

Supervisors report for Nematodes associated with fig wasps by Kateřina Pužejová

I am happy to give my report on Katka's bachelors thesis. The subject of the thesis was well discussed and understood by Katka. She has managed to deliver two main sections, one comprises a thorough literature review on nematodes in fig wasps and may serve as the basis for a publishable review paper in a more specialist journal, for example 'Nematology'. It is comprehensive and well written serving as the basis of a bachelor's thesis in its own right. The second part of the thesis was more exploratory and an attempt to develop a lab-based screening approach for nematodes. The groundwork put in by Katka has pushed us forward and opened up future options for this work, sadly these don't include published nematode 'specific' primers and single run PCR approaches. A metabarcoding type approach is perhaps best for detecting nematodes in the soup of DNA found in wasp extractions, coupled with modifications to the field collection protocol. However, it is my belief that Katka's experiences in the lab have prepared her well for the future and given her the opportunity to learn the basics of molecular lab work, including the optimisation of PCR, application of multiple primers and analysis of sequence data. I believe that this combination of review and experimental experience will serve Katka well and that her thesis is evidence of this. There are some minor clarity issues in her thesis, the lack of product lengths and raw data, but overall these omissions are small and the thesis deserves to be graded well.

Dr Simon Segar. Ceske Budejovice, 21/05/18.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sim S', followed by a horizontal line.