

STATEMENT

on the materials for participation in a competition for occupation of academic position "Associate Professor" in scientific field 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, in professional direction 6.5. Forestry, scientific specialty „Silviculture, including Dendrology“, subject "Dendrology", announced by University of Forestry in State Gazette No 102 of December 7, 2021, code of the procedure: **FOR-AsP-1121-77**.

Applicant: Dr. Evgeni Ivanov Tsavkov, Senior Assistant Professor

Author of the statement: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Hinkov Ivanov, Forest Research Institute at BAS, Sofia, St. Kliment Ohridski 132, Blvd.

1. Short biography of the applicant: Evgeni Tsavkov's professional development began at the University of Forestry. His work experience as a teacher is over 25 years. Since 2002 he has been the Senior Assistant Professor in Dendrology, and in 2017 he defended his PhD dissertation.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant with those required under the Regulations for Development of Academic Staff at the University of Forestry (RDASUF): The submitted documents and materials of the candidate Dr. Evgeni Tsavkov fully comply with **the RDASUF** at LTU. All scientometric requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" are met.

3. Assessment of the applicant's educational activities: I have no direct impressions of the candidate's teaching and learning activities. Based on my conversations with students and teachers from LTU, I am informed about his skills and abilities to present exercises and lectures on dendrology. I have received similar reviews about it from colleagues at the Forest Research Institute, Vitoshka Nature Park, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, Eco-Community and also in several dozen State Forestry Units. Everywhere the reviews are the same - superlatives and recognition for his professional work. I am familiar with the textbooks and presentations, where Evgeni Tsavkov is author or co-author.

4. Assessment of the applicant's scientific, applied and publication activities

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied science, infrastructure and educational projects

The CV of the candidate for associate professor lists 4 projects. One of them is a scientific project, and the other three are scientific and applied projects. Dr. Tsavkov has participated in other scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects, which, however, are not included in a separate application.

4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results

Of the ten publications listed in section B4 Habilitation, 9 articles are in English and one in Bulgarian. All articles are referenced and indexed in world databases. Seven of the articles are in Bulgarian journals with an international editorial board, two at LTU and 4 at BAS. Three of the publications are in renowned international non-Bulgarian journals, and two have an impact factor - Forest Ecology and Management and Phytotaxa. Of the required 100 points, 181 were reported, e.g., with 81 points above the norm. In addition, 33 scientific papers from section G5-12 were reported, which bring the candidate a total of 215 points (with the required 200 points). Three of them are published in refereed journals, and 7 are chapters from collective monographs. Dr. Tsavkov has participated with reports in 37 scientific forums and is the author

or co-author of 28 popular science articles. In summary, it can be stated that all the requirements for the scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activity of the candidate have been met.

4.3. Reflection of the applicant's scientific activity in the literature (citations)

In the "List of Cited Publications", Chief Assistant Tsavkov pointed out that 82 citations had been identified. Of these, 43 are in scientific journals, which are referenced and indexed databases, 29 are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review. Out of 9 refereed and indexed scientific publications with the participation of Dr. Tsavkov, 20 citations were found in refereed articles and monographs, of which 14 have an impact factor. It can be summarized that these articles are of high scientific quality, cited in renowned scientific journals.

4.4. Contributions in the applicant's work (scientific, applied)

The habilitation report includes a total of 10 articles, referenced and indexed in world databases. The research and the results can be summarized in the following main directions:

1) studies of the dendroflora in Bulgaria; 2) taxa and nomenclature solutions new to science; 3) ecological and anatomical features of coniferous tree species and 4) anatomical studies of wood of different species. The following scientific contributions can be highlighted:

For the first time an attempt was made to create a multifunctional database for the dendroflora of Bulgaria, with the possibility of a comprehensive approach to its analysis by various indicators (B4.1, B4.4, B4.5).

The name of the new species of oak for science and for Bulgaria has been validated - *Quercus protoroburoides* Donchev & Bouzov ex Tashev & Tsavkov, sp. Nov (B4.6).

The natural disturbances in the mountain coniferous forests of Southwestern Bulgaria have been studied on the basis of analysis of historical and archival information from various publications, archival and satellite photographs. 188 different types of natural disturbances have been identified (B4.7).

Results from the introduction of tree species in one of the first afforestations in Bulgaria - Knyazhevska gora (B4.9 and G11.6) and forest plantations near Varna (G8.6) are presented. The dendrological composition in field protective forest belts in Northeastern Bulgaria (Dulovo) was studied (D8.5).

The genetic diversity in populations of the forests of *Quercus frainetto* in Bulgaria was studied by isoenzyme markers (D7.3). A study of 15 populations of this species across the country found that the degree of differentiation between populations is relatively low, while within populations the diversity is greater. No clear geographical differentiation has been established, indicating good genetic exchange between populations.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

My opinion is that the publications in which Dr. Evgeni Tsavkov is the only or the first author are mainly his personal work. In publications where he is a co-author, it can be assumed that he has a proportional contribution to the other co-authors.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

The reference for the contributions of the scientific publications indicates 4 main directions of research. The text itself includes 5 main areas, and more is item 3 "New chorological data".

In section E13.19 the publication in Forest Ecology and Management has been cited by co-authors, with three of citations 1, 2 and 3 being in fact autoquote.

7. Personal impressions

I know Evgeni Tsavkov since he joined the Department of Forestry as an engineer. Then, back in 1996, I had an excellent impression of him as a person, dendrologist and professional. These features of his are still unchanged, and in recent years have been upgraded. I was a reviewer of his doctoral dissertation, written in a high scientific style, distinguished by a number of scientific contributions. We have no joint publications so far.

8. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the educational, scientific and applied research activities of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Evgeni Ivanov Tsavkov, I am of the opinion that he meets the requirements of the law and the Rules for the growth of the academic staff at LTU.

The presented materials for the competition are up-to-date, are distinguished by significant scientific contributions and are cited in scientific publications.

Based on a comprehensive assessment of the qualities and the results presented by the applicant I PROPOSE the applicant Dr. Evgeni Ivanov Tsavkov to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the subject "Dendrology" in professional direction 6.5. Forestry.

Author of the statement:

(Georgi HINKOV)

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