



BIOLOGY CENTRE ASCR

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Supervisor's report on MSc. Martina Lisnerová

Martina Lisnerová joined our lab in 2013 as a student working on the phylogeny of flabellulid amoebae under the supervision of Martin Kostka. Martina's first touch with myxozoan parasites was in her diploma thesis, in which she localised and quantified *Sphaerospora molnari* in common carp. During her studies and work in our lab, we found Martina to be a very talented, conscientious and hardworking student who would be a great PhD student. I was very pleased when Martina showed interest in continuing her studies as a PhD and about taxonomy and especially eDNA studies of the Myxozoa.

Martina started her PhD studies in 2017 and joined my research project focusing on myxozoan diversity and eDNA detection of myxozoans, supported by the GACR. Martina quickly became an important member of this team and her work contributed significantly to the work on myxozoan diversity in clinid fish in South Africa. In the second year of her studies (2018), Martina spent a short period in Argentina sampling elasmobranch fishes and deepening the collaboration with our Argentinian colleague Delfina Cantatore. This was a very important milestone in her career, as the study of diversity of elasmobranch myxozoans is an essential part of Martina's PhD thesis (three papers). In the third year, Martina focused on the methodology of eDNA sampling for the detection of myxozoan parasites in the environment. This was a very challenging and not easy task. With her infinite patience and perseverance, she developed a very well-functioning pipeline for the detection of myxozoans in the sediments of freshwater ecosystems. Thanks to this pipeline, we are able to detect Myxozoa with high sensitivity in a very small volume of aquatic sediments without the need to obtain and euthanise fish host. This work is currently being published in the journal *Environmental DNA* and I believe it will be of great interest to many myxozoan researchers.

Martina was able to write five first-author papers (!) and two as co-author during her doctoral studies. She also successfully presented her research at the 19th International Conference on Diseases of Fish and Shellfish in Porto. She was also awarded a GAJU grant in 2020 and two BC travel grants in 2019 and 2020. She supervised and co-supervised three undergraduate students and is currently helping me supervise my two Master's students. In addition, during her short research stay (2019), she deepened our collaboration with colleagues at the University of Bologna and collected additional data for at least two or three more papers that are waiting for my corrections and could be also part of her PhD thesis.



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Martina is a very talented young researcher with great enthusiasm and independence in learning new methods. I was always impressed by her perfectionism. I could rely on everything she did and I wish everyone a student like Martina. Finally, I would like to emphasise that Martina is not only an important member of our lab, but also a very nice person who is a pleasure to work with. I am very happy that she decided to stay in our lab and participate in our research. I am convinced that with her published and as yet unpublished data, Martina meets the criteria for being awarded a PhD by the Faculty of Sciences of the University of South Bohemia.



RNDr. Ivan Fiala, PhD

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