

Prague, September 14, 2008

Vít Dvořák graduated in our Department at 2003. He worked on molecular taxonomy of microsporidia under supervision of Prof. Jiří Vávra. By that time, during the field work in the Middle East, our laboratory realized that taxonomical status of some sand fly populations must be resolved by combination of morphological and molecular identification. I found that Vít is interested in this topic and therefore asked him to join our team as a Ph.D. student.

During his Ph.D. studies Vít proved to be experienced in DNA techniques, mainly RAPD and sequencing. He was working independently, consulting his results mainly with Dr. Jan Votýpka. In addition, he learned to work with microsatellites at Keele University. In 2005, he participated in an International Summer School on Molecular Vector Biology organized by Prof. Grubhoffer in the University of South Bohemia and on Training course on molecular epidemiology in Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan.

Vít Dvořák was involved in several scientific projects, including "Centre of molecular ecology of vectors and pathogens" in collaboration with University of South Bohemia. In 2005–2006 he obtained a grant support of the Charles University for his Ph.D. project "Intraspecific variability of *Phlebotomus sergenti*" and more recently, in 2008, a three year support for the project "Molecular taxonomy of phlebotomine sand flies of subgenus *Larroussius*, important vectors of human leishmaniosis". He became a reliable member of our team and helped several times other students with molecular techniques. Also, he is regularly teaching within the BSc practical course "Introduction to Parasitology".

During Ph.D. Vít accomplished five short stays abroad. In 2004 he spent three months in laboratory of Dr. Rhaiya Maingon, Keele University, UK, and in October 2006 one month in laboratory of Dr. Gabriel Schoenian, Humboldt University, Berlin. Both stays were aimed at sand fly microsatellites. He spent also one month at Hacettepe University, Ankara, invited by our collaborator Dr. Bulent Alten to establish the laboratory of molecular taxonomy of sand flies at the Department of Ecology. He introduced there PCR, RAPD and other molecular techniques and strengthened collaboration between our two laboratories. In addition, Vít participated on our field work in Israel (in 2004) and Turkey (2006). He became experienced with sand fly sampling by various methods, sand fly dissections and isolation of *Leishmania* parasites. He organised a field trip to Crete in 2008.

Vít Dvořák regularly participated in international conferences. He presented his results at the International Symposium on Sand flies in Tunisia, 2005, European SOVE meetings in Greece, 2006 and in Cambridge 2007. During the whole period of Ph.D. studies he has been working independently and with a good technical ability. His theses contains four publications, Vít is a first author of two of them. He wrote these two papers almost without any help and confirmed that he is able to organize well his results and publish them in peer reviewed journals.

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