

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 "Associate 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 **Assistant Professor Boryana Stoykova Trusheva, PhD in Laboratory Chemistry of Natural Compounds 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 “Assistant Professor”.

For participation in the competition Dr. Trusheva has applied a total of 26 publications of which:

- Publications equivalent to habilitation report (Indicator C) - 7 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 - 1, Q2 - 4. and Q3 - 2.**

- Publications included in Indicator D - 18 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 – 5, Q3 - 1 and Q4 - 1.**

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

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

Information for h-factor of Scopus - **(h-15)**

In 2002 Boryana Trusheva graduated with Master's Degree in Organic and Analytical Chemistry in Faculty of Chemistry, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She has done her PhD thesis in the specialty 01.05.10 "Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active substances" at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Center of Phytochemistry - BAS in 2006. Until now, Dr. Trusheva continues her research career as Assistant Professor at IOCCP-BAS.

According to my personal impression Dr. Trusheva is a capable and ambitious specialist who is able to work in a team and take initiative in solving scientific problems.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

The applicant has included seven articles in Indicator C which include the results of the propolis study and in particular the use of extraction methods and filtration techniques to enrich the content of bioactive substances from propolis, study of the chemical composition of propolis from Indonesia, Iran, Fiji Islands, red propolis from Brazil and green propolis from Taiwan, as well as from Pitcairn Island. As can be seen from the expanded habilitation reference, most of the candidate's research activity is focused on propolis research: the chemical diversity of extracts and essential oils derived from this natural product, due to its geographical origin and plant sources, the relationship between biological activity and the composition of propolis, its use as a remedy for human health and for protection of bee families. The candidate participated in elaborations aimed discovery of new propolis drug-delivery systems, one of which has resulted as utility model, as well as in studies which results suggested minimum rates of bioactive substances for standardization purposes. The co-authorship of Dr. Trusheva in presented publications, book chapters and utility model clearly demonstrates her personal contribution to the long-term research activity of Prof. Bankova's group at Laboratory Chemistry of Natural Compounds. Its significance is proved by the high citation of published results. Her participation in a number of projects funded by Bulgarian and European sources, supervision of one diploma student and counseling of two others, speaks convincingly of her competence and professional qualities.

In presented materials for the competition, lack a list of Dr. Trusheva's participations to scientific forums. It does not reduce her scientific contributions but these appearances are part of scientific work and prove the personal skills in presenting results to the international scientific community. I would recommend to the candidate not to neglect these assets in upcoming competitions.

CONCLUSION

The results achieved by the candidate and her research activity **fully comply** with the specific requirements of the IOCCP-BAS for academic positions "Associate 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 "**Associate Professor**" of Dr. Botyana Stoykova Trusheva 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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