

Supervisor report on the PhD thesis of Ondřej Hornych

Hornych, O., 2020: Reproduction and hybridization in ferns. Ph.D. Thesis Series 2020, No. 22. University of South Bohemia, Faculty of Science, School of Doctoral Studies in Biological Sciences, České Budějovice, Czech Republic, 162 pp.

Ondřej Hornych has shown interest in ferns since his master's degree study, during which he quickly absorbed a lot of the literature regarding biosystematics and reproduction of ferns. He further improved his understanding of the topic during his PhD study, focusing on reproduction and hybridization mechanisms in ferns. Ondřej worked quickly and systematically on his thesis. Because of his effective experimental plans, data analysis and paper writing, Ondřej was able to finish his doctoral studies after just four years, which is something not every student achieves. Ondřej also learned necessary skills for field work, flow cytometry and several types of molecular analyses. He attended a three-month internship at the University of Florida in the USA and presented his results at an international conference last year. Due to his experience abroad, Ondřej established good relationships with foreign colleagues which resulted in his big first-author paper on the significance of antheridiogens in ferns, published in *New Phytologist*. Especially in the antheridiogen part of his thesis, I must appreciate Ondřej's independence, his ability to form hypotheses and lead cultivation experiments. Another thing that stands out is Ondřej's exceptional English, due to which he was able to quickly read and write academic texts. This aspect is nicely illustrated by one of our USA colleagues from the place of Ondřej's internship asking whether English is also an official language in the Czech Republic. For me, it was an honor and pleasure to supervise such a student. In my opinion, the presented thesis contains all formal requirements for a PhD thesis at the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science (University of South Bohemia) and I would like to recommend it for defense.

In České Budějovice 4.1. 2021

Libor Ekrt