

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Lidia Georgieva Sakelarieva, PhD

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**Regarding:** competition for the academic position " Associate Professor" in "Hydrobiology", professional field 4.3. Biological sciences, at the Research group "Bioindicators, Monitoring and Ecological Classification of Freshwater Ecosystems", Section "Biodiversity and Functioning of Freshwater Ecosystems", Department "Aquatic ecosystems" of IBER-BAS.

The competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" was announced in the State Gazette no. 48 of 07.06.2024. Assist. Prof. Violeta Georgieva Tyufekchieva, PhD from the Biodiversity and Functioning of Freshwater Ecosystems Section, Aquatic Ecosystems Department of IBER-BAS participates as the only candidate.

The documents, references and lists presented by Violeta Tyufekchieva, PhD meet the requirements of the regulations and the Rules for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research at the BAS. The candidate fulfills the set minimum requirements, which is evident from the prepared certificate of compliance with the minimum scientometric requirements.

Violeta Tyufekchieva has presented a list of 29 scientific publications for the competition. Of these, 21 are in journals referenced and indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science. Indicator B4 of the Scientometric Performance Report includes 9 publications, of which two are in Q1 quartile journals, three are in Q3 quartile journals, three others in Q4 quartile journals, and one publication is only in journal with SJR. The total number of points for group B indicators is 141 (out of a minimum of 100). There are 20 publications in group "G", of which 8 scientific works are assigned to indicator G8 (Published book chapter or collective monograph). The total number of points under indicator group G is 303 (from a minimum of 220). Twelve scientific papers that are not part of the competition are also presented. The total number of citations in the attached list is 194, of which 126 are in Web of science and Scopus, with which the condition for collected points under indicator "D" - 252 (out of a minimum of 60) has been fulfilled more than 4 times. Assist. Prof.

Tyufekchieva, PhD has also presented additional materials such as published abstracts, certificates from various trainings, letters certifying contribution, participation in national and international organizations, participation in organizational and scientific committees of scientific forums, participation in scientific forums with reports and posters, participation in 40 scientific and scientific applied national and international projects and expert activity, which are not required for this competition, but testify to the active work of the candidate.

The presented scientific output shows consistent work over the years and in-depth studies in the field of taxonomy, fauna, zoogeography, ecological requirements and conservation significance of the order Plecoptera (Insecta). The highlighted contributions from the publications in indicator "B4" are presented correctly and clearly. 3 new taxa for the fauna of Bulgaria have been identified and the taxonomic status for Bulgaria of 11 stonefly taxa has been clarified. The taxonomic lists of the Plecoptera order have been updated and new original faunal data have been added for more than 30 stonefly taxa from the watersheds of 5 rivers, karst springs, glacial streams and lakes located on the territory of Bulgaria and for 4 taxa from the Republic of North Macedonia. Data on the abundance and structure of the Plecoptera complex and benthic communities in lotic and lentic ecosystems were studied. The contributions made as a result of zoogeographical and ecological research, as well as those related to the conservation significance and environmental protection status of the stoneflies are also important.

The reference to the contributions of the publications in indicator group "G" complements the ones already presented. Some of the contributions here are also related to the taxonomic and functional diversity of freshwater macroinvertebrate communities, the characterization of water qualities and the assessment of the ecological status of water bodies, and the development of methodology in the characterization of continental surface waters.

Violeta Tyufekchieva, PhD applies established standard scientific research methods, both during the field studies and subsequently during data processing, which ensures comparability of the results with other similar studies. It should also be noted her experience in applying statistical methods, which skills are definitely necessary when processing the results of modern scientific and applied research.

The good theoretical preparation and practical experience of the candidate are clearly visible in the presented scientific works. The studies of the order Plecoptera as a model object of the river macrozoobenthos and an important indicator for determining the ecological status of

aquatic ecosystems are extremely important and of great significance for the development not only of the Bulgarian, but also of the European aquatic ecology.

Since I have known Violeta Tyufekchieva for many years, I would like to share my personal impression of her as a colleague who can always be relied on and who fulfills her official duties precisely, responsibly and on time. It is important to evaluate her skills when working in a team as well.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, as a member of the scientific jury, determined by order of the Director of IBER-BAN (№ 50/05.08.2024), I express my opinion that the candidate Assistant Professor Violeta Georgieva Tyufekchieva, PhD, participating in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", announced in State Gazette no. 48 of 07.06.2024 fully meets the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for the academic position "Associate Professor". I give a positive assessment of the candidate's scientific results and recommend the Scientific Council of IBER to award Assistant Professor Violeta Georgieva Tyufekchieva, PhD, the academic position "Associate Professor" in "Hydrobiology".

September 30, 2024

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Lidia Sakelarieva, PhD