

OPINION

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Concerning the materials submitted for the competition for academic position “Professor“ within the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, Bulgarian Academy of Science (IOCCP-BAS) in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences, scientific speciality “Bioorganic Chemistry, Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Substances”.

1. General presentation of the received materials under the procedure and the applicant

In the competition for the academic position of "Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 43/31.05.2019 and on the website of the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Center of Phytochemistry - BAS (IOCCP-BAS) the only candidate is **Petko Nedyalkov Denev, Associate Professor PhD in Laboratory for Biologically Active Substances - Plovdiv at IOCCP – BAS.**

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, it was unanimously decided that the applicant is allowed to be evaluated in the announced competition and submitted documents are in accordance with the all requirements of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations govern the implementation of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and meets the criteria of IOCCP-BAS for academic positions “Professor”.

For participation in the competition Assoc. Prof. Denev has applied a total of 31 publications of which:

- Publications equivalent to habilitation report (Indicator C) - 8 issues are presented. All of them are published in impact factor journals and are distributed by quartiles according to SJR (www.scimagojr.com) as follows: **Q1 - 3, Q2 - 3. and Q4 - 2.**

- Publications included in Indicator D - 23 issues, 14 of which are published in impact factor journals, five - published in journals without impact factor, three book chapters and an utility model. The distribution of quartile publications according to SJR (www.scimagojr.com) is as follows: **Q1 - 7, Q2 - 1. and Q4 - 6.**

Dr. Petko Denev has submitted a list of publications for all his scientific production, which clearly distinguished publications presented in this competition and those used in previous procedures. He also presented:

- a list of citations not provided in previous procedures;
- a list of participations in research and applied projects with attached evidence;
- a list of participation in scientific conferences with attached evidence;

Information for h-factor of Scopus - (h-12)

Associate Professor Petko Denev graduated with a Master's Degree from the University of Food Technology - Plovdiv, where he has done his PhD thesis in the specialty 02.11.11 "Technology of Biologically Active Substances". Dr. Denev continues his research career at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Center of Phytochemistry - BAS, Laboratory for Biologically Active Substances - Plovdiv, passing through Assistant, Chief Assistant, Assistant Professor, and since 2014 has been the Head of the Laboratory.

According to my personal impressions Petko Denev is capable, ambitious and responsible colleague who can work in a team and to lead a team.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

The applicant included eight articles in Indicator C and where he is first author or corresponding author. As can be seen from the expanded habilitation reference, part of them comprise results obtained from long-term research activity of Laboratory of Biologically Active Substances on the chemical composition and biological activity of fruits and functional foods from chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) (Publications № 19, 21, 24 and 27). The significance of these results is indisputable, considering the age-related diseases as a social problem and searching for solutions for their prevention. Another part of publications contain results obtained from the study of the chemical composition and biological activity of extracts from other medicinal and economically important plants (Publications № 1, 9, 10 and 26). The rest of publications which the candidate has listed in the competition include research results in two other economically important scientific fields:

- Study of the chemical composition and biological activity of pectic polysaccharides. In this area the Laboratory is a leader in the country and the results have practical application.
- Utilization of the waste from the essential oil industry to obtain new products.

The importance of the contributions of Assoc. Prof. Denev is demonstrated by the high citation of the published results (number of citations for the competition is 531 for the period 2015 – 2019). He is a participant and leader of numerous national projects, projects funded by Bulgarian private companies, EU Operational Programs and projects in international

cooperation within the framework of inter-academic agreements. He is also co-author of 31 poster and oral presentations at national and international scientific forums and he has been expert for evaluation of project proposals of European programs, as well as of projects at the National Science Fund, of the Science Fund of University of Food Technology – Plovdiv and of the Scientific Research Fund of Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski. For the last three years he is a member of the Organizing Committee and coordinator of the Youth Science School on Bio-Antioxidants, which is being held at the annual International Conference on Bio-Antioxidants (BIO-ANTIOXIDANTS).

CONCLUSION

The results achieved by the candidate and his research activity **fully comply** with the specific requirements of the IOCCP-BAS for academic positions “Professor”.

After analysis of materials presented for the competition, the scientific and applied contributions reflected in them, I completely convinced to give my **positive assessment** and to recommend to the other members of the Scientific Jury to prepare a report proposal to the Scientific Board of IOCCP-BAS for conferment of academic position "**Professor**" of Associate Professor Dr. Petko Nedyalkov Denev in professional field 4.2. “Chemical Sciences”, scientific specialty 01.05.10. “Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active substances”.

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