

Supervisor evaluation of the PhD thesis of Eva Švamberková

Assembly rules in plant communities

The thesis consists of four papers (and appropriate Introductory and concluding chapters). In all the four papers, Eva is the first author (corresponding to her share in these papers). Three of them were already published, and I believe that the fourths will also be published soon. In addition, Eva is a co-author of further three papers, which, according to Scopus (Dec. 16, 2021) results in total of 48 citations and $h=4$. Two of these papers are result of her internship stay in Hungary. This shows that she is active and able to cooperate. Eva has worked hard and rather independently on her projects, particularly in field during the establishment and surveying of experiments (the three sowing/transplanting experiments), and also analysed thoroughly the data from her experiments, and for the legacy paper from the Benešov experiment, where she cannot be helpful during experiment establishment (experiment was established in 1996).

In general, I see two fundamental contribution of the thesis: (1) demonstration, the history matters, so that the (determinants of) arrival sequence of species should be considered part of the assembly rules. (2) The demonstration of the importance of biotic interactions for the community composition, and of the differences in the concepts of "species pool", particularly for the comparative studies of actual species composition with the appropriate species pool.

In conclusion, Eva has done quite nice piece of work, and I believe that she demonstrated her ability of independent scientific work and contributed seriously to the debate on the mechanisms determining the composition of plant communities.



Jan Lepš, supervisor

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