated his ability of independent scientific work. Also, his papers are already cited (with the papers published by him, but not included in the thesis, he has got 41 citations, h-index = 5), showing that his results are of general interest to wide range of ecologists.

The candidate work quite independently, was able to manage well the field work for his main experiment (and other field work also), was very proficient in data analyses (mastering also some methods I am not familiar with). As a result, he currently helps with data analyses to other research groups within the whole Faculty of Science, to an extent that he becomes a co-author. Finally, he is very good and independent in writing.

During his studies, he has taught several courses, and his teaching record is impressive.

Finally, I highly value also the fact that he has already carried out numerous reviews for several international journals.

I was very satisfied with Aleš work and believe that he has clearly demonstrated his ability of independent scientific work.

In České Budějovice, 7-June-2023

Jan Lepš