

OPINION

By **Prof. Dr. Valko Biserkov**, member of the Scientific Jury, in a competition for the academic position of "professor", 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", State Gazette No. 63 of 01.08.2025.

One candidate has submitted documents for the competition - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simeon Lukanov. He was admitted to participate in the competition by the Technical Commission.

I am familiar with the candidate's scientific work since the moment he started working at IBEI-BAS in 2014. During these years, the candidate has shown a rich general biological culture and has established himself as a scientist who strives to work at a high professional level and publish in renowned herpetological scientific journals.

Profile of scientific activity

The scientific research profile of Assoc. Prof. Lukanov is defined by his work as a herpetologist. The main part of his research is related to species of the Bulgarian herpetofauna. His scientific work is focused on various aspects of herpetology:

- morphometry;
- faunistics;
- biogeography;
- habitat of species (modeling and analysis of habitats);
- bioacoustics (analysis of vocal activity in the genus *Hyla*).
- taxonomy;
- seasonal activity;
- biochemical ecology (importance of skin secretions for the behavior of snakes);
- ecotoxicology (effect of ammonium nitrate on amphibians).

The candidate is a participant, coordinator and leader of many scientific projects. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lukanov is the supervisor of a successfully defended full-time doctoral student. He has taught the subjects: Bioresources, Ecological Monitoring, Ecology and Environmental Protection at the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

Most important scientific contributions

I accept the scientific contributions indicated by the candidate. In my opinion, the most important of them are those related to modeling of species habitats and analysis of vocal activity in amphibians.

Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lukanov meets all the criteria for holding the position of professor.

I recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lukanov be elected professor in the Department of Ecosystem Research, Ecological Risk and Conservation Biology

November 18, 2025.

Signature:

/Prof. Dr. Valko Biserkov/