

Supervisor evaluation of the bachelor's thesis
Robin Schürz: Comparison of metabolic pathways in insect symbiotic bacteria

Robin started his bachelor's thesis just before the pandemic stroke. Since the new situation prevented his frequent visits and consultations in our laboratory, we had to adapt the content of the work and to keep most of the time only email communication. While I was afraid how this model would work, I found that Robin was very independent person capable of finding important information via internet and solving many problems by himself (including writing his own scripts which helped to process the data). To my relief, I also found that Robin was able to write most of the text, find the relevant literature, and discuss it together with his results. So, we eventually needed only few runs of corrections and modifications when completing the thesis.

The thesis itself can be seen from two angles. First, it is a detailed comparison of two closely related bacterial symbionts, or rather two related phylogenetic lineages of the same symbiont. It provides comparative information on various aspects, such as completeness of metabolic pathways, degree of selection across different genes, and COG categorization of the shared genes. As such it is from my point of view a valuable and well performed piece of comparative work. Second, the thesis will now serve as a base for further investigation in our laboratory. It points out interesting features and provide background for studying the pattern of selection between two closely related symbionts.

As supervisor, I was very satisfied with Robin's work, and I am as well satisfied with its result (particularly when considering the difficulties due to this remote mode of work). I certainly recommend this thesis and wish Robin good luck during its defense.

In České Budějovice, 23.1.2021



Václav Hypša