

OPINION

Prof. Roumyana Mironova, PhD

Roumen Tsanev Institute of Molecular Biology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (IBER-BAS), announced in State Gazette No. 25/10.03.2026

By Order No. 24/07.05.2026 of the Director of IBER-BAS, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury in a competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at the same institute in the professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, Specialty “Genetics”, for the needs of the “Biomonitoring and Environmental Risk” Section within the Department of “Ecosystem Research, Environmental Risk and Conservation Biology”. One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition – Dr. Tsvetelina Zhanova Gerasimova, Chief Assistant Professor at the same institute. All documents required by the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the relevant regulations of BAS and IBER-BAS were provided to me electronically. *The candidate has submitted an official certificate confirming a total professional experience in the specialty of the announced competition of 22 years, 1 month and 0 days, which makes her eligible to participate in the competition.*

Dr. Gerasimova obtained a Master’s degree in Ecology and Environmental Protection in 2002 from the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University, and in 2012 she obtained the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the scientific specialty “Ecology and Ecosystem Conservation”. Since 2003 she has been working within the BAS system, and since 2010 she has successively held the positions of Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor at IBER-BAS, where since 2013 she has been working as Chief Assistant Professor in the Genetic Monitoring Research Group. *During her professional development, Dr. Gerasimova has acquired solid expertise in the field of the announced competition, conducting research in genetic monitoring, cytogenetics and genotoxicology using state-of-the-art cytogenetic and ecotoxicological methods.*

Dr. Gerasimova participates in the present competition with a total of 22 publications, of which 21 have an IF and/or SJR, and one is a book chapter in a collective volume with ISBN and DOI. She has participated in numerous scientific forums and has received a scientific award. In the table below, I have presented the correspondence between Dr. Gerasimova’s indicators in groups A–D and the minimum national requirements. As can be seen from the table, her achievements exceed the minimum requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor by more than 200 points.

Indicator Group	Minimum Required Points	Candidate's Points
A	50	50
B	100	130
G	200 (220 for BAS)	265
D	50 (60 for BAS)	200
Total	430	645

The publications submitted by Dr. Gerasimova fully correspond to the scientific specialty “Genetics”. Their scientific contributions can be grouped into five main areas: (1) cytogenetic screening and evaluation of the genoprotective potential of natural products and plant extracts from the genus *Rosa*; (2) cytogenetic studies of newly synthesized aminophosphonates and their derivatives; (3) assessment of the genotoxic effects of industrial chemical agents and organic solvents; (4) ecotoxicological studies and assessment of the genetic risk associated with exposure to heavy metals; and (5) karyological and comparative cytogenetic studies in animal species. The obtained results expand our knowledge of the genotoxic, cytotoxic and genoprotective effects of natural and synthetic compounds, as well as of the application of cytogenetic methods for environmental risk assessment and characterization of genetic resources. *This demonstrates that Dr. Gerasimova has a well-defined research profile in the fields of applied cytogenetics, genotoxicology and ecotoxicology.*

CONCLUSION

Dr. Gerasimova’s application fully meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, IBER-BAS and BAS for the academic position of Associate Professor. She has made substantial scientific and applied contributions, as evidenced by the publication of her research in prestigious scientific journals and by the citations of her publications. Dr. Gerasimova possesses strong methodological expertise in the specialty “Genetics” and has a clearly established research profile in the fields of biomonitoring and environmental risk assessment. She has also acquired substantial experience in project-related activities. All of the above gives me sufficient grounds to confidently recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Council of IBER-BAS cast a positive vote in favor of electing Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Tsvetelina Zhanova Gerasimova to the academic position of Associate Professor.

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Prof. Roumyana Mironova

