

OPINION

By Prof. Roumyana Mironova, PhD

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Regarding: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (IBER-BAS), announced in State Gazette No. 48/07.06.2024

By Order No. 51/05.08.2024 of the Director of IBER-BAS I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at the same Institute in the professional field 4.3.Biological sciences, specialty of **Genetics** for the needs of the Department of Biodiversity and Ecology of Parasites. For participation in the announced competition has submitted documents one candidate - Dr. Boyko Stoykov Neov, Assistant Professor at the same Institute. I have been provided electronically with all the documents required by the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant regulations of BAS and IBER- BAS. The candidate has submitted a certificate that he has a total work experience in the specialty of 8 years 9 months and 29 days, which makes him legitimate to participate in the announced competition.

Dr. Neov obtained his Master's degree in Animal and Human Physiology in 2010 at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, and a PhD in Parasitology and Helminthology in 2021 at IBER-BAS. Since 2012, the candidate has been working in the research group on Molecular Evolutionary Studies at the Department of Biodiversity and Ecology of Parasites at IBER, where he was appointed to the position of Assistant Professor in 2021. *During his career development, the candidate has acquired qualifications in the specialty of **Genetics** of the announced competition, having methodological experience in DNA isolation, PCR, gel electrophoresis, DNA sequencing, phylogenetic and other analyses.*

Dr. Neov participates in the current competition with a total number of 25 publications, of which only 4 are not refereed in Web of Science. In the table below, I have presented the compliance of Dr. Neov's group of indicators A to D with the national minimum requirements, adjusted for BAS on indicators G and D. As can be seen from the table, the candidate's total score exceeds nearly two and a half times the required minimum. This is mainly due to the citation of his papers, and I would like to emphasize that in his most cited publications, **No.13**

and **No. 16**, he is the lead, first (**No. 13**) or last (**No. 16**) author, respectively. The citations of these two publications account for more than a half of the total points' number in indicator D.

Indicators' Group	Minimum Points' Number	Candidate's points
A	50	50
B	100	120
G	200(220 for BAS)	360
D	50(60 forBAS)	554
Total	430	1084

Thematically, Dr. Neov's publications fully correspond to the specialty of **Genetics** of the current competition. The contributions in these publications are divided into 3 groups: 1) Molecular **genetic** studies on the taxonomy, phylogeny and identification of parasites and other pathogenic organisms; 2) Molecular **genetic** studies on the origin and evolution of domestic animals and their wild relatives; and 3) Contributions related to the assessment of the status of bee populations, the role of their **genetic** structure and the causes of increased mortality in populations. *This demonstrates that the candidate has a clear research profile in the field of molecular genetics and its application to taxonomic, phylogenetic and evolutionary studies.*

CONCLUSION

Dr. Neov's candidature fully meets and significantly exceeds the requirements of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, BAS and IBER-BAS for the academic position of Associate Professor. The candidate has significant scientific and methodological contributions, which is evidenced by the publication of his research in prestigious scientific journals and their multiple citations. He has a solid methodological background in the **Genetics** specialty of the announced competition and a clearly outlined research profile in the field of genetically based taxonomic, phylogenetic and evolutionary studies. All this gives me a reason to confidently recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Council of IBER-BAS to give their positive vote for the election of Dr. Boyko Stoykov Neov at the academic position of Associate Professor.

September 30, 2024

Prof. R. Mironova