

## STANDPOINT

from Toshko Ljubomirov Toshkov, PhD  
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regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for occupying the academic position **associate professor**  
at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

by: field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics;  
professional bound 4.3. Biological Sciences (Zoology).

In the competition for **associate professor**, announced in the State Gazette, no. 92 of November 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the department "Zoology" at the Faculty of Biology, as a candidate participates a single person named chief assistant Petar Stoykov Boyadjiev, PhD, from the same department of the aforementioned institution.

### 1. General performance of the procedure and the candidate

#### Subject:

By order No. PD-21-334 of February 15<sup>th</sup> 2023, signed by the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (UP), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of associate professor in the UP in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional bound 4.3. Biological sciences (Zoology), demanded from the "Zoology" department at the Faculty of Biology. A single competitor submitted documents for participation: chief assistant Petar Stoykov Boyadzhiev, PhD, from the Department of Zoology at the Faculty of Biology of the UP.

The assemblage of materials presented by Dr. Petar Boyadjiev in electronic form is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the UP, and embraces the following documents: 1. Application to the Rector for admission to participation in the competition; 2. Curriculum vitae in European format; 3. Diploma of higher education with acquired educational and qualification degree **magister**; 4. Diploma for educational and scientific degree **PhD**; 5. List of scientific works in two parts - works for **associate professor** /with given 29 titles of articles/ and works for **PhD** /seven articles and one book chapter / as well as copies of the presented in the first part of point 5 twenty-three scientific works arranged alphabetically by the surname of the first author in the relevant publication; 6. List of 40 quotations to his scientific production for the period 2010-2022 without self-quotations; 7. A certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements, which shows that the points for all indicators are at or above the required minimum and a certificate of compliance with the additional faculty requirements; 8. Annotations regarding the attached materials in Bulgarian and English; 9. Self-assessment of contributions; 10. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the enclosed documents; 11. Certificate of work experience; 12. Sixteen other documents proving specific activity of the candidate in connection with the additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology for the development of the academic staff.

According to the professional biography enclosed by the competitor, Petar Boyadzhiev was born in 1968 in the city of Plovdiv; received secondary education in the same populated place and in October 1991 received the **magister** degree at the UP, Chair of Zoology. In the period September 1992 - February 1993, he was a teacher /taught biology, chemistry and physics/ in the village of Manastir. In the period February 1993 - October 1995, he was a part-time assistant in Invertebrate Zoology, in the Department of Zoology at the UP, where he organized and conducted laboratory and field exercises in Invertebrate Zoology. From October 1995 until today, Petar Boyadjiev worked and continues to work at the same place, holding during that time the positions of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant, respectively, where he conducted teaching activities and conducted laboratory and field exercises. In the candidate's

educational career, it should be noted the moment of obtaining the educational and scientific degree **PhD** in January 2005 with the topic of the dissertation: "Eulophid fauna (Hymenoptera, Chalcidoidea, Eulophidae) of the Rhodopi Mountains".

Notes and comments on the documents. In the document number 5, part one /List of scientific works for "associate professor" attached by the candidate/ the names of six publications /numbered 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11/ are duplicated, which misleads the evaluator during the data analysis.

## **2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity**

Chief assistant Petar Boyadzhiev, PhD, has presented and supported with evidence an impressive amount of educational and pedagogical activity, among which it is worth noting his teaching activity in the branches of the UP in Kardzhali and Smolyan in the period 2018 - 2022, where he has held a total of 45 hours of exercises and 60 hours of lectures in the profiles of "Ethology" and "Biological control". In the period 2010 - 2018, Petar Boyadzhiev was the scientific supervisor of five PhD students who successfully defended their degrees.

The scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate is reflected in his publications. The competitor, Dr Boyadzhiev has attached a total of twenty-three scientific papers and a list of declared co-authorships in three educational textbooks, the authenticity of which is supported by the signatures of the Head of the Department of Zoology and the Dean of the Faculty of Biology. The twenty-three publications are accepted for evaluation in the present STANDPOINT, insofar as the applicant did not provide direct access to the full content of the educational textbooks. The distribution of scientific works by relevant headings, in the country and abroad, is as follows: publications in foreign journals 11 and publications in an international journal published in Bulgaria 12; the distribution of publications in journals by quartiles is in Q2 – 2 issues, in Q3 – 15 issues, in Q4 – 6 issues; all presented scientific publications are co-authored and are in English, and Dr Boyadzhiev is the first author in eight of them; the total impact factor of the publications is 9.073 and the total SJR – 6.679. It makes an impression that the candidate has publications in traditionally significant and authoritative periodicals such as *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* and *Spixiana*. Although half of the candidate's scientific output is concentrated in one publication, *Acta zoologica bulgarica*, the quantitative indicators of the criteria for holding the academic position of associate professor are fulfilled. The contributions of the candidate's publication activity of a taxonomic nature (alpha taxonomy) are related to the description of five new species for science from the Eulophidae family: *Entedoomphale bulgarica*, *Omphale rhodopensis*, *Stepanovia fructirosae*, *S. rosae* and *S. rosaeformis*, where Dr Boyadzhiev is listed with the complete rights of co-author. The faunal contributions are related to the registration for the first time for Bulgaria of a number of genera and species of the Eulophidae family. An essential group of contributions (not specified as such by the candidate) are the original reports on some elements of the biology of a number of species of the superfamily Chalcidoidea, which complement our ideas about the way of life, trophic relationships and host spectrum of these insects. The significance of the obtained results of a scientific nature is a function of the reflection of Dr Boyadzhiev's scientific publications in the literature. Until now, the competitor has submitted 40 quotations to the publications with which he participated in the competition. Quotations are extensive (by no means substantive or negative) and are made in publications around Europe, Asia, and Africa.

In addition, the candidate has declared participation in two scientific projects implemented in Bulgaria.

## **3. Critical notes and recommendations**

Apart from the one presented in section 1. Note, I don't have any others.

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Petar Boyadzhiev meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and the relevant Regulations of the UP.

The competitor has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree **PhD**. The candidate's works contain original scientific

contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which has been published in journals published by international academic publishing houses. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of the candidate are not in doubt.

The results achieved by Dr Boyadzhiev in the educational and research activities correspond to the minimum national and additional requirements of Biological faculty according to the protocols of 2019 and 2022, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the UP for the application of the LDASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I consider it justified to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Biological at the UP for the election of Petar Stoykov Boyadzhiev to the academic position of **associate professor** at the UP "Paisiy Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics professional bound 4.3. Biological Sciences (Zoology).

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

**Standpoint prepared by:**

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