

STATEMENT

From

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rostislav Hristophorov Bekchiev

(National Museum of Natural History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences),

Member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 4.3 Biological sciences (scientific specialty Entomology)

In the competition announced in the State Gazette no. 71 of 18.08.2023, one candidate has submitted an application and a complete set of documents for participation - prof. as. Dr. Boyan Petrov Zlatkov from IBER- BAS.

The report on the candidate's compliance with the legal requirements, including the National Minimum Requirements, according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for the Occupation of Academic Positions at BAS and IBER-BAS shows that the candidate meets and exceeds them.

The list of the candidate's scientific works consists of a total of 47 publications, of which he has presented 43 for this competition. Of these, 28 are in publications that are refereed and indexed in world databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), and he is the first author of 13. The total number of citations in impact-factor or impact-rank journals submitted to the competition is 40. His scientific activity is complemented by participation in 23 projects as an expert and researcher, as well as membership in the Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica.

In terms of research, Zlatkov's interests are mainly in the field of basic science, skillfully combining classical methods of studying anatomy with genetic and morphological studies of insects, which helps to achieve in-depth taxonomic results - 13 new species have been described, another 13 have been synonymized or have changed status.

It is important to note that the experience gained in morphological studies of insects and the histological methods used make Dr Zlatkov a valuable and sought-after specialist in studies of other animal groups (mites, reptiles, mammals).

The submitted reference for the contributions is very well structured, detailed and fully reflects the above opinion.

Dr. Zlatkov's scientific papers have been submitted to some of the most prestigious journals in the biological sciences (e.g. Frontiers in Zoology, Zoomorphology, Biologia, ZooKeys, Arthropod-Plant interactions, Zootaxa, etc.) and 18 of them are with quartiles as follows: Q1- 2, Q2 - 8, Q3 - 5, Q4 - 3 and 10 are with SJR only. All articles are in the Biological Sciences filed.

In addition to his interests in basic science, as is evident from the presented CV, Dr. Zlatkov is also a recognized and highly demanded expert in applied activities such as monitoring and assessment of species of conservation importance, management plans for protected areas, curatorial activities and conservation of museum collections, etc.

Dr. Boyan Zlatkov is a scientist with erudition, willingness to work and experience that I have had the pleasure to observe for nearly 15 years. During these years, he has not only built on what he learned at university, but has also shown an enviable talent for setting new boundaries for the scientific topics that interest him and even inventing new methods and instruments to help him clarify the questions he has posed.

Conclusion

Chief asst. Dr. Boyan Zlatkov is an outstanding scientist in the field of the current competition for associate professor in the scientific specialty of Entomology, meets and even exceeds the national requirements, as well as those of BAS and IBER-BAS. His scientific achievements are significant and highly appreciated by the scientific community.

In conclusion, I give my positive opinion for the election of Dr. Boyan Zlatkov for the academic position of Associate Professor at IBER-BAS.

Sofia

12.12.2023 r.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rostislav Bekchiev