

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität

**Institut für Spezielle Zoologie und Evolutionsbiologie  
mit Phyletischem Museum**

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FSU-Jena • Institut für Spezielle Zoologie und Evolutionsbiologie  
mit Phyletischem Museum

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Letter of recommendation for Asc. Prof. Dr. Ladislav Bocák

I know Ladislav Bocák since about 5 years. We have repeatedly met on congresses and workshops and we have co-authored one study. Dr. Bocák is doubtlessly an outstanding if not the world leading expert for the cantharoid families of Coleoptera. His very high standing in the scientific community of Coleopterists is clearly documented by numerous international research visits, his international cooperation projects (e.g., Prof. Dr. A. Vogler, Kings College and NHM London, Prof. Dr. T. Sota, Kyoto University), and also by his integration in the NSF-funded Beetle Tree of Life project as a major collaborator. Aside from my own research team he is the only European scientist involved in this project initiated and funded in the U.S.A (National Science Foundation).

Dr. Bocák has not only an unusually profound knowledge of the groups he is working on. He investigates their phylogeny and evolution with the most advanced molecular methods presently available. He has an impressive publication record, with some of his studies published in leading journals on the field of systematic biology (e.g., Cladistics). With his studies he has made an impressive and very valuable contribution to the understanding of the phylogeny and evolution of the group. Unlike in most systematic publications, his results and conclusions are not only focussed on the phylogenetic branching pattern as such. He also addresses intriguing questions how complex character systems such as for instance mimicry patterns or the ability to produce bioluminescence have evolved. He is clearly not only an

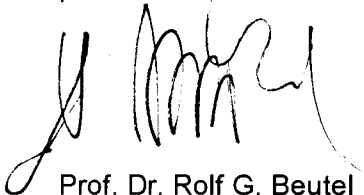
excellent taxonomist and systematist, but also an evolutionary biologist working on a very high level.

The scientific proficiency of Dr. Bocák is also underlined by the impressive number of research grants (12!), some of them from international agencies such as the Japan Society for Promotion of Science or the European Union Program FP6 (SYNTHESESYS).

For a researcher in systematic entomology, the acquisition of material is one of the essentials. Dr. Bocák is known as an excellent field worker and has undertaken numerous collecting trips in foreign countries including China, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia and others.

I cannot directly comment on Dr. Bocák's ability as an academic teacher as I did not have the opportunity to attend one of his classes. However, his documented teaching record clearly shows that he makes a valuable and very broad contribution on this field, ranging from the theory of modern systematics to applied zoology and laboratory courses in general biology. He is also supervising BSc, MSc and PhD theses and his positive impact in the training of students is clearly demonstrated by three teaching grants he obtained from the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic. Aside from teaching, he plays an active role in the administration of the Faculty of Science of the Palacký University as a member of three committees.

Dr. Bocák is an amiable and at the same time determined person, with great organisational and social skills. I have not the slightest doubt that he is qualified as a full professor. Therefore I strongly recommend his promotion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Beutel', is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Prof. Dr. Rolf G. Beutel