

## STATEMENT

from Assoc. Prof. Vladislav Stanislavov Vergilov (IBER-BAS)

regarding the competition for the academic position of "**professor**"

in Direction 4.3. "Biological Sciences", scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation", for the needs of the Department "Ecosystem Research, Environmental Risk Assessment and Conservation Biology" at IBER-BAS, announced in the State Gazette, issue 21 of 14.03.2025, with candidate **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov Naumov**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Naumov is the only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "professor" in the specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation". The candidate was born in 1971 in Sofia. In 1995, he received his Master's degree, and in 2012 he successfully defended his doctoral thesis in "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation" at the IBER-BAS with topic "Taxonomy and distribution of species of the genus *Triturus* Rafinesque, 1815 (Amphibia: Salamandridae) in Bulgaria". Since 2017, he has held the position of "Associate Professor" at the Department of "Ecosystem Research, Environmental Risk Assessment and Conservation Biology" at the IBER-BAS. Dr. Naumov is also the head of one of the most productive sections at the IBER-BAS - "Division of Community Ecology and Conservation Biology".

The candidate's scientific career is focused on the study of the diversity, distribution, biology and ecology of amphibians and reptiles in Bulgaria and the Balkan Peninsula. He has participated in more than **15 scientific and applied science projects**, and his work covers the territories of other countries, such as Greece, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, etc. The candidate has successfully worked not only with leading scientists in the country, but also with established ones from prestigious scientific institutions in Europe.

The candidate's scientific output includes over **80 scientific publications** in refereed prestigious journals. In the current competition, Dr. Naumov participates with **49 full-text scientific papers**, including **48 articles** indexed in WoS and Scopus and **one chapter of a**

**monograph.** This remarkable scientific output of the candidate exceeds both the national and BAS criteria, as well as the IBER criteria for holding the academic position of "**professor**".

Among the journals in which Dr. Naumov's studies for this competition have been published are authoritative international publications - *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Molecules*, *Amphibia-Reptilia*, *North-Western Journal of Zoology*, *Ecological Questions*, *Herpetozoa*, *Belgian Journal of Zoology*, etc. They are known among zoologists, ecologists and evolutionary biologists as journals with high scientific criteria, which publish research results with a high impact on the modern development of zoology.

The candidate has presented a list of **180 citations** of his scientific works, with those in IF journals being **101 citations** from the list. The indicated metric data characterize Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Naumov as a productive researcher, whose work has found a wide response in the scientific community. In his research, he uses a wide range of methods, combining traditional approaches with innovative methods of biology, morphology, bioacoustics, ethology, population ecology, etc.

I fully accept the report on scientific contributions submitted by Assoc. Prof. Naumov in connection with the competition. He indicates as his habilitation work **11** publications in the field of distribution, population ecology, physiology and diet of Caudata, in six of which he is the leading author. These studies are characterized by scale, innovation, application of interdisciplinarity and significance of the results obtained. They have found a visibility and recognition in the international scientific community and have been cited many times.

Two other strengths in the professional development of Assoc. Prof. Naumov should also be noted - his activity in various national scientific-applied and environmental projects and his work as a supervisor of young scientists (two successfully defended PhD students and one in an advanced stage of preparation).

From the attached references it is clear that the candidate exceeds the required minimum values in terms of metric indicators for holding the academic position of "**professor**" according to the Law on Scientific Research and the Rules for the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

I have no critical comments on the materials submitted for the competition.

I would also like to share that I have personally known Dr. Borislav Naumov for over 15 years, with whom I have worked on various projects and research, including the two large-scale

projects concerning the mapping and monitoring of the country's biodiversity. I am a co-author of 1 publication and 1 book chapter, with which the candidate participates in this competition.

Considering the achieved scientific results, as well as my personal impressions from our joint work in one department, as well as on many scientific and applied scientific projects, I consider Dr. Naumov to be a promising, prepared and capable scientist with significant scientific contributions. I believe that his election as professor of "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation" will have a positive impact on the research conducted in the Department of "Ecosystem Research, Environmental Risk Assessment and Conservation Biology".

In conclusion, highly appreciating the scientific activity and qualities of the candidate and based on all of the above, **I give a positive assessment and strongly support the election of Dr. Borislav Naumov for the position of "Professor"** in "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation" for the needs of the "Division of Community Ecology and Conservation Biology" at IBER-BAS.

June 25, 2025

Sofia

Signature:

/Dr. Vladislav Vergilov (IBEI-BAS)/