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Supervisor's assessment of the MSc. **Hynek Mazanec**, PhD candidate.

Hynek showed up in your lab in 2015 looking for an MSc project. He started working with Anička Faltýnková on strigeid trematodes from Iceland. Later, Hynek decided to take advantage of the Erasmus programme and spend a semester in Antonio Marcilla's lab at the University of Valencia, where he discovered a completely new research field – extracellular vesicles of helminths.

Hynek decided to study EVs of tapeworms in his PhD, but no one in our lab had experience with this type of study. Finally, we started this risky PhD project in 2019, and I became his supervisor, even though I had no knowledge or experience with EVs.

Hymenolepis diminuta was chosen as the first model because the whole life-cycle is kept at the laboratory of Katka Pomajbíková-Jurkú. Thank you, Katka, for your help and the opportunity to start this work. Later, we tried to establish a second model – *Schistocephalus solidus* – in the lab. Hynek set up equipment in our lab for keeping live tapeworms outside the host and systems for isolating EVs. In addition, Hynek himself has branched out into other areas, such as transmission electron microscopy, bioinformatics, proteomics, and genomics.

Hynek has completed also several research fellowships in Spain and Switzerland and is now a recognised researcher in the field of EVs of helminths, which proves his participation in a prestigious methodological paper on EVs of parasitic helminths with the best specialists in the field (the publication No. III in the thesis).

Just recently, we received a new GACR project to study ESP and EVs of fish helminths, which was only successful thanks to Hynek's enthusiasm.

Normally, a PhD student learns from his or her supervisor, but here I learned mostly from the student. It was not an easy and sometimes painful process, but in the end, I am glad that we took this harder path, and the number of published papers is incredible.

So, in conclusion, I can only recommend accepting this dissertation.

Doc. RNDr. Roman Kuchta, PhD.

In České Budějovice, 17.ii. 2023