

## ACADEMIC OPINION

**regarding the competition for holding the academic position "Associate Professor",  
Scientific area 5. Technical Science, Professional field 5.5. Transport, shipping and aviation,  
discipline "Conservation of Biological Diversity" at the Department of "EEP" of the Faculty of  
Technical Sciences of Varna, announced in SG No.65/06.08.2021  
with candidate/s: Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev, PhD, Chief Assistant  
from Member of Scientific jury: Aleksander Nikolov Dimitrov, PhD, Associate Professor**

### **1. General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied research activity**

The materials presented in the competition, to the candidate Chief Assistant PhD Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev, are as follows: indicator A - 50 points (meets the requirements); by indicator B - 415 points (it's met); by indicator G - 333.99 points (it's met); by indicator D - 170 points (it's met); by indicator J - 305 points (it's met). The points exceed the very minimum requirements.

The candidate Stoyan Vergiev participates with 13 publications indexed in world-famous databases (Scopus and Web of Science) and 22 in non-referred journals. For all his activity, he presents 70 articles, 18 of which are indexed in world-famous databases (Scopus and Web of Science), participation in 34 international conferences (of which 5 abroad) and 4 national.

PhD Vergiev has participated in 8 research projects, 5 of which are funded by the EU, 1 by the NSF. The candidate is the head of 2 projects which are from intra-university projects.

### **2. Assessment of the pedagogical competency and activity of the candidate**

Regarding the teaching and pedagogical activity, for the last three years, PhD Vergiev has an average of 430 hours of work in the Bachelor's degree and an average of 32 hours in the Master's degree.

He has participated in the development of 5 curricula, of which 4 in Bachelor's disciplines and 1 in Master's. The candidate has developed and conducted 9 lecture courses, 12 courses with laboratory exercises and 6 with seminars.

His innovative teaching methods are impressive. Chief Assistant PhD Stoyan Vergiev successfully works with students and PhD students both in the learning process and in research projects. He has supervised 5 graduates and has prepared 12 reviews of diploma theses in the Master's Degree. I highly competency the teaching preparation and activity of the candidate, as I consider, he meets the requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

### **3. Main scientific and applied contributions**

The candidate, PhD Vergiev, has not published a monograph, but the submitted publications are sufficient. In 30 of them, he is an independent author or in the first place, which is proof of personal contribution to them. The presented works also show his ability to work both individually and in a team.

The contributions of its activity are divided into 4 main areas: First: study of contemporary flora on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, Northeastern Bulgaria and Stara Planina, and GIS mapping of habitats and distribution of medicinal and aromatic plants and plant species with conservation status.

In this direction I include the assessment and ranking of protected natural areas and zones in the country. Second: Conservation of habitats - sand habitats, dunes and coastal areas, with an emphasis on *minimizing the effects of floods and erosion*. Third: *Development of flora and fauna, successions and migrations in space and time, with emphasis on endemism and its characteristics, and landscape development*. Fourth: *Analysis and assessment of climate change - vegetation and pollen productivity*

along the Black Sea coast.

As main scientific contributions I accept: Original scientific data on plant diversity and change, incl. the dynamics of vegetation distribution as a result of climate change and anthropogenic impact (G8.1, G8.2, G8.3, G8.4, G8.6, G8.7, G8.9, G8.10, G8.11, G8.12, G8.13, G8.14, G8.15, G8.16, G8.17, G8.18, G8.20, G8.21, G8.22). The dune stabilization capacity of some psammophytic plant species (B4.1, B4.2, B4.3, B4.4, B4.5, D8.5, D8.8) has been established.

As the main scientific and applied contributions I accept: Contemporary calibration sets have been prepared, containing data for pollen and climate from 759 computerized surface samples (2009 - 2020). The data were used to track annual variations in vegetation, pollen production and the influence of climatic factors. The prepared data sets are applicable for paleoclimatic reconstructions (G8.10, G8.11, G8.12, G8.14, G8.15, G8.16, G8.20).; As a result of the application of the prepared models GIS maps of the "hot spots" for the floristic regions Northeast Bulgaria and the Black Sea coast for several vegetation periods have been compiled and the borders of the floristic regions have been specified and digitized (G8.1, G8.2, G8.3, G8.6, G8.7).

I attribute the contributions mainly to: obtaining confirmatory facts, proving with new means existing scientific fields, problems, theories and hypotheses. As implementations, I include new GIS maps, new models, methodologies and indicators (CDT), as well as modern calibration sets.

#### **4. Significance of contributions to science and practice**

These contributions are scientific and scientific-applied contributions are important for the development of practice and science. I highly appreciate the depth of the work of PhD. Stoyan Vergiev. Three of the publications of Chief Assistant Vergiev are cited in Scopus and Web of Science, as Article B 4.6. is with 13 quotes. There are a total of 16 citations in this section. From the non referred, he presents 5 citations of his three articles. The presented materials unequivocally show that Chief Assistant PhD Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev is recognizable in academic and scientific circles as well as his expertise is sought when working in research projects.

#### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have small and insignificant remarks on the arrangement of his documents. My recommendation is to work for publications mainly in world-famous databases.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I believe that the candidate meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of TU-Varna and the quantitative indicators of the criteria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" are met.

On the basis of the presented documents and scientific papers, their significance, the contributions contained in them, **I suggest that Chief Assistant. PhD Stoyan Ivanov Vergiev should take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 5.5. Transport, shipping and aviation, discipline "Conservation of Biological Diversity" at the Department of "EEP" of the Faculty of Technical Sciences of Varna.**

Date: 16.11.2021

MEMBER OF SCIENTIFIC JURI:

Заличена информация  
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