

Poznań, 18 March 2024

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***Opponent's opinion on the pedagogical and scientific-research activity of doc. RNDr. Marcel Uhrin, PhD. in connection with the commencement of the appointment procedure for professor for the field of study Biology***

*To Whom It May Concern,*

My evaluation of Dr. Marcel Uhrin's work, encompassing both his scientific achievements and other aspects, is based on the documents provided in the form of electronic attachments. I am preparing my response in English as it is significantly more comfortable for me than doing so in Slovak. I have approached the evaluation of the candidate with meticulous care, guided by the criteria specified below. First of all, when evaluating a candidate for academic promotion, such as conferring the title of professor, the decision-making process typically relies on a thorough review of a wide array of documents and achievements. In the case of Dr. Marcel Uhrin, this process would likely have considered the following elements:

**Publications and Their Impact:** A significant emphasis is placed on the quantity and quality of scientific publications, especially those peer-reviewed and indexed in international databases like Web of Science or Scopus. Special attention was paid to publications in highly ranked journals (e.g., in the first two quartiles, Q1 or Q2, according to SJR - Scientific Journal Rankings).

**Citations:** The number of citations serves as an important indicator of the scientific contribution's impact on the field. Citations excluding self-citations are analyzed to assess the genuine scientific contribution of the candidate.

**Conference Participation:** Active participation in international and national conferences, both as oral presentations and posters, indicates recognition within the scientific community and dissemination of research findings.

**Research Interests:** The research directions and scientific specialization, including work on biogeography, ecology, and conservation of various animal groups, particularly bats and herpetofauna. The relevance of this research to conservation biology is especially noteworthy.

**International Collaboration and Projects:** Collaboration with other scientists and participation in international research projects suggest international recognition and the ability to work in international teams.

**Teaching and Mentorship Activity:** Engagement with PhD students and undergraduates, mentoring young scientists, and conducting courses and seminars. The educational value of the work, including textbooks and teaching materials.

**Application of Research in Practice:** Practical use of research findings, e.g., in nature conservation, natural resource management, and protected area management.

**Opinions and Recommendations:** Opinions from other respected scientists and experts in the candidate's field can be a significant indicator of their impact on the discipline's development.

### **Formal evaluation**

During the evaluation for academic promotion, the review committee considers both quantitative and qualitative aspects of the candidate's scientific, educational, and organizational contributions. For Dr. Uhrin, his good publication record, international recognition, educational activities, and contributions to nature conservation form a solid foundation for a positive evaluation of his candidacy.

I am writing to express my highest commendation for the scientific achievements of Dr. Marcel Uhrin, whose career spans significant contributions to the field of conservation biology, particularly focusing on vertebrate species. Throughout two distinct phases of his career, firstly in various positions within state and non-governmental nature conservation organizations and subsequently in academia at the Faculty of Science, P.J. Šafárik University in Košice, Dr. Uhrin has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to advancing our understanding of natural history, biogeography, and the ecology of various vertebrate groups, with a particular emphasis on bats and herpetofauna.

Dr. Uhrin's publication record is fair, with over 600 outputs including more than 130 peer-reviewed articles and 61 works indexed in leading scientific databases. His research has garnered significant recognition, evidenced by over 1700 citations, showcasing the impact and relevance of his work within the scientific community. This voluminous body of work not only underscores Dr. Uhrin's prolific nature but also his ability to generate research that resonates with and is acknowledged by his peers.

A cornerstone of Dr. Uhrin's research has been his exploration of the distribution and biogeography of selected taxa. His work on the biogeographical patterns and ecological dynamics of bats across Slovakia and the broader Carpathian region has contributed invaluable insights into their conservation status and ecological requirements. Furthermore, his efforts in herpetology, focusing on amphibians and reptiles, highlight the breadth of his expertise and his contributions to understanding the conservation needs of these groups.

Dr. Uhrin's academic tenure has been marked by a deep commitment to mentoring the next generation of scientists. His leadership and guidance have facilitated a productive research environment that not only advances scientific inquiry but also cultivates skills and passion among students. The practical application of his research findings, particularly in the management of vertebrate species and habitat conservation, exemplifies the translational nature of his work from theory to practice.

His extensive international collaborations and presentations at conferences further attest to his role as a leading figure in the field of conservation biology. Dr. Uhrin's ability to foster

partnerships and engage in meaningful scientific discourse at an international level is a testament to his expertise, dedication, and the global relevance of his work.

In summary, Dr. Marcel Uhrin's contributions to science, particularly in the areas of vertebrate biology, conservation, and ecology, are exceptional. His dedication to advancing our understanding of the natural world, coupled with his commitment to education and conservation practice, makes his work not only of academic importance but also of significant practical value in addressing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.

It is without reservation that I support Dr. Uhrin's continued contributions to the field, and I anticipate his future work will continue to enlighten and inspire.

### **Conclusion**

**In the conclusion of my review, I state that in view of the achieved results of the scientific and pedagogical activities, doc. RNDr. Marcel Uhrin, PhD. meets all the required criteria and legislative requirements for the inauguration procedure at the Faculty of Science, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice in the field of Biology.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Tajančík". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.