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Evaluation of PhD student Anna Vojtko

This is to approve that PhD student Anna Vojtko, who conducted her PhD under my supervision, has fulfilled all formal and non-formal requirements for her studies and that I, Dr. Lars Götzenberger, recommend the submitted thesis for defence.

Anna completed all her mandatory tasks and courses for her studies with ease and also integrated well into the different teams she worked in, including the functional Plant Functional Ecology group at the Department of Botany and the Department of Botany of the Academy of Sciences in Trebon, as well as the teams in which she has stayed for her external lab visits (Walter Dyrka and Ingolf Kühn at Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Halle, Germany, and two visits to Robert Junker, University of Salzburg, Austria, and University of Marburg, Germany). Additionally, she also maintained a connection to her "scientific roots" in Hungary.

During the course of her PhD studies, Anna has acquired an impressive array of data organisational and analytical skills that she largely exploited for the papers and manuscripts that are part of her PhD thesis. Apart from her work on her own thesis, she never shied away from contributing to other projects, which has broadened her overall toolbox, understanding, and perspectives on plant ecology. This includes, though not necessarily evident from the work that made it into her thesis, an eagerness to participate in field work whenever she had the chance. Next to the chapters that make up her own thesis, this resulted in numerous co-authorships and additional papers as first author, that will help to establish her standing within the field of plant ecology, and trait-based ecology in particular.

Taken together, the above mentioned points make me confident that Anna has indeed acquired all the skills and knowledge that enable her to be an independent scientist in the field of plant ecology, who will be in the position to acquire her own funding and work on her own projects in the future.

