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Report on:

The biological inclusions in Eocene amber from Študlov locality in White Carpathian Mts.

By Šárka Škorpíková for obtaining the degree of Master of Charles University

Mrs. Škorpíková has presented a Master thesis of 104 pages articulated in six chapters + references (224) + supplementary material comprising a list of the data base of the biological inclusions of the Študlov amber. Chapter 1 is an introduction with a summary about the world's most significant Mesozoic and Cenozoic amber deposits followed by a rich overview on the occurrence of amber in the Czech Republic, then a detailed presentation of the Študlov amber outcrop (the only known Czech amber locality with biological inclusions to date).

Second chapter presents in a clear manner the goals of the study.

Chapter 3 deals with the methodology used in the study and this chapter is subdivided into three parts, the first dealing with the collecting and separation of the amber material. Then an exposition on the cleaning and polishing processes. The last part concerns the used optical devices.

Chapter 4 treats the identification and brief description of the biological inclusions resulting from carefully screening all the collected material. The biological inclusions of the Študlov amber comprise plants' remains (bryophytes, spermatophyte woody tissues and angiosperm trichomes), fungi and arthropods.

Chapter 5 represents the discussion about the composition of the Študlov amber, the hypotheses about the producer plant(s), the age of the material, comparison with other European

Eocene ambers and ending with an attempt to reconstruct the paleoecosystem based on biological inclusions and other paleontological and geological data.

Chapter 6 is a brief recapitulative and conclusive one with a window to future researches.

The study completed here is the first of its kind on Študlov amber and its biological inclusions and can easily constitute a solid publication that can be certainly accepted in any palaeontological journal. I only regret that the candidate did not expose the details of chemical analyses of the amber (FTIR or others) even if she stated that such analyses were accomplished elsewhere by other workers. This thesis represents a significant contribution to the knowledge on Študlov amber and its biological inclusions. Additionally, it opens the way for significant future taxonomic studies or in reconstructing paleoenvironment.

I consider that the candidate adequately identified and described the research problem and goal, she acquainted with the appropriate methods and techniques of research, she used a very rich literature, and she deserves certainly and largely to be granted the diploma she is seeking for, therefore I grant her the grade of 1 on the scale the Charles University is using in the Master .

Prof. Dr Hab. Dany Azar

