



OPINION

Of: *Prof. Yovka Miteva Popova, PhD; Agricultural Institute – Stara Zagora; Scientific specialty "Cattle breeding and buffalo breeding" and "Breeding of farm animals, biology and biotechnology of reproduction"*

Concerning: a competition for the academic position **"Professor"** of "Special industries (industrial game animals farming)", professional field 6.3 Animal husbandry, field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine at the Faculty of Agriculture at the Trakia University

1. Information about the competition

The competition has been announced in the SN (State newspaper) no. 22/16.03.2021 for the needs of the Department of Animal Husbandry - Non-ruminants and other animals at the FA of TrU.

I participate in the scientific jury of the competition according to Order №1173 / 25.05.2021 of the Rector of TrU.

2. Brief information about the candidate in the competition

The only candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Georgiev Raichev, PhD from the Department of Animal Husbandry - Non-ruminants and other animals at the FA of TrU. Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Raichev, PhD graduated from the Trakia University in 1989, in specialty "Zoo engineering". In the period 2003-2009 he was an assistant and chief assistant, and since 2015 he has held the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Sub-department "Rabbit and game animals farming" in TrU. In 2003 he defended his dissertation on "Nutritional spectrum, morphological features and parasitological status of *Vulpes vulpes* L., *Canis aureus* L., *Felis silvestris* Schr. and *Martes foina*, Erxl. in the regions of the Central Balkan mountains and Sarnena Sredna Gora mountain" and was awarded the scientific and educational degree "PhD". The candidate completed a course for additional training in "Protection and welfare of animals used in experiments and requirements for the sites for use, breeding and/or delivery", as well as a pedagogical course for additional qualification of educator in the Trakia University.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for the academic position

It is evident from the reference submitted that the candidate fulfills, and according to some indicators, significantly exceeds the minimum national and additional requirements to the scientific and teaching activity for holding the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education. 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.3. Animal husbandry. According to indicator "A", Assoc. Prof. Raichev, PhD presented 50 points for the required 50, for indicator "C" - 100 points for the required 100, for indicator "D" - 211 points for the required 200, for indicator "E" - 1330 points for the required 100, for

indicator "F" - 120 points for the required 100. For all additional indicators - "G", "H", "I" and "J", the fulfillment of the criteria is observed - for a total of 175 points required, 230 are accumulated.

4. Evaluation of the teaching activity for the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Raichev, PhD has 22 years and 9 months of teaching experience in the FA of TrU, including practical classes and lecture courses for students in 5 compulsory and 2 elective disciplines. He is an author of two curricula - "Ornithology" and "Theriology" for students in the specialty "Ecology and environmental protection", as well as a textbook "Ornithology", which is consistent with the curriculum. He is a scientific supervisor of one successfully defended PhD student, of 24 graduates for Bachelor's degree and 1 graduate for Master's degree. Under the Agreement for Scientific Exchange and Cooperation between the Trakia University and the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, he conducts practical training and is a scientific supervisor of master's theses of three Japanese students. The above-mentioned gives grounds to conclude that Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Raichev, PhD is an erudite lecturer, successful in teaching students and PhD students.

5. Brief description of the submitted scientific papers/publications

Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Raichev, PhD presented a monograph "The Jackal *Canis aureus*" and 26 scientific publications for participating in the competition. All publications are in English, 25 of which being published in journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus world database with a total IF of 23.806 and a SJR of 12.114. Only one publication is in an unrefereed journal with scientific review.

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Raichev, PhD is focused on several main fields:

- Genetic studies with phylogenetic and taxonomic status in the species badger, variegated ferret, weasel and brown bear.
- Ethological and ecological aspects in the vital activity of the local medium-sized predators golden jackal, European badger, red fox, European wild cat and beech marten.
- Study of the conflict "Human-wild animal" and of the ways to resolve it, the generalism in the feeding behavior of the beech marten in an urbanized and natural environment.
- Study of the influence of some technological elements on the well-being of domestic rabbits.

A list of 21 publications, cited 112 times in journals indexed in the global databases Scopus and Web of Science, has been presented. One of the publications is cited 33 times and another - 20 times. This is an indicator of the high awareness of the candidate in the scientific community, as well as the relevance and importance of his research.

Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Raichev, PhD is a participant in 5 research projects and is a supervisor of 3 of them. He presented a reference for participation in one scientific conference abroad and four scientific conferences in Bulgaria. He is a member of the editorial board of two scientific journals - "Agricultural Science and Technology" and "Trakia Journal of Sciences".

6. Synthesized assessment of the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the candidate

I accept the submitted reference for the contributions of the scientific work of the

candidate. The research conducted by Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Raichev, PhD is original and of great scientific and applied significance. A large number of genetic studies have been performed on the species badger, variegated ferret, weasel and brown bear. The phylogenetic status of the motley ferret has been revealed, its connection with the rest of the world's populations has been established, as well as the ways for its spread after the last ice age. The existence of two clusters in Bulgarian individuals of weasel was established by analysis of the control region in mitochondrial DNA and cytochrome b in the weasel from all over Europe and Asia. The distribution limits of the four badger species have been established: *Meles meles*, *M. canescens*, *M. leucurus* and *M. anakuma*. The phylogeny of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Bulgaria and its connection with populations from neighboring regions of Europe and Asia have been studied. The genetic diversity of the Eastern Balkan pig has been established.

Some ethology-ecological aspects of the vital activity of the local medium-sized predators have been clarified. The interactions and the spatio-temporal division between five predators in our country - golden jackal, European badger, red fox, European wildcat and beech marten in an environment with anthropogenic influence, as well as in the Balkan mountain range have been studied. The most reliable methods for determining the age of the beech marten have been indicated, as well as its recognition by the goldfinch by external characteristics by taking images. Research has been conducted on the occurrence of the conflict between the beech marten and the people from the villages and ways for its resolution have been indicated.

7. Main critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks or recommendations to the candidate.

8. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the submitted materials of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Evgeniy Raichev, PhD, I positively assess the research and teaching activities of the candidate and believe that he meets the requirements of Law for development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation in Trakia University for the academic position "Professor".

For that reason, I strongly support his application and call on the respected members of the Scientific jury to properly assess and propose to the Council of the Faculty of Agriculture of Trakia University Associate Professor Evgeniy Raichev, PhD to be elected "Professor" in, "Special Industries (industrial game animals farming)", professional field 6.3 Animal husbandry, field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine.

29.07.2021
Stara Zagora

Signature:

/Prof. Y. Popova, PhD/