

Bx. № 281 HO-05-06/20.03.2024

STATEMENT

By competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Botany", professional direction 4.3. "Biological Sciences", for the needs of the Research group "Plant Diversity and Local Development", Section "Applied Botany", Department "Plant and Fungal Diversity and Resources", of IBEI-BAS, announced in the State Gazette no. 98/24.11.2023.

Candidate: Dr. Teodora Angelova Ivanova

Statement of: Associate Professor Dr. Tsvetanka Georgieva Raycheva, Agricultural University - Plovdiv, head of the Botany and Agrometeorology Department, member of the Scientific Jury, determined by Order No. 16/23.01.2024.

In the competition announced in the State Gazette, no. 54 of July 12, 2022, one candidate participated - Dr. Teodora Angelova Ivanova, Senior Assistant in the "Applied Botany" section at the "Plant and mushroom diversity and resources" department of IBEI - BAS.

General data about the applicant and the procedure materials

Teodora Angelova Ivanova was born in 1981. In 2003, she graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Biology, specialization "Biotechnologies", specialization "Plant Biotechnologies". In the period 2007–2010, he was a full-time PhD student in Section "Applied Botany" at the Institute of Botany, BAS, where he successfully defended her thesis and in 2013 obtained the her PhD. In 2013, until today, she has been elected the position Senior Assistant at the same Institute.

The materials submitted for the competition show that the procedure for it disclosure and announcement has been complied with and the documents are in accordance with the requirements of The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and its Regulations implementation, as well as with the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at BAS and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at IBEI - BAS.

The scientific works presented by Dr. Assistant Professor Teodora Ivanova, for participation in the current competition are on the subject of the competition professional direction 4.3. "Biological Sciences", scientific specialty "Botany".

The implementation of the different groups of indicators is as follows: Group of indicators A: 50 points (required 50 points); Group of indicators B: 110 points (required 100 points); Group of indicators D: 277 points (required 220 points); Group of indicators D: 70 points (required 60 points). The applicant has submitted a total of 26 scientific publications in scientific journals, of which 17 are in specialized scientific journals with IF, 4 are in books or book chapters with ISBN and 5 are in refereed and indexed journals without quartile.

Citations are a total of 70 in publications referenced in Web of Science and/or SCOPUS, and the number of citations in publications with IF is 33.

In addition, a list of 5 scientific publications related to the award of the PhD degree is attached outside the present competition procedure.

Evaluation of research activity

The scientific interests of Teodora Ivanova are in the field of applied botany - the study of representatives of the higher flora of Bulgaria, with application in practice as medicinal, ornamental and food products and biocultural dimensions of plants. Her research, integrates floristic methods with traditional knowledge of medicinal plants (ethnobotany, ecosystem services and socio-economic aspects affecting food quality and agro-biodiversity in rural areas).

The candidate's main scientific and applied contributions of an original or confirmatory nature are in several directions:

- Biologically active substance content and biological activity of extracts of plant origin - including antiviral and antioxidant biological activity of extracts of *Melissa officinalis* L.; antioxidant activity of 7 cherry cultivars in relation to resistance to changing climatic conditions and evaluation of biologically active substances in wild and cultivated samples of *Allium sicutum* subsp. *dioscoridis* (Sm.) K. Richt (Samardala), in relation to practical aspects.
- Taxonomic differentiation based on differences in isoenzyme profiles in 4 morphologically close species of the genus *Festuca*;
- Biotechnological methods for propagation of economically important and conservation relevant plants.

Final evaluation of the candidate's compliance with the conditions of the competition

On the basis of the submitted materials, I consider that Dr. Teodora Ivanova meets all the required criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor. The candidate has a clearly defined research profile - her studies are in two aspects, biotechnological and ethnobotanical and, in particular, related to biocultural diversity and transformation of traditional knowledge about plants preserved in Bulgarian society. Her research profile meets the expectations for the advertised position. The field in which she works is promising for the development of IBEI - BAS and is of scientific and applied importance.

In conclusion, I give a positive evaluation and recommend the members of the Scientific Jury to support the election of the head as. Dr. Teodora Angelova Ivanova as Associate Professor in the professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty „Botany“ for the needs of the section „Applied Botany“ of the Department „Plant and Fungal Diversity and Resources“ at IBEI - BAS.

Mart 18, 2024

Plovdiv

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Raycheva/