

Standpoint

From: Prof. Dr. Stephka Chankova - Petrova, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (retired), member of the Scientific Jury , according to order No. 70/01.08.2025 of the Director of IBER,

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Professor", professional field "4.3. Biological Sciences", scientific specialty "Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation", for the needs of the section "Biomonitoring and Ecological Risk" at the department "Ecosystem Studies, Ecological Risk and Conservation Biology" of IBER- BAS, announcement in the State Gazette No. 45/03.06.2025.

Assoc. Prof. Michaela Nikolova Nedyalkova, PhD was the only scientist who submitted documents, and applied for the academic position of "Professor" in the competition announced in the State Gazette. She has a long term 35 1/2 year career, first as a specialist biologist, then as an associate professor 2017, and now as a candidate for the scientific position of "Professor" in the field of biology and ecology of small mammals. Two particularly relevant problems for modern ecology - Eco-toxicology and Physiological ecology are the main focus of her investigations.

Analyzing the scientometric items, I should note the following:

- ✓ Assoc. Prof. M. Nedyalkova, PhD is a author /co-author of a total of 75 scientific articles, full-text reports, textbooks and book chapters;
- ✓ In this competition, she participated with 34 scientific publications;
- ✓ The points summarized by group of indicators $A+B+\Gamma+\Delta+E=959$ significantly exceed the required increased minimum of IBER, BAS;
- ✓ The total IF of Assoc. Prof. M. Nedyalkova, PhD is 16.361.
- ✓ During the period between 2017 and 19.07.2025, her articles as an author/co-author were cited 136 fold. The total number of citations is over 350.

Having in mind the scientific production of Assoc. Prof., PhD Michaela Nedyalkova it must be pointed out that scientometric requirements and criteria for the position "Professor" are fully covered and over.

In the period 2017 - 2025, Assoc. Prof., PhD M. Nedyalkova and the teams she collaborates or manages are involved in intensive investigations focused to very important aspects of modern ecology, and corresponding to the best European practices for assessment and prevention of the risk of environmental pollution:

- ✓ Eco-toxicological and genetic consequences of heavy metals environmental pollution , approaches for organisms detoxification, and reduction of genetic load (anti-mutagenesis);
- ✓ Organisms' biological response to the action of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation in the environment;
- ✓ Role of small mammals in the transmission of zoonotic diseases;
- ✓ Faunistic and population studies.

Here, I would like to express my satisfying and agreement with the manner of formulation of the main contributions. They elucidate in a very successful way the new and achievements in these researches.

As a thorough researcher, Assoc. Prof., PhD Mihaela Nedyalkova has contributed to the development and/or management of work packages or scientific projects, and the training of PhD students. To date, she has one successfully graduated PhD student, and another one in the procedure of graduation.

I have personally known Assoc. Prof. PhD Mihaela Nedyalkova for many years, first in my capacity as Head of the Department of Ecosystem Research, Ecological Risk and Conservation Biology. She has always stood out for her collegiality, empathy for the issues under discussion.

Currently, Assoc. Prof. PhD Mihaela Nedyalkova as a Head of this Department, and despite the great administrative occupation and responsibilities this position keeps her, she works with the same energy to looking for and find answers to the scientific challenges that current changed ecological situation provides.

In conclusion:

From the presented scientific documentation it is clear that Assoc. Prof., PhD Michaela Nedyalkova significantly exceeds the minimum national scientometric requirements and the increased specific criteria of IBEI, BAS for the position "Professor". She is a well known in the scientific community in the field of small mammal ecology not only in Bulgaria but also abroad.

She is not only a good researcher, but also a supervisor of PhD students and a wonderful and responsible administrator.

Everything written above is a good reason for me to make a well-founded conclusion that Assoc. Prof. Mihaela Nedyalkova PhD fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff, for the academic position of "Professor", in the professional field "4.3. Biological Sciences", scientific specialty "Ecology and Conservation of Ecosystems", for the needs of the "Biomonitoring and Ecological Risk", section at the "Ecosystem Research, Ecological Risk and Conservation Biology" Department of IBER-BAS.

Based on my positive standpoint I would like to address to the respectable members of the Scientific Council of IBER to vote positively, Assoc. Prof. Mihaela Nedyalkova PhD to occupy the academic position of "Professor".

28.09.2025
Sofia

Sincerely yours:
/Prof. Stephka Chankova-Petrova, PhD/