

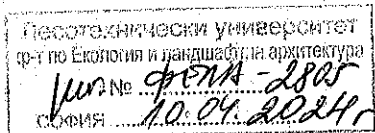


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Translation from Bulgarian



STATEMENT OF OPINION

**Of Associate Professor Dinko Velichkov Ovcharov, Ph.D.
University of Forestry, Sofia, Retired**

Regarding the materials submitted in the competition for the academic position of Professor in Forest Entomology, Field of Higher Education 6 'Agrarian Science & Veterinary Medicine', Professional field 6.5 Forest Management, scientific field of Forest Reclamation and Amelioration, Forest Protection & Special uses.

Associate Professor Danail Dimitrov Doychev, Ph.D., from the University of Forestry, has applied for the position in the competition announced in the State Gazette No.102/08.12.2023, and on the website of the University of Forestry, for the needs of the Faculty of Ecology and Landscape Architecture.

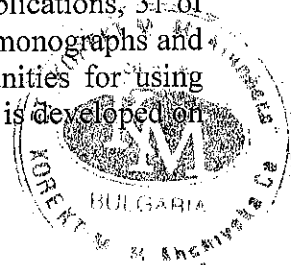
1. Brief background of the applicant.

Associate Professor Danail Dimitrov Doychev, Ph.D., completed his secondary education at the Vocational High School of Electrical Engineering and Automation /VHSEEA 'S. M. Kirov'/ in Sofia in 1991. In 1999, he was awarded Master's Degree /MSc/ in Forest Management from the University of Forestry in Sofia. On 12th May 2000, after a successful competition, he was appointed Assistant Professor in Forest Entomology at the Department of Plant Protection, University of Forestry, Sofia. From 06.02.2002 to 22.02.2005, he was Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Plant Pathology & Chemistry, University of Forestry. From 22.05.2005 to 06.07.2015, he was Chief Assistant Professor at the same department. On 28.10.2014, he was awarded Ph.D. after successfully defending his dissertation on: 'Bark beetles (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Scolitinae) in white pine cultures (Pinus sylvestris L.) in the South-west of Bulgaria - species composition, distribution and damage'. Winning a competition, on 07.07.2015, he was appointed Associate Professor at the same Department.

2. General description of the competition submissions:

The documentation and materials submitted by the applicant, Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev, Ph.D., meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), and the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff (DAS) at the University of Forestry, as was established at the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, as evidenced by Minutes of meeting No.1 of 13.02.2024.

In order to participate in the competition, the candidate has submitted 40 publications, 31 of which in scientific journals, 3 reports at scientific conferences, 5 chapters of monographs and 1 chapter of a book. The habilitation record (transcript), entitled "Opportunities for using environmentally sound methods in forest protection" consists of 18 pages and is developed on



the basis of 10 scientific articles published in reputable scientific journals included in world-renowned databases. Of them – 8 are in journals in Scopus with SJR, and in journals in WEB of Science with IF – 1. The total score for this indicator is 145.57 points (with the minimum required number of points being 100). The articles and the reports meeting the requirements of indicator G7 /a total of 19/ are evaluated at 167.57 points, 9 of which are with SJR and 2 – with IF; of indicator G8 – with 18.99 points and a published chapter of a collective monograph (G11) – with 50 points. The total score for all publications is 236.57 points (the required minimum being 200). Citations referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (D13) are evaluated at 300 points (the required minimum being 100points). The participation in scientific projects and the coordination of one such project have been evaluated at 135 points (the required minimum being 100).

The evaluation of the points of the candidate as compared to the minimum national requirements shows that the total number of points the candidate has earned is 866.14 points, with the required minimum being 550.

Copies of the publications and all the required documents have been submitted.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's academic and teaching activity.

Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev, Ph.D., gives lectures (lectures, tutorials and practicums) in 5 subjects for 3 majors at the University of Forestry, Sofia:

- To 'Forest Management' majors – full-time and part-time Bachelor's and Master's degree students – in 'Entomology' and 'Forest Entomology';
- To 'Ecology and Environmental Protection' majors, Bachelor's and Master's degree students, 'Entomology' module – in Plant Protection and Integrated Plant Protection Methods;
- To 'Landscape Architecture' majors, Entomology module – in Park Plant Protection;

The candidate participated in developing and updating the syllabuses in: 'Forest Entomology', 'Forest Protection', 'Fundamentals of Plant Protection', 'Integrated Plant Protection Methods', and 'Park Plant Protection'.

In the period from 2015 and 2023, Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev, Ph.D., was the scientific advisor of 25 graduates, full-time and part-time majors in 'Forest Management', 21 of whom were Master's Degree graduates, and 4 Bachelor's Degree graduates.

