



December 15, 2020

Doc. RN Dr. Martin Kubala, Ph.D

Dean of Faculty of Sciences, UP Olomouc

Dear Dean Martin Kubala

I am an Associate Professor of crop genetics at University of Vermont and have had the pleasure of hosting Professor Petr Smýkal, and have collaborated with him on several writing and editorial projects. He is inspiring as a colleague. As a result, I want to give my strong support to his promotion to full professor at Palacky University in Olomouc. Professor Smýkal is incredibly energetic and productive, as his extensive curriculum vitae suggests.

Professor Smýkal is an international leader in work on legume domestication. Professor Smýkal's recent research on peas has used an impressive range of approaches, from population genomics to gene expression profiling, field studies, and careful anatomical studies. These studies are an elegant examination of domestication of the first model plant, Mendel's peas.

Here are some of the more significant manuscripts and publications of relevance that I am aware of from the Smýkal lab:

**Smýkal P.**, Hradilová I., O. Trněný, J. Brus, A. Rathore, M. Bariotakis, R.R. Das, D.

Bhattacharyya, C. Richards, C.J. Coyne, S. Pirintsos (2017) Genomic diversity and macroecology of the crop wild relatives of domesticated pea. *Scientific Reports* 7: 17384 | DOI:10.1038/s41598-017-17623-4 (IF<sup>2018</sup>= 4.011)

Hradilová I, Duchoslav M, Brus J, Pechanec V, Hýbl M, Kopecký P, Smržová L, Štefelová N, Václavek T, Machalová J, Hron K, Bariotakis M, Pirintsos S, **Smýkal P.** (2019) Variation in



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wild pea (*Pisum sativum* subsp. *elatius*) seed dormancy and its relationship to the environment and seed coat traits. *PeerJ* 6:e6263 (IF<sup>2018</sup>=2.353)

Janská A, Pecková E, Szczepaniak B, **Smýkal P**, Soukup A. (2018) The role of the testa during the establishment of physical dormancy in the pea seed. *Annals of Botany* 123(5), 815–829. doi: 10.1093/aob/mcy213 (IF<sup>2018</sup>=3.454)

Trněný O, Brus J, Hradilová I, Rathore A, Das RR, Kopecký P, Coyne CJ, Reeves P, Richards C, **Smýkal P**. (2018) Molecular evidence for two domestication events in the pea crop. *Genes* 9, 535; doi:10.3390/genes9110535 (IF<sup>2018</sup>=3.6)

In addition to his own research, Professor Smýkal has been very active in organizing special issues to bring greater attention to legumes. He has organized five special issues for different journals on different topics of plant science, from neo-domestication of wild plants to create new crops to tuber forming legumes.

I would like to commend Professor Smýkal for his commitment to legume biology. Legumes are critically internationally to food security and their potential for solving micro-nutrient deficiencies and other health problems. Professor Smýkal's work on legumes will ultimately contribute to global food security, improving not only Mendel's favored peas, but building the knowledge to improve other important legume species such as lentils and chickpeas. Furthermore, he has successfully trained several doctoral and msc students, who will form an important intellectual legacy.

I have reviewed Professor Smýkal's CV and in addition to his interactions with me, I am confident about his academic, research and technical contributions. In the US academic system, Professor Smýkal would be easily promoted to full professor at research intensive (Rockefeller R1

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ranked universities). With all this in mind, I support the promotion of Professor Smýkal to full professor.

Best regards,

Eric von Wettberg

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