

Supervisors review on the PhD study of Jan Hájek

I'm very happy that after a bit longer PhD studies of Jan Hájek we can be here in the occasion of his PhD defense. The longer duration of Jan's PhD studies is definitely not a result of his weak dedication to research but actually the opposite is truth. From the early beginning of it was obvious that Jan is indeed a passionate researcher, however, sometimes his concentration on the main focus of his study was scattered by the interest in many side projects. Especially his passion in interpretation of mass spectra led many people (including me) to find help of Jan in structure elucidation of various compounds which postponed the finalization of the main research article.

Jan came to our laboratory as trained chemist and accordingly the topic of his study was selected to find the roots of the chemical diversity of cyanobacterial lipopeptides puwainaphycins and also to explain which molecular features are responsible for their bioactivity. During his studies Jan experienced very intense work with high-resolution mass spectrometry, compound isolation and structure elucidation but he also got a good basics of work in microbiological laboratory, human cell cultures and cells based assays. The main Jan's merits were the tireless evaluation of mass spectra with sometimes unorthodox approach and the often very innovative approach to the isolation of new substances and the determination of their chemical structure. I also think it is also obvious (e.g. from the lipopeptide literature review part) that once Jan decided to do something he will accomplish it. From above mentioned it is apparent that I was really satisfied with his performance, but I would like to advise him time to time to slow down as I think that sometimes his speed in work can be a drawback rather than an advantage. Also there is definitely quite some space to improve the writing skills (in terms of the text clarity) especially for future preparation of papers and grant applications. But in all other aspect I can state Jan became during the PhD a full-blooded researcher field of natural product chemistry and I hope that he will continue this research-line in the future.

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