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STATEMENT

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Ilchev Velev

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - BAS,

According to the Order №16/23.01.2024 of the Director of IBER - BAS

Subject: Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education 4. “Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics”, professional field 4.3. “Biological Sciences”, scientific specialty “Botany” for the needs of the Research Group of “Plant Diversity and Local Development”, Division of “Applied Botany”, Department “Plant and Fungal Diversity and Resources”, IBER - BAS.

In the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor”, announced in State Gazette No. 98/24.11.2023 only one candidate has submitted documents – Chief asst. prof. Dr. Teodora Angelova Ivanova from the Division of “Applied Botany”, Department of Plant and Fungal Diversity and Resources of IBER - BAS.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Chief asst. prof. Dr. Teodora Ivanova has completed her higher education with a Master's degree in Biotechnology, specialization in Plant Biotechnology in 2003 at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The same year she joined the former Institute of Botany - BAS as a specialist biologist in the division of “Applied Botany”. In 2009 she received the Prize in the name of “prof. E. Palamarev” for young researchers. In 2013 she defended her dissertation for PhD in “Botany” (01.06.03), with the topic of the dissertation work “In vitro cultivation of *Ruscus aculeatus* L. and *Ruscus hypoglossum* L. (*Liliaceae*)” under the scientific supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tatyana Stoeva with scientific consultant Prof. Stefan Nikolov. Dr. Teodora Ivanova has participated in 11 national and international projects, being the project leader of three of them.

2. General description of the documents submitted for the competition.

The documents submitted comply with the regulatory framework. The candidate meets the minimum requirements under the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the

Republic of Bulgaria and its Implementing Regulations, the minimum requirements of BAS under the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at BAS, and the additional requirements of IBER-BAS under the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions at IBER-BAS.

3. General characteristics of the scientific papers submitted for the competition.

The candidate participated in the competition with 27 scientific papers (including a dissertation) and a total of 507 points, grouped according to the individual indicators as follows:

Indicator “A”: **50 pts.** from a dissertation for the degree of PhD;

Indicator “C”: **110 points** from 6 publications (100 points required);

Indicator “D”: **277 points** from 20 publications (220 points required);

Indicator “E”: **74 points** (60 points required).

Research papers submitted as a habilitation thesis are six in number, of which three are in journals falling in Q1, one in Q2, one in Q3 and one refereed in Web of Science but without a quartile. In all six publications under Indicator “C”, Dr. T. Ivanova is the first author. The scientific papers submitted under Indicator "D" are 20 in number, including: five in Q1, one in Q2, two in Q3, one in Q4, three with SJR without IF, four without SJR and without IF, and four book chapters. In five of the publications under Indicator “D”, Dr. T. Ivanova is the first author. Under Indicator “E”, 37 citations were identified in publications refereed and indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus.

4. Research activities and contributions.

The scientific works presented by the candidate Dr. Teodora Ivanova are in accordance with the subject of the competition - professional field 4.3. “Biological Sciences”, scientific specialty “Botany”. The main scientific interests and research of Dr. T. Ivanova are focused in the field of ethnobotany. The object of research are both species of natural flora and cultivated plants. The ecosystem services provided by the plant diversity of home gardens in over 60 localities in Bulgaria have been analyzed. People's attitudes towards the conservation and preservation of plant bioresources of wild and cultivated species within their cultivated areas (courtyard gardens and food gardens near settlements) were studied. The gardens prove to be refuges for indigenous forms of agrobiodiversity, preserving a range of plants that have been passed down through generations. Garden biodiversity has been found

to be largely determined by social, economic and/or health factors. The key factors and threats to the conservation of inherited native plant genetic resources have been identified.

5. Critical comments and recommendations.

I have no substantive criticisms of the materials submitted for the competition.

CONCLUSIONS:

Chief asst. prof. Dr. Teodora Ivanova meets all mandatory conditions and scientific-metric requirements for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at IBER-BAS. The candidate is an established expert in the field of ethnobotanical studies in the country, as well as in issues related to the conservation and preservation of plant bioresources of wild and cultural species. The personal contribution of Dr. T. Ivanova to the scientific works presented is obvious, she is the first author of 11 out of 26 publications.

On the basis of the high scientific value of the materials submitted for the competition, I VOTE POSITIVELY for the candidature of Dr. Teodora Angelova Ivanova for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at IBER-BAS in the professional field 4.3. “Biological Sciences”, scientific specialty “Botany”.

Sofia,

11.03.2024.

Statement prepared by:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Velev)