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Supervisor's report on Bc. Hynek Mazanec and his Master Thesis "Molecular and morphological characterisation of digeneans of the family Strigeidae Railliet, 1919 from Iceland"

Hynek came to our lab as an enthusiastic student from the Faculty of Science, University in Hradec Kralove, where he studied bats and defended his Bachelor Thesis in 2015. He had good recommendations and he did not disappoint us. During his whole stay he remained enthusiastic, helpful and active and he was working fast, although sometimes too fast. As well his English improved significantly during his stay here.

Although we at first planned that he might study bat parasites, we finally followed the recommendation of Aneta Kostadinova, to work on strigeid trematodes from Iceland and so Hynek's work became a part of our study on biodiversity of Iceland. There was a belief that sub-Arctic ecosystems are poor in pathogens which however was challenged by studies in the recent years, and the present work is a part of assessment of the diversity in Iceland which will serve for comparative studies to elucidate if there is a typical trematodofauna in sub-Arctic lakes.

Hynek processed successfully the morphology of adult trematodes and later of cercariae and learned the necessary methods, including the classical methods of ink drawing. The material of trematodes, especially the adults, was partly in a poor state and Hynek had shown a lot of patience to go through such material. From Simona Georgieva, his consultant, Hynek as well learned the molecular tools which he was able to refine during his stay in the lab of Antonio Marcilla (Dept. of Cell Biology and Parasitology, University of Valencia) within the Erasmus programme in the winter semester of 2017, during which he continued to work on his Master thesis.

Hynek worked hard on writing and finalising the Thesis which he planned well so that there was no time pressure. The Thesis will be further processed as a manuscript for publication in an international parasitological journal (Parasites & Vectors).

To sum up, I appreciate Hynek's work and recommend his Thesis to be well rated.

České Budějovice, May 21, 2018

Anna Faltýnková, PhD