

## **Abstract**

Natural sciences are being less attractive for pupils in past few years. One of teachers' goals should be the effort to motivate pupils in all possible ways to study natural sciences. A whole range of factors, as sex, age, place of residence, teacher or the popularity of branches of biology, is being reflected in pupils' attitude toward biology. That is why it is important to research these attitudes and their influences. If teachers know how pupils feel about specific branches of biology, they can modify way of teaching unpopular topics to make them more attractive. It can positively affect pupils' attitude to biology as a whole. This thesis is based on research about evaluation of branches of biology which was done with 550 pupils from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades of lower secondary school and lower grades of grammar school. This research was published as an article „How do lower secondary school pupils evaluate branches of biology?“ and it is part of the thesis. The results showed that the most popular branches of biology are zoology and human biology. Unpopular branches are protozoology, geology and mycology. Evaluation was affected by these factors: sex, grade, type of school (primary school x lower grammar school) and the teacher.

This thesis introduces the problematics of attitudes, specifically to science and biology itself. It is an author's comment and theoretical extension of article in question.

**Key words:** attitude toward biology, branches of biology, lower secondary school, teacher's personality