



BIOLOGICKÉ CENTRUM Akademie věd České republiky, v.v.i.

## Parazitologický ústav

Branišovská 31, 370 05 České Budějovice, Česká republika  
Telefon 38-777 5403; Fax 00420-38-53 10 388

### Supervisor's report on MSc thesis by Pavla Heinclová

#### **“The effect of direct predation by fish on cercarial populations of selected trematode species”**

Pavla joined the Laboratory of Helminthology in February 2017. Although she had a background in parasitology from the bachelor study at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, the group of digenean trematodes was a completely new topic for her. I appreciate that Pavla was not afraid of the relatively difficult topic I suggested to her despite the fact that it was new to the both supervisor and consultant and, above all, that her research involved challenging experiments. Pavla managed to perform a substantial amount of work (altogether 78 experiments) on the ability of a range of fish to consume trematode cercariae. She proved to plan, coordinate and perform experiments independently and was able to obtain hosts for experiments in case of fish and snail death.

Pavla works precisely and fast, but sometimes her quick thinking that turns into action represented more a disadvantage when writing the thesis. Despite the difficulties at the beginning, she showed that she can review the scientific literature and present the data in oral and written form. Pavla's presentation was awarded as the best presentation among the bachelor and master students at the national conference with international participation Helminthological Days in 2018. Although I have some reservation about her work mainly because of the need to remind repeatedly some duties, I am convinced that it is due to her character rather than due to the lack of interest. In contrast, I highly appreciate her enthusiasm, the ability to learn quickly both methodology and quite sophisticated statistical analyses, but especially her constant good mood.

Her experience gained during the experiments has greatly contributed to facilitating the acquisition of results in Norway where similar experiments were conducted within a supervisor's project. Overall, Pavla has obtained interesting results that contribute significantly to our understanding of the role of parasites in food webs and their functioning.

Miroslava Soldánová, PhD.

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