

**OPINION**

by Assoc. Prof. Stefan Antonov Philipov, PhD

Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Centre of Phytochemistry - BAS, member of the academic jury, appointed to the Order No. 65/04.10.2024 of the Director of the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - BAS

Regarding: Competition for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette No. 66 of 06.08.2024, in the field of higher education: 4. "Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics"; Professional field: 4.3. "Biological sciences"; Scientific specialty: "Botany" at the Department "Plant and fungal diversity and resources" of IBER - BAS.

In the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette No. 66 of 06.08.2024 and on the website of IBER - BAS, the only candidate is Assistant Professor Dr. Boryana Zdravkova Sidzhimova, Section "Applied botany" of the Department "Plant and fungal diversity and resources" at IBER - BAS.

**1. General presentation of the materials received under the procedure**

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, it was unanimously decided that the applicant is allowed to be evaluated in the announced competition and that the materials submitted by her are in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Rules for its implementation, the Regulations for the implementation of the ADASRB of the BAS and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of IBER - BAS for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

For her participation in the competition for "Associate Professor" Assistant Professor Dr. B. Sidzhimova has applied a total of 23 publications, including:

- Publications equivalent to habilitation thesis (Indicator B) - 7 issues. All of them are published in journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) and are distributed by quartiles, according to SJR ([www.scimagojr.com](http://www.scimagojr.com)), as follows: Q1 - 1, Q2 - 1, Q3 - 3, Q4 - 1 /without IF/ and Q1 - 1 /without IF/.

- Publications beyond the equivalent of a habilitation thesis (Indicator D) - 16 issues, of which 10 are with an impact factor, 5 are in non-impact factor journals and one is a book chapter. The distribution of publications by quartiles, according to SJR ([www.scimagojr.com](http://www.scimagojr.com)) is as follows: Q1 - 2, Q2 - 3, Q3 - 5.

Dr. B. Sidzhimova has attached:

- List of citations.
- List of exercises conducted in "Botany", "Systematics of higher plants" and "Biodiversity of plants and fungi" at the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski".
- List of more important projects in which she participated.

Assistant Professor Dr. B. Sidzhimova received her Master's degree in "Botany", specialization "Medicinal Plants" in 2002 at the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". Dr. B. Sidzhimova began her research career at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - BAS, Section "Applied Botany", Department "Plant and fungal diversity and resources", passing through the positions of biologist and assistant professor. In 2008 she obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in scientific specialty 01.06.03 "Botany".

## **2. General characteristics of a candidate's activity**

Assistant Professor Dr. Boryana Sidjimova participated in the competition with seven publications, presented as an equivalent number of articles for a habilitation thesis, all dedicated to phytochemical and biosystematic studies of species from the family Amaryllidaceae. The research includes studying the alkaloid composition of species of the genus *Galantus*, deriving taxonomic decisions regarding species in the genus, as well as determining the biological activity of alkaloid extracts. Another aspect of the research activities of Dr. Sidzhimova is focused on the chemical composition and biological activity of some species from the families Zygophyllaceae, Colchicaceae and Crassulaceae.

## **CONCLUSION**

The results achieved by Assistant Professor Dr. Boryana Sidzhimova in the scientific research activities fully comply with the requirements of the Act on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the ADASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the ADASRB of the Bulgarian Academy

of Sciences and the Regulations of the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - BAS of the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

From the materials presented in the competition and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions reflected in them, I am fully convinced to give my positive opinion and recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the awarding of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Assistant Professor Dr. Boryana Zdravkova Sidjimova in scientific specialty 01.06.03 "Botany" for the needs of the Department "Plant and fungal diversity and resources" at IBER - BAS.

Sofia, 23.11.2024

Signature:

/Assoc. Prof. Stefan Philipov, PhD/