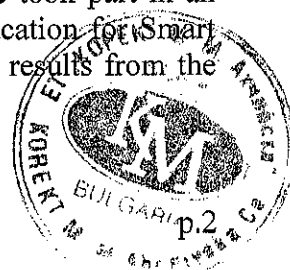
Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev, Ph.D., was also the scientific advisor of full-time Ph.D. student landscape architect Stoyka Kostadinova Ruseva in 'Forest amelioration, forest protection and special uses'. On 07.07.2020, the Ph.D. student successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Forestry, Sofia. Since 02.01.2024, Assoc. Prof. Doychev has been the scientific advisor of full-time Ph.D. student eng. Simeon Veselinov Slavov, whose dissertation is on a topic in the same field.

The material taught by Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev is in compliance with the latest trends and knowledge in the respective subjects.

4. Scientific, applied research and innovation.

In the period from 2015 to 2023, Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev participated in 7 national scientific research projects, and was the coordinator of one of them. Furthermore, he took part in an educational project funded under Operational Programme Science and Education for Smart Growth. The team of authors developed a course book (teaching aid). The results from the

M. Doychev



scientific research were presented at 7 international scientific forums – symposiums and conferences. During the said period, Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev also took an active part in the annual meetings of the National Forest Protection Commission at the Executive Agency on Forests at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. He participated in preparing two expert evaluations of the health status of the tree and shrub vegetation at various sites. He also prepared and submitted two expert reports as an expert.

Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev is also involved in the work with the scientific research committee at the Faculty of Ecology and Landscape Architecture. He has also been part of 10 scientific juries of academic competitions.

4.1. Citations of submitted publications

In the enclosed list of documents, 3 scientific publications are specified, cited in 20 scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, or in monographs and collective publications.

4.2. Scientific and applied contributions

The candidate's scientific and applied contributions are grouped in 6 thematic areas:

- I. Faunistic studies of forest insects;
- II. Monitoring of forest ecosystems;
- III. Damage by biotic and abiotic factors to forest tree species;
- IV. Dead wood and saproxylic organisms connected with it;
- V. Natural regulators of the abundance of forest herbivorous insects;
- VI. Laboratory and field attempts to control xinophages.

The classification and respective formulation reflect very well the scientific research conducted. I approve of this classification.

Significant results have been achieved serving forest protection practice in all its aspects – identification of new herbivorous insects, investigating their bioecology, new trophic links, natural regulators /entomophages and entomopathogens/, monitoring of forest ecosystems, laboratory and field attempts to control insect numbers. The research was conducted in and for the territories of Bulgaria, Northern Macedonia and Italy.

The achieved results are of significant scientific and applied value.

5. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev has developed scientific papers either on his own or as a significant contributor. He is the author of one independent publication, and the leading author of 5, as well as the second author (co-worker) of 16 publications.

I believe that all the candidate's scientific and applied contributions have resulted from his original and independent research work. The same refers to the research results obtained as part of research teams.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical notes concerning the submitted work and materials.



[Handwritten signature]

7. Personal impressions

I have known Assoc. Prof. D. Doychev since he was a student. He has been working at the University of Forestry for 24 years, and during this time he has proved to be an excellent lecturer, scientist and researcher. We worked together for 14 years as lecturers in the modules of 'Forest entomology and Plant protection', as well as on various scientific projects and research work.

As his scientific advisor, I highly appreciate his knowledgeability, as well as his scientific and research work. He is ethical and tolerant to both his colleagues and his students.

8. Conclusion

Based on the self-assessment report on the research work and publications, Assoc. Prof. Doychev undoubtedly meets, even more than meets, the criteria for the academic position of Professor in Forest Entomology, Field of Higher Education 6 'Agrarian Science & Veterinary Medicine', Professional field 6.5 Forest Management, scientific field of Forest Reclamation and Amelioration, Forest Protection & Special uses.

On the basis of the stated above, I give my positive assessment of the teaching and research activity of Assoc. Prof. Danail Dimitrov Doychev, and I confidently propose to the members of the Scientific Jury to award the academic position of Professor in Forest Entomology, Field of Higher Education 6 'Agrarian Science & Veterinary Medicine', Professional field 6.5 Forest Management, scientific field of Forest Reclamation and Amelioration, Forest Protection & Special uses.

12.04.2024.
Sofia

Prepared by: _____
/Assoc. Prof. Dinko Velichkov Ovcharov/

The undersigned, Nina Ivanova Nikolova, do hereby certify the fidelity of the translation I have made from Bulgarian into English of the document 'Statement of Opinion', enclosed herewith. The translation consists of 4 (four) pages.

Translator: Nina Ivanova Nikolova

