

**Statement**

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*Concerning:* competition for the occupation of the academic position "docent" in professional field 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty "Entomology", for the needs of the IG "Fauna, Taxonomy and Ecology of Invertebrate Animals", Section "Biodiversity and Ecology of Invertebrate Animals", Department "Animal Diversity and Resources" of IBEI-BAN.

In the competition for the academic position "associate professor" in professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty "Entomology", for the needs of the IG "Fauna, Taxonomy and Ecology of Invertebrates", Section "Biodiversity and Ecology of Invertebrates", Department "Animal Diversity and Resources", announced in no. 71/18.08.2023 of the State Gazette, only one candidate appeared – chief assistant professor Dr. Boyan Petrov Zlatkov - employee at the same institute.

Boyan Zlatkov was born on 17.05.1982. In 2005, he graduated with honors from the master's program "Entomology" at the Faculty of Biology of the "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2011, he successfully defended his PhD thesis, titled "Butterflies of the family Tortricidae (Lepidoptera: Microlepidoptera) of the Sandansko-Petrichka basin". Dr. Zlatkov's main scientific interests are related to the study of various aspects of taxonomy, anatomy and functional morphology mainly of several groups of butterflies, as well as other groups of animals.

For participation in the announced competition on paper and electronic version, Dr. Zlatkov has submitted all the required documents, carefully prepared. Dr. Zlatkov participated in the competition with 43 publications, distributed as follows - 4 publications are based on the results of the PhD thesis; according to the indicator B: Scientific publications, referenced and indexed in the world-famous databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) with the equivalent of a habilitation work - 8 publications and 145 points (out of the required 100); by the Indicator G: Scientific publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), outside of the habilitation work – 20 publications and 276 points (out of 220); and another 15 scientific publications that are not referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. According to the information submitted by the candidate, 2 articles are published in Q1, 8 in Q2, 5 in Q3 and 10 in Q4.

In the materials for the competition, the candidate promised, but did not submit, a list of participations in scientific forums at home and abroad. In 21 of the presented publications, Dr. Zlatkov is the first, and in 6 of these publications he is the sole author, which is proof of his leading role in the relevant research. An indicator of his research complexity and teamwork skills is the fact that a large number of publications are co-authored with colleagues both from IBEI and other units of BAS, SU and colleagues from abroad. The candidate not only meets, but also

significantly exceeds the minimum national criteria, the criteria of BAS and of IBEI-BAS: instead of the required 20 articles, the candidate presents 43, of which instead of the required 10 with IF, he presents 18, and 40 citations in publications with IF (when 10 are required).

The scientific publications presented in the competition are original studies, and the more important scientific contributions in them can be divided into several main directions:

- Taxonomic contributions to clarify the taxonomic status of difficult taxa from various groups of butterflies – 13 new taxa are described and as many are revised, synonymized or with new combinations proposed;
- Anatomical and functional-morphological studies of the reproductive system of model species of the families Tortricidae and Sphingidae;
- A microscopic study of the anatomy of the proboscis of *Macroglossum stellatarum* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Sphingidae) reveals why this species of butterfly sometimes remains attached to the flowers of the introduced ornamental plant *Oenothera speciosa*, leading to their death;
- Methodological contributions.

Dr. Zlatkov is a member of numerous scientific projects and the head of one scientific project funded by the National Science Fund.

Dr. Zlatkov takes an active part in the organization of a histology laboratory, in which he made a significant original contribution to equipping it with the necessary equipment, as well as in the development and modification of the necessary methodological approaches for conducting each specific study. The candidate has a clear profile of research work in the field of entomology, morphology and functional morphology related to the reproduction of butterflies and reptiles, works well in a team, as well as transfer his knowledge and skills to all colleagues who have sought his competent help and support. His habilitation will strengthen the group of entomologists at IBER and take it to a higher level.

Boyan Zlatkov developed and conducted an original specialized course on the principles and use of light microscopy, which he conducted free of charge for several groups of interested colleagues from IBEI, and which was also sought after by BAS PhD students working with light microscopes.

## ***Conclusion***

I have the pleasure of knowing Boyan Zlatkov since he was a student in the Faculty of Biology of the Sofia University, and later as a biologist in the Department of Zoology and Anthropology of the Faculty of Biology. Since then, he has been distinguished by a deep interest, both in the scientific research itself, and in the discovery and improvement of the most appropriate approaches and methods to achieve the set goals, and almost 20 years later we are witnessing the results of the consistently traveled path - an impressive scientific production, made precisely in

every detail and a qualified specialist who is valued and sought after by colleagues in the scientific community at home and abroad.

The original scientific contributions in the field of entomology, the preparation of the design and the conduction of in-depth scientific research at the highest methodological level, the skills to work in a team and teach the colleagues, the recognition of colleagues at home and abroad, as well as my excellent personal impressions of the candidate's qualities give me grounds with full confidence to recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury to prepare a proposal-report for the Scientific Council of IBEI/BAS to support the election of Doctor Boyan Petrov Zlatkov as an associate professor in the scientific specialty ENTOMOLOGY (06.01.14) for the needs of the section "Biodiversity and Ecology of the invertebrates" of IBEI-BAN.