

Statement

From: Prof. Dr. Nikolay Dobrinov Nachev, Department of Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", elected as a member of the Scientific Jury for the selection of an associate professor, in the scientific specialty 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty "Ecology and Conservation of Ecosystems", for the needs of the section ""Community Ecology and Conservation Biology"", department "Ecosystem Research, Ecological Risk and Conservation Biology" at IBEI-BAS. The procedure was announced in the State Gazette, No. 32/15.04.2025.

Regarding: procedure for Associated Professor, announced in the State Gazette, No. 32/15.04.2025 in the scientific specialty 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty "Ecology and Conservation of Ecosystems", for the needs of the section "Community Ecology and Conservation Biology", department "Ecosystem Research, Ecological Risk and Conservation Biology" at IBEI-BAS.

In the announced procedure, the only candidate is Ch. Asst. Dr. Angel Valentinov Dyugmedzhiev. I have reviewed the attached documents and believe that all the necessary elements required by the ZRASRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB, the Regulations for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions of the NPNM-BAS are available. In my opinion, the documentation for the competition is complete and organized in a convenient way for work. The documents describe and present the scientific and expert activity of Angel Dyugmedzhiev.

Candidate's biographical data and professional experience

Angel Dyugmedzhiev began his higher education in 2009 and graduated with a master's degree from the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2013. In 2015, he began doctoral studies at the National Museum of Natural History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and in 2020 defended his dissertation on the topic "Spatial Ecology of the Viper (*Vipera ammodytes*) in Western Bulgaria". Since 2018, he has been an assistant at the Institute of

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where he still works as a Chief Assistant.

According to the candidate's own data, he has a good command of English and specializes in the fields of "Herpetology, Theriology, Zoomonitoring, Ornithocenology, Ichthyology, Evolution and Phylogeny". In my opinion, Dr. Dyugmedzhiev's scientific English is at an excellent level. The areas of specialization should also be expanded, even in view of his publication activity

Personal impressions

I have known Angel Dyugmedzhiev personally for fifteen years. I have a joint article with him and am currently preparing another manuscript in his co-authorship. I have no doubts about my ability to objectively give an opinion on the procedure, since our joint article was used in the candidate's doctoral procedure and is not included in the list of publications under the current procedure. The article that we are currently preparing has no relation to this procedure.

Doctor Dyugmedzhiev has always impressed me with his determination and perseverance in his scientific work, in addition to his enormous work capacity, I associate the candidate's activity with a special ingenuity in methodology and a very creative approach to studying the ecology of the animals he has studied. These seemingly difficult to combine qualities are present in the work of Angel Dyugmedzhiev and anyone can verify this by reading the publications submitted for the dissertation and the current procedure. Another my observation is that Doctor Dyugmedzhiev is extremely efficient. The methodology he chose for some of his field studies required activity for over 16 hours a day. This is beyond the capabilities of most specialists, and considering that the studies were not conducted on isolated days, I actually do not think that there is any colleague at least in Bulgaria with similar experience.

A characteristic feature of Angel Dyugmedzhiev's character is his corporatism and non-conflict. I have always enjoyed working with him and all experiments have been successful. Doctor Dyugmedzhiev created a team of very capable and complementary specialists and the high publication activity of the team is proof of this

Scientific activity, publications and projects

To date, the candidate is the author of 45 scientific products in various fields. He has participated in over twenty scientific forums. The total number of his citations is about 124. Scientific publications have been realized in all four quartiles, with a significant part of the production being in the two most elite sections. The candidate has an H index of 7. Angel Dyugmedzhiev has participated in 32 projects so far, and he was the leader of five of them.

Scientometric indicators of the competition and quality of the production

I have checked in detail the candidate's report for compliance with the requirements of the national legislation and I believe that the submitted indicators correspond to the actual ones. As can be seen from all parameters, the candidate exceeds the requirements by a confident margin. Eight of the articles are combined in the habilitation thesis and an additional eighteen form 229 points in G7, and together with the points for

Contributions to the competition

In the formation of contributions, publication activity plays a large role and in this sense standardization is impossible. In my opinion, the candidate's contributions are formed in a way that reflects the essence of his scientific activity. I formally recognize all three main groups of contributions and all over 25 subdivided contributions.

Conclusion

After a detailed analysis of the documentation submitted under the procedure, I can state that it fully meets the requirements for the award of "Associate Professor" according to the Law on Academic Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations on the terms and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Bulgaria. As a member of the Scientific Jury for the competition announced in the State Gazette, No. 32/15.04.2025 in the scientific specialty 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation", for the needs of the section ""Community Ecology and Conservation Biology"", department "Ecosystem Research, Ecological Risk and Conservation Biology" at IBEI-BAS, I give a positive assessment and vote "For" the election of

Ch. Assistant Dr. Angel Dyugmedzhiev as Associate Professor in professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences.

06.08.2025

Shumen, Bulgaria

prof doc. rer. nat. Nikolay Natchev