



Přírodovědecká
fakulta
Faculty
of Science

Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice

České Budějovice, 29 March 2022

Purpose:

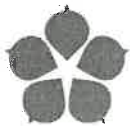
PhD defense of Pavel Soukup
Faculty of Science
University of South Bohemia
České Budějovice
Czech Republic

Dissertation supervisor's report

Pavel has joined our group during his bachelor studies. At that time, he was more of a computer expert heading for a career of a high school teacher, but he was keen to explore the messy world of aquatic ecology. This led to his Bachelor and Master theses on aquatic insects under my supervision. As his interest in science grew, he decided to continue and started to work on the PhD thesis that he defends today.

At the same time, he never lost his determination for teaching. This has been evident in his ability to supervise interns in the lab and quickly grasp various new techniques required for his thesis. With his outgoing personality and endless current of geeky stories, he was usually at the centre of social activities of our group. His ability to digest important information and great presentation skills earned him awards at several conferences. Pavel also led several practicals at the Faculty of Teaching and supervised high-school student reports.

His excellence in teaching was also noticed by others, and Pavel interrupted his PhD studies to start a full-time job as a teacher at one of the high-profile high schools in České Budějovice. He kept working diligently on the thesis in his free time, which led to the three manuscripts that form his thesis. He has always approached new challenges with an open mind, which helped him achieve a varied and, in my opinion, high quality PhD thesis that covers multiple aspects of the role of habitat complexity and predation in aquatic habitats.



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I am very happy to have been his supervisor and am looking forward to the publication of the last chapter of his thesis. His thesis consists of three first-authored papers, two of which have already been published in very good journals. I rate this work very high and recommend Pavel to be awarded the PhD title based on the thesis. I wish him all the best in his future career and hope that he will be able to pass his interest in science onto many of his students.

Assoc. Prof. David Boukal, Ph.D.

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